

FOREWORD

The Homelessness Strategy is a supporting document of the Council's Housing Strategy and forms part of the policy framework. It is a corporate document that has been prepared following consultation with a wide range of participants. This includes local authority departments, voluntary and statutory agencies and service users. The document has been developed through active participation, continuous dialogue and debate with the following partners:

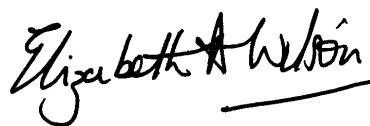
Service Users

Advice Information Counselling in Huntingdonshire
Cambridgeshire County Council Social Services
Cambridgeshire County Council Education Department
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Partnership
Cambridgeshire Independent Advocacy Service
Cambridgeshire Probation Service
Citizens Advice Bureau
Connexions
Dial Druglink
Huntingdon Independent Advice Centre
Huntingdonshire Primary Care Trust
Job Centre Plus
Learning Disability Partnership
Nacro
Registered Social Landlords
Shelter
Spurgeon's Child Care
Youth Offending Service

Thanks are extended to all those that have contributed to this Strategy.



Councillor I C Bates
Deputy Leader of the Council
Executive Member (Housing Strategy)



Elizabeth A Wilson
Director of Operational

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INTRODUCTION

Corporate Strategy

The Council's Medium Term Plan includes a key objective "To enable the supply of homes appropriate to external demands and local needs". It envisages achieving this by:

- supporting local people in their decision-making on housing options
- maintaining and improving awareness of current and future housing needs using all sources of intelligence
- preventing homelessness or reducing its effects
- securing housing within the shortest possible time for those accepted as homeless.

The comprehensive Housing Strategy sets out more detailed priorities and targets designed to achieve these aims. A number of these relate directly the task of reducing homelessness and to improve services to homeless people. These have, therefore, been incorporated in this Strategy at the relevant points.

This Strategy is informed by a Review which is appended to this Strategy.

The Wider Context

The Review has highlighted the number of other agencies whose involvement will be needed if this Strategy is to be successfully implemented. Not surprisingly, this Strategy also has to be seen in the context of a number of other district, county and indeed regional strategies which potentially impact on our ability to improve the lot of homeless and potentially homeless people. These include:

- Cambridgeshire Structure Plan
- Supporting People Strategy
- Housing Corporation / GO-East Regional Strategy
- Youth Offending and Drug Action Team Plans
- Huntingdonshire Local Plan
- Community Safety Strategy
- Housing Investment Programme
- Huntingdonshire Community Plan
- Community Care Plan
- Best Value Performance Plan
- Health Improvement Programme

CHAPTER 1 INCREASING HOUSING OPTIONS

Our Aims are to:

- improve the range and quality of temporary housing
- secure permanent housing within the shortest possible time for those accepted as homeless
- encourage and promote the provision of a healthy private rented sector.

Our Key Objectives are to:

- reduce to a minimum the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation
- implement the revised allocations policy
- work closely with private landlords to secure access to private tenancies for homeless people
- assess the need for a local direct access resource for single people.

Short Term:

Temporary Accommodation Pending Enquiries/Rehousing

The Review showed the extent to which use of temporary accommodation for homeless families, particularly B&B, has increased in recent years. The Council recognises the need to prioritise the phasing out of B&B other than in emergency situations, and has looked at various options for increasing the supply of other forms of temporary accommodation.

- A possible private sector leasing scheme via King Street Housing Society, using £22K of specific funding from the ODPM, is being investigated.
- HHP are making a number of mainstream properties available as temporary housing for homeless families on the basis of assured shorthold tenancies. This agreement is flexible enough to allow the numbers to fluctuate with the level of demand from homelessness households.
- Nene Housing Society are investigating the feasibility of a purchase and repair scheme that may provide properties within their stock that would be designated for temporary use for homeless households.

