



Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy 2025 - 2030



**Draft for consultation
Brighton & Hove City Council**



An easy read guide

Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy



Last year, Brighton & Hove City Council made plans to improve housing in the city.



Unfortunately, there are still a lot of people who do not have a home in Brighton, but the council would like to change this.

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Under the Homelessness Act (2002), all councils must have a homelessness strategy or plan. This needs to be updated every 5 years.



There are many different reasons why people become homeless. Unemployment, mental health conditions and the cost of living crisis are some of the reasons why.



This strategy talks about how the council is going to improve homelessness and rough sleeping by 2030.



The council are going to focus on preventing homelessness in the first place.



If someone does become homeless, they want to make sure that there is enough good quality temporary accommodation available.



The council also want to make sure that vulnerable people have enough support if they become homeless.



Vulnerable people include children, people with mental health needs, people with drugs and/or alcohol issues or people with a history of breaking the law or committing crimes.



The council have talked to a lot of people with lived experience of homeless to develop this strategy.



The council welcomes feedback on this strategy. To ask for an Easy Read survey please email hrss@brighton-hove.gov.uk or phone **01273 290555**. Or you can go to the council's website: <https://yourvoice.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>

Some facts about homelessness in Brighton



In 2024, there were almost 3600 people experiencing homelessness in Brighton & Hove.



In November 2024, 76 people were sleeping rough.



More than half of people who were at risk of becoming homeless in 2024 was due to their private rented accommodation coming to an end.



There are 7500 households on the waiting list for social housing. The average wait time for a socially rented home is 3.3 years.



The council have £31.4 million to spend on homelessness services in 2025 - 2026, of which £28 million is for temporary accommodation.

Preventing homelessness and rough sleeping

1. Early identification of risk and intervention



To try and prevent homelessness, the council want to find the people who are at risk of becoming homeless and try and stop them from becoming homeless.



They will do this by working with public services, including Family hubs, school and foodbanks, to support people and families at risk of becoming homeless as soon as possible.

2. Support people to stay in their homes or find a new home



The council want to bring together housing, employment and skills, with financial support, to develop support packages so people can better handle their money and reduce the risk of losing their home.



For people who need to find a new home, the council want to improve access to accommodation in private and socially rented housing.



The council will also work with community, voluntary and faith organisations to develop information that is better suited for people from different cultural backgrounds.



This includes people from black and racially minoritised groups and asylum seekers and refugees, to make sure they can access the support they need.

3. Prevent people at risk of rough sleeping



The council will develop a 'no first night out' plan to identify and support people who are at risk of rough sleeping.



These could be people known to services, people in temporary or supported accommodation or those leaving institutions and care settings.



The council hope to measure their progress of reducing homelessness and will collect data so they can keep track of how their plan is going.

Make temporary accommodation better



There a lot of people currently living in temporary and emergency accommodation and they stay there for too long.



Temporary accommodation is really expensive and costs the council a lot of money.



Temporary accommodation is also not suitable for people with long term needs.



Children aged between 0 - 17 years old make up nearly half of the homeless population in Brighton and Hove.



Living in temporary accommodation can be bad for children's education, social skills and mental health.



The council want to make sure that people who need temporary accommodation have a positive experience.



The council hopes that by preventing homelessness in the first place and reducing the time that people spend in temporary accommodation, it will make it a more positive experience.

1. Improve the process of moving people out of temporary accommodation



Make it easier for people to move from temporary accommodation into housing by working with support and social housing organisations.



Develop personalised plans for households in temporary accommodation including support to make housing applications, help with managing money and support to stay in housing.

2. Support people living in temporary accommodation



Explore support services to help people living in temporary accommodation keep their community connections and friends.



Complete a detailed needs assessment so they can better understand the need and support requirements of households in temporary accommodation, and tell services how they can do better.

3. Improve the supply and quality of temporary accommodation



Make a plan to look at the impact of rising costs of temporary accommodation, changes to private rented housing and budget cuts.



Make a plan to make more temporary accommodation, make current temporary accommodation better and improve how money is used and spent on temporary accommodation.



Work with private and social landlords, voluntary and community organisations to make temporary accommodation better.



The council hope to measure their progress of improving temporary accommodation and will collect data so they can keep track of how their plan is going.

Better support for vulnerable people



There are a lot of vulnerable people who need help with their housing.



This includes people with mental health needs, LGBTQ+ youth, people with learning disabilities, ADHD and/or autism, refugees and asylum seekers.



Sometimes, these people have a lot of different needs. They might be homeless, have a problem with drugs or alcohol, mental health problems or be a domestic abuse survivor.



People with 3 needs like this are considered to have 'multiple compound needs'. Helping these people with their needs is a priority for Brighton and Hove Health and Care Partnership.



The council wants to put an end to rough sleeping. The council wants to prevent it and improve support services to people who are at risk of rough sleeping.

