

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25 April 2019

Subject: Housing & Property Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor S Stavrou

Recommending:

That the report of the Housing & Property Services Portfolio Holder be noted

1. I am pleased to be able to report that the Council has recently been successful in securing three separate grant determinations from the MHCLG to assist with preventing homelessness, tackling rough sleeping and proving the Government with robust data to inform them on the causes of homelessness so that more effective policies may be put in place to prevent it.

Two Grant Determinations in the sums of £91,000 and £42,000 have been received to support work in preventing homelessness covering the 2018-19 period of the scheme.

This additional funding is to be spent in line with the following principles:

- Prioritise prevention activity;
- Carry out homelessness activities in line with the principles of the homelessness reduction act; and
- Reduce or eliminate the use of emergency B&B, particularly for periods over 6 weeks.

In partnership with Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon and Essex County Council our sub-regional bid for 2019/20 Rough Sleeping Initiative Funding has secured £120,000, which will fund a Rough Sleeper Coordinator, two ringfenced beds at the Night Shelter, three Street Outreach Workers as well as access funding. The Council already has a good partnership working with Chess, which will assist with its Implementation.

The Council has already been providing data to the Government via its new Homelessness Case Level Information (H-CLIC) for some months. In recognition, the MHCLG has written to confirm they will shortly be issuing a Grant Determination to assist with the costs of our data submission in 2018-19.

The purpose of this funding is to assist with ensuring that H-CLIC is a robust data set. The purpose of the H-CLIC data collection is to ensure that the Government has a robust homelessness dataset to better understand the causes of homelessness and make more effective policies to reduce it.

2. Through partnership working with Rainbow Services and St Clare's Hospice, Members will be pleased to note that a new social event will be taking place at one of the Council's Sheltered Housing schemes at Hyde Mead House, Nazeing. The event has been put together to help reduce loneliness and social isolation as well as connecting the community. The events will take place every Wednesday afternoon between 1.30pm and 3.30pm starting on 8th May 2019. A Bereavement Café will also take place at Hyde Mead House on the first Wednesday

of every month starting on 5 June 2019. All of the Older population from across the District are welcome to attend.