

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 13 December 2017

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing

Supporting Families

Previously known as the Troubled Families programme, the name has been changed after representations to rebrand the programme. It is hoped that this will remove some perceived stigma from those being supported in making really challenging changes to their lives. Since April 2017 a further 63 Havant Families have benefitted from the scheme.

Rough Sleepers

Officers have looked at all the reports of Rough Sleepers in the Borough. The total at this time is ten. Most are linked in with Two Saints to support them into accommodation as long as they work with them. Three have no local connection to Havant, they come from Portsmouth and West Sussex. SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Procedure) has not been put into place as yet this winter. It is applied when temperatures drop to zero and below for three consecutive nights. Then assistance is offered to Rough Sleepers we are aware of, this can be in the form of B&B if appropriate or hostel accommodation. We work closely with partners in particular Two Saints. With the Social Inclusion Contract funded by HCC we can get clients placed in hostels in the County that are included in the contract. Those are in Gosport, Winchester and Test Valley. These do not however have allocated spaces for HBC. We have also been able at times to acquire a vacancy in the Chichester Hostel.

If anyone is aware of someone sleeping Rough please advise them to contact the Housing Team as a matter of urgency. There are instances where despite the offer of assistance, some customers choose not to engage with the Council.

Advice Procurement

For many years the Council has provided annual funding to Citizens Advice Havant to provide advice to the local communities in Havant. In September 2017 the Cabinet considered and agreed recommendations to begin a procurement process through Capita, to procure Advice Services for our communities in Havant from 2018. The decision was based on the need to ensure that the services are flexible and reflect the changing needs of the community.

A workshop attended by partners focused on what the service would look like. Invites to tender will go out in early January with a new service in place in April 2018.

Christmas Lights throughout the Borough

By the time this is read by members, Christmas Lights throughout the Borough will have been turned on. Waterlooville were first on 18/11/17, Havant were on 27/11/17 followed by Leigh Park on 30/11/17. Mengham and Emsworth followed on 1/12/17.

Battery Lights were purchased in preparation for 2020 when HCC will no longer allow power cables to run overhead to lamp columns. Due to the weight of the fixtures causing columns to lean, or in the event of high winds, columns or decorations being damaged. HCC have allowed authorities until 2020 to make the necessary upgrades, this could be done by installing power supplies from ground level next to all the necessary trees. As you can imagine that would be a costly task therefore it was decided that we would purchase battery lights as a test.