



Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan 2025

December 2024



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Priority	Objective	Action for 2025	Expected progress in 2025	Responsible team
Prevention Embedding a homelessness prevention culture in Bristol	Objective 1 Bring together community, voluntary and statutory stakeholders to participate in homelessness prevention, identifying people at risk and providing them with signposting and support.	Action 1 – Establish a strategic forum consisting of a wide network of partners including Health, Adult Social Care, voluntary sector organisations, people with lived experience and internal services, to oversee the implementation of this action plan.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 2 – Scope and commission research to determine how we can best work with health and social care practitioners to deliver early interventions, to reduce avoidable cases of homelessness.	Begin planning	Housing Options
	Objective 2 Identify and increase best practice for homelessness prevention work, recognising the different drivers of homelessness.	Action 3 – Complete the implementation of the Housing Options Service redesign, focusing the service on early interventions, homelessness prevention and clear advice and information, to enable citizens to secure their own housing solutions. The service will adopt a specialism model which allows the service to tailor its approach to clients with varying needs.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 4 – The Housing Options Service development team will review and make recommendations to improve prevention outcomes for people being discharged from hospitals and prisons.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 5 – The Housing Options Service will establish a cross-council forum of service leaders, focused on developing collaborative homelessness prevention approaches.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 6 – The Housing Options Service development team will review the ‘triggers’ that are causing tenancies to end, especially in the private rented sector, to establish new opportunities for prevention to be identified and implemented.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 7 – Work with registered providers to explore ways of increasing the number of mutual exchanges in the city, a housing option which allows existing social housing residents to swap their homes with each other.	Begin planning	Housing Options

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Prevention Embedding a homelessness prevention culture in Bristol	Objective 3 Ensure the availability and accessibility of information and advice for clients seeking early help to meet a housing need.	Action 8 – Develop a communications plan, guided by the council’s Accessible Communications Policy, to ensure that all people in Bristol have access to information about what the council and its partners are doing to tackle and prevent homelessness.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 9 – Commissioned and internal services will review their equalities data at least annually to identify any actions to advance equality of access to services. The analysis and actions identified will be overseen by the strategic review forum.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 10 – The Housing Options Service will produce information on services, early interventions, homelessness prevention and housing options, to enable colleagues across the council and the wider homelessness sector to provide timely, accurate and consistent advice and support to their clients.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
Accommodation Increasing the supply of, and access to, accommodation	Objective 1 Secure more accommodation for vulnerable people (seek to extend Housing First schemes amongst other initiatives). This will include delivering supported housing in line with our Supported Housing Delivery Plan 2024-2029.	Action 11 – The council and its partner organisations will review evidence from Bristol’s ‘Housing First’ and high stability housing approach for homeless people with the highest level of need, to inform future commissioning decisions.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 12 – Increase the supply of temporary accommodation and supported housing delivered by registered and other housing provider partners.	Begin delivery	Housing Delivery
		Action 13 – Housing Options Service commissioners will work with other council departments and statutory bodies to commission supported housing that better meets the needs of more clients.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 14 – The council will work with registered providers to bid for government funding (revenue and capital) when opportunities arise, for further Housing First and other homelessness related housing projects.	Begin planning	Housing Options

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Accommodation Increasing the supply of, and access to, accommodation	Objective 2 Improve the quality and suitability of Temporary Accommodation, while being more efficient with money. This includes reducing spending on accommodation that can be better used for homelessness prevention services.	Action 15 – The council will end the use of hotels as temporary accommodation for families, by increasing the supply of good quality accommodation with the right level of support for residents.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 16 – As part of the Tackling Homelessness Programme the council will oversee property purchasing for use as temporary accommodation, as well as building modular housing for use as temporary accommodation.	Begin delivery	Housing Delivery
		Action 17 – The Housing Options Service will offer training to temporary accommodation landlords in key areas such as trauma-informed practice.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
	Objective 3 Move more people into sustainable longer-term accommodation and increase the supply of move-on accommodation by working with housing providers through our Supported Housing Delivery Plan 2024-2029.	Action 18 – Housing Options Service commissioners will evaluate and adapt homelessness pathways to ensure they meet the needs of those living with complex needs and/or multiple disadvantages, as well as new or emerging client groups. This will be done in consultation with those who have lived experience. Where the needs of people are not met by current housing pathways, there will be joint work with adult social care and children's services, aimed to develop services that respond to unmet needs.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 19 – Housing Options will produce an annual report for the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee on the council's current service provision and practice for women experiencing homelessness (including women with children) and consider any gaps in provision or improvements that can be made – this will include considering the impact of 'hidden homelessness' which is known to disproportionately apply to women	Complete	Housing Options

