

Homelessness Strategy Delivery Plan 2019-2024

The Homelessness Partnership Group meet quarterly to identify and support partners to take the delegated lead on the delivery plan actions, establish task and finish groups and provide updates in line with progress made. The Homelessness Partnership Group will identify and review the prioritisation of the actions below in line with changing local need and other influencing factors.

Thematic Area	Priority	Actions	Responsible Organisation/s	Resources
Avoid	Manage the impact of reduced housing related support and benefit changes in line with contractual agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Services to participate in the development of a local Universal Credit programme to fully understand and identify actions to tackle the impact of benefit changes Seek funding to maintain investment in core supported housing services Explore potential to have a dedicated money advice officer/services to provide effective debt and budgeting advice services Work with Work with supported housing , other providers and Stakeholders to identify households at risk of homelessness and engage with them. 	Halton Borough Council Divisional Manager Principal Homeless Officer Job centre plus Department for Work And Pension Partner agencies Citizens Advice Bureau	Staff Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding
	Ensure homeless households are supported to access long term, affordable housing in the social and private rented sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to operate the Bond Guarantee Scheme for eligible households Increase the network of 	Principal Homeless Officer Halton Borough Council Housing Solutions Team	Staff Funding

		<p>landlords to work directly with the Local Authority to provide the Payment Recovery Scheme properties for homeless households, in line with discretionary housing payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an Empty Homes Review to bring properties back into use and fully utilise potential stock to meet growing demand • Undertake a targeted financial awareness campaign through social media to raise awareness of financial responsibility, budgeting skills and support and advice services. • Review personalised housing plans to identify activity • Use of discretionary housing payments maximised for rent in advance/deposits agreed and administered by Housing Solutions and Housing Benefits 	<p>Private Landlords Environmental Health Planning Commissioning Support Providers</p>	
	<p>Reduce the numbers/impact of rough sleeping through development of Rough Sleeping services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assertive approach to target rough sleepers • Flexible and accessible services • Support and empower rough sleepers to access alternative options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit Department of Communities and Local Government Rough Sleeping Grant funding bid • Subject to grant, explore options to remodel and/or extend rough sleeping accommodation and support services • Work with stakeholders to support vulnerable people who may be at risk of becoming a rough sleeper, by developing an 	<p>Principal Homeless Officer Housing Solutions Team Commissioning Statutory & Voluntary agencies Support Providers</p>	<p>Staff Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding</p>

		integrated support plans		
Resolve	Increase options/alternatives to eviction through developing fair eviction protocols with all local housing providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review eviction protocols to ensure they remain effective and in line with the legal framework Work with stakeholders to develop options available 	Housing Solutions Team Legal Services Courts Environmental Health Partner Agencies	Staff
	Develop sufficient temporary accommodation that meets the predicted future demands of homeless applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop suitable alternatives to bed and breakfast accommodation for 16/17 year old homeless applicants Review availability of bed and breakfast accommodation to meet the needs of emergency homelessness presentations Complete Accommodation Scrutiny review to identify gaps and gather evidence to identify need for supported hostel accommodation Subject to the outcome of a review, seek external funding to support implementation of the recommendations 	Principal Homeless Officer Housing Solutions Team Commissioning Social and Private Landlords Support Providers Partner agencies	Staff External Funding
	Work in partnership with the Liverpool City Region to address homelessness prevention and responses to homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement the Housing First Programme 	Principal Homeless Officer Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Housing First Team Housing Solutions Adult Social Care Support Providers Partner Agencies	Staff Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding

Prevent	Address issues with Universal Credit direct payments, developing local initiatives in the short term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the national campaign to lobby for the impact of benefit changes to be addressed through continued local involvement in the Job Centre Plus Partnership Group on Benefit Changes and Social Impact 	Housing Solutions Team Job Centre Plus Department of Work and Pensions Housing Benefits Welfare Rights Citizens Advice Bureau Partner agencies	Staff
	Increase the provision of information availability of signposting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with statutory and voluntary sectors to increase their role and awareness of service provision 	Principal Homeless Officer Housing Solutions Team Partner agencies Accommodation & Support Providers	Staff Homelessness Grant
	Develop seamless engagement for people, particularly those with mental health or other health conditions, who may find it difficult to deal with a number of agencies, services and professionals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi agency assessment to identify clients who may be vulnerable to homelessness Work with providers to establish a 'key contact' approach to supporting people in accessing the right housing and homelessness prevention information and support Deliver tailored group workshop sessions to vulnerable clients Review move on arrangements for supported accommodation to ensure that they remain effective and people are provided with independent living skills to support transition 	Halton Borough Council Divisional Manager Principal Homeless Officer Housing Solutions Team Adult Social Care Children's Social Care Partner Agencies Support Providers	Staff
	Develop a joined up Halton 'offer' to homelessness prevention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with stakeholders, providers and 3rd sector to develop a 'Halton offer' that 	Principal Homeless Officer Housing Solutions Team	Staff External Funding

