

Newark and Sherwood District Council

# Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy

## 2024 – 2029

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*'Ending Homelessness Together'*



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# FOREWORD

*'Everyone should live in an environment that enables a safe and healthy lifestyle'.*



We are pleased to introduce our new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024-2029. The strategy follows on from the Council's existing Homelessness Strategy, covering the period 2019-2024.

Our vision for Newark and Sherwood is to create an environment where people lead safe and healthy lifestyles, ensuring suitable housing for all. At the heart of this is our aim to break the cycle of homelessness by ensuring the causes are identified at an earlier stage and prevented where possible.

This Strategy sets out the key challenges, priorities, and objectives to respond to the challenges ahead, reduce homelessness and the impact of homelessness in Newark and Sherwood and subsequently support the Council's Strategic Priorities.

Homelessness has a substantial impact on the lives of those affected - for some, homelessness and rough sleeping can be a result of more long-established and complex issues including trauma, offending and substance use, often resulting in inequality, poverty, poor health & wellbeing.

We will take a person-centred approach and create sustainable solutions that focus on an individual's need and aspirations - encouraging and working with individuals to create their own solutions.

We recognise that homelessness is complex, and a much wider issue than a lack of housing or rough sleeping alone. Our partners play a vital role, and we value their expertise, dedication, and support.

Now more than ever we need to work together to respond to the challenges ahead and to be innovative in our thinking, finding lasting solutions to tackle homelessness and support our most vulnerable residents.

We are very keen that the strategy and delivery plan is a live document. All progress will be reviewed by the Council's Housing, Health and Wellbeing Business Unit and the Mid Notts Joint Homelessness Prevention Strategic Group.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the individuals and organisations who have contributed to the collation of the comprehensive district wide homelessness review and the development of this strategy.

**Councillor Lee Brazier**

# INTRODUCTION



This Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 – 2029 follows on from the Council’s existing Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy documents, covering the period 2019-2024.

The Homelessness Act 2002 and Code of Guidance (Section 1 (1) of the 2002 Homelessness Act) gives Housing Authorities a power and duty to carry out a homelessness review for their district and formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review every 5 years as a minimum.

Additional duties have been introduced via the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 - to produce a strategy that involves partners in earlier identification and intervention to prevent homelessness.


As part of the homelessness strategy, housing authorities should develop effective action plans to help ensure that the objectives, targets, and milestones are achieved. To be effective the homelessness strategy will be based on realistic assumptions and be developed and jointly owned with partners.

The Government Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018 placed an expectation on Local Authorities to produce a Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The 2022 ‘Ending Rough Sleeping for Good’ strategy sets out how the Government and its partners will work together to deliver on the Government’s manifesto commitment to end rough sleeping in this Parliament. It also lays the foundations for long-term system change to end rough sleeping sustainably and for good.

Newark and Sherwood District Council have brought these duties together to create a collective ‘Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2024 - 2029’.

For the homelessness strategy to be effective, we will ensure that it is consistent with other local plans and is developed with, and has the support of, all relevant local authority departments and partners.



# OUR VISION AND PRIORITIES




Our vision for Newark and Sherwood is to create an environment where people lead safe and healthy lifestyles, ensuring suitable housing for all. At the heart of this is our aim to break the cycle of homelessness by ensuring the causes of homelessness are identified at an earlier stage and prevented where possible.

At the core of this strategy there are six priorities which will underpin our approach to the development and delivery of homelessness services in Newark and Sherwood:

<b>Early intervention through effective partnership working</b>
<b>The provision of an accessible, agile, and responsive homelessness service</b>
<b>Access to affordable and quality accommodation across all sectors</b>
<b>Tackle rough sleeping by developing and improving pathways</b>
<b>Linking health, well-being, and housing together to improve the life chances and aspirations of those affected</b>
<b>Delivering holistic support solutions to sustain long term tenancies and prevent homelessness and rough sleeping</b>

To ensure that the priorities are developed, and progress is monitored, we will:

<b>Develop a delivery plan with key stakeholders</b>
<b>Carry out an annual progress review</b>
<b>Agree a robust analysis framework of performance data</b>
<b>Monitor the local, regional, and national policy context</b>
<b>Facilitate quarterly monitoring by the Mid Notts Joint Homelessness Prevention Strategic Group and the Newark and Sherwood Homeless Interagency Forum</b>



# 2019 – 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS



Key outcomes from the Newark and Sherwood District Council Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024 are:

- Improved access to Privately Rented Accommodation and sustainment with dedicated Landlord Liaison Officers.
- Continued partnerships with Sherwood and Newark Citizens Advice to provide a Debt and Welfare Advice Service.
- A homelessness Prevention Programme in secondary schools and colleges, delivered by Broxtowe Youth Homelessness.
- Introduction of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Credit Union Service.
- Targeted support to young families with Home-Start.
- Additional supported housing for rough sleepers with higher/complex needs following a successful bid to the Next Steps Accommodation Programme.
- Supporting faith groups to provide 'The Well' Drop in for single homelessness or rough sleepers.
- A new temporary accommodation provision in Newark.
- Initiation of a successful Rough Sleeper Action Group.
- Countywide Rough Sleeper Initiative bid and funding for Rough Sleeper services.
- Domestic Abuse Housing Liaison Worker in place as a result of the new Domestic Abuse Act.



