

# **Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022**

**Health and Well Being Board**

**Sandra Tolley – Head of Housing Options**

**Jill Jones - Homelessness Manager**

# Introduction

- Brief overview of the Strategy
- National and Local Context
- The 6 Aims to contribute to Aim 4 of the HWS
- Overview of the Housing First Scheme
- Provide an analysis of temporary accommodation
- **The Ask for the Board is to help with the Action Plan**

# Brief overview of the Strategy

## The Vision is:

- To end homelessness in Rotherham
- Everyone has a place to call home
- The right support is in place at times of crisis to prevent homelessness

# National Context -The Homelessness Reduction Act

Shifts local authority approach to homelessness from less crisis intervention to more prevention, ensuring more people are entitled to help

Background	Before 3 April 2018	Now
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Housing Act 1996 Part 7</b> remains the primary legislation</li><li>• <b>Prior to April 2018</b> the principal duty was to secure accommodation for applicants who were eligible, homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days and who had a 'priority need' for housing and were homeless unintentionally</li><li>• <b>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017</b> amended the 1996 Act, introducing new statutory duties to act to <b>prevent and relieve</b> homelessness for all eligible applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness <b>within 56 days</b></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Single people</b> with no clear priority need were entitled to 'advice and assistance', but their needs were often not assessed</li><li>• <b>Prevention activity</b> was 'good practice', but not compulsory – crisis response at the point of homelessness was commonplace</li><li>• <b>The process</b> involved an application, officers undertaking inquiries, assessing an applicant against the statutory tests and making a decision, without needing to involve the applicant in finding possible solutions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>All eligible applicants</b> have a full assessment of their housing and support needs.</li><li>• Local connection, intentionality and priority need are not a barrier to accessing support.</li><li>• <b>Applicants and authorities work together</b> to prevent or relieve homelessness.</li></ul>

# The Homelessness Reduction Act

The Act placed a number of new duties on local housing authorities

**Expanded advice and information duty:** Available to all residents regardless of eligibility. Advice must be designed to meet the needs of particular groups: care leavers, former members of the armed forces, people leaving custody, victims of domestic abuse, people leaving hospital and people with mental health issues.

**Prevention duty :** Owed to all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness in the next 56 days irrespective of 'local connection', 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'. Includes tenants served with a valid Section 21 notice (no fault eviction) which expires within 56 days.

**Relief duty :** Owed to people who are actually homeless and lasts for 56 days, irrespective of 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'. The local authority may refer to another authority if the applicant has no local connection to their authority

# Homelessness Reduction Act – DUTY TO REFER

The duty applies to:

- Prisons and youth offender institutions;
- Secure training centres and Secure colleges;
- Youth offending teams;
- Probation services (including community rehabilitation companies);
- Jobcentre Plus;
- Social service authorities;
- Emergency departments and Urgent treatment centres;
- Hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care;
- Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the armed forces.

Consent is needed prior to a referral being made.

It will help ensure that people who face the threat of homelessness are identified earlier through their contacts with public authorities and get referred for help

# The Local Picture - The Demand

## 2017/2018

- Since the introduction of the act the team 'scase loads have trebled from 132 to 403
- 17/18 Homelessness Preventions = 714 households, 18/19 = 847
- 17/18 acceptances – increased by 20% (100 to 122)
- Young people under 25 = 7 presentations per month
- Young offenders – age 16/17 = 5 per month
- Use of temporary accommodation has increased from 38 in October 2016 to 45 end March 2019

# The Local Picture - The Demand

## 2017/2018 – Incidents of Rough Sleepers

- 2017 – 2 Counted
- 2018 – 5 Counted
- 19 located over a 12 month period
- Cold weather provision - Fire and Rescue



# The Local Picture

## Funding

### RMBC Budgets in 19/20

- Homelessness GF budget      £257,276
- Homelessness HRA budget    £347,131

### Grant funding due in 19/20:

- Flexible Homelessness Grant £172,524
- New Burdens Homelessness Reduction Act £74,120
- Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant of £328,000 shared between Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster Councils

# **The Local Picture**

## **Funding**

### **Public Health - Rough Sleeping Grant**

**5<sup>th</sup> July Deadline**

Partnerships between Las and Clinical  
Commission Groups (CCG)

Adults who are sleeping rough and living with  
mental illness and substance misuse will benefit  
from £1.9 million funding to improve their  
access to vital healthcare.

