**Winchester Preventing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2025-30**

**Political Foreword**

**To be inserted**

1. **Introduction**

Winchester’s Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out a clear strategic direction and priorities for the council’s approach to tacking homelessness over the next 5 years. This strategy has been developed in close collaboration with a wide range of partner agencies, and will be delivered through a joint partnership commitment, signifying a collective and joined up approach to addressing homelessness across Winchester, building upon the joint success to date.

The council knows that homelessness, in its causes and consequences, is a cross-cutting issue, which cannot be tackled by one agency alone. In order to effectively prevent and respond to homelessness it is essential that all partner agencies work collaboratively together in an integrated way not only to address the underlying causes that have led to homelessness, but also develop services and pathways that meet the needs of this, often vulnerable, client group in a coordinated way. This strategy creates the platform to do this.

Integral to the council’s response to addressing homelessness, is to ensure that the vision, priorities and actions are informed by those who have had direct experience of homelessness. Throughout the strategy development process the council has worked to capture the voices of those with lived experience of homelessness and is committed to ensuring that their views and experiences help to shape the strategic response.

This strategy has been written at the precipice of significant change, with Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon. The Homelessness Review identified the success of Winchester’s approach in tackling homelessness, particularly the effectiveness of the Housing Options service at a time of significant pressures. It will be critical moving forward into Local Government Reorganisation that Winchester’s approach and service culture helps to shape and inform future service delivery so that, although commission and service delivery may be at scale, delivery will be localised to meet specific and local needs.

It is important to acknowledge that this strategy has been developed at a time of unprecedented pressures in relation to homelessness, rough sleeping and temporary accommodation. These pressures are significant, and therefore the importance of a joined-up strategic approach is more critical than ever before if the council is to meet its vision for tackling homelessness across Winchester.

This strategy sets out a clear and ambitious plan to further transform the response to homelessness and has been developed through close collaboration with Winchester’s Homelessness Forum, building upon the partnership’s success to date. The vision and priorities are ambitious; but the council believes that, with the commitment of all of its partners, we can work together to make them a reality.

**Legislative Context**

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires every Local Authority to carry out a review of homelessness in their area and to develop and publish a homelessness strategy based on the review findings.

Under the Act, the Homelessness Strategy must seek to achieve the following objectives in the local housing authority’s area:

1. The prevention of homelessness
2. That suitable accommodation is and will be available for people who are or may become homeless
3. That satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless.

This strategy has been developed in accordance with the Act and in response to the findings of the Homelessness Review, which provides a comprehensive evidence base of homelessness across Winchester.

**Developing the Strategy**

This strategy has been developed in close consultation with partners working across the homelessness sector, alongside the wider public and voluntary sector. This approach has ensured that the strategy has been developed using the expertise of other professionals and has helped to identify further opportunities to work together to achieve improved outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

Most importantly this strategy has been developed in close collaboration with people with lived experience of homelessness to ensure that the strategy responds to their needs, and takes into account their personal experience of what it is like to experience homelessness in Winchester.

This process has provided an invaluable insight and understanding of where the council can make the most effective changes and have the biggest impact. The strategy sets out the council’s commitment to build upon this process by ensuring that it continues to work with people with lived experience of homelessness through the implementation of this strategy.

1. **Vision**

Our vision for homelessness in Winchester is that, by 2030, we will be:

*Working together to ensure that everyone at risk of homelessness has early and effective access to the right support, and where homelessness cannot be prevented, ensuring a safe, suitable, and sustainable home is secured as quickly as possible.*

Through this strategy the council aims to:

* Create, share and replicate best practice and innovation in responses to homelessness.
* Develop a community and partnership approach to prevent homelessness across the whole system by intervening earlier, developing service pathways and creating individual solutions.
* Respond to homelessness by ensuring individuals have prompt access to homes and tailored support.
* Increase the range of affordable settled and supported housing options available

# Meeting our Vision

This Strategy sets out an ambitious plan for Winchester’s response to addressing homelessness. The scale and complexity of the challenges that face the partnership over the lifetime of this strategy cannot be underestimated; these challenges include the cost-of-living crisis, national increases in homelessness and rough sleeping, refugee resettlement and pressures on budgets, set against an increasingly unaffordable housing market.

Through the delivery of the Strategy, the council will build upon its successful approach to working together to prevent and respond to homelessness. This strategy seeks to ensure that the council works closely with its partners to prevent homelessness at the earliest opportunity, while providing rapid housing responses to those that need them.

