Appendix 2:

Huntingdonshire District Council

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026–2031 – Consultation Draft

Action Plan: 2026- 2028

Although the strategy covers the period 2026 to 2031 this Action Plan covers the later part of 2026/27 and 2027/28 and highlights the issues that are the current priorities. Given the complexity of the challenges faced and ever moving factors influencing homelessness, it is recognised that there may need to be some flex within the lifetime of the Action Plan. The Action Plan will be formally reviewed and updated in the second half of 2027/28, for the period 2028/29 onwards.

Priority 1: Prevent Homelessness Through Earlier Intervention and Targeted Support

Strategic Objective

Reduce the number of households reaching homelessness crisis point through earlier intervention and prevention.

Action	Partners	Target Date	Measure of Success
1.1 Review and refresh homelessness prevention pathways: a) Care Leavers b) 16/17 year olds c) Hospital discharge planning d) Criminal Justice system	Cambs & Peterborough Housing Authorities Cambs County Adult & Children's Services Hospital Trusts Probation, Police & Prison Service	Ongoing at quarterly review groups	Pathways reviewed and amended where necessary at regular partnership groups
1.2 Deliver regular, multi-channel awareness raising campaigns about available services and benefits of early interventions, incorporating appropriate national campaigns.		September 2027	Delivery of relevant campaigns

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1.3	Ensure new 'duty to collaborate' is rolled out and incorporated into all partnership working and established early intervention pathways	All stakeholders	June 2028 Dependant on new legislation	Update of existing pathways or establishment of new ones, in line with launch of new collaboration duties
1.4	Strengthen community and partner communication: Ensure homelessness related content is regularly shared via community sector networks to reach diverse, vulnerable and harder to reach groups and possible future customers of the service. This will also include residents in rural communities that may have difficulty accessing appropriate services.	VCFS, non-statutory and statutory stakeholders	June 2027	Systems implemented to achieve broader reach and improved awareness across all communities, inclusive messaging that reaches digitally excluded groups
1.5	Explore adoption of Ending Rough Sleeping Risk Assessment Tool (ERSRAT) once rolled out nationally - to support identification of early indicators of wider homelessness risk (e.g., rent arrears, relationship breakdown, hospital discharge, school exclusions).	Housing Needs and other HDC services holding relevant data	December 2027 Dependant on roll out after national pilots	Analysis of feedback on ERSRAT pilots to learn from good practice and how best to implement

Priority 2: Provide High-Quality, Person-Centred Homelessness Services

Strategic Objective

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Ensure residents receive accessible, responsive and effective homelessness services.

Action	Partners	Target Date	Measure of Success
2.1 Customer and stakeholder feedback: Seek the views of customers and stakeholders to review how Council and commissioned services are delivered and received, ensuring continuous improvement	VCFS, non-statutory and statutory stakeholders	Year 2: 2027/28	Implementation of feedback systems to deliver evidence-based improvements
2.2 Enhance Personalised Housing Plans (PHPs): To ensure they address wider causes of homelessness and include signposting referrals to specialist support where needed, including financial inclusion and debt/money advice services to improve readiness for access to housing	Housing Needs and software provider	March 2027	More effective and personalised PHPs
2.3 Develop trauma-informed practice training programme	Training Provider	Year 2: 2027/28	Mandatory training established with future training delivery plan

Priority 3: Reduce Rough Sleeping and Support Recovery

Strategic Objective

Ensure rough sleeping is rare, brief and non-recurring.

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Action	Partners	Target Date	Measure of Success
3.1 Maintain and enhance rough sleeper outreach arrangements	Outreach Providers	Ongoing	Outreach service maintained and enhanced where possible
3.2 Review local rough sleeping pathway	Support Providers	March 2027	Pathway refreshed
3.3 Develop rapid accommodation offer for rough sleepers	Registered Providers	December 2026	Protocol implemented
3.4 Strengthen health and substance misuse referrals	Drug and Alcohol Services	March 2027	Integrated referral process implemented

Priority 4: Increase Access to Safe, Suitable and Sustainable Housing

Strategic Objective

Expand housing options available for residents at risk of homelessness.

Action	Partners	Target Date	Measure of Success
4.1 Strengthen landlord engagement programme	Private Landlords	Ongoing	Annual increase in participating landlords
4.2 Review incentives for private rented sector access	Private Sector Housing	June 2027	Incentive scheme refreshed
4.3 Work with Registered Providers to improve move-on options	Registered Providers	Ongoing	Increased move-on opportunities
4.4 Identify opportunities to expand Housing First and housing-led approaches	County Council and Providers	Year 2: 2027/28	Feasibility report completed identifying funding opportunities

Priority 5: Develop Strong Partnerships and Place Lived Experience at the Heart of Service Delivery

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Strategic Objective

Strengthen collaborative working and ensure services are shaped by those who use them.

Action	Partners	Target Date	Measure of Success
5.1 Develop bespoke referral guidance materials and training sessions: Co-design and distribute tailored guidance and training for internal and external partners, regarding homelessness and supported accommodation	All stakeholders	Year 2: 2027/28	Production of guidance materials & roll out of training programme
5.2 Review Duty to Refer data and prepare with partners for the new Duty to Collaborate	All stakeholders	New legislation pending. Likely 2027	Data review completed and roll out actions agreed with statutory agencies
5.3 Introduce lived experience engagement framework	Service Users	December 2027	Framework adopted