

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for Erewash

2020 to 2023

Contents

[Foreword 3](#_Toc54691804)

[National Context 4](#_Toc54691805)

[Local Context 5](#_Toc54691806)

[Introduction and Strategy Vision 7](#_Toc54691807)

[Homelessness review (evidence base) 8](#_Toc54691808)

[Consultation and key messages 10](#_Toc54691809)

[Homelessness Themes, Aims and Objectives 11](#_Toc54691810)

[Theme A: Identify Homelessness Triggers Earlier 11](#_Toc54691811)

[Theme B: Enable People to Prevent Their Own Homelessness 12](#_Toc54691812)

[Theme C: Reduce Rough Sleeping in Erewash 15](#_Toc54691813)

[Delivery Approach 18](#_Toc54691814)

[Planned Actions for Delivery 19](#_Toc54691815)

[How Will Change Be Measured? 20](#_Toc54691816)

# Foreword

Anyone can become homeless, and there are many different causes. It has a detrimental effect on individuals, families and communities and can undermine social cohesion.

Homelessness is a concern for people across a range of situations in the borough: from families who are having to move from privately rented tenancies to single vulnerable people struggling to find a suitable home, with support where necessary.

Whereas the scale of the issue is relatively low in Erewash in relation to the national picture, it does appear to be rising. The Council is aware of the impact homelessness can have on people's lives as well as on the services needed to support those affected. The costs of tackling the effects of homelessness can be high when compared to the costs associated with proactively seeking to prevent homelessness in the first place.

The close working of partner agencies helps provide an understanding of homelessness issues in Erewash but a greater understanding is needed. It is important therefore that partners listen to people who are, or have been, homeless to learn about the issues which have affected their lives.

I am very pleased to introduce the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the borough on behalf of the Erewash Homelessness Partnership.

The vision is *that no-one should be homeless, or fear homelessness, in Erewash.*

To help deliver the vision the key themes of the strategy are to:

* Identify homelessness triggers earlier.
* Enable people to prevent their own homelessness.
* Reduce rough sleeping in Erewash.

Tackling homelessness will help improve the quality of life, health and wellbeing of many families and individuals who find themselves, often through no fault of their own, in difficult circumstances.

Through delivery of this strategy and the council’s continued collaboration with its partners I hope the lives of many people can be improved.

Councillor Mrs Valerie Clare

Lead Member for Community Engagement

# National Context

Homelessness and rough sleeping have become significant issues nationally.

* England has seen a steady increase of 60% in the number of households in temporary accommodation, from 50,430 (2012) to 80,720 (2018).[[1]](#footnote-1)
* Some of the factors thought to be influencing this rise are a shortage of housing across many parts of the country, welfare reform and increasing private sector rents.
* Local communities and charities have responded with action through food banks and night-shelters.

For central government and public services the impact of homelessness on public funds and services acts as a further driver to tackle the issues:

* The Impact of Homelessness on Health report states:

“*Evidence tells us that the health of people experiencing homelessness is significantly worse than that of the general population, and the cost of homelessness experienced by single people to the NHS and social care is considerable. A recent audit found that 41 per cent of homeless people reported a long term physical health problem and 45 per cent had a diagnosed mental health problem, compared with 28 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, in the general population. The last conservative estimate (2010) of the healthcare cost associated with this population was £86 million per year”.*[[2]](#footnote-2)

* The Evidence Review of the Cost of Homelessness report:

This report provides an overview of the magnitude of financial costs to government from homelessness, estimated to be £1 billion per year.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The Government has responded to the issues with new commitments, legislation, resources and funding including:

* A co-ordinated approach to the complex issues causing homelessness is being encouraged through joint work undertaken between Department of Health; Ministry of Justice; Department for Education; and the Department for Work and Pensions.
* The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017[[4]](#footnote-4) implemented significant changes regarding the duties placed on councils for dealing with homelessness.
* A cross-departmental Government team is providing funds and resources for schemes and additional staff to understand, scope and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.
* The Government’s national rough sleeper strategy[[5]](#footnote-5) has been developed and a commitment made to end rough sleeping by 2024 when the current parliamentary term ends.

# Local Context

The population of Erewash is estimated population at 117,300 for 2020 according to the Office of National Statistics’ projection.

