

Foreword

As the portfolio holders for Broxtowe Borough Council, Gedling Borough Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council with responsibility for homelessness, we are pleased to be introducing the new South Nottinghamshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

Over recent years, the Homelessness landscape has seen a number of significant changes and challenges, including new duties on Council's and other public sector organisations to prevent and relieve homelessness. The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act and the Domestic Abuse Act have been positive steps in helping vulnerable groups, this has been set against a backdrop of other challenges, notably, Welfare Reform, Universal Credit and the COVID-19 pandemic.

More recently and particularly since the COVID 19 pandemic, there has been an increased emphasis on assisting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping with opportunities to provide specialist support and accommodation. Successful Rough Sleeper Initiatives and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme Services will continue to play a key role in ending rough sleeping.

We recognise the importance and benefits of effective partnerships in improving the wider health and wellbeing outcomes for homeless and vulnerable individuals. A key focus of this strategy will be the ongoing collaboration between stakeholders across South Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire as a whole. Successful partnership working between the Borough Councils, Nottinghamshire County Council, Registered Housing Providers, Public Health and Commissioned Service Providers, Voluntary, Charitable Agencies and Community Interest Companies will ensure a system wide approach to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.

The strategy sets out 6 key strategic aims and contains an action plan that outlines how these will be delivered. Progress on the action plan will be reported to the Broxtowe Interagency Forum and reviewed on a quarterly basis. It will also be monitored through the respective governance arrangements.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this Strategy and in particular the vital role of Partners, who continue to play an important role in delivering the strategic priorities within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.