As noted, in the Homelessness Review, the joint Best Value Review has included an audit of the suitability of temporary housing currently used by the Council, particularly B&Bs and the hostel at Coneygear Court. This has highlighted some deficiencies in the accommodation provided, and measures are already being taken to address these. These will be incorporated into the Strategy Action Plan to monitor that these have been completed successfully. In the meantime, Granta are producing a handbook/welcome pack for new residents containing information about relevant services provided by Granta and other statutory and voluntary agencies. Also, negotiations have commenced between Granta and other agencies on the type of additional services that may be provided within Coneygear Court.

Other Short Term Housing

Several schemes provide accommodation for those who either would not be considered to be in priority need or who for one reason or another require specialised housing. These include:

- the Salvation Army young persons scheme at Kings Ripton Court, Huntingdon
- the Paines Mill Foyer in St. Neots run by Axiom HA
- Stonham Housing Association's supported scheme for ex-offenders
- the women's refuge managed by Spurgeons Child Care
- specialised housing for young lone parents run by Granta and Huntingdonshire Housing Partnership.

Many young single people access Kings Ripton Court and Paines Mill Foyer via direct referral from the Council, although Social Services may also make referrals to these schemes. It is recognised that the monitoring of referrals and their outcomes needs to be improved in order to assess the outcome of this process.

The district does not have a local direct access hostel for people that may be homeless in an emergency and do not come within the safety net of the homelessness legislation. People in this situation may look to the 'night shelter' types of hostels that are available in Cambridge and Peterborough. There does tend to be enormous pressure on these hostels due to the limited number of bed-spaces they provide. A joint approach is required with Peterborough and Cambridge City Councils to monitor the demand for the direct access hostels in those areas from residents from the Huntingdonshire District. Collating information on the levels of local demand for such a resource is required to inform the District whether such a resource is needed within Huntingdonshire.

There is also support for assessing the feasibility of introducing a supported lodgings scheme in the district for certain client groups, such as those of Social Services 16 Plus team and the YOS. The Council will assess the success of such schemes established in other areas prior to proposing this as a possible option for Huntingdonshire.

Longer Term:

The Housing Register

For most homeless people, access to permanent affordable rented housing via a RSL is seen as the optimum solution. The Council's current allocations policy awards a high level of priority to applicants accepted as homeless under legislation but offers little to those who are homeless but not in priority need. However, the Council completed a review of its Register policy in April 2003 and this will be implemented in the summer of 2003. The revised policy includes the following key elements:

- an increased level of priority for non-priority homeless households
- an increased level of priority for residents leaving supported accommodation, such as Kings Ripton Court, Paines Mill Foyer or Social Services care following a successful assessment of their ability to live independently
- applicants sleeping rough receive a higher priority than non-priority homeless households who are moving between temporary addresses
- an increased level of priority for applicants who have received an eviction notice or to an even greater extent, a Possession Order (so long as this is not due to a breach of tenancy conditions on their part) in order to increase their chances of being rehoused before becoming homeless.

The option of a common housing register shared by RSLs working in the district is also being investigated.

The Private Sector

As in other districts in Cambridgeshire, a significant proportion of private lettings are at rents in excess of the local reference rent, making them unaffordable to most people reliant on Housing Benefit. It is estimated from details of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation that approximately 60% of these households are in receipt of full Housing Benefit. The remainder will receive either part Housing Benefit or have no entitlement at all.

Anecdote, and evidence from lettings agencies, suggest that many private landlords are reluctant to let to people in receipt of Housing Benefit. Therefore, the majority of homeless households, who are in receipt of benefit, have great difficulty in accessing the private rented sector. In order to try to overcome these barriers, the Council hosts a forum for landlords and agents to discuss issues of common interest, and to share information. In addition, it continues to promote the Rent Deposit/Rent in Advance scheme (see Review) available to those on low incomes who are seeking to rent privately. In 2002/03, 7 new private sector landlords offered tenancies to households that were assisted through this scheme.

The Council is also concerned with the high number of instances of homelessness resulting from the ending of assured shorthold tenancies in the private sector. Further research will be carried out to try to identify the causes of this.

