

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

8 April 2021

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

From Feb – March 2021

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

The figures for February are as follows

1114 live applications on register

2 emergency

152 High

340 medium

620 low

204 new apps /change of circumstances received

18 lets

‘Everyone In’

Since lock down one, the council has continued to respond to the government’s ‘Everyone In’ initiative, and with support from its partners, we are continuing to accommodate all rough sleepers. During the recent winter months we have continued to experience increased demand from people who are at risk of rough sleeping. Currently there are no reports of anyone rough sleeping in the Borough. All reports of anyone rough sleeping are followed up and verified with the Councils Housing Options team, the Councils rough sleeping outreach service and partners such as Purfleet Housing and the Winter Nightshelter.

We are continuing to provide a range of emergency accommodation options (Winter Nightshelter, welfare cabins, B&B, hostels). In

response to anticipated demand/pressure over the winter months we increased the provision of welfare cabins which provide warm, dry, safe and secure short-term accommodation in King's Lynn while longer-term or supported accommodation can be found. This accommodation has been invaluable in being able to respond to the increase need and also provide self-contained accommodation.

MHCLG Protect Plus Bid

In response to the governments request for Local Authorities to redouble efforts in relation to Rough Sleeping further funding of upto £70,000 is available to assist with ongoing costs of providing emergency accommodation. We have submitted a bid for £70,000 to assist with ongoing accommodation costs and providing further housing related support. We are currently awaiting the outcome.

We have been successful in obtaining this funding which will be provided by 31st March 2021.

Norfolk Strategic Housing Partnership

The Norfolk Strategic Housing Partnership (NSHP) was formed in 2020 to ensure anyone sleeping rough in Norfolk had access to safe accommodation as part of the Government's 'Everybody In' initiative. It went on to develop an ambitious *No Homelessness in Norfolk* strategy. By working better together, the NSHP also hopes to attract additional funding and develop improved person-centred services that provide sustainable outcomes. The NSHP with the Borough Council acting as the lead Authority for bidding purposes, has been successful in bidding for £20,000 of funding from the Local Government Association (LGA) Housing Advisors Programme. The fund will support the project to work with people with lived experience of homelessness to bring coproduction to the heart of No Homelessness in Norfolk and provide evidence to support the case for longer term investment in housing related support across Norfolk.

Following a successful invitation to bid Nesta have been appointed. Nesta will provide expert support to develop co-production elements of a broader No Homelessness in Norfolk project. A key principle of the main project is to include people with lived experience in influencing and designing homeless pathways and services.

SHPS Service

Historically Norfolk County Council (NCC) has provided funding to each of the Norfolk Strategic Housing Authorities (SHAs) to support the prevention and alleviation of homelessness and rough sleeping. The current tranche of grant funding is due to cease in March 2021.

The funding provides crucial support for vulnerable people and forms part of an overall, multiagency, funding approach to reducing and supporting those who are homeless and rough sleeping. Continuation of this funding is consistent with NCC's strategic priorities.

Working with District Councils and Bridges Outcome Partnerships NCC have commissioned a service designed to focus on the prevention of homelessness in Norfolk and to ensure better support for them in all walks of life. The Single Homeless Prevention Service (SHPS) is a collaboration between a group of organisations with a common goal: to prevent and relieve homelessness for people aged 18 and over. The service is run in partnership with Local Authorities, frontline delivery organisations and the government's Life Chances Fund, who part fund the service via a Social Outcome Contract. SHPS provides support to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Local Authorities refer people to SHPS for support with their housing needs.

The service is provided at a district level. The Benjamin Foundation have been appointed by Bridges as the local provider in West Norfolk.

New Accommodation update

10 new 1bed move on flats- .Delivered by Broadland Housing Association as part of Next Steps Funding Programme.
All ten units have been delivered and are now occupied.

6 new 1 bed housing First flats- ready for occupation between 31 March 2021 and June 2021. Delivered by Broadland Housing Association as part of Next Steps Funding Programme. Support contract currently out to tender.

7 new 1 bed move on flats ready for occupation by June 2021. Delivered by Broadland Housing Association

7 new 1bed homes temporary accommodation (Reid Way) delivered by Broadland Housing by Summer 2021

Purfleet Trust

Although the Health and Wellbeing Centre at Pathway House in King's Lynn remains closed since the most recent lockdown announcement, Purfleet are continuing to ensure that their clients receive the essential support they will need to help them throughout the lockdown period. They are continuing work closely with the Councils Housing Options Team to provide support to those in emergency accommodation and offer essential services including:

- Welfare checks & telephone support
- Appointments (however these may be offered remotely where appropriate)
- 1:1 counselling will be provided by appointment only at Pathway House

Winter Night Shelter

The Winter Night Shelter will close on 31st March 2021. Plans are underway to find suitable move on accommodation for guests prior to 31 March.

Meetings Attended

Cabinet briefings
Cabinet
Full Council
Portfolio and updates with Officers