		<p>brings together a network of homelessness prevention support services from across multiple sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define service referral routes and opportunities for joint working to increase capacity within prevention services • Encourage stakeholder membership and participation in the local Homelessness Forum • Refer all qualifying households to Pathways to Employment to assist people to become work ready and secure training and employment opportunities. • Local advice / signposting made available on line 	<p>Internal & External Partner agencies. Job Centre Plus Citizens Advice Bureau</p>	
	Effectively engage with young people to help them avoid homelessness and feel confident in accessing support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the potential to develop a 'youth hub' model, working with Education and Children's Social Care stakeholders, to enable young people to access information, prevention and support services at the right time and in the right format for them. 	<p>Principal Housing Officer Housing Solutions Team Commissioning Children's Social Care Youth Services Partner agencies Social & Private landlords</p>	<p>Staff External Funding</p>
	Develop effective links with Children's Social Care, education and training to prevent crisis homeless presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Education and Training stakeholders to develop a programme to equip young people with the necessary life skills to live independently and 	<p>Housing Solutions Team Children Social Care Halton Borough Council Children and Adults Social Care</p>	<p>Staff</p>

		<p>maintain tenancies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a process for the Early Intervention Team/ Children's Social care to notify Housing Solutions Team to prevent homeless presentations • Define who holds the duty to young people when it comes to accommodation. • Develop joint plans for all young people to ensure that their support and housing needs are being addressed 	<p>Job Centre Plus Employment Agencies Citizens Advice Bureau Support Providers</p>	
	<p>Ensure that asylum seekers and refugee client group have access to sustainable housing and support services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued involvement with Liverpool City Region approach to address Government commitment to resettle refugees and asylum seekers • Review and agree future local commitments and participation within the Syrian Resettlement Programme • Multi-agency approach to meet the needs and expectations of this vulnerable client group and integrate them within the community. • Improve communication with the Home Office and Commissioned services to understand service delivery and commitment towards asylum seekers. 	<p>Chief Executive Officer Principal Homeless Officer Home Office Liverpool City Region Local Authorities Commissioning Support Providers Social & Private Landlords Job Centre Plus Education & Training providers. Translation Services</p>	<p>Staff Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify future funding options to maximise and improve service provision for vulnerable clients groups. 		
	<p>Work to improve the health outcomes of people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness through integrated working</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint commissioning of services using a partnership approach to maximise funding and resources. • Increase partnership working, communication and education between health and homelessness services • Improve front line referral procedures to reduce repeat homelessness and hospital admissions. • Devise a process used to review all elements of an individual's care, across housing, social care, health, mental health, substance misuse services. • Offer a choice based service that allows the individual to choose a pathway that is right for them. Not one size fits all approach. • Ensure individuals with extensive complex needs, who are not registered with a GP, are identified and assisted through a multi-agency response. • Flexibility and priority for 	<p>Divisional Manager Principal Homeless Officer Halton Borough Council Adult Social care Children Social Care NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group Commissioning Public Health GP services Substance Misuse Services Support Agencies Accommodation Providers Partner Agencies</p>	<p>Staff Internal / External Funding</p>

		<p>individuals who are accommodated temporarily and require health care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop care service and awareness within the temporary accommodation provision. • Empower front line health care and homelessness staff to work with Public health colleagues. • Work with colleague sin health sector to configure a set of shared standards for health and homelessness services, to instil consistency and accuracy. 		
Protect	Offer accommodation and intensive support to vulnerable complex needs clients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a social letting agency as part of the Housing First Programme • Work with registered social landlords to promote signed up to the programme 	Managed directly by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.	Central Government
	Improve services and support for private rented sector to increase landlords/units available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek external funding to improve services within the private rented sector, such as payment recovery scheme • Establish a mechanism for sharing landlord/tenant success stories, learning and good practice with landlords and potential landlords • Support landlords and tenants to develop a mechanism for positive communication • Work in partnership to reinforce private rented sector offer. 	Divisional Manager Principal Officer Commissioning Social & Private Landlords Environmental Health Support Agencies Partner Agencies	Staff External Funding

		<p>Engage with private sector landlords to fully utilise the accommodation resource and achieve 10 private sector discharges per year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote the Bond Guarantee Scheme to private landlords to increase bond amounts and duration		
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