

# **Appendix A.**

## **South Derbyshire District Council – Homelessness Strategy Statement 2020**

December 2019

### **Introduction**

South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) has duty to formulate a Homelessness Strategy. During 2020, the local authority will carry out a Homelessness Review and take forward the results to publish a Homelessness Strategy.

The previous Homelessness Strategy for South Derbyshire was published in 2013. With more than five years now elapsing since, SDDC has published this Statement to ensure the local authority remains accountable for discharging its strategic homelessness duty. The objectives set out in this Statement will ensure SDDC continues to act to tackle homelessness, until a new Homelessness Strategy is published in 2020.

SDDC wishes to ease the untold pressure on people at risk of homelessness. SDDC will ensure there are appropriate activities for preventing homelessness, securing housing and providing support for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. SDDC will work with the Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Housing Officers Group, members of the South Derbyshire Homelessness Forum and others to place local homelessness priorities at the heart of the next strategy it formulates. SDDC will promote, facilitate and enhance the role of all organisations to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurrent.

### **Summary of the levels of homelessness and resources available to tackle homelessness**

The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017 commenced on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018. The following analysis of 2018-19 experimental data<sup>1</sup> published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) relates to households assessed post introduction of the HRA.

Assessment data for 2018-19 is not directly comparable with data for previous years<sup>2</sup> and excludes data for local authorities who did not provide a H-CLIC return<sup>3</sup>, data for South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC) was available for quarters 1, 2 and 3 of 2018-19.

### **Number of households assessed and owed a duty**

This section covers the initial assessment<sup>4</sup> of people who are threatened with homelessness or who are already homeless between April 2018 and December 2018, over the nine-month period an average of 77 assessments were carried out each quarter, 92% of households assessed were owed a duty.

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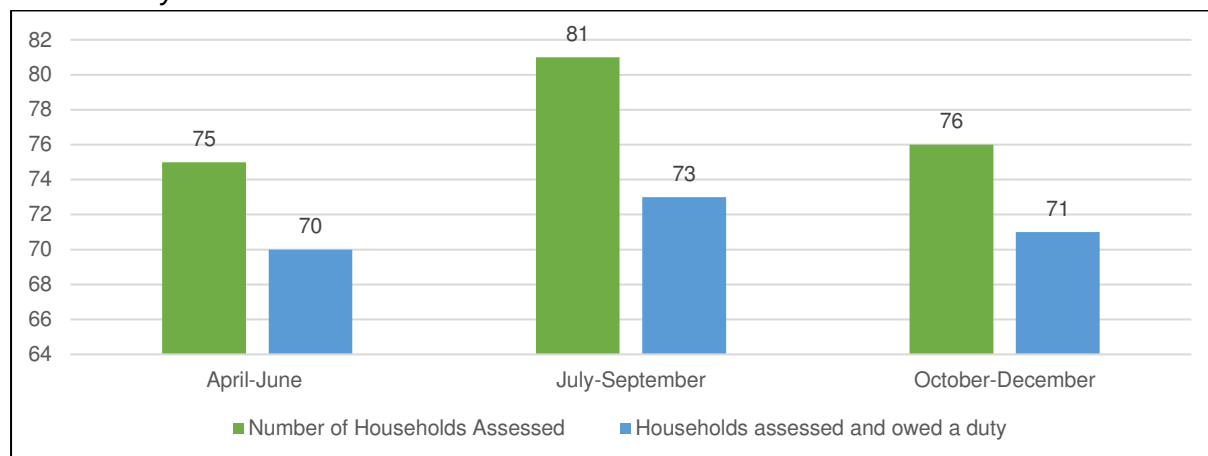
<sup>1</sup> Experimental Official Statistics published under the H-CLIC system introduced 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

<sup>2</sup> This is because amendments to legislation, as introduced by the 2017 HRA, have introduced new duties that mean more people will be eligible for assistance out of homelessness from local authorities.