This Strategy is a multi-agency document and has been developed with partners, in recognition that a collaborative partnership approach is fundamental to being able to effectively tackle homelessness. Together with its partners, the council will work to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness, create effective pathways out of homelessness, and design out system blockages.

The response through this strategy recognises the individual and unique needs of people experiencing homelessness and as such the council intends to deliver solutions that are tailored to the individual needs of people; recognising the strengths and assets they have. The council will build upon these strengths, empowering individuals, and ensuring a trauma-informed approach across all key services.

In line with the national agenda, the council is committed to ensuring that homelessness is prevented early, is rare, brief and non-recurrent.

## Strategic Priorities

This Strategy will meet the vision and aims through the delivery of 4 clear priorities.

Making homelessness everyone’s priority through a partnership wide approach.

We will work collaboratively to reduce homelessness through a unified Homelessness Charter, coordinated services, joint commissioning, and aligned efforts across council directorates, statutory agencies and the community and voluntary sector to improve lives and maximise public resources, making the prevention of homelessness everyone’s responsibility.

Prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions.

Through early intervention and prevention we will endeavour to prevent homelessness from occurring. Where it does occur, we will ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring by providing timely access to early comprehensive and personalised help and support, clear housing pathways, accessible information and trauma informed services.

Meet the complex and unique needs of our customers by preventing rough sleeping and repeat homelessness.

We will work to reduce rough sleeping in Winchester by preventing rough sleeping in the first place and implementing clear pathways, preventing returns to the street. We will deliver a multi-agency, trauma-informed approach to meet the multiple and complex needs of individuals through multi-disciplinary support. We will prevent repeat homelessness through individually tailored accommodation and support options.

Develop sustainable, supported and settled housing solutions.

We will reduce the reliance on costly and unsuitable temporary accommodation and ensure any stay is as brief as possible and any impact upon the customer and wider household is mitigated. We will develop and improve access to a suitable range of settled, supported and sustainable accommodation solutions through effective partnership working.

1. **Building on Success**

The council, together with its partners, is proud of how homelessness services are delivered in Winchester and the outcomes that they achieve. This success provides the partnership with an excellent starting point upon which to base the new homelessness strategy.

It is recognised that this strategy sets out an ambitious plan and vision for tackling homelessness over the next five years, and successful delivery of this will require significant commitment from all key partners. However, the council is not starting from scratch as this strategy is built upon a number of successes and achievements across the partnership in tacking homelessness. These include:

Housing Supply – Supported & Settled

* Delivery of **239** new affordable council homes and **1,383** Registered Provider homes between 2018/19 to 2022/23
* Development of Bradbury View in partnership between the council and Trinity, providing 12 flats for individuals with complex needs, adding a further 3 beds in 2024
* Establishment of a Housing First model of housing provision for those with multiple needs

Outcomes for vulnerable groups and those at risk of homelessness

* LAHF- successful funding for 45 homes- Ukrainians, Afghan’s and Temporary accommodation
* Provision of a rapid response to rough sleeping through a renewed assertive outreach service
* Review of the outreach provision to ensure support is targeted to meet the needs of those sleeping out for the first time, those returning to the streets and for single women rough sleeping
* Embedded trauma-informed principles within the staff working practices through an established framework and staff training opportunities.
* Successful in obtaining Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding providing a Complex Needs Navigator, commissioning the Housing First project and the provision of a personalisation fund
* Fund Trinity via the RSI to employ a Complex Needs navigator providing intensive support to those individuals with a history of rough sleeping who have the most complex needs, supporting them to navigate the systems and find solutions.
* Provision of assistance to 33 individuals over the last three years through severe weather emergency protocols (SWEP)

Prevention of Homelessness

* Over the last 5 years successfully prevented 839 households from becoming homeless, and secured accommodation for a further 378 households experiencing homelessness under a relief duty
* Accommodated over 50 people during the Covid Pandemic.
* Winchester City Council’s achievement of DAHA accreditation

Housing Register and Allocations

* 3086 lets through Hampshire Home Choice for the period April 2019-April 2024

1. **Homelessness in Winchester**

Data below to be turned into infographics internally

Homelessness in Numbers 2024/25

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| There were **612** approaches to the Housing Options Service, representing a **72% increase** over the last 2 years | **436** households were assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness |
| There has been a **71% increase** in the number of households experiencing homelessness over the last three years | The proportion of people accessing the service when they are already homeless has **increased**, meaning that opportunities for prevention work have passed |

