

# General Homelessness

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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
- 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 16<sup>th</sup> November 22
- As at 15<sup>th</sup> 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

