

Cheltenham Borough Council
Overview and Scrutiny – 26 June 2017
Scrutiny Task Group Review – Street People covering report

Accountable member	Councillor Tim Harman, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Accountable officer	Saira Malin, Democracy Officer
Executive summary	<p>In June 2016 the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed the one page strategy for a task group set up to review the perceived increase in the number of street people in Cheltenham. The group was tasked with establishing the extent of the problem, understanding the responsibilities and powers of Cheltenham Borough Council to address any issues and assessing the support networks which were currently in place and giving consideration to whether these could be more effective.</p> <p>The findings and recommendations of the task group are set out in detail in the attached Scrutiny Task Group Report and if approved, the recommendations will be tabled with Cabinet on the 11 July 2017.</p> <p>It should be noted that Cabinet, at the 11 April 2017 meeting, agreed for Cheltenham to join the Solace Partnership. The task group were in full support of this decision, given the conclusions it had already drawn on the issue.</p>
Recommendations	<p>That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the task group recommendations as set out in the task group report (Appendix 1 and also outlined below)</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing the number of street people in Cheltenham should be a priority for this authority, benefiting not only the street people but also residents and local businesses, as well as the town itself. 2. An integrated, co-ordinated multi-agency approach is required, with close partnership working and appropriate information sharing. 3. This authority is well placed to assume a co-ordinating role. 4. The adoption of a Project SOLACE model or similar approach in Cheltenham.

Financial implications	<p>There are no financial implications arising from this report. The council's financial and resourcing contributions to the Solace Partnership is within existing budgets, as detailed in the Cabinet report for the proposal to implement Solace, dated 11th April 2017.</p> <p>Contact officer: Sarah Didcote, sarah.didcote@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 264125</p>
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Legal implications	<p><i>There are no legal implications arising from this report. There are a variety of legal options available to the Council in relation to tackling street people and this is outlined in the report.</i></p> <p>Contact officer: Vikki Fennell, vikki.fennell@tewkesbury.gov.uk 01684 272015</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>Further to Cabinet having approved Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) joining the Project Solace Partnership, there will be close partnership working and appropriate information sharing going forward in this regard. The Anti-Social Behaviour Officer employed by CBC will be part of the Solace Partnership.</p> <p>Contact officer: Carmel Togher, carmel.togher@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 775215</p>
Key risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the council does not effectively respond to low level ASB, this is likely to lead to an increase in more serious crime. • If the council through Solace does not suitably support vulnerable people who experience or commit antisocial behaviour, then it may be challenged about failing in its duty of care.
Corporate and Community Plan implications	<p>The implementation of the Project Solace approach in Cheltenham is a commitment in the 2017-18 corporate strategy action plan with the key milestone being the consideration of a business case by June 2017. This was signed off by Cabinet on April 2017.</p> <p>Contact officer: Richard.Gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>
Environmental and climate change implications	<p>Street begging and homelessness are detrimental to the town centre environment and contribute to public fears about crime and anti-social behaviour. Solace aims to help tackle this issue through targeted support and enforcement activities.</p> <p>There is likely to be a positive (albeit hard to measure) impact on the council's carbon emissions due to fewer officer journeys in relation to investigations, evidence gathering, victim support and multi-agency meetings as Solace will co-ordinate this activity. DOES GILL WANT TO AMEND THIS FROM THE CABINET REPORT?</p> <p>Contact officer: Gill.Morris@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>
Property/Asset Implications	<p>Solace would provide the council with better co-ordinated resource to manage ASB or crime arising on its land and property.</p> <p>The respective officers will be co-located within the police contact centre which is situated in the former tourist information centre and not within any CBC operational space.</p> <p>Contact officer: David.Roberts@cheltenham.gov.uk</p>

Report author	<p>Contact officer: Saira.Malin@cheltenham.gov.uk, 01242 774937</p>
Appendices	<p>1. Task Group report (including appendices)</p>
Background information	<p>1. Cabinet report on Project SOLACE (11 April 2017)</p>