

Homewards Programme

Homewards is a transformative five-year, locally led programme that aims to demonstrate that together it is possible to end homelessness, making it rare, brief, and unrepeatable. Homewards is working with six locations across the UK, including Sheffield, and each location is being supported to create coalitions of committed people and organisations at a local and national level, giving them the space, tools and relationships to end homelessness together.

Homewards is supporting Sheffield by providing:

- A Local Delivery Lead, (Hannah Crossan-Smith), based in Sheffield to support the location and convene the local coalitions, bring in new partners, drive forward the development of a local action plan and identify new opportunities.
- Access to an unprecedented network of best-in-class expertise ensuring our work will be effective and impactful.
- An independent research partner that will support with capacity building, evaluation and sharing what works throughout the programme ensuring our work is replicable and scalable.
- The Homewards Fund, which will support the delivery of Homewards Sheffield's Action Plan, with £500,000 of flexible seed funding available across the lifecycle of the five-year programme.

Homewards Sheffield Coalition building and action planning

Key Events The table below highlights key events so far in the coalition building and action planning phase of Homewards

Event	Date	Purpose
Homewards Launch	June 23	An engagement with Prince William to announce Sheffield as one of the six Homewards locations in the UK
Homewards Townhall	August 23	An event to introduce the programme to a wider audience, including the Homelessness Prevention Forum
Local Delivery Lead start	January 24	Local Delivery Lead begins work to engage local stakeholders and hear more about existing work, challenges and priorities
Arup Prevention workshop	February 24	An event to bring together Chief Executive and senior representatives from the six locations, with a particular focus on prevention.

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Homewards Coalition launch	March 24	An event, attended by Prince William, to launch the coalition in Sheffield with initial areas of focus identified and governance & principles discussed
Innovative Housing Project Landlord Roundtable and Lived Experience workshop	March 24	Meetings with local landlords and a workshop with members of the local community to support the scoping and design of the IHP
Homewards Fund launch	June 24	A webinar to provide information to coalitions about the fund and how to apply
Initial working groups established	May 24	Meetings to further define these areas of focus, understand the challenges and explore the opportunities
Theory of Change session	June 24	A workshop to unify the outputs of working groups
End of Year Event	July 24	Event in Lambeth, London featuring representatives from the Coalition [incl Council] to share local progress, drive momentum and meet with other locations and partners.
Homelessness: Reframed Exhibition	Aug 24	Children and young people from Sheffield took part in a workshop to create art and learn about homelessness for a new exhibition at Saatchi Gallery in London. People with lived experience from Sheffield also featured as either artists or within parts of the exhibition [e.g. photography]
Draft Action Plan	July – August 24	Initial draft Action Plans developed and shared with the Homewards Partnership

The Homewards Sheffield Coalition has come together over recent months in a process facilitated by the Local Delivery Lead, to develop a locally led Action Plan. The Coalition comprises 64 organisations and individuals. Members alongside SCC include healthcare providers, mental health services, experts by experience, as well as the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, and many local business and dynamic community organisations, coming together in a collaborative effort to demonstrate that it is possible to end homelessness in the local area. The Coalition also has significant representation from those with lived experience.

The Coalition has built upon existing work, which has been unified through a Theory of Change workshop, facilitated by the Homewards Evaluation and Learning Partner. This approach and the Action Plan's structure was informed by international best practice.

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This work has resulted in key priorities being identified based on what Homewards Sheffield Coalition members feel we need to focus on to put Sheffield on a trajectory to end homelessness, with tangible next steps set out to drive towards that ambition.

The seven emerging areas of focus and draft key priorities for Sheffield are:

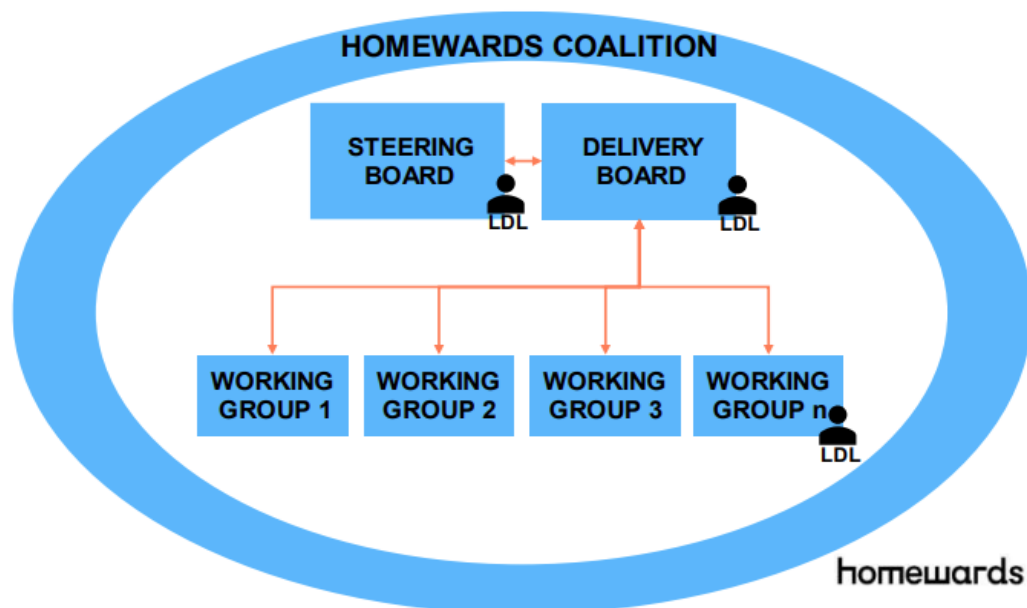
Emerging area of focus	Draft key priority
Young People and Families	Sheffield is on track to end homelessness for target groups (Starting with Young People and Families)
Community Hubs and Support Pathways	People have a welcoming and trusted place to go for support
Employment Pathways	People at risk of homelessness can find and stay in employment
Housing Supply	Increase supply of appropriate, good quality and affordable housing for people in Sheffield
Data and Analytics	Development of upstream prevention for other cohorts is evidence and data-led
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Improved equality of housing outcomes for different demographic groups
Communications, Narrative and Reframing	Reframe the narrative, challenging negative perceptions around homelessness and inspiring optimism that homelessness can be ended

Governance

The Action Plan will be reviewed and endorsed by members of the Homewards Sheffield Coalition, via the governance groups that we are in the process of establishing, as set out in the diagram below. This governance structure was set out by Renaisi, a member of the Homewards Evaluation and Learning Partner, who researched existing best practice on governance structures overseeing sustainable system change.

We are keen to align with the governance structures that already exist in Sheffield and have been consulting with Coalition members about how we can avoid duplication, add value and connect into established groups, such as the Sheffield Homelessness Prevention Strategy Board, and the governance arrangements that are currently in development for the City Goals.

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Innovative Housing Project

As part of the Homewards programme, (and included in the Local Action Plan) we are supporting local partners to develop an innovative housing project (IHP) in each of our locations. The purpose of each IHP is to help each location to inspire and demonstrate potential, to test innovative solutions to homelessness by targeting the experiences of a particular demographic group and/or demonstrating a unique approach to solving homelessness.

The Sheffield IHP will focus on families in the northeast and east of the city that are disproportionately affected by homelessness. It will support families to access more affordable, long-term family homes from the private rented and registered provider sectors and to connect to local community-based support.

Next steps

Once the Local Action Plan has been agreed by Homewards Coalition members, we aim for it to be published in the Autumn. We will then move into the delivery phase of Homewards in Sheffield. The Local Action Plan will be iterative, and we will look to evolve the plan with reviews at agreed points across each year of delivery.