Our Key Future Priorities are to:

- monitor the effect of the new allocations policy in reducing the waiting time for permanent housing, and preventing homelessness
- work with RSLs to increase the amount of decent temporary housing available through assured shorthold tenancies, private sector leasing and similar options
- move towards eliminating the use of B&B, except where unavoidable for short periods in emergency situations
- use the Landlords' Forum to try to increase the number of private landlords prepared to accept homeless families and those on benefits, and to research the causes of the rise in homelessness due to the ending of assured shorthold tenancies
- research the need for a direct access hostel and/or supported lodgings scheme in the district for single homeless people
- monitor more effectively the outcomes of referrals to Paines Mill Foyer and Kings Ripton Court.

CHAPTER 2 THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC GROUPS

Our Aims are to:

- work with other agencies to ensure that support is available for homeless people who need it
- ensure that the health and social needs of homeless households are met.

Our Key Objectives are to:

- work in partnership with RSLs to increase the provision of floating support for vulnerable people and to assist with tenancy sustainment
- ensure that housing advice and information is accessible to ethnic minority residents
- play our part in the local implementation of the Cambridgeshire Supporting People Strategy
- further develop strategic links with Health and Social Services as a means of meeting the needs of vulnerable people
- promote the Huntingdonshire Home Improvement Agency as a means of helping vulnerable people to remain in their own homes.

Households with Children

In practice these households will be the main beneficiaries of measures to improve the quality of temporary accommodation. The need for effective joint working with the health sector and with Social Services to look after the needs of children in homeless families has been recognised by all parties. The co-ordinated approach to service provision for this client group, established through the Social Inclusion Best Value Review and homelessness review will be continued. This has already seen improvements through agreed protocols between Social Services and the Housing Department. Proposals on how this may be progressed further between the County Council and the Primary Care Trust will be taken to the Children's Task Group and Improving Life Chances Group.

Young Single People

It was noted in the Review that the needs of this group would form a key element of the Strategy. A 'single young homeless sub-group' was, therefore, established. The following recent developments are relevant in this respect.

- A number of local RSLs have stated that they are prepared in principle to offer tenancies to 16/17 year olds, where the necessary support is also provided.
- A protocol has been drawn up between Housing and Social Services setting out a joint approach to meeting the housing needs of young people. The success of this protocol has been limited and it is to be reviewed in order to expand its use and increase its effectiveness in helping prevent homelessness for this client group. This Strategy will also ensure that this protocol is co-ordinated with the new mediation service offered for this client group.

The Council's Young Persons Housing Adviser provides a specialist service to this client group, and has developed close links with schools and with potential housing providers.

Young Lone Parents

In line with the Government's requirements that single lone parents under 18 should only be accommodated in housing with support, the Council has, in partnership with Granta Housing Society and Huntingdonshire Housing Partnership, provided two supported properties specifically for this client group. Another alternative available to this client group is floating support services, which are provided for tenancies in housing association general housing stock, if it is felt that this level of support is more appropriate for a particular client.

Older People

The Review has shown that relatively few homeless applicants are accepted as being in priority need on account of age. Housing suitable for older people is generally accessible for those in a position to be flexible in terms of areas of choice. Nevertheless, the Huntingdonshire Home Improvement Agency makes a significant contribution to enabling older people who might otherwise be facing the need to leave their home, on financial and/or mobility grounds, to remain in situ.

People with Mental Health Problems

The Review indicates the range of provision already existing in the district for people with mental health problems but it is recognised that the need to provide floating support services is likely to increase in future years. We will work with partners to try to measure changes in need, but are aware that Supporting People grant may not be available to fund increased provision. In many cases this client group has other related issues, such as substance abuse and possibly a history of offending. The Council and the Mental Health Partnership are working closely together to address their needs, and have, for instance, drawn up a protocol to govern procedures for the discharge of people with mental health problems back into the community.

The role of the inter-agency Accommodation Panel, which deals with access to supported housing for this client group, such as the Granta Link tenancies, is currently under review, with a view to making its role more inclusive and strategic.

