

# LINCOLNSHIRE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2022-2028

## PROGRESS UPDATE

The strategy was approved by the Council late 2022.

The actions of the strategy are overseen by Jemma Munton, Lincolnshire Housing Partnerships Manager supported by the seven Lincolnshire District Councils known as the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy Group.

Regular updates are provided to the Lincolnshire Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group which is chaired by Councillor William Gray, District and County Councillor.

## The Priorities

Priority 1: Prevent	Identify those that are at risk of becoming homeless as early as possible and through the Duty to Refer to prevent homelessness or rough sleeping
Priority 2: Protect	Identifying the most vulnerable and ensuring individuals are safe from harm, and have access to the support and services to maintain their health and wellbeing
Priority 3: Partnership	Strengthen and maintain relationships to bring together resources and knowledge to prevent and relieve homelessness
Priority 4: Place	Ensure accommodation is both available and suitable for those that need it and explore opportunities to increase the supply of accommodation
Priority 5: Plan	Take a proactive, joined up and flexible approach to tackling rough sleeping and homelessness and explore funding opportunities to ensure we meet the needs of all client groups

## Progress

Throughout 2023, the strategic leads from each of the seven Lincolnshire District Councils plus key partners including Lincolnshire County Council, housing and support providers have met to agree which actions should be prioritised and progressed. This is kept under review because homelessness and rough sleeping pressures regularly change such as from the cost of living crisis.

Over the last 12 months, three key workstreams have been prioritised:



### **1. INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF ACCOMMODATION (PLACE ACTION GROUP)**

- Specialist Accommodation Review – to be completed by end of November
  - Identifying current needs
  - Mapping and reviewing existing provision
  - Exploring delivery models and best practice
- Exploring Temporary Accommodation procurement
- Engaging with Registered Providers to explore countywide schemes
- Meeting with Homes England to discuss funding opportunities
- Options paper to be completed to agree a way forward

Increasing the supply and range of accommodation to meet a vast range of support needs is essential if homelessness is to be reduced and rough sleeping brought to an end.



## **2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES THROUGH MULTI AGENCY WORKING (PREVENT ACTION GROUP)**

- Duty to refer review underway – task and finish group to be setup
- Reviewing working practices and protocols
- Pathways to Homelessness Paper – looking at interventions through a whole systems approach
- Mapping exercise of services to identify gaps
- Ensuring continuity of care, telling stories once, trauma – informed practices

Without providing the right support at the right time, many people need will continue to fall into homelessness and rough sleeping. Without joined up services, we will continue to fail our residents.



## **3. IMPROVING ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (PROTECT ACTION GROUP)**

- Discussions with partners to improve working practices
- Awaiting the Lincoln Holistic Health for Homeless review outcomes and to make a case for a rollout across the county
- Link in with the Mental Health Prevention Concordat
- Highlighting interventions to stop cases becoming complex
- Working with Community Connectors on outreach services

Poor mental health can result in homelessness if the right support is not available. Access to mental health services is improving but it must be accessible to all including people who are homeless and sleeping rough including those who are reluctant or struggle to engage with services.

### **What's next?**

- Review the Lincolnshire Duty to Refer Policy.
- Review findings and recommendations from the Specialist Accommodation Review.
- Finalise the Lincolnshire procedure – Supporting Clients with Restricted Eligibility.
- Continue to attend LCC's review of "Team around the Adult" and make recommendations for change.
- Continue to attend the Lincolnshire Prison Release Housing Protocol meetings and assist with implementing recommendations to reduce the number of people released as homeless.
- Consider introducing a Hospital Discharge Protocol related to people who are homeless.
- Review of the Lincolnshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy.