

STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Question to the Portfolio Holder for Communities

Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Wednesday, 15 July 2020

1. Question received from Councillor Atkins:

What arrangements have been made for funding support for homeless people during the Covid-19 lockdown period within Staffordshire Moorlands. What number of homeless people have been provided for and what arrangements are being made for their longer term future?

Response:

We entered a national lockdown on 23rd March 2020, and on the 27th March, the Government announced the “Everyone In” Initiative- aimed at getting all rough sleepers into a safe space to isolate. Given many hotels, hostels and similar were simultaneously closed this was a challenge. We ran media campaigns to get additional resource in place to enable us to meet this challenge. We worked with other authorities to pool and maximise resources in terms of both accommodation but also intellectual resource in determining the changing guidance from Government. We up-scaled and improved the out of hours response which is a further positive legacy.

Government have never formally ended this, however since 12th May we have moved to the “Keep Everyone In” phase – to ensure that wherever possible people are moved from B&B’s into suitable settled accommodation. Since lockdown, 37 households - either threatened with homelessness or actually homeless -have been supported to move into alternative accommodation, whether that is privately rented or within the social housing sector. There are currently just 2 cases remaining in B&B accommodation (as at 10.7.20), of which both have offers of accommodation for moving on.

The total cost of this provision to date has been £42,917, of which £11,639 has been recouped through housing benefit and a further £1,650 through specific funding from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for this purpose. The Council has also received non-ring fenced funding from MHCLG to cover additional costs arising from the impact of Covid-19 totalling £1,021,594 to date – of which a proportion will be allocated to the additional costs associated with providing temporary accommodation.

