



BRADFORD HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY

2020 – 2025



BRADFORD
working in partnership



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to introduce the Bradford Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025.

Homelessness and rough sleeping have been on the increase nationwide over recent years, and this strategy helps to set out the specific challenges we face here in Bradford. We have identified a clear vision that we will strive towards, along with the five themes which will shape our actions. Homelessness and rough sleeping blights the lives and opportunities of all those affected, and it therefore needs concerted commitment from all partners to respond not only in times of crisis but also at early intervention stage.

We have a long history of partnership working on homelessness in Bradford, and have achieved many successes over the years.



**Councillor
Alex Ross-Shaw**
Portfolio Holder –
Regeneration,
Planning and Transport

However, in the current climate we are facing new and increased pressures, and it is only through working smarter that we will achieve our homelessness and rough sleeping goals. I look forward to continuing to develop and support collaborative interventions to help those most in need, and thereby deliver positive change for residents across the district.



This strategy sets out Bradford's long-term vision for addressing homelessness and rough sleeping. The strategy seeks to develop a system wide partnership approach to reducing homelessness and rough sleeping over the next five years, working with all stakeholders in order to develop effective solutions.

Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping is a huge challenge. Over the last few years we have seen significant financial challenges for public and voluntary sector services; a reduction in services, a shortage of decent quality affordable housing; major reform of the Welfare Benefit system and the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Although tackling homelessness has been a key priority for Bradford for many years, in line with national trends there has been a growth in the number of people presenting as homeless and in the number of people resorting to sleeping rough in the last two years.

Many people face experiences or triggers that could lead to homelessness, such as a relationship breakdown, financial crisis or the end of a tenancy. Most people can find themselves suitable accommodation to move to but for others it is these life events that cause homelessness, either because they lack the resources to tackle their immediate challenges - for example, enough money for a rent deposit, or because they suffer more underlying problems

such as an addiction or mental health issue, which makes it harder for them to deal with their situation.

The previous homelessness strategy for the district was incorporated in the joint Housing and Homelessness Strategy for Bradford District 2014 - 2019: 'A Place to Call Home'. Since that strategy was produced in 2014, the Council has achieved the following:

- Enhanced partnership working on homelessness between agencies, including police, probation, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), adult services, health, substance misuse services, community, voluntary and faith groups.



- Embedded and expanded the Housing Options service, brought back in-house in 2014.
- Developed high quality new temporary accommodation at Clergy House and Jermyn Court creating additional capacity.

- Commissioned No Second Night Out and Day Shelter provision for rough sleepers.
- Secured funding for and successfully implemented a private rented sector access scheme that provides people in housing need with decent quality private rented homes.
- Implemented the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requirements, including the new homelessness prevention and relief duties and Personal Housing Plans. We have also implemented the 'Duty to Refer' with key partners who actively refer people known to them who are threatened with homelessness.

In addition, partners across different sectors have introduced, and continued to deliver, a wide range of services and initiatives

aimed at tackling homelessness and rough sleeping, demonstrating the broad district-wide commitment to delivering effective responses and solutions.

This strategy builds on the achievements made in the last five years and responds to the changing environment in which homelessness and rough sleeping support services are now delivered. This strategy has been developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders. The Council has listened to the views of people who run and work in homelessness and related services, and those with lived experience of homelessness. The Council has held consultation forums with a wide range of local organisations, worked with elected members, and sought input from officers across all key Council departments.

BRADFORD HOUSING STRATEGY 2020 – 2030

The District's Housing Strategy has been reviewed and developed alongside this Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, in recognition of the inter-connection between the two. Engagement events held for the Housing Strategy included issues relating to homelessness and rough sleeping, and their findings have informed this strategy. Ultimately, the delivery of the key aims of the Housing Strategy will

have a direct impact on the achievement of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy vision. Objectives within the Housing Strategy to deliver more affordable homes, and to improve the quality of existing housing stock will play a significant part in preventing homelessness in the first place and providing timely sustainable solutions should people find themselves homeless.

This strategy should also be read in conjunction with:

[Bradford Council Plan 2016 - 2020](#) and [Bradford District Plan 2016 - 2020](#)

[Connecting people and place for better health and wellbeing - A Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Bradford and Airedale, 2018-2023](#)

[Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Bradford](#)

[Mental Wellbeing in Bradford District and Craven: a Strategy 2016 - 2021](#)

[Local Development Plan 2015 – 2030 and Core Strategy](#)

[Bradford Anti-Poverty Strategy](#)

[Bradford Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy 2015-2020](#)



A comprehensive Homelessness Review was undertaken to provide the evidence base for this strategy. The purpose of the review was to identify the reasons for homelessness and future levels of homelessness and housing need in the district; to identify services which contribute towards preventing homelessness and providing accommodation and support; to identify resources available; and identify gaps in provision and emerging pressures and trends. Key findings from the Homelessness Review are summarised below.

The levels of deprivation across Bradford vary significantly. There is a close correlation between poverty and homelessness and in the more deprived areas of Bradford, poverty and health issues are having an impact on the number of people who are homeless or in housing need. The total number of homes in Bradford is around 218,000. Of these, around 42,714 or 19.5% are private rented homes and 33,561 or 15.4% are social rented homes. 9,623 homes are not occupied. Most of the district's housing was built before 1950 and is not always in keeping with modern standards.

Whilst housing rental costs in many parts of the district are lower than other parts of the country, housing still poses affordability issues for those on low incomes in Bradford, as well as larger families. A family wanting to rent a four-bedroom home in the private rented sector would need an income of £44,000 p.a. to be able to afford the rent, on the basis that no more than 25% of earnings should be spent on housing costs. Low and unstable incomes, often compounded by debt, makes more people vulnerable to losing their home in the district, and means there are fewer options available to rehouse people into if they become homeless. Analysis done for the Bradford Strategic Housing Market Assessment



2019 indicated that there are no tenure options in the district which are affordable for households on lower quartile incomes.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA) brought in the most significant changes to homelessness legislation in decades. The main aim of the Act is to help more people sooner and to prevent repeat homelessness. It effectively combines two new duties with the original statutory housing duty. These are the Homelessness Prevention Duty and the Homelessness Relief Duty. The HRA has had a big impact on the way that the Housing Options service (the Council's frontline homelessness service) is delivered, and it will take some time before new approaches are fully embedded and optimum outcomes achieved for all customers.

Homelessness has a very broad definition. Most simply, it means not having a home and sleeping rough. However, people can also be homeless even if they have a roof over their heads. We consider people to be homeless if they are staying temporarily with friends or family, sofa-surfing, staying in a hostel, squatting, at risk of violence in their home, living in such poor or

unsuitable conditions that it is unreasonable to continue to occupy, or have no legal right to occupy where they are living.

