

Date: Thursday, 16 January 2020

Time: 9.30 am

Venue: Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

### TO FOLLOW REPORT (S)

- 10 Homelessness and rough sleeping provision**  
(Pages 1 - 8)  
Report to follow.  
Contact: Laura Fisher, Housing Services Manager, Shropshire Council

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Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group



## Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting

### Item Title – Provision for Rough Sleepers in Shropshire

Responsible Officer – Andy Begley  
Email: [andy.begley@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.begley@shropshire.gov.uk)

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#### 1. Summary

This report seeks to update the HWBB on a range of actions being undertaken to support and rehouse rough sleepers in the county.

#### 2. Recommendations

This report is for information only and the HWBB is requested to note its contents as well as circulate the 'how to report information' accordingly.

## REPORT

### 3. Background

#### Annual rough sleeper Count:

The annual rough sleeper count took place in Shropshire early morning of Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The count was both a spotlight and estimate. This means we carried out an actual count in the main market towns (Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Wem, Shrewsbury (centre and outskirts), Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Church Stretton) as well as an operational meeting to go through known verified rough sleepers who were not seen. The final figure submitted to MHCLG was 16, a reduction of 6 on last year's 21.

A breakdown of these figures are below:

<b>Snapshot figure</b>	16	
<b>Demographic breakdown</b>	<b>Gender</b>	
	Women	1
	Men	15
	Other gender identity	-
	Not known / prefer not to disclose	-
	<b>Age</b>	
	Under-18 (add further detail below)	-
	18-24	1
	Over 25	15
	Not known / prefer not to disclose	-
	<b>Nationality</b>	
	UK national	15
	EU national (excluding UK)	1
	Non-EU national	-
	Not known / prefer not to disclose	-

#### Cold Weather Provision:

Shropshire Council Housing Services activated Cold Weather Provision (CWP), which is a non-statutory provision of accommodation for all rough sleepers in the County, on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019. This will be ongoing till March 2020.

CWP is an offer of accommodation to all current known rough sleepers as well as any new clients who present during the winter months. The offer of Cold Weather Provision is made to all known and verified rough sleepers, unfortunately not all will accept the offer. For those who do accept the offer accommodation, this provision offers stability and security to rough sleepers identified by Shropshire's taskforce, and presents different opportunities for officers to engage with and provide support to those requiring it. Assistance is provided to explore a range of accommodation options in an attempt to find suitable, permanent accommodation away from street homelessness.

For those who refuse the offer of CWP there will be an offer of Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) during times when the weather is considered severe. So far this winter we have operated this for 3 nights, out of 70 Castle Foregate. SWEP is possible through the volunteering of staff, both Shropshire Council staff and our partner agencies such as Shrewsbury Ark and Shropshire Recovery Partnership.

## **Outreach:**

The Outreach service functions all year round and therefore continues throughout the winter period, attending any reports of rough sleepers and making them aware of the advice and support available. Currently Shropshire Council funds Shrewsbury Ark to deliver the Outreach Service through 1 member of staff and volunteers. Going forward we have secured funding from MHCLG to set up a rough sleeper team. This will consist of 5 additional staff members (1 Coordinator and 4 Inreach / Outreach workers). As we need outreach to cover the whole of Shropshire it is important that we are able to deploy different staff into different areas on the same day. Clearly with only one member of staff this is not possible, but a team will enable us to attend reports of rough sleepers and offer support and assistance much quicker than before.

The Rough Sleeper team will be based within 70 Castle Foregate and will also run the hostel accommodation for those rough sleepers who are ready to engage with services and work to move on into their own accommodation.

Finally, Shropshire Council IT services and Housing Services have worked together to develop an app for reporting rough sleepers. Although in the early stages the app means that outreach workers can input data via their mobile phone during the outreach session which automatically populates a spreadsheet which allows data to be visually shown via Shropshire Councils 'The Bridge'. Better collection of data means we better understand our cohort of rough sleepers. We understand how many new referrals are in fact new and how many rough sleepers engage with the support that is offered. A better understanding of our known rough sleepers allows us to provide more targeted support and assistance, meeting individual needs. This work is starting to prove dividends with a number of long term entrenched rough sleepers supported to move to accommodation, and then continued to be supported whilst they settle into a property.

## **Alternative Giving Scheme:**

Although Shrewsbury has an Alternative Giving Scheme (AGS) there is a recognition by all partners that this needs to be relaunched. Shropshire Council is working with the BID to develop a website for the public to better explain the work we do as a task force, as well as the benefits of financially supporting organisations via the AGS rather than direct to rough sleepers. This work is ongoing.

