

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING UPDATE (SEPT 2025)

Community Connections



1. INTRODUCTION

This paper provides a six-monthly update on Plymouth City Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping response, evidencing the significant progress made in responding to rising demand.

Despite national and local challenges, the Council has delivered a strategic, coordinated response that prioritises prevention, expands temporary accommodation, and strengthens support for vulnerable groups.

2. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN TACKLING THE RISE IN HOMELESSNESS

Through strong partnerships, innovative service design, and data-driven decision-making, Plymouth continues tackle homelessness with compassion, resilience, and impact.

Key achievements include the delivery of over 130 new temporary accommodation units for families, individuals, and couples, the launch of centralised assessment hubs, and the implementation of targeted early help services projected to save over £700,000 annually.

2.1 Increase in Temporary Accommodation Provision for Homeless Families

Eighty-two temporary accommodation family properties have been delivered since May 2023 and is set to increase by up to 43 temporary homes during 2025/2026

New temporary accommodation for homeless families	Forecasted number of units (Pipeline)
BCHA, in partnership with a private landlord	20 homes (fully delivered)
BCHA and PATH are to acquire properties utilised the capital funding from the Local Authority Homes Fund (LAHF)	BCHA - 8 homes (to be delivered by March 2026) PATH - 3 homes (to be delivered by March 2026)
Plymouth Community Homes Regeneration Stock	10- 20

Also, Plymouth City Council funds BCHA to provide a support service for families living in temporary accommodation.

2.2 Increase in Temporary Accommodation provision for single people and couples

Since October 2023, 55 temporary accommodation bedspaces for single people and couples including some self-contained units have been delivered

The number of temporary accommodation bedspaces and self-contained units available for single people and couples is set to increase by an additional 114 units by March 2026.

New temporary accommodation for homeless individuals and couples	Forecasted number of units (Pipeline)
The 'Sleep Safely' Night Shelter provision is now open throughout the year	12 bed spaces
Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) new supported housing delivery	PATH have acquired, set up and let 2 houses (12 bedspaces) for individuals and couples with medium to high support needs
	YMCA and Young Devon – 47 x self-contained supported flats for young people with support needs. Extensive building work underway and ready to let anticipated by April 2026.
	BCHA have acquired, set up and let 11 x accessible self-contained supported homes for people with support and mobility needs
	Young Devon 4 x flats for young people with medium to high support needs. One unit is ready and the other three to be ready by November 2025.
PATH are leasing additional provision	During August 2025, PATH increased their temporary accommodation provision by 25 bedspaces and have plans in September to further increase their bedspaces by 15.

2.3 Implementation of the new Assessment and Placement Hubs

In January 2025, two centralised assessment, placement and letting Hubs were set up for Temporary Supported Housing to focus the lettings of supported housing vacancies on those with the greatest need for this type of provision.

- Plymouth City Council and BCHA jointly operate a centralised Assessment and Placement Hub for single homeless adults and couples.
- Plymouth City Council and Live West jointly operate a centralised Assessment and Placement Hub for homeless children and young people

2.4 Annual Grant funding for Homelessness

Plymouth City Council continues to benefit from sustained investment through the ring-fenced Homelessness Prevention Grant, provided by central government via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). This funding underpins vital work to prevent homelessness and support those at risk.

In addition, the Council has consistently secured annual funding through the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) since its first successful application in 2018. This forms part of the national strategy to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, enabling local authorities to enhance services and deliver meaningful change for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Through close collaboration with the Plymouth Alliance, the Council has developed and delivered a holistic, person-centred response to homelessness prevention and relief. Over the years, service delivery has evolved and strengthened, maintaining a consistent core offer while adapting to emerging challenges and opportunities. This flexible, responsive approach has allowed services to grow in line with funding availability and the changing needs of the community.

Funding Stream	24/25 Award £	25/26 Award £
Rough Sleeper Initiative *	1,959,279	1,976,631
Winter pressures	Tranche 1 89,000 Tranche 2 188,000	

*Includes Accommodation for Ex offenders (AFEO), and Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP)

In April 2025, the RSI grant was renamed the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG), with Plymouth City Council receiving a similar level of funding as the previous year.

