

# Homelessness PAG meeting - 17 July 2019

## Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Bids – Update Report

### Rough Sleeping Related Bids

In August 2018 the Government produced a Rough Sleeping Strategy, setting out its plans to help people who are sleeping rough now and to put in place the structures to end rough sleeping for good. Its vision is to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end it by 2027.

A number of funding streams were subsequently announced. The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Fund was shared between the 83 councils in England with the highest numbers of rough sleepers in their areas. In Kent, three Councils were successful in accessing money from the pot after being invited to bid: Canterbury, Maidstone and Thanet. Included in this initiative is a Rapid Rehousing Pathway (RRP), and the Govt wants to ensure that this pathway exists in some form, in every area where there are rough sleepers.

Further funding was made available and two bids, both in conjunction with Folkestone & Hythe Council and Porchlight, Prime Contractor for homelessness services in both districts, have been successful. Dover is the lead authority for both of the bids.

### **Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)**

This bid received £175,000 and will fund:

- 1 x full time Outreach/Inreach worker (to cover both districts)
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- Rough Sleeping Coordinator to manage both of the bids
- Mental Health specialist resource for Dover and Folkestone & Hythe

### **Rapid Rehousing Pathway (RRP)**

The bid received £244,713 and is based on funding for two specific elements:

- Supported Lettings – funding flexible floating support in homes provided for people with a history of rough sleeping. This will provide flexible support funding to help over 5,000 people at risk of rough sleeping over the next two years, to sustain their tenancies in homes across the housing sector.
- Navigators – funding new specialists who will help people who sleep rough to access the appropriate local services, get off the streets and into settled accommodation. These individuals will work with a range of multidisciplinary teams and provide both navigation and co-ordination support, using strong local relationships, expertise and collective working.

The Supported Lettings and Navigator elements fit in well with the Coaching model for Porchlight's Kent Homeless Connect service and they have the management and support structures in place for these as well as further pathways for support to add significant value to a bid. Our bid will fund:

- 2 x Floating Support Workers (Dover)
- 2x Floating Support Workers (Folkestone and Hythe)
- 1 x Specialist Navigator - Drugs and Alcohol (to cover both districts)
- 1 x Specialist Navigator - Vulnerable Women (to cover both districts)

### **Private Rented Sector (PRS) Access Scheme bid**

A further bid, submitted in partnership with Folkestone & Hythe and Thanet Councils for part of the £20 million Private Rented Access Fund was also successful. This fund is focused on schemes that will enable better access to new private rented sector tenancies and/or support in sustainment of existing tenancies. It is aimed at those who are, or are at risk of becoming homeless and rough sleeping. The money is to alleviate both the numbers in temporary accommodation and single

homelessness, including rough sleepers. Interventions can include providing rent or deposit guarantees/bonds or non-financial elements such as procurement and mediation. The award for 2018/19 is £63,250 and £308,000 in 19/20. Folkestone & Hythe is the lead authority for this bid. Progress reports will be given at future meetings.

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