



## Report to Policy Committee

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** (Suzanne Allen)

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**Report of:** Ajman Ali, Executive Director-Operational Services

**Report to:** *Housing Policy Committee*

**Date of Decision:** *10<sup>th</sup> March 2023*

**Subject:** *Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2023-28*

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? (1212)				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				

### **Purpose of Report:**

This report seeks approval of the draft Action Plan to implement the agreed Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28.

**Recommendations:**

That the Housing Policy Committee:

- Approve the current draft Action Plan for the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

**Background Papers:**

Appendix 1 – Draft Action Plan for the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

<b>Lead Officer to complete:-</b>	
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.
	Finance: <i>Helen Damon</i>
	Legal: <i>Stephen Tonge</i>
	Equalities & Consultation: <i>Louise Nunn</i>
	Climate: <i>Jessica Rick</i>
<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	<b>EMT member who approved submission:</b> <i>Ajman Ali, Executive Director, Operational Services</i>
3	<b>Committee Chair consulted:</b> <i>Cllr Douglas Johnson</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.
	<b>Lead Officer Name:</b> <i>Suzanne Allen</i>
	<b>Job Title:</b> <i>Head of City Wide Housing Services</i>
<b>Date:</b> 02/03/23	

<b>1.</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
1.1	<p>The draft Action Plan for the Sheffield Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 sets out the key actions for the delivery partners of the strategy over the next 5 years.</p> <p>The strategy was approved by the Housing Policy Committee in December 2022. The agreed strategy, and its overarching themes and priorities, set out the drivers of action needed to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping in Sheffield.</p> <p>In agreeing the Strategy, the Housing Policy Committee resolved that the Action Plan should be presented to a later meeting for approval.</p>
1.2	<p>To prevent homelessness and rough sleeping in Sheffield, action needs to be taken by all partners in the city and the plan has been developed in consultation with them. 64 agencies have been consulted representing statutory, voluntary and provider services that both deliver universal and specialist services. The action plan has been informed by feedback from residents received during the development of the strategy.</p> <p>Reviewing and delivering of the Action Plan will remain a live collaboration throughout the lifespan of the strategy, developing over the next five years as actions are further identified, implemented, monitored, and achieved.</p> <p>The action plan mirrors the Strategy, with sections on our two overarching themes, <b>Tackling Inequalities</b> and <b>Supporting People Through The Cost of Living Crisis</b> and on each of the 5 priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proactively Preventing Homelessness</b></li> <li>• <b>Improving Services to Support Vulnerable Groups</b></li> <li>• <b>Tackling Rough Sleeping</b></li> <li>• <b>Improving Housing Options and Support</b></li> <li>• <b>Strengthening Partnerships and Improving Systems</b></li> </ul> <p>The Action plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What specific action will be taken</li> <li>• Which theme or priority it is addressing</li> <li>• Which partners are involved and who is the lead</li> <li>• What resources are attached to the action</li> <li>• The target date of completion, and the completed date</li> <li>• What milestones have been reached</li> <li>• The RAG rated status of the progression</li> <li>• Evidence of outcomes and improvements made from the action</li> </ul>

	<p>The action plan is comprehensive, and this will enable the partnership to have a good overview of activity, as well as avoid duplication and coherently plan work.</p> <p>The aim is to enable easy monitoring of the progress of the actions. The Action Plan will be overseen by the Homelessness Prevention Steering Group which meets quarterly. This steering group will not only monitor progress but discuss any barriers and challenges that have arisen, to bring together potential resources and solutions to overcome these issues. There will also be an annual review of the full action plan to detail further actions for the following year. The performance will be reported to the Housing Policy Committee annually.</p> <p>Actions to take place within the first year are more detailed, some of which have already begun to progress. Where appropriate, individual actions will have an associated project plan and full business case that will be subject to the decision-making processes of partner agencies as appropriate.</p> <p>More detail relating to actions which will take longer to implement, from year two to five, will be added into the plan during the annual review process.</p> <p>Any actions in the previous Homelessness and Prevention Rough Sleeper Action Plan (2017-2022) that were not achieved that remain relevant have been reviewed and incorporated into the current plan.</p> <p>Supporting the Steering Group and the Homelessness Prevention Forum as well as enabling the Action Plan requires dedicated officer resource. This will continue to be provided by the Council and is funded by way of the Homelessness Prevention Grant.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?</b>
	<p>Becoming homeless is one of the most traumatic events someone can experience. It is detrimental to their health and well-being and the longer someone is homeless the worse this gets<sup>1</sup>. Homelessness disproportionately affects groups from different ethnic and institutional backgrounds, so by preventing people from becoming homeless we are tackling inequality.</p>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Links to Sheffield Delivery Plan</b>

<sup>1</sup> [Homelessness: applying All Our Health - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homelessness-applying-all-our-health)