2.5 Strategic and Co-ordinated Response

Plymouth City Council continues to have a strong and sustained commitment to addressing the housing crisis. The Housing Taskforce, a strategic body co-chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Cooperative Development and Communities and the Chief Executive provides high-level oversight and coordination of housing initiatives across the city.

The Homelessness Recovery Programme is delivering activity to prevent and relieve homelessness under the four pillars of Prevention, Intervention, Recovery and Systems Support.

Oversight by the Plymouth Alliance and the Homelessness Recovery Board has enabled a strategic, data-driven approach to service delivery. The Homelessness Programme is guided by targeted delivery plans aimed at improving outcomes for homeless households while delivering significant financial efficiencies across the system.

Established in April 2019, the Plymouth Alliance was formed to provide a coordinated response for homeless individuals with support needs, including those facing multiple disadvantages. This integrated commissioning model spans services such as homelessness prevention, temporary accommodation, supported housing, advice and support, substance misuse, alcohol services, and mental health provision. Plymouth City Council is one of eight core partners within the Alliance.

Supported temporary accommodation is delivered through a combination of commissioned housing providers and non-regulated private supported housing providers. In response to increasing demand, there has been a strong cross-departmental focus on expanding cost-effective, affordable temporary accommodation. A Housing Development Action Plan has been implemented and is regularly reviewed by the Alliance Accommodation Subgroup, which brings together providers and key stakeholders to drive progress.

To address the homelessness emergency, the **Homelessness Recovery Programme Board** was established. This Board brings together strategic partners and operational leaders to oversee the delivery of the Homelessness Programme. Its core purpose is to:

- Maintain a focused, coordinated multi-agency response.

- Manage costs, benefits, risks, and dependencies across the programme.

2.6 Targeted Support for Specific Groups

- **Youth and Care Leavers:** Provision of dedicated supported housing and training flats.
- **Domestic Abuse Survivors:** Delivery of safe accommodation aligned with statutory duties.
- **Accessible Housing:** Development of homes for individuals with mobility and support needs.
- **Women Rough Sleepers:** Targeted support and ongoing monitoring.

Monthly data snapshots and detailed tracking of rough sleeping trends, temporary accommodation usage, and social housing demand and allocations inform strategic decision-making and guide resource allocation across the homelessness system."

The Board also oversees the implementation of recommendations from the PCC Housing Task Force, including the development of business cases and decision reports to support delivery within the Strategic Homelessness Recovery Programme.

The programme is structured around **seven dedicated delivery plans**, each designed to prevent homelessness and provide housing and specialist support services:

- Children and Young People
- Rough Sleeping and Single Homelessness
- Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Whole Housing Response
- Homeless Families
- Housing Development (within Plan for Homes 4)
- Supported Accommodation Review
- Long-Term Vision and Sustainability

2.7 Strategic Partnerships and Long-Term Planning

- **Housing Development Plan** delivers increased numbers of Supported and Temporary Accommodation
- A key partnership with **Plymouth Community Homes (PCH)** supports initiatives to reduce homelessness.
- The **Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy** ensures the provision of safe housing for survivors of domestic abuse.
- **Plan for Homes 4** provides a comprehensive framework addressing homelessness, housing supply, regeneration, and climate action.
- The **System Development Plan** focuses on continuous improvement and performance management across the homelessness system.

2.8 The Homelessness Recovery Programme Overview

Homelessness Delivery Plans	Key Objectives / Activities
Children and Young People (CYP) Delivery Plan	<p>Delivery of additional CYP specific supported accommodation with new Youth Hub placement arrangements</p> <p>Updating the Joint Protocol around CYP Homelessness</p>