Key homelessness and rough sleeping figures for the district include:

- Between 2010 and 2018 approaches to the Council for advice and assistance with homelessness or threatened homelessness increased year on year with 2018/19 being the highest number recorded with 9,434 approaches.
- In 2018/19, 2,503 households were deemed to be at either homeless prevention or relief stage.
- The number of households accepted under the main duty as homeless has significantly decreased during 2018/19 as a result of the introduction of the HRA.
- Since the HRA was introduced, statistics have revealed that Bradford has higher numbers of households where a homeless relief duty is owed than where a homeless prevention duty is owed, meaning that more people are seen at crisis point rather than

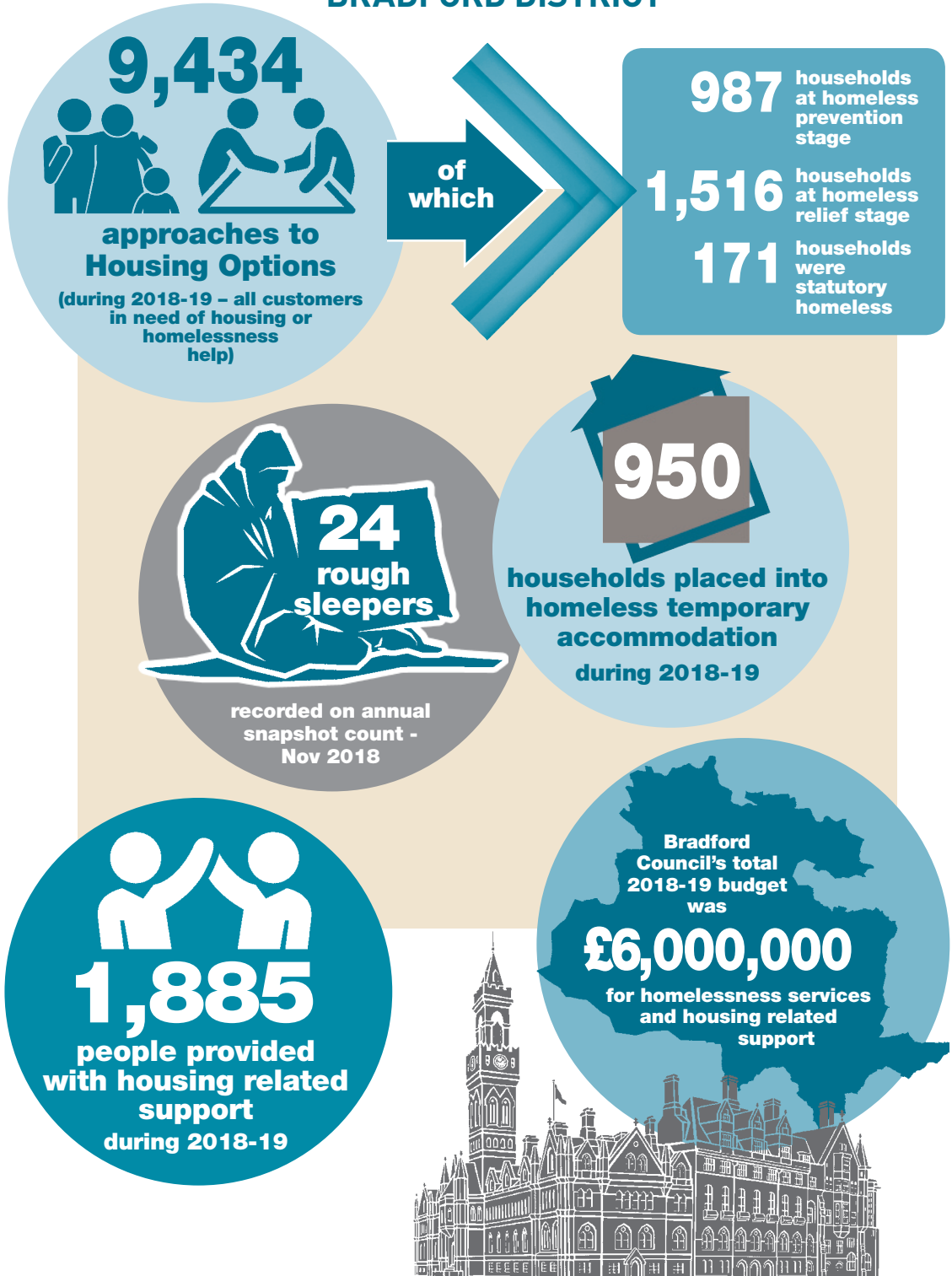
when homelessness can potentially be prevented.

- Although rough sleeping in the Bradford district has halved as a proportion of the Yorkshire and Humberside total since 2010, it has more than doubled in the district over the past two years.
- The number of recorded rough sleepers in Bradford on a single night in 2016 was 10 people and in 2018 there were 24 people.

The Council makes use of both commissioned temporary accommodation and bed & breakfast (B&B) accommodation for homeless households. In 2018/19 950 households were placed into temporary accommodation. The Council has a target to reduce the average length of stay in B&B accommodation from 9.5 to 7 days, but was unable to meet this target in 2018/19, with the average length of stay being 8.56 days. Bradford only uses B&B for families with children as a very last resort, however in 2018/19, 89 households with children were placed in B&B.



HOMELESSNESS IN BRADFORD DISTRICT





As at August 2019, the district's Social Housing Register consisted of 16,988 applicants with 79 in the top band (statutory need) of the four bands on the register, and 2,970 in the next highest band (urgent need).

On average 750 customers are referred from Housing Options into the Private Sector Lettings Scheme (PSLS) each year. In 2018/19, 260 Housing Options customers were rehoused in private rented accommodation via this scheme.

The main causes of homelessness in Bradford are relationship breakdown and notices to quit from private rented tenancies. Many people who are homeless or in housing need have a range of vulnerabilities including mental health and substance misuse and a difficulty in engaging with support in tenancies. Opportunities to engage at crisis/first response level are often missed. There is an increasing trend in the number of people who have had numerous failed experiences of housing provision and do not have the capacity or skills to manage tenancies.

Young people continue to be disproportionately represented in homeless figures. Around 55% of people seen at the homeless prevention stage in 2018/2019 were young people aged 18 - 34 with 32% of people aged between 25-34 and 22% in the 18-24 age group. B&B use is most prevalent for people in the age range 25-34. Women are more likely to be in priority need up to the age 35 after which there is relative parity.

Female representation accounts for 56% of referrals to the Youth Homelessness team.

Violence in the home is the main reason for women presenting as homeless to the Council, while family breakdown is the main reason for men. Of main applicants on the housing register, 63% are female. Single females with children are the most populous cohort of those accepted as in priority need.

The demographic characteristics of rough sleepers reported in the annual count in 2018 were that 92% were male, 75% were UK nationals and 21% of the remainder were citizens of other EU countries. There were no reported rough sleepers under the age of 25 in Bradford in the 2018 count.

