

# Housing and Economy Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 18 January 2018

## Homelessness – Winter Readiness Update Report

<b>Item number</b>	7.10
<b>Report number</b>	
<b>Executive/routine</b>	Executive
<b>Wards</b>	All
<b>Council Commitments</b>	None

### Executive Summary

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This report provides an update to the Winter Readiness Report presented to the Housing and Economy Committee on 2 November 2017.

## Homelessness – Winter Readiness Update Report

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Committee notes the content of this update report.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 To ensure that rough sleeping is minimised in the city, particularly during the winter months, the Council and its partners work together to provide a range of service to support vulnerable people.
- 2.2 A report to the Housing and Economy Committee, on 2 November 2017, outlined the services that were available during the winter period for people who were homeless or at risk of homelessness. This update report provides additional information on the use of these services and service developments that have taken place since.
- 2.3 The Scottish Government has created a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) which will provide a series of recommendations, shaped around the following four questions:
- What can be done to reduce rough sleeping this winter?
  - How can we end rough sleeping?
  - How can we transform the use of temporary accommodation?
  - What needs to be done to end homelessness?
- 2.4 These questions will be considered in the order outlined above. The current focus is on actions to assist in reducing rough sleeping this winter. To support this goal, the Scottish Government has provided £328,000 of additional funding for local authorities and partners across Scotland, to develop service provision this winter.
- 2.5 Following recognition of the current pressures in Edinburgh, a significant proportion of this fund was allocated to the city to allow service development across the sector. Further details of the progress on this work can be found here: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/about-us/the-crisis-blog/fourth-meeting-of-the-scottish-government-homelessness-rough-sleeping-action-group>.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 During the period 9 October 2017 to 22 April 2018, Bethany Christian Trust are operating care shelters. People can access the shelters from 9.30pm and will be provided with a two-course hot meal, a bed space and breakfast, before the shelters close at 7am.
- 3.2 A range of church halls are used for this purpose and from 9 October to 30 November the capacity in the shelters was 45. As planned and noted in the previous report to Committee, this rose to 60, from 1 December.
- 3.3 A donation of £25,000 from a charity partner and a grant of £27,000 from the Scottish Government, enabled a further increase in shelter capacity, to 75 bed spaces, from 4 December 2017 to the end of the shelter season.
- 3.6 During the period 9 October 2017 to 10 December 2017, the shelters have seen 2,662 presentations, from 320 people – 85% male and 15% female. In this period, there were 71 occasions when accommodation could not be provided.
- 3.7 The last occasion when accommodation could not be provided, due to capacity, was 24 November 2017 and Bethany are confident this means there should be no other occasions this season where people are turned away due to capacity issues.
- 3.8 The average number of occasions people access the shelters is 8, with 66% of people only using them for 1 or 2 nights. Further analysis of this data is required but it is likely that most of these people have gone on to access accommodation and no longer need to use the shelters.
- 3.9 There are occasions where Bethany will exclude service users for the remainder of the season, normally due to aggression or violence. There are currently 8 individuals who are excluded. A number of other people have been asked to leave for shorter periods of time, before being able to access the service again.
- 3.10 As noted in the previous report, a range of service providers attend the shelter each evening on a co-ordinated rota. The care shelters do not have the resources to track all support provided to its conclusion, but the feedback from both staff and services providers around the engagement is very positive.
- 3.11 Each morning Streetwork staff visit the care shelters to offer support. Those willing to engage will be supported to access services from the Streetwork Hub. To support the provision of statutory services, where service users require them and to reduce the need for travel to a Council office, Council officers now attend the hub to provide advice and arrangements are in place to allocate accommodation from the hub, if required.
- 3.12 The Council operates an out of hours homelessness service, with a free phone number. This service operates outside standard Council opening times and ensures that people can access temporary accommodation, if required, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, year-round. When people access the out of hours service, a short assessment is completed, and where eligibility for

service is established, if required and capacity allows, accommodation will be offered.

