

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024

Action Plan: Annual Review 2023

Introduction

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 was approved by Full Council on 16th December 2019. Accompanying the strategy is an Action Plan outlining how the Council is addressing the five priorities identified within the strategy. Progress against the Action Plan is monitored throughout the year and reviewed annually, with the outcome of that review being published and made accessible to the public. This review summarises what has been achieved in the past year and considers how events have shaped the work of the service and will continue to do so going forward.

Review

This review provides an opportunity to reflect on the events of the past 12 months to help the service prepare for the coming 12 months. A summary of progress against numbered actions within the Action Plan is given below:

Due to escalating levels of demand for temporary accommodation coupled with the impacts of structural issues within the housing market and wider economic pressures, in September 2023 the Head of Strategic Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing approved the enactment of a temporary quota within the Council's Housing Allocation Scheme to increase the allocation of housing to accepted homeless households in temporary accommodation. Continued pressure on the service meant that by the end of December 2023 there were over 240 households in nightly paid temporary accommodation and over 480 households across all forms of temporary accommodation.

Opportunities for partnership working continue to be maximised through the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) alongside partners Crawley Open House, Change Grow Live and Emerging Futures. Pathways Home continue to work in the borough to provide support where needed. The Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AFE0), Changing Futures and Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Grant programmes reach across West Sussex.

The housing market has changed considerably since the pandemic began and especially so in the last two years. Further work is being undertaken to ensure we continue to maximise opportunities to access private rented accommodation.

The contract for supporting households residing in temporary accommodation and Crawley Deposit Service facilitated tenancies commenced on 1st April 2022 for a five-year period.

Comprehensive measures are in place to monitor demand, performance and outcomes across the service. The