## **4. Financial Implications**

Shropshire Council has successfully bid for money via MHCLG's Rough Sleeper Initiative Funding. In 2019 we secured £178,000 for staffing and private rent incentives. We have bid again for this funding and are awaiting news of whether we have been successful for funding to take us into 2021.

Further to this we are able to bid for funding to support our work for Cold Weather Provision. This funding is paid in arrears by MHCLG once the winter months have passed.

Finally, MHCLG recently announced increased funding for homelessness across the country. Although this is not specifically for rough sleeping, as the visible side of homelessness and those who are arguably the most vulnerable, additional funding will clearly be used to benefit our rough sleeper projects.

Shropshire was awarded the following:

- Flexible Homeless Support Grant – £359,395 (annual grant but increased this year)
- Homeless Reduction Grant – £176,010 (previously New Burdens annual grant funding but increased this year)
- Homeless Prevention Grant – £315,576 (annual grant – no additional funding)

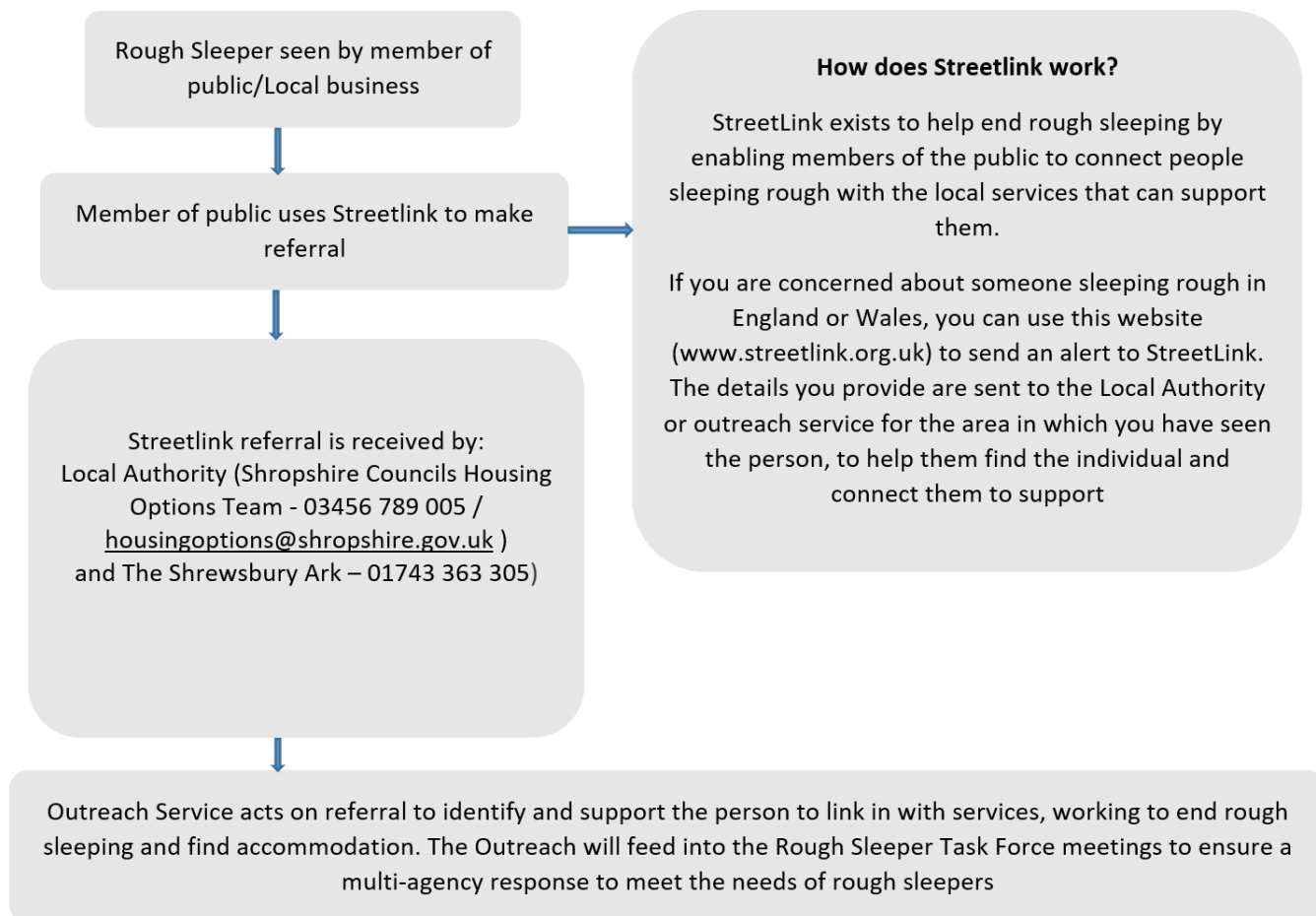
## 5. Additional Information

Please note in appendix A details of 'How to report a Rough Sleeper' and in appendix B screenshots of the streetlink website. This information can be circulated around organisations.

