



Public Document Pack Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Agenda

Scrutiny making a positive difference: Member led and independent, Overview & Scrutiny Committee promote service improvements, influence policy development & hold Executive to account for the benefit of the Community of Dacorum

Tuesday 7 February 2017 at 7.30 pm

Conference Room 1 - The Forum

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Gbola Adeleke
Councillor Banks
Councillor Mrs Bassadone
Councillor Conway
Councillor England
Councillor P Hearn

Councillor Fethney
Councillor Imarni (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Mahmood (Chairman)
Councillor Silwal
Councillor Timmis
Councillor W Wyatt-Lowe

Substitute Members:

Councillors Howard, D Collins, Clark, Ransley and Tindall

For further information, please contact

AGENDA

- (a) No Second Night Policy Out (Pages 2 - 6)



No Second Night Out Policy

Last reviewed November 2016

1.0 No second night out policy overview

This policy was adopted by XXX on XXX and is managed and adhered to by XXX. This policy will be reviewed on a XXX basis.

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1.1 Introduction

Dacorum Borough Council is committed to a 'No second night out' policy to end rough sleeping.

Regardless of whether the main homelessness duty is owed, local authorities have a duty to provide homeless people with advice and assistance to help them find suitable accommodation. By working in partnership we will ensure all people at risk of rough sleeping in Dacorum are supported.

For the purpose of this policy 'rough sleeping' is defined as;

- People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments)
- People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes').

1.2 Aim(s) of the policy:

The aims of this policy are to;

- Outline how we will ensure appropriate measures are in place to support people who are rough sleeping to move off of the streets;
- Outline how we will increase local options so that rough sleeping is not enabled.

1.3 Links to Council's corporate aims

This policy supports our [Homelessness Strategy 2016-2020](#) as well as the council's corporate priorities of "providing good quality affordable homes" which is set out in '[Delivering for Dacorum – Corporate Plan 2015-2020](#)'.

1.3 Equality and diversity

The council is committed to promoting equality of opportunity in housing services and has procedures in place to ensure that all Applicants and Tenants are treated fairly and without unlawful discrimination.

1.3 Policy Statement(s)

We will ensure there is a consistent and rapid response to supporting rough sleepers across all support services operating in Dacorum (see 2.1).

We will work with rough sleepers to identify their needs and develop appropriate support plans (see 2.1 and 2.2).

We will help reconnect rough sleepers to areas where they have support networks e.g. family (see 2.3).

We will provide support for people from the European Migrant Area (see 2.4).

We will support people who have no recourse to public funds (see 2.5).

We will work with public health partners and the CCG to reduce the number of people rough sleeping when discharged from hospital (see 2.6).

2.0 No second night out policy detail

2.1 A consistent and rapid response

In order to ensure there is a consistent and rapid response to supporting rough sleepers in Dacorum, We work closely with our partners to identify and respond to rough sleeping in a timely manner and create clear pathways for referral.

Partners include but are not limited too;

- Resident services
- the voluntary and community sector
- police and criminal justice system
- health services
- other local authorities
- local faith groups
- Job Centre Plus

We will also utilise information and address referrals from 'Streetlink' in order to make appropriate decisions regarding allocating resources to tackling rough sleeping.

Due to low numbers of rough sleepers in the area, each case will be managed on an individual basis.

Our single service offer encompasses a housing options interview and housing options letter which sets out alternative options which are available locally to them.

On receiving notification of a rough sleeper we will undertake an initial assessment of their housing needs. Alongside the assessment, we will place the individual in Crashpad accommodation to prevent a second night rough sleeping.

Using established forums and networks such as;

- Case conferences;
- Single Non-Priority Multi-Agency Panel;
- Housing Panel;
- Homelessness Forum;
- And Community safety partnership

We will then coordinate a multi-agency response which will enable individuals to access further accommodation and support services.