There are a total of 51,777 properties in Erewash as of July 2019. The majority of these (96.8%) are currently occupied, and the remaining 3.2% of properties are vacant. Overall, 76.4% of homes in Erewash are owner occupied, 10.9% are privately rented and 12.7% of homes are social rented.

In terms of numbers, this equates to approximately 6,000 social homes in the Borough although only around 400 become available to let each year. Current allocations policies give priority for those in immediate crisis over those who have waited the longest. Since there are approximately 2000 households on the housing waiting list only a fraction of these will be allocated social housing in any given year.

This is not the total demand for social housing, as it only shows those who have decided to place themselves on the list. It should be looked at in conjunction with the Council’s [Strategic Housing Market Assessment](https://www.erewash.gov.uk/media/files/Environment-and-Planning/Housing_Strategy/Z_-_Erewash_HMANeedsUpdate_-_2012_pdf.pdf) (SHMA), which has been reviewed as part of the development of the Council’s local development framework.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is based on the findings from the Erewash Homelessness Review 2018[[6]](#footnote-6). The Review provides other background information and statistics which underpin the proposed actions in this strategy. It has been developed in accordance with the Homelessness Code of Guidance.[[7]](#footnote-7)

The Review includes: the nature of homelessness in Erewash, including current levels of homelessness:

* + Data analysed from approaches to the Housing Options Team as homeless/potentially homeless, analysed by reasons for homelessness, ethnicity, gender, age.
* Activities to reduce/relieve homelessness, including:
	+ Helping people to remain in their current home.
	+ Helping people to secure other accommodation through the choice based lettings scheme to access social housing, the bond bank scheme, the mortgage rescue scheme, supported housing, move-on housing and housing-related floating support. Initially temporary accommodation in bed and breakfast may be offered before a long term accommodation solution can be found.
* Homelessness levels and issues for particular groups, including:
	+ Prison leavers, care leavers, young people aged 16-17, former members of the armed forces, domestic abuse victims, people leaving hospital, people with mental ill health, single people aged 18-34, people who become homeless repeatedly, people with chaotic lifestyles, people whose behaviour may be high risk and people with high support needs.
	+ Rough Sleepers.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy covers the period to 2023 although this timeframe will be kept under review and may be altered if circumstances change.

The Council has a legal duty to prevent people from becoming homeless and this has been strengthened by the Homelessness Reduction Act. The Council will aim to help people secure temporary accommodation, at least, and to give help and advice to secure somewhere to stay longer term. Tackling the effects of homelessness can be costly to the public purse when compared to the costs associated with proactively seeking to prevent homelessness in the first place.

The strategy has been developed by the council in collaboration with a range of partner organisations working together as the Erewash Homelessness Partnership (EHP). These organisations include the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Supported accommodation providers
* Housing Associations
* Support Services
* Social Services
* Youth Services
* Community Safety Partnership
 | * Public Health
* Voluntary Organisations
* Education providers
* Advice organisations
* Health Services
* Police and Probation services
 |

# Introduction and Strategy Vision

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| Strategy Vision**That no-one should be homeless or fear homelessness in Erewash.** |

By implementing this strategy the Erewash Homeless Partnership (EHP) wants to:

Inform residents of Erewash who may be at risk of homelessness what the council and its partners will be doing to address the issues they may be facing;

* Inform other agencies and organisations of its aims and objectives so that opportunities for greater joined up working can be realised; and
* Demonstrate the partnership’s commitment to delivering the key themes of the strategy across the whole borough.

Homelessness is not just about people who have no home or permanent accommodation or who are rough sleeping. It can include issues such as:

* People who ‘sofa surf’ i.e. staying at friends’ or families’ homes on an ad hoc basis;
* People living in temporary accommodation, refuges or night-shelters;
* People at risk of violence or abuse where they are living;
* People living in privately rented accommodation who have been given notice to leave and are threatened with homelessness.

Erewash Borough Council has a legal duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to:

* Work actively with all households who are threatened with homelessness for a period of 56 days in order to prevent their homelessness; and
* Work actively with households who are homeless for a period of 56 days in order to relieve their homelessness (e.g. to ensure they have somewhere to stay, at least temporarily); and
* Accept referrals from a range of organisations, such as schools, hospitals, GPs, prisons and the Police. These organisations have a legal duty to refer people to the council’s homelessness service who they believe are homeless or who are facing a threat of homelessness within the next 56 days.

