

Individual Budgets Pilots around Roughsleepers for Joint Commissioning Board 14 September 2009

1. Background

In November 2008 Exeter recorded a street count of 15 for the second year running. This placed Exeter as having the highest rough sleeper count in England, (outside of London). In response to this a bid was made to Communities and Local Government to pilot an 'Individualised Budgets' approach for Long- Term Rough Sleepers. This bid is one aspect of a comprehensive action plan to reduce rough sleeping to 0 by 2012 in line with the CLG's National Rough Sleeper Strategy 'No one Left Out'.

There is a concentration of Rough Sleeping in Exeter, numbers in North Devon are also significant although more dispersed across a wider geographical area, and however rough sleeping is an issue that concerns every district in the county, whether or not they are directly affected.

The proposed Multi Agency tool for delivering this pilot is the same tool adopted by Children and Young Peoples Services and the ACC&SS pilot under LAA 27 this will mean continuity and the opportunity for shared learning.

2. Objectives

The objective of this project is put in additional resources to work with those Rough Sleepers who are resistant to assistance by coming up with creative solutions to meet their needs.

They will attend a multi agency meeting of statutory and voluntary agencies; agree who their 'lead professional' is going to be and a support plan will be devised. Alongside this will be a budget of up to £2,500 per individual to buy in additional services that will enable the client to sustain their accommodation and adhere to their support plan.

The objective is to promote the multi agency tool as an effective mechanism to work with individuals who have complex needs and to test the use of Individualised budgets (IBs) as a tool to build upon existing commissioned services to create sustainable solutions.

This pilot will also test the individualisation of support and the outcomes from this will inform the creation of new systems for commissioning services.

3. Project Scope

This pilot will target 'entrenched rough' sleepers; i.e. someone who has been rough sleeping for more than 6 months or those identified as having Complex needs with a history of accommodation breakdown, periods of rough sleeping and/ or being vulnerably housed. The project will also consider working with individuals who are in high support accommodation, but without a suitable move on option, therefore silting up the system.

Initial funding of £35,000 has been awarded by CLG. The monies have been awarded to Exeter and North Devon. Therefore the pilot will run simultaneously in both areas, coordinated by one project manager who will ensure continuity. Although the initial focus will be on Exeter and North Devon, additional monies from SP will enable the pilot to be accessed by the other Devon districts after the initial amount of funding is spent.

The pilot will use the St Andrews Short Term Outcomes Framework to monitor outcomes so that they can easily understood by all agencies and feed into other client centred pilots such as the work under LAA 27.

3.1. COSTS

As outlined in the project scope, £35,000 has been secured from CLG to assist funding for 10 clients to be assisted (provisionally 7 from Exeter and 3 from North Devon) with at least £2,500 potentially being able to be spent on each individual. However in similar projects the predicted spend per individual has been much lower and therefore the figure per individual has scope to come in under budget.

The amount made available from the Supporting People Programme; £20,000 will be used to expand the number of individuals who can be assisted through the project, with the opportunity for other districts to become involved in the pilot.

The amount will also offset the administration costs associated with the multi - agency assessment, the resource allocation system and to fund the lead professional in facilitating the chosen outcome for the spend. This lead professional will come from existing services, potentially both statutory and non statutory; these costs will then be kept to a minimum as it will be carried out within existing roles. However, there maybe certain additional work involved which requires additional staffing resources, especially when attempting to engage very entrenched roughsleepers.

There will also be a cost attached to the review of the project to ensure we can learn from the outcomes. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with the consultant working currently within the Supporting People Team.

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