



South Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 -2026

South Derbyshire
District Council

December 2020

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1. Foreword

South Derbyshire District Council has worked hard for many years with its partners to minimise homelessness and rough sleeping within the district. In acknowledging the importance of this issue for the people of South Derbyshire, The Council commissioned an independent review of homelessness and rough sleeping services. The outcome of this review is this strategy which provides a clear road map for the Council its partner agencies and the public for the future prevention of homelessness and the provision of services and support for those households affected by it.

As the of South Derbyshire District Council I am very proud to be able to launch this Strategy and the associated action plan and re affirm the Councils commitment to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping wherever possible.

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the Strategy

This homelessness and rough sleeping strategy sets out the Council's long term ambitions for homelessness services across South Derbyshire. It details how the Council will work in partnership with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to tackle homelessness in the District, and to ensure that appropriate support and accommodation can be accessed.

Homelessness is the symptom of a complex interaction between a person's specific situation and a range of structural and social factors that are often beyond their control.

If the Council is to successfully tackle homelessness it needs to find new ways of addressing the root causes of homelessness. This needs to be combined with an increased focus on prevention that will involve working more closely with service users to understand their strengths and support them holistically to achieve their goals.

The implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 signalled both a legislative and cultural shift in response to homelessness, with an increased focus on homeless prevention and early intervention. Through this Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy South Derbyshire District Council seeks to intervene early and prevent homelessness wherever possible with a focus on delivering individually tailored solutions with customers. Where homelessness cannot be prevented the Council will work to rapidly support individuals into appropriate and sustainable accommodation.

This is the Council's first Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. This strategy for 2021-26 will build on the successes achieved to date by the Council and its partners and seeks to further develop and enhance existing services and initiatives.

2.2 Legislative Background

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:

- a) The prevention of homelessness
- b) That suitable accommodation is and will be available for people who are or may become homeless
- c) That satisfactory support is available for people who are or may become homeless.

This strategy has been developed in response to the findings of the Homelessness Review 2020, which provides a comprehensive understanding of homelessness across South Derbyshire. The Homelessness Review has identified issues and gaps in service provision, which this strategy will seek to address.

2.3 An Integrated Approach to Responding to Homelessness

It is recognised that homelessness is usually the consequence of the cumulative impact of a number of factors rather than a single cause. Whilst these factors include those that are personal to the individual, they also include those that are 'structural' in nature and those that are the consequence of 'systems failures.'

Individual factors apply to the personal history of a homeless household and could include life crisis and traumatic events and mental health and/or addiction challenges.

Structural factors are economic and societal issues that affect opportunities and social environments for individuals. In the longer term, therefore, a truly effective response to homelessness requires an investment that promotes improved access to educational opportunities, economic wellbeing and affordable housing as well as supportive communities and social inclusion.

Systems failures occur when other structures such as those around care and support fail, requiring vulnerable people to access homelessness services, when other mainstream services could have prevented this.

This strategy recognises that homelessness, in its causes and consequences, is a cross-cutting issue, which cannot be tackled by one agency alone. In order to achieve the aims of this strategy it is essential that all partner agencies work together in an integrated way. This Strategy aims to further strengthen existing partnership relationships and to develop new ones.

Many people have multiple needs that extend beyond the basic need for a home. It is not possible for the Council to meet those needs in isolation, but rather a successful strategic approach to preventing homelessness is dependent upon a coordinated multi-agency response.

This strategy should be seen as a multi agency document. The Council has worked closely with its partners through the Homelessness Forum to produce this strategy. It is intended that the strategy be inclusive in its approach and partner agencies continue to work closely with the council to assist in its delivery.

3. Our Vision

Our vision for homelessness across South Derbyshire is:

Ending Homelessness Together

Working together we will intervene early to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. We will provide tailored solutions and support based upon the individual client's needs. We will empower our clients to achieve their future goals.

This vision was developed in partnership with key partners through the Homelessness Forum.