In Erewash therefore, as in any local authority area, there needs to be a range of effective homeless prevention tools and housing solutions to prevent and relieve homelessness.

This does not mean that the council has to, or can, provide all of the homelessness solutions itself. This strategy has been developed by the council in partnership with a number of organisations (the EHP) who are all committed to reducing and tackling homelessness.

The Partners in the EHP, and others, provide a wide range of services and assistance to help homeless people and rough sleepers. They also provide many services, such as support to vulnerable people, which could prevent or reduce the chances of people becoming homeless in the future.

Preventing people from becoming homeless, or keeping them in somewhere suitable to live, will help to improve their health and wellbeing. This, in turn, will reduce demand for other public services such as health, social care, and the police.

Across Derbyshire many aspects of tackling homelessness are shared, or will be similar, across district boundaries. A holistic and system-wide approach to reduce homelessness across Derbyshire is therefore being developed and implemented through the Derbyshire Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

# Homelessness review (evidence base)

A Homelessness Review[[8]](#footnote-8) for the district was carried out in 2018, the results of which have been used to formulate this strategy.

Key findings are as follows:

Number of families and individuals approaching the Council’s Housing Options Team each year for advice (“approaches”)

* Since 2014, the number of approaches each year has been fairly consistent at approximately 1,500 per year.
* Of the approaches, 20% to 28% were found not to be homeless after further investigation by the Housing Options Team i.e. people who needed housing advice but, on investigation, were not at risk of homelessness at that time.
* Of the remaining households (on average about 1,100 per year) who approached the Council and would be considered to be homeless or potentially homeless, the main reasons for homelessness remain consistent throughout the years 2013/14 to 2017/18:

| Reason for approach as homeless | Measurement |
| --- | --- |
| The end of privately rented tenancies i.e. a landlord has served a section 21 notice. | *Around 20% of all homeless approaches.* |
| Individuals can no longer stay with parents. | *Around 14% of all homeless approaches.* |
| They can no longer stay with other relatives or friends. | *Around 14% of all homeless approaches.* |
| A relationship breakdown with their partner (non-violent). | *Around 10% of all homeless approaches*.  |

* The number of people at risk of domestic abuse approaching the Housing Options team as homeless fell significantly over the last few years, due to dedicated helplines and direct support services. At the time of the 2013 Homelessness Strategy, domestic abuse was the main reason for people being accepted as homeless. It now forms only about 7% of cases approaching the council for assistance.
* The majority of approaches were from white applicants (94%). This is broadly in line with the latest data from the 2011 Census reporting that 97% of the population are white.
* Over 49% of all approaches in 2017/18 were from households where the main applicant was under 35. This equated to 560 households of the 1,133 approaches in this year.
* People aged 16 to 17 formed 1% of approaches since most cases in this age group approached social services directly.
* Older people (aged 65 or over) approaching as homeless or at risk of homelessness made up 6% of approaches.
* There were fewer than six approaches in the last four years for assistance from people who identified as Gypsies or Travellers.
* With 2,078 households (at October 2019) waiting for a limited number of housing association properties many will stay in privately rented homes for a number of years, and some may never be allocated a suitable housing association home.

# Consultation and key messages

This Homelessness Strategy has been developed with partners through the Erewash Housing and Homeless forum which includes representatives from:

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| * Supported accommodation providers
* Housing Associations
* Support Services
* Social Services
* Youth Services
* Community Safety Partnership
 | * Public Health
* Voluntary Organisations
* Education providers
* Advice organisations
* Health Services
* Police and Probation services
 |

Evidence from the Homelessness Review was shared with partners and helped in the development of the strategy’s key themes:

* **To identify homeless triggers earlier**

Key learning - the importance of highlighting and addressing the issues for the digitally excluded, the overwhelmed, the chaotic.

* **To enable people to prevent their own homelessness**

Key learning – the importance of ‘self-help’ prevention tools.

* **To end rough sleeping**

Key learning - the difficulty of collecting data; feelings that some people are too high risk to other people to be taken into current supported accommodation and winter shelter schemes.

