

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

20 January 2015

Report of the Director of Public Health

**BRIEFING PAPER – HELP FOR SINGLE HOMELESS
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

1 Purpose of the report:

To inform the Cabinet Member about the Help for Single Homeless Fund grant award.

2 Information and analysis:

The Department for Communities and Local Government announced a funding opportunity to support local authorities to improve services for single people at risk of homelessness. In particular, they wished to promote better co-ordination across boundaries to improve services for single homeless people and prevent them from rough sleeping.

A joint application was made by Derby City Council on behalf of all second tier local authorities in Derbyshire for a grant to help single homeless people. Derby City Council worked in partnership with Amber Valley Borough Council, Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Erewash Borough council, High Peak Borough Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, and South Derbyshire District Council, and a wide range of partner organisations. The application, made to the Department for Communities and Local Government, was successful. The value of the grant is £93,750 in 2014-15 and provisionally up to £156,250 in 2015-16, which is subject to HM Treasury consent.

The funding is to encourage authorities to work with other local partners (such as health and probation services) to design and deliver sustainable services to prevent single homelessness rather than react to its consequences.

Intervening to prevent someone from sleeping rough will reduce risks to their general health and to personal safety, and can avoid further deterioration in underlying issues such as substance misuse or poor physical and mental health. Early action can also avoid the need for difficult and expensive interventions at a later stage. The cost to the

public purse of an average rough sleeper is reported to be £20,000 per year, mainly through unplanned use of Accident and Emergency Services and Criminal Justice costs.

The funding will provide an integrated approach to addressing the housing needs of a range of homeless and potentially homeless people. It adopts a holistic approach with a range of partners to support young people into both housing and to enable them to sustain that housing through support into employment and training and increase their self-esteem, prevent debt and prevent risk of homelessness and a first night out.

The approach adopted will enable work with agencies such as the Department of Work and Pensions and mental health workers through Ambition. This will provide a pilot approach which can be replicated across the county. The project worker will develop a pathways approach and will work with colleagues cross Derbyshire and Derby City to share good practice and evidence of need to extend the project wider.

This will create a system change where the housing needs, employment and training needs, financial inclusion and health needs are addressed via a multi-agency team around the person approach.

It is envisaged that the 'No second Night Out' worker, Sanctions workers and Hospital Project Worker will work closely within the North Derbyshire team monitored through the Homelessness Officers Group.

The Ambition and Talent Match projects have been developed and funded at a Sheffield City Region Level in close partnership with the voluntary sector, health and the Department of Work and Pensions. These schemes are employment support schemes working intensively on a 1:1 and group basis with 18-24 year olds. Ambition is a partnership scheme with the Department of Work and Pensions for those on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) 3 month plus. Talent Match will work with those Not in Education Employment and Training (NEET) 12 months plus, including people with mild to moderate learning disabilities, low level mental health, homeless and care leavers. The scheme will also work with 24-35 year olds due to the local challenges in accommodating this group.

Sanctions+ Derby City Council is working in partnership with Job Centre+ to offer additional help and support to vulnerable single homeless households. An Employment Advisor will be based in the Housing Team. Evidence will be gathered as part of the partnership to demonstrate improved tenancy sustainment following reduced sanctions. A business case will be developed with the evidence with a view to continued funding

through Housing revenue Accounts and Department of Work and Pensions.

Healthy Futures and No Second Night Out+ (NSNO+) Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have recognised the health and financial benefits of a hospital discharge project for rough sleepers following the evaluation of a pilot scheme at the Royal Derby Hospital. By replicating the pilot project at Chesterfield Royal Hospital the evidence gathered will support an approach to the North Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group to show the health and financial benefits to health budgets to mainstream the project. The proposal is to provide a service that interfaces between the Department of Work and Pensions, agencies and local authorities offering expertise in welfare benefits and money advice

This project will deliver sustainable solutions to high impact users and in-patients who are homeless by:

- Providing advice, advocacy and practical interventions to those most vulnerable who use health services.
- Working alongside hospital and community based staff to prevent bed blocking when a homeless individual cannot be safely discharged.
- Intensively supporting high impact users the project aims to reduce inappropriate admissions, use of emergency ambulances and attendance at A&E.

3. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Background papers:

N/A

5. Key Decision:

No

6. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

7. Officer's Recommendations:

- 1 That the grant award from the Help for Single Homeless Fund to be noted.
- 2 That further reports be made to update the Cabinet member on the project's progress and outcomes.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health