This strategy has been based around the following objectives

The Strategy's objectives are to:

- Effectively prevent homelessness by intervening early and offering advice and support together with practical help and individually tailored solutions.
- Work in partnership to understand and tackle the root causes of homelessness at a local level.
- Where people do become homeless, help them to find and sustain suitable homes as soon as possible.
- Improve how all partners work together so services are easier to use and make the best use of available resources.
- Ensure the response to homelessness promotes customer choice, equality of opportunity, reduces social exclusion and contributes to community cohesion.

Over the lifetime of this Strategy the partnership aims to:

- Ensure that where anyone does sleep rough that there is a rapid response to get them into accommodation and support.
- Deliver an excellent Housing Solutions Service which focuses on early intervention and prevention
- Reduce crisis presentations
- Ensure that homelessness is prevented wherever possible through the delivery of bespoke personal housing plans and access to affordable and sustainable accommodation
- Seek to end the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for all homeless households.
- Ensure that for individuals whose homelessness is hidden or for those living in rural communities, that they can access the help and support they need.
- Increase the range of affordable housing options available across the district.
- Ensure that housing related support services are able to meet the diverse and complex needs of the homeless population
- Prevent repeat homelessness from occurring by ensuring that solutions are tailored to meeting the complex needs of clients.

Working in partnership is absolutely fundamental to achieving this vision and objectives.

