

Cabinet Member Decision Session
Cabinet Member for Housing, Health & Adult
Social Services

20th Dec 2012

Report of Assistant Director – Housing & Community Safety

Report on No Second Night Out initiative

Summary

1. The report sets out the principles, protocol and actions developed as part of the No Second Night Out initiative (NSNO) and asks the Cabinet Member to agree them and support the formal launch of the service.
2. Agencies signed up to the No Second Night Out initiative (NSNO) are CYC, Peasholme Charity, Salvation Army, Arc Light and Foundation

Background

3. Historically, Local Authorities have been working to reduce the numbers of rough sleepers in the city through the Rough Sleepers Strategy (2002), the Homelessness Strategy 2003-8, 2008-13, a national government target to eradicate rough sleeping by March 2012 and now the 'No Second Night Out initiative' introduced by the Government in 2011.
4. City of York has had a Rough Sleeping Strategy since 2002 and through this has successfully reduced rough sleeping by developing appropriate services and targeting support to those who need it most. A significant amount of joint working between Housing & Support Providers, Health and the Police has emerged over last 10 years to facilitate this work
5. The focus of the work is on early intervention and prevention, accessing health care, appropriate referrals into supported housing,

adopting a highly effective move on process into independent accommodation (both social housing and private sector)

6. The emerging impact of the recent welfare benefit reform is an increase in rough sleeping, longer waiting lists for supported housing and an increase of entrenched rough sleepers who are unable or unwilling to access hostel accommodation
7. Sub-regional monies have been provided to York & North Yorkshire (£289,000) to tackle single homelessness and there is a requirement by Communities and Local Government to adopt and launch the No Second Night Out initiative. The principles of No Second Night Out are:
 - New rough sleepers should be identified and helped off the streets immediately so that they do not fall into a dangerous rough sleeping lifestyle.
 - Members of the public should be able to play an active role by reporting and referring people sleeping rough.
 - Rough sleepers should be helped to access a place of safety where their needs can be quickly assessed and they can receive advice on their options.
 - They should be able to access emergency accommodation and other services, such as healthcare, if needed.
 - If people have come from another area or country and find themselves sleeping rough, the aim should be to reconnect them back to their local community unless there is a good reason why they cannot return. There, they will be able to access housing and recovery services and have support from family and friends.

Consultation

8. There has been significant consultation as part of developing our approach, a multi-agency event on 18th May 2012 was held to explore the requirements of this work

9. There is a NSNO development and implementation group (comprising of CYC, Peasholme Charity, Salvation Army, Arc Light, Foundation and Restore) to develop a protocol and action plan
10. A sub regional event also took place on 23rd November 2012 to further develop the scheme

Supporting Evidence

11. Figures published on 23 February 2012 show a total of 2,181 people sleeping out across England on any given night
12. In York, while figures remained low between 2009 and 2011 there is now a marked increase and it is estimated that there are 8 – 10 rough sleepers in the city on any one night.

Count / reporting period	Number of rough sleepers	Date
Qtr 4 08/09	2	28-Apr-09
Qtr 2 09/10	3	04-Sep-09
Qtr 4 09/10	0	31-Mar-10
Qtr 3 10/11	2	23-Nov-10
Qtr 3 11/12	2	05-Dec-11
Qtr 3 12/13	Estimate 8-10	Nov 2012

13. The Government has produced a document entitled: Making every contact count: A joint approach to preventing homelessness - March 2012. There is a commitment to:
 - Improve health including outcomes for those homeless people with dual drug/alcohol issues
 - Reduce involvement in crime
 - Improve skills: employment and financial advice
 - Pioneer social funding for homelessness
14. The report sets of 10 challenges to (also referred to as Gold Standard):
 - adopt a corporate commitment to prevent homelessness which has buy in across all local authority services

- actively work in partnership with voluntary sector and other local partners to address support, education, employment and training needs
- offer a Housing Options prevention service, including written advice, to all clients
- adopt a No Second Night Out model or an effective local alternative
- have housing pathways agreed or in development with each key partner and client group that includes appropriate accommodation and support
- develop a suitable private rented sector offer for all client groups, including advice and support to both clients and landlords
- actively engage in preventing mortgage repossessions including through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme
- have a homelessness strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs
- not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation
- not place any families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation unless in an emergency and then for no longer than 6 weeks

Options

15. **Option A)** To adopt the aim of No Second Night Out to stop a rough sleeper, sleeping on the streets for a second night.
16. This will be achieved in York through a multi-agency protocol. Agencies working within York's Resettlement Strategy are committed to the delivery of excellent quality services to the most vulnerable and marginalised members of our community, including rough sleepers.
17. **Option B)** To amend the York Proposals (above) and protocol - NSNO document (background papers) and reschedule launch date for February 2013

Analysis

18. Option A) This includes efficiently utilising existing resources, developing a 'fast track' assessment process and using the

Salvation Army Early Intervention Team and Housing Options to advise and assess any persons found to be rough sleeping

19. Getting rough sleepers indoors quickly is achieved by utilising empty hostel beds for emergency provisions. Empty beds are only short term, available for occasional nights in between residents. Additional emergency accommodation is provided through 'crash pads' (mattress on lounge floor) in hostels when no other more suitable placements are available.
20. A 'single offer' principle is utilised- at assessment Salvation Army or Housing Options work with the customer to secure one option of longer term accommodation based on an assessment of their circumstances and support needs.
21. The NSNO initiative is in addition to the severe weather provision where emergency accommodation is provided between November - February
22. Option B) Amendments to the proposals will delay the introduction and launch of the No Second Night Out initiative in York.

Council Plan

23. These initiatives contribute to the Council Plan in the following priorities:
 - Build strong communities
 - Protect vulnerable people
 - Protect the environment.

Implications

24. **Financial:** The cost to the city and society is significant if York does not adopt and implement the No Second Night Out initiative. The cost would be seen in increased rough sleeping, begging, anti-social behaviour and potential loss of CLG sub regional grant.
25. There is also likely to be minor impact on existing budgets to fund emergency placements in hostels (to cover laundry / food expenses, toiletries and bedding)

26. **Human Resources (HR):** None
27. **Equalities:** Ensures vulnerable customers are not excluded from emergency housing.
28. **Legal:** No legal implications
29. **Crime and Disorder:** Reduce rough sleeping and any associated anti-social behaviour.
30. **Information Technology (IT)** None.
31. **Property:** No implications

Risk Management

32. All customers offered emergency beds will undergo risk assessments prior to offer of accommodation to reduce individual risk to customers and staff.

Recommendations

33. The Cabinet Member is asked to:
 - Approve Option A, to adopt the aims of No Second Night Out to stop a rough sleeper, sleeping on the streets for a second night.

Reason: To develop service to reduce rough sleeping.

Contact Details

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Report
Approved



Date 14th Dec 12

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/visionendroughslee ping>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/makeeverycontactcount>

Annexes

Annex 1 – NSNO York Protocol