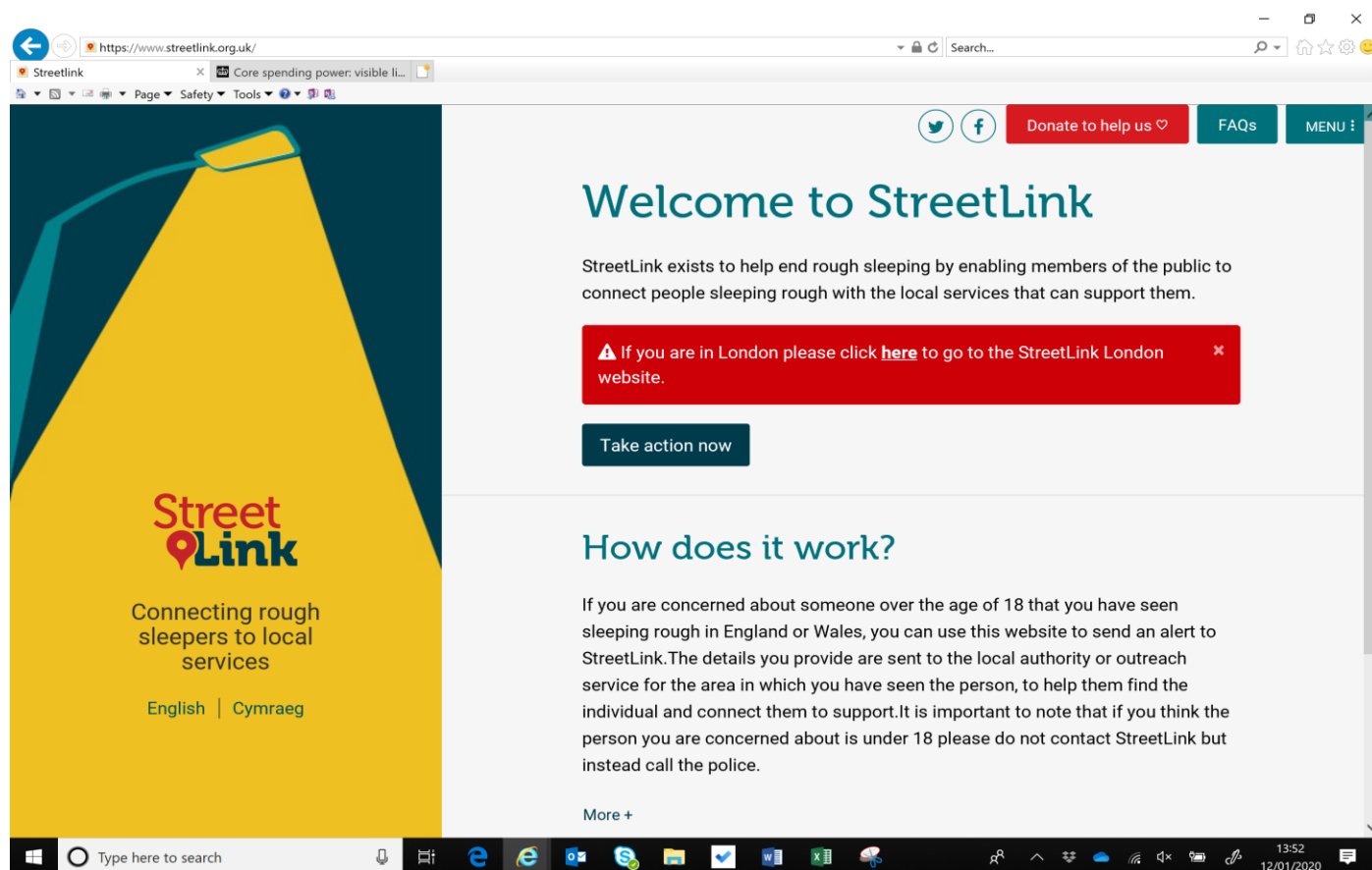
<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b> Robert Macey
<b>Local Member</b> All
<b>Appendices</b> Appendix A – 'How to report a Rough Sleeper' Appendix B – Screenshots of Streetlink website