A recent needs analysis commissioned by the Council for short term supported housing (not including Temporary Accommodation or specialist accommodation for domestic violence) found that last year approximately 1,500 people required this type of provision. The demand came mainly from those with complex needs, but also included a substantial number of people with a medium level of need who required an accommodation-based support service. Since April 2016 the Housing Options Service has been responsible for undertaking assessments of those who require Housing Related Support (HRS), commissioned as supported housing or floating support services.

The key homelessness and rough sleeping issues identified by the Homelessness Review are illustrated overleaf. To address these issues the Council and its partners have set themselves a clear vision and five key themes for this Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.



KEY HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING ISSUES IN BRADFORD

HOUSING MARKET

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) estimated a total of 2,552 households in Bradford who are either homeless or living in temporary accommodation.

Low income households, particularly those with large families, struggle to access affordable homes. Demand for social housing, particularly family-sized homes, outstrips available supply in many parts of the district. There are some pockets of lower demand social housing types, particularly flats.

ACCESS TO DECENT, AFFORDABLE HOMES

The main reason for homeless applicants being bypassed for social housing is due to former tenancy rent arrears.

The private rented sector in Bradford is sizeable, but a significant amount of the private rented housing stock is in poor condition.

There are barriers to accessing the private rented sector including many landlords unwilling to accept tenants on benefits, and the need to pay a bond.

ROUGH SLEEPING AND DESTITUTION

Rough sleeping has been increasing in recent years. Most rough sleepers will only be on the street for a short period, usually after an incident in their lives. However, for a smaller group, rough sleeping will become sustained and enduring.

For those people with no recourse to public funds, the demand for destitution support services is increasing.

SUPPORT NEEDS AND SERVICES

Bradford continues to face the challenge of ongoing youth homelessness. For some young people, homelessness is linked to substance misuse and potential child sexual exploitation.

Women are more likely to present as homeless at an earlier age than men.

Many people who use supported housing services are experiencing on-going mental health and substance misuse problems, often attributed to early life trauma.

Ex-offenders can find access to services and support challenging, particularly if they are not registered with a GP or moving between temporary addresses.

There has been a reduction in the number of supported housing and related services available across the district over recent years, largely due to public and voluntary sector budget reductions and uncertainty within the sector.

COMPLEX NEEDS

Support for people with dual diagnosis of mental health and drug or alcohol addiction is historically complex to access. A challenge is to become better equipped to recognise and meet the needs of this group.

A small number of people disengage from services and support, putting their health and wellbeing at greater risk.

Access to timely and appropriate services is critical. A challenge for the district is to maintain high levels of awareness of the support and services available.

OTHER RISK FACTORS

There remains a significant overlap between the district's homeless population and people who have been in prison or hospital, and people who have previously been looked after children in the care system.

OUR VISION

Across our partnerships we will strive towards ending homelessness and rough sleeping once and for all.

Homelessness is everyone's business.

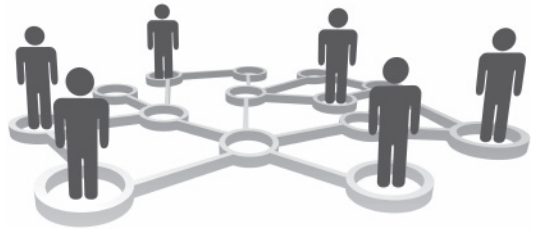
OUR THEMES

To achieve our vision of working across partnerships to strive towards ending homelessness and rough sleeping, we have identified five key themes for the strategy.

- 1. **Early intervention and prevention of homelessness**
- 2. **Deliver support in the right way at the right time to people who are homeless**
- 3. **Tackle rough sleeping**
- 4. **Improve access to housing for people who are homeless**
- 5. **Work better together**

Across each theme we will incorporate the following principles:

- **Co-production** - When services are genuinely co-produced, they work better, because they make the most of the shared expertise of the people who work there and the people who have experience of using them.
- **Person centred** – Person centred approaches give people better choice and control, putting the individual at the heart of their own support. We recognise that services that use a Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE) approach



are more likely to help support people out of homelessness, especially those who have experienced complex trauma. PIE services are those which have been designed to take the psychological and emotional needs of people into account.

- **Recovery focused** – supporting the realisation of the individual's goals, and the development of relationships and skills that support a positive lifestyle.
- **Equality and diversity** – each theme will encourage understanding and promote good practice around equality and diversity in homelessness services and across partnerships. We will seek to understand how discrimination operates and its effects as well as recognising how working positively with diversity can play an important role in improving effectiveness within the homelessness sector.
- **Safeguarding vulnerable people** – homelessness services often work with adults and/or children and young people who are vulnerable to abuse. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to recognise the signs of potential abuse and to act if they suspect that someone is being abused.

This theme is about preventing homelessness from happening in the first place, through early intervention. We know that preventing homelessness is more cost effective than dealing with its consequences and it delivers far better outcomes for those concerned.



We aim to take a co-production approach with all our partners and citizens and empower people to contribute to finding solutions when they are threatened with homelessness.

We recognise that reducing the impact of poverty and welfare reform will prevent homelessness from occurring for many people. We will support anti-poverty measures such as credit unions, debt advice and money management initiatives. We will work closely with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) and with Housing Benefit colleagues and continue to use Discretionary Housing Payments to effectively prevent homelessness from occurring and to reduce the impact of Universal Credit on homelessness.

We recognise the impact of trauma, adverse childhood experiences, mental health and loneliness on many people who are at risk of homelessness. We will encourage a more psychologically informed approach to our Housing Options and other homelessness services including for example developing person-centred Personal Housing Plans for people at risk of homelessness.

CASE STUDY



Aisha has two young children and was living in a social housing tenancy when her husband died in 2018. He had worked full time and paid the rent. Aisha was not working and did not make a successful claim for benefits and as a result her rent account fell into arrears. By October 2018 she was issued with an accelerated notice to seek possession.

Housing Options and the DWP worked closely to prevent the loss of tenancy by putting Universal Credit in place including the housing element within a few days. They have supported her to liaise with the social landlord, have rent payments made direct to the landlord, access support for budgeting, access work preparation support, arranged English classes and set up regular payments for the arrears. The social landlord has agreed that if she keeps to the payment plan she can stay in her home.

We will support education and other initiatives that work with children and young people to raise awareness of homelessness and the factors leading to it, and also the housing options and solutions available. We will support young people to develop the skills required to maintain a tenancy.

We recognise the importance of providing flexible and responsive services so that people can be helped at an early stage to avoid falling into homelessness. We will look to work better at a locality level to make prevention services and advice more accessible, through community centres, support hubs and partner services such as mental health provision.

We will work together to try and prevent people becoming homeless through eviction and

tenancy failure in social and private rented housing. We will make effective use of intensive housing management and floating support to prevent tenancies from failing and resulting in homelessness. We will also encourage mediation as a potential solution to help keep people in their homes.

