

HENRY SMITH MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Louise Goldsmith  
Leader, West Sussex County Council  
County Hall  
West Street  
Chichester  
West Sussex PO19 1RQ

31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

Dear Louise

I was grateful for an opportunity to speak with you on the telephone yesterday evening regarding West Sussex County Council's recently published Forward Plan which proposes ceasing discretionary funding to Crawley's Open House homeless centre; I wanted to briefly outline my concerns in writing.

Open House has an important history of providing support to not only local homeless people but those coming to the area; indeed it is a unique facility between London and Brighton.

I am very aware that Crawley Borough Council is the local housing authority and that West Sussex County Council's support has been a very generous addition, I also appreciate the drive to reduce costs on behalf of our taxpayers but believe such a withdrawal of funding to Open House would represent a false economy.

I would be grateful for an urgent re-think.

For my part I am lobbying the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to request a part of the Government's new rough sleeping reduction initiative funding comes to Crawley and West Sussex.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

As ever

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Henry Smith".

**Henry Smith**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Crawley Constituency**

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