



Report to: Policy & Performance Improvement Committee – 30th June 2025

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Report Summary	
Report Title	Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy and Delivery Plan (2024-2029) Annual Update – Year One.
Purpose of Report	To inform the committee on progress made within the first year of the Council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024-2029.
Recommendations	That progress against the delivery plan is noted.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 A report was presented to the Policy and Performance Committee on 29th January 2024 and subsequently Cabinet on 20th February 2024, providing an update on the 2023 review of homelessness in the district, and to gain approval for the adoption of the council's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 – 2029.
- 1.2 Housing authorities have a statutory requirement under the Homelessness Act 2002 to carry out a homelessness review for their district and formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

- 2.1 Following publication of the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy, a multi-agency delivery plan has been developed, with key actions aligned to each of the strategy's six objectives.
- 2.2 A new national Homeless Prevention Strategy, with a cross departmental approach to further tackle homelessness, is expected in line with the governments three-year spending review in June 2025 which provided an additional £100 million for early interventions to prevent homelessness. When released, this strategy may necessitate

further consideration and review of the council's strategic homelessness delivery plan to ensure ongoing alignment to national and local priorities.

2.3 A full review of the action plan is attached at Appendix 1 with a number of key projects highlighted below:

2.3.1 During 2024/25, Newark and Sherwood District Council's Homelessness Strategy Officer took the lead as the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) Programme Manager across the seven district councils in Nottinghamshire. The partnership approach has now received an extension in funding for 2025/26 and the Strategy Officer will remain a part of the core county team delivering the revised Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant.

2.3.2 During the year, the council has continued its involvement with the Safeguarding Adults Board. In compliance with the Care Act 2014 (Section 44), Safeguarding Adults Boards are expected to proactively commission Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SAR) in cases of deaths or serious harm or neglect, involving rough sleepers. Nottinghamshire has been proactive in this area, to date forty deaths (nine in Newark and Sherwood) have been considered at the Safeguarding Adults Board – Safeguarding Adults Review Sub-Group. The authority's Homelessness Strategy Officer currently sits on this group and presents each case for consideration. Progress has also been made to ensure that Public Health are aware of any suspected drug related or suicide deaths in carrying out their own reviews, negating the duplication of workstreams.

2.3.3 In September 2023, Nottinghamshire took part in the national pilot of a homeless women's Census, organised by Solace Women's Aid. The purpose of the pilot was to test more widely a methodology used in London to better understand the experience of women who are rough sleeping as they are often underrepresented in standard headcounts. Newark and Sherwood took the lead in coordinating a county and city census in 2024, the findings from which have resulted in the creation of a countywide Women's Severe Multiple Disadvantage Group.

2.3.5 During 2024/25, the Nottinghamshire district partners have been working on developing a Prison Release Protocol. Prison Release Protocols are in place in neighbouring counties such as Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire but not in Nottinghamshire. Due to the work undertaken, Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City are soon to launch a prison release protocol to achieve the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government's aim of preventing rough sleeping upon release from prison. The Nottinghamshire Prison Release Protocol will see a multi-agency team meeting on a fortnightly basis to plan prison releases and prevent a prisoner release to the streets or as homeless.

2.3.6 In April, strategic leads from Newark, Mansfield and Ashfield led a Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper event providing key organisations with an opportunity to understand the workstreams underway and to provide an opportunity to be part of a workshop developing the focus for the next year and identifying synergies between partners.

2.3.7 Pending the introduction of the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023. Newark and Sherwood has collaborated with county colleagues to commission

Homeless Link to carry out a Supported Housing Needs Assessment, the results of which are due August 25. The needs assessment will lead to a countywide Supported Housing Strategy to support the council's response to the Supported Housing Act 2023.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

3.1 Financial Implications - (FIN25-26/3124)

There are no additional financial implications arising within this report. In 2024/25 the council received £388,368 from the Homelessness Prevention Grant, and the same amount is due to be received in 2025/26. Additional grant may be received within the year but currently this is unknown and unconfirmed.