	<p>Review of current plan with the Children, Young People Partnership</p> <p>Joint initiatives with stakeholders to reduce homelessness e.g. PCH and PCC collaboration around implementing training flats</p> <p>Delivery of a support service to work with those in B&B to swiftly source suitable accommodation.</p> <p>Delivery of dedicated temporary supported accommodation through the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP)</p>
Rough Sleeping and Single Homeless Delivery Plan	<p>Delivery of Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) supported housing - to meet the need of single homeless and rough sleepers:</p> <p>Increase the level of suitable additional temporary accommodation to meet needs of those who are Single Homeless / Rough Sleeping, including those with accessibility needs.</p> <p>Develop innovative approaches to reduce long-term rough sleeping</p> <p>Delivery of a homelessness/ health/ bespoke housing pilot</p> <p>Delivery of a B&B resettlement/ move on team to support individuals and couples to swiftly move out of B&B into affordable housing.</p>
Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Whole Housing Response Plan	<p>Meet all duties under safe Accommodation - Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 4 Duty)</p> <p>Deliver suitable additional temporary accommodation and support by ensuring that Homeless Families provision meets the Safe Accommodation legal definition</p>
Homeless Families Delivery Plan	<p>Actively work with providers to increase the supply of temporary, supported housing</p> <p>Deliver suitable additional temporary accommodation using a short-term leasing model</p> <p>Delivery of a family support service</p> <p>Delivery of an early help service to prevent families from becoming homeless</p>
Accommodation Development Plan (contained within Plan for Homes 4)	<p>Increase affordable housing supply in Plymouth, including supported housing and leased temporary housing for individuals and couples and families</p>
Supported Accommodation Review Plan	<p>Improve standards of provision and delivery of services to individuals with support needs, financial viability of the sector and pivoting supported provision to local need</p>

System Development and Support Plan	Cross-departmental priorities and tasks to advance continuous improvement and performance management across the Homelessness System
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2.9 Delivery and Actions

Plymouth continues to face a lack of social housing and high competition for often expensive private rentals, bringing increased reliance on expensive nightly paid provision to meet temporary accommodation demand for those experiencing homelessness and in priority need.

Between July 2024 and June 2025, statutory homelessness rose significantly, with temporary accommodation use increasing by 90% over four years. In response, the Plymouth Alliance has expanded temporary housing provision, delivering 82 family units and 55 bedspaces for individuals and couples, with further developments underway.

The continued rise in households needing temporary accommodation has placed increasing strain on services and budgets. The Council is responding with a clear and phased plan to reduce reliance on expensive emergency accommodation and improve outcomes for homeless families, couples and individuals.

Immediate actions (0–6 months) include:

- Launching new early help services to prevent homelessness before it happens, aiming to divert up to 12 families per month from entering costly B&B accommodation.
- Introducing dedicated housing support officers to help 8 single people per month move on more quickly from B&B placements.
- These measures are expected to save around £65,000 per month, totalling £325,000 over five months, while improving the experience for those in crisis.

Medium-term actions (6–12 months) focus on increasing the supply of temporary and supported housing:

- Leasing additional properties and using capital grants such as the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) and Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) to acquire homes.
- Around 100 new units will be delivered in phases, helping to reduce demand on emergency accommodation and saving over £400,000 annually.

Alongside these actions, the Homelessness Programme, through its seven dedicated plans, is delivering:

- Dedicated and tailored support and supported accommodation for care leavers, young people with support needs, as well as those who experience chronic homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Centralised Assessment and Placement Hubs to improve access and prioritisation to supported housing services
- Joined-up service delivery and data-driven decisions.

Social Housing Prioritisation of Homeless Households

- **Devon Home Choice:** 50% of weekly lets prioritised for statutory homeless households.
- **Increased Allocations:** 45% of lets in 2024–25 went to homeless households.

3 DEMAND: HOW THIS YEAR COMPARES WITH LAST YEAR

3.1 Homelessness Services Demand

The Housing Option's Team continues to see a high demand from households requiring homelessness advice, prevention and placement services.

However, the service has been relentless in trying to meet the needs of those who approach the Homelessness Front Door and there has been improved Service Delivery and Outcomes through

- ✓ Enhanced Engagement
- ✓ Improved Case Management
- ✓ Reduction in backlog and better tracking of homelessness cases.

Successful Interventions:

- ✓ 449 households prevented from becoming homeless.
- ✓ 319 supported within 56 days.
- ✓ 335 supported out of homelessness.

The overall number of cases being actively managed fell from 1,282 to 1,034, reflecting the team's concerted efforts to reduce the backlog of homelessness decisions. However, the number of cases where the Council owes a statutory duty to provide housing, known as the "main duty owed," rose from 258 to 309, indicating a growing level of statutory homelessness across the city.

