



## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SCRUTINY PANEL 2 – THE IMPACT OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON THE TOWN**

**28 JANUARY 2016**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE: BACKGROUND DATA –**

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 10 December 2015, Scrutiny Panel 2 (The Impact of Anti-Social Behaviour on the Town) requested information and data regarding homelessness and rough sleepers.

#### **2 HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER DATE**

- 2.1 Due to spells of severe weather and reduced temperatures in the winter, more rough sleepers will choose to engage with advice and support services and ask for help during this time of the year. It does not necessarily mean that more people are sleeping rough.
- 2.2 There has been a visible increase in the number of people sleeping rough in Northampton. We reported 19 rough sleepers in November 2014 and 25 in November 2015. Two outreach sessions are carried out each week, one early in the morning and the other late at night when it is more likely to find a rough sleeper bedded down.
- 2.3 The average number of rough sleepers seen during each outreach session was five in October 2015, four in November 2015 and six in December 2015. During the same period, the highest number of rough sleepers seen during an outreach session was eleven in October 2015, eleven in November 2015 and thirteen in December 2015.
- 2.5 A multi-Agency project team is being established to prepare for, and co-ordinate, a comprehensive rough sleepers count in February 2016. The count will cover the whole of the Borough and efforts will be made to engage every rough sleeper who is found on that night.
- 2.6 The rough sleepers count will inform the development of Northampton's 3 year multi agency Rough Sleepers Strategy which is being kick-started at a half day workshop early February 2016.

- 2.7 Organised by the Council's Housing & Wellbeing Service and Community Safety Team, the Rough Sleepers Strategy workshop will be attended by a broad range of local organisations, including charities, faith groups, health professionals, advice and support providers and the Police. During the workshop, participants will share ideas and information and will be asked to consider, and sign up to, a fresh approach that will ensure that every organisation is doing everything it can to tackle, prevent and reduce rough sleeping in the borough.
- 2.8 In the meantime, the SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) Project – a partnership between the Council, NAASH and the Hope Centre, based at Oasis House – will operate again to provide rough sleepers with emergency shelter, food, advice and support when temperatures drop to below freezing and are forecast to remain that low for at least 3 consecutive nights.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That the information provided in this briefing note informs the evidence base of this Scrutiny Review.

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11 January 2015