<sup>3</sup> Assessments data was not provided by 9 local authorities in January to March, 4 local authorities who failed to provide data since the introduction of the HRA and 5 local authorities (including South Derbyshire) who did not provide data for this quarter.

<sup>4</sup> s.184(1) Housing Act 1996

*Chart 1: Number of households assessed and owed a duty, April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*

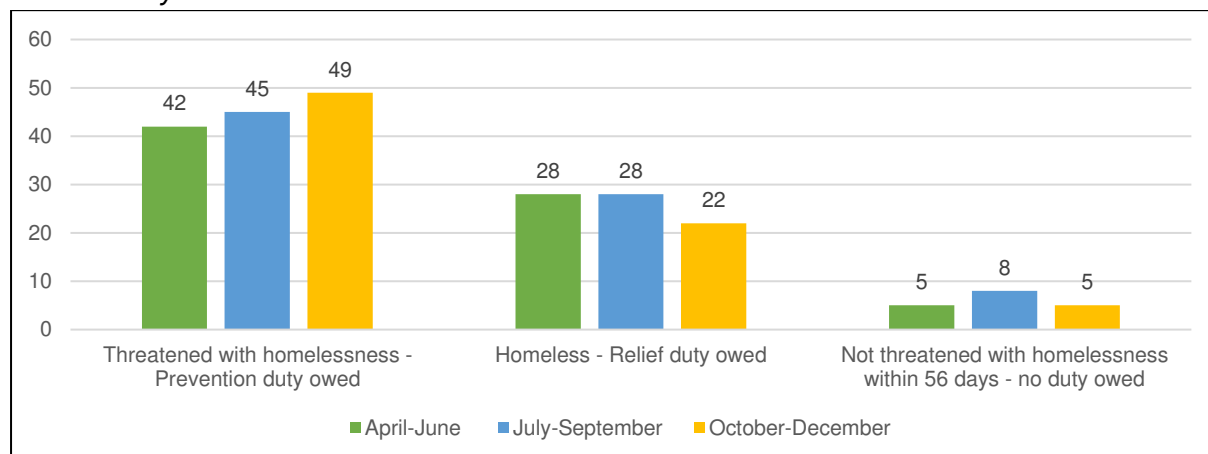


Source: MHCLG Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed Last update September 2019

Of the 214 households assessed between April and December 2018 and owed a duty, 64% were threatened with homelessness and owed a prevention duty<sup>5</sup> and 36% were homeless and owed a relief<sup>6</sup> duty.

The percentage of households owed a prevention duty has seen an 8% increase over the nine-month period, by contrast the percentage of homeless households owed a relief duty has decreased by 8%.

*Chart 2: Number of households assessed and owed a duty, April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*



Source: MHCLG Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed Last update September 2019

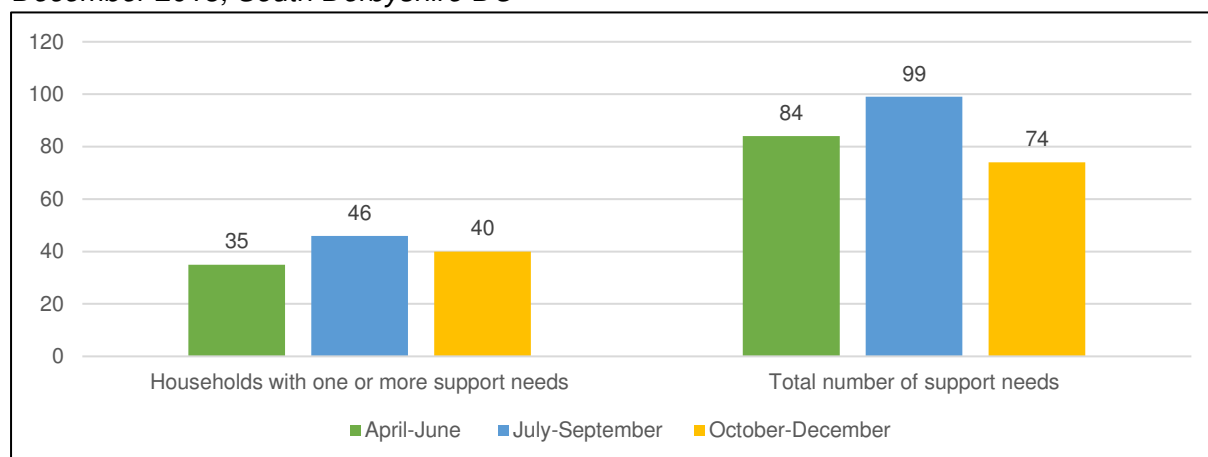
<sup>5</sup> s.195(1) Housing Act 1996 as substituted by s.4(2) Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