1. Target support for people who are most vulnerable



Develop a system and rules to follow when supporting people who are most vulnerable and at risk of homelessness.



Develop a plan to make supported housing better and include how the council can prepare for changes to supported housing standards.



Improve housing options for domestic abuse survivors, that addresses their safety and needs.

2. Improve services for people with multiple compound needs



Develop the links between council homelessness services and homeless healthcare services through a new 'Homeless and Multiple Compound Needs Partnership',



Work with people with lived experience to develop plans to improve services and policies.



Make a system for care and support needs for people with mental health problems and issues with drug and alcohol use.



Work with the NHS, voluntary and community organisations to make a new homeless healthcare hub.

3. Support people who are rough sleeping access services and accommodation



Look at and improve the council Housing First service to make it better for people living there.



Look at and improve homeless day centres and make sure they meet a bigger range of needs.

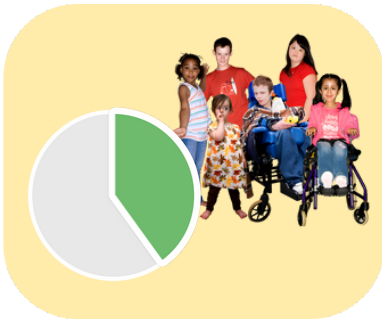


Develop the offer of homes and support services for people who have been sleeping rough for a long time.

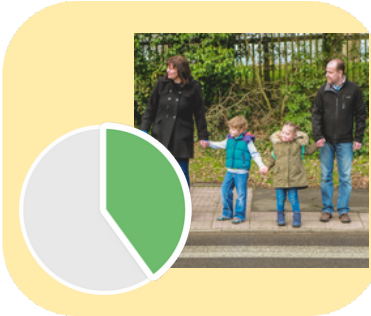


The council hope to measure their progress of better support for vulnerable people and will collect data so they can keep track of how their plan is going.

Reducing homelessness in children, families and young people.



Children aged between 0 - 17 makes up nearly half of Brighton & Hove's homeless population.



Families with children makes up nearly half of the people who need help from the council because they are at risk of homelessness.



There are many reasons why children and young people become homeless, which includes family breakdown, lower pay and trauma.



When developing this strategy, the council will include a section that is dedicated to looking at homelessness in children, young people and families.



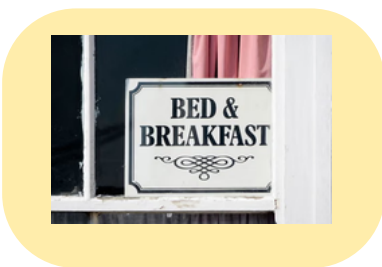
They have started to think about ideas on how to reduce homelessness in children, young people and families:



1. Prevent homelessness and rough sleeping
 - Find and prevent those at risk
 - Make family intervention and mediation services better at preventing homelessness



2. Improve temporary accommodation
 - Make sure children, families and young people have access to services and support
 - Make temporary accommodation better for children and families living in it



- Use less Bed and Breakfasts as temporary accommodation and less out-of-area placements



3. Better support with partners for people who need it most
 - Work together with different organisations to reduce homelessness
 - Support vulnerable young people to keep their homes

The council's commitment



The council want to do their best to try and reduce homelessness in the city and know that they will need help to do it.



There are many factors that cause homelessness that is out of the council's control.



To really make it better, the council will need to work with the government, local and regional organisations and people with lived experience of homelessness.



The council will need to be careful with their money and use the information they collect to make improvements to services.



The council will make sure their plan is fair and inclusive, makes the best use of resources and works with lots of different organisations to make things better.

How the council will deliver the strategy

Be connected



Work with organisations and people with lived experience to make services better and provide better support for people who are homeless.



The plan will be updated regularly depending on the progress made.

Be confident



The council expects it will need to spend more money on temporary accommodation and will get less funding from government.



This means the council will have to do things differently and may need to make difficult decisions. But by focusing on prevention, the council hopes to save money on temporary accommodation.

Be creative



The council needs to think of creative ways to save money and make sure that organisations and support services have the skills needed to prevent homelessness.



The council wants to use their buildings better and make sure they are being used in the best way.

Be diverse and inclusive



Some groups and individuals are more at risk of homelessness than others.



While this helps the council understand risk, it does not always predict who is likely to become homeless or the impact it has on their life.



By working with people with lived experience, the council hopes to identify how they can try and prevent homelessness.

Be healthy and safe



Homelessness can have a big impact on people's health and wellbeing. Poor health can also be a reason why someone becomes homeless.



The council wants to make changes in policy and work with providers to make temporary accommodation a nicer place to live.



The council has found that the link between homelessness and mental health is very important. The council is committed to make sure the strategy keeps people safe and reduces the impact of homelessness on people's mental health.