

Leicester's Homelessness Strategy – What will change?

The homelessness strategy includes many actions and proposals which will improve homelessness services in Leicester. Explained in more detail below are some of the key actions / improvements that are going to be implemented over the next 5 years.

Partnership working

- Working with others in the city, including the diocese, to further develop partnership working and a new city charter to tackle homelessness. This aims to coordinate & harness the support of individuals, organisations and businesses in the city
- Review and improve joint working arrangements with primary care and mental health services, including substance misuse services
- Supporting and working with Action Homeless and other partners as part of Leicester's End Street Homelessness campaign

Homelessness Prevention (Proposal 1)

- Improved customer access to the councils homelessness advice services (from March 2018)
- Personalised housing support plans developed with clients who are or are likely to become homeless (from April 2018)
- Developed, and will be the first in the country, to launch a homelessness prevention app (in partnership with all of Leicestershire's district councils and Rutland Council) (live from May 2018) providing advice and guidance to those who may be at risk of losing their home
- New coaching support service to provide additional one-to-one support for individuals who may struggle to take actions to prevent themselves from becoming homeless (available from April 2018)

Eligibility criteria for temporary accommodation (Proposal 2)

- Provide more support to prevent homelessness from occurring and provide genuine alternatives to temporary accommodation, so temporary accommodation is there for those who require additional support
- Review and improve working with Leicester's homeless mental health service to see how those at risk of homelessness or are homeless who are assisted to secure settled accommodation could still access their services
- Prioritising allocation of bed spaces so we can always help those who have high support needs (only in non-statutory cases - in statutory cases everyone is allocated accommodation where this is needed)

Accommodation for families (Proposal 3)

- Families who are facing homelessness, we will work to accommodate into independent accommodation and only use temporary accommodation when they require additional support (For example; housing-related support, family support, on-site free creche)
- All temporary accommodation for families commissioned by the council will be self-contained
- Supporting Children's Service to provide suitable accommodation when parenting assessments are required

Accommodation for offenders (Proposal 4)

- Personalised housing support plans developed with those due to leave prison or probation accommodation leading to reduced homelessness / increased tenancy sustainment / reduced recidivism
- Specialist offender accommodation reserved for those with a recent offending history (supported by the Police and Crime Commissioner)

Accommodation for young people (Proposal 5)

- Joint assessment and commissioning of housing-related support services for young people (aged 16-24) between Children's & Housing Services
- A wider range of types, and providers of housing support services that can better meet the individual needs of young people

Accommodation for singles (Proposal 6)

- A greater range of accommodation options for single people including options for individuals rough sleeping who do not want to use the current temporary accommodation with support model
- Establish a Housing Company and use right-to-buy receipts to deliver more affordable housing
- Joint working with Public Health & Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust to deliver Housing First that is integrated with mental health and primary care services. Housing First is a new evidence based approach that aims to provide a stable, independent home and intensive personalised support and case management to homeless people with multiple and complex needs.

Housing-related support (Proposal 7)

- Reviewed existing non-accommodation based housing-related support to establish the amount and types of support that are most effective and new services commissioned to meet identified needs
- Support services available and timely referrals are made to prevent homelessness from occurring, help people transition between accommodation and to sustain their existing accommodation

Support for rough sleepers & repeat homeless (Proposal 8)

- A new transitions service that can support all rough sleepers from the streets to a home
- A range of options available, from Housing First to short-stay accommodation, that meets individual needs to break the cycle of homelessness
- Support for individuals with no recourse to public funds to find a home and employment

Day centres (Proposal 9)

- An analysis of non-accommodation based support services available for homeless people and work with all services providing support in the city to improve coordination and identify what services homeless people value and how they are best delivered
- A new alcohol recovery hub that provides a wider range of activities and services to help people recover from dependence and improve their health and wellbeing