

Homelessness Strategy 2024-2029

Appendix C - Action Points

No.	Action
1	Create action plans to increase the rates of prevention for the 5 most common causes of homelessness.
2	Devise a protocol to ensure a consistent approach is taken when ending a homeless application for lost contact, ensuring all alternatives are considered.
3	Form a multi-disciplinary prevention hub to provide advice and early intervention.
4	Review the number of officers who deal with homeless applications to reduce caseloads, increase the quality of service, improve prevention rates, and reduce temporary accommodation demand.
5	Ensure housing assessments are meaningful and personalised housing plans are collaborative and tailored to the individual.
6	Undertake a review of how social housing is allocated: i) a review of the allocations policy for social housing, including its relationship with homelessness and ii) a review of how internal transfers and exchanges are utilised to make the best use of available stock.
7	Review learning related to the rough sleeper pathway and services including the hub and understand whether the accommodation settings and the support offered remain appropriate. Portsmouth City Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Partnership Group to work in collaboration with other agencies to agree future commissioning arrangements.
8	Provide officers dealing with homelessness applications with dedicated training to equip them to achieve the best results for vulnerable applicants, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="349 914 792 946">- mental health awareness training<li data-bbox="349 954 801 986">- trauma-informed practice training<li data-bbox="349 994 680 1026">- domestic abuse training<li data-bbox="349 1034 896 1058">- suicide awareness and prevention training
9	Adopt a new safeguarding policy for HNAS.
10	Monitor the level of homelessness experienced by those who experience domestic abuse and the rates at which homelessness is successfully prevented or relieved.
11	Monitor the level of homelessness experienced by those who have served in the armed forces and the rates at which homelessness is successfully prevented or relieved.
12	Campaign for changes to the current Local Housing Allowance model.
13	Adopt a pre- eviction pledge for providers of supported housing to ensure all alternatives have been considered before eviction is considered a reasonable outcome.

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14	Increase the supply of accommodation that is affordable for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
15	Undertake a citywide review of supported housing to include (i) the appropriateness of accommodation and whether it is the right setting for providing support and (ii) the type of support provided and whether it should be attached to an offer of accommodation.
16	Review the evidenced housing and support needs (and commissioning options) for specific groups, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- people who pose a very high risk to staff or members of the public- young people with high support needs but who pose a high a risk to other vulnerable young people in a supported housing setting- pregnant women assessed as having high support needs or as posing a high risk to others- people with high support needs who have experienced domestic abuse- people assessed as requiring a controlled drinking requirement- adult couples without children- people with neurodiversity-related housing support needs
17	Produce a temporary accommodation plan with the aim of continuing to reduce the use of nightly paid and unsuitable temporary accommodation.
18	Introduce more cost-effective incentive systems to help more people into suitable and affordable privately rented accommodation without contributing to rent inflation locally.
19	Ensure HNAS's PRS team works closely alongside the officers who deal with homeless applications to allow for more joined up working.
20	Work with public bodies to raise awareness of the statutory duty to refer, of best practice to allow for more homeless prevention, and to reach joint working protocols where necessary, for example between homeless services and health services such as hospitals and mental health services.
21	Use cross-organisational knowledge and data to better understand (and act upon) the causes of the causes of homelessness, i.e. 'primary prevention'
22	Understand the links between homelessness and criminal and/or sexual exploitation in the city.
23	Work with partners to adopt a collaborative and flexible approach to supporting people with complex needs. This work should be expanded into the Partnership Group with the group being expanded
24	Target specific groups to reduce the likelihood and impact of a negative decisions (such as <i>no priority need</i> or <i>intentional homelessness</i>), e.g. families with children, young people leaving care, those leaving Home Office accommodation.
25	Constitute a task and finish group to explore accommodation options for individuals without accommodation and without recourse to public funds.

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26	Review the relationship between homelessness and the various asylum schemes in the city.
27	Consider the costs and benefits of alternative methods for providing advice that can be referred to at a later date (e.g. bespoke confirmation of advice letters, general advice sheets, online portals).