

Camberwell Community Councils – Officer responses to public questions raised previously at this community council.

QUESTION RAISED AT THE 23 NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING –

“Since HSBC closed in Denmark Hill, there’s a permanent collection of old mattresses, blankets, garments all along the front of the former bank. What steps are being taken to ensure that the local authority and HSBC take some responsibility for providing accommodation for the homeless people who are sleeping here and for clearing up the eyesore?”

RESPONSE

1. A coordinated approach has been taken between the police, community wardens, local businesses (including HSBC), St Mungo’s Street Population Outreach Team (SPOT) which is a council commissioned service, housing solutions and the Southwark Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU).
2. Since November 2016, partners have been engaging with the individuals concerned and offers were made on several occasions including hostel and temporary accommodation places and the opportunity to attend the pan-London No Second Night Out (NSNO) hub in Lewisham. The individuals have also been offered support around organising benefits, with linking with their home areas (as none of these are Southwark residents) and with advice around local health services. The individuals concerned however declined all of these offers.
3. Rough sleeping is not a criminal offence; the issues highlighted in Camberwell however included begging, drug dealing and substance abuse which are criminal offences and an enforcement approach was commenced.
4. Following these actions, local checks indicate that the individuals have moved on from Camberwell. The teams are continuing to monitor the situation closely as it is recognised that there are risks that the individuals have moved on but could attempt to return.
5. A meeting is being convened between local councillors and key partners to discuss this matter and to look at how best to tackle challenges around street homelessness in Southwark.

QUESTION RAISED AT THE 21 SEPTEMBER 2016 MEETING –

“What is the status of Southwark’s Streetleader scheme and are the council committed to this.”

RESPONSE

The council no longer operates a streetleader scheme.