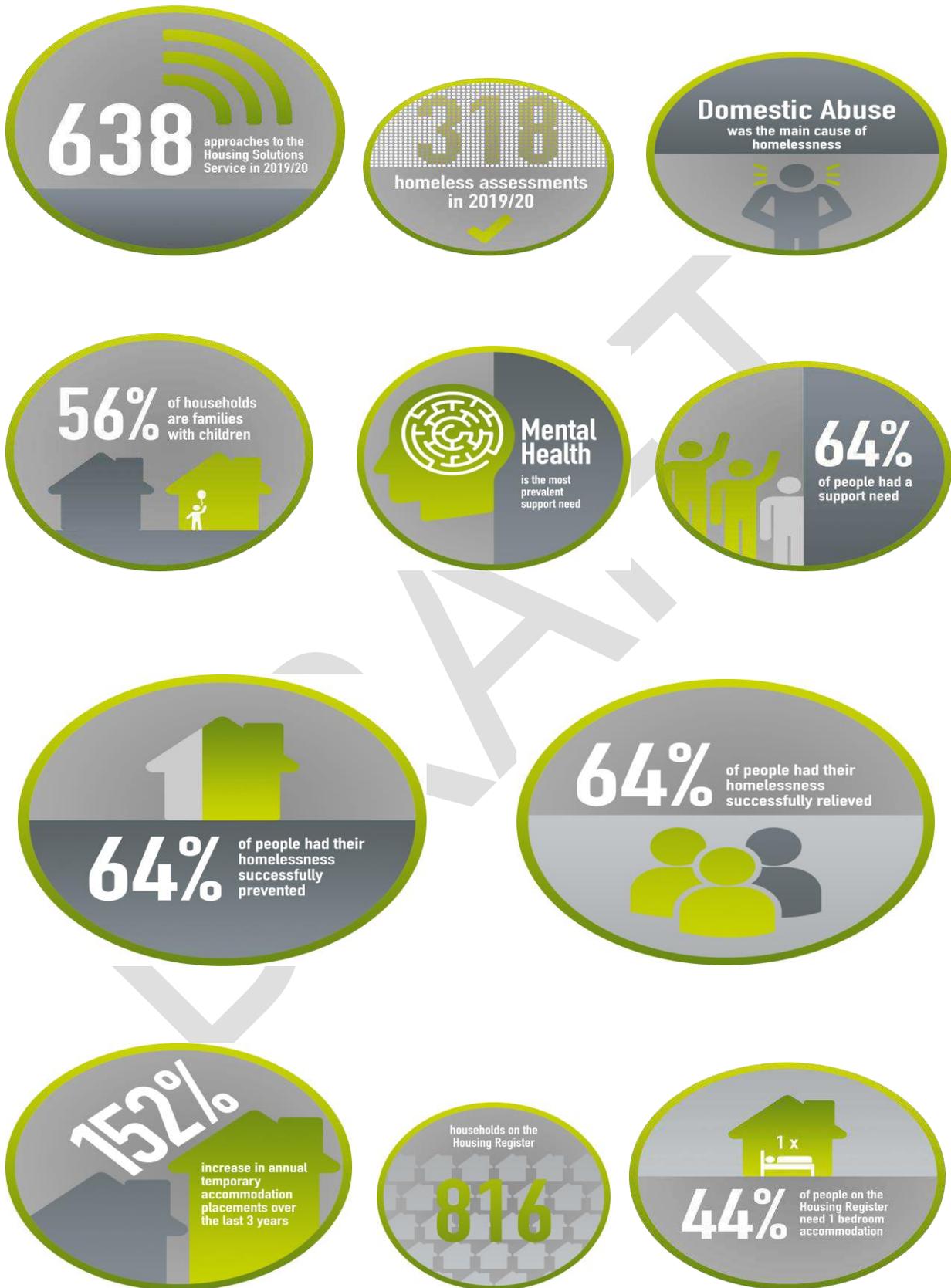
4. Building on Success

While the Council recognises that there is a lot to do to meet this new vision, this Homelessness Strategy is built upon a successful approach to homeless prevention and positive partnership initiatives. These successes have been achieved through successful partnership approaches and include:

- Bi monthly multi agency Homeless Forum
- Annual multi agency Homeless Conference
- Introduction of new staffing structure following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- Implementation of the new Locata system to manage new Homeless cases
- Homeless Reduction Act training for the Housing Solutions team
- Introduction of Personal Housing Plans
- Prevention and relief of homeless using the private rented sector
- Prevention and relief of homelessness using spend to save budget
- Implementation of new procedures following Homelessness Reduction Act
- Presentations to key partner agencies regarding the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Support to internal careline services during SWEP
- Effective and joint working with all other Districts and Boroughs in Derbyshire
- Build up transparent and pro active relationships with agencies offering supported accommodation
- Multi agency approach to rough sleeping in the district
- Presentation and inclusion of other agencies to support with annual Rough Sleeper Count
- Active membership to Derbyshire Homeless Officer Group - DHOG
- Introduction and subsequent expansion of homeless Prevention Coaching Service specialising in Mental Health support
- Contribution to county wide service delivery
- Participation in the Derbyshire Positive Pathway for 16-24 year olds
- Positive relationships with landlords in the PRS
- Introduction of a new service to assist households that are experiencing DA, offering support and supported accommodation

These successes have been achieved through the high priority placed on homelessness prevention and the continuing work in delivering practical homelessness solutions. As a consequence, a strong network of partnerships and services has been developed to support those who are either threatened with or experiencing homelessness.

5. Key Findings from the Homelessness Review



6. How the partnership will work to end homelessness across South Derbyshire.

2.2 A New Approach

The magnitude and complexity of the issues that face the Council and its partners over the lifetime of this strategy must not be underestimated, these include national increases in homelessness and rough sleeping, pressures on budgets, the impact of Universal Credit, set against an increasingly unaffordable and inaccessible housing market. These challenges are compounded by the backdrop of a global pandemic, in which it is evident that it is those in the most acute housing need that are amongst the most vulnerable to infection

South Derbyshire will continue to work closely with its partners to develop a culture of responding to homelessness that focuses on upstream prevention and early intervention, while providing rapid housing responses to those that need them.

This Homelessness Strategy focuses on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place and helping people who are homeless build a more positive future.

In order to be able to make the vision for homelessness a reality and to meet the Council's objectives there is a need to adopt a different approach and redesign services accordingly.

The Council's approach to this is outlined by the following principles

Strategic direction and collaborative partnerships

It is recognised that a partnership approach is the only way in which homelessness can be successfully tackled. This Strategy has been developed with partners to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness and create effective pathways out of homelessness.

The Council will provide strategic leadership and work with partners to deliver the vision and objectives for tackling homelessness across South Derbyshire. The Council will co-ordinate and support a strategic response to homelessness that delivers joined up and improved customer outcomes.

