

Appendix 1 - Rough Sleeping and Accommodation during Covid 19 Pandemic and Recovery Planning

1. Ongoing demand

- 1.1. Pre-Covid-19 emergency there was an average of 12 people a week falling into rough sleeping. While this is an average we were experiencing higher than usual numbers in February with up to 20 people a week being found rough sleeping. During lockdown this reduced to an average of 6 people a week which has been rising since lockdown started easing with a new average of 10. As furlough ends, evictions resume, and the full impact of the economic downturn is felt it is likely that this will rise further.
- 1.2. In addition, Housing Options have seen a significant increase in presentations from single people who would not normally be owed an accommodation duty and who, without an offer of accommodation, would rough sleep. Current demand is exceptional, as outlined in the Table below (as of 3 August 2020) we have 372 units of accommodation acquired in response to the Covid-19 emergency housing 128 rough sleepers and 109 clients who would otherwise be at risk of rough sleeping. In addition, we have a further 156 clients who would otherwise be at risk of rough sleeping in other emergency accommodation. This brings the total of those currently accommodated under Covid-19 emergency provisions to 393 (as of 3 August 2020). Owing to pressures on accommodation we also currently have 50 clients to whom we may owe a statutory housing duty accommodated at University of Brighton Halls to avoid over use of spot purchase emergency accommodation.
- 1.3. At present we are accommodating around 287 of the above people in accommodation acquired under the current Covid-19 emergency provisions that does not form part of our usual stock of emergency or supported housing. This accommodation is currently only available to us until early September. We are working hard to move people into more sustainable options and/or reconnect them safely to areas of connection. However, this work takes time and we will be unable to meet everyone's accommodation needs using existing resource by September 2020 or unless additional resources are approved. We have managed to maintain numbers and so are moving on sufficient numbers to offset the new people becoming homeless currently. Continuing provision of short-term accommodation we have acquired would allow further planning and acquisition of alternative accommodation but has significant cost pressures; see below.

2. Covid Accommodation – Short term

- 2.1. Five hotels were initially acquired for care and protect model for those verified as rough sleepers and those who were in congregate accommodation. Further accommodation was acquired in addition to existing emergency accommodation for those who have not rough slept but are homeless and would not normally be owed an accommodation duty. In June, alternative provision was secured to replace short life hotels with University of Brighton student accommodation. In addition, the Care Hub (for people with symptoms of Covid-19) was moved to a smaller unit as need was lower than anticipated. Where possible people were have been moved on to more sustainable housing.

One of the venues (the YHA) is being remodelled following discussion with the MHCLG and will replace the previous dormitory style No Second Night Out Service accommodation. Subject to Committee approval, if we can enter into a sub-lease with the support provider the full costs of the service delivery will be met through existing grant funding. To secure this arrangement we need to be able to extend the lease with the YHA.

- 2.2. As of 3rd August, we have the following short-term accommodation (**NB** these numbers are subject to change as people are successfully moved into longer term accommodation and new people are picked up by services. Estimates of shortfalls etc are therefore approximate.)

Venue	Capacity	Occupancy as of 03.8.2020
#Protect 1 High risk of harm from Covid, mixed support needs	49	49
#Protect 2 Low risk of harm from Covid, low support needs	47	46
#Protect 3 Varied risk of harm, high support needs	39	33
#Care Hub (Symptomatic)	15	0
Sub total	150	128
University Halls (Student accommodation for those who would otherwise be homeless)	222	159 *
Sub total	372	287
Other emergency accommodation	N/A	156
Total	N/A	443*

*this includes 50 people to who we have statutory duties towards to minimise the use of spot purchase accommodation.

taken together these services form the Care & Protect services for verified rough sleepers. St Mungo's with the support of Arch Health CIC medically triage people, where people are symptomatic

they are placed at the Care Hub, if people are not symptomatic they are placed in the Protect service that best meets their support needs and mitigates the risk presented to them by Covid 19.

- 2.3. The number of people in the symptomatic hub changes on a regular basis dependent on how many cases of Covid-19 there are. Thankfully this hub has never been full however spare capacity is necessary to mitigate the spread of infection should any further outbreaks occur. We will keep symptomatic hub accommodation options under review with Health colleagues as there may be other means of future delivery.
- 2.4. All of the above accommodation will end in early to mid-September. The University accommodation cannot be extended as it is required for students from September. We are therefore seeking approval to extend the current provision where possible and consider other options from September as interim replacement while we are able to procure and move people on to more settled accommodation. We are submitting funding bids to the MHCLG but the outcome of this will not be known until likely September at the earliest.

