Task & Finish update report to OSP

Task & Finish project name: Alternative Giving
Date: 1.6.2018   End Date: 1.6.2019
Report status: Mid-term

1. Task & Finish purpose and intended outcome

In common with other stakeholders, the Oxford Strategic Partnership is keen to see the development and launch of an alternative giving campaign that:

a) Has the support of key partners, including organisations that assist homeless people and the wider public, and

b) Is effective in persuading members of the public, who may otherwise be motivated to give money to people on the street, to donate instead to organisations and / or initiatives that can help to prevent and relieve homelessness.

c) Raises a significant amount of funding (to be defined)

Initially proposed by the Safer Communities sub-group this proposal now sits under the Oxford Rough Sleeping Partnership that is developing several work streams, one of which is alternative giving.

2. Achievements to date

Developing Oxford Rough Sleeping Partnership – An interim Steering Group has set up four working groups around four key areas:

a) Purpose, structure and membership of the Partnership (lead Claire Dowan, Homeless Oxfordshire)

b) Engagement and communication (lead Paul Roberts, Aspire)

c) Access to services (lead Kate Cocker, Crisis Skylight)

d) Funding including alternative giving (lead Jayne Woodley, Oxfordshire Community Foundation)

Update Alternative (Diverted) Giving

A working group, chaired by Jayne Woodley from Oxfordshire Community Foundation, is now tasked with moving this forward, for example there will be a pilot project using contactless technology for giving money to homelessness charities.

Oxford City Council facilitated media coverage and helped support successful Festive Fundraising campaign to raise money for homeless charities in Oxford raised over £86,000. Oxfordshire Community Foundation pledged to match each donation and after reaching an initial total of £76,000 a final total of £86,000 has now been reached, once postal and collection box donations were taken into account. Money is being distributed to nine agencies overseen by Oxford Poverty Action Trust.

3. Challenges and/or blocks to progress

Developing consensus with a wide range of partners is vital for success however this can slow progress.

4. Requests for OSP support/advice/action/intervention (if required)

None at present