Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 -2022

Health and Well Being Board
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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*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Before 3 April 2018</th>
<th>Now</th>
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<td>- Housing Act 1996 Part 7 remains the primary legislation</td>
<td>- <strong>Single person</strong> with no clear priority need were entitled to ‘advice and assistance’, but their needs were often not assessed</td>
<td>- <strong>All eligible applicants</strong> have a full assessment of their housing and support needs.</td>
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<td>- <strong>Prior to April 2018</strong> 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</td>
<td>- <strong>Prevention activity</strong> was ‘good practice’, but not compulsory – crisis response at the point of homelessness was commonplace</td>
<td>- Local connection, intentionality and priority need are not a barrier to accessing support.</td>
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<td>- <strong>Homelessness Reduction Act 2017</strong> amended the 1996 Act, introducing new statutory duties to act to prevent and relieve homelessness for all eligible applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days</td>
<td>- <strong>The process</strong> 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</td>
<td>- <strong>Applicants and authorities work together</strong> to prevent or relieve homelessness.</td>
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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
5th 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 households   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

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<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2017/18 (actual)</th>
<th>2018/19 (actual)</th>
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<td>Number of people living in temporary accommodation on the last day of March</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of people prevented from becoming homeless during the year</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>847</td>
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Discussion
How the Board can help with the Action Plan and Funding Bid