3.2 Legal Implications

There are no additional legal implications arising from this report. The Housing and Rough Sleeping Strategy ensures compliance with the Homelessness Act 2002, Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and the Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018

3.3 Equality Implications

There are no additional equality implications arising from this report. Equality implications are considered within the Homelessness Review, noting the complexity, challenges and circumstances that can present because of individuals protected characteristics and how this impacts their experience of homelessness or rough sleeping.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

<https://democracy.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/documents/s19077/20.02.24%20-%20Homelessness%20and%20Rough%20Sleeper%20Strategy.pdf>

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY

2024 – 2029

DELIVERY PLAN

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy Delivery Plan is a collective plan to tackle homelessness with partners that will be equally responsible for its delivery.

The focus, as part of the Newark and Sherwood Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024-29 has been designed as a result of the Homelessness Review 2023, with feedback from the participants and organisations that took part in the consultation and the launch and workshop of the strategy in March 2024.

The following objectives, tasks and actions will be prioritised. We will report to the Mid Nottinghamshire Joint Homeless Prevention Strategic Group and the Newark and Sherwood Homelessness Interagency Forum. Yearly updates will also be reported to the NSDC committee structure.

Objective 1 - Early intervention through effective partnership working, with a particular focus on those becoming homeless from a private rented sector tenancy, friends, and family no longer able to accommodate or as a result of domestic abuse.		
Task - Prevent as many residents as possible from becoming homeless from the privately rented sector		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Prioritise training and development of key NSDC employees in line with current legislation - Review training needs annually and participate in regular development sessions for ongoing training.	Senior Housing Options Officer	In progress – Options for additional resource to support this action are being explored.
1.Explore free legal advice to help those that are being served section 21 notice. 2.Referral pathway to the law centre to be developed and rolled out to teams.	1. Homelessness Strategy Officer and Nottingham Law Centre. 2. Senior Housing Options Officer	Not started – on hold pending the Renters Reform Bill from Government.

Implement changes required as a result of the Renters Rights Bill when this is enacted		Not started – on hold pending the Renters Reform Bill
Build a private sector offer that is safe, secure and attractive by reviewing the current PRS and developing joint-working relationships with local landlords. Including incentives available to secure offers of accommodation for our applicants.	Senior Housing Options Officer Landlord Liaison Officers	Complete – structures are in place through the Landlord Forum for engagement with local landlords and these will continue.
Task - understand the reasons that friends, and family can no longer accommodate and find solutions, such as mediation or incentives to continue to accommodate.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Progress system change to ensure reasonable notice is given by friends and family before making an individual homeless (guidelines state 28 days' notice is reasonable)		Complete
Agree a process and policy to utilise the internal mediation facility within housing (9 x trained officers)	Senior Housing Options Officer	Not started
Gain greater understanding on the reasons that friends, and family can no longer accommodate and what could incentivise a stay in accommodation.	Senior Housing Options Officer Homeless Strategy Officer	In Progress –data is being collated by front line officers to develop a robust understanding of the reasons why accommodations with family and friends fail and what could be done to extend.
Task - consider and tackle the rise in single homelessness and the complexities that can make it harder for services to prevent homelessness.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Influence or increase the housing options available for single people and couples. Consider the demand for one bed, the level of support required and access to commissioned and non-commissioned beds in the area.	Homelessness Strategy Officer	In progress – in response to the Supported Housing Regulatory Oversight Act the council is undertaking a Housing Needs Assessment, commissioned to Homeless Link.
Implement any changes to policies, procedures and practices as identified by the MEAM project – encourage and support others to do the same.	MEAM Network – Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy Officer Senior Housing Options Officer	In Progress - Homelessness Strategy Officer sits within the core group.