Making prevention everyone's responsibility

All agencies have a role to play and a responsibility to prevent homelessness. Alongside tackling the underlying causes of homelessness the Council will work with partners and local communities to ensure that the trigger points for homelessness can be understood and identified. By embedding this approach across South Derbyshire the aim is to significantly reduce crisis and ensure effective homelessness prevention approaches are in place.

Adopting a person centred approach

The Council's approach recognises the strengths and assets that individuals have, and seeks

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to build on these strengths, empowering individuals to build resilience.

2.2 Strategic Priorities

This Strategy seeks to further strengthen the partnership approach to tackling homelessness across South Derbyshire and embed this new approach to tackling homelessness. This will be achieved through the adoption of the following priorities:

Deliver an effective Housing Solutions Service designed to meet the needs of customers

Develop a joined up approach to homeless prevention and early intervention

Ensure an adequate supply of Temporary Accommodation to meet the needs of customers and reduce the use of B&B

Meet the complex needs of customers to prevent rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

Develop and improve access to a wide range of settled and supported accommodation solutions

The following chapters set out how these strategic priorities will be delivered.

7. Deliver an effective Housing Solutions Service designed to meet the needs of customers

In line with the corporate plan the Housing Solutions Service aims to deliver excellent services consistently across the Council, and this of course extends to the Housing Solutions Service.

Evidence from the Homelessness Review indicates that around half of the customers approaching the service are not homeless or threatened with homelessness but rather are seeking advice. The Council will work with the Council's Customer Services Team to better manage demand ensuring streamlined access to advice, while at the same time enabling the Housing Solutions Team to focus their resources on clients who are at risk of homelessness.

It is recognised that early intervention and prevention is the key to successfully tackling homelessness, alongside addressing its underlying causes. The Housing Solutions service will have prevention at its heart.

Integral to this approach is the delivery of a customer-focused service that works with customers to develop bespoke personal housing plans that build upon their strengths and respond to their individual needs. Through this approach the Council seeks to empower individuals, by working collaboratively to identify their strengths and help them to build resilience to prevent homelessness re-occurring.

The provision of good quality timely housing advice and effective interventions are critical to being able to effectively prevent homelessness. Evidence from the Homelessness Review identified a large proportion of customers approaching the service at the point of crisis, with missed opportunities for homelessness prevention work.

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.

It is also recognised that there is a need to work with customers to change their expectations in relation to housing, the Review identified a common perception that homelessness is the route to access social housing. The Council will work with partner agencies to help better manage customer expectation and ensure that the Housing Register is the recognised route by which to access social housing.

In addition to this the Council will develop resources, including web based advice and factsheets to empower individuals to resolve their own housing issues, in line with the corporate plan it will be ensured that technology enables the service to effectively connect with communities across South Derbyshire.

The Council needs to ensure that when people approach the Housing Solutions 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 improved customer outcomes. It is now timely to review how the service operates, its systems and

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processes, alongside how resources are focused - to ensure that it maximises opportunities for prevention, while effectively managing demand. The Council will also embed a performance management culture across the service.

As this strategy emphasises, tackling homelessness requires a partnership approach. The Council will work with partner organisations to ensure that customers receive quality housing advice, 'Duty to Refer' referrals to the Housing Solutions team are at the appropriate time and services work together to provide a holistic package of advice and assistance. The Council will develop protocols further with key internal and external partners, complete joint training and ensure effective referral arrangements are in place to assist with the delivery of personal housing plans.

Customer consultation was an essential component of the Homelessness Review and the Strategy, will build on this by ensuring that the customer sits at the heart of service delivery, and that services are developed in response to their needs.