## **Appendix A – How to Report a Rough Sleeper:**

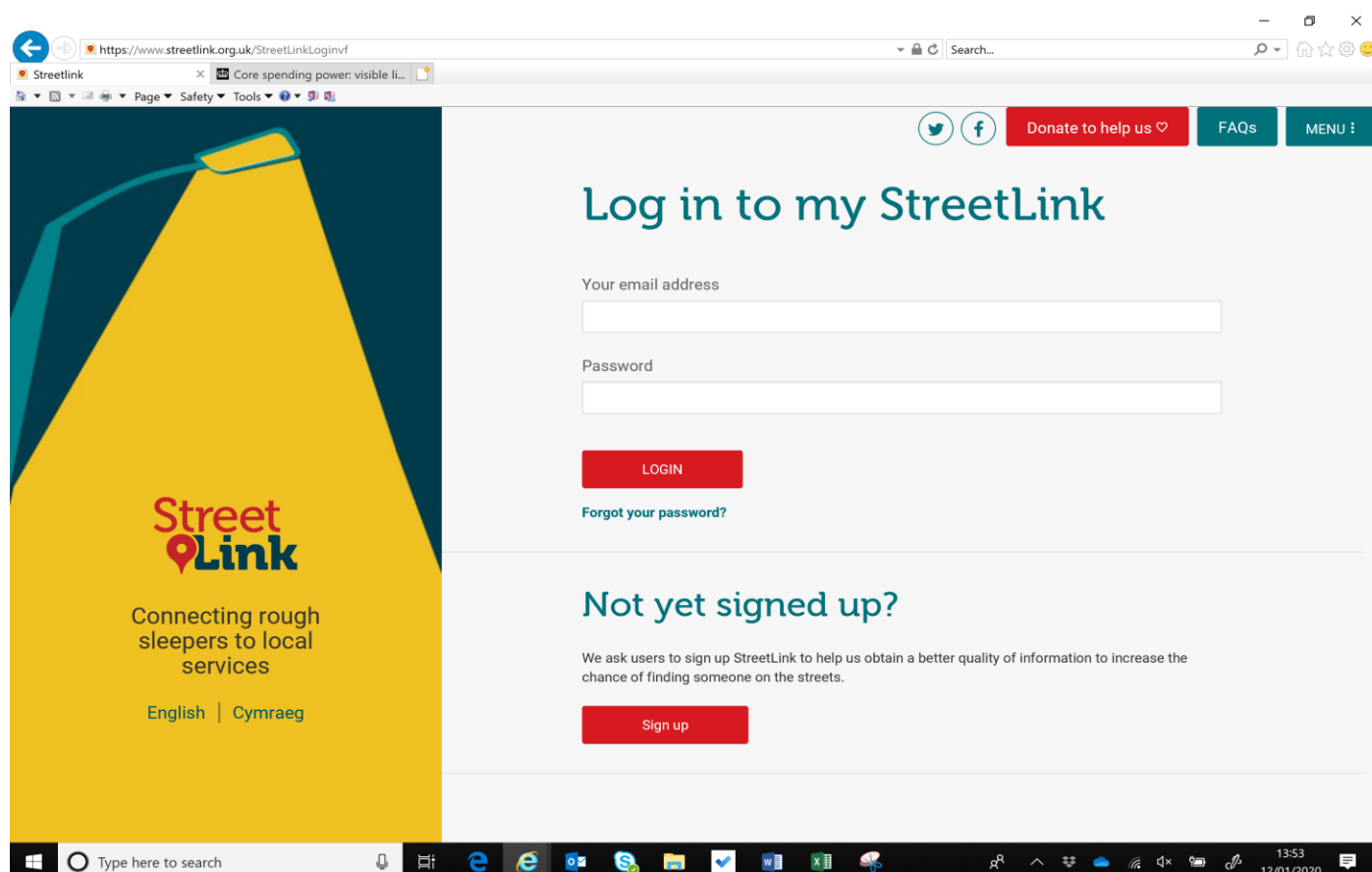
**If you are a member of the public or a local service and wish to make the Local Authority and services aware of a rough sleeper, please find the process below:**