<sup>6</sup> s.189B(1) Housing Act 1996 as inserted by s.5(2) Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

### Households with support needs owed a duty

57% of households owed a duty between April and December 2018 have one or more support need, of which, 36% and 38% of households have one or two support needs, households with three or more support needs make up 26% of all households with support needs.

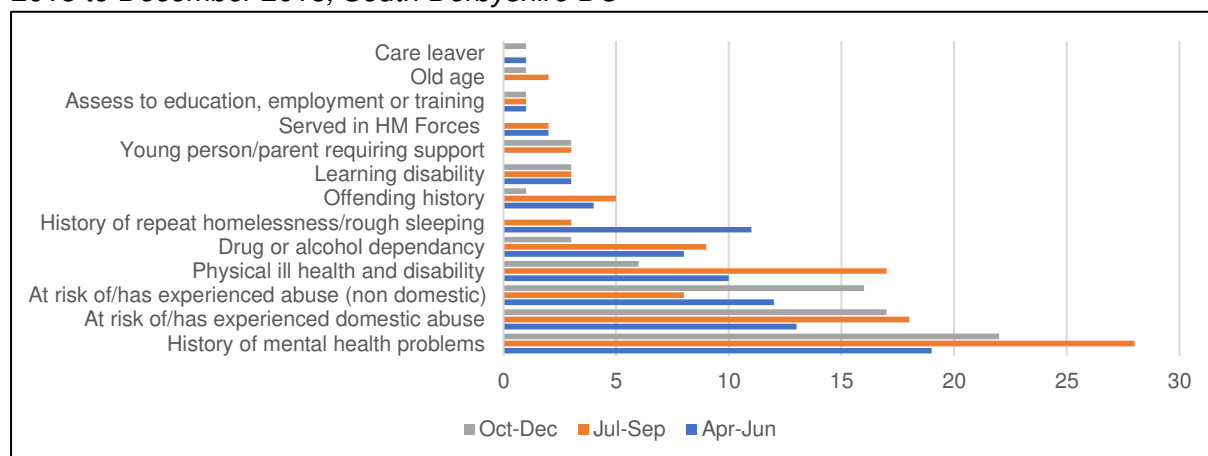
*Chart 3: Support needs of households owed a prevention or relief duty, April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*



Source: MHCLG Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed Last update September 2019

Of the 121 households with one or more support needs, 57% (69 households) had a history of mental health problems, 70% were at risk of or had experienced abuse (40% domestic and 30% non-domestic abuse) and 33 households (27%) had physical ill health and disability.

