



Winter provision for people sleeping rough

Webinar 1st September 2021

www.homeless.org.uk

Let's end homelessness together

Agenda 1.30 – 2.45pm



- **Welcome & introductions** Natalie Allen, Head of Partnerships, Homeless Link
- **SWEP and winter provision overview** Julie Cook, Project Manager, Homeless Link
- **What the government expects** Simon Dwight Specialist Rough Sleeping Advisor, Ministry of Housing & Local Government
- **A Local Authority approach to SWEP and winter provision** Niki Dolan, RSI Co-Ordinator for Nottinghamshire
- **A service provider approach** Salman Ravat, Manager, One Roof Leicester
- **Q&A** Chaired by Natalie Allen
- **Summing up and further resources** Natalie Allen

What is SWEP & Winter Provision?



Definitions

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol – SWEP

LA power to accommodate 'everyone' in periods of extreme weather. To prevent severe harm and ultimately death on the streets. Procedure and provision varies greatly amongst LA's. Emergency beds could include B&B and some beds may be specifically commissioned. Trigger? Severe cold weather might be any night forecast to be sub zero (some still using 3 consecutive nights <0). Likely to be a SWEP document setting out local approach.

Winter Provision

LA power to provide, commission or support extended period of emergency beds. Or charity, faith group may deliver winter bed project independently of LA. Better if done in partnership. Can include SWEP beds or operate alongside it.

SWEP & Winter Provision



Funding - can come from LA/central government via RSI or 'cold weather' funds or other homelessness funding and/or from fundraising income. Some models involve nightly charge and HB income, others don't.

Eligibility - rules are minimal – provision is intended for people who sleep rough or would be sleeping rough. 'Verification'?

Guidance - Homeless Link has issued SWEP guidance each year to assist LA's and their partners. Housing Justice supports a network of faith and community groups delivering winter shelters. Due to COVID-19 MHCLG has issued guidance/operating principles to guide operation of Night Shelters (and separately also hostels/shared houses).

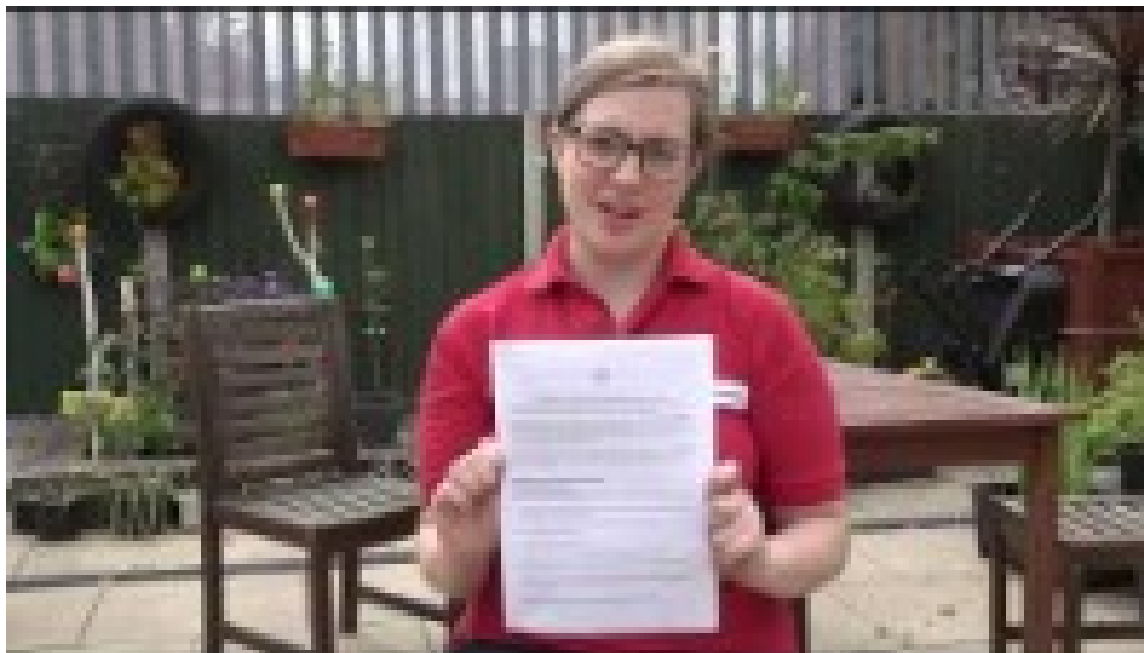
Stakeholders – LA, vol sector charities working with pple exp homelessness, faith groups, health, mental health, drug and alcohol services, police and people with lived experience of sleeping rough. Local winter planning group/task force to aid joint working?