What we will do to deliver an effective Housing Solutions Service designed to meet the needs of customers

1. Develop a high quality, accessible and customer focused Housing Solutions Service
2. Have the right resources in the right places to effectively managed demand and achieve improved customer outcomes
3. Increase the range of information available to clients via technology in order that the can self serve where they have the skills to do so.
4. In partnership develop an integrated and holistic approach to tackling the underlying causes of homelessness, through joined up service delivery, joint protocols and effective referral arrangements
5. Ensure all staff have access to appropriate training and development opportunities
6. Undertake an awareness raising campaign in relation to homeless prevention, and specifically the Housing Solutions Service
7. Ensure that customer's expectations are realistic and attainable

8. Develop a joined-up approach to homeless prevention and early intervention

Following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Housing Solutions service has achieved considerable success in preventing and relieving homelessness, although it is recognised that more can and needs to be done in response to the ever-increasing demand.

In order to strengthen the approach to tackling homelessness the Service will gain support from the whole Council seeking a corporate commitment to the prevention of homelessness. Commitment from both Members and Senior Managers across all service areas will be sought, to work together to deliver a joined up and holistic approach to preventing and ending homelessness.

The Housing Solutions service will work across the Council to develop a coordinated approach to homelessness prevention across a range of services and programmes. The service will also provide strategic leadership bringing all of the key partners together to deliver the vision of 'Ending Homelessness Together.'

All agencies operating across South Derbyshire have opportunities to reduce housing crisis amongst their core client groups. This can be achieved by working in a more joined up way to identify those households at high risk of homelessness. This includes being able to identify the triggers for homelessness and ensuring that agencies can recognise the indicators of housing stress and be able to act appropriately to prevent homelessness. Preventing homelessness is everyone's responsibility and the Council will work with agencies to ensure they have the knowledge, tools and skills to achieve this. The Council will seek a commitment from partners to collaborate to prevent homelessness.

The Council will continue to work with its partners to develop and deliver effective, targeted homelessness prevention services targeted at the main causes of homelessness. These services will be effectively focused, accessible and able to respond to the diverse needs of all customers, providing innovative and flexible solutions.

Following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act the Housing Solutions has achieved success in preventing homelessness, in particular, in assisting households to access social housing, however more work needs to be done to enable customer to remain in their existing accommodation.

The Housing Solutions service will work with households to enable them to remain in their current home or assist with planned and timely moves into suitable and sustainable accommodation. This will be done through the delivery of housing options advice, personal housing plans and appropriate referrals to support organisations.

The Council will embed the prevention culture throughout the service, ensuring that the resources are in place to respond to clients who approach. The Council will develop a proactive prevention service, where responding to homeless crisis cases becomes the exception rather than the norm.

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Learning from the National Early Intervention Trailblazers' work, the Council will intervene earlier to prevent homelessness. To be able to do this, the Council will identify the specific triggers, risk factors and causes of homelessness, and use these to develop a range of interventions specifically targeted at responding to these. The Housing Solutions service will work with clients before the 56-day threat of homelessness.

The pressure on homelessness services is expected to increase due to the impact of the global pandemic. While the scale of homelessness linked to the pandemic is not yet known, at the time of writing the Strategy it is known that many people are struggling to meet their housing costs due to lost earnings and redundancies. The Council will work closely with a wide range of partners to ensure that it can mitigate this risk wherever possible through a range of measures, with a particular focus on ensuring that tenants, landlords and homeowners are aware of the help that is available, and that homes can be saved wherever possible. The Council will also ensure that there is adequate provision in place for those experiencing domestic abuse.

The Council's corporate plan supports social mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education. The Council's response to homelessness will also provide access to other services promoting education, training and employment opportunities, health services, life-skills, debt and financial advice and benefits advice. These will strengthen people's chances of resolving their housing problems, and preventing repeat homelessness. Access to these wider services will be more important than ever due to the impact of Covid on the economy and job market.

What we will do to deliver a joined up approach to homeless prevention and early intervention

1. Ensure that there is a strong corporate commitment to a joined up approach to ending homelessness across all services.
2. Seek commitment from partners to collaborate to prevent homelessness
3. Ensure homelessness is prevented through an effective homelessness prevention toolkit targeted at the main causes.
4. 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
5. Ensure that an upstream approach to homeless prevention is embedded within the Housing Solutions Service
6. Work with partners to put in place measures to prevent homelessness linked to Covid
7. Ensure adequate access to services to improve customers financial capability, including access to education, training and employment.