Black and Minority Ethnic People

The Council has acted corporately in trying to ensure that all sections of the community have equal access to services, for example, by offering information leaflets in a number of ethnic minority languages. As noted in the Review, the most significant minority ethnic group in the district from a housing point of view are travellers and gypsies. As far as existing sites are concerned, demand outweighs supply. At the time of the July 2002 count, there were 32 unauthorised encampments in Huntingdonshire, representing possibly about 100 people. In principle, a traveller or gypsy family without access to a legal site where they can park their caravan can claim the right to housing from a local authority under the homelessness legislation. Whilst thought to be low, figures are not available to indicate how significant a factor this is in the incidence of homelessness and further monitoring of this will be implemented to inform future strategies.

In terms of formalising the reporting of racially motivated crimes and harassment, which may potentially lead to homelessness, the Open Out Scheme was launched in April 2003 in the Huntingdonshire District. The District Council is a reporting centre for this scheme and the

greater co-ordination in the recording of these incidents, and whether this leads to homelessness, will influence strategic development in this area.

People who have Suffered Violence

The Council helped fund the development of a refuge for victims of domestic violence, which provides a vital resource for women wishing to find a place a safety. Residents at the refuge also receive support and advice on the future options then open to them. Good working links already exist between the Housing Department and the refuge and further links have been made to the Community Safety Strategy.

Homelessness caused by other forms of violence is not as common and not as well recorded. Improved systems for monitoring the extent of this type of homelessness will be introduced.

Rough Sleepers

As indicated in the Review, we are not aware of a measurable level of rough sleeping in the district, on anything other than a very casual basis, but are not complacent about the potential for rough sleeping to remain a largely unseen phenomenon. As part of ongoing consultation with homeless people, we will try to establish from their experiences whether more detailed research should be carried out in this area.

People Leaving Hospital

Although, as mentioned previously, a protocol exists in respect of people with mental health problems, we recognise that more needs to be done with Hospital Trusts to ensure that effective co-ordination occurs when people are discharged from hospital without an address to return to.

Offenders and Ex-Offenders

We already work closely with the Probation Service, Youth Offending Service and other relevant agencies in trying to assess the needs of this group. We also recognise that many offenders and ex-offenders have multiple needs and require high levels of support both to obtain and to hold down a tenancy. As in the area of mental health, it is debatable whether resources will be available in the future to provide the range of support services that is really needed but we will continue to work with partner agencies to try to ensure the best use of the resources available.

Negotiations will also take place with the Probation Service on an agreed protocol to implement a joint assessment of offenders that may become homeless on their release from prison.

Substance Misusers

To some extent the same issues apply to this client group as to offenders and people with mental health problems. The national service framework for drug treatment services, 'Models of Care', highlights the role of housing planners and providers as both referrers to treatment services and as contributors to Care Plans through collaborative work with treatment and other services. 'Models of Care' sets out clear targets for the agencies involved, and closer liaison with the Drug Action Team will be essential in the future to ensure that these targets are delivered in a co-ordinated way.

Following on from the review, close links have been made with the Huntingdonshire Drugs Action Reference Group so that Housing may play its role in helping to address the needs of this client group. Further analysis of the level of housing need of this client group will be carried out in order to assess how these needs may be best met.

People Leaving the Armed Forces

Changes in the priority needs group has reinforced the need for Councils to consider the vulnerability of homeless households leaving the armed forces. Given the relatively new requirement to consider this as a reason for vulnerability, the Council will monitor the levels of homelessness this creates. We will liaise with the relevant branches of the armed forces to try to ensure that there is co-ordination when someone likely to be vulnerable returns to civilian life in the district.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Council has in the past co-operated with the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) in scoping the potential for asylum seekers to be dispersed throughout the country. However, it is clear that, without suitable links to existing ethnic communities, Huntingdonshire is not an area in which NASS will actively seek accommodation. The Council will be prepared to discuss the issue again with NASS should circumstances change.