Profile of Homelessness

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| **Single households** accounted for **71%** of all households experiencing homelessness | In Winchester, **younger people** are disproportionally affected by homelessness with 18-34 year olds accounting for **34%** of all homeless households | **65%** of households have an identified support need |
| **Mental health** is the most prevalent support need accounting for **30%** of all support needs | In the last few years there has been an **increase in the number of families** experiencing homelessness |  |

Main Causes of Homelessness in Winchester

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| **Family and friends unable to accommodation** and the **end of private rented accommodation** are the main causes of homelessness in Winchester | Family and friends unable to accommodate accounts for **24%** of all homelessness cases | End of private rented accommodation accounts for **20%** of all homelessness cases |
| Other main causes include **domestic abuse, eviction from supported housing** and **relationship breakdown** | In November 2024 **5 rough sleepers** were found on a single night. |  |

Prevention and Relief Activity

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| Homelessness was successfully prevented for **86%** of households owed a prevention duty. This is higher than the national average of 51%. | Despite increased demand and pressures on services, **successful prevention outcomes have remained high** | Homelessness was successfully relieved for **31%** of households owed a relief duty, in line with the national average |

Temporary Accommodation

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| In March 2025 there were a total of **72** households in temporary accommodation, of which **34** households had dependent children | There has been an **80%** increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation over the last three years | The average length of stay in temporary accommodation is **312 days** |

Demand for Social housing

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| In 2025 there were **1,611 households on the housing register**, this has increased by 11% over the last 5 years | The biggest demand is for single person accommodation, accounting for **64%** of all households on the housing register | In 2024/25 there were **528** annual lets of social housing |

1. **Priorities**

**Priority 1 - Making homelessness everyone’s priority through a partnership-wide approach.**

*We will work collaboratively to reduce homelessness through a unified Homelessness Charter, coordinated services, joint commissioning, and aligned efforts across council directorates, statutory agencies and the community and voluntary sector to improve lives and maximise public resources, making the prevention of homelessness everyone’s responsibility.*

To support the delivery of this Strategy’s vision, the council plans to create a clear and concise Winchester Homelessness Charter for partner agencies to adopt. The Charter will outline the shared vision for addressing homelessness, and partners will be invited to sign up and commit to working collaboratively with the council to achieve this vision and prevent homelessness.

The council will work with partners and local communities to ensure that the factors that lead to homelessness can be better understood and identified; with effective pathways into preventative services in place, and clear and accessible referral mechanisms. The council aims to embed this approach across Winchester, significantly reducing crisis presentations and ensuring effective homelessness prevention interventions, partnerships and pathways are in place.

The council will build upon the strength of the existing Homelessness Forum to create a platform for collaboration and joint working to meet its shared vision to prevent homelessness.

Through the strategy, the council will work with key partners to ensure that a range of joint protocols are in place to prevent homelessness and to create clear pathways out of homelessness. The review identified a high prevalence of support needs in relation to the mental and physical health of those experiencing homelessness. The council intends to improve its understanding of the health needs of the homeless population and ensure timely access to services and interventions that meet those needs.

The council will also work to identify opportunities for the joint commissioning of homelessness and support services to meet the multiple, often complex, needs that people present with.

“Homelessness can happen to anyone, I used to think that anyone who was homeless were drunks and addicts, but they’re completely not, you’d be amazed at what talent people have got.”

*Service User*

“I felt like I could be honest with her, she rang me regularly, she was concerned about my welfare, it felt like she wasn’t just doing her job, I felt like she cared.”

*Service User*

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| **How we will make homelessness everyone’s priority through a partnership wide approach.**   * Develop a Homelessness Charter for partner agencies across Winchester to sign up to. * Develop a Commitment to Collaborate in order to embed homeless prevention across key services and wider partners * Identify the key triggers for homelessness and work with partners to ensure that they are equipped to prevent homelessness and/or make seamless referrals where necessary. * Ensure that current and former service users fully shape service delivery, design, review and commissioning. * Work with Hampshire County Council and Public Health to influence and inform the commissioning and delivery of mental health, substance misuse and adult social care services to ensure they are accessible and meet the needs of homeless clients with complex and multiple needs. * Evaluate the extent of rural homelessness across the area and raise awareness of the help available through community champions. * Better understand the health needs of people experiencing homelessness in Winchester through undertaking Homeless Link’s Homelessness Health Audit. * Ensure that the best practice elements of Winchester’s Housing Options service and wider homelessness services can positively influence future service delivery under Local Government Reorganisation |

**Priority 2 - Prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions.**

*Through early intervention and prevention we will endeavour to prevent homelessness from occurring. Where it does, we will ensure homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring by providing timely access to early comprehensive and personalised help and support, clear housing pathways, accessible information and trauma informed services.*

The homelessness review identified that an increasing proportion of individuals are contacting the Housing Options service when they are already homeless and at the point of crisis, with the opportunity to prevent homelessness lost.

