 Date: 16 December 2016

Subject: Tackling Homelessness

Report of: Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Portfolio lead for Public Service Reform and Councillor Richard Farnell, Portfolio Lead for Planning & Housing

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides GMCA with an overview of initial proposals that have been submitted to DCLG in relation to funding opportunities to help tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

SUMMARY

Earlier this year, it was announced that GM would be a DCLG funded trailblazer for homelessness prevention. Following this announcement, DCLG released details of two further programmes of funding aimed at reducing rough sleeping; a grant for recent rough sleepers and a social impact bond (SIB) for entrenched rough sleepers. The GM Housing Needs Group agreed it would be preferable to submit bids for the two additional funding streams. The closing date for bids was 28th November.

If successful, this additional funding will allow GM to develop two separate, but complementary services to tackle rough sleeping across GM. This work would be developed alongside the prevention trailblazer pilot, ensuring the three proposals work, where appropriate, in an integrated way.

It is proposed that:

- The grant funding will be used to develop emergency hubs with accommodation to support those who have recently started rough sleeping. These will be short-term hubs providing practical advice and low-level support to support individuals back into settled housing.

- The SIB funding will be used to work with a named cohort of rough sleepers, to provide longer-term support and accommodation, to allow them to move off the streets.

GM is seeking a single settlement across all three funding opportunities, to be hosted by the CA through the Life Chances Fund. The final design of the pilots will be dependent on the amount of funding awarded and final proposals will be brought to the CA for approval, however the proposed models are outlined in this report.
RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to:

1. Endorse the action taken to secure funding from DCLG and consider the progress made to date
2. Comment on outline proposals and issues that should be considered as proposals are refined
2. Approve the intention to develop the homelessness pilot programmes and next steps

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 GM has been working with DCLG to develop a proposition to promote homelessness prevention across the conurbation. Other areas have also been approached to be trailblazer areas.

1.2 An initial proposition has been developed and submitted to DCLG. This has been discussed by the GM Reform Board, ensuring the programme was coordinated with other areas of reform.

1.3 Following the announcement of the initial trailblazer, DCLG has revised the administration of the programme and announced a broader investment programme in homelessness, incorporating three elements, each with a separate bidding prospectus, requiring a formal bid.

1.4 Initial applications to all three elements of funding have been made by GM.

2. DCLG HOMELESSNESS ROUGH SLEEPER GRANT FUNDING AND SIB

2.1 DCLG has announced the following funding opportunities:

- Homelessness Prevention (£20m)
- Grants to tackle and prevent rough sleeping (£20m)
- Social Impact Bond for entrenched rough sleeping (£10m)
- DCLG released a further £10m homelessness funding in the Autumn Statement (adding £10m to the rough sleeping grant), taking the total to £50m

2.2 The GM Housing Needs Group of homelessness leads across GM has informed the proposals and agreed GM-wide bids for each of the three bid streams. As each stream addresses different aspects of homelessness and housing need, the aim of this approach is to link the proposals, presenting a more comprehensive and systemic offer. This approach has been discussed with DCLG.

2.3 In respect of the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer, DCLG has already announced that Greater Manchester has been approved as an early-adopter site. This confirms that a funding allocation will be made although the amount will not be confirmed until consideration of applications to all funding streams have been considered. Proposals for the trailblazer funding include a focus on a GM-wide approach to data. This will be linked with GM-Connect. This work also has the potential to inform the requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Bill, currently moving through Parliament.

2.4 In terms of the two funding streams for rough sleeping:

- The grant programme is intended to prevent rough sleeping, with a particular focus on recent rough sleepers, similar to the No Second Night Out approach.
• The Social Impact Bond is intended to draw in external funding to tackle specific entrenched rough sleepers with complex needs. There is a requirement for a cohort of at least 100 individuals to qualify for this funding and this minimum is expected to be exceeded, with the bulk of funding targeted at the centre of the conurbation due to high levels of need in that area.

