

Birmingham City Council

City Council

12 January 2021



Subject: Rough Sleeping Addendum to Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy

Report of: Joint Report from the Cabinet Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods and the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

Report authors: Kalvinder Kohli, Head of Service - Commissioning and Gary Messenger, Interim Head of Housing Options & Private Sector Housing

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

1 Motion

- 1.1 That the Rough Sleeping Addendum (Appendix A) is approved and the Interim Director of Neighbourhoods be authorised to publish and disseminate the document as appropriate, as part of the City's overall Homelessness Prevention Strategy.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Rough Sleeping Addendum: Working to together to end street homelessness, supplements Birmingham's overall Homelessness Prevention Strategy laying out key areas of work and action to tackling one of the most acute forms of social exclusion that is rough sleeping. The strategy builds upon innovative and collaborative work across the housing, health and social care and support services involved in schemes such as national pilot of Housing First, the Rough Sleeping Initiative, which alongside Council investment have collectively delivered sustained reductions in the number of people sleeping on the streets in Birmingham.
- 2.2 The Rough Sleeping Addendum to the Birmingham's Homelessness Prevention Strategy has been developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders including people with lived experience of homelessness and rough sleeping, elected members, providers of homeless services across all sectors public, private and third sectors, and the general public.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The Rough Sleeping Addendum fulfils the 2018 National Rough Sleeping Strategy accountability requirements of setting out key areas of action that the city and partners have committed to regarding specific actions over the next three years, in relation to reducing the levels of rough sleeping.

4 Strategy Approach and Action Areas

- 4.1 The strategy sets out an overall pathway led approach to rough sleeping and key action areas based on the framework of the Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy. The overall approach involves treating people as individuals and putting in place accommodation and support from several different services, at key stages their journey, whether it is intervening to prevent a second night out on the streets, moving into long-term accommodation or accessing services critical to sustaining a recovery from the experience of sleeping rough.
- 4.2 The Rough Sleeping Addendum also sets out five key areas of preventative action:
- **Universal** – the role of all services, sectors and the community in raising awareness, learning from delivery and better responding to rough sleeping.
 - **Targeted** – specialist interventions aimed at groups at greatest risk rough sleeping – single adults, care experienced individuals, victims of domestic abuse, offenders.
 - **Crisis Relief** – critical in-time support encompassing outreach, accommodation including provision of severe & cold weather night shelter provision for all.
 - **Recovery** – specialist, community and peer support covering health, complex needs, specific provision for women, training and employment.
 - **Move-On** – actions to improve access and supply of onward accommodation current available to rough sleepers in emergency accommodation.

5 Appendices

Appendix A: Rough Sleeping: Addendum to Birmingham Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+