Our Key Future Priorities are to:

- work with relevant agencies, including the Supporting People team, to map existing and future needs amongst the various client groups who are in need of housing with support
- work with RSLs to increase their contribution to the provision of floating support and tenancy sustainment services
- achieve greater integration of the efforts of Housing and Social Services to provide services for children and young people
- work with relevant agencies to map more closely the housing needs of ethnic minority groups, including travellers and gypsies
- seek to achieve a more co-ordinated approach towards meeting the needs of substance misusers, in collaboration with the Drug Action Team
- seek to achieve a more co-ordinated approach to the assessment of offenders prior to release from prison
- assess the feasibility of implementing wider discharge protocols with local Hospital Trusts
- use consultation with homeless people and agencies who work with them to assess the extent to which rough sleeping is a significant issue within the district
- jointly review the role of the multi-agency Supported Accommodation panel.

CHAPTER 3 PEOPLE FOUND TO BE INTENTIONALLY HOMELESS OR NOT IN PRIORITY NEED

Our Aims are to:

- ensure that homeless people to whom the Council does not have a rehousing responsibility have access to the widest range of alternative accommodation
- provide comprehensive aid and advice to all applicants on the options open to them.

Our Key Objectives are to:

- review the housing options open to single homeless people, including researching the need for a supported lodgings scheme and a direct access hostel
- improve the way in which we keep records of aid and advice enquiries so that we can analyse more meaningfully the housing needs of applicants.

Intentionally Homeless Households

The provision of advice on housing options other than through RSLs is offered automatically when a household is declared intentionally homeless. Although these households can potentially make use of initiatives such as the Rent Deposit/Rent in Advance scheme, we recognise that in some cases these households may be faced with greater difficulties in accessing other options such as the private rented sector, for example, due to their inability to provide references or evidence of a good rent payment record. Households declared intentionally homeless may still be considered for rehousing through the housing register, although their priority may be reduced further if they are considered to have become homeless intentionally and deliberately worsened their housing circumstances.

We also recognise the importance of liaison with Social Services, particularly in the case of families with children, in order that their welfare is safeguarded. A protocol has been agreed between Social Services and Housing to address the issues around intentionally homeless households that have dependent children, although it is recognised by both agencies that there may still be households that do not qualify for help under the eligibility criteria of either agency. This protocol also introduces a referral system that Social Workers may use when they become aware of families that may be faced with issues that may potentially lead to their homelessness. This has been established as part of the Council's preventative role as early intervention by the correct agencies may, in certain circumstances, prevent homelessness in the first place.

Non-Priority Homeless Households

As previously mentioned, the revised allocations policy is intended to enhance the prospects of rehousing by RSLs for non-priority homeless applicants, particularly if they are literally roofless. This Strategy has also indicated the ways in which we intend to try to increase the short-term housing options available, including for those who have support needs. The Council provides a comprehensive aid and advice service, aiming amongst other things to guide homeless people who are not in priority need towards the various housing options open to them. There is a specialist adviser for young people. The Rent Deposit/Rent in Advance scheme is available to assist those on a low income to gain access to the private rented sector.

Our Key Future Priorities are to:

- review the adequacy of existing short-term housing options for single people in the district
- continue to work with Social Services to improve arrangements for co-ordinating assistance to intentionally homeless households who have children and/or support needs
- monitor the success of the Social Services protocol in preventing homelessness
- establish with other agencies a monitoring system to assess the level of need of non-priority homeless households
- review the success of the Rent Deposit/Rent in Advance scheme in assisting non-priority homeless households.

CHAPTER 4 ONGOING STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Our Aim is to:

- secure the meaningful input of all interested parties in evaluating and implementing this strategy.

Our Key Objectives are to:

- establish effective long term procedures for monitoring and evaluating the work arising from this strategy
- work more closely with homeless people, and the agencies which represent them, to ensure that their views and their experiences are incorporated into our ongoing efforts to improve services.

Consultation So Far

The production of this Strategy, and the Review which preceded it, would not have been possible without the assistance of a large number of people. These have included:

- Other statutory agencies
- Local voluntary agencies
- RSLs
- Tenants and residents
- Homeless people

Much of the inter-agency work has been under the aegis of the joint Best Value Review of Social Inclusion previously referred to. However, we have held a specific sessions to look at the needs of young people and clients with mental health issues. We have met individually with some agencies to discuss their role, and the issues they face, in working with people in housing difficulties.

