

# Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022-2026

## Action Plan

Priority 1				
Improve services and accommodation options for rough sleepers and single homeless people				
Key Tasks	Key activities/Milestones	Responsible Dept./Agency	Progression	Date for completion
Increase accommodation options for clients with complex multiple needs where the use of shared accommodation is not appropriate	Increase the amount of flexible emergency accommodation options for homeless people, including those with pets by exploring availability of housing with both social and private landlords.	Homelessness Service	3 units	
	Ensuring people with lived experience of homelessness are at the heart of finding solutions			
	Work across the region to establish reconnection policies and develop cross boundary services and policies		Discussed at Northeast Regional Meetings – to be agreed by all 12 local authorities	March 2024
Develop opportunities with partners to engage with Clients with complex needs, including those people sleeping rough, to more	Ensure appropriate safeguarding practices are embedded across the Homelessness Partnership, inclusive of further developing a robust multi-agency safeguarding approach for rough sleeping			

easily access services and support.	Ensure that support is offered or provided to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping that meets their needs, identifying strengths and goals that the person wishes to work towards and placing the individual at the heart of the process.			
	Continue to ensure a rapid response to rough sleeping reports across Northumberland, ensuring that any opportunities for grant-funding of services is maximised.		Outreach team now in place and responding to all cases of rough sleeping; Monthly Contract meetings completed with Changing Lives; Service to be re-commissioned in 2024.	August 2024
	Develop partnerships to tackle rough sleeping and target known rough sleepers	Homelessness Service	Rough Sleeper Action Group established and targeting assistance to known rough sleepers	Complete/Ongoing
Collaborate with health, mental health, and substance abuse service providers to address underlying issues	OC DHR Recommendation to be fulfilled			

contributing to homelessness				
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Priority 2				
Provide early intervention, prevention, and relief of homelessness through effective partnership working				
Key Tasks	Key activities/Milestones	Responsible Dept./Agency	Progression	Date for completion
Develop opportunities to be notified earlier that someone is at risk of homelessness from any tenure to help prevent homelessness	Work alongside landlords to create robust early alert systems and ensure protocols are in place for tenancies at risk or when properties are going to be removed from the market			
	Develop a web-based housing advice platform for anyone seeking advice, guidance, and support if homeless or threatened with homelessness			
	Work in partnership with other organisations such as health services (including mental health and drug and alcohol services); advice agencies; money advice; voluntary and community sector groups; the Police and other emergency services; and domestic abuse services to set up an early warning system to identify those at risk of homelessness			
Use data, feedback, and evidence to understand ways to work smarter to manage	Complete ongoing analysis of data and performance to ensure that working practices reflect service demand.		Team sessions completed to review working practices based on statistical	

demand and to inform how we improve prevention and relief intervention services			information. Pilot implemented to be reviewed January 2024	
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Priority 3				
Improve access to suitable, affordable, and quality permanent, temporary, and emergency accommodation across all sectors				
Key Tasks	Key activities/Milestones	Responsible Dept./Agency	Progression	Date for completion
Develop an increased number of opportunities to enable clients with complex needs or criminal behaviour to access suitable temporary or permanent accommodation.	Increase the amount of flexible emergency accommodation options for homeless people, including those with pets by exploring availability of housing with both social and private landlords.			
	Develop the incentives available to private landlords, such as rent deposit, bond or insurance product, to encourage			

	them to accommodate someone who is homeless.			
	Work with Adult Social Care to explore more accommodation options through the Complex Housing Panel			

Priority 4				
Link health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected by homelessness				
Key Tasks	Key activities/Milestones	Responsible Dept./Agency	Progression	Date for completion
Explore opportunities with Public Health and other Health partners to support the improvements to the health & wellbeing of Rough Sleepers, homeless clients and those at risk of homelessness.	Understand the existing partnerships and how they can support current demand for services			
	OC DHR – shared commissioning of services for people with mental health issues			
	Domestic Abuse services			
Develop options with local hospitals to explore safe discharge to help prevent homelessness	Meet with the NSECH Home Safe team to discuss protocols for discharge		Meeting booked for 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023.	

Priority 5				
Develop homelessness pathways for specific groups including victims of domestic abuse, young people, prison leavers and armed forces veterans				
Key Tasks	Key activities/Milestones	Responsible Dept./Agency	Progression	Date for completion
Work with partners to prevent homelessness due to domestic abuse and ensure rapid rehousing for people who are made homeless due to domestic abuse	Contribute to the discussion regarding the options available as part of the implementation of the DA Act duties			
Develop options with local organisations including the prison, hospitals, and other Local Authority departments to explore safe discharge to help prevent homelessness				
Provide early advice and housing options services to people leaving the armed forces and prioritise veterans for housing and support				
Improve our understanding and service offer to ethnic minorities, the LGBT+ community and other minority groups.				

