

ROUGH SLEEPING BIRMINGHAM HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY CONSULTATION

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Working together to end street homelessness



Making a positive difference everyday to people's lives



Introduction

We are consulting members of the public on our Rough Sleeping Addendum which forms part of our overall Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+. Since 2017 there have been several significant local and national developments specifically relating to rough sleeping.

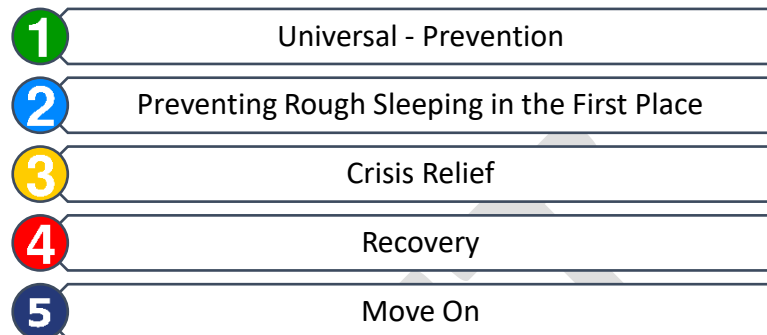
- **April 2018** - Birmingham was one of three regional pilot areas in the country to establish Housing First with partners across the West Midlands Combined Authority, offering those who have experienced rough sleeping, with chronic health and social care needs a stable home from which to rebuild their lives, through the offer of intensive wrap around support.
- **August 2018** - the Government published a National Rough Sleeping Strategy setting a goal to end rough sleeping in England by 2027. Alongside a package of short term funding the government announced it would require local authorities to update their existing Homelessness Strategies detailing specific work being undertaken in response to rough sleeping.
- **November 2019** - following eight consecutive annual increases in the numbers of people sleeping rough, there was 42% reduction which continued moving downwards in early 2020.
- **March 2020** - as part of its emergency COVID-19 public health measures, the Government issued an '*Everyone-In*' instruction and additional accommodation funding to local housing authorities, in order to accommodate anyone sleeping rough on the streets including people who traditionally had limited access to own to their local services as rough sleeping rough. This resulted in reduction of 80% in rough sleeping less than 6 months.

Background

Multiple services are involved in meeting the needs of people sleeping rough. These are normally initiated through street-based outreach services linking rough sleepers to key services including emergency night shelters, housing options, specialist physical and mental services such as substance misuse and housing and wellbeing recovery support and prevention.

Often people who sleep rough will need several of these services at once operating across public, voluntary and private sectors, requiring a coordinated approach to provide timely support.

Our overall approach to reduce rough sleeping by embedding comprehensive and preventative solutions providing pathways out of rough sleeping. To help us achieve our action plan and strategy, which is based on five action areas outlined within our overall Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017+: -



1. Universal – Prevention

We aim to implement Preventative measures in place to both to raise public awareness around rough sleeping including directing help for someone at risk of rough sleeping. It also includes pre-emptive action aimed at averting rough sleeping through collaborative action across organisations, raising public awareness and learning to continuously improve services. Examples of these collective approaches include using processes such as adults safeguarding reviews following the death of any rough sleeper and collectively co-design a preventative intervention across services to prevent rough sleeping.

2. Preventing rough sleeping in the first place

We want to target prevention at vulnerable groups most at risk of rough sleeping working in partnership with homeless prevention partner organisations and the wider care and support sector including health and social care.

The groups we have identified are:

- Young people
- Prison leavers (offenders)
- Vulnerable single adults
- People affected by domestic abuse.




Birmingham has been developing joint work and multi-partner local delivery plans centered around key support needs and circumstances to provide an offer to prevent rough sleeping amongst this high risk groups.

3. Crisis Relief

We want to help individuals facing a crisis and who are rough sleeping on the streets. The key frontline service is the Rough Sleeping Outreach Service which initiates direct contact with people sleeping rough. This is a recently expanded service that currently provides a core offer including rapid access to short term accommodation and ongoing support with progression towards settled housing. The service has access to a wide range of other services linked to it including drug and alcohol treatment support and mental health.

4. Recovery

We want to keep people from returning to the streets through an improved coordinated core system. It is not just about a roof over someone's head but personalised support. Below are three key areas to our recovery approach:

-  **Housing First Pilot** – aimed at people with a high level of complex or multiple needs dealing with immediate housing issues. It will also provide long term support including housing, wellbeing, mental health and substance misuse.
-  **Housing and Wellbeing Services** – focus on those with specific multiple needs to ensure no one returns to the streets. The service includes a range of support from low level advice to more intensive support and provision similar to the wrap-around support available through Housing First.
-  **Inclusion** – sustaining recovery requires longer term actions to improve health and economic wellbeing. Our action plan includes linking a range of interventions to help people access education, training and employment, through a project PURE.

5. Move-On

In order to ensure there are adequate levels and types of suitable accommodation across the city to accommodate anyone sleeping rough to move out of emergency night shelters.

We would like you to tell us what you think by completing the questionnaire. Below are documents setting out in more detail what we want to do:

Rough Sleeping Addendum to Homelessness Prevention Strategy	• insert link
Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2020-23	• insert link
Rough Sleeping Needs Analysis, January 2020	• insert link

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