

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



SCRUTINY PANEL 3 – HOMELESSNESS

CORE QUESTIONS – Northamptonshire Police

CORE QUESTIONS:

1. Please describe your understanding of the nature, causes and extent of homelessness and rough sleeping, and the impact that homelessness has on the health, wellbeing and safety of homeless people.

Not an appropriate question for Police to answer as links into political opinions.

2. Please describe the services, assistance and support that are available to people who are homeless, including rough sleepers.

Officers will signpost people to appropriate services.

3. Please provide details of the contribution that your organisation is making (through its work and the initiatives in which it is involved) to tackle, prevent and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in the borough.

Police attend Rough Sleeper Strategy Workshops, support Outreach events and attend multi agency enforcement days. Police will also deal with various Anti-Social Behaviour issues that are sometimes associated with rough sleeping.

4. Please provide details of the action that your organisation is taking to improve the health, wellbeing and safety of homeless people.

Police Officers will signpost people to appropriate services.

5. Please provide details of the local Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleepers Strategy and how their implementation is being monitored and assessed.

Strategy is written by NBC.

6. Please provide details of the arrangements that have been put in place to provide rough sleepers with emergency shelter during severe weather.

Provided by NBC.

7. Please provide us with any statistics and data you hold in relation to the number of people / households that are homeless, and details of the methodology you have used to count the number of people sleeping rough.

Specific statistics not held by Police, although Officers are supplied to support multi agency initiatives and counts.

8. Are you aware of any specific groups that are not accessing local services and, if you are, please can you provide details and describe the reasons why some homeless people are difficult to engage and support?

Some homeless people, albeit it a minority, do chose rough sleeping as a lifestyle choice. Some also suffer from mental health issues.

9. Are there any significant gaps in service and do the services link together well enough?

Recent evidence of good joint approach, especially with the NBC Outreach Workers. E-Cins is also available as a tool.

10. How can we increase awareness of the services, assistance and support available to people who are homeless, including rough sleepers?

Not an issue for Police to comment on.

11. What action is being taken to ensure that all agencies and members of the public know what to do if they know that someone is homeless or sleeping rough?

Police Officers will signpost people to appropriate services.

12. Do you have any other information you are able to provide in relation to homelessness and rough sleeping?

No further information.