

## Rough Sleeping Cold Weather Fund Project Summary

In October 2018 the above funding was made available for local authorities and their partners, to provide swift, bespoke interventions to rough sleepers in their area, as well as enhancement of existing services.

Dacorum worked closely with our local homeless charity Dens and submitted the following proposal;

Extending Den's Day Centre opening times from 6-9pm, Mon- Friday (The day Centre usually closes at 2pm from Monday to Friday).

This will be advertised at the Day Centre as almost all rough sleepers in Dacorum visit during the day for a hot meal, shower and washing facilities. Rough Sleepers will be able to take a shower during this time and offered tea & biscuits. Transport will be made available from the day Centre to the Elms to access crash pad for the night. Dinner will be provided at the Elms at no cost to the Council.

A Homeless Prevention Officer will attend the Elms and work in partnership with support workers at the Elms to provide housing options, which can include a room at the Elms and privately renting with support of a deposit from the Homeless Prevention Fund. Each person will have a PHP and if need be will be referred to the Multi Agency Response Panel at Dacorum Borough Council. This panel was set up in 2016 and usually consists of all organisations that have been involved with a particular client as well as the Council meeting up to discuss options

The project was designed to run for four months covering the coldest winter months. The following cost implications account for that period:

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Breakdown</b>	<b>Total</b>
Staffing	2 Part-time staff to work for 3 hours (£15 per hour = £90 per day, £450 per week and £975 per month for both.)	£3900
Transport	Transport from the day Centre to the Elms estimated cost - £50 per day, £1083 per month	£4333
Outreach	Dens staff undertaking additional outreach work for an hour per day at £15 per hour. This will be approximately £325 per month	£1300

A summary of the project has been provided by Dens CEO Wendy Lewington below;

- Project commenced 21st January 2019
- Day Centre opened 3 evenings a week, from 5pm – 8pm; Monday, Wednesday and Friday's.
- Open to anyone who wanted access it. Provided with refreshments, use of shower, computer, and advice. All those attended who were rough sleepers, were encouraged to access the Elms crash pad. Taxis were provided to the Elms for those who wanted transport. This included specialist taxis who would take dogs.
- Could access the Elms from 8pm. Provided with a meal, bed, breakfast, and if needed clothes and toiletries.
- Out-reach was undertaken by Elms and Day centre staff to promote the additional opening hours, along with crash pad and SWEP. Main location was Marlowes, but staff also went to Leisure World (Jarman Park) and Tring when members of the public contacted DENS to report they had seen people sleeping rough.
- Out-reach was limited, due to the limited time frame of the funding meaning it was not possible to establish and recruit to a new post, the work was done by current staff working additional hours.
- As of 16th March there were 19 visitors, 12 accessed the crash-pad at The Elms. Others made the choice not to. In these cases, they were provided with advice and if necessary sleeping bag, warm clothes etc.
- We know at least 3 of those who accessed the crash-pad via the extended Day Centre hours are rough sleepers; whilst they still do not want to be assigned a room at the Elms and sign the license, they are regularly accessing the crash-pad. Meaning they are safe at night, not sleeping on the streets and can access appropriate support and advice.
- DBC were informed daily of those who accessed the crash pad. Elms staff worked closely with DBC staff to identify what further support and accommodation could be provided.

Wendy Lewington

CEO