- 3.13 During October and November 2017, 622 calls were received by the Council's out of hours homelessness service, this is a reduction from 679 in 2016/17. In 9% of these calls accommodation was provided, 29% of calls resulted in the Council being unable to provide accommodation and remaining 62% of calls were either advice only or the service user refusing an offer of accommodation.
- 3.14 The Council received £90,000 from the Scottish Government, in early December, to operate a 24 hour rapid access accommodation unit, for a period of 3 months. The accommodation unit has 12 beds and is accessed through street outreach workers when they identify vulnerable rough sleepers who are not accessing the care shelters.
- 3.15 This property has been available since 11 December, and in the first week the rooms were occupied at 98%. A range of support services have been provided to the 18 residents who have accessed this accommodation and further information on use, support provision and outcomes will be available monthly beginning in mid January.
- 3.16 At Housing and Economy Committee on 2 November 2017, Councillors requested additional information around demographics of rough sleepers and also armed services veterans. A data table is included in appendix one. Some key figures are noted below:
- Most rough sleepers are males between 25 and 64.
  - Single person households account for 89% of those who present as homeless following an episode of rough sleeping three months prior.
  - The most common ethnicity, around 72%, is white British.
  - Around 3% of all people who present as homeless following rough sleeping have previously been in the armed forces.
  - 55% of people presenting as homeless following a period of rough sleeping have a recognised support need, with 30% having multiple support needs. The most common support need is mental health followed by drug/alcohol.

#### **4. Measures of success**

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- 4.1 A reduction in rough sleeping.
- 4.2 Care shelters operate within capacity.
- 4.3 An increase in people who are rough sleeping accessing statutory services.

#### **5. Financial impact**

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5.1 N/A

## **6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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6.1 N/A

## **7. Equalities impact**

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7.1 N/A

## **8. Sustainability impact**

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8.1 N/A

## **9. Consultation and engagement**

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9.1 N/A

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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10.1 N/A

**Harry Robertson**

Acting Head of Safer and Stronger Communities

Contact: Nicky Brown, Homelessness and Housing Support Senior Manager

E-mail: [nicky.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:nicky.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 7589

## 11. Appendices

**Homeless Presentations where household indicated they have slept rough within 3 months prior to homeless presentation  
1/4/17 to 31/3/18 (April to November)**

		2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
		No	%	No	%
Female	16-17	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
	18-24	11	4.4%	7	3.8%
	25-59	43	17.3%	25	13.4%
	60+	2	0.8%	1	0.5%
Male	16-17	2	0.8%	2	1.1%
	18-24	22	8.8%	16	8.6%
	25-64	164	65.9%	133	71.5%
	65+	3	1.2%	2	1.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

		2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
		No	%	No	%
Single		207	83.1%	165	88.7%
Single Parent		21	8.4%	9	4.8%
Couple Without Children		14	5.6%	3	1.6%
Couple With Children		5	2.0%	7	3.8%
Other		2	0.8%	2	1.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Ethnicity

		2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
		No	%	No	%
White	Scottish	167	67.1%	116	62.4%
	Other British	30	12.0%	18	9.7%
	Irish	5	2.0%	3	1.6%
	Polish	13	5.2%	14	7.5%
	Other	17	6.8%	12	6.5%
Mixed		2	0.8%	1	0.5%
African		4	1.6%	8	4.3%
African Other		1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Carribbean		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Black		1	0.4%	5	2.7%
Black Other		0	0.0%	2	1.1%
Pakistani		0	0.0%	2	1.1%
Indian		0	0.0%	1	0.5%
Bangladeshi		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Chinese		0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asian Other		1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Arab		1	0.4%	2	1.1%

Other	6	2.4%	2	1.1%
Gypsy / Traveller	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Not Known	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Refused	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Nationality

	2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
	No	%	No	%
British	209	83.9%	139	74.7%
EEA Nationals	33	13.3%	32	17.2%
Other	7	2.8%	15	8.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Previously in Armed Forces

