

# **Housing & Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

23 December 2019

Report of the Service Manager, Housing Options and Support Team

## **Homelessness and Winter Night Provision Update Report**

### **Summary**

This report updates Members of the Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee on the current homelessness situation and the winter night provision for rough sleepers and single homeless people in York in December 2019.

### **The Current Homelessness situation**

City of York Council is currently in a partnership with other organisations across York, under the guidance of the Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023 Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Together. This partnership has been well established for many years and continues to attempt to rise to the challenges of tackling all forms of homelessness.

York remains advanced in its approach to tackling all forms of homelessness despite the many challenges we are faced with in terms of the pressures of linked to availability of affordable Housing in the city. We have gold standard rated Housing Options Service and a nationally recognised advanced Resettlement service.

### **2019-2020 Winter night Provision**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 York activated its winter night provision for Rough Sleepers and Single Homeless People. This is an addition of emergency beds provision, offering direct access to safe and warm accommodation, so that services are able to react to the challenges of the weather when it becomes more threatening to a person's welfare.

It is worth noting that there is a significant emergency bed provision run throughout the year.

The winter night provision offers the following.

<b>During winter 1<sup>st</sup> Nov to 29<sup>th</sup> Feb</b>	<b>Emergency beds rest of year</b>
<b>Peasholme centre</b> offers between 7-9 emergency beds	7 Emergency beds
<b>Howe Hill</b> Offers 7 Emergency beds	7 Emergency beds
<b>Union Terrace Hostel</b> Offers 7 emergency beds	2 Emergency Beds
<b>Robinson Court</b> 1 emergency beds	1 emergency beds
<b>Yes Below Zero (flat 2 Howe Hill)</b> 5 emergency beds	4 Emergency beds
<b>Total 29</b>	21

The above winter provision offers a steady supply of emergency provision to meet the demands of those who wish to access accommodation. There are no conditions of offer.

In the event of any form of freak weather event such as a the beast from the east in recent years, Peasholme Centre will also increase capacity further using what we call sit up beds to rough sleepers to ensure everyone is able to access warmth and safety if required.

*(In the event of the increase capacity of sit up beds outreach workers and partners will pro-actively seek out rough sleepers to advise of the risk to life due to severe weather and offer sit up beds to people)*

While the winter night provision deactivates on the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 a weather assessment is made and extensions can be applied if required based on the weather should it remain cold or a late winter, there is also a decant phase to reduce down to the all year provision so no one is returned to the streets or homelessness.

## Current Homelessness situation

	2017/18	2018/19 target	2019/20 as of 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Reason
No of households in temporary accommodation	62 (actual 49)	57(actual 66)	65 63	HRA has resulted in elongated applications and numbers in temporary accommodation.
No of households accepted as priority need (main duty HRA17)	100 (actual 90)	100 (actual 61)	80 55	Do not know long term impact of Homeless Reduction Act

No of rough sleepers	18 (actual 29)	15(actual 9)	6 (actual 7)	National target to reduce rough sleepers by 50% by 2022. Additional funding awarded to York will allow us to provide increased services.
Not to use B&B for 16 or 17 year olds	0 (actual 0)	0 (actual 0)	0 0	
Not to use B&B for families, other than in emergencies and then for no longer than 6 weeks	0 (actual 0)	0 (actual 0)	0 0	HRA17 has brought about a necessity to place some families in B&B but not for more than 6 weeks

The above are our main targets for the year however the following has also occurred during the year so far.

- Achieved £23,310 Cold weather funding from MHCLG to offer additional staff in Union terrace hostel to increase emergency bed provision during winter, and for a move on officer to look at people's situation in supported accommodation and to work with staff to move people into more permanent accommodation options.
- Achieved 139K funding for 3 Rough Sleeper Housing Navigators - a reactive and very flexible outreach service for rough sleepers alongside personalisation funds to provide innovative options and positive outcomes.

*(These navigators have successfully worked to accommodate 2 of York's most entrenched rough sleepers and have made a major difference to the landscape of rough sleeping in the city)*

This funding was in addition to our Rough Sleepers initiative funding which provides additional staff and resources to tackle rough sleeping.

- 2 MEAM workers and personalisation monies (*MEAM Making Every Adult Matter*)
- 2 Outreach workers for our salvation army Early Intervention and Prevention Team
- A Private Rented Sector officer has rehoused 21 people in the private sector during 2019 so far.
- A mental Health Worker.

We also secured additional resources under the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 to increase the capacity within the Housing Options Team of 1 full time supervisor and a Housing Options Support Worker, to improve the service with the additional workloads brought about by the Act

Our first cashless giving scheme was launched under 2 Ridings foundation at York Spark and we hope to launch our 2<sup>nd</sup> contactless point soon, funds from this will be used to provide small grants to rough sleepers or people who have rough slept to assist them off the streets or out of homelessness.

Further information and online donations can be made at

[www.yorkstreetaid.org.uk](http://www.yorkstreetaid.org.uk)

Resettlement Category permanent housing for rough sleepers 2019-20 as of 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 2019

	<b>TOTAL housed in year</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>2019-20 5th Dec 2019</b>	<b>35 so far</b>

<b>Priority Need acceptances</b>	<b>2018/19 As of 5<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
Households with children or pregnant	<b>37</b>
16 and 17 year olds / vulnerable young people	<b>0</b>
Old age	<b>0</b>
Households with physical illness or disabilities	<b>8</b>
Households with mental health issues	<b>5</b>
Domestic violence	<b>4</b>
Emergency / other	<b>1</b>
Asylum Seekers	<b>0</b>

<b>Reason for loss of last settled home</b>	<b>2018/19 HRA17 reason for loss of last settled home (All approaches)</b>	<b>2019-20 as of 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 19</b>

End of private rented tenancy - assured shorthold	192	120
Family no longer willing or able to accommodate	218	208
Friends no longer willing to accommodate	51	53
Domestic abuse	42	40
Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner	99	70
End of social rented tenancy	31	21
Eviction from supported housing	16	15
End of private rented tenancy - not assured shorthold	15	20
Property Disrepair	0	
Left institution with no accommodation available	16	22
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	0	1
Other reasons / not known	126	96
Mortgage Repossession	3	6
Racially motivated violence or harassment	0	
Non racially motivated/ other motivated violence or harassment	5	10
Left HM forces	4	1
Fire or flood / other emergency	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>684</b>

The Service remains very busy and we are in a position where move on from temporary accommodation and resettlement remains a challenge.

We have had to use bed and breakfast accommodation on occasion but are working to minimise this through continued flexible use of existing resources.

We still have a strong street culture which remains difficult for people (*especially those with addiction issues*) to break away from, the camaraderie and financial gain made from begging remain strong contributing factors. This often results in members of the public assuming that rough sleeping numbers are higher than the actual number of people rough sleeping.

**Recommendation:**

Scrutiny is asked to note the information provided in this report.

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**Service Manager**

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