Many people are at risk of homelessness at points of transition and there is a need to offer earlier and timely intervention at these points. We will work to minimise the risk of homelessness at these points of transition, including children moving on from local authority care, prison leavers, people leaving hospital and refugees leaving National Asylum Seeker Service (NASS) accommodation.



ACTIONS: EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

01	Prevent the homelessness of people 'in transition' from one service to another through review and improvement of pathways.	Housing Options, Children's Services, Prisons, Probation
02	Use Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) funds effectively to prevent homelessness and monitor the amount of DHP spent on the prevention of homelessness to inform future use of the fund and future initiatives to prevent homelessness.	Housing Options, Revenue & Benefits
03	Develop our approach to co-production with people with lived experience and partners and use this to develop prevention services that deliver positive outcomes.	Commissioners, Housing Support providers, Housing Options
04	Provide a customer focused Housing Options service that is more psychologically informed.	Housing Options
05	Deliver homeless prevention work to children and young people and work with partners to identify ways to address and prevent the underlying causes of homelessness in the next generation. Improve pathways for young people to enable earlier intervention.	Children's Services, Schools, Housing Support providers, Housing Options
06	Work in partnership with Registered Providers to review and improve their early intervention and prevention offer, including evictions for rent arrears and anti-social behaviour and agree targets for reduction.	Registered Providers, Housing Options
07	Work proactively with landlords and other partners to try and prevent evictions and tenancy breakdowns in the private rented sector, using mediation, support and signposting to legal advice.	Housing Options, support providers
08	Provide support and assistance with welfare benefits, debt and money advice to prevent homelessness.	Advice Services, DWP, Housing Options, Registered Providers
09	Promote the use of the Bradford District Credit Union across all homelessness related services.	Credit Union, Registered Providers, Housing Options, Housing Support providers
10	Make better use of community centres and local access points to deliver early intervention and homeless prevention help and advice.	Housing Options
11	Ensure the availability of floating support for people who are at risk of losing their tenancy.	Housing Support providers, Commissioners
12	Continue to promote and monitor the 'duty to refer' and 'commitment to refer' amongst all relevant partners; encourage greater awareness of referrals at prevention stage; provide a timely response to all referrals.	Housing Options, NHS, DWP, Probation, Police, Registered Providers
13	Encourage Housing Options customers to self-help where possible, including self-registering for social housing, sourcing housing and support options, undertaking commitments in Personal Housing Plans.	Housing Options, advice and support providers, Registered Providers

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

- Increased number of successful homeless preventions.
- Increased number of households prevented from becoming homeless at points of transition.
- Reduced number of evictions from social housing and private rented tenancies.
- The delivery of psychologically informed (PIE) services and Personalised Housing Plans.

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This theme focuses on services for people who need additional support to access or maintain a tenancy, develop their independent living skills and to move on into settled homes and communities.



Often housing support needs sit alongside other issues such as substance misuse, involvement with the criminal justice system and a history of anti-social behaviour meaning the housing and support pathway can be challenging. This can make the search for a permanent home more difficult leading to a longer stay in the temporary provision, supported housing or other support services.

We recognise the importance of both commissioned and non-commissioned housing and support services and the need to work better together to support a cultural change that recognises the impact of adverse childhood experiences and trauma on the lives of many people who experience homelessness. As with initiatives that prevent homelessness, we will ensure that services for homeless people work in a recovery focused and trauma informed way.

We will review the Housing Related Support Gateway and pathways through services, improving access points to supported accommodation, reducing transition points for service users and enhancing joint assessment of needs where possible.

We will support the development of specialist services for homeless people with complex needs.

We will improve access to floating and resettlement support for people who have experienced homelessness and who are settling

CASE STUDY



Diane had a career as a Senior Carer in a care home but started to suffer from epilepsy and back problems. She took time off to have surgery, but when she returned to work, her back problems returned, so she had to reluctantly leave her job. Diane claimed welfare benefits, but health related benefits were suspended, as she was told that her health issues no longer qualified.

Diane became homeless and lived with her son, but it did not work out. Diane sought help from Bradford Council and was referred to supported housing. "They helped build my confidence back up and I got peace and quiet when my head was going overtime. I also felt safe there."

After two and a half months in supported housing, Diane was referred back to Housing Options and was helped to find a flat. She is now working on making it a home and is looking forward to walking her dog and spending more time with her grandchildren.

into new accommodation. We aim to improve the tenancy readiness of people moving on from supported housing or ending floating support.

Young people are disproportionately represented amongst people who present as homeless. This may be due to lack of adequate income, access to affordable housing, family break-up and experience of a traumatic event or of domestic violence and is particularly evident in those who were previously a Looked After Child in the care system. As a Corporate Parent we need to ensure that our young people are equipped with the skills, support and strength to thrive in their own homes. Closer working and a more seamless service for young people is required to prevent homelessness and ensure sustainable move-on options. We also know from research that nationally, 24% of homeless youth population identify as LGBTQ+, and there is therefore a need to recognise and respond to these specific needs through either mainstream prevention or support services, or through signposting to specialist services.



Women experiencing homelessness are typically less visible on the streets than men, more likely to be hidden homeless, and more likely to have experienced trauma and abuse both before and during homelessness.

To address these different experiences we will identify funding for specific services to meet the needs of homeless women and work with partners to ensure services are tailored to better meet the needs of women experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

We know that domestic abuse is a significant cause of homelessness affecting both women and men, and timely wraparound support is critical for those who are able to stay in their own homes, and for those who need to flee to a place of safety.

ACTIONS: DELIVER SUPPORT

01	Improve access to commissioned supported housing. Consider a single assessment process.	Housing Options, housing support providers
02	Ensure fair exit from supported housing including eviction protocols that prevent rough sleeping.	Commissioned and non-commissioned housing support providers, commissioners
03	Encourage and support development of good quality non-commissioned supported housing, and work to improve access to non-commissioned supported housing in partnership with providers, within frameworks that provide quality assurance.	Commissioned and non-commissioned housing support providers, Registered Providers, Housing Options, commissioners
04	Commission short term supported housing to meet complex and multiple needs.	Commissioners, housing support providers
05	Remodel and commission floating support services for those with support needs to prevent homelessness, to help people move on from homelessness, and provide opportunities for peer support and group work.	Commissioners, housing support providers
06	Improve the response to youth homelessness through development of a Youth Homelessness Delivery Plan with partners. Ensure the provision of short term supported housing for young people across a range of support needs.	Bradford Council – Housing Options, Children's Services, commissioners, housing support providers, Registered Providers
07	Increase provision of tenancies which provide Intensive Housing Management (IHM) support, including some specifically for young people.	Housing Support providers, Commissioners
08	Deliver support services to homeless people that are psychologically informed.	Housing Options, Housing Support providers
09	Improve the offer to homeless people with mental health and dual diagnosis issues. Explore opportunities to jointly commission/directly employ specialist support e.g. through specialist dual diagnosis practitioners in supported housing to provide clinical expertise.	Public Health, CCGs, housing providers, commissioners
10	Improve the offer to homeless people with a social care need. Review obligations under the Care Act for people who are homeless and have social care needs.	Adult Social Care, housing support providers, Housing Options
11	Explore opportunities for funding and facilitating specific services to meet the needs of homeless women.	Commissioners, housing support providers
12	Encourage partners and providers to consider and respond to LGBTQ+ homelessness in flexible support provision, early intervention, training and service protocols.	Housing Options, housing support providers, commissioners
13	Work closely with partners to prevent homelessness due to domestic abuse and to ensure rapid rehousing for people who are made homeless due to domestic abuse.	Housing Options, housing support providers
14	Implement a remodelled integrated domestic abuse and sexual violence service which adopts a whole system approach and achieves transformation of refuge and supported housing for people experiencing domestic abuse.	Commissioners, domestic abuse support and accommodation providers, Adult Services, Children's Services, Police, health providers.

