

# PLAN FOR PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS 2018-2020



## OUR VISION STATEMENT FOR HOMELESSNESS

Plymouth Plan sets our strategic direction between now and 2034 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

- No one needs to sleep 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

**The purpose of this plan is to ensure the city has an appropriate response to some of the most vulnerable people in Plymouth. We will do this by improving services through early intervention and prevention, where possible by preventing people becoming homeless in the first place, and by providing suitable solutions out of homelessness.**

- Homelessness is a reality faced by many more people than we would want. This can happen for a variety of reasons and often with circumstances out of the control of those involved. We recognise that in a time of crisis people are often more vulnerable and there is a need to ensure the right support is available at the right time to prevent homelessness wherever possible.
- Unfortunately prevention of homelessness is not always possible and this is evidenced by the increase in the number of people sleeping rough over the last few years. The number of Rough Sleepers (the most visible form of homelessness) recorded in Plymouth has risen from 20 in 2016 to 26 in 2017.
- Statutory Homelessness applications are also rising. Between 15/16 and 16/17 they increased by 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.
- These increasing numbers are not acceptable and specific actions to rise to the challenge to reduce them are identified within the Plan for Preventing Homelessness, alongside existing operational work that is already making good progress.
- This is an integrated approach recognising the complex issues Plymouth citizens face around homelessness and housing need, securing new solutions to the issues and making more homes available for our most vulnerable residents.
- Plymouth has faced some difficult financial choices over the last few years and has decided to meet these challenges head on by transforming our services.
- Across the UK, people with multiple needs and exclusions are living chaotic lives and facing premature death because we fail to understand and coordinate the support they need. Yet evidence shows that by working together local services can transform lives. This is what we intend to do.
- The statistics related to health and wellbeing and homelessness speak for themselves and it is clear a different response is required to change this.
- The average age of death for homeless men is 48 years compared with 74 years for the general population. For homeless women it is 43 years compared to 80 for the general population.
- People who are homeless are more likely to have a mental health condition. 72 in every 100 who are homeless compared to 30 in every 100 for the general population.
- Making Every Adult Matter, (MEAM) is an approach which provides a responsive, person centred framework for developing a coordinated approach working with partners. The services are tasked with creating a system that deals with the whole person, preventing people from missing support and reducing repeat referrals. Partners will work together to change the system in order to make the framework a success.
- Partners will share ideas in order to identify how we can work better together for people with complex lives, regardless of current individual contracts and funding arrangements. We know that we need to transform the whole system. In 2018, homelessness services will be commissioned as part of the complex needs procurement which also includes substance misuse, offenders and some mental health provision.
- Using a new model the focus will be on creating a system where all services work together as one, this will in turn change the culture, funding structures, commissioning and policy which support a new way of working.

