



Homelessness & Housing Delivery Task Group
Monday, 19th December, 2022 at 3.30 pm
**in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market
Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary
Documents**

1. **Update Report (to follow)** (Pages 2 - 9)

Contact

Democratic Services
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1EX
Tel: 01553 616394
Email: democratic.services@west-norfolk.gov.uk

General Homelessness

Agenda Item 10

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Duncan Hall & Nikki Patton
December 2022

Borough Council of
King's Lynn &
West Norfolk



Introduction

- Number of people seeking advice and assistance from Housing Options team is continuing to increase.
Homelessness presentations -Q3 2021 circa 330 presentations, Q2 22 –circa 420 presentations
- Spend on B&B has increased from on average £16k per annum to currently £145k



Private Rented Sector (PRS)

- Significant increase in S21 notices-landlord selling property
- Multitude of reasons- energy efficiency measures, PRS white paper, buoyant housing market, Airbnb
- Extreme affordability pressures- increasing gap between LHA rates and rising rents. Exacerbated by cost of living



Other contributing factors

- Lowest levels of existing social stock coming through

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- Void turn around times of social stock slower- people are spending longer period in temporary accommodation



Response to pressures

- Identified additional temporary accommodation with Freebridge Community Housing (FCH)
- Agreeing range of measures with FCH to support quick void turn around.
- Reid Way- 7 new units to be developed
- Early intervention – campaign to engage early with Housing Options
- Financial help to access PRS- rent in advance, deposits etc
- Cost of living –support & sign posting to other support services



Rough Sleeping

- Central government policy to alleviate rough sleeping- **Ending Rough Sleeping for Good Strategy Sep 22**
- Further funding committed to support the Strategy
- Borough Council Strategy continues to focus on preventing Rough sleeping and supporting people to remain in their accommodation.
- Where Rough Sleeping does occur the aim is that it is rare, brief and non-reoccurring.



Rough Sleeping continued..

- Rough Sleeping Annual Snapshot figures submitted to Government (DLUHC) – 3 people were verified as rough sleeping on the night of 16th November 22
- As at 15th Dec 22 – zero people rough sleeping
- The PODS (4 in total) continue to form part of the emergency accommodation off the street offer.
- The Pods do not form part of the longer term strategy in current form but are invaluable and options being consider to provide in a more sustainable way.
- Continued efforts to work with Winter Nightshelter (8 single rooms) to ensure the provision is used for those Rough Sleeping, at significant risk of rough sleeping and in greatest need.



Winter preparedness

- Hostel places- working collaboratively with partner providers to ensure existing provision is used effectively
- Secure additional B&B as part of planning for worst – additional winter funding from DLUHC
- Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) – 3 year funding secured which provides Inreach/Outreach service (Purfleet Trust)
- RSI funding secured to increase Housing First Offer –additional 5 units
- Measures to increase staffing capacity in hostels to support those with higher support needs