# Homelessness Themes, Aims and Objectives

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| Theme A: Identify Homelessness Triggers Earlier**Aim:****To understand the issues which may eventually lead to homelessness as early as possible.** |
| *To achieve this, the Erewash Homelessness Partners will work together to promote, encourage and enable:***A1: An understanding of the causes of homelessness in Erewash.****A2: Partnership working to tackle the causes of homelessness early on.** |

**Why this theme, aims and objectives have been chosen**

* 1. Over 1,000 people approach the Council as homeless each year. Although the immediate reason for homelessness is recorded, earlier causation for this event is often not well understood. Having more detailed and insightful information can assist the planning and co-ordination of the right services, solutions and advice across the partnership.
	2. The shared aim is to commission, carry out and/or contribute to research, reviews and studies to prevent the risk of homelessness at an earlier stage. Early identification of people at risk of becoming homeless is a priority for all partners including those in public and clinical health settings, social care and support services. It will also include social and private landlords whose tenants may have problems with managing their rent, or be in dispute with their landlord over things such as behaviour which may be perceived as anti-social.

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| Theme B: Enable People to Prevent Their Own Homelessness**Aim:** **To ensure people have the information, resources and options to resolve their housing situations and avoid homelessness.****To identify and assist those people who need more support to avoid homelessness.** |
| *To achieve this, the Erewash Homelessness Partners will work in partnership to promote, encourage and enable:***B1: Comprehensive housing-related information and support when first needed***This will enable people to be well informed to help avert the risk of homelessness*.**B2: The use of good quality private rented housing as a housing solution***This includes knowing what to do if there is disrepair and dealing constructively with disputes with a landlord or financial difficulties.***B3. Tackling holistically the issues of those with chaotic lifestyles or complex needs.** *In such cases housing may not be the only issue that could lead to homelessness.* **B4. Providing support for those who express vulnerabilities such as mental health to help independent living.** |

**Why this theme, aims and objectives have been chosen**

* 1. Around a quarter of those who approach the Council as homeless are not homeless, nor at imminent risk of being so. Local information and advice services need to be mapped and integrated where it is possible and economic to do so, so that good housing advice is available wherever customers seek to find it. Working together, the partnership will seek to create and sustain access to the right information, advice, guidance, care and support early on.
	2. Where people approach the council when at risk of homelessness, the Homelessness Reduction Act encourages people to be proactive. Reasonable and appropriate actions for the person to do themselves to prevent or relieve their homelessness are agreed as part of personalised housing plans.
	3. People who have always lived with parents or relatives may lack experience, but with the right information, support and guidance could secure their own home.
	4. The partnership’s ambition is to make it simple for people to access housing services digitally online. This is how many people now interact with organisations and also has the added benefit of releasing resources for the council and others to utilise in other important local areas.
	5. To encourage this self-reliance and promote people’s confidence to resolve their own housing situations and avoid homelessness will require:
* Facilitating online access to information to advise people how to deal with any of the housing situations they experience;
* Having a good range of housing options in the social and private rented sector which people can access and afford;
* Considering the use of good quality privately rented homes to discharge homelessness duties so that becoming homeless is not seen as the principal route into social housing; and/or
* Finding out what additional ‘tools’ someone needs to be able to resolve their situation such as access to a deposit scheme to secure a privately rented property.
	1. Some people, for example those with learning disabilities or severe mental health problems, may be able to live independently with some support but may need a different approach to help secure a home. This might mean presenting information in a format easily understood or providing advocacy services. Avoiding a ‘one size fits all’ approach can be more effective in securing and sustaining homes for people with particular needs.
	2. This might be a temporary difficulty caused by a number of life situations. For example, people who normally cope with life may become depressed if unemployment, relationship breakdown and losing a home all happen over a short period of time. Having support for a few months until they can get back on their feet may be enough to help them find or keep a home.
	3. Consideration may need to be given to how the housing register works for vulnerable people for example considering setting aside a number of properties for people where such issues can make living independently more difficult. The partnership will work together to facilitate accommodation for this purpose being built or adapted locally.
	4. The partnership understands that people in the armed forces and their families can have particular difficulties in getting a settled home particularly if they have not lived in one place for a long time. Some may also face additional challenges after they leave the service. The partnership wants to support our armed forces personnel and make sure they have suitable housing options, services and assistance available to them when they need it. This means awarding priority on the housing register or making sure there are support services locally for those who need it.
	5. The partnership recognises that there are a small number of people who have chaotic lifestyles and complex needs who require ‘hands-on’ support from a wide range of services. This could include housing related support to help sustain people in accommodation, as well as personal support.
	6. The gap in dedicated, specialist, flexible and ongoing services for this group has been highlighted regularly by support organisations in Erewash. Getting a home is just one of the many problems which needs to be solved to enable this group to continue to live well in their own homes. To help the partnership needs to identify solutions jointly to tackle the underlying causes. Preventing homelessness in these most difficult of cases is far more cost effective than dealing with its consequences.
	7. The cost for public services was acknowledged by the government in 2012:[[9]](#footnote-9)