2024-25 Monthly data	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Number of households approaching for housing advice	396	405	402	296	421	383	448	392	390	405	435	394
New Applications	131	107	98	110	108	105	116	101	106	103	250	169
Number of new prevention cases (households at risk of homelessness within 56 days)	66	71	68	47	62	66	61	82	81	63	79	44
Number of new relief cases (already homeless)	50	52	50	57	48	68	66	75	86	66	68	41
2024-25 1 st Month Snapshot	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Total number of current cases held - all duties	1092	1047	990	950	933	998	960	1003	1046	1034	1058	1101
Total number of prevention (homeless within 56 days) cases held	314	308	291	269	248	252	276	276	285	279	289	268
Total number of relief (homeless) cases held	160	143	150	156	141	155	207	177	176	177	168	187
Total number of main duty owed (duty decision taken) cases held	288	280	272	275	271	289	285	307	301	309	318	323

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3.2 Demand for Temporary Accommodation (TA) has increased

Where homelessness and priority need is established, there is a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation. As the commissioned temporary accommodation is often full, households are placed into B&B. It is a statutory duty for Plymouth City Council to place statutory homeless households.

- Between June 2021 and June 2025, the number of households in temporary accommodation rose from 221 to 419, which is an increase of approximately 90%

Over the course of the year, the number of households in temporary accommodation has increased:

- Total households in TA rose from 379 in July to 419 in June.
- The number of families with children or expected children in TA also increased steadily, from 196 in July to 237 in June, representing a 21% rise over the year.

2024/2025 Snapshot as at 1 st of month	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Number of households in temporary accommodation (all forms of temp)	347	358	357	370	365	377	401	398	413	419	445	443
Number of households with children/expected children in temporary accommodation	196	194	193	197	196	203	209	218	230	237	241	239
Total number of households in holiday lets/other nightly paid	37	36	34	42	34	42	45	43	44	46	50	47
Number of Households in B&B	162	174	176	166	176	166	143	179	199	194	216	214
Number of households with children/expected children in B&B	24	32	31	17	7	17	20	25	34	40	45	41
Number of households with children/ expected children in B&B_for MORE than 42 days	3	9	9	6	0	1	2	5	8	12	18	17

The increased reliance on nightly paid (B&B) options highlights the lack of capacity within the city's commissioned temporary accommodation, which has become increasingly "silted up."

3.3 Rough Sleeping and those at Risk of Rough Sleeping

Rough sleeping is the most visible and acute form of homelessness, often driven by trauma and multiple disadvantage. There is a growing number of individuals experiencing rough sleeping who experience multiple disadvantage and have support, care and health needs. The availability of suitable housing solutions and tailored support for this group can be limited.

The PATH Rough Sleeper Team carry out a monthly snapshot of the number of rough sleepers seen on a single night. Long term rough sleeping, with complex lives has increased and reflects the increased homelessness demand and the challenges people are facing. Despite this, there have been some improvements and positive outcomes:

- ✓ **Improved Outreach:** The number of individuals identified in single night snapshots increased from 25 in December to 38 in August, reflecting enhanced outreach and identification efforts.
- ✓ **Effective Rehousing:** A total of **97 individuals** were successfully moved into housing over the nine-month period, reflecting the impact of coordinated rehousing strategies.
- ✓ **Support for Women:** There has been a focus on female rough sleepers
- ✓ **Progress with Long-Term Rough Sleepers:** The number of long-term rough sleepers dropped to a low of 22 in June, indicating successful engagement and transition efforts for those with entrenched homelessness.

Included in these figures are those with no recourse to public funds and those with no local connection. While these numbers are relatively low, teams work with individuals to sign post to relevant support and reconnect, where appropriate to their local authority area.

Month 2025	Single Night Snapshot	Seen Over Month	Long-Term Rough Sleepers	Women Rough Sleeping	Moved into Housing
Dec	25	54	32	12	10
Jan	23	50	26	13	10
Feb	24	59	26	17	9
March	28	83	26	22	19
April	36	66	33	13	9
May	38	74	36	14	9
June	35	72	22	15	11
July	36	71	38	15	11
Aug	38	58	34	17	9

The number moved into accommodation from January to April reflects the new single Homeless Accommodation Programme provision coming online. PATH and BCHA have brought on a total of 23 bedspaces of new supported housing provision funded through the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme. Eleven of these are self-contained, accessible homes.

