

## **Annex A**

### **Everyone Settled – move-on proposal**

#### **Background**

During the height of the Covid-19 virus, the Gloucestershire authorities made a swift response to house all rough sleepers, no matter what their circumstances or background, under the 'Everyone In' initiative.

This has given us an unprecedented opportunity to engage with the rough sleeper cohort and make significant steps to end entrenched rough sleeping in Gloucestershire.

At present the rough sleeper cohort numbers around 120 in total, mainly housed in hotel accommodation procured by Gloucestershire County Council. The contract with the hotels is due to end later this month, although discussions are in progress to extend the accommodation.

Given that there was already a housing crisis in Gloucestershire when Covid-19 broke out, options to permanently house the rough sleeper cohort are extremely limited, and they are in direct competition with those already accepted as homeless and in priority need by the Local Authorities. The only solution to this would be a significant and rapid increase in the supply of 1 bedroom accommodation units across the county, together with the associated support services needed to provide a housing-led solution.

#### **Proposal**

Housing support charity P3 has put forward two options:

1. P3 leases properties from the private sector. The cost to local authorities is an upfront £2k per unit for setup and deposits with rents being set at Intensive Housing Management rates initially, reverting to LHA once the support is no longer required. P3 requires properties to be in tranches of 25 countywide; 25 properties = one support worker. It is suggested that we fund 50 properties immediately at a cost of £17k per authority, with a project review to take place at 25 properties. P3 estimate that properties will take 3 – 6 months to come on-stream.
2. Off the shelf purchase. P3 has an ethical investor lined up to provide £3m capital funding for purchases. No funding required from local authorities but adding funding would increase the number to be purchased. An LA letter of support required in order to proceed. This also looks to be a very viable option and worthy of further scoping on an urgent basis.

Both of these proposals would create the vital increase in supply needed, and could make a very real impact on radically reducing street homelessness not just now, but into the future by providing a new pathway back into permanent and safe housing.

It is too early to say whether the promised MHCLG funding will support either or both of these projects, but it seems likely. However, there is not the luxury of time to wait for funding announcements, bidding processes and decision making and Gloucestershire authorities should commit immediately to the £17k per authority to treat this as a countywide project. In addition, resources would need to be found in order to support the project with officer time to contract and establish the project, and provide ongoing monitoring and support to P3.

## **Annex A**