SWEP & Winter Provision



- Impact of pandemic – rethinking winter provision?
- What minimum standards might be desirable and achievable?
- Manchester Homeless Partnership **Emergency Accommodation Action Group**, led by the Booth Centre has agreed a long-term vision for all EA in the city.

SWEP & Winter Provision





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Winter Provision for People Sleeping Rough



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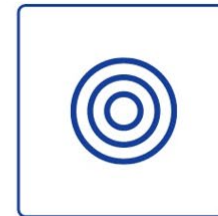
Partnership



Connected



Collaboration



Clarity of Purpose

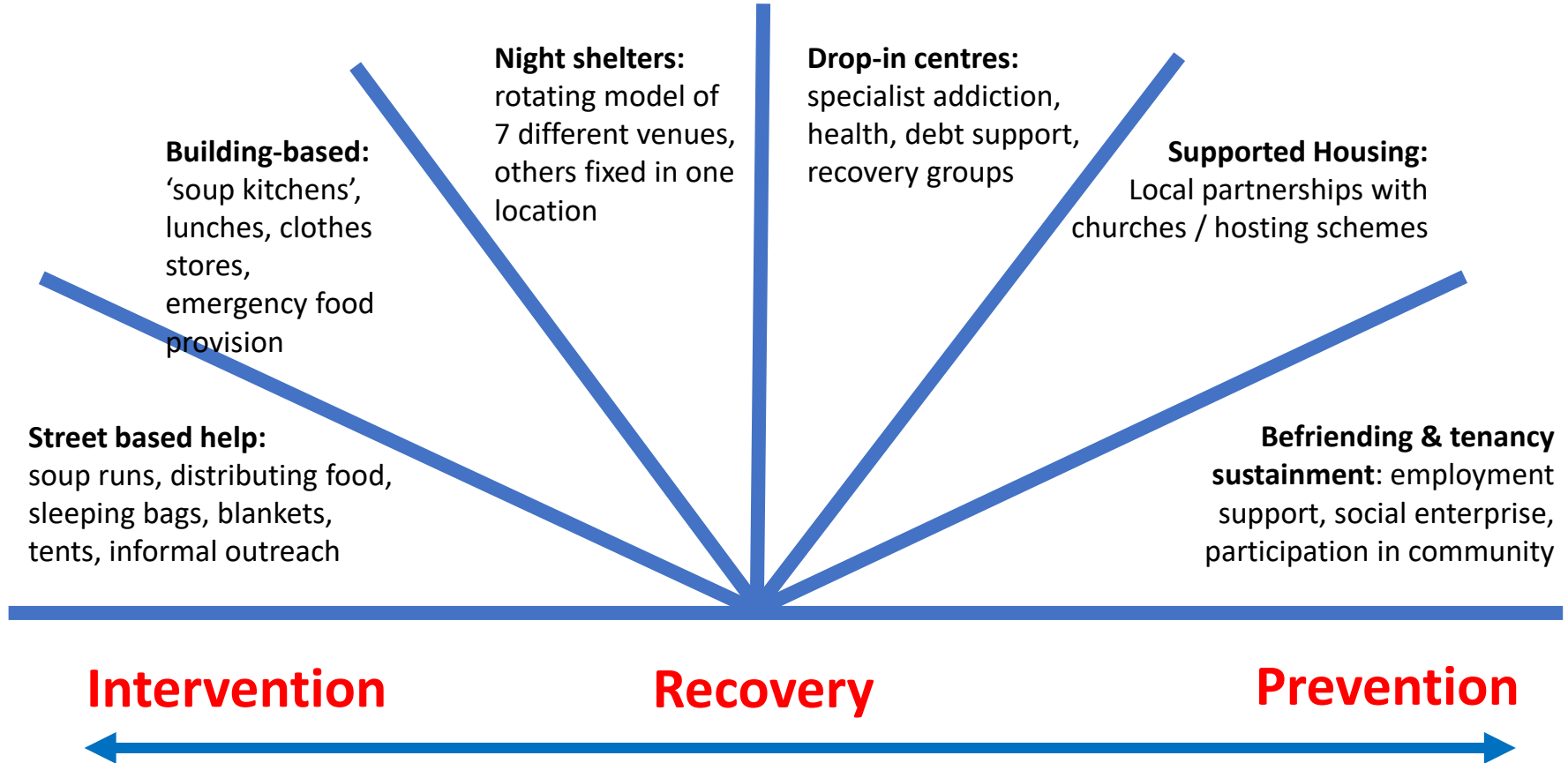




Relationship with Local Authority



Spectrum of faith/community-based activity with homeless people





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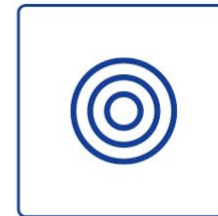
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Clarity of Purpose





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Non UK Nationals



SWEP



Operating
Principles



Rough Sleepers Initiative: Faith & Community Advisers



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WINTER PROVISION & SWEP RESPONSE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Niki Dolan – RSI Coordinator Nottinghamshire



OBJECTIVES

- Overview of Nottinghamshire and the 7 local authorities
- The effect locally following everyone in
- How COVID-19 changed the winter offer and what we learned
- Plans for the winter offer this year



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE DELIVERY

- March 2018 funding allocations for RSI year 1 - offered to 83 areas across England; Nottingham city was included in this allocation.
- 2019 RSI year 2 funding - made available to the wider local authorities including the 7 local authorities across Nottinghamshire county.
- Bids were coproduced between all the local authorities with a majority of the provision being a “countywide” service.
