



District Councils' Network Annual Conference 2020

Championing our towns, cities and communities

Thursday 6 – Friday 7 February 2020
Chesford Grange Hotel, Warwick

W2 Homelessness and rough sleeping: ending it by preventing it

- **Jean Templeton**, Chief Executive, St Basils and Chair, WMCA Homelessness Taskforce
- **Michael Veryard**, Chiltern and South Bucks District Council and DCN Housing Adviser
- Chaired by **Cllr Tom Beattie**, DCN Vice Chair and Leader, Corby Borough Council



Designing out Homelessness

Jean Templeton, Chair of WMCA Homelessness Taskforce
Chief Executive, St Basils

7th February 2020

The Scale of the Challenge - the West Midlands in context

Rate of homelessness acceptances per 1000 households 2017/18*

- **England:** 2.41/1000 **London:** 4.23/1000 **Rest of England:** 2.08/1000
- **WMCA** – 10,157 homeless applications and 5,518 acceptances (5 of 7 LAs have acceptances over the national average)
- **Birmingham** : 7.77/1000 h/holds (4th highest in the country and highest overall acceptances at 3386 / 5148 decisions); **Solihull** 4.54 /1000 ; **Coventry** 3.86/1000; **Sandwell** 3.87/1000 ; **Wolverhampton** 4.28/1000 ; **Walsall** 1.90/1000; **Dudley** 0.50/1000(0.45*)
- 169 rough sleepers November 2018 count on streets of West Midlands on a single night (+33%) - 127 (2017)

(* pre- Homelessness Reduction Act)

- Nearly 1000 households a month were owed a homelessness duty in WMCA (between April and Dec 2018)
- Over 50% had additional support needs
- 3,140 WMCA households were in Temporary accommodation (twice the national average outside London)
- Including over 6000 children

Designing out homelessness in the West Midlands

Universal Prevention

Targeted Prevention

Crisis Prevention and Relief

Recovery

Move-on Support

Settled home

Children

Families

Young people

Older singles

Homelessness Task Force

Regional Radar

Regional Sleeping Task Group

Steering Group

Task Group Children & Families

Task Group Young People

Task Group Older singles

Prevention by Design

Affordable Supply

Tackle welfare related Poverty

Good Employment

Info Advice Guidance

Integrated Prevention

WMCA MAINSTREAM STRATEGIES

Affordable Accommodation , Health, Jobs and Skills, Transport, Community, Public service reform

Key Questions

- How can you achieve the public service reform necessary to take an integrated approach to tackling and preventing homelessness?
- What do you have in the universal, targeted and supply domains which moves away from crisis and changes the focus to early spend rather than late spend...?





CHILTERN
District Council



SOUTH BUCKS
District Council

Stronger in partnership

HOMELESSNESS – THE DISTRICT RESPONSE

Michael Veryard
**Housing Policy Officer – District Councils’
Network**
**Housing Manager – Chiltern DC and South
Bucks DC**

DCN Conference - 7th February 2020

Homelessness - The District Council Response


Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

- New duties and focus on prevention
- Emphasis on staff training and development
- Resource intensive with more one-to-one work with clients
- Good IT systems are important
- Wide range of good practice to prevent homelessness (e.g. working with local private rented sector)

Rough Sleeping

- Government committed to end rough sleeping by end of this Parliament
- Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/21 – 141 x District Councils awarded funding
- Rapid Rehousing Pathways – Over 100 x District Councils awarded funding to help Rough Sleepers access support and settled accommodation

What will impact on District Councils going forward?

- Future of District Council homelessness funding
 - Impact of ending “no fault” evictions
 - Availability and affordability of private rented housing (Local Housing Allowance and Universal Credit)
 - Ending Rough Sleeping – the Housing First model
 - Cross agency working - Making the Duty to Refer work
 - Working with Registered Providers to prevent and relieve homelessness
 - Affordable housing supply for all needs and incomes
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Key Questions – Some thoughts

How can you achieve the public service reform necessary to take an integrated approach to tackling and preventing homelessness?

- Duty to Refer for public authorities has helped but experience is patchy
- Homelessness is a cross-agency issue and not just a District responsibility
- Needs effective cross-agency communication and training at Officer and Member level

What do you have in the universal, targeted and supply domains which moves away from crisis and changes the focus to early spend rather than late spend...?

- **District Officers** - Making the best use of their expertise and knowledge
- **Housing Stock** - Identifying early tenancy problems in Council/Registered Provider/Private Rented housing and intervening to resolve them
- **Working with Partners** - Supporting front line officers across other statutory or voluntary services to help them see homelessness warning signs and signpost clients to help

Refreshments, networking and exhibition



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