

## **South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2021 Consultation Document.**

**1. Please tell us your name**

**2. Please tell us your job title (if applicable)**

**3. Please tell us which organisation you work for (if applicable)**

**4. Please state your e-mail address**

**5. Please give a contact telephone number**

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#### **Introduction:**

All local authorities have a strategic responsibility to deliver comprehensive and effective services to homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

The three Boroughs of Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe have worked in partnership to deliver these requirements across the South Nottinghamshire area. These services are detailed in the [South Nottinghamshire Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017](#), and define how we will help people, the services / support we can provide and a narrative of the overall nature of homelessness across the three boroughs, identifying emerging needs and issues.

#### **Reasons for the Review:**

Since the joint strategy was adopted, there have been a range of key national policy drivers which have refocussed the way in which housing services are delivered. This includes the introduction of the **Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA)** which came into force in April 2018, and extended the duties owed by Councils to people who are both homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. A key challenge is to engage with

the correct audience at an early stage. Various pieces of research conducted around the county, including a specific study into the needs of under 35 years olds, which has shaped the proposals for the review of the strategy. A number of key actions were recommended, which include:

- Increasing access to advice, assistance and mediation to prevent tenancies from breaking down
- Commission support to help individuals in a range of ways to remedy homelessness or prevent tenancy loss, for example, through floating support
- Improve the availability and access to alternative affordable housing for under 35s through, for example, developing a social lettings service and involving younger people in the design and delivery of information, advice and other projects
- Maximise opportunities to develop partnerships which are presented by the Homelessness Reduction Act's 'Duty to Refer'.

Additionally, in Autumn 2018, the Government published the **Rough Sleeping Strategy**, which included a range of measures to end rough sleeping by 2027. These measures include a requirement that Local Housing Authorities refresh their homelessness strategies to include these requirements and produce Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies. Therefore, this consultation provides an overview of key recent activities around support people who are, or are at risk of, rough sleeping and seeks views from partner organisations around next step priorities.

### **Process:**

This review provides an opportunity to revisit the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness Strategy to ensure that the overall priorities and actions that were published in 2017 are still appropriate and best meet the needs of our residents.

The review will also introduce new initiatives and approaches which will enable the Councils to respond to the specific requirements of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) and the National Rough Sleeping Strategy (NRSS).

This consultation document provides an opportunity for stakeholders to input into the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. Further on in the consultation document is a list of the initiatives which we will be looking to utilise to help us deliver against these challenging targets, and we would greatly appreciate your views to help us to shape the future service.

Please return any comments regarding the priorities for the document (as stated below) to [john.sheil@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:john.sheil@gedling.gov.uk) by 30th October 2019. Should you have any queries, please contact John Sheil on 0115 901 3672.

## **Our priorities**

**In the 2017 Homelessness Strategy, we set out our priorities as follows:**

- **Minimising demand**
- **Reducing the extent of crisis presentations**
- **Delivering effective services at the point of contact**
- **Providing appropriate accommodation options**
- **Moving people away from homelessness and rough sleeping**

**1. Do you agree that these priorities are still appropriate?**

Agree

Disagree

**2. What other priorities do you think we consider and why?**

## **Minimising Demand.**

### **Overview**

We will work on a strong multi agency basis to minimise the demand for homelessness services. We will deliver interventions to ensure that households know where to access advice and support at the appropriate time that assists them to avoid or deal with issues that could lead to homelessness. We will seek to work with partners to engage with young people to provide a consistent message about the difficulties of leaving home at a young age, the realities of housing choice, including affordability and the likelihood of needing to share accommodation.

### **What will success look like?**

There will be a choice of homes and tenures which meet a range of housing needs including for people with mental and physical health issues

There will be effective engagement with young people around homelessness and its consequences

There will be less homelessness and in particular, a reduction in rough sleeping

The impact of welfare reform will be mitigated through the early identification and provision of interventions for affected households

### **How will success be achieved?**

Work in partnership across the three Boroughs and with other partners to educate people about the reality and risks of being homeless

Monitor the impact of Welfare Reform to both households and the housing sector and seek to minimise negative consequences

Ensure good quality information and advice is available to prevent homelessness

Ensure that our Allocations Schemes are easy to use and appropriately prioritise people in housing need

Continue to work effectively and in a collaborative way across all three Boroughs and with other partners relating to homelessness prevention

Work with partners to promote independent living skills and prevent relationship breakdown

We will work with landlords across tenures to enable them to accommodate people in housing need, including those with support needs including mental and physical health issues

We will seek housing and support solutions for people with specific needs and

ensure there is equality of access

**3. Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?**

**4. What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the Homelessness Strategy was published in 2017? Do you have any case studies or evidence relating to this?**

**5. What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 3 years?**

**6. What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 3 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?**

**7. Which are the key organisations/ contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?**

**8. Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?**

## **Reduce Crisis Presentations**

### **Overview**

Agencies across South Nottinghamshire have opportunities to reduce housing crisis amongst their core client groups. This can be achieved by working in a more joined up way to identify those households at high risk of homelessness by making sure agencies can recognise the indicators of housing stress and be able to act appropriately to prevent homelessness. Every opportunity should be taken as early as possible to prevent homelessness.

