

## **Kerslake Commission evidence submission**

South Somerset District Council

**1. Thinking about the response to rough sleeping during the pandemic, which measures, policies, practices or joint working do you think worked well and why?**

Funding for hotels, clear guidance from Gov't and assurances about funding, joint working with local partners/agencies, flexibility to work creatively to respond to local needs

**2. In contrast, which measures, policies, practices or joint working do you think have not worked well and why?**

Lack of testing for staff and residents in hostels/supported accommodation; limited capacity of mental health/drug/alcohol services to support people in crisis/isolating; confusion over process for prison releases for people testing positive or isolating

**3. Please describe the specific challenges, and opportunities, in the next phase of the Everyone In programme and helping people to move on from hotel accommodation.**

Lack of properties/accommodation for move-on; challenges of recruiting staff to work at hostels; County-Lines has re-emerged on a huge scale so people in move-on are very vulnerable. Opportunities for closer multi-agency working. Funding from NSAP for projects.

**4. And finally, what do you think needs to be put in place to embed the good work that developed during the pandemic, or improve upon it?**

More funding and support for single, 'non-priority' people who go round and round in the cycle of rough sleeping - need comprehensive drug & alcohol services and intensive support to help individuals move on from entrenched lifestyle revolving around drugs, poor health, trauma and often violence.