



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL



## Non-key Decision

Cllr Robert Reid

Cabinet Member for Housing and Property

## Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Funding

To seek approval for South Kesteven District Council to complete a virement of £90,000 into the Change4Lincs budget to cover the forecast spends for the remainder of the year.

### Report Author

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Approved for  
publication:

Cllr Robert Reid, Cabinet Member for Housing and  
Property

7 March 2022

### Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

- 1 It is recommended that additional in-year grant funding of £90,000 is approved to the Rough Sleeper Initiative to ensure the service can continue to deliver for the remainder of the financial year.**

## **2 The Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To seek approval to approve additional grant funding of £90,000 to ensure that the Change4Lincs service can continue for the rest of the financial year
- 2.2 This amount is to be funded from the grant funding awarded for the future years until 2025 to cover the Change4Lincs project.
- 2.3 The number of rough sleepers has significantly increased across the 4 District areas, South Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, North Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council which has been further impacted by the Pandemic, the effect of which we are still seeing today.
- 2.4 The official Rough Sleeper count for SKDC in 2022 was 7. This is an increase of 5 from the previous year. Each of the 7 we have engaged with, however for various reason they either will not or cannot be accommodated.
- 2.5 This figure shows the increase of demand for this service and shows why the cost to deliver this service has increased over the past few months.
- 2.6 The four councils will have regular meetings regarding the budget, areas for improvement, and how best to distribute resources and funding. This will be reported back to the Department for Levelling up Housing and Communities to demonstrate the spending of the grant and the positive impact of the proactive approach C4L are delivering.
- 2.7 Operational procedures are continually being reviewed by the management team to ensure that going forward, the service is delivered within the budget constraints to prevent the issue from re-occurring.
- 2.8 In addition, a proposal to change the structure of the team to ensure that managerial control remains within the housing options team will be put forward to the 4 districts. This will ensure that the progress made to date can be maintained.

## **3 Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 Do not agree to a virement:
  - All temporary accommodation placement would need to end with immediate effect. This would mean a high chance of clients returning to the streets.
  - Increase of budget pressure on the housing options team, all clients would potentially re-approach the team. Although accommodation may not be provided, this could take up a significant amount of officer time.
  - any progress made with clients accommodated at present would be lost and resettlement options would be significantly reduced.
  - Negatively affecting the reputation of the Council as the lead for delivering this service
  - Negative outcomes for local residents and businesses due to an increase in rough sleepers across the District.

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 The proposal is agreed so that service delivery can continue

## **5 Reasons for the Recommendation (s)**

5.1 To reduce the risk of an increase in the number of people sleeping rough across the four districts.

## **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 The £90k is to be funded from the awarded grant funding for the Change4Lincs project. In accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations, the responsible Cabinet member can approve in-year additional revenue grant funding up to £90,000.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Chief Finance Officer**

## **7 Legal and Governance Implications**

7.1 South Kesteven District Council will continue to be the accountable body for the allocation of the funding and it must ensure it acts in accordance with the grant's terms and conditions.

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer**

## **8 Equality and Safeguarding implications**

8.1 This scheme has a positive impact on rough sleepers in the district in that it provides services out in the districts to those most in need and prevent a revolving door of rough sleeping. This good work can continue

8.2 All staff recruitment will be in line with SKDC working practices and all staff once recruited will receive equality and diversity and safeguarding training. Delivery of the service will be based upon needs of vulnerable individuals in partnership with other relevant agencies and will include the completion of equality impact assessments where necessary.

## **9 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?**

9.1 The recommendation is carbon positive as the provision proposed encourages all staff to be based remotely across the districts, replacing the current provision of travelling into the office. This provision is the same for all four local authorities.

## **10 Appendices**

10.1 N/A

<b>Report Timeline:</b>	Date decision due to be made	17 March 2023
	Call-in deadline	24 March 2023
	Date decision effective (subject to call-in)	27 March 2023