Wider strategic team support to increase capacity as we see more legislation, national, regional, and local policy changes and a greater level of need.	Business Manager – Housing, Health and Wellbeing	In progress – synergies recognised with Housing Strategy Team within the Regeneration and Housing Strategy Business Unit - officers are now working closer together to develop capacity and resilience in the team.
<p>Prioritise appropriate Institutionalised release/discharge for homelessness/SMD</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hospital discharge mapping 2. Support the development of and implement the prison release protocol when launched. 	<p>Homelessness Strategy Officer (Development)</p> <p>Senior Housing Options Officer (local implementation)</p>	<p>Complete and ongoing - challenge within the Ending Rough Sleeper Plan for Institutionalised release/discharge.</p> <p>Temporary measures are in place to continue the Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust Severe Multiple Disadvantage Service until 31.03.26 and pending future NHS plans. Funding has been sourced from Homelessness Prevention Grant.</p>
<p>Ministerial Recommendations for Safeguarding Adults Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance structure, accountability and system-wide change. 2. Named board member for rough sleeping. 3. Strategic plans, annual reports and procedures. 4. Safeguarding Adult Reviews. 	Director of Housing	Complete – Representatives sit on the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup.
<p>Identify opportunities to improve the Duty to Refer process and encourage partners to implement changes.</p> <p>Ensuring partners such as Police, NHS, Charities etc have sufficient training around early intervention and signposting pathways at first contact.</p>	RSI leads and steering group.	In progress – plans are pending to deliver an awareness raising session to Nottinghamshire County Council youth homelessness and care leavers leads.
Task – Contribute to enhancing services for those at risk of or fleeing domestic abuse (in line with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021)		
Contribute to the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.	DA Coordinator	In progress – accreditation process taking place with training being rolled out to staff across the organisation.

Accept Equations offer to provide a 'drop in' service for male and LGBTQ+ survivors of DA seeking housing.	Senior Housing Options Officer	Not progressing – Equation have withdrawn this offer
Support DA survivors with their choice of area - delivery through DAHA.	Senior Housing Options Officer	Complete
Objective 2 - The provision of an accessible, agile, and responsive homelessness service		
Task - Provide or enable a high-quality service (this relates to the whole system) that customers are satisfied with and provide opportunities for customers to influence the design and delivery of services.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Ensure that the service is promoted and shaped by involving and listening to those with lived experience.	Senior Housing Options Officer	In progress – An internal service review is ongoing to ensure current processes are fit for purpose and the service is accessible to all.
Join the Andy Gale academy and share with other agencies – includes Part 6, Part 7 and PRS	Senior Housing Options Officer	Not started
Ensure the NSDC website continues to be relevant and updated.	Senior Housing Options Officer	In progress – as part of the service review
Adopt a more data-driven and evidence-based approach to tackling homelessness.	Homelessness Strategy Officer – Analysis Senior Housing Options Officer - Collation	Not started
Making services accessible to non-UK nationals (NUKN) – language barrier, understanding UK system	Homelessness Strategy Officer and Nottinghamshire Law Centre Senior Housing Options Officer	In progress – The first phase NUKN Gap Analysis and exploration of opportunities to increase immigration advice throughout Nottinghamshire is complete and will be followed by development of proposals for change.
Hold an annual stakeholder event to share progress in delivering the strategy and co-produce an annual action plan	Homelessness Strategy Officer	Complete
Explore opportunities to use emerging technology to provide a high-quality service	Homelessness Strategy Officer	Not started

Participate in the Youth Homelessness Forum – implement any updates or changes as a result of the Ministerial recommendations for Care leavers	Senior Housing Options Officer Senior Housing Choice Officer	Complete
Objective 3 - Access to affordable and quality accommodation across all sectors		
Task - help as many residents as possible to move from one home to another without the need for emergency and temporary accommodation - influence where accommodation is needed, what type and that it is of good quality.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Implement or contribute to the responsibilities in the Supported Housing Regulatory Oversight Act.	Homelessness Strategy Officer	In progress –countywide joint Supported Housing Needs Assessment has been commissioned through Homeless Link.
Contribute to a solution to ease the silting up of supported housing move on – continue to work with providers in relation to those that are ready to move on, assess and award points, fund or assist into private rented accommodation.	Business Manager – Housing and Estates	In progress – A “Ready to move” agreement has been reviewed and updated.
Supported housing improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the development of a single referral form by MDC and countywide roll out - Explore opportunities to engage with supported housing providers to maximise housing options for rough sleepers that are sustainable - Support a countywide review of single homeless pathways 	Homeless Strategy Officer RSI Programme leads	In progress - Pending agreement to fund and carry out a single person pathway analysis throughout the county.
Support owners of empty properties to bring them back into use as affordable housing for homeless households through the pilot project jointly funded by EMC.	EMCCA Homelessness Task Force Housing/Homelessness Strategy Team	Not started