# HOMELESSNESS IN NEWARK AND SHERWOOD

Between April 2019 and March 2023, the main findings from the Homelessness Review tell us that:

- On average 800 households request assistance from the Housing Options Team each year. In 2022/23 the council experienced the highest number of approaches.
- Loss of Assured Shorthold Tenancy is the highest cause of homelessness in Newark and Sherwood, closely followed by friends/family no longer willing or able to accommodate.
- Single female with children has been the highest household type of application, but has reduced over the last four years, similarly for couples with and without children.
- The overall highest household type threatened with homelessness and awarded a prevention duty is single households.
- 55% of cases threatened with homelessness are prevented with a move to alternative accommodation.
- The number of single males already homeless is much higher than those that can be prevented.
- Dependent children are the primary reason for a priority need in Newark and Sherwood.
- The largest increase in temporary accommodation placements is single males with complex needs, the number of single females has also increased since 2019-20 but not at the same rate.
- 62% of rough sleepers placed into short-term/emergency accommodation are Non-UK Nationals.
- The Rough Sleeper monthly snapshots total 52 EEA Nationals being found in Newark and Sherwood in 2022/23 with 26% being new rough sleepers.
- The average number of rough sleepers found per year totals 98, 48% are new to the street.
- 46% of homeless households disclosed one or more other support needs in addition to homelessness, the highest being history of mental health, substance use, physical ill health and disability or a risk of/has experienced domestic abuse.
- Housing Stock data and the allocation of council tenancies shows that, over the last three years, 28% of allocations have been awarded to those in a homelessness banding.

# REGIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT



Newark and Sherwood District Council have created and take responsibility for a number of existing strategies across the various Business Units, each of the following are complimented by, have synergies, or could link to the new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy as detailed below:

**[Newark and Sherwood District Council Community Plan 2023 – 2027](#)** The Community Plan sets out the Council's objectives over a four-year period, it details what we intend to achieve in that period to improve residents' quality of life and enable those who live, work, and invest in Newark and Sherwood to prosper and fulfil their potential.

**Landlord Strategy 2022 -2027** This strategy establishes the vision for Council-owned social housing within Newark & Sherwood and the contribution that it will make to achieve the ambitions of the Community Plan 2023-27 and beyond.

**Tenancy Strategy 2022 – 2026** The Localism Act 2011 placed a duty on all local authorities to produce a Tenancy Strategy to sit alongside the Landlord Strategy, Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy, Allocations Scheme, and any Registered Provider's Tenancy Policies.

**Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2026** This strategy sets out a four-year plan for improving the health and wellbeing of local residents to support our community plan objectives.

**Housing Allocation Scheme** Council housing and some Registered Provider (RP) properties (where NSDC has 'Nomination Rights') are let to people in accordance with this Scheme. NSDC has Nomination Rights to most RP properties in the district. This means NSDC nominates applicants on the Housing Register who are successful in 'bidding'.

**Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023 - 2028** The Newark and Sherwood Housing Strategy identifies the key priorities over the next five years and sets out in the Delivery Plan what the Council and its partners are planning to do to address them and move Newark and Sherwood forward by identifying opportunities, investment decisions, legislative changes and setting out how they can be realised.



**Newark and Sherwood Armed Forces Covenant** A voluntary agreement encouraging local communities to develop a relationship with the armed forces community in our area. This includes housing advice and assistance to any serving members of the armed forces, their families and veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

**Nottinghamshire Care Leavers Offer** Being 'corporate parents' means Nottinghamshire County Council and the seven district and borough councils in Nottinghamshire must provide a care experienced individual with certain support and services. The care leavers offer includes a setting up home element.



# HOW THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED




This strategy was developed alongside colleagues at Ashfield District Council and Mansfield District Council as part of our continued commitment to joined up working across Mid-Nottinghamshire to tackle homelessness.

It is based on a review of:

- Our progress in delivering the 2019-24 strategy aims and objectives.
- The current and emerging national, regional, and local policy context.
- An assessment of the housing market.
- Analysis of official homelessness statistics, local rough sleeping data, stock housing data and private rented sector statistics.
- Research into the root causes of homelessness and the likely future levels of homelessness.

The full findings of this review are detailed separately in our Homelessness Review 2024 document.

We consulted with a range of stakeholders throughout the development of this strategy:

- We asked internal teams and external stakeholders to identify the strengths and weaknesses of our work to tackle homelessness, and to tell us what we should consider doing differently.
  - We invited internal teams and external stakeholders to a face-to-face event to discuss the proposed priorities and identify actions they'd like to see the council and our partners take to deliver them.
  - The Local Influence Networks discussed and approved the proposed priorities.
  - Supported housing and temporary accommodation residents were invited to a focus group to discuss their experience of homelessness and the proposed priorities.
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# GOVERNANCE



The strategy has been launched at an event with stakeholders, through collaboration with partners a delivery plan has been created. Going forward an annual homelessness review will take place to re-evaluate and realign the delivery plan and progress the priorities of the Strategy.

The Mid-Nottinghamshire Joint Homelessness Prevention Strategic Group (JHPSG) will meet quarterly and will play a key role in the delivery and governance of the delivery plan.

A Newark and Sherwood Homelessness Interagency Group will be established and hold responsibility for ensuring the priorities and agreed actions of the Strategy are achieved locally.

The Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy is approved by Cabinet. Annual updates will be submitted to ensure scrutiny and challenge.

If you wish to contact us, please either, write to us, e-mail us or telephone: -

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