*Chart 4: Breakdown of support needs of households owed a prevention or relief duty, April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*



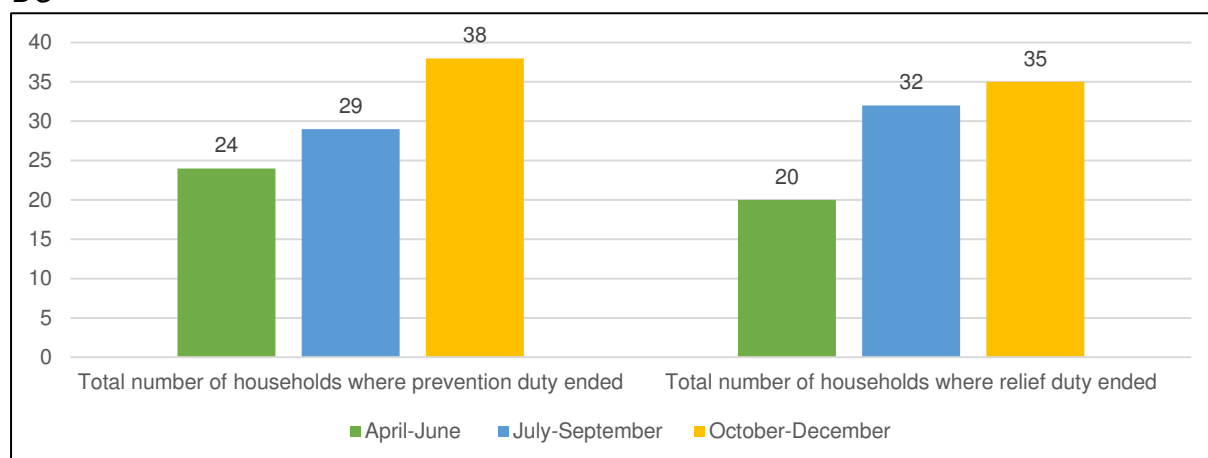
Source: MHCLG Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed Last update September 2019

### Number of households where prevention and relief duty ended

The number of households coming to the end of either a prevention or relief duty between April and December 2018 has increased by 58% and 75% respectively.

46% of households with a prevention duty secured accommodation for six or more months, compared to 52% of households assisted under a relief duty.

*Chart 5: Prevention and relief duty ended, April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*

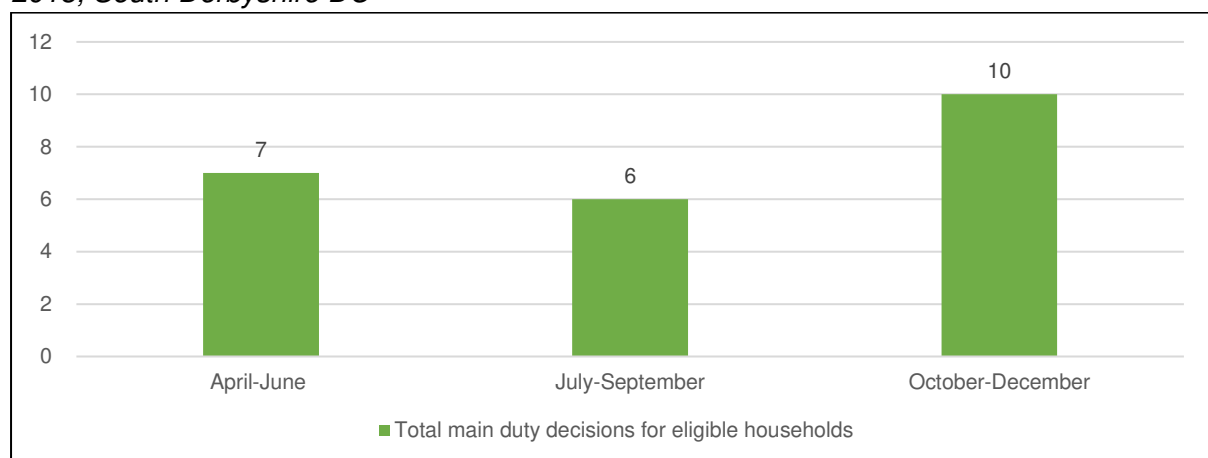


Source: MHCLG Prevention and Relief duty outcomes. Last update September 2019

### Number of main duty decisions

A total of 23 main duty<sup>7</sup> decisions were made between April and December 2018, of which 91% of households were found to be homeless, priority need and unintentionally homeless.