2.1.1	<p><u>Tackling Inequalities and Supporting People Through the Cost of Living Crisis</u></p> <p>A key goal of the Sheffield Delivery Plan is to tackle inequalities and support people through the cost-of-living crisis. The delivery plan includes dealing with homelessness as an urgent performance challenge.</p> <p>This Action Plan is critical to improving prevention, improving housing options and support to people who are at risk of, or have experienced, homelessness. It will widen the offer and pathway for rough sleepers and will focus on supporting people to sustain their tenancy to prevent repeat homelessness.</p>
2.1.2	<p><u>Our Council</u></p> <p>The Action Plan will support the Council’s overarching themes of tackling inequality and supporting people through the cost-of-living crisis. The Action Plan will enable key partners to put in place effective joint working and will inform commissioning plans.</p>
2.1.3	<p><u>Where We Go Next</u></p> <p>Actions to prevent homelessness have already begun, this action plan will continue to develop with our partners as opportunities and challenges are identified.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?</b>
3.1	<p>Paragraph 2.10 of the homelessness code of guidance requires consultation with public or local authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons as considered appropriate. It also states that it is good practice to consult with service users and specialist agencies that provide support to homeless people in the district.<sup>2</sup> We have followed this guidance and consulted a wide range of customers and stakeholders, both internally and across the partnership. We have also sought advice and guidance from equalities officers within the Place portfolio which supported us to carry out consultation and engagement with customers for this strategy.</p> <p>Building on the extensive consultation with partners for the strategy the Action Plan has been co- developed with identified delivery partners who can realise the changes we need to tackle homelessness.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION</b>
4.1	<u>Equality Implications</u>

<sup>2</sup> [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Chapter 2: Homelessness strategies and reviews - Guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities-chapter-2-homelessness-strategies-and-reviews)

4.1.1	The equality impacts have been fully considered in the appended Equalities Impact Assessment.
4.2	<u>Financial and Commercial Implications</u>
4.2.1	<p>The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping action plan supports existing investment in these services and is not asking for additional expenditure, unless additional funding opportunities are identified.</p> <p>The additional Financial Inclusion Officer posts will be funded through the Homelessness Prevention Grant and the Data Analyst post will be funded through the Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant for a period of 12 months.</p> <p>The Stock Increase Programme, included in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan includes provision for some of the move-on accommodation and additional temporary accommodation to cover some of the gaps in existing accommodation.</p> <p>All activities are expected to be funded from existing resources within the services.</p>
4.3	<u>Legal Implications</u>
4.3.1	<p>The Council is a Local Housing Authority and under the Homelessness Act 2002 (“the Act”) must have a Homelessness Strategy that must be updated every 5 years and informed by a review. The Act is augmented by the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities which is a Government maintained document.</p> <p>Under section 3(1) of the Act a homelessness strategy means a strategy for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. preventing homelessness in the district ( more detail provided in the Code paragraphs 2.25-2.29);</li> <li>b. securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in the district who are or may become homeless (Code paragraphs 2.30-2.56); and,</li> <li>c. securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in the district who are or may become homeless or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them becoming homeless again.</li> </ol> <p>The strategy needs to address issues found upon review and the above three themes.</p> <p>As the report explains, the Action Plan now being commended for approval intends to set out the plan to deliver the strategy that has already been adopted. To that extent no further legal issues arise.</p>
4.4	<u>Climate Implications</u>
4.4.1	The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy is a high-level plan, and as such a full CIA is not appropriate at this stage. Full

	<p>detailed CIA's will be conducted on specific projects delivered under the plan.</p> <p>The biggest potential impact is the need to increase accommodation levels, and this is closely linked to the overall stock increase programme. Scheme-specific CIA's will be completed for any construction or refurbishment projects.</p> <p>Advice and signposting services have less significant impacts, mostly based around use of office space and staff and customer travel.</p> <p>As this action plan will have a city-wide approach and partners from across the city will help us to deliver the key actions set out through this document, we will seek contributions from other agencies and support them as providers to align with our ambition to be a Net Zero city by 2030. We will also aim to ensure good awareness amongst teams and external providers of wider sustainability action in the City, such as education and training opportunities which may support service users to reduce their climate impacts going forwards.</p>
4.4	<u>Other Implications</u>
4.4.1	There are no significant implications to note at this point other than referenced within this report.
<b>5.</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED</b>
5.1	It is a statutory requirement of the Homelessness Act 2002 to produce a Homelessness Prevention Strategy every five years. <sup>3</sup> However, it is not a legal requirement to produce an Action Plan. The alternative option would be to not set out the actions, however, this comes with the risk that we could drift from the strategy's vision and targets, and not create any tangible actions on how we aim to realise the strategy.
<b>6.</b>	<b>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To address the increase in homelessness.</li> <li>• To have an Action Plan that supports the strategic city-wide approach to homelessness prevention agreed by all the key partners</li> </ul>

<sup>3</sup> [Homelessness Act 2002 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

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