

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chilton

Question 1:

I would like to know exactly what support is being routinely provided to the individuals housed in temporary accommodation in Trafford by other local authorities.

Response:

All placements made under any Homelessness Duty (Prevention, Relief or Main) the household/individual will remain in full contact with the Housing Officer who made the initial placement. Levels of support depend on the individual's needs, but can range from welfare checks, drug and alcohol support, mental health assistance, budgeting advice and mediation. This support can be made in person and over the telephone depending on the preference of the individual.

All applicants also will have a homeless assessment and a Personal Housing Plan (PHP) formulated which contains a number of actions for the individual/household and staff.

Checks will also be made to ensure every applicant has access to medication, food and benefits where necessary.

Question 2:

I would also like to know how many people are being housed at the Travelodge in Sale, and whether any checking is done to make sure local authorities haven't housed people there without telling us.

Response:

HOST do not place any clients in the Travel Lodge in Sale.

For homeless purposes, if a client is placed out of borough under any homeless duty, a S208 letter is sent to the host authority from the placing authority to advise them of that placement.

We have contacted all our GM homelessness contacts and the only authority making placements to this hotel is Manchester. They confirmed that currently they have one individual placed here.

Children's Social Care have and may in future use this hotel to place individuals/families in an emergency situation. This would be a short term solution and those children, young people and families will all have an allocated social worker

or after care worker, who would be working on an alternative solution with the family and our partners.

Cllr Thompson:

Question 1:

I would like to know about our homeless prevention strategies and how we work with Housing Associations and landlords around prevention if possible?

Response:

Trafford developed a Homelessness Strategy in 2019 (link below) and one of the strategic objectives within this strategy is 'Prevention'.

<http://www.trafford.gov.uk/about-your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/housing-strategy/docs/Trafford-Council-Homelessness-Strategy-2019-2024.pdf>

We are working with partners (including housing associations) to achieve the actions contained within the Action Plan (link below).

<http://www.trafford.gov.uk/about-your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/housing-strategy/docs/Trafford-Homelessness-Strategy-Action-Plan-2019-2024.pdf>

With regards to homeless prevention in particular HOST are linked in with all the housing associations who operate within Trafford and they inform HOST of any evictions or possessions which will result in the household becoming homeless. This notification is to allow the staff within HOST can start to work with the household and undertake a homeless assessment. There is currently a GM commitment not to evict so we have not had any recent cases.