9. Ensure an adequate supply of Temporary Accommodation to meet the needs of customers and reduce the use of B&B

Where homelessness cannot be prevented, temporary accommodation is an essential part of a household's rehousing journey. A move at any time can be stressful, but at this point of crisis in people's lives, it is vital that the accommodation they are provided with is somewhere where they can feel safe and supported.

Following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act the use of temporary accommodation and Bed & Breakfast has increased significantly in South Derbyshire.

Through the increased focus on early intervention and prevention work the Council will work to stem the flow of new placements into temporary accommodation. However, there is a need to ensure that there is an adequate supply of temporary accommodation to reduce the reliance on bed & breakfast.

Despite the new increased focus on prevention the impact of the global pandemic is likely to result in increases in the number of households who do become homeless. The Council therefore needs to ensure that it has a sufficient supply of temporary accommodation, of the right type and in the right place. This will be essential to avoid the high use of B&B.

Where people are accommodated in temporary accommodation this should be for as brief a period as possible and be a positive experience where clients can access all of the support that they need, including building their own financial capability, to ensure that when they are rehoused they have the necessary skills to sustain their tenancy.

Given this anticipated increase the Council will undertake a review of its approach to temporary accommodation to ensure that it meets the current needs, ends the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation. This review will respond to the immediate need, but will also take a longer term approach to ensuring a model that is flexible and responsive to the changing demand, it will also include an options appraisal for future delivery and management arrangements. The review will result in a more effective strategic approach to temporary accommodation provision and its management.

The Housing Solutions service will work to reduce the number of households placed in temporary accommodation and to minimise their length of stay. It will actively work 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 intends to use Bed & Breakfast for emergencies only, but for no longer than is absolutely necessary and will minimise moves between different accommodation. In the longer term it will aim to end the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation. It is recognised that there will always be situations in which prompt access to emergency accommodation is necessary, to this end the Council will explore other options for the provision of emergency nightly paid accommodation to end the use of B&B.

What we will do to ensure an adequate supply of temporary accommodation to meet the needs of customers while reducing the use of Bed & Breakfast

1. Carry out a review of the use of temporary accommodation, identifying future need and an options appraisal for future delivery arrangements
2. Minimise, and in the longer term end, the use of unsuitable B&B accommodation by exploring alternative options for the provision of emergency nightly paid accommodation
3. Develop move on plans for all households in temporary accommodation
4. Ensure an adequate range of monitoring arrangements, processes and performance management measures are in place to monitor and manage the use of temporary accommodation.

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10. Meet the complex needs of customers to prevent rough sleeping and repeat homelessness

As a rural district rough sleeping, and homelessness more generally, is often hidden. People who are homeless or in housing difficulty are more likely to try and make temporary arrangements with family and friends, compared with more urban areas with greater provision available. The Council will ensure that its rural communities are aware of the help and support that is available to people who are at risk of homelessness.

Rough Sleeping levels are low across South Derbyshire, but where an individual does end up sleeping rough the Council will work with partners to provide a rapid response to get them into accommodation, and ensure the necessary support is in place.

It is recognised that many homeless people can have multiple and complex needs. Many have a transient lifestyle, and the complexity of their needs can prevent or exclude them from being able to access or engage with mainstream accommodation and services.

For many people homelessness is not just a housing issue, it is closely linked with complex and chaotic life experiences. Mental health problems, drug and alcohol dependencies adverse childhood experiences and experiences in prison or within the care system are often closely linked to more entrenched experiences of homelessness. These issues are complex and mutually reinforcing, often having their roots in entrenched disadvantage, and leaving people socially and economically excluded.

The Council cannot successfully tackle homelessness and rough sleeping without addressing the multiple needs of clients, to do this it must work in partnership. Addressing one support need in isolation from others is unlikely to lead to successful outcomes for people who face complex issues. There is, therefore, a need to develop holistic approaches to recovery, supporting clients to address all of their issues simultaneously. The Council will develop a complex needs group to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach to meet client's needs.

