

Appendix 2 - No Local Connection Review Group report from the meeting held on 19 July)background information)

1. What provision is already in place to support rough sleepers without a local connection?

Introduction

In order for an individual to access supported accommodation for single homeless /rough sleepers in Oxford, they need to meet eligibility criteria. This means they need to have a local connection as set out in the City's Allocations Scheme or to fulfil the criteria for a 'homeless pathway connection'. A pathway connection is a less strict set of criteria than the 'local connection'. They also need to be in receipt of benefits (and so have recourse to public funds).

Some commissioned services can be accessed by those with and those without a local connection (or recourse), including the sit-up service (where the client is engaging) and day centre services.

Further detail is provided in the sections below about winter provision which is open to those without eligibility. Information has also been provided about some of the accommodation units which are being commissioned through a specific MHCLG budget, and where the usual rules on eligibility will not apply

A summary of all services can be found in Table One

Winter Provision

Oxford City Council has a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) which sets out what Oxford City Council and local partner homelessness organisations will do to ensure there is provision of extra bed spaces for rough sleepers during adverse weather conditions. During 2017-18, 144 individuals accessed SWEP – the highest number ever – and accommodation was provided for a total of 827 nights.

SWEP is available to people regardless of their local connection and has always been used by a high proportion of clients with a connection to areas outside Oxfordshire and by clients who are EEA nationals without recourse to public funds. Most of those accessing SWEP in 2017-18 did not have a connection to Oxford.. Many had a connection to other Oxfordshire districts but over a quarter had no connection to Oxfordshire. Many clients were still waiting for confirmation of their connection status.

In addition, in 2017/18 the Oxford Winter Night Shelter (OWNS) operated between January and March, providing shelter to ten individuals across churches in Oxford. This service was provided without funding from the City Council and was open to all rough sleepers regardless of eligibility. It is proposed that this service will expand in 2018/19.

MHCLG Bid

Oxford City Council has been awarded £502,983 by MHCLG to fund services to prevent and relieve rough sleeping over the winter of 18/19.

This money will support OCC to provide a Hub in the city for Rough sleepers where they can access a number of support services. It is also being used to commission supported accommodation in the city. Some units are being commissioned to meet the needs of eligible rough sleepers, however others will specifically be open to some rough sleepers without a local connection and/or recourse to public funds. Table 1 provides further information on this.

2. How homelessness services are funded?

Historically, the County Council commissioned most services for single homeless people from Supporting People funding. In recent years, this funding envelope has reduced significantly, with the Council proposing to cease funding entirely from 2019/20 onwards. From 17/18 a pooled budget arrangement was agreed between all the Oxfordshire district councils; the county council and clinical commissioning group, to continue to fund the Adult Homeless Pathway.

The City Council has re-shaped its own commissioning strategy in light of this and has prioritised funding into accommodation based support for rough sleepers, to ensure adequacy of provision for city-connected clients going forward. The beds that the City Council commission are aligned with the pooled commissioning to offer clients access to an expanded pathway if they have a city connection.

Oxford City Council agreed its budget and Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2018-19 to 2021-22 which included a base budget of provision of £941k per annum. A further commissioning budget is also available from the Council's own grant budget of £442,279.

The strategic framework within which these funds are allocated remains the same, providing a total budget for 2018/19 of approximately **£1,834,853**. This represents a total increase of £100,000 on the 2017/18 budget (excluding the proposed managed carry forward of funds from and reserves committed to the Acacia Housing First Project in 2017/18). A further £200,000 has also been identified in the budget report for inclusion in the base budget from 2019/20 onwards.

In light of the cross-commissioning agenda and cross-strategy advantages of homeless prevention and ending rough sleeping work, a multi-agency steering group advises on the monitoring of this budget. The group comprises of representatives from Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council Joint Commissioning Team, Public Health and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Funding targeted at helping existing rough sleepers aims to support them through what is known as the homeless pathway. This is the path from sleeping on the streets; through hostels and supported accommodation; with support services to help

with employment, training, or any substance abuse or mental health issues; and finally to helping people into permanent accommodation and work.

