

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

21 February 2019

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

For the period 25 January to 12 February 2019

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

In January there were

271 new applications/change of circumstances

1118 live applications

1 emergency

202 high

343 medium

572 low

30 housed

Rough Sleeper Count

You may have seen on both national and local news reports that the government published statistics on rough sleeping. This is a snapshot of the number of people sleeping outside on a night in November. The number for this area is 5, which is a decrease on last year. Whilst the number of people visible on our streets is an obvious indication of homelessness, other factors need to be understood. Over the winter so far the Night Shelter has been occupied by up to 18-20 people a night. In addition approximately 20 people have no accommodation, and are moving between floors/sofas/hospital waiting rooms. None of these people or those in the Night Shelter are counted as rough sleepers. The need and urgency to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping remains.

Mental Health Nurse.

Linked with the Rough Sleeper Outreach service

One gap in the services for homeless people including rough sleepers is access to mental health services. Given the difficulties that some people with chaotic lifestyles and no accommodation face in terms of accessing mental health support, we have in conjunction with the Norfolk and Suffolk

Foundation Trust (NSFT) established a specialist mental health nurse post to help people access appropriate support and provide treatment when necessary. The mental health nurse would work closely with the rough sleeper outreach service, The Purfleet Trust day centre, hostels and the council's housing team. As well as reducing harm the service will help people avoid the need for hospital admission. Since the report was circulated over the Christmas/ New Year period the NSFT have extended the post to 2.5 days a week with some additional funding from the Trust.

Warm Homes Fund

The BCKLWN are developing a local web page and marketing materials for this Norfolk wide heating project. Residents in West Norfolk have already seen the benefit of grant funding for works that will make a significant difference in terms of their living conditions.

GRT Liaison Service

Housing Standards are liaising with the Norfolk Gypsy, Roma & Traveller Liaison Service with regards the potential for the NGRTLS to provide support in response to GRT unauthorised encampments in West Norfolk. The BCKLWN is also contributing to a review of the Norfolk GRT Encampments Protocol in conjunction with external agencies including Norfolk Constabulary.

Meetings Attended

Cabinet
Meetings with Officers
Portfolio meeting
Full Council
Planning Committee