The Homelessness Review identified that there is a small but significant number of clients with complex needs who are stuck in a repeat cycle of homelessness. For these clients existing housing and support models have not been able to meet their multiple needs, there is therefore a need to pilot a different approach. The Council will work with partners to develop a Housing First model based upon national best practice to meet the needs of these clients.

The Homelessness Review identified a high prevalence of mental health support needs amongst customers. The Council has worked with partners to develop services in response to this need including the Mental Health Homeless Prevention Service, however there is a need to ensure that clients with poor mental health are able to access the help and support they need before ending up in crisis. The Council wants to build upon existing provision by working collaboratively with mental health services to ensure a joined up approach to prevention. There is a need to ensure a response from mental health specialists to prevent deterioration in mental health, and thus avoid crisis and prevent homelessness.

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The Homelessness Review identified that young people are over-represented in the homeless population in South Derbyshire. Young people are increasingly disadvantaged by the combined impact of unemployment, low incomes, welfare reform, and limited housing options. This will be further compounded by the impact of the pandemic. Emerging evidence on the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic shows that young people aged 12-34 years are on the of the worst affected groups, particularly in terms of the labour market and mental health outcomes. Within South Derbyshire there is an increase in young people being asked to leave the family home.

The Council is committed to ensuring that young people in South Derbyshire have the best start in life, and are able to develop well so that they can fulfil their potential and meet their aspirations.

To effectively prevent homelessness the Housing Solutions service will intervene as early as possible to prevent housing instability and homelessness from occurring or persisting. Prevention will focus on supporting young people to remain at home with their family, or in wider family networks, where appropriate and safe to do so. Where young people do become homeless, the Council will work with partner agencies to ensure that emergency and longer term accommodation and support that can effectively address the young person's housing and support needs is available.

The response to the pandemic has forged strong links between housing and health, through this Strategy these links will be built on to improve the health and wellbeing of homeless people. In line with the Council's Corporate Plan it will promote health and wellbeing amongst clients. Without good housing it is known that health and wellbeing are affected: poor conditions and precarious housing impact on people's physical and mental health. Ill health also puts some households at a greater risk of housing need and can be a trigger of homelessness.

There is significant evidence to suggest that homelessness, especially rough sleeping, has significant and adverse consequences for an individual's health. It is widely recognised that there are strong correlations between homelessness and severe physical and mental health conditions, alongside significantly reduced life expectancy. The Council will work to improve access to health services for homeless people to address both immediate and longer term needs.

What we will do meet the housing and support needs of clients with multiple and complex support needs
1. Develop a better understanding of rural homelessness, and raise awareness within rural communities of how to access help
2. Ensure a rapid response is in place to respond to any reports of rough sleeping with prompt access to accommodation and support
3. Develop Housing First provision that meets the needs of people with multiple and complex needs
4. Develop an integrated approach to working with complex individuals to ensure homelessness and repeat homelessness is prevented
5. Improve housing outcomes for clients with poor mental health
6. Improve health and well being outcomes for homeless clients

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7. Prevent youth homelessness through education, peer mentoring, mediation and emergency respite accommodation

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11. Develop and improve access to a wide range of settled and supported accommodation solutions

In order to both prevent and relieve homelessness appropriate, affordable housing is key to ensuring a long-term solution to a household's housing situation. A range of accommodation options is needed across the social, affordable and private sector to cater for a wider range of housing needs.

The Council is committed to delivering more homes to meet local needs and demand. It recognises the unmet need for single person accommodation and will work with its housing partners to deliver more one bed units of social housing.

The Council will continue to make the most effective use of its own housing stock in meeting the needs of its communities, including those that are at risk of becoming homeless. The Service will review the Allocations Policy to ensure that it is working for those in the greatest housing need, and supporting the prevention of homelessness through planned moves. The Council will work to ensure that its communities and partners understand that the Housing Register is the route to access social housing, rather than homelessness.

The Council will also work with its Housing Association partners to increase access to all forms of social housing for clients who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Alongside the strategic commitment to the development of affordable housing, the Council recognises the increasingly important role that the private rented sector plays in meeting the housing needs of the community, including those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The Council is committed to increasing access to the private rented sector through the development of an attractive landlord offer, built upon national good practice models. The service recognises that support to both landlords and tenants will be a critical element in order to guarantee the success of this model.