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

- The Housing Related Support Gateway operating efficiently, and fair access to short-term supported housing.
- Increased supply of good quality non-commissioned supported housing.
- Reduced use of temporary accommodation and B&B, and no families with children in B&B.
- Reduced evictions from supported housing.
- Increased tenancy sustainment rates in move on accommodation.
- Reduction in youth homelessness.
- A protocol on homeless people with care needs.

The Government has announced a national target to reduce rough sleeping by half by 2022 and to eradicate it all together by 2027. Our objective is to prevent rough sleeping from happening in the first place and when it does happen, ensure it is for very short periods. We can only achieve this through early intervention and by working with a wide range of partners including the voluntary and faith sector, the police, support and housing providers, and across our council departments.



We recognise the complex needs of rough sleepers. We know that people who sleep rough often have unmet mental health, physical health and substance misuse needs. Some will have been discharged from services after missed appointments or non-engagement, and

for others emergency accommodation may be difficult to access or maintain.

We recognise that people who sleep rough often present to services when they are in crisis and their unmet needs are at their highest, and a rapid and flexible response is therefore needed at those times.



CASE STUDY

John is in his late 50s and has had periods of homelessness and rough sleeping over many years. He has lost tenancies in the past due to his behaviour and the behaviour of his visitors. He experienced several family bereavements in a short space of time. Due to his mental health issues and alcohol dependency he often alienated himself from services, making him feel worthless and untreatable. John was a frequent attendee at A & E.

Life has changed significantly for John since accessing the Housing First service in Bradford. John is successfully managing his own tenancy with a private landlord

in an area he likes. He has had support to help him communicate with his landlord and neighbours. He has recently reconnected with a supportive family member.

John is beginning to address his alcohol dependency. He now has a bank account and pays his bills. He has completed a probation order and is able to access mainstream healthcare through his GP. He has recently participated in a photography session revisiting the areas where he slept rough. He said he felt very uplifted by the ability of the photographs to tell his story.

John feels that his experience of homelessness could have been prevented if support services had focused on all his needs and listened to him rather than judging him. That is why Housing First has made the difference for John.

We will continue to work with services to prevent people sleeping out. We recognise the need to move people on from emergency night shelter provision as quickly as possible and that rapid rehousing will help to reduce rough sleeping. We aim to reduce the length of time in our No Second Night Out provision.

Our action plan will include steps to address the need for practical support for people who are rough sleeping and destitute e.g. clothing,

food, toiletries, sign posting, outreach, daytime services and emergency cold weather provision. We will work with partners and the general public to raise awareness of rough sleeping and where they can direct people for help.

The death of any person rough sleeping is a devastating reminder that rough sleeping is very dangerous. We will ensure that lessons are learned from rough sleeper deaths.

ACTIONS: TACKLE ROUGH SLEEPING

01	Continue to deliver proactive and coordinated Street Outreach services and crisis support for rough sleepers; seek ongoing funding for bespoke rough sleeper services.	Street Outreach Teams, No Second Night Out, housing support providers
02	Monitor and review the outcomes of Bradford's Housing First pilot and its impact on rough sleeping. Secure funding to deliver an ongoing Housing First model of accommodation and support to people with complex and multiple needs. Seek to secure enhanced commitments from Registered Providers to support Housing First.	Commissioners, Housing First provider, Registered Providers
03	Continue to enhance partnership working with health to better address the needs of rough sleepers including street health services and primary care health services for homeless people and rough sleepers.	Bevan Healthcare, Public Health, CCGs, Commissioners, support providers
04	Secure funding for recommissioning a person-centred No Second Night Out service that provides emergency shelter and rapidly rehouses rough sleepers into appropriate accommodation.	Commissioners, No Second Night Out, housing and support providers
05	Secure funding for recommissioning day shelter services to provide a safe place for rough sleepers to seek support and be signposted to relevant services.	Commissioners, housing and support providers
06	Improve coordination of information and resources targeted at rough sleeping to enable agencies to work better together for rough sleepers; consider provision of services at multiple locations to make access easier.	No Second Night Out, Day Shelter, Housing Options
07	Support destitute individuals – and help resolve destitution issues by working closely with community centres and the faith and voluntary sector to provide access to emergency food, clothing, bathing facilities, and appropriate housing.	Community centres, faith and voluntary sector organisations, No Second Night Out, Day Shelter
08	Ensure provision of additional emergency bedspaces during periods of cold weather, and ensure support is available for all rough sleepers accessing Cold Weather Provision.	Housing Options, housing and support providers, faith and voluntary sector
09	Develop a process for reviewing deaths of rough sleepers and lessons learnt so that the learning contributes to future service delivery, partnership and joint working.	Bradford Safeguarding Adults Board, housing and support providers

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

- Reduction in rough sleepers across the district.
- Reduced length of stay in No Second Night Out provision.
- Increased Housing First supply.
- Support for destitute individuals.
- A multi-agency protocol in place for reviewing rough sleeper deaths.

A fundamental element of this theme is ensuring that a range of housing solutions are available and accessible to those in need. This includes greater provision of decent quality social housing and private sector housing and removing real or perceived barriers to access. This objective is reflected in the Bradford Housing Strategy 2020-2030, which aims to make more affordable housing available across the district, working with Registered Providers to deliver affordable housing schemes, reducing the number of empty homes, and developing allocations and lettings policies to maximise priority for homeless households.



We will work with Registered Providers to ensure that their lettings policies facilitate rapid rehousing and break down barriers to accessing social housing for homeless people. We will aim to speed up and increase move-on options for those in emergency accommodation and supported housing. We will encourage support providers to work closely with landlords to maintain tenancies.