‘*Most of the additional financial costs of homelessness to health and support services and the police and justice system are attributable to the most vulnerable and hardest to help, including in particular those with multiple needs*.’

* 1. Gaining more data and better understanding on all of these vulnerable groups and measuring the impact of any provision and services will be key actions as part of the partnership’s strategic approach.

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| Theme C: Reduce Rough Sleeping in Erewash**Aim:****To have fewer people rough sleeping in Erewash by 2022 with the ambition that no-one is rough sleeping by 2027.** |
| *To achieve this, the Erewash Homelessness Partners will work in partnership to:***C1. Understand the complex issues which lead people to rough sleep**.**C2. Understand what support is available and consider who could fill gaps**.**C3. Tackle issues holistically and be** **flexible about the type of support that can be given to keep people from rough sleeping.** |

**Why this theme, aims and objectives have been chosen**

* 1. Rough Sleeping is the ‘sharp end’ of homelessness where people are sleeping in doorways, in parks or in woods. The annual rough sleepers count provides a ‘snap shot’ of rough sleeping on a given date in winter.
	2. This is increasing in Erewash according to the annual count and stood at 11 in November 2019 up from 9 in November 2018. This slight rise contrasts with the slight fall across Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands over the same period from 42 to 38.
	3. The Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands Rough Sleeping Partnership is a partnership of all the Derbyshire local authorities working with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to reduce and then end rough sleeping across the partnership area. Following a bid for funding to MHCLG, led by Erewash Borough Council, the partnership was successful in securing an initial £408,000 and a subsequent £145,910 to provide a homelessness service up to 31 March 2021.
	4. The Partnership has employed two Rough Sleeping Co-ordinators to build up an accurate picture of the people sleeping rough, and the reasons why they became rough sleepers, as part of wider work to end rough sleeping across the partnership area. The Partnership has also commissioned P3 to provide five outreach workers and six supported lettings workers to prevent people from falling into rough sleeping, help people off the streets, and support them to stay off the streets.
	5. Numbers may be relatively small, with people affected not always visible, but the impact of rough sleeping can be significant:
* Their health and wellbeing is significantly worse than that of the general population.
* Research suggests that single people who are homeless, including rough sleepers, have an average age of death of just 47 years.[[10]](#footnote-10)
* The percentage of homeless people experiencing long-term physical health problems and diagnosed mental health problems is almost twice that of the rest of the population. Drug use is significantly higher.[[11]](#footnote-11)
* The number of accident and emergency (A&E) visits and hospital admissions per homeless person is four times higher than for the general public, and research also suggests that A&E is accessed by people simply seeking a roof over their head.[[12]](#footnote-12)
* The isolation and exclusion experienced by rough sleepers often affects their ability to engage with, and contribute to, society in general.
	1. The issues facing rough sleepers can be challenging and are not usually solved simply through providing housing. For example:

* Some rough sleepers may have a history of rent arrears and/or challenging behaviour which means they may have been evicted or asked to leave accommodation in the past. In these circumstances it can be difficult for them to secure accommodation.
* It is sometimes the case that rough sleepers avoid contacting support agencies and do not actively seek help to end their homelessness even though the council and its partners will do their best to engage.
* Some may have drug/alcohol and/or mental issues which may have caused their homelessness. Rough sleeping compounds these issues. Even if accommodation is provided their lifestyles may be so chaotic that they are unable to cope without support and eventually go on to lose their home again.
	1. Voluntary and charitable organisations do manage to link with some rough sleepers, and help them with things such as food, sleeping bags, washing facilities and engage with them to try to understand some of the issues they face. The Erewash Homelessness Partnership has concluded that a more holistic approach is needed to ensure the best form of provision is available to reduce the number of people rough sleeping. Existing support arrangements need to be reviewed to identify which do or do not work, and where appropriate to find alternative ways to provide accommodation and support that might improve outcomes for people who have been rough sleeping.
	2. Nationally, rough sleeping is increasing, and in some areas has become more visible. Tackling rough sleeping has become a key issue nationally and locally, and all councils are expected to address the issues in their area, as part of their duties under the Homelessness Prevention Act.
	3. In August 2018, the Government published a national Rough Sleeping Strategy that is built around three key objectives:
* Preventing rough sleeping before it happens.
* Intervening at crisis points.
* Helping people to recover with flexible support that meets their needs.