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Accommodation Increasing the supply of, and access to, accommodation	Objective 3 Move more people into sustainable longer-term accommodation and increase the supply of move-on accommodation by working with housing providers through our Supported Housing Delivery Plan 2024-2029.	Action 20 – Adopt and implement the Interim Affordable Housing Delivery Plan, which sits above the Supported Housing Delivery Plan, to sustain an increase in affordable and supported housing supply. The council will work with Registered and housing providers and landlords to increase the supply of temporary accommodation and suitable move on accommodation for all supported housing pathways.	Begin planning	Housing Delivery
		Action 21 – Establish a Bristol Supported Housing Delivery Forum with registered providers and specialist housing partners.	Complete	Housing Delivery
		Action 22 – The council’s Housing and Landlord Services will explore how best its new shared case management system can capture and retain personal information so those accessing services do not have to repeat traumatic experiences. This will include a way of recording where people are experiencing multiple challenges that could be indicative of multiple disadvantages.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 23 – Determine how trauma-informed expertise and the learning from the Changing Futures Programme and the BNSSG Trauma Informed Framework should be applied to homelessness services in Bristol.	Begin planning	Housing Options
	Objective 4 Support more people to move into the private rented sector, through incentivising landlords to let housing at Local Housing Allowance rates, providing and promoting deposit schemes, and supporting tenancies.	Action 24 – The Housing Options Service will address the gap between Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and private sector rents by building relationships with landlords and using financial incentive schemes to increase the supply of affordable private rented accommodation to homeless and ‘at risk’ households.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 25 – The Housing Options Service will provide / commission advice and tenancy sustainment support to clients and landlords.	Begin delivery	Housing Options

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Working in Partnership A well connected, well trained, resilient sector	Objective 1 Work collaboratively with partners to ensure that the sector has resources and knowledge on all services available, and to reduce as many barriers to homelessness prevention as possible.	Action 26 – The strategic forum will oversee the development of services using evidence-based approaches to better meet the needs of clients experiencing multiple disadvantages.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 27 – The council will develop a plan, building on existing practice, focusing on specific initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of homeless households, supporting them to build better lives.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 28 – The Housing Options Service will work with other council services to ensure that homelessness prevention is integrated in their service plans. This includes Landlord Services, Citizen Services, Adult Social Care, Children and Families.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 29 – We will work with BCC Sanctuary Services to support the delivery of the council’s new Sanctuary Strategy. The strategy will outline our approach to supporting refugees and asylum seekers, including how we meet their basic needs and promote opportunity.	Begin delivery	Housing Options / Bristol Sanctuary Services
	Objective 2 Identify where we can share training, improve the use of data, and increase information-sharing amongst partners for better outcomes for those we work with.	Action 30 – Review the information and data that the council gathers in relation to homelessness and begin the development of a shared performance dashboard with partners.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 31 – The council and its partner homelessness service providers will develop information-sharing arrangements with agencies delivering drug and alcohol services, to ensure joined-up support for people is in place and to reduce the deaths of people known to homelessness services in the city.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 32 – Improve access to health surveillance data sources such as primary care activity to deliver consistency in identifying people experiencing homelessness from available data sources.	Begin planning	Public Health

