

Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

2016-19

Area of work	Objective	Action required	Progress	Lead & participants	Deadline	RAG
1.Domestic abuse	Achieve better housing outcomes for victims and survivors of domestic abuse	1.1 Improve information available to victims and survivors to support people to stay in their homes	New City Council domestic abuse web page published	Cambridge City Council Cambridge Women's Aid Cambs County Council	April 2016	Green
		1.2 Review domestic abuse policies, procedures and practices with a view to joint framework for housing providers to consider adopting. Explore funding to manage this project.	Not started	Cambridge City Council Cambridge Women's Aid Cambs County Council	Sept 2017	Grey
		1.3 Develop procedural guidelines covering the Council's approach to known perpetrators of domestic abuse.	Not started	Cambridge City Council Cambridge Women's Aid Cambs County Council	Dec 2016	Grey
2. Access to the private rented sector	Assist more than 50 (per annum) Cambridge City customers in housing need to access the private rented sector	2.1 Update social lettings agency business plan.	Not started	Cambridge City Council	August 2016	Grey
		2.2 Seek long term funding for social lettings agency via Housing Scrutiny Committee	Not started	Cambridge City Council	September 2016	Grey
		2.3 Re-establish the single	Tri-authority partnership	Cambridge City Council	April 2016	Yellow

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		homelessness service as a tri-authority partnership, revise the Reconnections Policy and local authority Memorandum of Understanding	established. Recons policy complete and distributed.			
3. Rough Sleeping	Reduce the number of individuals sleeping rough in the City from an annual baseline of 135 per annum	3.1 Develop clear recommendations from the rough sleepers' survey.	Recommendations complete. Awaiting confirmation of lead.	Seeking lead from RSWG	July 2016	
		3.2 Develop more targeted work with young people to prevent homelessness – especially those not in employment, education or training (NEET) or those in Pupil Referral Units	Not started	Centre 33	March 2018	
		3.3 Evaluate and address demand for training flats available for people accessing the county council's Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) service	Not started	CEA project	March 2017	
		3.4 Develop a joint approach to tackle begging and busking activity, which is used to support a street-based lifestyle	Preliminary meeting held. 4 year funding agreed for the MEAM service to support this work.	Cambridge City Council	September 2016	
		3.5 Roll out an agreed hospital discharge protocol	Still awaiting sign off and training	Cambridge City Council	July 2016	
		3.6 Investigate, with partners, whether more joined-up support services can be developed to help customers all the way through a	Move-on data collection project instigated.	Cambridge City Council	March 2018	

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		housing pathway towards independent living. This will also include improving monitoring of move-on rates from the hostel system, and analysing what more could be done to improve move-on.				
		3.7 Conduct a commissioning review of floating support to assess whether providers can offer longer term and more flexible support	Not started	Housing commissioner (County)	September 2018	
		3.8 Evaluate the case for commissioning severe weather emergency provision (SWEP)	Currently scoping out requirements	Cambridge City Council	November 2016	
		3.9 Change, Grow, Live (CGL) to agree and implement a plan that will strengthen its performance in a range of areas.	CGL has met with the Council and an action plan has been agreed. Arrangements have been made to meet more frequently with key partners in order to strengthen cross-agency working to reduce rough sleeping.	Cambridge City Council CGL CSMHOT	Initial plan of action agreed on 16 May 2016. To be completed by 16 June 2016.	
4. Mental Health	Improve support services for those with mental health issues or a dual diagnosis with mental health as a primary issue	4.1 Work with the county council to monitor the impact of the Mental Health Prevention and Community Services (floating support) team in relation to homelessness support	Not started	Cambs County Council	October 2017	

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		4.2 Establish a monitoring system to assess the efficacy of the County Council's dual diagnosis strategy	Not started	Cambs County Council	March 2018	
5. Homelessness Prevention	Introduce new measures to enhance existing homelessness prevention options	5.1 Conduct a review of the Council's homelessness prevention fund	Started but unlikely to complete by deadline – some but not all recommendations will be ready	Cambridge City Council	April 2016	
		5.2 Establish a definition of repeat homelessness and baseline figures.	Potential lead to be discussed at the CHPG	Seeking lead from RSWG	July 2016	
		5.3 Work out causes of repeat homelessness and actions to tackle those	Potential lead to be discussed at the CHPG	Seeking lead from RSWG	March 2017	
		5.4 Agree repeat homelessness monitoring arrangements to assess progress	Not started	Seeking lead from RSWG	March 2017	
		5.5 Continue to pursue shared housing models with Registered Providers	There are current discussions on shared housing models with Metropolitan and Hundred Houses	Housing providers Cambridge City Council	March 2017	
6. Minimising use of temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast	Ensure that average stays in temporary accommodation do not exceed 5 months. Aim to use bed and breakfast accommodation in	6.1 Introduce revised eviction process for s188 & s190 applicants in the light of the Supreme Court decision on R v Newham LBC & Lewisham LBC 2014 and the decision that	Approved by Director. Briefing required for Executive Cllr. To be reported to Housing Scrutiny Committee in June 2016	Cambridge City Council	New process live by April 1 st 2016 Report to committee in June	

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	exceptional cases only	applicants are not entitled to a court order when in temporary accommodation.				
		6.2 Improve performance on cases settled within 33 working days. Aim for at least 75% within this figure. Introduce systematic analysis of cases outside 33 days and create an audit trail	2015-16 figures published. 2016-17 targets to be confirmed.	Cambridge City Council	Target assessment March 2017	
		6.3 Aim for 15 2-bed direct lets to homeless households from Registered Provider partners per annum	Agreement reached with Aldwyck for 5. Discussions opened with BPHA	Cambridge City Council	March 2017	
		6.4 Conduct a 6 monthly review of temporary accommodation requirements and act on review recommendations	Last review conducted February 2016. Recommendation that one bedroom properties are replaced by 3 beds to achieve better balance. Next review due	Cambridge City Council	Make some progress on Feb 2016 recommendation by August 2016. Conduct further review at August 2016	
7. Mitigating impact of welfare reform	Develop a multi-agency procedural approach to supporting those affected by the benefit cap in Cambridge	7.1 Procedure agreed and implemented. Full statutory homelessness duties averted where homelessness threat is as a direct consequence of the 'cap'.	Procedure at 1 st draft stage	Cambridge City Council CHS group	October 2016	

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8. Bringing empty homes back into use	Implement and monitor the Council's emerging scheme to bring long-term empty homes back into use (30 per annum)	8.1 Introduce an empty homes loan scheme	Started. 30 pa target hit in 2015-16	Cambridge City Council	Draft April 2016 Implement June 2016	
		8.2 Develop and implement one 'partnership scheme' in 2016/17 (an empty home/scheme).	Project started with Jimmy's Cambridge	Cambridge City Council Jimmy's Cambridge	March 31 st 2017	

RAG guide:

Complete	Started and on track for completion within deadline	Will not or unlikely to hit deadline	Not started
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