

#1

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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?**A useful arena to coordinate a multi agency response****Q2** Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?**I was asked to support with regard to mental health, however CNWL have become the leads****Q3** What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?**Information on existing mental health resources****Q4** What do you think could be improved?**unable to comment**

#2

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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

In principle the partnership is a good idea but there appears to be a lack of understanding re who should be leading the project forward, as much of the onus and responsibility has been put back onto the Council

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

I am invited to some meetings to offer updates on current homelessness legislation

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

Updates on legislation, assistance and advice re the Council service delivery

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Understanding of the partnership responsibilities and clear planning and outcomes

#3

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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

It is not set up to end homelessness. The councillors do not attend and must receive information second hand; yet they are the decision makers. Councillors should attend.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

To end homelessness by providing cheap rented housing for all who need it.

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

Arguments against passively accepting that things can just go on as now.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Councillors attending. A big campaign to force the government to allow councils to build the houses they need. End the sale of council housing by ending the right to buy, as in Scotland.

#4

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

Something we need to solve the horrendous problem of increasing street homelessness. It has been a hard slog getting reasonable requests met by those in authority

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

Because I hope I can play a part in getting things done.

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

Lived experience of mental health problems (although not as a homeless person) which has led me to get involved in mental health services. Committee member and volunteer worker at the Mix Drop-in group for adults with mental health issues.

We are happy to welcome homeless people to that--many of whom have mental health issues. Six winters' experience of volunteering with the WNS in MK.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Maybe a greater willingness to be assertive when things drag on unnecessarily, although thankfully we seem to have turned a corner concerning use of the Buszy.

#5

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

It is a large group, too large to be effective. It has two very different approaches - lobbying and engaging - and has not decided which approach it is going to take. It lacks hard-nosed project management and strategy as to its direction. It spends a lot of time trying to ensure that everyone is onside, which is nice, but not the most effective way of getting things done.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

I chair one of the key charities involved in the partnership. I hoped it might have specific direction and focus.

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

I can develop strategy and I get things done.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Focus. Strategy. Delivery. Clarity. Team membership. Team size.

#6

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

It seems a good project, whereby different organisations come together to share ideas and find better ways of improving services for the homeless

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

I am the Mental Health Practitioner

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

Knowledge and advice, in relation to mental health within the homeless population

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Although all organisations aim to help support and reduce homelessnes, I think there are too many fragmented services. If there is a way that, some services can be amalgamated, to reduce redtap

#7

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

I think in principle its a good thing, however, i feel some of the actions i.e taking tents away etc is not a good idea, i also think being 'reactive' alone is not the solution. homelessness is an emotive subject i feel that helping them literally on a one to one basis and helping to make life moore comfortable be it off or on the streets is the way to go.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

I have been a member of a group called Help Our Homeless MK for around 3 years now i was one of its founder members and anything that can help homeless people is a matter close to my heart

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

not totally sure except that i am not a paid worker, i am not a 'suit' i am not a statistics person either , i think being literally on the 'front line' is an asset.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

i think less 'suits' and more practical solutions. i feel this group is a statistic collecting group and that i am unclear what direction it really wants to take.

#8

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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

The Partnership has created a platform for all interested parties to unite and showcase their ability to reach the best possible solution to resolve homelessness in Milton Keynes.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

Invited to be a member of the Task Force for Homelessness created by Cllr. Chris Williams.

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

My support and, hopefully, continued contribution in the future.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Less paperwork and more work with affected citizens of Milton Keynes.

#9

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

Helpful to meet, share updates, agree goals moving forward.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

Networking, to see how my organisation can assist with outreach, accommodation or job/leisure courses and employability options

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

As above

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Perhaps an upfront conversation on what each organisation can offer the partnership in terms of resources, connections, accommodation and services.

However this may have already happened as I have only attended the partnership meetings this year.

#10

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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

**Too large a list of participants.
Started well but soon ended up as a talking shop and little action**

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

Working partnership with other agencies is best way forward. Wanted some real action and money to alleviate homeless in MK

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

Expertise and real examples/issues and some solutions

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

For the number of participants to be reduced and council to act as a real partner and not just as a facilitator

#11

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

The Homeless Partnership meeting has been poorly structured and mostly ineffective during its operation, it is attended by too many people and the roles within the group / aims of the group are poorly defined. Unfortunately my experience has been that it has been a talking shop and a waste of time.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

I work for a local agency that supports homeless people.

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

Our staff have an excellent local knowledge and understanding of the issues effecting homeless people in Milton Keynes.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

Go back to the drawing board, set up a small group of key stakeholders, clear aims and objectives, more effective chairing from Milton Keynes Council and ensure members are able to make decisions.

#12

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Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
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Q1 What do you think of the Homelessness Partnership?

It is good that a group exists to promote partnership working in tackling the homelessness problem in Milton Keynes. Some good ideas and suggestions have come from the group and progress has been made. However it is a challenging environment in which to work as there are a lot of interested parties and individuals and homelessness is a politically charged subject that elicits many passionate views. At the same time the charities involved who have extensive experience of working with the homeless face huge resource issues and are already providing services in a very challenging environment. Taking on additional responsibilities with little or no additional resources is therefore difficult.

Q2 Why are you involved in the Homelessness Partnership?

Because something significant needs to happen to address a chronic homelessness problem in Milton Keynes.

Q3 What can/do you bring to the Homelessness Partnership?

The experience of leading an organisation that has provided emergency accommodation to the homeless in Milton Keynes for many years.

Q4 What do you think could be improved?

The group needs a more formal constitution and ways of working - there are many groups and charities involved in the partnership and smaller groups need to be created to get things done. The partnership lacks an obvious leader. Leadership of the group comes from participants who have heavy existing workloads and it can therefore be difficult to drive things forward.
