



Homelessness Update November 2020 (North)



Buckinghamshire Council Housing Update

Sonia Crawford

- Vesting Day & Covid19
- Forward Plan
- Strategic high priority areas
 - Allocations Policy
 - Homelessness Strategy and Partnerships
 - Rough Sleeping
- Transformation

Covid19 – our role

- Stakeholder work including working with:
 - Public health
 - Ministry of Justice
 - Internal and local partners/charities and faith groups
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Working closely with multiple internal and external agencies including emergency funding by Heart of Bucks and others, facilitating food parcels, working with teams who continued to outreach during lockdown, supporting partner agencies.
- Covid safe premises and TA provisions
- Working remotely

Homelessness Update

Julie Oliver

The Public Health (Coronavirus) Protection from Eviction & Taking Control of Goods (England) Regulations 2020 came into force today- extension of suspending most evictions until 11/1/21. The changes are intended to prevent evictions over the winter period and to reduce health risks and pressures on local authority services.

- **Section 21 notices:** no notice or warrant for possession will be delivered , but there are exceptions:
- **Serious anti-social behaviour:** 4 weeks' notice.
- **Domestic Violence**
- **Serious Rent arrears** (grounds 8,10 and 11):
 - There must be 9 months arrears prior to possession being sought that accrued prior to 20 March 2020

Homelessness Updates(cont'd)

Covid-19 Discretionary Powers

- This enables accommodation to be provided for those who do not have a priority need.
- It has resulted in many more homeless approaches for accommodation
- Modifications to court's civil procedures rule in seeking possession of a property.

Moving forward – the landscape

- New moratorium on Evictions remains until 11 January 2021
- Covid19 Discretionary placements continue
- We are seeking settled offers of housing for all
- Forthcoming Domestic Abuse Bill – we already work to revised statutory guidance and await further areas of change
- Affordability pressures and expected increase in demand
- Private rented sector access– local difficulties and opportunities
- Changes to the planning system and affordable homes delivery and Housing White Paper

Statistics 2019/20 – North Bucks

- 907 Homelessness cases opened
- 957 Advice only cases assisted
- 723 Debt Advice/assistance cases
- 109 Homeless families housed via Bucks Home Choice
- 1647 Bucks Home Choice Applications
- 749 Bucks Home Choice lettings
- 21 Private rent scheme lets
- 352 New homes delivered in the Vale

To date we are experiencing above average demand for housing advice and from single clients.

Everyone in and Next Steps

Sonia Crawford

- **Everyone in**
- MHCLG advised to find a placement for all Rough Sleepers by the end of March
- In excess of 15k clients were accommodated country wide
- Over 170 clients have been accommodated across the Bucks Council area
- In reach is being provided by agencies, support workers, drug and alcohol teams, charities and faith groups.
- **Next Steps** funding is the fund to exit from these placements
- We have been awarded £485.5k revenue funding
- We have also received £650k capital award for 15 dispersed move on units across Bucks and a further in principal agreement for £650k for the purchase of Ardenham House in Aylesbury. We are required to match fund this award.
- Revenue funding will enable us to continue to provide accommodation, find settled placements and to provide focussed work with particular groups such as those with no recourse to public funds.

Joanne Couper Oasis partnership

- Case Study