We will continue to work with private sector landlords to improve standards of accommodation and management in recognition that for many homeless households, a placement in the private rented sector can be a successful outcome particularly in areas with little or no available social housing. We will continue to develop the Private Sector Lettings Scheme and support the use of rent guarantees



CASE STUDY

When Paul left the Armed Forces, he lived with his partner in a social housing tenancy. When the relationship broke down he left the property without informing the landlord. As a result, Paul accrued rent arrears. He initially lived with his mother and stepfather, but the relationship was difficult and eventually he was obliged to leave.

By November 2018, Paul was living in supported housing and claiming Universal Credit but was keen to find employment

and to move on. However, his options for affordable housing were restricted as his age (28) meant that he was limited to the shared housing rate of LHA to cover his housing costs - £60.01 per week.

The Private Sector Letting Scheme team discussed the private rented options available with Paul and helped him to identify suitable housing. Paul moved into shared accommodation and has been successfully maintaining his tenancy following a period of floating support to help him to settle. He has been successful in gaining employment and has set up a payment plan to pay off his arrears with the social landlord.

and damage waivers to incentivise placements of homeless households.

We will work to support people with physical disabilities that put them at risk of homelessness due to physical access issues in their accommodation. We will aim to support the development and adaptation of more homes that can meet the needs of those with physical disabilities.

We recognise that young people can face many barriers to accessing secure, affordable and decent housing and aim to improve the housing options available for young people as well as supporting them to sustain their tenancies. As part of this we recognise the importance of young people becoming 'tenancy ready' to prevent homelessness from occurring once they are housed.

ACTIONS: IMPROVE ACCESS TO HOUSING

01	Continue to work with Registered Provider partners to identify and remove barriers to homeless people accessing social housing.	Registered Providers, Housing Options
02	Review Housing Options advice and practice on registering applicants on the Social Housing Register, to maximise efficient and effective matching of households to social housing lets.	Housing Options
03	Ensure the District's Social Housing Allocations Policy is revised and updated to improve priority for people who are owed a homeless prevention, relief or full housing duty.	Bradford Council, Housing Options, Registered Providers
04	Improve digital access to applying for social housing via the Social Housing Register, including the ability to self-register.	Housing Options
05	Work with partners and private rented sector landlords to remove the barriers to homeless people accessing private rented housing.	Private Sector Lettings Scheme, landlords, housing and support providers
06	Continue to develop linkages between work to tackle empty homes and initiatives to rehouse and support homeless people.	Housing and support providers, specialist self-help agencies, Empty Homes team
07	Develop initiatives that help people to access essential white goods, carpets and furniture at the start of a social tenancy to maximise chances of sustainment.	Register Provider partners, private landlords
08	Look into pathways and housing options for people with physical disabilities and enhance information sharing on needs and available accommodation.	Housing Options, Registered Provider partners, housing and support providers
09	Provide timely support for tenants who have moved on from short term accommodation to maximise the chances of sustainment.	Housing and support providers, Registered Providers
10	Improve access to housing for young people through improved tenancy readiness and reduction in barriers.	Children's Services, Housing Options, housing and support providers, Registered Providers
11	Encourage Registered Providers and private landlords to increase the number and type of properties they are willing to let to homeless households with pets.	Housing and support providers, Registered Providers, private landlords

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

- Increased numbers of homeless people accommodated in social housing.
- Increased numbers of homeless people accommodated in the private rented sector.
- Improved access to housing for disabled homeless people.
- Additional tenancy sustainment support is delivered.

The causes of and solutions to homelessness and rough sleeping are complex and no single agency can solve the problem alone. The Council is one of many organisations such as housing and support providers, the police, probation, health agencies, drug and alcohol services, education, the voluntary and community sector and local businesses who will all be working together to achieve the aims of the strategy.



It is vital that everyone understands how they can contribute to the prevention of homelessness and support those who are homeless. We will develop a Homelessness Charter setting out the guiding principles concerning the rights of those who are homeless and how people can help.

We are committed to building on our existing strengths in partnership working, which becomes ever-more important as public resources are stretched. We recognise that particularly for complex clients with multiple needs, a multi-agency approach which considers all needs, not just housing, is the only way that homelessness solutions can be made sustainable.

We will develop and improve joint assessments, co-location of staff and services and referral processes. We will also share appropriate information effectively and within the legal requirements of GDPR, to deliver better outcomes for homeless people.

We recognise the importance of good partnership working with our commissioned and non-commissioned services, and with the people who use our services. We will endeavour to take a joint commissioning approach and pool resources where it makes sense with commissioning partners and we will seek out evidence of the impact of our homeless services and initiatives.

CASE STUDY



Darren moved into the specialist BRICSS supported housing service after having major surgery and complications from a stroke. He was referred to this service by the hospital-based Pathway Team. At BRICSS, clinical, social and housing practitioners provide integrated healthcare and social support including access to a GP, mental health and substance misuse nurse and physical health nurse.

Darren's privately rented home was unsuitable for him to return to because of his health. He said: "I was living in my own place, but the landlord neglected the property. I was becoming ill with the damp. The place was falling apart". Darren is looking forward to the next stage of his recovery. He said: "Support here has been brilliant – I couldn't have asked for any better. No one said 'no, you can't do this' – I've never had that, ever."

We recognise the need for clear and sensible pathways to improve the customer journey and how co-production of these pathways with those with lived experience will help us to reduce homelessness and its impacts.

We acknowledge the impact of homelessness and insecure housing on people's health and wellbeing and that housing and homelessness are broader determinants of health. We will therefore continue to work closely with health partners on identifying solutions which help prevent or relieve homelessness.

We are committed to delivering better analysis through sharing the data held across different partners to improve joint working and improve our understanding of homelessness. We will improve our collection of data on the experience of people who are homeless and agree with partners what analysis is required to give us a better understanding of the causes of homelessness. We will agree and monitor shared goals, outcomes and targets with our partners.

ACTIONS: WORK BETTER TOGETHER

01	Develop and launch a Bradford District Homelessness Charter that sets out our expectations for supporting homeless people and what everyone can do to help. Encourage businesses, partner organisations and the general public to sign up to the Charter.	Bradford Housing Partnership, all partner organisations, general public
02	Work better together to improve access to housing support. Create one central online, accessible system for all providers to log available bed spaces and support services including real time updates.	Housing Support Gateway, Commissioners, Drug & Housing Support Providers
03	Listen to and acknowledge the voice of experts by experience and use this to facilitate the co-production of services to tackle homelessness.	People with lived experience of homelessness, housing and support providers Housing Options
04	Review pathways and support for homeless people with multiple or complex needs including mental health and dual diagnosis; identify where gaps occur and work with partners to improve customer journeys for vulnerable people.	Housing Options, housing and support providers, mental health providers, drug & alcohol treatment providers, CCGs, commissioners
05	Ensure effective governance and oversight of this strategy to develop further detailed action commitments and monitor and review progress against objectives.	Bradford Housing Partnership – People Group
06	Improve our understanding of causes and demographics of homelessness by sharing datasets across partner agencies and undertaking bespoke analysis. Use this information to inform future reviews of strategy actions and develop services.	Bradford Housing Partnership – People Group
07	Reduce the need for multiple assessments and delays in allocating housing and support by developing better pathway co-ordination including for young people.	Housing Options, Children's Services, housing and support providers, commissioners
08	Develop the Complex Needs Housing Panel to ensure partner agencies work proactively to flex services to meet accommodation and support needs of the most complex and vulnerable homeless people	Housing Options, housing and support providers, probation, health, outreach services, Registered Providers
09	Ensure contract specifications require a best practice approach to safeguarding of vulnerable adults and safeguarding protocols to be in place for all housing and homelessness support services.	Housing Options, temporary housing, Registered Providers and housing support providers

HOW WE WILL MEASURE SUCCESS

- Bradford Homelessness Charter developed, agreed and launched.
- Improved pathways for homeless people.
- Co-production is part of service design and decision making.
- A shared dataset is in place and used across partners.



