

## Health Improvement Board – 22 November 2018

### Report on Single Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Oxfordshire

#### 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To update the Health Improvement Board (HIB) on single homelessness and rough sleeping in Oxfordshire.

#### 2. Main Report

- 2.1 Measure 10.5 of the suite of HIB performance indicators is to 'ensure that the number of people estimated to be sleeping rough in Oxfordshire does not exceed the baseline figure from 2016/17' (baseline 79). Each November all local housing authorities in Oxfordshire complete either a rough sleeper count or estimate. In November 2017, the total number of people estimated to be sleeping rough was 117 (over the 2016/17 baseline).
- 2.2 The HIB received a performance exception report regarding rough sleeping in Oxford on 8 February 2018. At this meeting members of the HIB requested further information on the single homeless pathway, single homelessness and rough sleeping at a future meeting.

#### Single Homeless Pathway Performance

- 2.3 The latest performance information on the homelessness pathway covers the period 01/02/2017 to 31/01/2018.
- 2.4 In 2017-18 the pathway supported 490 people, 298 of whom moved into the services during the year. This represents throughput of 241.4% and evidences that these services continue to be short term in nature as planned.

#### Demographics

- 2.5 The demographics of people in the pathway is changing. There is a continuing trend that we see more women, more young people, more people over 65 and more people with a BME background. The HIB specifically requested information regarding older single homeless people and single homeless women.
- 2.6 The gender details of people in the pathway over the period 2015-16 to 2017-18 is as follows:

	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Gender	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Female	14	11.7%	105	21.3%	66	22.1%
Male	106	88.3%	389	78.7%	232	77.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The case management system for the pathway records the key support needs (secondary needs) of people in the pathway by gender. The main support needs of females in the pathway are mental health problems (18%), drug misuse problems (15%), generic complex needs (14%) and alcohol misuse problems (11%). It should be noted that one person can have more than one support need.

- 2.7 The age details of people in the pathway over the period 2015-16 to 2017-18 is as follows:

	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Age Group	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
18 to 24	2	1.7%	40	8.1%	27	9.1%
25 to 64	117	97.5%	445	90.1%	267	89.6%
65+	1	0.8%	9	1.8%	4	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Unfortunately no further information about people in the pathway is captured by age.

#### Pathway Effectiveness

- 2.8 Another area that the HIB requested information about was the effectiveness of the pathway and details of any pressure points in the pathway. Despite considerable changes in the pathway, provider organisations and front-line staff have worked hard to keep people safe and to help them move off the pathway into more permanent accommodation within 6 to 9 months. For most people (58.4%) this outcome has been achieved. 31.70% of service users are staying for 12 months and over, which is more than in the first year of the pathway, where it was 29.9%.
- 2.9 As a general trend it appears that moving people on to alternative accommodation is becoming more difficult year on year. This is due to people having more support needs and less move on options. The result of this is the assessment beds remain full, there are notable blockages at Mayday Trust and in the Cherwell provision.
- 2.10 The lack of affordable realistic housing options remains the biggest challenge in finding sustainable move on provisions. Whilst move on into supported housing and Local Authority tenancy is still by far the highest move on option, the numbers have gone down from 40.6% to 38.3%; whilst the percentage of people finding private rented move on accommodation remained constant with 4.5%.
- 2.11 There has been a shift in the length of time people stay in the assessment centre at O'Hanlon House. More people (24.0% compared to 19.4%) get moved on within 0 to 4 weeks. At the same time, the percentage of people staying over 12 weeks has also increased from 45.2% to 48.8%. It is likely that the length of stay varied across localities as in some cases the number of move on options has decreased.
- 2.12 It is positive that particularly in O'Hanlon House throughput has increased from 353.6% in the first year of the pathway to 375.0% this year. This seems to be particularly remarkable considering the reduction in move on options across the pathway.

#### People leaving the pathway

- 2.14 In 2017-18, 64.2% of external departures were planned moves compared to 54.5% in 2016-17. The details of these departures were as follows:

Planned or Unplanned	Count	Percent
Planned	156	64.2%
Evicted (behaviour)	37	15.2%
Neutral	18	7.4%
Evicted (arrears)	16	6.6%
Abandoned	12	4.9%
Unplanned - other	4	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The neutral unplanned moves include 8 people taken into custody, 7 people died, 1 moved to stay with family, 1 moved to stay with friends and for 1 person the reason was unknown.

#### Case Studies

- 2.15 The HIB requested some case studies of people that are currently in or have been through the pathway, these are attached at Appendix A.

#### Pathway priorities for 2018-20 (years 2 and 3)

- 2.16 *Profile of people needing support* – The demographics and complexity of people in the pathway are changing and at the appropriate point the provision commissioned may need to change to reflect these changing needs. There is an opportunity for reshaping services we have recommissioned.

*Lack of supply* - across the county there is a common issue that it is becoming increasingly difficult to move people on from the pathway due to individuals having more support needs, Registered Providers are becoming more commercially minded so may not be willing to accept ex-pathway residents and there is a very limited number of private landlords who will accept people with complex needs.

*Suitable housing options* - the lack of affordable, realistic housing options for people moving out of the pathway. From an affordability perspective do local housing authorities need to ensure more supply of affordable accommodation i.e. social rent rather affordable rent. Is the standard general needs social housing the best model of accommodation for people moving out of the pathway or do we need to look at different models?

#### Up to date Rough Sleeping data

- 2.17 The latest annual rough sleeper counts and estimates are being completed in November 2018. A verbal update on the figures will be provided at the meeting.

#### Funding and Joint Commissioning Arrangements for the pathway

- 2.18 The current pathway arrangements are jointly funded by the five local housing authorities (City Council and district councils), the County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. These parties have invested jointly £2,940,000 which has fully funded the pathway over the three years from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2020. There are ongoing discussions about the extension of the current programme for joint

commissioning of homelessness services into 2020-22. There is a clear commitment from all parties involved in the pooled budget arrangements to extend the joint commissioning arrangements for a further two years, to the end of March 2022. Infrastructure to extend the current arrangement is already in place. A further update on the latest position regarding joint commissioning of the pathway into 2020-22 will be provided at the meeting.