“If I’d known where to go for help it might have stopped me from being homeless.”

*Service User*

By acting quicker and earlier to identify problems, alongside the provision of high-quality advice, assistance, and advocacy, the partnership will ensure people have the best chance of staying in their home.

To enhance opportunities for effective homeless prevention it is essential that customers contact the Housing Options service as soon as they begin to experience housing problems. The council will therefore invest in an awareness raising campaign to raise the profile of the service internally within the council, with partners and the wider public.

The council will ensure that, when people approach the Housing Options service for help, it has the ability to effectively and promptly respond to these requests for help, either by enabling them to remain where they are or by facilitating a move into more appropriate accommodation. The council will ensure that it has the right resources in the right places to meet this need, with effective systems and processes to support service delivery, with a strong focus on maintaining positive customer outcomes and experience.

The council will continue to work with partners to develop and deliver effective homelessness prevention services and pathways targeted at the main causes of homelessness.

Cost of living challenges mean that many Winchester residents are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their housing costs. In partnership, the council will implement a variety of measures to prevent homelessness related to economic challenges and rising living costs. In collaboration with its partners, the council will ensure that adequate services are available to enhance financial capability, including support for accessing education, employment, and training. Additionally, the council will provide targeted interventions to assist both tenants and landlords, aiming to reduce evictions within the private rented sector.

Drawing upon its DAHA accreditation, the council will strive to ensure that individuals experiencing domestic abuse have access to a range of safe and suitable housing options, providing them with the support and choice needed to secure a safe home.

In collaboration with its housing association and supported housing providers, the council will work to prevent evictions through the development of pre-eviction protocols.

The impact of homelessness on families with children can be significant – not only do children feel an overwhelming sense of displacement having lost their home; experiencing homelessness and living in emergency accommodation can impact upon health, wellbeing, support and education, alongside potentially leading to severe emotional trauma.

With increases in the cost of living, there will be an increase in the number of children living in poverty, an increase in families being able to meet their housing costs, and a very likely increase in homelessness amongst families. The council will work closely in partnership with a range of agencies, including Children’s Services, to minimise the detrimental impact of homelessness on families, specifically children.

The council is committed to supporting the Home Office in the resettlement of refugees. This includes those from Ukraine and Afghanistan arriving through specific resettlement schemes, but also refugees from other countries who may have arrived through alternative routes. Through the lifetime of this strategy, the council will ensure that it can provide tailored support to vulnerable refugees and meet this increased demand.

Through the strategy, the council will also work to ensure that homelessness is not repeated and will work together partners to develop a tenancy ready programme.

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| **How we will prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions.**   * Undertake an awareness raising campaign focusing on homelessness prevention, encouraging individuals to seek help at the earliest point. * Seek a corporate commitment to homelessness prevention across all departments within the council * Commit to working to prevent homelessness prior to 56 days for groups at increased risk of homelessness * Empower community organisations to provide advice, information and signposting. * Ensure that the Housing Options service has the right resources in the right place to effectively prevent and relieve homelessness and keep this under review in light of data intelligence * Review Housing Options policies, processes and procedures to ensure an effective focus on prevention, managing demand and continuing to achieve positive customer outcomes. * Ensure a range of measures are in place to prevent homelessness linked to the wider economy and increases in the cost of living, including increasing financial capability through access to education, employment and training * Develop a range of targeted interventions focused on the main causes of homelessness in Winchester * Develop pre-eviction protocols with social and supported housing providers * Review specialist pathways for clients at increased risk of homelessness including prison release, hospital discharge, care leavers, and refugee resettlement * Work alongside partners to develop a tenancy ready programme to ensure efficient and sustainable move on |

**Priority 3 - Meet the complex and unique needs of our customers by preventing rough sleeping and repeat homelessness.**

*We will work to reduce rough sleeping in Winchester by preventing rough sleeping in the first place and implementing clear pathways, preventing returns to the street. We will deliver a multi-agency, trauma informed approach to meet the multiple and complex needs of individuals through multi-disciplinary support. We will prevent repeat homelessness through individually tailored accommodation and support options.*

Through the establishment of a Multi-Disciplinary Team, the council aims to provide assertive and coordinated support to individuals with the most complex needs. This approach ensures a holistic and collaborative response to both their homelessness and associated health and support needs. It will help overcome existing system barriers and reduce the risk of repeat homelessness.