In this strategy we have set out the key themes that need to be addressed in order to achieve our overarching vision. Under each theme we have identified some key areas of action to be explored and developed over the lifetime of the strategy. We have a shared commitment across a range of key partners and stakeholders to help deliver this strategy, as the achievement of our vision depends on many partners contributing their resources and developing solutions.

As this strategy is by design a high-level framework to inform and guide future interventions, its success will depend in part on the implementation of other linked strategies, policies and programmes, for example the district's Housing Strategy, Social Housing Allocations Policy, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Mental Wellbeing Strategy and Affordable Housing Programme.

This strategy will be jointly owned by Bradford Council and the Bradford Housing Partnership. Annual progress reports will be provided for the Council's Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Housing Partnership's People Group will take responsibility for developing and securing detailed commitments from partners, building on the headline actions identified so far. Lead partners will be identified for co-ordinating delivery of specific new actions. The People Group will also take responsibility for reviewing success measures and performance.

The strategy will be subject to light-touch review each year, especially in the event of any major funding, legislative or policy changes. The strategy will then be fully revised and updated in 2025.

CONCLUSION

This Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is Bradford's response to increased pressures which are impacting on levels and complexity of homelessness and rough sleeping across the district.

Our overarching targets are to:

- Increase rates of successful prevention of homelessness.
- Reduce the number of placements into temporary accommodation.
- Reduce the length of stays in Bed & Breakfast accommodation (B&B).
- Reduce rough sleeping significantly.

The targets we have set for ourselves will be extremely challenging to meet, given the wider economic climate and rising levels of need. As well as maintaining those initiatives that already effectively support our objectives, we need to build on the partnerships within the district to find new ways of approaching our goals. This will require multi-agency working to improve access to decent homes, provide the support that is needed and respond swiftly to people in crisis.

Ultimately, our success will depend on everyone pulling together to help more people at an earlier stage, and thereby stop the spiral of decline into homelessness by securing a stable home for all.

BRADFORD HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2020-2025

OUR VISION:

Across our partnerships we will strive towards ending homelessness and rough sleeping once and for all.

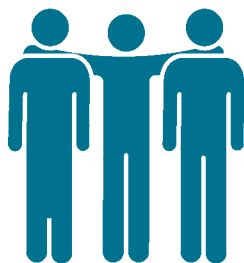
Homelessness is everyone's business.

THEMES:

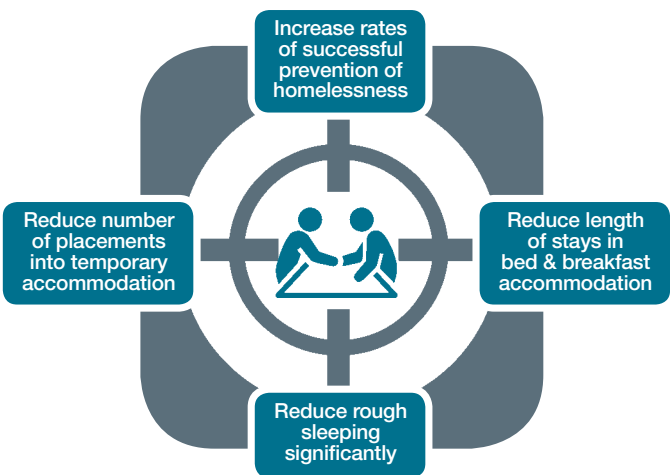


PRINCIPLES:

Co-production
Person centred
Recovery focused
Equality and diversity
Safeguarding vulnerable people



TARGETS:





Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)

ACEs are stressful experiences occurring during childhood that directly hurt a child (e.g. maltreatment) or affect them through the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house with domestic violence).

BRICSS

Bradford Respite Intermediate Care Support Service, established in 2013 as a partnership between Horton Housing Association and Bevan Healthcare. Provides specialist supported housing for homeless patients discharged from hospital with continuing healthcare needs.

Bradford Housing Partnership

Bradford Housing Partnership is a strategic partnership coordinated by the Council which includes all key housing stakeholders. The Partnership consists of an Executive Group and two main delivery groups – the People Group and the Place Group.

Care Act

The **Care Act 2014** consolidated existing law relating to adults with care and support needs, and aimed to create a single consistent route to establishing entitlement to publicly funded care and support. The emphasis in the Act is on meeting needs to improve the wellbeing of adults who need care and support because of physical or mental impairment or illness.

Cold Weather Provision

Coordinated provision of additional emergency bed spaces for anyone sleeping rough, on nights during winter months when the temperature is predicted to be freezing. A number of housing and support providers work in partnership to deliver Cold Weather Provision.

Commitment to refer

Voluntary commitment entered into by Registered Providers or housing associations, to refer anyone to a local authority that they believe is homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Complex needs

People may have complex needs due to trauma or ACEs, domestic violence, mental health issues, autism, learning disabilities, physical disability, a history of rough sleeping or repeat homelessness, drug and alcohol misuse or other challenging experiences.

Co-production

Co-production in homelessness services is where professionals and people with experience of using services work together collaboratively to design and deliver services and policies.

Day Shelter

Service in Bradford currently commissioned by the Council from the Salvation Army, which is open 365 days a year providing facilities for rough sleepers including showers, laundry, hot drinks and snacks, phone and internet access, support sessions and signposting to specialist agencies.

Discretionary Housing Payments

A Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) is an extra payment which can be claimed for certain housing costs (e.g. rent in advance) where a person is in receipt of Housing Benefit or the housing element of Universal Credit. DHPs are discretionary, which means that there is no automatic right to a payment. DHPs can help to prevent homelessness.

Dual diagnosis

Dual diagnosis is term used to describe a person with a mental health diagnosis who also has drug or alcohol abuse issues.

Duty to Refer

Duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which came into effect 1 October 2018. Under this duty, certain public authorities must notify the Council where one of its service users may be homeless or at risk of homelessness and agrees to the referral.