### **Outcomes: How we will know we are there**

There will be a more straightforward and transparent system to access affordable homes of all types

There will be a reduction of households presenting as 'homeless tonight'

There will be no 16 - 17 year olds placed into Bed and Breakfast accommodation

There will be fewer families placed in to emergency accommodation

### **To achieve this, we will:**

Seek to offer consistent advice and assist at the earliest opportunity

Ensure Homelessness Services are approachable and easy to access

Advise and enable mediation within families to facilitate a return home to allow for a planned move rather than one in crisis, where appropriate

Utilise evidence to assess and seek to minimise future housing issues

**9. Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?**

**10. What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the Homelessness Strategy was published in 2017? Do you have any case studies or evidence relating to this?**

**11. What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 3 years?**

**12. What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 3 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?**

**13. Which are the key organisations / contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?**

**14. What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?**

**15. Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?**

## **Deliver effective services at the point of contact**

We will ensure that households who approach services across South Nottinghamshire will be able to access effective advice and assistance to prevent homelessness, either by enabling them to remain where they are or by facilitating a move into more appropriate accommodation.

Homeless households will be able to access pro-active homelessness prevention services, an assessment of need and a range of advice and options that will enable access to short stay or longer stay accommodation. These services will also provide access to other services promoting education, training and employment opportunities, health services, life-skills and benefits advice. These will strengthen people's chances of resolving their housing problems.

### **Outcomes: How we will know we are there**

There are a range of housing pathways in place that enable people to resolve their housing difficulties

There will be a reduction in the numbers of households entering temporary accommodation

There will be effective services available by partners to assist people with a range of physical and mental health issues

There is improvement in the health of homeless households and a reduction in the numbers accessing Accident & Emergency and other more acute services

There will be effective and joined up services available for people with mental health issues who are discharged from hospital or care

There will be improved support for prison leavers to ensure that accommodation and appropriate support is available

### **To get there we will:**

Seek to ensure that services are approachable

We will take a proactive preventative approach to make every contact matter and easy to access

Engage with partners to ensure that services are effective and joined up

Undertake a full assessment of need

Provide housing advice, facilitating access to short and longer stay accommodation and support



Provide clear and meaningful housing and support pathways

Work with a range of partners to provide access to other services that promote health and wellbeing, employment, education and training opportunities

**16. Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?**

**17. What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the Homelessness Strategy was published in 2017? Do you have any case studies or evidence relating to this?**

**18. What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 3 years?**

**19. What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 3 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?**

**20. Which are the key organisations / contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?**

**21. What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?**

**22. Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?**

## **Provide appropriate accommodation options**

It is crucial that partners are able to facilitate access to appropriate accommodation to prevent and resolve homelessness in the short, medium and long term. To effectively achieve this, we need to:

Facilitate access to the Private Rented Sector for all groups. Landlords should feel confident that tenancies are sustainable

Ensure that allocations of housing in the social sector are needs led through the Homeseach Choice Based Lettings system

Ensure that there are appropriate pathways into supported housing and also appropriate pathways into move on accommodation where this is appropriate.

### **Outcomes: How we will know we are there**

There will be a clear pathway in place to enable people to progress to secure and sustainable accommodation

There will be fewer failed tenancies

There will be effective engagement with the Private Rented Sector

There will be less incidences of homelessness

There will be fewer households in temporary accommodation

### **To get there we will:**

Seek to ensure that people have access to appropriate accommodation

Continue to work effectively across the three Boroughs in the provision of temporary accommodation

Ensure that a range of housing options are available and are used effectively

Work with partners to support people to develop their independent living skills where appropriate

Effectively engage with partners, including County Council, to further develop youth homelessness services

Develop and strengthen partnerships with a range of housing providers and landlords, particularly the Private Rented Sector to build upon the range of housing and support options available to residents

**23. Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?**

**24. What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the Homelessness Strategy was published in 2017? Do you have any case studies or evidence relating to this?**

**25. What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 3 years?**

**26. What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 3 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?**

**27. What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?**

**28. Do you have any other comments specifically relating to this priority?**

## **Move people away from homelessness and rough sleeping**

It is essential that we seek to reduce incidences of repeat homelessness through enabling a range of options that will assist people in accessing education, training, employment or other appropriate support. This will assist people to move away from homelessness and rough sleeping.

As stated, a key driver of the review of the homelessness strategy has been the publication of the [National Rough sleeping Strategy](#) in August 2018. The strategy provides a renewed focus on tackling issues around rough sleeping and a commitment to end rough sleeping by 2027. As part of the Rough Sleeping Strategy is a requirement for Councils to refresh their homelessness strategies and rebadge them as Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies by the end of 2019.