Through the expansion of this multi-agency approach, and with the collaboration of key partners, the council will develop services to meet the complex needs of homeless families with a view to preventing intergenerational homelessness.

“Rough sleeping shouldn’t happen, there is nowhere you can go at night.”

*Service User*

Through this strategy, the council is committed to ensuring that it can end the need for anyone to sleep rough across Winchester. The partnership will continue to reduce rough sleeping and address the multiple harms it brings to individuals and communities through rapid intervention and assertive outreach to offer a route off the street.

In order to minimise this harm, the council will work to prevent rough sleeping happening in the first place. The council will work with its partners to identify the key triggers and risk factors that lead to rough sleeping, ensuring they are recognised early and appropriate referrals are made. The strategy will also ensure that effective preventative work is targeted at groups who have a greater likelihood of experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

For those that do end up on the streets of Winchester, the council will ensure that there is a rapid intervention which will offer a route off of the streets for everyone. Through partnership working, the strategy will ensure that ‘off the street’ accommodation is available to all, which will signal the commencement of their journey out of homelessness through safe and supported accommodation, and multi-disciplinary support.

Expanding the current Housing First offer, together with increasing the provision of supported accommodation that meets the multiple and complex needs of clients with entrenched histories of homelessness, will be critical components in the strategy’s response to rough sleeping and repeat homelessness.

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| **How we will meet the complex and unique needs of our customers by preventing rough sleeping and repeat homelessness.**   * Extend the multi-disciplinary team approach to deliver assertive and coordinated services to rough sleepers and individuals experiencing homelessness with multiple, complex needs, with a focus on preventing repeat homelessness. * Review current outreach arrangements to ensure effective, responsive and assertive outreach in order to provide a rapid response to those new to the streets and an active engagement approach with entrenched rough sleepers * Embed a targeted prevention approach to prevent the flow of new rough sleepers on to the street. * Provide a rapid offer of ‘off the street accommodation’ for anyone sleeping rough * Expand the current Housing First offer * Assess the impact and outcomes of any rough sleeper initiative funded projects and develop a business case to secure future funding, including a cost-benefit analysis. * Develop a street support app to ensure those facing homeless can access information and services. * Collaborate with key partners to develop services to meet the complex needs of homeless families, with a view to preventing intergenerational homelessness. |

**Priority 4 - Develop sustainable, supported and settled housing solutions.**

*We will reduce the reliance on costly and unsuitable temporary accommodation and ensure any stay is as brief as possible and any impact upon the customer and wider household is mitigated. We will develop and improve access to a suitable range of settled, supported and sustainable accommodation solutions through effective partnership working.*

The council will work to develop suitable temporary accommodation in response to identified need; reducing its reliance on emergency accommodation placements. The partnership will ensure that households in temporary accommodation in need of support are able to access this support, alongside having the opportunity to engage with meaningful diversionary activities and skills development.

The council will also work to minimise the length of stay for households in temporary accommodation by reviewing the allocations policy, to ensure that priority for move on is in line with the customer’s individual needs. This will be achieved by actively working with households in temporary accommodation to continue to review their housing options and plan their move into settled accommodation through individual move on plans.

The council will also learn from the rapid rehousing work happening across Scotland and Wales to understand what more can be done to ensure rapid access to settled homes, minimizing the length of stay in insecure temporary accommodation.

To support settled housing solutions, the council will make full use of all available mechanisms to increase the supply of affordable housing across Winchester, helping to both prevent and relieve homelessness and provide long-term stability for individuals. A diverse range of accommodation options—including social housing, affordable private rentals, and supported housing—is essential to meet the varied needs of those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

The council will work across Winchester with all social housing developers to increase the provision of appropriate and affordable social housing to meet the identified need, particularly in relation to one bedroom need.