Task - To understand and contribute towards a robust private rented sector in Newark and Sherwood. PRS is our biggest reason for homelessness, but also our second main type of accommodation secured for homeless households after social housing.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Reduce the number of allocations, that have been awarded a homelessness banding moving from the Private Rented Sector or no longer able to stay with friends and family. Priority to be given to the prevention of homelessness from this type of accommodation.	Senior Housing Options Officer Senior Housing Choice Officer	Not started
Objective 4 - Tackle rough sleeping by developing and improving pathways		
Task - No fixed abode is high but a cohort that we know little about. Proactively contact residents who are “hidden homeless”.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Implement learning from the Safeguarding Adults Review – Subgroup in relation to rough sleeper deaths.	Homelessness Strategy Officer SAR Subgroup – Rough Sleeper deaths	Complete
Review the effectiveness of proactive contact with “hidden homeless” housing allocation applicants, with a particular focus on women	Senior Housing Options Officer Senior Housing Choice Officer	Not started
Gain greater knowledge on where people are staying and how they secure a place to sleep which prevents rough sleeping.	Homelessness Strategy Officer	In progress – The Homeless Women’s Census 2023 and 2024 will inform this piece of work.
Task - The Rough Sleeper Initiative may come to an end before the end of this strategy, create a contingency plan if RSI funding ends and there are no further rounds of funding available.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Work with the RSI Programme Leads and County Districts and Boroughs to continue county-wide services under the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Evaluate and explore avenues of funding to continue the core services if funding is lost or ceases.	Homelessness Strategy Officer	Complete

Adopt/implement/engage in the Nottinghamshire Ending Rough Sleeper Plan	Homelessness Strategy Officer	In progress – Plan recently reviewed on behalf of the county for 25/26. Discussed at bi-monthly Nottinghamshire authorities and MHCLG meetings.
Facilitate the annual National Rough Sleeper Count	Senior Housing Options Officer	Complete
Participate in the National Homeless Women's Census 2024 Participate in the Homeless Women's Group or actions as a result.	Homelessness Strategy Officer Senior Housing Options Officer	In progress – taking part in the annual census and attending the newly formed SMD Women's Group. Challenge within the Ending Rough Sleeper Plan – Improve services/support for homeless women
Continually improve, develop services and align goals by working closely with partners across Mid Notts.	Homelessness Strategy Officer	In progress – efforts are made to recognise and work collaboratively on similar actions within each strategy.
Objective 5 - Linking health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected		
Task - To ensure Psychologically Informed Environments (day to day running of services are designed to take the psychological and emotional needs of people with these experiences into account) and Trauma informed Care (opportunity for individuals to engage more fully in their health care, to develop a trusting relationship with their provider) are indicated in the shaping and progression of the strategy and delivery plan.		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Launch and build the Online Skills and Training needs assessment for tenants and residents. Link with children's services in the area for children's projects in temporary accommodation.	Homelessness Strategy Officer (Design) Senior Housing Options Officer (Development)	In progress – Launched in September 2024. Comms plan and group recently created to progress and promote further and maximise success.
Complete and embed the learning from the RSI trauma informed approach training courses. Provide staff with reflective practice opportunities. Sign up to the countywide Trauma Informed Charter.	Public Health - countywide Senior Housing Options Officer Business Manager – Housing and Estates	In progress - included within the Ending Rough Sleeper Plan.

Task - Better understand the projections of core homelessness levels, the housing market needs and the anticipation that there may be a rise in homelessness in Newark and Sherwood between 2024 – 2029		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Strengthen the links between health, housing and homelessness strategies.	Homelessness Strategy Officer Health and Wellbeing Officer Housing Strategy Officer	In progress – All officers now work within the same Business Unit and gaining better insight into each strategy and the relevant synergies
Objective 6 - Delivering holistic support solutions to sustain long term tenancies and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.		
Task - Encourage and support leaders of key organisations to do more to prioritise Homelessness and Severe Multiple Disadvantage		
Action	Lead and partners	Progress
Support, monitor and engage with partners that can assist and enhance homelessness prevention.	Homelessness Strategy Officer Senior Housing Options Officer	Complete with grant agreements in place with: HomeStart Citizens Advice Central Nottinghamshire Furniture Project
Build and maintain relationships with faith groups, ensuring the provision provided is supported and included within pathway plans as appropriate.	Landlord Liaison Officer	In progress and ongoing

