

# PLAN FOR PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS 2018-2020



The purpose of the **plan for preventing homelessness** is to implement and deliver against the Plymouth Plan. The Plymouth Plan sets the strategic direction for Plymouth between now and 2035 and reaffirms our commitment to tackle homelessness in the city. This plan sets out to build on previous actions initiated in our last Homelessness Strategies and fulfils Plymouth City Council's statutory duty under the Homelessness Act 2002, and detailed in the Code of Guidance to develop a strategic response to identified local causes of homelessness.

- Homelessness is a significant challenge across the country. Homelessness has been on the rise across the country over the last few years. Rough Sleeping (the most visible form of homelessness) has also been increasing nationally over the last few years. The number of Rough Sleepers recorded nationally in 2016 was 4,134. In 2017 this rose to 4,751 a rise of 15 per cent
- Statutory Homelessness Applications across the country are also rising. 2016/17 saw on average 29,050 applications taken per quarter, compared to an average of 28,330 applications per quarter in 2015/16 a rise of 2.5 per cent. With the rise in applications comes a rise in the number of households accepted for the main housing duty (those the local authority has a duty to find long term permanent accommodation for) the number of acceptances has risen nationally from 14,125 per quarter in 2015/16 to 14,815 per quarter in 2016/17 a rise of 4.9 per cent.
- These challenges are mirrored in Plymouth. The number of Rough Sleepers recorded in Plymouth in 2016 was 20 and this rose to 26 in 2017. Statutory Homelessness applications rose in Plymouth by 15 per cent between 15/16 and 16/17 an increase of 106 applications. Alongside this the number of households in Plymouth accepted for the main housing duty was 238 in 2015/16 and this rose to 322 in 16/17 a rise of 35 per cent
- Specific actions to rise to these challenges are identified within the Plan for Preventing Homelessness, alongside existing operational work that is already making good progress.
- Tackling homelessness and housing need lies at the heart of addressing inequality and this plan represents an integrated approach to the complex issues that cause homelessness, and to secure new solutions to ensuring the availability of affordable housing options for some of the city's most vulnerable residents.
- Plymouth, like all local authorities has faced some difficult financial choices over the last few years but has decided to meet these by transforming services to face these challenges head on.
- In every local area people with multiple needs and exclusions are living chaotic lives and facing premature death because as a society we fail to understand and coordinate the support they need. Yet evidence shows that by working together local services can develop coordinated interventions that can transform lives. It is no different in Plymouth
- Plymouth took learning from The Making Every Adult Matter, (MEAM) approach which provides a non-

- prescriptive framework for developing a coordinated approach to set up a System Optimisation Group (SOG).
- SOG is a partnership of commissioners across Plymouth City Council Integrated Commissioning Team, Office of the Director of Public Health and partners from a range of providers responsible for mental health, homelessness, substance misuse treatment services and some offender services.
  - The partnership is tasked with creating a whole system for whole people, preventing people from 'falling through the gaps' and reducing repeat revolving door referrals. The SOG will work collaboratively to deliver the system changes required to realise success
  - The SOG will take responsibility for sharing ideas and perspectives in order to identify how the current system can work better for people with complex lives, regardless of current individual contracts and funding arrangements. We recognise that in order to respond to the challenges within homelessness we require a whole system transformational approach. In 2018, homelessness services will be commissioned as part of the complex needs procurement which also encompasses substance misuse, offenders and some mental health provision.
  - Using an alliance model the focus will be on creating systemic change: changes to culture, funding structures, commissioning and policy which support a new way of working.

## OUR VISION STATEMENT FOR HOMELESSNESS

Plymouth Plan sets our strategic direction between now and 2035 and this delivery plan reaffirms the City's commitment to tackle homelessness and all its causes

## OBJECTIVES

### PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

### IMPROVE HOUSING STANDARDS

### SUPPORT ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

## PRIORITIES

- Develop pathways and partnerships to support early intervention
- Work with Rough Sleeper Strategy Group to identify emerging trends and develop strategies to reduce rough sleeping
- Ensure the City's advice and information offer meets the needs of people who are facing or at risk of Homelessness
- Develop Collaborative Problem Solving to support and sustain communities
- Integrate with Health and Wellbeing Hubs to support early intervention and prevention
- Re-commissioning of Complex Lives system

- Develop HMO licensing in line with new legislation
- Work with Private Rented Strategy Group to identify emerging trends and develop strategies to improve the quality of private rented housing
- Improve the quality and management of properties in the private rented sector
- Support tenants to sustain private sector tenancies
- Work with partners to ensure robust enforcement of bad landlords in the private rented sector

- Work with partners to deliver specialist housing
- Develop pathways and partnerships to deliver and support independent living
- Deliver an increased range of accommodation solutions to those in most housing need
- To support people to access decent, safe and affordable homes that are suited to their needs
- Deliver a broad range of accommodation solutions to avoid the use of emergency accommodation

## OUTCOMES

- Fewer people sleeping rough
- Increased number of people prevented from becoming homeless
- Advice and information is accessible for all
- Effective Collaborative problem solving framework in place
- Developed community offer embedded in health and wellbeing hubs

- Increased number of trained and accredited landlords and agents
- Increased number of properties improved
- Advice and information on landlords and tenants rights and responsibilities is accessible for all
- Robust and effective enforcement policy in place

- Fewer people in emergency accommodation
- Increased specialist housing provision in the City
- Improved adaptations delivery model
- Increased number of homeless households accessing social housing through DHC register