



## BRIEFING NOTE

### TO: Housing & Community Committee

### MK Homelessness Partnership Update

In December 2016, a progress report was presented to Cabinet. The recommendations of the report were endorsed by the Cabinet, and a further report is to be prepared for budget consideration. This report included a gap analysis of services and facilities available to meet the needs of non-statutory homelessness people, which was undertaken by a sub-group of the Partnership.

In January 2017, a sub-group of the Partnership met to develop a communications plan in order to make the general public aware of service provision and how to refer to support services, to give important information to homeless people and those at risk of rough sleeping, and a guide for professionals that are in contact with this group of people.

The Partnership is in support of the current Bus Shelter Project to provide emergency accommodation for homeless people including those that are using alcohol and/or drugs. The project team has been invited to be part of the Partnership membership. In February 2017, a sub-group of the Partnership met to further consider the business plan and operational issues.

The Partnership has been successful in a bid for DCLG Rough Sleeper Grant Funding, in partnership with Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton. This funding is to help those new to the streets, or at imminent risk of sleeping rough, get rapid support. The rough sleeper project will include -

- A dedicated rough sleeper outreach service
- Specialist mental health professionals
- Crisis intervention workers to focus on working with those with complex mental health issues
- Rough sleeper assessment hubs

This outreach service will be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

At the February 2017 Partnership meeting, it was decided that the focus for the short-term is to develop the costed proposal presented to Cabinet in December 2016, to prepare a further report to Cabinet to progress funding. A sub-group will meet initially to develop a project plan and build on the original gap analysis work.

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