

Homelessness - October 2017

Caroline Roundhill - Bournemouth Council



Homelessness

What it is

- Rough sleeping
- Temporary accommodation
- Sofa surfing
- Squatting
- Overcrowding
- Short term hostel accommodation

What it isn't

- Begging
- Street drinking

Increase in Bournemouth?

Rough sleeping

- National increase of 134% between 2010 and 2016
- Bournemouth decrease 17% between 2015 and 2016
- Last street count: 39

Wider homelessness

- Increase in number of households presenting to Council
- Approx. 1,000 households approach the Council every month

Also.....

- Increase in complexity – more complex solutions

What are the reasons?

Structural

- Economic climate
- Welfare reform
- Affordability in private rented sector
- Reduction in other accom options and support

Individual

- Bad debts/rent arrears
- Low income/benefit recipient
- Family breakdown/abuse
- Physical/mental health
- Support needs: eg drugs, alcohol, DV
- Offending behaviours

So, what's
Bournemouth Council
doing?



Building a Better Bournemouth

Homelessness Strategy

New Homelessness Strategy 2016 – 2021

Four over-arching objectives:

1. **Prevent** homelessness and minimise use of Temporary Accommodation
2. **Reduce** Homelessness and rough sleeping
3. Develop a range of sustainable **housing options** and pathways
4. Develop **partnership** work and communications

Homelessness Strategy continued

- Developed following consultation and review
- Detailed goals and action plan for each objective
- Monitored by multi-agency Homelessness Strategy Group
- Detailed action plan
- Reviewed regularly

Statutory Duties

- Delivered by Housing Options Team
- Duty to provide housing advice to all
- Duty to provide settled accommodation if meet legislative criteria:
 1. Actual homeless/threatened with homeless
 2. Eligible
 3. Priority need
 4. Intentionality
 5. Local connection

Advice provision

Encourage to seek advice early.....

- Council's Housing Options team: not only 1,000 face to face enquiries per month – also emails and phone calls
- Bournemouth Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Shelter
- Other voluntary sector agencies

Accommodation Provision

- Accommodation-based support including specialist services for specific needs
- Temporary accommodation for those we owe a statutory duty
- Move on and settled accommodation
- Rent Deposit Scheme

Bournemouth and Poole Rough Sleeper Team

- Jointly commissioned with Borough of Poole
- Outreach, assessment, support, referrals and assistance to access accommodation
- Reconnections service
- No Second Night Out
- Partnership working
- Drop-in provision
- Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

More provision for people rough sleeping

- Approx 150 beds for 'single homeless' people
- Housing First Support Service
- Dedicated Homelessness Mental Health Worker
- Challenge activities which risk 'sustaining' people on the street
- Multi-agency forum – most complex cases

Housing Early Prevention Service

- 'Homelessness Trailblazers' - DCLG funding with Borough of Poole
- Team of six outreach workers
- Partnership approach including landlords, health, jobcentres and voluntary sector
- Targeting residents of Poole or Bournemouth
- Those concerned about or threatened with homelessness
- Assist with early signs of housing issues
- Support, advice, prevention

What's next?

- Homelessness Reduction Act
- Universal Credit
- Maximising available accommodation
- Awareness raising
- Early intervention and prevention
- Continued partnership working

Challenges and Opportunities

- Supporting more people with more complex needs
- Increased demand and pressure on all services
- Securing move-on accommodation / access to PRS
- Universal credit roll out
- Ensuring the right support – avoiding activities which can sustain people on the street

Reporting routes

Rough Sleeping

www.streetlink.org.uk or 0300 5000 914

Info sent directly to the rough sleeper team who will follow up and offer support

Anti-social behaviour

epic.reporting@bournemouth.gov.uk

Use to report concerns about street-based behaviour or abandoned items. Monitored during office hours

Donations

www.Bournemouth.gov.uk/makechangeount

Money will be used most effectively if it goes to charities working with homeless people



Questions?

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