

Response ID ANON-52PE-EFZS-M

Submitted to **Rough Sleeping: Homelessness Strategy Consultation**

Submitted on 2020-09-07 17:36:16

Rough Sleeping: Homelessness Prevention Strategy Consultation

1 What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

2 What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

3 What best describes your interest in this consultation?

Working in the homelessness sector

Please state:

4 Do you agree the our overall approach of the strategy?

Yes

If you selected no or not sure to this question please tell us why?:

5 Do you agree with our universal level approach and actions for preventing rough sleeping?

Yes

If you selected no or not sure to this question please tell us why? :

Having people with lived experience as part of the universal level approach would be beneficial. People who have been rough sleeper's themselves can provide in-depth knowledge of their experiences which can then help shape how services can best engage with rough sleepers. Birmingham Changing Futures Together has extensive learning and evaluation regarding this whilst we have been operating in the city.

It would also be beneficial to have DWP as part of the service provision as many entrenched rough sleepers do not have benefits in place which can have a detrimental effect on the transition into accommodation . Universal Credit must be applied via internet application, many rough sleepers do not have access to smartphone/tablets/laptops or many do not have bank accounts. Flex bility to the approach to how they apply can make a difference.

6 Do you agree with our targeted actions and approach to preventing rough sleeping?

Yes

If you selected no or not sure to this question, please tell us why?:

7 Do you agree with our rough sleeping crisis response approach and actions?

Unsure

If you selected no or not sure, please tell us why?:

Once again peer support only mentioned at point of recovery, lived experience should be utilised throughout the rough sleeper journey, they should work alongside the service navigators.

8 Do you agree with the approach to rough sleeping recovery and additional actions?

Not Sure

If you selected no or not sure, please tell us why?:

Personalisation budgets are important at all stages of recovery from rough sleeping however this is not mentioned within the strategy. Many rough sleepers require funds to support them with the transition into accommodation, requiring clothing, phone, toiletries to furnishings. Whilst Change into Action is available this is only an option if support workers are present to apply for individuals, are there any other means of rough sleepers directly accessing funds?

9 Do you agree with the approach and priority actions for helping people to move-on from rough sleeping?

Not Sure

If you selected no or not sure, please tell us why?:

Move on is more than just providing accommodation, in order to allow someone to set up a long term sustainable home they need to be provided with carpet,

furnishings, home accessories. At Changing Futures Together we provide a bridging Fund and many of the applications are for the things outlined above. It would be beneficial to have access to the items above for when rough sleepers are moving into accommodation as the outlay costs to get all the goods required are much more than they receive from universal credit payments.

Perhaps a scheme similar to Birmingham City Mission, where they are able to provide a 'Home starter pack' for £100 and the pack can contain a bed, mattress, sofa, dining table, chairs, cutlery, plates, microwave, cooker etc

We are aware of the local welfare provision providing white goods but no other service for any other items via BCC.

10 Any further comments?

Please use box below if you would like to make any further comments:

If you would like any further information than what I have stated above then please get in touch:

We have a cohort of experts who have lived experience of multiple and complex needs (homelessness, mental health, reoffending and substance misuse) who are able to share more their thoughts upon your request.

11 About You: Please state your age group.

Age group:

35 to 59

12 About you: What is your gender?

Gender:

Female

13 About You: What best describes your ethnicity?

Ethnicity:

Asian British: Indian

14 About you: What is your sexual orientation?

Sexual Orientation:

Heterosexual

15 About you: What best describes your religion or belief?

Religious Belief:

Sikh