In the event of an emergency or severe cold weather, the council and local homelessness services will increase service provision for rough sleepers by providing emergency overnight accommodation in our local homeless hostel.

If an individual becomes homeless outside of normal working hours and is at risk of rough sleeping, our established emergency homeless telephone line (**0800 018 6050**) allows them to access this support at all times. Rough sleepers can also be brought to our attention via our website: dacorum.gov.uk/roughsleepers.

All referrals to homelessness services for rough sleepers will consider any safeguarding issues.

2.3 Reconnecting rough sleepers

New rough sleepers without a connection to Dacorum will have access to local housing services whilst an assessment is undertaken. Where appropriate we will then arrange a suitable reconnection with the receiving authority or agency.

Individuals refusing a suitable arranged reconnection may still be offered some services locally as part of the local strategy to prevent homelessness. Additionally, if a verified rough sleeper does not have a meaningful local connection with any area we will work with our partners to enable them to access the support they require.

2.2 Addressing complex needs

Rough sleeping is often the outcome of a number of social factors, such as;

- Substance misuse
- Physical and mental health problems
- Financial issues
- Social isolation

We recognise that traditional services are structured to tackle single 'issues'. By taking a partnership and multi-agency approach we will signpost and enable rough sleepers with complex needs to access the individual support they require to move them off of the streets and into safe and stable accommodation.

2.0 No second night out policy detail continued

2.4 Supporting economic migrants

The vast majority of migrants entering the successfully establish themselves by finding employment and appropriate accommodation. However, economic migrants can be at risk of rough sleeping as a result of unemployment, redundancy and evictions from private sector accommodation. Additionally, we are aware that migrants entering the country may establish encampments in the local area.

Reports of unlawful encampments within Dacorum will be passed onto the Active Communities team who are responsible for carrying out an initial assessment against relevant homelessness criteria.

From this support for economic migrants will be offered in partnership with the voluntary sector, immigration services and community groups to help resolve their situation where possible.

2.5 No recourse to public funds

No recourse to public funds (NRPF) refers to people who are subject to immigration control and have no entitlement to welfare benefits or social housing and applies to the following groups;

- Asylum seekers with an asylum claim in process who have been refused UKBA Asylum Support
- Asylum seekers who have reached the end of the legal process and been refused.
- Irregular or undocumented migrants: migrants who have entered the country without a visa or have stayed after the expiry of their visa or have other immigration irregularities.

As a local authority we do not have the discretion to spend public funds on NRPF clients. Where possible we will use statutory funding that can be allocated to support NRPF clients. In some cases, we will explore additional provision of support to avoid a breach of the Human Rights Act.

Alternative support available within the local area includes faith and community groups set up by volunteers. The housing service has many positive working relationships with low level grass root groups and where necessary will work with Community Action Dacorum who are responsible for acting as the point of contact for all local voluntary and community centre groups for further information.

2.6 Discharged from hospital

It is important for us, as a local authority housing service, to consider the housing needs of those who are being discharged from hospital as it is widely acknowledged that insufficient or poor quality housing can impact negatively on health conditions.

We work in partnership with local hospitals and health centres to ensure that discharge from these organisations is managed in a planned way and no client is left at risk of rough sleeping. We also hold case conference meetings (for single, non-priority clients) with appropriate partners to address issues linked to rough sleeping in those who are due to leave hospital without established connections. The aim of this meeting is to effectively signpost these individuals to support and advice with the aim of avoiding rough sleeping.

3.0

Links to other corporate documents

This policy links to and should be read in conjunction with the following policies and strategies:

- Corporate Plan 2016 – 2020
- Tenancy Agreement
- Tenancy Management Policy
- Allocations Policy

4.0

Legislation

The legislation listed below will be taken into consideration when implementing this policy:

- Housing Act 1996
- Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977
- Localism Act 2011
- Homelessness Act 2002
- Equality Act 2010

5.0

Supporting procedures