

Full Council - Wednesday, 21 November 2018

Written question from Cllr Stephens to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council

A motion passed at Full Council in January 2018 promised support in the search for a suitable site for the Bus Shelter. The winter has arrived and there is not just a 'one fits all' service which can successfully cover service provision for the homeless on our Island. Please can the Leader update members on the assistance given to the Bus Shelter to date and any ongoing work in supporting this worthy charity?

Response

Following the motion in January 2018 the council met with the Bus Shelter Manager to discuss the requirements of the charity and following that meeting reviewed its land holdings to identify any possible site(s) that it had that were suitable for use by the Bus Shelter. Unfortunately for a number of reasons it has not been possible to identify a site, and subsequent to the meeting the Bus Shelter confirmed that it was investigating the use of a site in Sandown.

The council has put in place its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) for 2018 which:

- Is being delivered through multiple provisions including existing supported accommodation providers and a rolling church model.
- All supported accommodation providers operate under the supporting people framework and therefore meet a required standard as outlined within the Quality Assurance Framework.
- The rolling church model led by The Salvation Army has achieved the housing justice quality mark standard of excellence.
- Pathways have been created to fast track service users from the winter shelter provision into other longer term supported accommodation as commissioned by the local authority. This enables us to prioritise the most vulnerable during the winter period.
- A homeless Multi Agency Risk Management (MARM) taskforce will be in place for the 1st December responding to individual should individuals refuse offers of accommodation and/or are at risk of exclusion from accommodation options that are available. This will provide a forum whereby we develop appropriate innovative approaches to meet the personal needs of those that do not fit within provision that is identified.
- We are collating a day time offer in partnership with voluntary organisations to ensure people that are homeless or at risk of homeless have an understanding of their options. This will be available in our SWEP document and on the website.

Additionally, Members may like to know that the average numbers of people that presented as street homeless during the winter period 2017-18 was 7 and that this is our minimum bed space offer on any one night.

Should SWEP criteria be triggered we can actually accommodate up to 22 individuals across 3 sites, which is double the maximum occupancy last year.

I can also confirm that a street outreach service is now in operation, led by The Salvation Army, ensuring we are able to respond to individuals that are reported as being at risk of or whom are rough sleeping.