Nottinghamshire Councils have recently had very significant success in gaining external funding to reduce rough sleeping by both supporting those people who are currently sleeping rough and putting additional services in place to support people at risk of rough sleeping. However, it should be noted that the funding is provided on a short term basis but future availability of funding being uncertain.

Recent funding has included:

### **Rough Sleeping Initiative:**

A total of £795,000 has been awarded to a partnership led by Gedling Borough Council on behalf of the seven district/ borough councils; Framework Housing Association and Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health to tackle rough sleeping by funding a comprehensive street outreach team, incorporating clinicians such as prescribing nurses, mental health nurses and social workers along with additional funding for emergency accommodation. The service includes support around substance misuse and includes a focus on both the established community and those attributable to the use of Novel Psychotropic Substances (NPS) and Cannabinoids (Spice/Black Mamba).

### **Rapid Rehousing Pathway:**

A further successful MCHLG funding application for £550k was awarded for the Rapid Rehousing Pathway. This initiative covers a range of services including:

### **Call Before You Serve service**

An independent service provided by Decent and Safe Homes (DASH) which aims to engage with and support landlords if they are considering action to repossess a property. The team works comprehensively across Nottinghamshire to try to find solutions to sustain tenancies, or if it is not possible to work with that landlord to see if they would re-let their property to someone referred by the local council.

### **Social Lettings Agency**

A private lettings agent has been commissioned to work with private landlords to encourage those landlords to let their properties to local authorities by offering a range of support services and incentives, such as

- Tenancy Liaison, and tenant identification.
- Access to the call before you service scheme – available to all landlords
- Tenancy management

### **Homelessness Navigators**

The navigators will have a small case load and a budget of £500 per person to help with rehousing costs. Their purpose is to engage with the most challenging cases, often requiring a multi-disciplinary approach.

To assist with our objective of delivering a more preventative as opposed to reactionary service, the navigators will be located at the main sources of rough sleeping within the county, namely Nottingham and Ranby prisons; hospitals and mental health facilities.

### **Supported Lettings**

For Gedling Borough Council The YMCA and The Friary have identified 8 units with a further 4 to follow across the Broxtowe, Gedling and Rushcliffe locality. The YMCA is also looking to secure 26 units of accommodation for Mansfield and Ashfield.

These properties will assist with the rehousing of those applicants with additional needs

### **Landlord liaison officers**

These posts will work with landlords to access additional affordable homes and provide support to tenants who may be experiencing difficulties with their landlord.

### **Outcomes: How we will know we are there**

Appropriate support will be in place to enable people to improve and maintain their independence

There will be fewer incidences of repeat homelessness

Opportunities will be taken to engage with partners to maximise projects relating to work and apprenticeships

Rough sleepers will be better supported through effective outreach services which support tackling issues such as substance misuse and mental health issues

More homeless people will access education, training and employment opportunities

Ensure that there are effective support services for people being discharged from prisons, mental health care and general hospitals

Further bolster accommodation options for people who are sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough

**To get there we will:**

Seek to ensure people have access to appropriate housing and support

Ensure that there are sufficient move on options from supported accommodation

Seek to ensure that there is accessible support if tenancies start to fail

Ensure there are clear links to health promotion, education, training and employment opportunities

Develop an effective assertive outreach service for people who are sleeping rough

Explore opportunities to develop a Housing First model in the South of the County

Bolster work with our neighbouring Districts, Boroughs and Nottingham City Council to provide effective support to enable a reduction in rough sleeping

**29. Does the priority give a reasonable overview of what we need to do? If not, what is missing?**

**30. What have been the main achievements relating to this priority in South Nottinghamshire since the Homelessness Strategy was published in 2017? Do you have any case studies or evidence relating to this?**

**31. What do you see as the main challenges or opportunities relating to this priority over the next 3 years?**

**32. What should be the key actions to enable this priority to be taken forward over the next 3 years and how do you think you/ your organisation can help to take the action forward?**

**33. Which are the key organisations/ contacts that are essential to driving this priority forward?**

**34. What are the key national/ local drivers/ policies or strategies linked to this priority?**

**With regard to the rough sleeping services identified as funded through RSI and RRP:**

**35. Do you feel there are any additional support services which we should be considering?**

**36. Do you consider that these services will have a positive impact relating to rough sleeping?**

**With regard to rough sleeping more generally**

**37. Do you feel that rough sleeping is a particular issue in your area, if so, how?**

**38. Are you aware of the range of service which are currently available to assist with rough sleeping?**

**39. What has been your experience in accessing services for rough sleepers?**

**40. Finally, do you have any final comments relating to the South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy?**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.**

Once the survey has closed, the responses will be considered and resultant changes made to the draft South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019-2021. A summary of responses will be available on request by emailing [john.sheil@gedling.gov.uk](mailto:john.sheil@gedling.gov.uk)

The draft strategy will then progress through to adoption and will be in place by end of 2019.