*Chart 6: Outcome of main duty decisions for eligible households, April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*



Source: MHCLG Statutory homelessness main duty decisions & outcomes. Last update September 2019

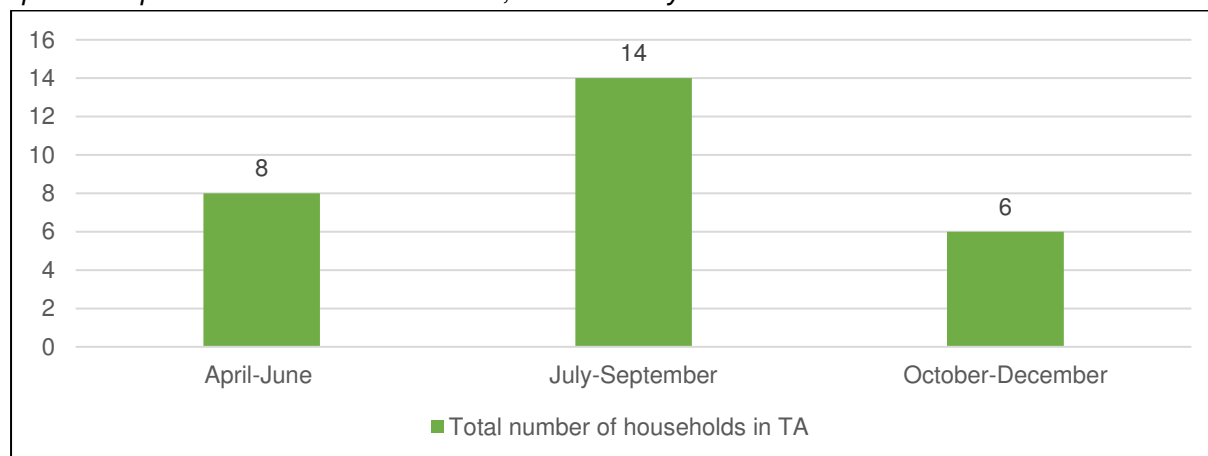
### Households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter

Of the 28 households in temporary accommodation at the end of each of the three quarters, 68% were households with children and 75% of households were accommodated in either local authority or housing association stock.

The number of households in temporary accommodation has fluctuated over the nine-months, peaking in quarter two and reducing by 57% in quarter three.

<sup>7</sup> s.193 Housing Act 1996.

*Chart 7: Number of households in temporary accommodation (TA) at the end of each quarter. April 2018 to December 2018, South Derbyshire DC*