The Council's Homelessness service works closely with all organisations delivering services to rough sleepers. Two dedicated Community Outreach Workers and the Rough Sleeper Team meet with rough

sleepers in a range of locations and co-ordinate a multi-agency response with access to day Shekinah and wider day services at Stonehouse Creek.

3.4 Winter Arrangements for Those Rough Sleeping

An all-year Night Shelter called Sleep Safely based at Hamoaze reopened in November 2024 following planning permission being granted and is now open all year round and accommodates 12 individuals nightly. Additionally, PATH have been working with several churches in Plymouth to provide additional night shelter during this winter.

During very adverse weather where there is an amber weather warning, and/ or three consecutive days of below zero degrees, PATH and PCC lead on the delivery of SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) with organisations working with rough sleepers. During periods of SWEP, the approach is to ensure that each rough sleeper has an offer of accommodation.

- Devonport House can accommodate an additional eight individuals and George House an additional ten individuals.
- Cold weather provision is also delivered where the weather may affect wellbeing but there has been no weather warning or low temperatures forecast

3.5 Social Housing

All social housing in Plymouth is let through the Devon Home Choice scheme. Up to 50% of all properties each week are advertised with a 50% preference to Statutory homeless households from Plymouth.

There is high demand for social housing and there has been a steady increase in the number of active applications from 6801 in May 2024 to 8155 in June 2025. The use of 50% homelessness preferences is continuing to increase the number of allocations to homeless households.

The table below captures the Band B housing needs for social housing properties of all sizes. (this includes households who are Band B for reasons other than homelessness e.g. overcrowding, high health and well-being needs)

Housing Need by Band and Bedroom (2/06/2025) active Plymouth household information

	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	5 Bed	6 Bed	7 Bed	Total
Band A	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	7
Band B	728	423	225	147	65	9	1	1598
Band C	397	517	548	184	15	2		1663
Band D	2179	408	96	16	2	0	0	2701
Band E	1113	746	286	36	5	0	0	2186
Total	4419	2097	1157	383	87	11	1	8155

Lets to Plymouth based households	Total Lets	Monthly average
April 19 to March 20	1160	97
April 23 to March 24	874	73
April 24 to March 25	1040	87

- 466 out of the 1040 lets were made to homeless households, which represents c45% of all lets in Plymouth through Devon Home Choice

Despite the increase in homeless households taking up social housing, the ongoing shortage of social housing in Plymouth is evident in the limited number of Devon Home Choice allocations available, which falls significantly short of meeting the needs of households seeking/requiring social or affordable housing

4. NATIONAL CHALLENGES

Homelessness is continuing to increase both nationally and within our local area. This upward trend is largely driven by the sustained cost-of-living crisis, persistent inflationary pressures, a lack of affordable and social housing, and growing demand for health, care and support services.

Family homelessness in England has risen 11.8% over the past 12 months, with over 83,150 families, including a growing number of single-parent households, living in temporary accommodation (MHCLG, Statutory Homelessness in England, 31st July 2025).

Single person homelessness has increased and over the past 12 months, rough sleeping in England has surged by 27%, with nearly 4,000 individuals found sleeping on the streets on a single night, many facing severe mental health challenges, trauma, and substance dependency, and increasingly trapped in cycles of chronic homelessness due to a lack of housing and support services. (Crisis, 2024).

The table below sets out the comparative drivers of homelessness for individuals and families:

Structural Drivers	Single Homelessness	Family Homelessness
Housing Supply	Lack of PRS affordable housing and decline in social housing stock	Same issue, with added pressure for larger, child-appropriate homes
Economic Pressures	Rising poverty, unemployment, and cost-of-living crisis	Same, but often compounded by childcare costs and single-income households
Welfare & Benefits	Changes to welfare provision, legacy benefits transferring, delays in Universal Credit, benefit sanctions	Same, as well as previous changes and ongoing impact of these in benefits to families
Evictions	No-fault evictions (Section 21) disproportionately affect single renters	Families are also heavily impacted, especially in private rented sector
Health & Wellbeing	Mental health issues, substance misuse, and trauma are prevalent	Mental health and domestic abuse are key drivers, especially for women with children
Leaving Institutions	Leaving prison, hospital, or care without housing plans	Less common, but care leavers with children may be affected
Relationship Breakdown	Leading cause of rough sleeping, especially among men	Also, a major factor, often linked to domestic abuse
Access to Services	Fragmented support systems and lack of coordination	Families may face delays in accessing housing, education, and social care services
Hidden Homelessness	High among young people, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals	Families staying informally with friends and family

Impact on Children	n/a	Disruption to schooling, health, and development; long-term consequences for child wellbeing

There is a growing policy shift to prevention and early intervention in response to homelessness as these approaches aim to reduce the number of households experiencing the often traumatic and destabilising effects of homelessness, while also demonstrating significantly greater cost-effect.