## Appendix B – Screenshots of Streetlink website:



Press on the 'Take Action Now' button



Sign up if you are not yet registered



StreetLink

Connecting rough sleepers to local services

English | Cymraeg

## Register

First name\*

Last name\*

Your email address\*

Password\*

Confirm Password\*

Phone number(optional)

Register Cancel

Basic details are needed to register on the site

StreetLink

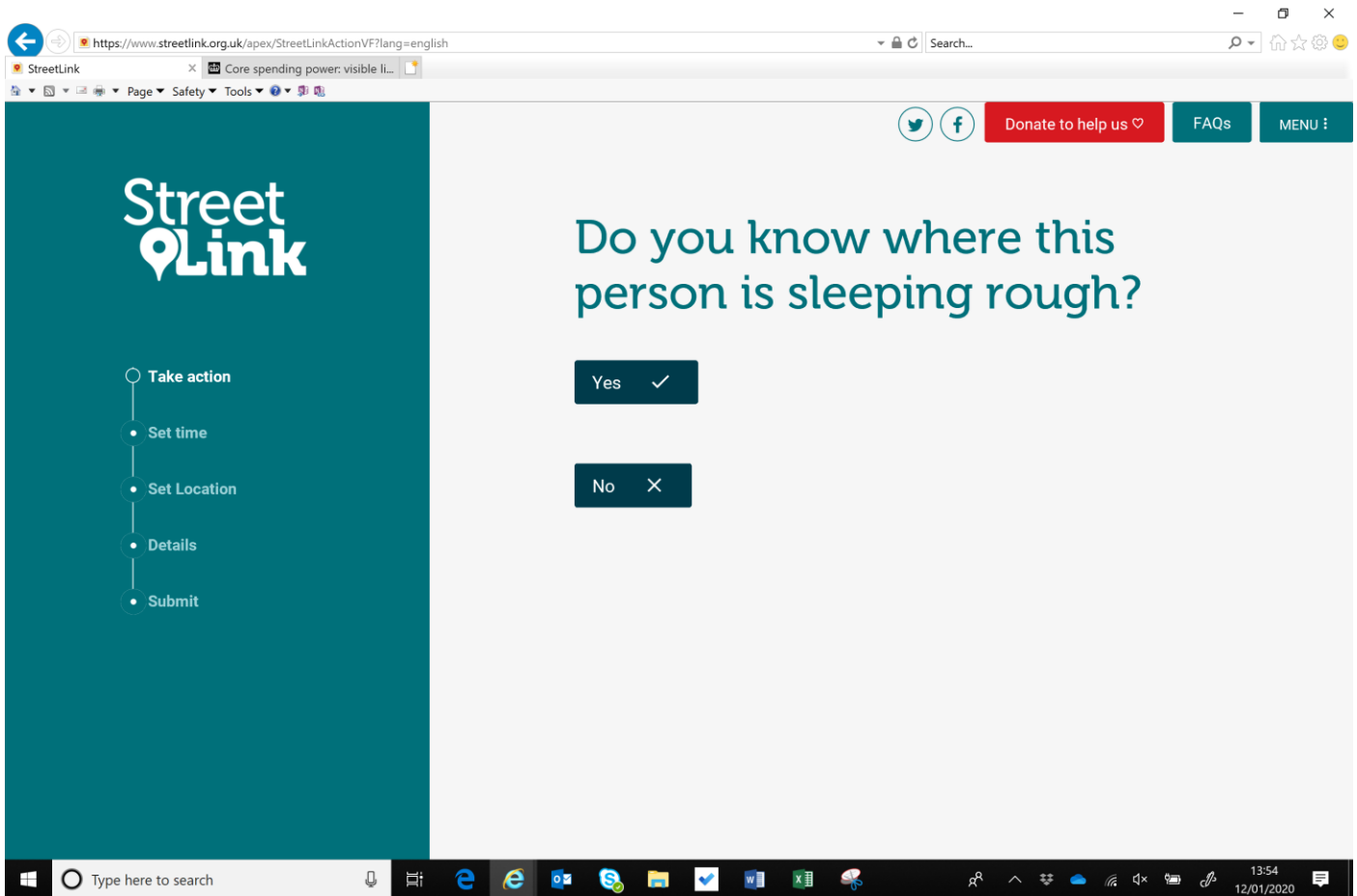
Connecting rough sleepers to local services

English | Cymraeg

Tell us about someone sleeping rough at night

I am sleeping rough

Press on the 'Tell us about someone sleeping rough at night' button



**Submit details – on the left of the screen you can see the sections needing to be completed**