




Appendix 2

Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2023-2028

The actions below set out how the Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy will deliver its key priorities over the next five years.

The strategy and action plan will be kept under review to make sure it stays strategically relevant considering the shifting landscapes of homelessness. An annual report and updated action plan will be produced and presented to the council as well as other relevant forums.

Strategy priorities	Actions
 	 
Priority 1 - Homeless prevention and early intervention, including youth homelessness	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Promote early intervention through awareness raising and Duty to Refer processes, including developing a ‘commitment to refer’ for those agencies who are not required by law to report in. We will develop a culture across organisations to proactively prevent homelessness.➤ Increase the rates of prevention approaches and successful preventions.➤ Continue to work with prisons and hospitals to ensure referrals are received early and pathways are in place.

- Use data, predictive analysis and feedback to understand ways to work smarter to manage demand. This data will also inform how we improve prevention and relief intervention services.
- Work with partners to increase affordable housing options across all tenures.
- Develop a prevention toolkit, training and advice for organisations to respond to the risk of homelessness at an earlier stage.
- Develop our approach to co-production with people with lived experience and partners, helping us to develop prevention services that deliver positive outcomes.
- Promote the use of Barnsley Community First Credit Union across all homeless-related services.
- Provide support and assistance with welfare benefits, debt and money advice to prevent homelessness.
- Work alongside landlords to create robust early alert systems and ensure protocols are in place for tenancies at risk or when properties are going to be removed from the market.
- Work with partners to move people into volunteering, learning and work.
- Improve early identification and support through the Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) risk assessment. We will also work to prevent instances of domestic abuse.
- Commit to providing safe housing options to prevent homelessness for those facing domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and honour-based violence.

- Develop and improve the advice and support available to the public, partners and stakeholders, especially what is available digitally.
- Make sure mediation is available to maintain or repair relationships whilst longer-term housing solutions are being identified.
- Provide early advice and support to people leaving the armed forces and continue to support the work of the Armed Forces Covenant.

For young people and care leavers, we will:

- Prevent young people 'in transition' from becoming homeless through the review and implementation of effective housing pathways, support and advice.
- Fully implement the young person's protocol, working closely with the joint social worker post to prevent homelessness wherever possible. We will thoroughly review the protocol and how it operates annually.
- Deliver homeless prevention work to children and young people and work with partners to identify ways to address and prevent the underlying causes of homelessness in the next generation. We will also improve pathways to housing for young people to enable earlier intervention.
- Work alongside Early Help services to provide advice and support around housing and homeless prevention.
- Continue to support the work of the young person's homelessness social worker.

Priority 2 - Supporting those with complex needs and reducing the cycle of homelessness and rough sleeping

We will:

- Make sure any episodes of rough sleeping are rare, brief and non-recurrent, using data and analysis to identify 'routes' to the streets.
- Make sure all verified rough sleepers are offered accommodation and support.
- Work in a trauma-informed way, letting the person take the lead for their support planning and outcomes. This will help us to achieve person-centred practice.
- Continue to work in partnership with key agencies, especially Recovery Steps (substance misuse), Probation, IDAS (domestic abuse), Adult Social Care and mental health services to address wider support needs. This will help us to reduce the cycle of homelessness.
- Develop housing options and support for women with complex needs.
- Make sure appropriate safeguarding practices are embedded across the service, including further developing a robust multi-agency safeguarding approach for rough sleeping and those who self-neglect.
- Develop a 'Housing First' approach for rough sleepers, learning from others who have run successful pilots.
- Make sure there is sufficient capacity and support in the system to deliver our Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work in partnership with Community Safety, the Police and other key stakeholders to develop an action plan for tackling street begging. ➤ Work with the Homeless Alliance to develop a communications plan to provide information to the public about what support is available for rough sleepers and beggars. This will include developing an alternative giving scheme.
<p><u>Priority 3 - Improving access to a range of housing options, especially in the private rented sector, and improving housing and support pathways</u></p>	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with a range of landlords to increase the supply of affordable housing available in the borough. ➤ Remodel and update the domestic abuse pathway, making sure there is a move-on from refuge to a range of housing options. Our focus will be on reviewing provisions for male victims of domestic abuse and women with complex needs. ➤ Encourage and support the development of good quality, non-commissioned supported housing in partnership with providers. We will do this within frameworks that provide quality assurance. ➤ Implement the revised lettings policy, ensuring fair access to social housing for those most in need. ➤ Bid for the Supported Housing Accommodation programme to increase longer-term housing options for those with complex needs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop employment pathways for people who have recently lost employment or who are otherwise looking for work. ➤ Develop a Private Rented Incentive Scheme linked to the Accommodation for ex-offenders funding, creating a housing pathway from prison to the community. ➤ Work in partnership to make sure there is sufficient supported accommodation to meet demand and the needs of the groups who are at the most risk of homelessness in Barnsley. ➤ Make sure any national resettlement programmes are proportionately supported without negatively impacting local need.
<p><u>Priority 4 - Reducing the use and cost of temporary accommodation</u></p>	<p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reduce dependency on bed and breakfasts by providing more suitable emergency housing solutions. This includes increasing the number of council houses available for temporary accommodation. ➤ Cut the cost of bed and breakfast and hotel accommodation by reducing the number of placements and length of stay. ➤ Develop effective pathways to and from temporary accommodation to make sure there are sufficient bed spaces and the move-on process is timely. ➤ Work towards reducing the numbers requiring temporary accommodation by intervening earlier. We will use the prevention pot and other prevention tools to mitigate the need for temporary accommodation. ➤ Support the review of the void processes in council housing to make sure temporary accommodation is turned around

	<p>quickly and offers properties that are ready to let within a reasonable period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure no 16- and 17-year-olds are placed into bed and breakfast accommodation.
<p><u>Priority 5 - Develop a system-wide approach to housing and health (physical and mental)</u></p>	<p>We will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work alongside the Integrated Care System to make sure the homeless population is represented in any strategies, plans and operational delivery. ➤ Improve the offer for homeless people with mental health and dual diagnosis issues. We will explore opportunities to employ specialist support through specialist dual diagnosis practitioners to provide clinical expertise. ➤ Make sure that when people are discharged from institutional settings, they have accommodation and services in place to help them avoid homelessness, including good health support. ➤ Focus on reducing homeless-related deaths, including drug-related deaths, those dying of suicide, deaths due to poor health or because of being a victim of crime. ➤ Continue to work closely with Adult Social Care, co-locating at the 'Front Door' to identify health and social care needs.