

Appendix 3

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2022

Consultation

Consultation began in November 2017. Consultation was carried out with Rotherham residents, Council staff and a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

Consultation summary

Consultation took the form of;

- Attendance at community events
- Online and face to face surveys
- Emails
- Discussions at various groups and forums where information went on to be cascaded via wider sessions
- Social media coverage
- Circulation of the draft strategy
- Desktop review of existing consultation evidence

Consultation methodology

The consultation was promoted, both externally (of the council), and internally. External consultation was conducted between November 2017 and March 2019 via community events, conferences, meetings, and the council website using an online survey.

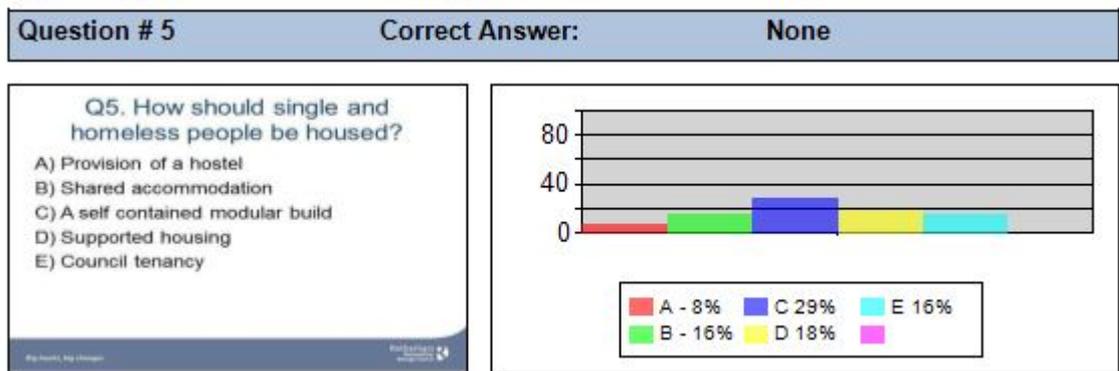
Internal pre-consultation took place with housing officers and related services by way of meetings, briefings and an online survey ran throughout July to October 2018. Wider internal consultation followed in the form of a shared draft strategy for comment in February 2019, where many services have provided valuable input into the strategies development.

The following presents an overview of the responses to this consultation;

1. Tenants conference 03/07/18

Over 200 people attended the tenant's conference where a presentation was given on the next Housing Strategy and the Homelessness Strategy.

The views of tenants were gathered using an electronic voting system as well as paper surveys. Question 5 asked: How should single and homeless people be housed? The results are detailed below;



Where attendees represented an organisation or tenant groups, they were asked to share the information wider and provide feedback.

2. Landlords Forum 24/09/18

Representatives from 12 landlords were provided with an overview of the key themes and where private sector will fit in. The group were provided with the online survey to complete as part of the consultation and the Forum were happy to receive updates on the progress of the revised Strategy at future meetings.

One of the landlords also represents local landlords at the Strategic Housing Forum where the draft of the Strategy was presented.

3. Housing Hub feedback

The key themes of the Homelessness Strategy were discussed at a number of 'Housing Hub' community sessions over the summer. The Housing Hub was used to engage with tenants on a range of housing related issues and to promote further tenant involvement opportunities. Events were held in local communities with hundreds of local residents attending each event. Feedback was positive in terms of the key themes emerging. Attendees were encouraged to provide feedback via a survey or email.

4. Rotherham Show 08/09/18

The Housing Options Service attended the Rotherham Show to speak to attendees about key housing issues including new build development and the emerging themes of the Homelessness Strategy. The show attracts around 70,000 visitors over the weekend. The team were able to discuss the strategy with attendees and collated feedback via a survey which has shaped the themes and key priorities of the strategy.

5. Key consultation partners 04/12/18

The draft strategy has been disseminated to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Housing Support Providers, Housing Associations and the Armed Forces Covenant Group.

6. Strategic Housing Forum 05/12/18

The themes of the strategy were presented at the forum. Attendees included representatives from across council directorates, housing associations, landlord sector, developers and supported housing providers. The strategy was well received and comments were made on specific areas including, homelessness, selective licensing and the private rented sector. All of which have been incorporated in the draft.

It was agreed that progress would be reported back to the group on a quarterly basis and the Forum would be responsible for holding the council and partners to account for delivering the strategy.

Where attendees represented another organisation, they were asked to share the information wider and provide feedback.

7. Rotherham Side by Side Homelessness Prevention Forum

The Side by Side Homelessness Forum's membership includes providers who work with homeless people. The Forum aims to work effectively together so that there is a clear local picture of homelessness issues in Rotherham. The Forum provided valuable input over a number of meetings and their feedback helped in the shaping of the strategies development.

8. The Mayoral Homelessness Summit

The Summit brought homelessness experts and practitioners in our region together. Attendees learnt about what was happening in other parts of the region and shared experiences and best practice of what does and doesn't work. Delegates had the opportunity to attend a number of workshops throughout the day, and feedback from the workshops has helped to shape the strategy. The workshops included:

- Housing First – can we develop a City Region approach?
- What can we learn from progress in Greater Manchester?
- How can we engage with the private rented sector and what should we expect from landlords?
- Can local housing providers sign up to the nine commitments in Everybody In?
- What is best practice in relation to the Homeless Reduction Act and the Duty to refer?
- Where is there best practice locally to tackle rough sleeping?

Some of the other key messages from the consultation included the need to:

- Support young people to access the right accommodation
- Provide appropriate support for people with complex needs
- Support victims of domestic abuse

- Provide appropriate temporary accommodation
- Prevent homelessness to reduce the impact on health
- Ensure there is easier access to services via digital methods or outreach
- End rough sleeping and begging
- Prevent evictions and early intervention
- Consider a “no eviction” policy from social housing
- Prevent the loss of private rented accommodation
- Reduce the number of aggressive beggars who are begging for money in a manner considered to be unduly intimidating.