	2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
	No	%	No	%
Less than 5 Years Ago	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
More Than 5 Years Ago	8	3.2%	5	2.7%
No	230	92.4%	180	96.8%
No Known	10	4.0%	1	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Looked After Background (only answered where applicant is under 25 years of age)

	2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
	No	%	No	%
Less than 5 Years Ago	6	16.2%	2	8.0%
More Than 5 Years Ago	0	0.0%	1	4.0%
No	28	75.7%	20	80.0%
No Known	3	8.1%	2	8.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Cause of Homelessness

	2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
	No	%	No	%
Parents no longer able/willing to accommodate	18	7.2%	18	9.7%
Other Relatives no longer able/willing to accommodate	29	11.6%	11	5.9%
Friends no longer able/willing to accommodate	47	18.9%	32	17.2%
Dispute with Partner - Violent	20	8.0%	17	9.1%
Dispute with Partner - Non Violent	34	13.7%	28	15.1%
Dispute with Parents - Violent	3	1.2%	3	1.6%
Dispute Between Parents - Violent	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Fleeing Non-Domestic Violence	3	1.2%	0	0.0%
Loss of Local Authority Tenancy - Arrears	0	0.0%	5	2.7%
Loss of Local Authority Tenancy - ASB	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
Loss of Local Authority Tenancy - S/A Tenancy	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Loss of Local Authority Tenancy - Other	8	3.2%	0	0.0%

Loss of Social Rented Tenancy - Arrears	4	1.6%	1	0.5%
Loss of Social Rented Tenancy - ASB	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Loss of Social Rented Tenancy - S/A Tenancy	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
Loss of Social Rented Tenancy - Other	4	1.6%	3	1.6%
Loss of Private Sector Tenancy - Arrears	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Loss of Private Sector Tenancy - ASB	2	0.8%	0	0.0%
Loss of Private Sector Tenancy - S/A Tenancy	3	1.2%	5	2.7%
Loss of Private Sector Tenancy - Other	13	5.2%	18	9.7%
Discharged from Hospital	3	1.2%	2	1.1%
Discharged from Hospital - Alcohol	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Discharged from Hospital - Drugs	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Discharged from Hospital - Mental Health	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Discharged from Prison	14	5.6%	13	7.0%
Discharged from Institution - Other	1	0.4%	4	2.2%
Lost Accommodation in Hostel/B&B	13	5.2%	9	4.8%
Loss of Service Tenancy, including Armed Forces	1	0.4%	1	0.5%
Leaving Supported Accommodation	9	3.6%	8	4.3%
Mortgage Default	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Forced Division and Sale of Matrimonial Property	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Gave up Secure Accommodation	9	3.6%	5	2.7%
Overcrowding	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Emergency (Fire, Flood, Storm etc)	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
House Uninhabitable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Unsafe to return to Accommodation	1	0.4%	0	0.0%
Harassment - Racial	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Harassment - Other	2	0.8%	3	1.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Support needs

	2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
	No	%	No	%
No Support Needs	108	43.4%	79	42.5%
One Support Need	64	25.7%	51	27.4%
Two Support Needs	36	14.5%	29	15.6%
Three Support Needs	23	9.2%	16	8.6%
Four Support Needs	12	4.8%	9	4.8%
Five Support Needs	5	2.0%	1	0.5%
Six Support Needs	1	0.4%	1	0.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Support Need Types

	2016-2017		2017-2018 (Apr-Nov)	
	No	%	No	%
No Support Needs	108	43.4%	79	42.5%
Mental Health Support Needs	88	35.3%	81	43.5%
Learning Disability Support Needs	12	4.8%	11	5.9%
Physical Disability Support Needs	18	7.2%	5	2.7%
Medical Condition Support Needs	43	17.3%	23	12.4%
Drug or Alcohol Support Needs	72	28.9%	53	28.5%
Basic Housing Support/Independent Living Support Needs	51	20.5%	36	19.4%



<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
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