

## **Delegated Officer Report**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Emma Barton, Director of Economy</b>
<b>Date of Decision:</b>	<b>7 June 2021</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Establishment and Recruitment of Rough Sleeping Initiative Project Officer</b>
<b>Report Author:</b>	<b>Fiona Carr, Principal Homelessness Strategy Officer</b>
<b>Ward (s):</b>	<b>N/A</b>

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**Reason for the decision:** To establish and recruit a fixed term Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Project Officer to coordinate activity for the wider RSI Outreach Team.

**Summary:** Oldham Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) received funding in May 2021/22 to continue delivering a Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) service in Oldham. This will be the third year that such a service has been in operation.

Once fully established the 2021/22 RSI service will be comprised of:

- Two Outreach Workers – already in post, employed by Sanctuary Trust and commissioned by Rochdale Council
- One Navigator – to be advertised via request for quotation in due course
- A Dual Diagnosis Worker – establishment to be confirmed, but this role will be shared across Oldham and Rochdale
- One Project Officer – the post this report seeks approval for.

The RSI Project Officer will act as the central coordinator for the whole RSI Team – receiving all referrals for people reported to be sleeping rough and disseminating these to the Outreach Workers to action. The RSI Project Officer will

help to build a full picture of the extent of rough sleeping in Oldham including hotspots, needs and flow, and ensure an appropriate response is in place.

The RSI Project Officer will also ensure that outcomes are collated and reported to MHCLG to meet grant reporting deadlines, helping to secure the longer-term future of the RSI service.

***What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):***

- 1) Approve the establishment and recruitment of a Rough Sleeping Initiative Project Officer (recommended): A central coordination resource will ensure a faster response to reports of rough sleeping, more accurate data recording and reduced workloads for the wider teams.
- 2) Do not establish and recruit a Project Officer (not recommended): MHCLG have provided grant funding for this option; to not pursue this would mean either returning or proposing to re-purpose the funding. Not having a central coordination resource would impact on the workload of both the RSI team and the statutory homelessness service.

***Consultation: including any conflict of interest declared by relevant Cabinet Member consulted.***

N/A

***Recommendation(s):***

Approve the establishment and recruitment of a Rough Sleeping Initiative Project Officer

***Implications:***

***What are the financial implications?***

In May 2021, the government announced an allocation of £203m for a Rough Sleeping Initiative fund to provide local support for those living on the streets. Councils across England will receive a share of the funding with Oldham's allocation being £0.179m.

The Rough Sleeping Initiative Project Officer has been assessed as a Grade 5 post. This post will cost £37,010 inclusive of on-costs.

The post will be funded on a fixed term basis from the Rough Sleeping Initiative funding of £0.179m.

(John Hoskins)

What are the **legal** implications?

Option 1 is supported, there is funding for the post, we are approaching a critical time in relation to Homelessness where there is extra demand upon the service under normal circumstances, however under the current, early post pandemic circumstances there is likely to be continued pressures upon the service and staffing. Homelessness is a statutory function and any failings or delays in offering the relevant services often leads to the threat of Judicial Review proceedings and also potential reputational risk.  
Alex Bougatef – Group Lawyer Litigation.

What are the **procurement** implications?

As this follows the standard recruitment procedures there are no procurement implications.

What are the **Human Resources** implications?

The RSI Project Officer is a fixed term post for 12 months and has been graded by job evaluation team, the outcome for which is a grade 5.

Depending on the employment history of the successful candidate they may be entitled to a redundancy payment at the cessation of the fixed term period. Appropriate advice can be sought from HR at the time.

If approved, before wider recruitment is progressed, the redeployment register for a possible match.

Emma Gilmartin, Strategic HR Business Partner

What are the **Children and Young People** Implications?

N/A

**Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment** attached or not required because (please give reason)

N/A – Standard recruitment practices will be followed to ensure equality & diversity

What are the **property** implications

N/A

**Risks:**

The risk is that the funding to support this service is time limited and the service ends resulting in pressure on other areas of the housing service.

**Co-operative agenda**

This decision will positively support the Council's

cooperative agenda:

- Fairness: The RSI Team ensure rough sleepers have continued access to support via the agency they have engaged with to date.
- Working together: The RSI team increase resources and subsequently joint working between the council, MHCLG and its partners across all sectors to achieve better outcomes for our rough sleepers.

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Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

**Reason(s) for exemption from publication:**

**List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:**

**There are no background papers for this report**

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<b>Report Author Sign-off:</b>	Fiona Carr, Principal Homelessness Strategy Officer
<b>Date:</b>	03/06/2021

In consultation with Deputy Chief Executive

Signed : 

Date: 7 June 2021