



**Fighting for hope for  
homeless people**

Hidden Homelessness Scrutiny Review Group  
C/o Andrew Davies  
Scrutiny Officer  
Oxford City Council  
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St Aldates  
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25 August 2006

Dear Oxford City Council Executive Board

**Re: Oxford City Council Hidden Homelessness Scrutiny Review Report**

I am writing to warmly welcome the report of the Hidden Homelessness Scrutiny Review Group which I understand is being considered at the Executive Board meeting of the Council on 09 October. Crisis's policy team worked with the officers and members of the Review Group on this work and we strongly endorse it.

Crisis and others have been talking about the issue of hidden homelessness for a number of years now but with around 380,000 hidden homeless people in Britain today the issue has not gone away, and indeed it is likely to be getting worse, so we welcome any work that draws attention to the issue. This is an issue of national importance but it is also vital that work, such as that of this review group, is undertaken at the local level to recognise, identify and quantify the extent of hidden homelessness in a particular area and to put in place measures to tackle it.

I strongly endorse the recommendations of the Review Group set out in their report and would be very keen to see them adopted by the Council and pursued by the relevant officers so that a long-term strategy is put in place to monitor and tackle the problem of hidden homelessness and to help hidden homeless people with the wide range of issues which they face.

In addition to seeing the work of the Review Group implemented in Oxford, we would be keen to ensure that other local authorities, the wider public and in particular the Department for Communities and Local Government are made more aware of the problem of hidden homelessness and that it is an issue that can be measured and steps put in place to tackle it, as you have demonstrated. Therefore, if there is anything we can do to publicise this work and/or to assist the Council in promoting it more widely then please do get in touch.

With best wishes

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