



Working Towards Ending Rough Sleeping in Dartford.

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Our year so far.....



- To update on the Covid-19 pandemic, in reference to rough sleepers in Dartford
- To update on our recovery plan and local resettlement offer for rough sleepers in the Dartford Borough

Some perspective part 1



- Annual rough sleeper count 2019– 13
- Total single people in the Winter Shelter at the outset of March 2020 pandemic – 13
- Total number of single applicants accommodated in 2019/20 – 37
- Total spend on single applicants accommodated in 2019/20 - £177600.00

Our team...



- 2 x Triage –but one left us as the pandemic hit
- 3 x Housing solutions officers
- 2 x Accommodation Officers
- 1 x landlord relationship officer
- 1 x housing inclusion officer

RSI year 3



- To continue our rapid rehousing pathway model
- commission outreach navigators from Porchlight.
- Rapid rehousing model sustainment officers (commissioned via Look Ahead)
- Complex Needs housing solutions officer
- Housing inclusion support worker
- Personal budgeting funds
- £168k to deliver

Everyone In.....



- At the beginning of March 2020 – the Winter Shelter was still open and so 13 single men were accommodated immediately.
- No hotel/student blocks available to us
- Block booked nightly paid TA with existing providers
- Made some limited use of local guest houses
- Moved long standing TA cases on to make room
- Made better use of our leasing scheme
- Recruiting a new triage assistant and the new complex needs HSO made virtually impossible

Some perspective part 2



- Number of single applicants accommodated in 2020 to date – 84 (not all covid related but rough sleeping or at imminent risk of RS)
- Virtually all of them complex
- Total TA spend on single applicants to October - £378000

Everyone in..... Partners



- Vital roles
- Identified that the local church ran winter shelter and their one salaried member of staff were going to be an important part of our plans
- Porchlight outreach team stretched over districts but essential in their ability to engage
- Expand on our good relations with hub members
- Utilised the LA emergency hub

What worked well?



- Within first 3 months we managed to identify the individuals that could be easily moved on either into low level supported accommodation, our own leasing scheme (medium term accommodation) or PRS
- 11 individuals were moved on in this way
- Using existing skills in our team we moved an officer into a complex needs role and used RSI yr3 funds to back fill their post
- The landlord relationship officer has been critical to establishing those PRS contacts & keeping landlords on board in really difficult times
- Listening to outreach partners about what we need & what they need to carry on
- Support & trust from senior leadership to just get on & do what was right

NSAP – short term



- £171355 granted for immediate plans
- Covers continuation of some block booked TA
- Set up of 2 x HMO buildings (one managed within our PS leasing scheme)
- Grant to the Churches Winter Shelter for them to continue their community work and assist with the referral pathway into the 7 bed HMO
- Start to establish an Integrated Community Hub model for the winter- Porchlight

Porchlight Integrated Community Hub



- Focus on getting individuals interested and motivated and focussed
- Will use communal space in the HMO to specifically work with those accommodated
- Identify a space in the town centre to create a drop in space to get people feeling listened to, cared for and part of their community again
- Use this space to get health care assessments, financial support
- Start to support service users into delivering their own peer support

Medium term accommodation..



- Using our contacts within the PRS in Dartford, we have established 2 HMO sites.
- ‘Glenwood’ has 5 high quality rooms with ensembles that we will use to provide low level support and get people on their feet again, working towards longer term housing prospects and in as many cases as possible, into employment
- The other one, for now we are using it for our winter provision with the same level of support in place
- After March/April, we will be converting this to medium term housing along the lines of the first one

Winter provision



- Jointly delivered by LA, Porchlight & the churches winter shelter
- Partnership referral pathway
- Open for 4 months until end of March
- Will provide a SWEP plus model for the whole winter duration
- Separate self contained bookings for females

Cold Weather Fund



- £50k allocated to Dartford
- Will be used to boost accommodation provision
- Keep space cleaned and sanitised
- residents supported with bedding, move on packs
- Spot purchase self contained accommodation for females
- Rent in advance and deposit funds for the cohort

What's next?



- Overhaul of the winter provision HMO and bring it up to a higher spec and begin to manage it with our leasing scheme
- This will enable us to repurpose funds to focus on the support and rebuild model already started at 'Glenwood'
- Really establish the Porchlight Integrated Community Hub as a regular and visible part of the town centre, engage with other community leaders to get volunteers in place
- Health clinics and instant access to primary care in Kent. PHE & the CCG are working on a single point of access model for rough sleepers in Kent
- Reviewing our landlord offer
- Greater understanding of the hidden cohort, learning from the 'surprises' of 'everyone in'

Longer term plans for 2021 & beyond



- Instant referral pathway for anyone that comes onto the street in Dartford, supported by a Homeless Response Unit
- New build project being explored
- Build on our PRS contacts and grow the landlord relationship officer role into a procurement team
- Focus on the drug & alcohol support offer



Any questions?
Or get in contact –

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