

Market Position Statement

Supporting Vulnerable Single Homeless Adults (SVSHA)

May 2023

SERVICE AREA

- **What are Supporting Vulnerable Single Homeless Adults (SVSHA) Services?**

- SVSHA – commissioned services offer accommodation based support to Newham residents over the age 18 who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or was previously rough sleeping.
- Commissioned services currently offer on site support for residents who are assessed with varying level of needs which may include vulnerabilities due to Mental Health, Substance misuse, Ex offender, Physical or other health related needs that require additional support to develop independent living skills needed to move onto tenancies in either PRS or social housing and these tenancies are sustained longer term.
- Accommodation can be shared between several people and have communal space or consist of separate units of self-contained accommodation – with or without communal space – but which may be located in shared buildings such as a block of flats and/or on shared grounds.
- The Council currently commissions a range of accommodation-based support for residents based on their care and support need. These can be broadly split into four areas:
 1. **Care Act eligible.** These service include Supported Living, Extra Care, Shared Lives and Residential Care and are funded through the placements budget.
 2. **Rough Sleepers.** The service is funded through Adults and Health core funding and Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) RSI funding.
 3. **Priority need** Section 189 of Housing Act 1996, as extended by statutory instrument sets out who has a priority need when making a homeless application. Housing application are assessed, with the Council accepting that a statutory housing duty is owed, if a single homeless application is deemed to be of priority need, their need level is usually high due to vulnerabilities due to physical or mental health needs, old age or other special reason.
 4. **Non-priority need.** Council have assessed they do not owe a statutory housing duty. This doesn't mean that a non-priority decision means that there are no needs, just not enough evidence to demonstrate vulnerability to meet the threshold to be accepted as priority need.

SVSHA services in the main fall into category 4 Non priority need groups but still have vulnerabilities and would benefit from accommodation based support to build independent living skills and tenancy sustainment to secure and maintain longer term accommodation.

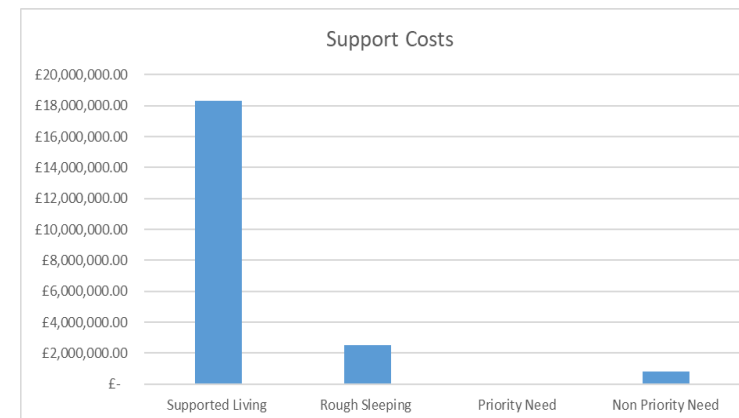
OVERVIEW ACTIVITY

- SVSHA services are currently provided by 3 Providers across varying sites, all based in borough.
- The Council funds 146 bed spaces for low to medium needs singles adults and 21 bed spaces for single young adults experiencing homelessness with low to medium needs.
- High Level indicative annual spend for SVSHA is currently c£501K funding levels having remained unchanged since legacy decommissioned Supporting People Programme
- Services currently provide c2-3 support hours per person per week funded via placements budget accommodation costs are funded through Housing Benefit.
- The Council also fund 15 complex needs beds primarily for those who are ex rough sleepers and referred via Integrated Rough Sleeping Support pathway these beds are funded by DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) via Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding c£157K

INTELLIGENCE

- The graph below demonstrates current 21/22 spend in relation to support/care. The majority of spend relates to Care Act eligible residents, with a smaller allocation to Rough Sleeping, and smaller again to non-priority need. The gap relates to single homeless with a priority need, where there are currently no support services other than provision of housing.
- Overall, the Council spends c£500K funding 146 bed spaces for low to medium needs singles adults and 21 bed spaces for single young people experiencing homelessness with low to medium needs.
- This highlights an inequity of spend, with the prioritisation of resources not aligning with principles of universal proportionalism. The Council does not have the funds to address all needs, therefore exploring the use of existing resources more equitably with a greater focus on prevention

- Homeless Prevention Advice Services (HPAS) identified that Mental Health, Substance Misuse, Physical and historic DSV are primary contributing factors leading to a priority need decision. This includes risk or experienced abuse, substance misuse, history of rough sleeping, physical ill health/ disability. These needs are also applicable to those accessing SVSHA services, but severity is lower.
- Recording of support needs is problematic and HPAS are currently developing and testing a new housing advice module that is likely to go live in 2022



SVSHA COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES 1

Commissioning Priorities

- Commissioning Intentions for Supporting Vulnerable Single Homeless Adults (SVSHA) have been jointly developed with Housing and Adults & Health to remodel and improve the complex vulnerable single adults' pathway. The proposed Commissioning Intentions will specifically:
 - Address current inequity and disproportionality
 - Refocus current pathways and services to prevent need for more intensive and expensive resources
 - Provide a more transparent approach based on the needs and outcomes of the individual
 - Adopt a Universal Referral & Assessment processes
 - Funding permitted to develop Tenancy Sustainment / Floating Support offer

How the Commissioning Priorities will be Delivered

Improve the priority and non-priority need pathways

The Council is establishing a Supporting Vulnerable Adults Dynamic Purchasing Vehicle (DPV). The DPV will be used to remodel current provision using the existing bed space capacity and budget to establish housing pathway to best suit individual needs.

- Align future services with Key strategies:
- Local pledge to end rough sleeping in Newham is clearly set in the Homelessness & Rough sleeping Strategy 2021 2026
- The Department for Levelling Up housing & Communities published Ending Rough Sleeping For Good cross government strategy in Sept 2022 that sets out how the government and its partners will end rough sleeping for good.
- Providers who are keen to apply for DPV should consider use of [GLA design space standards](#) if developing new accommodation so that it meets GLA requirements to access capital funding opportunities.
- Local need for good quality accommodation for single Adults with fit for purpose communal spaces that adopt Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE) are important in helping homeless people back into mainstream society design principles.
- Organisations adopting the use of Outcomes star tool for improved outcomes and raise quality of services.
- Providers of SVSHA will need to sign up to the use of universal referral form and referral panel to secure equitable access to SVSHA accommodation for all residents.

SVSHA COMMISSIONING PRIORITIES 2

- **DPV Category 2 Supporting Vulnerable Single Homeless Adults (SVSHA)** will include current accommodation based support services previously referred to as Housing Related support (HRS) a legacy of the disbanded Supporting People programme. Also included will be accommodation based services that support the boroughs Rough Seeping pathway. Provisional Cat 2 Publishing date: October 2023

- Funding Routes for Cat 2 SVSHA will include various funding streams during the DPV lifetime these include:

1. LBN HRS/Placement budget,
2. Out-Of-Hospital Care Models Department of Health and Social Care
3. Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - RSI
4. Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP)
5. Other sources - dependant on funding bid opportunities that arise during the lifetime of the DPV

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