# The 6 Aims

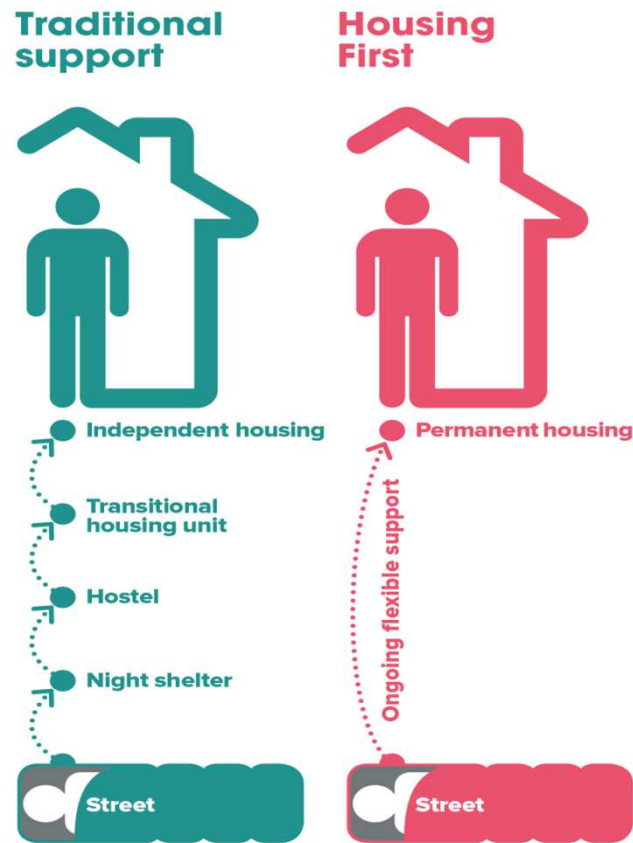
1. To support people with complex needs.
2. To prevent homelessness and offer rapid housing solutions to get people in urgent need rehoused quicker.
3. To increase support for young people to prevent homelessness.
4. To end rough sleeping and begging.
5. To improve access to tenancy support, employment and health support services.
6. To ensure there is sufficient decent emergency accommodation.

# Action Plan to address the gaps

## Aim 1 – To Support people with complex needs

- **The Ask** is for a better partnership working to ensure that there is a whole person approach

# Housing First



- Unlike traditional staircase approach
- Permanent offer of a home
- No conditions other than maintaining tenancy
- Flexible, person-centred support
- Underpinned by a set of principles

# Housing First

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPbxCA4Xc0c>

# Action Plan to address the gaps

## Aim 2 - Prevent homeless/rapid housing

- **The ask is** to improve the referral pathway and service for people being discharged from hospital and prisons

# Action Plan to address the gaps

**Aim 3 - To increase support for young people to prevent homelessness**

- **The ask** is to facilitate housing advice sessions in special schools and colleges

**Aim 4 - To end rough sleeping and begging**

- **The ask is to** explore the development of an “Alternative Giving Scheme” which aims to reduce rough sleeping and begging



# Action Plan to address the gaps

**Aim 5 –To improve access to tenancy support, employment and health support services.**

- Ensure all people presenting as homeless who have substance misuse issues are referred straight away to commissioned treatment services.
- Connect people to employment, training, volunteering

**Aim 6 – To ensure there is sufficient decent emergency accommodation.**

- Address the gaps in temporary emergency accommodation provision by setting up temporary accommodation for dog owners and for people being discharged from hospital without suitable accommodation

# Analysis of Temporary accommodation

## Route causes

- 5 households      Family no longer willing to accommodate
- 3 household      Arrears – Local authority tenancy
- 7 households      Termination of assured short hold tenancy
- 6 households      Left hospital
- 3 households      Left prison
- 6 households      Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as  
asylum support
- 4 households      Other forms of harassment
- 7 households      Violent breakdown of relationship, involving partner
- 5 households      Emergency - other
- 5 households      Other (eg. Rough sleeper)
- **TOTAL 51 end April 2019**

# Performance Framework

## Monthly

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping scorecard

## 6 weekly

Side-by-Side Homelessness Forum on a 6 weekly basis.

## Quarterly

- The Strategic Housing Partnership

# Performance Trends

Indicator	2017/18 (actual)	2018/19 (actual)
Number of people living in temporary accommodation on the last day of March	38	45
Number of people prevented from becoming homeless during the year	714	847

# Discussion

How the Board can help with the  
Action Plan and Funding Bid