

Rough Sleeper Provision in Greater Manchester

Key Observation

I believe that the support provision for rough sleeping across Greater Manchester is disjointed and confusing to members of the public, and those on the streets, leading to solutions being less effective than they should be.

Having recently visited Nottingham, I was impressed by the very simple street message (supported by online web resources) leaving me with an immediate and clear feeling of how a rough sleeper could access help, or how I could do this for them. The street poster is shown below:



Similarly, if 'rough sleeping Nottingham' is googled, the first two listed links are:
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/housing/homelessness/helping-rough-sleepers-in-nottingham/>
http://www.frameworkha.org/how_we_help/rough_sleepers_street_outreach
both of which contain consistent clear messages and direct to the same 0800 number as in the poster.

It would appear that Nottingham Council have outsourced their rough sleeping response to the charity Framework, which avoids the 'not my problem' response when a rough sleeper is found to not have a 'local connection' – as the charity can then engage using charitable resources rather than statutory funding not available through Councils where the individual is does not have the necessary 'connection'.

It would appear to me that this single contact concept, open to all and not just those

'entitled' would be a major step forward for Greater Manchester. In particular I appreciate that Greater Manchester comprises many separate authorities, where calling the City of Manchester for assistance might result in being rejected.

If all GM authorities outsourced to a single contracted charity (as with Framework in Nottingham), then the GM Rough Sleeping message could be simplified in line with the Nottingham approach, making it simple and effective for users and members of the public to use and support.