This increased access to affordable private rented accommodation will be used to both prevent and relieve homelessness and to also discharge the main homeless duty.

The Homelessness Review identified an increase in the number of single people seeking help from the Housing Solutions Service. The Council is committed to addressing the housing and support needs of single people across South Derbyshire, through both supported and permanent housing solutions. By working with Housing Management and Housing Association partners, the Council will develop house share pilots to meet the needs of young single people within the district. It will also promote lodging schemes to home owners, and will work to identify opportunities for under-occupying tenants to rent out spare rooms.

The Council will also consider how it can use its own housing stock to meet the high demand for single person's accommodation, including the possible reconfiguration of two and three bed units to create one bedroom provision or the re-designation of under-utilised sheltered stock.

The role that supported housing plays in preventing homelessness is critical. The Council is committed to working with partners to deliver and develop a supported housing model that

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acts as a place of change, not only meeting the housing needs of homeless people; but supporting people to tackle the underlying causes of homelessness, raising their aspirations, empowering change and assisting them to access training, education and employment. The Council will work with providers to ensure that supported housing is in place that responds to local needs, including those with the most complex needs.

What we will do to develop and improve access to a wide range of settled and supported accommodation solutions
1. Maximise opportunities to develop more social and affordable housing.
2. Ensure the best use of social housing stock to prevent and relief homelessness.
3. Ensure the Allocations Policy supports prevention and relief activity through promotion of planned moves.
4. Develop a comprehensive landlord offer to incentivise private sector lettings.
5. Develop appropriate models to take on the management of private sector properties, either directly as a Council or through a provider partner such as a social lettings agency or leasing arrangement.
6. Develop a coordinated approach to increase the provision of, and move on from, supported accommodation to meet identified needs.
7. Develop a range of affordable housing options for single people.

12. Delivering the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

In order to meet the Council's commitment to deliver the strategic priorities it needs to ensure that together with partners, it has the skills, services, resources and infrastructure for the delivery of the Strategy's objectives.

To achieve the strategic priorities and objectives a detailed action plan has been developed in collaboration with partners.

The Council will establish a new Homelessness Prevention Steering Group, made up key representatives of the Homelessness Forum, who will be responsible for the delivery and monitoring of this Homelessness Strategy and action plan. The action plan will be monitored quarterly and reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs, policy and legislative changes and achieves the priorities contained within it.

The Homelessness Prevention Steering Group will feed into the Homelessness Forum, which will ensure both effective governance arrangements, alongside a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the prevention of homelessness.

A joined up partnership approach is critical to delivering the ambitious and innovative plans detailed within this strategy and meeting South Derbyshire's vision for homelessness.

With its partners the Council is committed to ending homelessness together.

About Homeless Link

[Homeless Link](#) is the national membership charity for services working directly with people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness with housing, health, care and support needs.

Representing over 700 organisations across England, we work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and to promote policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

We aim to bring about positive policy change as well as providing practical support to individual organisations. Our Innovation and Good Practice (IGP) Team runs a range of special projects including focuses on welfare reform; the future of supported housing rents; the Homelessness Reduction Act; Housing First; Ending Women's Homelessness and Youth Homelessness.

We are a leading training provider delivering both public and in-house courses around the country to local authorities, registered housing providers, third sector and charitable organisations and service user groups across housing, homelessness, support, health & social care and criminal justice services.

We have a strong consultancy service; our staff and bank of associates nationwide support members across the spectrum of their activities from the strategic - strategy development, business planning, service evaluation, commissioning and workforce development - through to the operational, such as policies and procedures and rent setting. Our team brings many years' operational and consultancy experience as well as a strong understanding of the sectors in which we work, and an empathy with the daily challenges that staff face. We have experience of working with large and small providers from local authorities to the smallest charities, and with commissioners and service providers.



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for services working directly with people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness with housing, health, care and support needs. We work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Let's end homelessness together

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