Also, national legislative changes continue to influence the housing landscape. The Labour Government is currently progressing the Renters' Rights Bill, which began under the previous administration and is now under consideration by the House of Lords. A key component of this legislation is the proposed abolition of Section 21 "no fault" evictions, which remain a leading cause of homelessness.

The Bill aims to improve tenant security and raise standards within the private rented sector. However, there are concerns that a greater number of landlords may exit the market due to the increased regulatory requirements and associated costs. This could further reduce the availability and affordability of private rented housing, placing additional strain on Plymouth's already overstretched housing services.

The challenge is recognised nationally, with a focus on the development of affordable housing, as well as reform of the private sector and annual funding such as Homelessness Prevention Grant via the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

Furthermore, supported housing in England is facing a complex set of challenges that could affect both the quality and availability of provision. While the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 aims to improve standards and tackle exploitation by rogue providers, its implementation has exposed significant financial pressures.

Local authorities, already stretched by funding constraints, are set to be tasked with licensing, inspecting, and developing long-term strategies for supported housing, often without the necessary resources. At the same time, providers are grappling with uncertainty around future regulation, rising costs, and the risk of losing Housing Benefit eligibility if they fail to meet new standards.

There is also concern that potentially burdensome regulation could drive supported housing providers out of the sector, reducing the already limited supply of supported accommodation. These challenges are compounded by a lack of clarity around definitions of care and support, and the need for substantial capital investment to meet growing demand. There is concern that the sector in Plymouth risks becoming less stable and less able to meet the needs of local people who rely on it.

5. LOCAL CHALLENGES

Plymouth is facing increasing pressure on its housing and homelessness services. Rising levels of homelessness are being driven by a lack of affordable housing, intense competition in the private rented sector, and a local shortage of social housing. These challenges are resulting in longer stays in temporary accommodation, greater reliance on bed and breakfast (B&B) placements, and mounting strain on local resources and homelessness prevention efforts.

Homeless households in Plymouth encounter significant obstacles when trying to secure private rented accommodation. Some properties attract up to 80 applicants, with landlords often prioritising those who can offer higher rents or pay several months in advance. This leaves low-income households at a clear disadvantage and limits their ability to access stable housing.

The availability of social housing in Plymouth has declined sharply, with the number of lets falling by 36% over the past five years. This reduction has led to prolonged stays in temporary accommodation and fewer opportunities for individuals to move on from supported housing into permanent homes.

Due to the shortage of affordable housing options, more homeless households are being placed in B&Bs for extended periods. This includes families, single individuals, and couples with low support needs who are unable to access appropriate move-on accommodation. The use of B&Bs as a stopgap measure is becoming increasingly common and unsustainable.

There is a notable lack of specialist longer-term supported accommodation for individuals and couples, as well as a shortage of accessible housing for those with specific needs. These gaps further restrict housing options and contribute to longer stays in unsuitable temporary settings.

Historically, single people and couples could access affordable one-bedroom homes in the private rented sector. However, the current limited supply has forced many into shared housing arrangements, which may not meet their needs or expectations, particularly for those seeking privacy or stability.

The growing reliance on B&B accommodation has significantly increased costs for the Council, placing additional pressure on already stretched budgets. This financial strain makes it more difficult to meet statutory homelessness duties and deliver effective support to those in need.

6. CONCLUSION

The Council remains committed to tackling homelessness through early help and prevention of homelessness, increased temporary accommodation provision, and working closely with households in B&B to find affordable housing solutions. The relentless and unyielding focus is on actions that reduce financial pressure while delivering better outcomes for individuals, couples, and families experiencing homelessness.