2.5 DCLG has stated that they are looking for innovative solutions, which are outcome based, and draw together partners from across the region to seek to address the issues of homelessness and rough sleeping. GM partners including the NHS, GMP, third sector organisations, as well as all districts, have been fully supportive of the GM proposals submitted to DCLG.

2.6 In parallel, the Homelessness Reduction Bill, sponsored by Bob Blackman MP, is expected to receive Royal Assent by April 2017. This is likely to increase prevention duties on LA’s. The Housing Needs Group is working to assess the potential impact of any new duty.

3. ROUGH SLEEPER GRANT

3.1 DCLG is releasing £20m over 3 years to help new rough sleepers and people at imminent risk of sleeping rough get the rapid support they need to recover and move-on from homelessness.

3.2 It is intended that a model will be developed across GM, to provide a network of emergency hubs. These hubs will build on services already in place, to offer practical support to those who are at risk of rough sleeping, or been sleeping rough for fewer than 5 days. It is intended that individuals accessing these hubs will be offered support with some or all of the following, supporting them to get back into accommodation:

• Mediation with landlords or family/friends where issues have caused them to move out
• Help with housing benefit, debt or welfare benefits
• Access to housing through a housing needs assessment
• Referrals to other support services
• Supported access to health services
• Advocacy, advice and representation
• Person-centred support

3.3 The aim is also for hubs to have access to a range of accommodation offers and to have accommodation of its own, supporting people to be resettled within two to four weeks. The emergency hubs will also link into place-based hubs as they are implemented across GM.
4. ROUGH SLEEPING SIB

4.1 Funded over 4 years (starting in 2017) the SIB funding would enable GM to appoint a provider to work with a named cohort of rough sleepers. The deadline for the SIB to be in place and taking referrals is October 2017.

4.2 While the final shape of the programme will depend on the funding available and a detailed assessment of needs, it is proposed that providers will be paid based on a rate card set by DCLG to achieve positive outcomes. The work would be focused on addressing entrenched rough sleeping.

4.3 In broad terms, it’s intended that in GM a keyworker and peer mentoring model will be developed, helping rough-sleepers navigate and access services available to them. Both the keyworker and peer mentors will work with long-term rough sleepers to gain their trust, and support them through the transition from living on the streets to being able to maintain longer-term settled accommodation. Part of the requirement of the SIB funding will be to support individual to access health and support services, as well as supporting them into training, volunteering or work. The keyworker will work with named individuals, supporting them through the programme alongside the peer mentor who will have lived experience of rough sleeping.

5. PROGRAMME DESIGN

5.1 As part of the bid preparation process the project team has worked with key stakeholders including the Manchester Homeless Charter Group, and organisations highlighted in section 2 of this report. The team has also consulted Shelter.

5.2 Co-design is a key part of the programme, and will continue throughout the development, design and implementation process. For this new approach to work across GM there will need to be tailored approaches that meet the needs of different districts across GM. The evidence shows that rough sleeping is more entrenched in the centre of Manchester, although this is an increasing issue in each district.

5.3 A key part of the co-design of the programme will be identifying different cohorts at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping, including those under 35, people in insecure employment, victims of domestic abuse, and the differing needs of women who face homelessness. Responses to these issues will form part of the overall programme design and delivery.

5.4 The bid takes a partnership approach and seeks to work with all public services, especially the emergency services. There will be a number of events for partners during the design phase. GMP actively support the bids and have committed to work together with the delivery team to address some of the parallel issues relating to rough sleeping, especially begging around the city centre.
6. **NEXT STEPS**

6.1 Officers from the Housing Needs Group and a core project group will continue to develop a GM-wide model for each of the three programmes detailed above.

6.2 The closing date for bid submissions to DCLG was 28 November. DCLG have indicated that the successful bidders will be announced before Christmas.

6.3 If successful a core group will drive the design and delivery of the programmes in partnership with colleagues from across public services and the third sector.

6.4 The final proposals will be brought to the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Board for approval.