

Rough Sleeper Case Study

Communities and Housing Advisory Board – Tuesday 12 November 2019

Mr X was known to be rough sleeping in Tonbridge and was known to the Police and the Community Safety Unit. He was also known by Housing and was on the Housing register in Band C for being homeless. He had been evicted from New Wharf approximately four years prior for Anti-Social Behaviour. He had not had any settled accommodation since his eviction from New Wharf and not approached the Council as Homeless.

Mr X was referred to Porchlight and began engaging with the Outreach Worker. He was working and his employer was very supportive and requested a meeting with housing and the outreach worker. His employer had provided him with some hotel accommodation and wanted to know what they could do to assist further. As a result of this meeting a further meeting was arranged with Mr X to discuss his situation.

An officer from the Housing Options Service attended this meeting and met again with the outreach worker and Mr X the next day. The officer identified that he was being rejected for properties by Clarion due to Anti-Social Behaviour. The Officer challenged Clarion about this and was advised that he was not being made offers due to his anti-social behaviour and his previous eviction from New Wharf. The Officer advised that some time had elapsed since the incident at New Wharf but Clarion would not agree to accommodate him.

At the Rough Sleeper Task and Finish Group Clarion were challenged due to the Anti-Social behaviour having been over 4 years ago. He had not had settled housing since this eviction. Clarion agreed to reconsider if a copy of his support plan and a letter from his employer was sent to them. This was organised by the officer and sent to Clarion and the next property Mr X bid on which he came top for, he was offered.

Because he had been assessed and owed a relief duty the officer concluded the case as a successful relief of homelessness for the Council, Mr X is now housed in a Clarion property. He has maintained his job, has a new girlfriend and she is expecting a baby. He is getting support via the Rapid Rehousing Pathway Supported Lettings worker and settled into permanent accommodation and off the streets.