Empty Homes team

The **Empty Homes and Loans team** at Bradford Council, which tackles empty homes across the Bradford district through a range of initiatives aimed at helping owners of empty homes bring them back into use.

Floating Support

Floating Support is non accommodation-based housing related support. The support is provided on a temporary basis to help resettle people who have been homeless into more settled accommodation, to move on from supported housing and to help prevent tenancy breakdown.

GDPR

General Data Protection Regulation is the legal framework that sets guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information about individuals within the European Union.

Homelessness Charter

A Homelessness Charter can bring together public agencies, businesses, charities and the general public to tackle the problem of homelessness. Charters can include values and rights of homeless people and pledges for action that stakeholders commit to.

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA)

This Act came into force in April 2018. See **HRA Policy Factsheets**.

Key changes brought in by the Act include

1. Improving the advice and information available about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness
2. Extending the period 'threatened with homelessness' from 28 days to 56 days
3. Introduces new duties to prevent and relieve homelessness for all eligible people, regardless of priority need, intentionality (and local connection)
4. Introduces assessments and personal housing plans, setting out the actions housing authorities and individuals will take to secure accommodation
5. Encouraging public bodies to work together to prevent and relieve homelessness through a duty to refer

Homelessness Prevention duty

Households deemed under HRA to be threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days, which means the Council owes them a duty to take reasonable steps to help prevent them becoming homeless.

Homelessness Relief duty

Households deemed under HRA to be already homeless, or where homeless prevention has been unsuccessful. Under this duty, the Council must take reasonable steps to help such households find and secure accommodation.

Housing First

An accommodation and support model which can meet the needs of entrenched rough sleepers and other people with complex needs. The philosophy is to provide a stable, independent home and intensive personalised support and case management, with no conditions around 'housing readiness'. See **Housing First England** for more information.

Housing Options

Frontline homelessness and housing advice service delivered by the Council. **The Housing Options Service** carries out homelessness assessments and gives advice and support to help people find somewhere to live or to prevent homelessness.

Housing Related Support (HRS)

Help for vulnerable people to find or stay in their own home. Support can be either accommodation-based or floating. The main route to commissioned Housing Related Support is through the Gateway, which is administered by Bradford Housing Options.

Intensive housing management

Tenancies which come with additional support for vulnerable households who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness or tenancy failure.

LGBTQ+

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or questioning) The 'plus' stands for acceptance and embracing of all.

Local Housing Allowance (LHA)

The rates used to work out entitlement to Housing Benefit for tenants in private rented accommodation. The amounts are flat-rate allowances based on the size of the tenant's household and the area in which they rent their property. The LHA determines the amount of benefit they will receive.

National Asylum Seeker Service (NASS) accommodation

The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) administers the accommodation and financial support provided to eligible asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

No Second Night Out (NSNO)

Service in Bradford currently commissioned by the Council from Humankind, which provides short-term emergency accommodation (night shelter) for rough sleepers, an outreach service, and coordination of Cold Weather Provision.

Notices to quit

Notices to quit are issued by landlords to signify their intention to bring a tenancy or a license to an end.

Personal Housing Plans

Under the HRA, local authorities are required to develop a personal housing plan (PHP) for all homeless households. The plan sets out the steps the individual and the local authority must take to help the household find or stay in suitable accommodation.

Private Rented Sector (PRS)

All non-owner-occupied property other than that rented from social landlords / housing associations.

Private Sector Lettings Scheme

Bradford Council's **Private Sector Lettings Scheme** helps landlords by matching their properties to people who are looking for accommodation in the private rented sector across Bradford district. Those in housing need, assessed by Housing Options, are prioritised as prospective tenants.

Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE)

Services that are designed and delivered in a way that takes the psychological and emotional needs of people into account. PIE is a way of working that places people and their individual needs at the centre, creating an environment that enables and sustains recovery. See **Homeless Link Briefing** for a useful introduction.

Rapid rehousing

The approach of helping people settle very quickly back with family or friends, into private rented, social housing or other affordable and safe long-term housing options. Rapid rehousing can also be used to prevent people needing emergency accommodation in the first place.

Recovery focused

The approach to mental health or substance misuse which emphasises and supports a person's potential for recovery.

Registered Providers (RPs)

Providers of social housing who are registered with Homes England. Also known as social landlords and/or housing associations.

Rough sleepers

The Government defines rough sleepers as 'people sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/ in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments) and people in buildings or places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes').

Self-help housing

Self Help housing refers to community-based organisations who want to tackle local problems arising from empty properties and to improve access to affordable housing for people who are homeless. See **Self Help housing** for more information.

Social housing register

The social housing register is the register for people who wish to apply for social housing within Bradford. The Council is responsible for this register, and customers are assessed to see which priority band they fall into, based on their housing need. Registered Providers are obliged to request 'nominations' from the Council for a certain percentage of their void properties. These nominations are sought from the social housing register and eligible applicants are matched to void properties in accordance with the district's **Social Housing Allocations Policy**.

Sofa-surfing

Staying for short periods with different friends or family because you have nowhere settled to stay.

Statutory homeless (main duty / full duty)

Those homeless households who the Council have assessed and accepted as being owed the full housing duty, also known as 'full duty' or 'main duty'. The households are eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and have

a 'priority need'. Priority need groups include those who are pregnant, those with dependent children, young people age 16 or 17, care leavers age 18 – 20, homeless due to fire, flood or other disaster, or those who are classed as 'vulnerable'. Vulnerability is assessed on a case by case basis, and is a matter of evaluative judgement, taking into account case law and the **Homelessness Code of Guidance**. When the full duty is owed, this means the household must be provided with temporary accommodation pending sourcing a long-term housing solution.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) was commissioned by the Council in 2019 and provides the latest available evidence to help to shape the future planning and housing policies of the area. See **Bradford SHMA 2019**.

Supported housing

Supported housing is any accommodation where housing support and sometimes care services are provided. Some schemes are long-term and others are short-term. These schemes help people develop the skills needed to move into more mainstream housing. This can include support with physical health needs, mental health, substance misuse, managing benefits and debt, developing daily living skills and accessing education, training and employment.

Temporary accommodation

Accommodation provided by the Council to certain homeless households who meet criteria laid out in Part 7 Housing Act 1996. In Bradford, this temporary accommodation can be hostel-based, in self-contained flats or houses, or as a last resort in bed and breakfast accommodation. Most temporary accommodation is commissioned from Horton Housing Association in partnership with Bradford Cyrenians.

Universal Credit

Single monthly benefit payment for people who are either in or out of work, to help with living costs. Replaces many of the benefits and tax credits which were previously paid separately. Includes an element for housing costs, which replaces Housing Benefit.

Welfare reform

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 brought in a programme of changes to welfare benefits. The Welfare Reform Act replaced several longstanding benefits with new benefits. It included changes to Housing Benefit and introduced Universal Credit.

For further information please contact:

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