

### **Preventing Rough Sleeping in SW&T – Our Vision for the Future**

The following paper outlines a Vision for future service provision for rough sleepers in SWT from the perspective of the service user.

The future service offer in SWT will need to encompass 4 key aspects that will work seamlessly in one system. These are:

1. Prevention. This should be promoted through all services and agencies and is engrained in many organisations having a statutory 'duty to refer'. The District Council Homelessness Service then holds the main responsibility to prevent, but will require input from other agencies to provide specialist support to stop tenancies failing (mental health, drug and alcohol, social care etc)
2. Assessment and triage. The Homeless Service will not always be able to prevent homelessness and will need to assess and then refer people into appropriate supported accommodation.
3. Commissioned Accommodation and Support – Appropriate accommodation that meets the needs of a diverse range of individuals, with flexible, coordinated multi-agency support within these accommodation settings (for example social care, mental health support, addiction services etc). Primarily we require accommodation suitable for rough sleepers and those who have a history of rough sleeping, however the Council also requires more affordable alternatives to B&B for other homeless clients.
4. Sustainable Housing – a range of move-on accommodation options with flexible support to ensure tenancy sustainment.

#### Accommodation requirements to consider

- Temporary accommodation – Good quality accommodation for singles that can be accessed quickly, in an emergency and is suitable i.e. has cooking facilities. Some support provision needs to be available as often the full extent of a person's support needs is not known at the point of placement for this type of accommodation. This should be viewed as short term accommodation while assessments are made and appropriate forward planning is undertaken.
- Self-contained accommodation with higher levels of support for those who need it. Individual units of accommodation (but not secure tenure) to be used as trainer flats.
- HMO's with floating support attached. Suitable for those with lower needs e.g. those new to rough sleeping whose circumstances may have changed (job loss, relationship breakdown) and who need short term help, under 35's affected by the LHA caps and those on low incomes
- Specialist provision e.g accommodation with high levels of specialist support attached for people experiencing acute mental health issues. Provision for those wanting to detox from drugs/alcohol.
- Supported move on accommodation/ step down provision from high support specialist provision e.g. abstinence model
- Specialist accommodation for high risk offenders identified through the MAPPA process.
- Move on and permanent accommodation which is managed by the LA or local providers where light touch support is accessible if and when needed.
- Space for individuals to meet and engage with health and care specialists, including surgery space and ideally therapeutic space.