



# Rough Sleeping in Brighton & Hove

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017

# Outline For Meeting

- Welcome and Introductions – Vic Borrill, Vice Chair Brighton & Hove Connected
- Overview Presentation – Graham Bartlett, Chair, Adult Safeguarding Board
- Group discussion and recommendations for further action

# Overview

As a group, with the help of expert stakeholders we will examine the following areas:

- What added value can we as BHC/City partners bring? What do statutory agencies need to do to help with this?
- How well do services work together? Is there a case for better coordination?
- What are the most effective interventions for rough sleepers without a local connection and therefore no prospect of being housed locally (approximately 65-70% of total rough sleepers in the city)?
- How well do we publicise what services are on offer and how do we ensure that the business community and the wider community are aware of this?

# Why do people become homeless in Brighton & Hove?

- Eviction by parents
- Eviction by friends or relatives
- Loss of private rented accommodation
- Domestic Violence

# Who is sleeping rough in Brighton & Hove?

Snapshot 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2016:

- Robust Count – 144 individuals
- Over 85% UK males
- Only 11 under 25
- 68% no local connection
- 20-30 new arrivals/week, 1000–1500 new individuals arriving to sleep rough every year....

# Main reasons for Homelessness

Locally Connected	
Evicted Hostel	21%
Relationship breakdown (family, friends, partner)	18%
Abandoned accommodation	14%
Evicted local authority	6%
leaving prison	6%
Evicted PRS or Landlord Sold Property	5%

We are examining the hostel eviction data; we know that this number of people was not evicted from council commissioned hostels in this quarter. Some of these individuals will have been evicted from hostels in previous quarters and be waiting for accommodation and some will not have been evicted from locally commissioned hostels.

# Main reasons for Homelessness

## Non Locally Connected People

Just moved to the area	25%
Abandoned accommodation	12%
Relationship breakdown (family / partner)	10%
Evicted hostel	6%
Fleeing violence or abuse	5%

# Street Drinking and Begging Audit 2016

- Increased numbers of street drinkers from 64 in 2015 to 93 in 2016
- Increased proportion of street drinkers who are Rough Sleepers from 28% in 2013 to 50 % in 2016
- 69% of those begging are rough sleepers
- 90% of those begging presented with problematic drug or alcohol use



# Numbers waiting for Supported Accommodation in Brighton & Hove

- 300 in total
- 99 Rough Sleeping/waiting on streets
- 45 Sofa Surfing and at high Risk of Rough Sleeping

# Council Commissioned Services

- £422K for Rough sleepers services, including the Outreach team, day centre services and the Severe Weather Shelters (SWEPS)
- £200K for specialist substance misuse services
- C.£350K recently awarded to:
  - Reduce the flow of new rough sleepers
  - Provide a safe place to stay
  - Help new rough sleepers from the streets to independence

# Sussex Police

Sussex Police fund a Street Community Team which currently consists of:

- x1 Police Sergeant
- x2 Police Constables
- x2 Police Community Support Officers.

The aim is:

- Bespoke intervention and engagement with persistent offenders
- Support to those most vulnerable.
- Reduce offending and ASB,
- Reduce demand on services
- Maintain trust and confidence of communities in the city.

# Mental Health Services

- Flexible, low threshold service
- Often unrealistic expectation on what MH services can do where people have capacity but continue to sleep rough
- Emergency accommodation can be inadequate and volatile – some prefer to sleep rough...

# Mental Health Services

- In Patient care does not necessarily translate to priority need for housing
- Out of area placements lead to clients falling between services
- Fortnightly MH and Homelessness meetings are effective at coordinating care

# Supported Accommodation

- Generally prioritised for those in need with a local connection
- 272 hostel beds and 25 mental health hostel beds:
  - 215 local people on the waiting list for supported accommodation (82 of which are considered a high priority):
    - 151 for hostel places with 24 hour support (43 high priority)
    - 24 for young people's services with 24 hour support (20 high priority)
    - 40 for mental health accommodation (19 high priority)
  - On average, it costs around £10,000 each year to support someone in a hostel, temporary accommodation or Housing First arrangement.

# Make Change Count



The campaign has three main aims:

- Helping rough sleepers to access support services available in the city
- Asking residents to say where they've seen those in need so tailored help can be offered
- Suggesting an alternative giving option to donating on the street

# Possible Recommendations

- Better engagement with businesses locally?
- Independent appointment to help coordinate operational activity?
- Creation of the donate by text service rather than the website?