Future Monitoring and Evaluation

Clearly we do not wish to lose the momentum that has built up and intend to keep existing links going in future years as we implement this Strategy. Indeed, it is likely to become necessary to bring in additional stakeholders beyond those who have already had an input. There is already a strong partnership approach that exists between Housing and many of the agencies that work with homeless households in the District. Regular meetings take place between agencies and these will provide a forum for the continuing review of the outcomes and outputs from this strategy.

At the end of this document we have set out our priorities for future action in tabular form; this Action Plan will help to steer our activities in the direction of improving services for homeless people in the future.

Our Key Future Priorities are to:

- introduce mechanisms for monitoring the objectives and outcomes of the Strategy
- introduce with other stakeholders appropriate mechanisms for reviewing and amending the strategy in light of the monitoring and evaluation.

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS

In the concluding section of the Review, we referred to the 3 priority areas which the ODPM's Homelessness Directorate, in its guidance note "Achieving Positive Outcomes on Homelessness", had asked authorities to consider in their strategies. It may be as well, therefore, to sum up here the ways in which this Strategy contributes towards addressing those 3 priorities.

Reducing Repeat Levels of Homelessness

Recent research carried out by Shelter has highlighted the alarming proportion of applicants who have already experienced homelessness at some stage in the past. Some of these will be people on low incomes who at times struggle to meet their housing costs. The Debt Counselling and Advice Service and, where appropriate, the Court Advocacy Service, exist to help people in this situation. Many will clearly be people who have significant support needs and who have failed to retain housing because these needs were not met. We have committed ourselves to trying to ensure that resources are in place to meet those needs in the future.

Reducing Levels of Homelessness Against Main Causes

The most prominent causes of homelessness in Huntingdonshire reflect the national picture:

Eviction by Parent/Relative/Friend

Advisers already investigate closely the circumstances when an applicant claims to be facing eviction from the parental home. The pilot mediation scheme with Cambridge Mediation Service is aimed at reducing the number of people who become homeless as a result of falling out with friends or relatives.

Relationship Breakdown

Where homelessness is threatened as a result of relationship breakdown, effective advice, either from Council advisers or from a specialist agency, may ensure that the housing needs of both parties can be met or that practical issues can at least be dealt with in a planned and pragmatic way. The Council will seek to ensure the involvement of Social Services where there are issues to do with the welfare of children.

Ending of Assured Shorthold Tenancy

The Landlords' Forum offers an opportunity to debate private sector landlord and tenant issues, and we need to find out more about the factors leading to a rise in evictions, although recognising that, at a time when house prices have been rising sharply, some owners have simply decided to cash in their asset. Where advisers have the opportunity to work with tenants who have been told that they will have to leave, they will explore any options for enabling them to retain the tenancy. Where contact with the landlord confirms that this is not an option, they will try to help the tenant to secure alternative accommodation in advance of their eviction from the property.

Reviewing the Strategy

The regular meetings that already take place between the Council and partner agencies will provide the opportunity to review the progress of the initiatives introduced through this strategy. The Council will formally monitor progress against the Action Plan on a quarterly basis.

This Strategy will be continually open to review. Any substantive issues that need to be addressed or significant amendments to this Strategy will be widely consulted upon.

