

Health and Wellbeing Board 17th March 20	
Title	Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment of Rough Sleepers in Barnet – Workplan
Report of	Director of Public Health and Prevention
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix 1 – Health & Wellbeing Needs Assessment of Rough Sleepers in Barnet – Workplan
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Summary	
<p>In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government announced that all homeless people in the UK should be supported into accommodation. These national arrangements ended in Barnet on 10th August 2020. At this time, London Borough of Barnet (LBB) continued to provide accommodation for those who had been placed in accommodation during the pandemic and also continued to offer accommodation to verified rough sleepers who were assessed as being vulnerable.</p> <p>To appropriately address the needs of homeless people in Barnet through the pandemic, a multi-agency partnership task and finish group was established. This group developed the needs assessment to understand the support needs and complexities of this group. Whilst this needs assessment is a broad health needs assessment, COVID brings additional complexities that are to be considered. The partnership included representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnet Homes Housing Options Service • Homeless Action in Barnet • LB Barnet Public Health • LB Barnet Community Engagement & Participation • LB Barnet Adults & North Central (NCL) CCG Joint Commissioning Team • North Central London (NCL) CCG 	

The Needs Assessment was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2021 with a commitment to return with recommendations translated into a full action plan and regular progress updates.

This paper presents the full action plan with the initial update on actions completed.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Board note the workplan and progress to date**
- 2. The members of the Board commit to joint working to address the needs identified through the needs assessment of this underserved population**
- 3. That the Board agree to receive future reports on action plans and progress on implementation of the recommendations of the needs assessment.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government announced that all homeless people in the UK should be supported into accommodation. This meant that for the first time, Barnet accommodated all rough sleepers, regardless of whether they met eligibility criteria. This included people with no recourse to public funds whom the council do not normally have a duty to accommodate.

In order to provide support to these residents, both in the short term during the pandemic, and on a more long-term basis, a partnership working group was established who led in the development of a health needs assessment.

This report presents the workplan of the needs assessment, and what is required from the Health and Wellbeing Board to support successful delivery of the recommendations.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The proposed recommendations are based on policy, evidence, best practice examples and experiences of local service providers.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The recommendations of this report will be delivered via the delivery mechanisms (Homeless Forum and strategic board) detailed in the report.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 Addressing homelessness and the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 is a key priority of the Barnet Corporate Plan 2021-25 within the “healthy” priority. The recommendations in this report directly support partners to achieve this priority.

5.1.2 Addressing the needs of rough sleepers in Barnet aligns with the priority to deliver integrated health services in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-25. Developing a health-focussed action plan to improve outcomes for homeless people and reduce avoidable secondary care presentations is specified within the HWB Strategy.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 There are no immediate financial implications for this report. The action plan will be delivered within existing staffing and financial resources in Public Health and Partner agencies such as NHS, Voluntary and Community sector organisations who are funded from diverse sources and for a wide range of purposes.

5.2.2 Grant funding has been obtained to date from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and Public Health England (PHE) (Now the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities – OHID) to deliver specific programmes relating to homelessness and substance misuse. £286,598 has been received for deliver from March 2021 – April 2022 and confirmation of extension for a further 12 months has been received. Additional funding has also been obtained to address low uptake of COVID vaccination for a range of target groups which in Barnet will include the homeless population.

5.2.3 Evidence has indicated that addressing the health needs of homeless people at an early stage results in improved outcomes for the person and cost-savings across health and social care services.

5.3 Social Value

N/A

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Barnet Council Constitution, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Board responsibilities:

“(2) To agree a Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) for Barnet taking into

account the findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and strategically oversee its implementation to ensure that improved population outcomes are being delivered.”

(3) To work together to ensure the best fit between available resources to meet the health and social care needs of the whole population of Barnet, by both improving services for health and social care and helping people to move as close as possible to a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing”

“(5) Specific responsibilities for overseeing public health and promoting prevention agenda across the partnership”

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 No specific risks associated with this decision.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 The proposals in this report do not impact negatively on any protective characteristic group, or any other groups. The needs assessment demonstrated how people who are homeless often have worst health and wellbeing than the general population. The recommendations would result in this group having improved access to services and their specific needs met more suitably.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 The Homeless health needs assessment and subsequent action plan relate to adults. However, it is recognised that care leavers and young people transitioning to adulthood have specific health and wellbeing needs that the will be analysed and addressed as part of the action plan.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 The needs assessment and workplan were developed in collaboration with key partners from:

- Barnet Homes Housing Options Service
- Homeless Action in Barnet
- LB Barnet Public Health
- LB Barnet Community Engagement & Participation
- LB Barnet Adults & North Central London CCG Joint Commissioning Team
- North Central London CCG

Consultation with staff working in and service users accessing homelessness services in the borough was also conducted as part of the report.

The Housing and Growth Committee have been updated on the partnership approach to addressing homelessness in Barnet at regular points throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and were supportive of this needs assessment and workplan.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 This workplan was developed from recommendations from the needs

assessment which was informed by three main methods:

1. Service user and staff feedback and experience:

Service user feedback and the experiences of staff were collated by Homeless Action Barnet both for the purpose of this needs assessment and to inform continued service improvement.

2. Analysis of local and national data

An information sharing agreement was signed by local partners which allowed the partnership data to be analysed by the Public Health team. National data was utilised from a range of sources referenced in the report.

3. Applying principles from national evidence

Rapid literature review was undertaken exploring the impact of homelessness on health. National evidence is applied to help interpret local data and draw conclusions where data is incomplete.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 This workplan relates to the Health & Wellbeing needs assessment of Rough Sleepers which was presented to the HWBB in July 2021. Full report can be viewed at: [Barnet rough sleeper HNA 2021 Final 050721.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](https://modern.gov.co.uk/moderngov/attachments/050721/Barnet%20rough%20sleeper%20HNA%202021%20Final%20050721.pdf)