 As indicated at 3.3 the Government also provided a number of funding streams to help local areas tackle rough sleeping. Other funding streams include Cold Weather Funding.

* 1. The Government’s ambition in the national Rough Sleeping Strategy is to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eradicate it by 2027, which has helped the partnership to develop its own approach. The Government’s ambition has recently been changed to end rough sleeping within the life of this parliament i.e. by 2024.
	2. The emphasis from government is on trying to better understand why people become homeless in the first place, particularly for those groups that are over represented amongst those identified as rough sleeping, and ensuring preventative interventions are developed to minimise the likelihood of homelessness and rough sleeping occurring or re-occurring.
	3. The Erewash Homelessness Partnership aims to work with rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping, in order to:
* Collate information on their needs, and issues which they face;
* Understand the extent and nature of rough sleeping in Erewash;
* Trial preventative and assistance measures to help them into accommodation and address issues such as drug/alcohol misuse by adopting flexible and innovative methods to address individual needs;
* Develop longer-term plans for assisting rough sleepers, and, most importantly, to reduce and avoid rough sleeping altogether.

# Delivery Approach

The Erewash Homeless Partnership will ensure:

* Co-operation and partnership working to reduce homelessness effectively.
* Effective, accessible and fair service delivery.
* That the wider shared aims and objectives of partners within the borough and wider area are addressed.

In meeting the homelessness priorities and aims of this strategy the approach will be as follows:

| * Be compliant with the Homelessness Reduction Act and Guidance.
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| * Inform, involve and consult residents, letting them know they are listened to.
 |
| * Inform, involve and consult people who are or have been at risk of homelessness letting them know they are listened to.
 |
| * Address the needs of individuals and specific groups of people.
 |
| * Make sure that the evidence base upon which decisions and plans are made is robust.
 |
| * Work closely across the Erewash Homelessness Partnership and with other organisations to tackle homelessness.
 |
| * Take a ‘whole council’ approach to tackling the issues.
 |
| * Enable good physical and mental health and wellbeing for people in Erewash and reduce health inequalities.
 |
| * Ensure that legal duties are discharged and consider the use of all available powers and innovative ideas in order to meet strategic aims.
 |
| * Ensure that activities and services, both current and planned, are appropriate and adequate to meet the aims of this strategy and are well-resourced, efficient and cost-effective.
 |

# Planned Actions for Delivery

The vision, themes, aims and objectives of the strategy have been formulated through the collation and analysis of evidence, feedback from partners, and by looking carefully at the services already offered.

In mapping activities and the use of resources consideration of whether these are appropriate and adequate to meet the aims of the strategy will be needed and whether any realignment of resources or additional provision is required.

The Erewash Homeless Partnership has set out its planned actions in broad terms in this strategy. Detailed action planning will take place as a partnership to develop targeted approaches to delivery.