Table 1

In 2018/19 the grants funded (and will be funding) the following services:

Oxfordshire Adult Homeless Pathway – Pooled Budget Supported Accommodation					
Service	Service Provider	Contract Value	City use only	Number of Units/Beds	Local connection
O'Hanlon Hse - City	Homeless Oxfordshire	£161,700	Yes	27	Yes
Connection Support	Connection & Response		Yes	31	Yes
Mayday	Mayday Trust		Yes	21	Yes
				79	
Oxford City Funded Supported Housing					
O'Hanlon Hse - City - SIT UP	Homeless Oxfordshire	£54,903	Yes	10	No (RS can stay in sit up whilst a connection is being looked into, or while they are engaged in reconnection)
Project 41	Homeless Oxfordshire	£149,994	Yes	41	Yes
Simon House	A2 Dominion	£200,000	Yes	22	Yes
Mayday	Mayday Trust	£39,272	Yes	10	Yes
Housing First	Homeless Oxfordshire	£47,850	Yes	5	Yes
Acacia - existing	Homeless Oxfordshire	£47,850	Yes	5	Yes
Acacia - capacity increase	Homeless Oxfordshire	£47,850	Yes	5	Yes
<i>TBC - EEA Migrants / Routes Home</i>			<i>Yes</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>No</i>
				89	
MHCLG Bid					
<i>O'Hanlon Hse - City -</i>	<i>Homeless</i>	<i>£33,658</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>As with the</i>

<i>SIT UP - extension</i>	<i>Oxfordshire</i>				<i>sit-up service above</i>
London Place winter shelter	A2 Dominion	20930	Yes	6	No
Simon House - winter shelter	A2 Dominion	62595	Yes	8	No
Womens beds	Homeless Oxfordshire	£16,377	TBC	5	Yes
Green Templeton College beds	Oxford University/Aspire	£15,400	Yes	3	No
Rehab units	Homeless Oxfordshire	49009	TBC	7	Yes
Move On units	Homeless Oxfordshire	23962	Yes	5	Yes
District based Winter Night Shelters	District Councils	30000	No	20	No
				64	
Other Services					
Street Population Outreach Team,	St Mungo's	£350,893			No
Specialist Homelessness Liaison Officer/Service	Thames Valley Police	£30,000			No
City Centre Ambassadors	Oxford City Council	£17,500			No
Day services for Rough Sleepers at O'Hanlon House	Homeless Oxfordshire	£82,778			No
Preventing Homelessness – Tenancy Sustainment Officer	Elmore Community Services	£35,630			Yes
Pre-Tenancy Training Course	Connections Support	£16,000			Yes
Target Hardening/Sanctuary Scheme	Oxford City Council	£30,000			Yes
Education, Training and Employment	Oxford City Council	£77,623			Yes
Emmaus Community Oxford	Emmaus	£10,000			No
Day Centre	The Porch	£55,000			No
Service Broker		£12,500			No

	The Big Issue Foundation				(although there is a KPI to encourage this)
Gatehouse Café	Gatehouse	£5,580			No
Emergency Bed for young person's pathway	Oxford City Council	£6,134			Yes (forward plan needs to be in place)
Single Homelessness Team	Oxford City Council	£120,000			N/A
Oxford CHAIN database, Real Systems	St Mungos - London.	£4,396			N/A

3. Understanding the reconnection process for those without a local connection.

The process of establishing local connection is carried out by OxSPOT (the outreach service commissioned through St Mungos), in conjunction with the Adult Homeless Pathway Co-ordinator at the City Council. The outreach worker verifies the rough sleeper and offers them an assessment, which will collect details that enable the co-ordinator to determine if:

- the client has a connection to City/
- the client has a connection to another district in Oxfordshire (in which case they will be referred to that authority).

if the client has a local connection to another area in the Country

Where the client does not have a connection to Oxford City or another Oxfordshire district, the outreach service will determine if the client is able to access accommodation/support in other areas of the country (regardless of their connection to any one area), and will draw up a suitable offer of accommodation and support (a service offer). This may involve making an offer of reconnection and providing resources to support this.

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