- The county now has a number of commissioned services and delivery partners.
- 35.4% decrease in rough sleepers on a “typical” night in Nottinghamshire county since 2017 (Nottingham city 34.4% decrease)
- Commitment to ensure numbers don’t rise – each LА working to improve pathways



CHALLENGES OF COVID-19/EVERYONE IN



- Phase 1” - 91 individuals placed into temporary accommodation who were rough sleeping /at risk of rough sleeping - many of the Hotels and B&B’s were closed at first.
- Getting entrenched rough sleepers to stay inside and comply with COVID-19 lockdown / tier restrictions.
- 7 into 1 doesn’t work without communication!
- Meeting humanitarian needs (including substance misuse and mental health demands).
- Changing the way front line staff worked.
- Disproportionate numbers unvaccinated – large vaccination sites with special arrangements, commissioned health inequalities bus.
- Defined rough sleepers as clinically extremely vulnerable.
- Current position with EI numbers



WINTER PROVISION/SWEP PRE-PANDEMIC



Historically the offer across the county were sit up services & winter night shelters (both faith groups and commissioned providers)

- Before the pandemic we were working to develop and improve the offer, moving away from “sit up services”
- All 7 local authorities in 2019 /2020 had a winter provision offer that was available without the activation of SWEP.
- Housing, street outreach, health, mental health, Substance misuse, No recourse workers & DWP were actively working with these individuals accessing the winter provision
- Pathway planning for a route out of rough sleeping / homelessness was managed via Rough Sleeper Action Groups or similar meetings



WINTER PROVISION / SWEP 20/21

Following on from the model of everyone in, each area had to look at their local demand and how it could be met while being “Covid safe”:

- All areas had to shift from a communal night shelter to self-contained / shared HMO offer
- We had to plan really far ahead for move on pathways
- Support offer was bespoke to each person to enable them to access the provision
- The winter offer was not reliant on SWEP activation.
- Route in via LA Housing Options with verification by outreach service
- Has been very successful – own front door, day time support
- Funding arrangements





WINTER 2021/2022 PREPARATIONS

Aiming for the minimum standard of having a self-contained room and a wrap around support offer for each local area in Nottinghamshire. Key point to focus on are:

- Statutory, 3rd sector & faith groups are having the same conversations
- Trying to keep the self contained offer with support
- Make sure public health are included
- How will outbreaks effect the winter offer?
- Using MDT's and Rough sleeper action groups to pathway plan for individuals
- Use toolkits available to a consistent approach to planning
- Sharing the approach for each local authority
- The offer doesn't have to be cost heavy (use what you already have)



THANK YOU

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Salma Ravat

Outline of Presentation

- ▶ ORL Background
- ▶ Night Shelter - pre covid
- ▶ Changes due to Covid Pandemic
- ▶ Impact
- ▶ Future plans
- ▶ Partnership working - LA

ORL - Background

- ▶ Registered as a Charity in 2014
- ▶ Launched ORL Homes in 2015 - to provide temporary accommodation in shared houses for single people who are homeless
- ▶ Inspire local faith and community groups to provide befriending and practical support
- ▶ Provide an ethical investment opportunity - investor purchases a property to lease to ORL for minimum 5 years
- ▶ By 2020 we had 4 houses - 1 owned by ORL, 3 on peppercorn rent - accommodation for 12 individuals

ORL - Winter Night Shelter

- ▶ Winter 2016 launched a 3 month multi-faith winter night shelter - using Housing Justice rotating night shelter model
- ▶ From 2016 - 2020:
 - ▶ 16 different faith groups or denominations involved
 - ▶ Over 800 volunteers
 - ▶ 110 guests welcomed and supported
- ▶ 2019 - secured funding to operate a static night shelter for 9 months



Covid 19 pandemic

▶ Short term:

▶ Night Shelter closed

- ▶ Guests all moved into self-contained aparthotels
- ▶ ORL staff continued to provide support including EU resettlement applications

▶ ORL Homes expanded

- ▶ Secured 3 rental properties and bought 1 property - now have 8 properties accommodating 28 individuals
- ▶ Moved previous guests from Aparthotels to ORL properties

▶ Staffing restructure



Impact

Positives

- ▶ Increased stability amongst residents
- ▶ Improved engagement with support
- ▶ Move-on more successful

Negatives

- ▶ Loss of volunteer involvement
- ▶ Loss of Faith and community group involvement
- ▶ Reduced number of individuals offered a bed space



Plans winter 2021-21 and beyond

- ▶ Develop and expande ORL Homes - offer more shared accommodation
- ▶ Volunteer involvement - more opportunities



Partnership working

- ▶ LA - rehoused all night shelter guests in March 2020
- ▶ Funding for additional bed spaces in ORL homes
- ▶ Navigator funding - working with individuals who have NRPF - focus on EU rough sleepers - securing status via resettlement scheme

Further Resources



Homeless Link SWEP/Winter Provision guidance for LA's and their partners 21/22

Available next month – good practice principles and selection of case studies. Please let us know if you have some good practice to share and/or what you would find useful in this years guidance: julie.cook@homelesslink.org.uk

Housing Justice

Charity supporting a network of faith and community groups operating winter shelter projects. Good practice resources, events, toolkits for winter projects:

<https://housingjustice.org.uk/night-shelters/our-resources>

MHCLG

COVID-19 Operating principles for commissioners and providers of night shelters:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-provision-of-night-shelters>

COVID-19 Guidance for hostels & supported accommodation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-services-for-people-experiencing-rough-sleeping>

Homeless Link Guidance Resources

Wide range of resources to assist with joint working, gender informed, trauma informed and co-production.

<https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources>

What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.



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