

Date: 25th October 2019
Subject: Homelessness Rough Sleeping Update
Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides an update on current work and progress to end the need for rough sleeping in Greater Manchester.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

Note the report.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Molly Bishop, Strategic Lead for Homelessness
molly.bishop@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Equalities Implications:

N/A

Climate Change Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

N/A

Risk Management:

N/A

Legal Considerations:

N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue:

GMCA is investing considerable sums in these areas and each case has been subject to individual approvals. This report makes no further request for funding beyond those already agreed.

Financial Consequences – Capital:

N/A

Number of attachments to the report: None

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		N/A
GM Transport Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A	N/A	

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The wide-ranging programme of approaches to supporting rough sleepers into safe accommodation and independence is starting to make a notable difference across Greater Manchester. With increased workforce capacity to provide outreach and specialist support and a vast increase in both emergency accommodation and direct access to permanent accommodation, the Greater Manchester Local Authorities are in a good position to make a radical difference this winter.
- 1.2. Timing is critical; the trust and engagement that is built through the offer of a bed or a home can quickly fade. Co-ordination and collaboration are essential to leading effective interventions that result in re-housing and a chance of independence
- 1.3. Rough sleeper interventions are also getting smarter, with capacity to share information between statutory and community services through a GM-Think database. GM-Think is currently being rolled out across all 10 boroughs and will provide this opportunity for the first time.
- 1.4. Housing Options is a key service within the relief of rough sleeping and many teams are adapting their practises to deliver a proactive and flexible service to people who are experiencing rough sleeping. A Housing Options assessment provides a baseline for a considered and co-ordinated pathway into re-housing and support. There is an ongoing need to address the approaches, resource allocation and integration of these teams to meet the needs of rough sleepers most effectively.
- 1.5. A review of homelessness governance is underway to improve the alignment and efficacy of working across programmes. The GM Homelessness Programme Board, which now meets bi-monthly, will provide the oversight of this work, with accountability resting with GMCA.

2.0 ROUGH SLEEPER INITIATIVE

- 2.1. The Rough Sleeper Initiative has increased the workforce on the ground, providing outreach across all 10 Boroughs for the first time. This capacity allows better working with people, not numbers and understand in detail the flow of people onto and off the streets. With bi-monthly counts, this is now more accurate and up to date information on the impact of our joint work to reduce rough sleeping.
- 2.2. These teams now have access to Dual Diagnosis workers, who can provide clinical support directly to service users and supervision to outreach officers and support workers. This is a huge step forward in multi-agency working and will start to provide people with the support they need to overcome experiences of rough sleeping.

- 2.3. The Rough Sleeper Initiative model of Task and Target multi-agency meetings is setting a standard for a whole public service response to the emergency of rough sleeping. Each Borough now convenes these meetings as a single forum for holistic and co-ordinated support, enabling joint decision making on re-housing options for people with the most complex needs.

3.0 HOUSING FIRST

- 3.1. The new programme of direct re-housing for entrenched rough sleepers, Housing First, has seen huge commitments from councils, housing providers and private landlords to deliver secure homes for people who struggle to maintain or engage with temporary or emergency accommodation.
- 3.2. Since programme launch in July, 33 people have been permanently re-housed. However, there are over 80 people on the programme, and more still needing this solution (140 by March 2020). Housing First is working with providers to ensure that property offers are coming forward. Allocations are being brought forward to enable more people to access Housing First over the coming months, in response to the demand that is being presented and through this GMCA will develop the next year's contract delivery changes.
- 3.3. There are keen challenges on the availability and affordability of 1-bed properties, however choice and self-determination are core to the principles of Housing First. Over the next three years this programme will re-house 240 entrenched rough sleepers through this programme. This is a priority for housing resource and continued work with providers is required to ensure this is realised.

4.0 A BED EVERY NIGHT

- 4.1. A Bed Every Night re-launched on the 1st October and there are 359 beds available across Greater Manchester, 335 of which were occupied on 14th October. Available bed numbers should be over 400 beds by 1st November as per the commissioned arrangements with Local Authorities and assurance against funding commitments is being drafted for ongoing monitoring, evaluation and support.
- 4.2. In September 2019, GMCA approved overall investment of £5,487,000 into A Bed Every Night. To date over 2200 people have accessed A Bed Every Night accommodation and support, and over 800 have moved onto further accommodation.
- 4.3. A Bed Every Night is the option for people who would otherwise have nowhere else to turn. The programme starts where the Local Authority statutory duty has to stop and therefore seeks to provide a solution for everyone. Provision for people with No Recourse to Public

Funds is made possible by the donation of funds from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Charity.

- 4.4. This approach will be taken throughout the coming winter, no matter the weather, and many Boroughs are planning A Bed Every Night uplift to prepare for any surges in the number of people needing to come inside.
- 4.5. Referral and access into A Bed Every Night provisions is being led by both Housing Options and Rough Sleeper teams. In many areas, strong partnerships exist with third sector and community services to ensure that this resource is available when people need it.
- 4.6. A Bed Every Night works as a short and temporary accommodation provision and move on is essential to ensure that there are enough beds for everyone who needs one over the next 9 months.
- 4.7. Following £2m investment into A Bed Every night provisions, health partners are delivering training across A Bed Every Night provisions to support better mental health and wellbeing, infection control, needles and sharps control and trauma awareness to better manage presenting behaviour. In-reach from Clinical Psychologists will be available to a small number of complex needs provisions, with the possibility of expansion.

5.0 ROUGH SLEEPING NUMBERS

- 5.1. The last annual count in November 2018 recorded 241 people rough sleeping across Greater Manchester. Last month, the Rough Sleeper Initiative returned a GM count of 195. 335 people are currently accommodated in A Bed Every Night accommodation and in the last 2 years over 300 people being re-housed through the Social Impact Bond, 800 people through A Bed Every Night, and countless more through statutory means. There is clearly an ongoing demand to be met and the challenge remains to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping as well as relieve it.
- 5.2. The GMCA adopted the Mayor's manifesto commitment to eradicate the need for rough-sleeping by 2020 as part of the Greater Manchester Strategy. GMCA has made changes to improve provision and supply as detailed in the report. The November 2019 official count, published in the New Year will provide details of progress in 2019 and learning will again be taken ahead of the November 2020 count, which will indicate if the commitment has been achieved.