Commitment will be sought from social housing providers to help in the response to homelessness, including through the provision of social housing to help meet the council’s homelessness duties and to provide settled homes to the most vulnerable customers, and those with multiple needs. To cement social housing providers’ commitment to support the council in its response to homelessness it will encourage them to sign up to the principles of Homes for Cathy.

“The housing stock is woefully inadequate and homelessness is inhumane.”

*Service User*

The private rented sector plays an increasingly critical role in meeting the housing needs of those who are experiencing homelessness or threatened with homelessness. The council will work to increase access to the private rented sector by closely aligning the current private sector work strands and ensure that an attractive, comprehensive and competitive landlord offer is in place. The council will mitigate any adverse impact of the Renters’ Rights Bill by consulting with private landlords to understand their concerns and ensure the landlord offer responds to any perceived risks, to prevent landlords leaving the market.

“There is nothing like peer support, it’s really important, it’s not something you would talk about with anyone, but it is easier with people who understand.”

*Supported Housing Resident*

In line with the requirements of the Supported Housing Regulatory Oversight Act, the council will undertake a supported housing needs assessment and develop a new Supported Housing Strategy. The strategy will set out commissioning intentions based upon evidenced need and define the approach to working with non-commissioned providers.

The council will work to increase the overall provision of supported housing in Winchester, including specialist provision for women, through spend-to-save approaches and through ensuring that the evidence base is in place to respond to any national funding opportunities.

“It’s overwhelming living here, I didn’t know places like this existed, the support I’ve got here I needed for a long time, we need more places like this.”

*Supported Housing Resident*

In partnership with Adult Social Care, the strategy will seek to identify supported housing solutions for those people with entrenched and complex histories of homelessness who have emerging social care need through an integrated and joined up model.

The council is committed to ensuring that there is sufficient floating support available across Winchester. Timely access to floating support is an essential component of any homeless prevention toolkit; alongside ensuring effective and sustainable resettlement. A business case for an invest-to-save model to fund this floating support will be developed, which will both prevent homelessness, and ensure timely move on from temporary and supported accommodation.

“I’m worried about living on my own, there is a fear of being alone, and the services I’ve relied on not being available.”

*Supported Housing Resident*

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| **How we will develop sustainable, supported and settled housing solutions.**   * Ensure that residents of temporary accommodation are able to access support * Develop a programme of meaningful and diversionary activities for residents of temporary accommodation, including skills development * Develop a range of temporary accommodation options in line with identified need to reduce reliance on Bed & Breakfast * Review the Allocations Policy to ensure timely move on from temporary accommodation which is personalised to the customer’s ability to live independently * Develop move on plans for all households in Temporary Accommodation, as part of their Personal Housing Plan, ensuring this is reviewed regularly * Undertake a supported housing needs assessment and develop a supported housing strategy in line with the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 * Review current housing stock designations across the council-owned housing and RP stock in order to identify opportunities for the provision of supported housing, temporary accommodation and a range housing options for single people * Develop additional units of supported accommodation in response to identified need, including those with complex needs, and dedicated provision for women. * Consult with and support private landlords ahead of the enactment of the Renters Reform Bill to develop a comprehensive landlord offer to mitigate any negative impact ahead of enactment. * Work with social housing partners to identify perceived barriers and opportunities to accommodating people experiencing homelessness, improving access to social housing. * Encourage all social housing providers to become a member of Homes for Cathy. * Work with our housing providers to increase the delivery of Housing First, one-bed homes and supported housing. * Review any learning from the rapid rehousing work happening across Scotland and Wales to understand what more can be done to ensure rapid access to settled homes, minimizing the length of stay in insecure temporary accommodation. * Develop a business case for an invest-to-save model to deliver a floating support service to prevent homelessness and provide support to households in temporary accommodation to support sustainable move on * Ensure adequate resettlement support is in place to support transitions into independent settled accommodation, and preventing repeat homelessness |

1. **Delivering our Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy**

To achieve the priorities outlined in this strategy, it is essential that the council continues to work closely with its key partners. Together, the partnership must ensure that, across Winchester, there is the necessary expertise, services, resources, partnerships, provision, and infrastructure in place to successfully deliver the strategy’s objectives

The strategy and its action plan will be reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs, alongside policy and legislative changes.

The delivery of the strategy will be governed by the Homelessness Forum, cementing the partnership approach required to deliver the strategy.

It is recognised that the ambitions outlined in this strategy are challenging, but the council is confident that, with the continued commitment and collaboration of all key partners, the partnership can further strengthen and transform the response to homelessness across Winchester, building upon the collective success to date.