

Gravesham Rough Sleeping Service Housing Committee Victoria May

6 September 2021



Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of

Gravesham
Borough Council



What am I going to cover?

Gravesham's Rough Sleeping Service

The partners involved

What's changed since the relaunch on 1 July 2021

What are Gravesham's figures?

What does winter look like/Accommodation options?

Rough Sleeping Plan

What do rough sleepers need?

G ravesham
R ough sleeping
O pportunities
W ellbeing
T ransformation
H ousing



Gravesham Rough Sleeping Service was relaunched on the 1 July 2021 and we have now introduced a multi disciplinary team that are all committed to ensuring the wellbeing and positive future of rough sleepers.



Gravesham Rough Sleeping Service

GRAVESEND METHODIST CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE



House of Mercy
"Working With Single Homeless"



Helping the homeless in Gravesham



Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of





Rough Sleeping Project Manager

Florentina Bela joins me and her role will be strategically focussed on managing the partnerships, moving services forward, bid submissions and collecting of data for all interventions for MHCLG.

Housing Resettlement Officer

Tracey Marshall started on 1 July and this post will be responsible for working with rough sleepers in accommodation to not only sustain tenancies but also to work with them to identify a housing pathway if they are in temporary housing.

Prison Navigator

John Wheeler is employed by Canterbury City Council who lead and manage the prison navigator scheme. John commences employment with us tomorrow and his role is to ensure we engage and conduct all relevant assessments to avoid prison release resulting in street homelessness. A great prevention link!





Senior Rough Sleeper Worker + 2 Rough Sleeper Worker

This is a new partner to the rough sleeping service. They will be delivering our outreach and in reach services. Louis Perkins is the Senior Rough Sleeping Worker and he will be managing 2 staff. In addition to managing these staff, Louis will be co-ordinating needs assessments, drop ins, facilitating the out of hours and on call service and leading on the former SNAG meeting.



Mental Health Practitioner

This is a new partner and they have recruited Ranya Al-Schama'a who works 18 hours a week and is a mental health practitioner



CGL

This existing partner will ensure that Kaveeta Subherwal continues the great work she does around drug and alcohol services to the rough Sleeping community.

Supported Housing model

Gravesham has been working with Look Ahead for some time and they are currently temporarily managing the Overcliffe accommodation while we wait for our 8 bedroom building at Wrotham Road to be available. This will be available from 1 October. Within their model they will offer a scheme manager, support workers and night concierge.



Kent Homeless Connect

The service will be continuing work with this valued partner along with Riverside as they deliver the Kent Homeless Connect Contract. They are a part of the rough sleeping service ensuring that relevant referrals are considered and offering support.



Our Faith groups




They all provide exceptional services to the rough sleeping cohort in Gravesham and want to ensure it that we are all sharing the same key objectives.

GRAVESEND METHODIST CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Whats changed?



We have a dedicated email address roughsleeping@Gravesham.gov.uk



We are introducing a Homeless Link system called 'Inform' for all partners to use to demonstrate joined up working and share information



We have introduced an out of hours service to ensure partners are supported with advice for rough sleepers



We have introduced set outreach to verify and support rough sleepers



We have relaunched the former SNAG meeting to now a Rough Sleeping Case meeting



We are coordinating joint needs assessments for every rough sleepers so they have a holistic approach and a wrap around support service

What are Gravesham's figures?

We conduct bi-monthly counts and the last was 22 July 2021. There are X verified rough sleepers currently in the borough of which all are males and only one not eligible household. This number continues to reflect the volume of households on the streets as we conduct outreach twice a week.

There are 16 rough sleepers in nightly paid accommodation of which 4 are females. 1 in nightly paid are not eligible for assistance but accommodated under discretion due to their vulnerability.

There are 10 rough sleepers in the Overcliffe being supported by Look Ahead.

All those in accommodation have had needs assessments and over 50% of those in nightly paid accommodation are engaging with all services.

What does winter look like?

Local authorities and voluntary, faith, and community groups have gone to extraordinary lengths since March 2020 to protect vulnerable people who sleep rough from the risks of COVID-19.

Last year saw the biggest challenge when Public health advised we should avoid using dormitory style accommodation. These adapted models provided more suitable, safer environments, offering greater protection to individuals with underlying health conditions.

With all restrictions eased we can go back to this model and we have been working hard to avoid this.

With the current figures being so low and new mechanisms of verification in place we are confident that we can utilise the 4 emergency bed spaces in Wrotham Road and the use of overflow.

All partners are signed up and committed to deliver an effective provision and there will be intense work by everyone to ensure we have a flow throughout the



Rough Sleeping Plan

DLG requested that all LAs complete a rough sleeping action plan. The aim of this was to provide a ambitious yet achievable figure to get to of those rough sleeping in your area.

Gravesham wanted to ensure we were realistic and did not over commit and under deliver and before forecast a target of 6 however we are hopeful this will be far lower given the fantastic work that has already been achieved since July 2021.

We then had to demonstrate how we would achieve this target so set some objectives:

Prevention

Identify the number of people 'at risk' rough sleeping
Ensuring we maximise the opportunity to prevent prison leavers hitting the streets
Additional resources within the wider service to procure accommodation in the private sector
Work in partnership with the faith groups complements the work of housing options, tenancy sustainment and the rough sleeper team to reduce duplication of services and support the wider project.

Physical health
Living
Addiction
Mental well-being



Rough Sleeping Plan

vention

elivery of Next Steps funding.
Partnership working including faith groups to provide timely outreach support
upport for non-UK Nationals rough sleeping.
rovide adequate off the street accommodation offer
rovide sustainable move on accommodation pathway from supported housing

covery

Develop ongoing engagement with partner agencies including health, substance misuse, criminal justice services and the voluntary sector in local rough sleeping response.
tenancy sustainment
Work with DWP to target NEETS
Work with Health partners to improve access to health care and improved outcomes

The Constitution of the Gravesham Borough Council Annex 1: Responsibility for Functions

Delivering a Gravesham to be proud of

Gravesham
Borough Council



Physical health
Living
Addiction
Mental well



Thank you for listening

Any questions

