

COUNCIL – 7 NOVEMBER 2022

STATEMENT BY CLLR CARL MAW CABINET MEMBER STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING

HOUSING

Rough Sleeping

With the advent of winter I have been reviewing current arrangements around rough sleeping.

At the end of October I can confirm there are 8 people sleeping rough in the Borough. All of these are known to the Council and receiving various forms of intervention and offers of help. A number of these are from outside the Borough and have accommodation available to them in other parts of the country.

We currently have 9 people who were sleeping rough accommodated in permanent and secure Housing First accommodation provided by Beyond Housing who are supported via our multi-agency REACH partnership and a further 4 people who were rough sleepers in emergency accommodation again being supported by REACH. Earlier this year the Council was successful in its application to Government for funding through the national Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and a several further units of Housing First accommodation are due to complete this year.

I am also able to advise that from November the Council's 'winter watch' service shall also recommence. This provides emergency accommodation for rough sleepers through our out of hours arrangements and the partnerships we have in place with the voluntary sector and the Police.

Housing Retrofit

The energy crisis is a major concern for everyone. I am able to advise that through the partnership working with have done with North Yorkshire County Council and successful funding bids (£8M of Government funds are allocated for the Scarborough, Ryedale and Hambleton areas) two key interventions to help struggling families insulate their homes, reduce energy costs and reduce carbon emissions are both up and running and going well. These schemes are the Home Upgrade Grants and Local Authority Delivery scheme being delivered on behalf of the councils via YES Energy Solutions. To qualify for these energy saving improvements households need to have a combined annual household income of less than £30k or be in receipt of income related benefits and live in a property with an Energy Performance Certificate in bands D,E,F or G.

Further to marketing, interest in both these initiatives has been significant and it is anticipated that a number of homes shall start having work commence

imminently. A bid for further funding bid (aimed at off gas properties) is also being worked up by the districts and the County Council.

WARM SPACES

Officers from the Community Regeneration Team are leading the coordination of a programme of warm spaces across the Borough. The Warm Welcome initiative will support Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to open up community facilities to provide warmth and shelter to vulnerable residents who may be unable to adequately heat their home due to recent rises in energy costs. As well as supporting community led facilities, public sector buildings such as libraries, the Evron Centre in Filey and the Falsgrave Community Resource Centre will also be available as warm spaces.

Officers are working with a range of partners to secure a package of support for community groups and organisations wanting to participate in the scheme including: small amounts of easy access grant funding, support with promotion and marketing and aligning existing financial and crisis support with warm spaces so that help can be targeted towards those who need it most.