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

ACTION PLAN

2004-2007

HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2003-08

Title	Action	Comments/Target
<p>Increasing Housing Options</p>	<p>Key Future Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitor the effect of the new allocations policy in reducing the waiting time for permanent housing, and preventing homelessness • work with RSLs to increase the amount of decent temporary housing available through assured shorthold tenancies, private sector leasing and similar options • move towards eliminating the use of B&B, except where unavoidable for short periods in emergency situations • use the Landlords' Forum to try to increase the number of private landlords prepared to accept homeless families and those on benefits, and to research the causes of the rise in homelessness due to the ending of assured shorthold tenancies • research the need for a direct access hostel and/or supported lodgings scheme in the district for single homeless people • monitor more effectively the outcomes of referrals to Paines Mill Foyer and Kings Ripton Court. 	<p>A review of the policy is programmed for August 2004</p> <p>10 additional units to be added through a PSL scheme in 2003/04</p> <p>By April 2004</p> <p>Target of 4 new landlords accept households under the scheme</p> <p>Research to be completed by December 2003</p> <p>System for needs analysis to be established by April 2004 with view to collecting data in 2004/05</p> <p>System to be in place by July 2003</p>

<p>The Needs of Specific Groups</p>	<p>Key Future Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with relevant agencies, including the Supporting People team, to map existing and future needs amongst the various client groups who are in need of housing with support • work with RSLs to increase their contribution to the provision of floating support and tenancy sustainment services • achieve greater integration of the efforts of Housing and Social Services to provide services for children and young people • work with relevant agencies to map more closely the housing needs of ethnic minority groups, including travellers and gypsies • seek to achieve a more co-ordinated approach towards meeting the needs of substance misusers, in collaboration with the Drug Action Team • seek to achieve a more co-ordinated approach to the assessment of offenders prior to release from prison • assess the feasibility of implementing wider discharge protocols with local Hospital Trusts • use consultation with homeless people and agencies who work with them to assess the extent to which rough sleeping is a significant issue within the district 	<p>Mapping exercise to commence in 2004/05</p> <p>Support future bids for additional Supporting People grant where needs mapped and proven</p> <p>Monitor effectiveness of protocol with analysis by July 2004</p> <p>Collect and analyse data by April 2004 for consultation with community groups and other agencies by April 2005</p> <p>Establish formal referral mechanisms between Housing and other agencies by April 2004</p> <p>Establish formal referral mechanism between Probation and Housing by April 2004</p> <p>Establish formal referral mechanism between Housing and the Hospital Trust by September 2004</p> <p>Carry out analysis of extent of rough sleeping in the District by December 2004</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> jointly review the role of the multi-agency Supported Accommodation panel. 	By December 2003
People found to be Intentionally Homeless or not in Priority Need	<p>Key Future Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review the adequacy of existing short-term housing options for single people in the district continue to work with Social Services to improve arrangements for co-ordinating assistance to intentionally homeless households who have children and/or support needs monitor the success of the Social Services protocol in preventing homelessness establish with other agencies a monitoring system to assess the level of need of non-priority homeless households review the success of the Rent Deposit/Rent in Advance scheme in assisting non-priority homeless households. 	<p>System for needs analysis to be established by April 2004 with view to collecting data in 2004/05</p> <p>Monitor effectiveness of protocol with analysis by July 2004</p> <p>Monitor effectiveness of protocol with analysis by July 2004</p> <p>System for needs analysis to be established by April 2004 with view to collecting data in 2004/05</p> <p>By April 2004</p>
Ongoing Stakeholder Involvement	<p>Key Future Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introduce mechanisms for monitoring the objectives and outcomes of the strategy introduce with other stakeholders appropriate mechanisms for reviewing and amending the strategy in light of the monitoring and evaluation. 	<p>By April 2004</p> <p>By September 2004</p>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like additional copies of this Homelessness Strategy or any of the following related documents please contact us.

Housing Strategy 2004-07
Housing Strategy Summary 2004-07
Reading The Housing Market July 2002
BME Strategy 2003-04
Home Energy Conservation act – 6th Progress Report (2002)
Empty Homes Strategy


If you have any comments on any of our documents or you would like to be involved in the ongoing consultation we undertake on the District's Housing Strategy please contact us.

Tel: 01480 388218
Fax: 01480 388210
Email: Housing.Reception@huntsdc.gov.uk
Website: www.huntsdc.gov.uk

Housing Services
Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
Cambs PE29 3TN

If you would like a copy of this document in larger print please contact us.

CONTACT PERSON FOR THIS HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Jon Collen Housing Needs and Resources Manager
 01480 388220