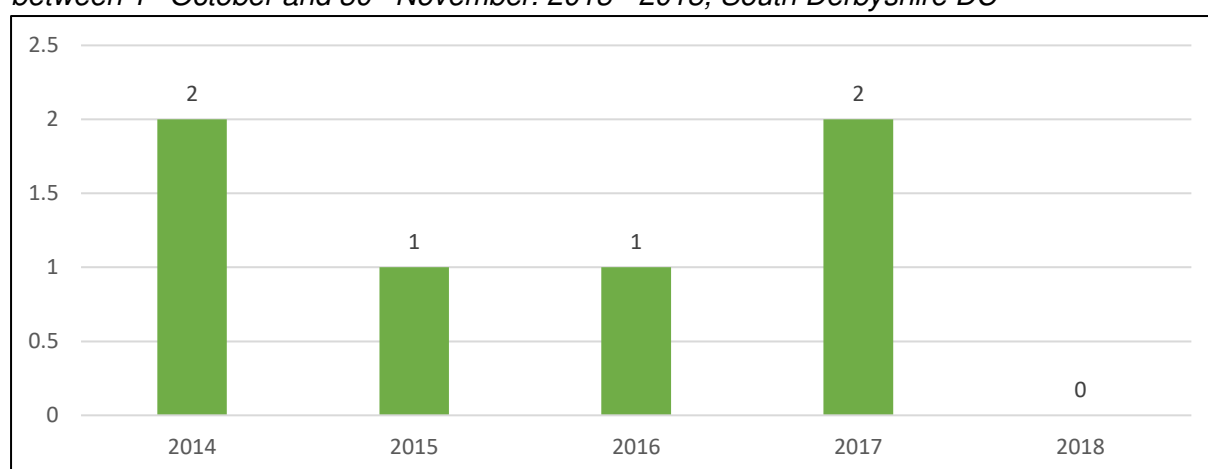


Source: MHCLG Households in temporary accommodation.

### Number of rough sleepers

Over the past five years no more than two rough sleepers have been recorded in South Derbyshire, the most recent count data published in 2018 recorded no rough sleepers.

*Chart 8: Rough sleeping estimates based on spotlight street count carried out each year between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November. 2013 - 2018, South Derbyshire DC*



Source: MHCLG Rough sleeping in England. Annual statistical release evaluating the extent of rough sleeping.

### Homelessness Grant Funding

Throughout the current spending period, 2016/17 – 2019/20, MHCLG allocated £596,658k revenue funding to South Derbyshire District Council (SDDC):

- £252,934 – Homelessness Grant
- £294,045 – Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG)
- £49,679 – HRA17 New Burdens Fund

The Homelessness Grant allocation equated to 42% of all funding awarded by MHCLG, with this budget line increasing by 1% of the four-year spending period. The Flexible

Homelessness Support Grant, first allocated in 2017/18, equated to 49% of all funding awarded by MHCLG, with this budget line increasing by 27% over the spending period. The New Burden Fund, first allocated in 2017/18, equated to 9% of all funding awarded by MHCLG, with this budget line increasing by 12% over the spending period.

*Table 1: MHCLG Funding 2017/18 to 2019/20*

<b>MHCLG Funding</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
Homeless Prevention Grant	£63,054	£63,141	£63,264	£63,475
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG)		£85,118	£90,506	£118,421
HRA17 New Burden Fund		£16,040	£14,692	£18,947

*Source: MHCLG*

### **Performance targets**

SDDC is formulating its new Corporate Plan with an accompanying suite of performance indicators to be agreed in February 2020. This will include a corporate target on homelessness, plus a series of service performance measures, all of which will be reported on quarterly and be regularly scrutinised by elected councillors:

- Corporate target:
  - The number of households in temporary accommodation
- Service performance measures:
  - The number homelessness applications made
  - The number of cases where homelessness was prevented
  - The number of cases where homelessness was relieved
  - The number of people sleeping rough

Following the publication of a new Homelessness Strategy, the above measures might require amending, to reflect findings from the Homelessness Review and the objectives and actions featured in Homelessness Strategy.

### **Objectives for tackling homelessness in 2020**

SDDC will pursue the following objectives for tackling homelessness during 2020:

1. Carry out a Homelessness Review
2. Formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy
3. Ensure accountability and deliverability of the Homelessness Strategy
4. Promote opportunities to co-operate tackle homelessness

All forms of homelessness will be suitably prioritised when carrying out the Homelessness Review and relevant actions will be incorporated in to the Homelessness Review, including those who:

- are street homelessness,
- are hidden homelessness,
- have been illegally evicted,
- are living in accommodation that is unaffordable, unfit, overcrowded, are experiencing domestic abuse or threats of domestic abuse, and other exceptional circumstances,
- are at threatened with becoming homeless due to parents/family/other no longer willing or able to accommodate, leaving care, prison the armed forces or escaping domestic abuse), and

- have been served a notice to quit their tenancy by private or social landlord.