| **Action** |
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| **General** |
| 1. | Review evidence bases highlighting emerging trends and changes and adjusting strategic approaches accordingly. |
| 2. | Monitor actions and progress considering the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents and the economic impact. |
| 3. | Ensure actions follow agreed approaches to delivery. |
| 4. | Agree plans to significantly reduce the use of bed and breakfast with the ambition to stop using it altogether. |
| 5. | Highlight and address equality issues in all plans, proposals, processes, services, research and consultation. |
| **Theme A: Identify Homelessness Triggers Earlier** |
| 6. | Commission or carry out qualitative research into the reasons and triggers of homelessness (*including case studies; surveys; interviews with service users and support organisations and individual Erewash Homelessness Partners).*  |
| 7. | Agree plans to identify when people are not coping and get them the help they need (*before they get into a situation where they run the risk of losing their home).* |
| 8. | Review and improve access to comprehensive housing related information and support (*when people first need it, including making good use of online resources).*  |
| 9. | Review the processes and impact of the Home Options Choice Based Lettings Scheme policies and priorities *(regarding the effectiveness of averting the risk of homelessness and reducing the number who need to approach as homeless).* |
| **Theme B: Enable people to prevent their own homelessness** |
| 10. | Review how/if services and processes encourage self-reliance.  |
| 11. | Review and improve access to comprehensive housing related information and support *when people first need it (including making good use of online resources).* |
| 12. | The Council will explore the possibility of using the private rented sector to discharge homelessness duties. |
| 13. | Establish an online directory of ‘housing tools’ which people can access directly to help them deal with their housing issues *not just at the point of homelessness (including mediation, legal advice, support services, deposit guarantee schemes, bonds, loans).* |
| **Theme C: Reduce Rough Sleeping in Erewash** |
| 14. | Agree plans to ensure partners’ services and processes work effectively for vulnerable people *(including information presented in suitable formats, possible allocation of a number of social homes specifically for vulnerable groups).* |
| 15. | Review and report on the range of suitable housing options, products and assistance available to Armed Forces personnel and their families when they need it *(including reviewing the effectiveness of processes and protocols).* |
| 16. | Agree plans to meet the needs of people with complex and high needs *(including those with challenging behaviour and repeated presentations to services).* |
| 17. | Agree plans for long term flexible solutions to reduce rough sleeping *(building on the work of the rough sleeper initiatives in Derbyshire during 2019/20).* |

The more detailed Action plan will be developed following the agreement of the strategy as a key part of the work of the Erewash Homelessness Partnership.

The action plan will be reviewed annually, or more frequently, where appropriate. In the case of the rough sleeping these outcomes will be reported to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

# How Will Change Be Measured?

In addition to measuring progress against individual pieces of work as set out in the action plan, we will measure the change that the strategy delivers by reviewing the following key performance indicators:

* Number of preventions of homelessness in terms of people being able to remain in their home.
* Number of people at risk of homelessness securing alternative accommodation.
* Number of ‘repeat homeless’.
* Individual success stories of people with complex/high needs maintaining settled/supported accommodation.
* Number of homelessness and housing advice approaches.
* Number of people and length of stay in bed and breakfast.

There are some performance measures which are collected by others but not currently shared which could help to measure outcomes. This data will be considered where joint working can be developed to set agreed data against the following areas:

* Number of people who are homeless accessing A&E.
* Number of people leaving supported accommodation and maintaining independent living for a period of two years.
1. #

#  “*UK homelessness: 2005 to 2018. Assessment of the comparability and coherence of existing UK government data sources on homelessness.”* 17 September 2019. Office for National Statistics. [UK Homelessness research](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/ukhomelessness/2005to2018#temporary-accommodation)

 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. “*The Impact of Homelessness on Health”* Local Government Association 2017[. Impact of Homelessnes on Health Research](https://local.gov.uk/impact-health-homelessness-guide-local-authorities) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “*Evidence review of the cost of homelessness*” 2012. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (the predecessor to MHCLG) [Evidence Review of the Cost of Homelessness](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/costs-of-homelessness-evidence-review) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Further information – see factsheets provided by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG):[*MCHLG Factsheets*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-reduction-bill-policy-factsheets) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [*The government’s Rough Sleeping Strategy*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-rough-sleeping-strategy) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *This Review was compiled in 2018, based on available data to 31 March 2018.  Data compiled since then under the MHCLG’s new “H-CLIC” system is still at an “experimental” stage and is not considered robust enough to include in the Strategy.* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. “Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities”. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. February 2018. Chapter 2: Homelessness strategies and reviews [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *This Review was compiled in 2018, based on available data to 31 March 2018.  Data compiled since then under the MHCLGs new “H-CLIC” system is still at an “experimental” stage and is not considered robust enough to include in the Strategy. The data and information which is emerging has been reviewed however but has not revealed any significant changes in trends or information, which would affect the strategic approach in this strategy.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Gill Leng 2016: *Derbyshire Housing and Health Joint Needs Assessment* [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Crisis 2011: *Homelessness: A Silent Killer* [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Homeless Link 2014. *The unhealthy state of homelessness. (Drug use indicated to be 7 times higher for rough sleepers than for general population)* [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Department of Health 2016: *Health care for single people* [↑](#footnote-ref-12)