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Working in Partnership A well connected, well trained, resilient sector	Objective 2 Identify where we can share training, improve the use of data, and increase information-sharing amongst partners for better outcomes for those we work with.	Action 33 – Deliver training to the homelessness and rough sleeping workforce to support their engagement with people using substances and with co-existing mental health conditions e.g. delivery of harm reduction approaches, peer support/mutual aid and the substance use treatment system.	Begin planning	Public Health
		Action 34 – Establish best practice where all rough sleepers, where substance use is an issue, have an offer of the right support for them from harm reduction through to trauma informed substance use treatment.	Begin planning	Public Health
		Action 35 – Housing Options will work with partners to produce a regular Women’s Rough Sleeping census to help the council better understand the number of women sleeping rough in the city.	Begin planning	Housing Options
	Objective 3 In addition to existing staff training on a trauma-informed approaches, embrace the 2024 Centre for Homelessness Impact work to promote our workforce’s wellbeing, recognising that this is the bedrock of compassionate and trauma-informed communication and practice.	Action 36 – The strategic forum will determine how trauma-informed expertise and the learning from the Changing Futures Programme Work should be applied to homelessness services in Bristol, including the involvement of people with lived experience.	Begin delivery	Housing Options

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Working in Partnership A well connected, well trained, resilient sector	Objective 4 Work with national government to influence national homelessness policy, co-ordinating with key partners to campaign and lobby as a city on key issues.	Action 37 – The council and relevant partners will aim to influence national policy through lobbying – including engaging with government on the national homelessness strategy. This lobbying will be informed by the council’s priorities, the national legislative framework, and this action plan’s priorities.	Begin delivery	Policy, Strategy and Communications
		Action 38 – In line with lobbying efforts, consider how the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy can be revised when new or emerging legislative changes are proposed or implemented by national government.	Begin delivery	Housing Options / Policy, Strategy and Communications
Helping people move forward Reduce the number of people in crisis	Objective 1 Work to ensure that places in longer-term accommodation are available, so that people spend less time in emergency and temporary accommodation (settings which can destabilise people’s lives)	Action 39 – The council and its partner housing providers will make more private rented, and rented affordable housing available, for homeless households to move to and consequently reduce pressure on temporary accommodation.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 40 – The Housing Options Service will retain close monitoring of the outcomes of the HomeChoice Bristol Allocations Policy, to ensure it enable allows more movement of households from temporary accommodation.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 41 – Improve collaboration between staff operating in health and housing to ensure that health needs are reflected adequately in move on plans.	Begin planning	Housing Options / Public Health
		Action 42 – Review and implement the HomeChoice Partnership agreement with Registered Provider partners.	Complete	Housing Options

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Helping people move forward Reduce the number of people in crisis	Objective 2 Ensure everyone has access to information on the full range of support and accommodation options that can help with moving forward.	Action 43 – Review and improve the council’s website, to include up to date, clear and accessible advice and information for citizens in housing need.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 44 – Use data to identify trends and possible gaps in service delivery and adapt homeless services accordingly.	Begin planning	Housing Options
		Action 45 – The Housing Options Service will deliver service improvements, interventions and information, informed by people with lived experience.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 46 – Encourage staff to conduct multiple disadvantage awareness training. This includes My Team Around Me training for those working with people who face multiple disadvantage and trauma informed training for identified areas of the housing workforce.	Begin delivery	Housing Options
		Action 47 – Continue to collaborate with Changing Futures across the My Team Around Me Exchange groups (lived experience groups, practitioners, stewards and multiple disadvantage transformation board) to progress system issues and opportunities for collaboration.	Complete	Housing Options
	Objective 3 Commission targeted homelessness services that recognise and build on people’s existing skills and aspirations, to help them flourish.	Action 48 – The Housing Options Service will commission a partner agency which will support clients (referred to them by the council) to help them into employment as well as helping them secure a private rented sector tenancy.	Complete	Housing Options
		Action 49 – The strategic forum will better understand the skills and experience of clients, over the course of this strategy, via engagement with them and the services which work with them, in order to ensure that they receive the most appropriate advice and information to access the opportunities available to them.	Begin planning	Housing Options



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