SDDC will lead on pursuing the above objectives. Assistance will be sought from Derbyshire County Council (DCC) adult and child social care services. Regular meetings will take place between SDDC and DCC officers during the period that the Homelessness Review is carried out and the Homelessness Strategy is formulated. In due course these arrangements will be succeed by the establishment of the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group. To ensure the SDDC fully discharge its homelessness strategy duty, the local authority will have due regard to the recent guidance and associated resources recently issued by the Local Government Association, 'Making Homelessness Strategies Happen: Ensuring Accountability and Deliverability

### Action Plan

This Action Plan below shows what SDDC hopes to achieve when tackling homelessness during 2020. The Action Plan will be updated quarterly, showing what has been accomplished during the past quarter and what is expected to be achieved during the next quarter. The quarterly updates will be shared with the Strategic Director, Service Delivery and the Chair of the Housing & Community Services Committee. This Action Plan will subsequently be replaced by an action plan that will be formulated for the forthcoming new local Homelessness Strategy.

<b>Objective One: Carry out a Homelessness Review</b>				
<b>Impact:</b>	There will be a comprehensive up-to-date picture of homelessness levels and activities in South Derbyshire and the resources available to tackle homelessness.			
Actions	Resources required	Lead officer	Timescale	Progress
i) Confirm the scope of the Homelessness Review	Budget to carry out the review	SDDC Head of Housing with assistance from DCC (adult and child social care services)	i) January 2020	Yet to be started.
ii) Agree a plan for carrying out the Homelessness Review	Dedicated officer time to carry out the review		ii) February 2020	
iii) Complete the Homelessness Review			iii) March – April 2020	

<b>Objective Two: Formulate and publish a Homelessness Strategy</b>				
<b>Impact:</b>	There is a plan that sets out local objectives and actions to be taken to tackle homelessness.			
Actions	Resources required	Lead officer	Timescale	Progress
i) Formulate a Homelessness Strategy based on the results of the Homelessness Review	Budget to formulate and publish the strategy	SDDC Head of Housing with assistance from DCC (adult and child social care services)	i) May 2020	Yet to be started
ii) Consult and seek approval from other local authorities, housing associations, public authorities, voluntary organisations and others to pursue local	Dedicated officer time to formulate and publish the strategy		ii) June 2020	
			iii) June 2020	

objectives and actions to tackle homelessness				
ii) Publish a Homelessness Strategy				

**Objective Three: Ensure accountability and deliverability of the Homelessness Strategy**

**Impact:** The Homelessness Strategy is kept under review and modified whenever necessary.

Actions	Resources required	Lead officer	Timescale	Progress
i) The Homelessness Review and Homelessness Strategy are both available to download from SDDC's website	Within existing corporate and homelessness budgets	i) Head of Housing	i) July 2020	Yet to be started
ii) The findings from the Homelessness Review are scrutinised by elected councillors, plus they take an overview of the objectives and actions of the Homelessness Strategy.		ii) Chair of Housing Committee	ii) July 2020	
iii) Establish a Homelessness Strategy Steering Group to facilitate co-operation from agencies to deliver the Homelessness Strategy.		iii) Lead member for housing	iii) July 2020	

**Objective Four: Promote opportunities to co-operate to tackle homelessness**

**Impact:** There is effective administration of homelessness functions.

Actions	Resources required	Lead officer	Timescale	Progress
i) Prevent homelessness for those most at risk of homelessness, by co-operating with Derbyshire County Council and other public authorities, to agree joined-up advice and timely referrals arrangements	Within existing budgets	i) Head of Housing with assistance from DCC (adult and child social care services)	i) September 2020	Yet to be started
ii) Obtain accommodation for people who are in homelessness crisis, by co-operating with housing associations		ii) Head of Housing with assistance from housing associations	ii) October 2020	
		iii) Head of Housing with assistance	iii) November 2020	

and private landlords, to procure suitable temporary and settled accommodation		from voluntary organisations		
iii) Provide support to prevent a reoccurrence of homelessness, by co-operating with voluntary organisations, to fund them to help people occupy and continue to occupy accommodation.				