

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for Erewash

2020 to 2023

**Summary**

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| Strategy Vision **That no-one should be homeless or fear homelessness in Erewash.** |

# Homelessness Themes, Aims and Objectives

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| Theme A: Identify Homelessness Triggers Earlier **Aim:**  **To understand the issues which may eventually lead to homelessness as early as possible.** |
| *To achieve this, the Erewash Homelessness Partners will work together to promote, encourage and enable:*  **A1: An understanding of the causes of homelessness in Erewash.**  **A2: Partnership working to tackle the causes of homelessness early on.** |

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| Theme B: Enable People to Prevent Their Own Homelessness **Aim:**  **To ensure people have the information, resources and options to resolve their housing situations and avoid homelessness.**  **To identify and assist those people who need more support to avoid homelessness.** |
| *To achieve this, the Erewash Homelessness Partners will work in partnership to promote, encourage and enable:*  **B1: Comprehensive housing-related information and support when first needed**  *This will enable people to be well informed to help avert the risk of homelessness*.  **B2: The use of good quality private rented housing as a housing solution**  *This includes knowing what to do if there is disrepair and dealing constructively with disputes with a landlord or financial difficulties.*  **B3. Tackling holistically the issues of those with chaotic lifestyles or complex needs.**  *In such cases housing may not be the only issue that could lead to homelessness.*  **B4. Providing support for those who express vulnerabilities such as mental health to help independent living.** |

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| Theme C: Reduce Rough Sleeping in Erewash **Aim:**  **To have fewer people rough sleeping in Erewash by 2022 with the ambition that no-one is rough sleeping by 2027.** |
| *To achieve this, the Erewash Homelessness Partners will work in partnership to:*  **C1. Understand the complex issues which lead people to rough sleep**.  **C2. Understand what support is available and consider who could fill gaps**.  **C3. Tackle issues holistically and be** **flexible about the type of support that can be given to keep people from rough sleeping.** |

# Delivery Approach

The Erewash Homeless Partnership will ensure:

* Co-operation and partnership working to reduce homelessness effectively.
* Effective, accessible and fair service delivery.
* That the wider shared aims and objectives of partners within the borough and wider area are addressed.

In meeting the homelessness priorities and aims of this strategy the approach will be as follows:

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| * Be compliant with the Homelessness Reduction Act and Guidance. |
| * Inform, involve and consult residents, letting them know they are listened to. |
| * Inform, involve and consult people who are or have been at risk of homelessness letting them know they are listened to. |
| * Address the needs of individuals and specific groups of people. |
| * Make sure that the evidence base upon which decisions and plans are made is robust. |
| * Work closely across the Erewash Homelessness Partnership and with other organisations to tackle homelessness. |
| * Take a ‘whole council’ approach to tackling the issues. |
| * Enable good physical and mental health and wellbeing for people in Erewash and reduce health inequalities. |
| * Ensure that legal duties are discharged and consider the use of all available powers and innovative ideas in order to meet strategic aims. |
| * Ensure that activities and services, both current and planned, are appropriate and adequate to meet the aims of this strategy and are well-resourced, efficient and cost-effective. |

# Planned Actions for Delivery

The Erewash Homeless Partnership has set out its planned actions in broad terms in this strategy. Detailed action planning will take place as a partnership to develop targeted approaches to delivery.

| **Action** | |
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| **General** | |
| 1. | Review evidence bases highlighting emerging trends and changes and adjusting strategic approaches accordingly. |
| 2. | Monitor actions and progress considering the impact on the health and wellbeing of residents and the economic impact. |
| 3. | Ensure actions follow agreed approaches to delivery. |
| 4. | Agree plans to significantly reduce the use of bed and breakfast with the ambition to stop using it altogether. |
| 5. | Highlight and address equality issues in all plans, proposals, processes, services, research and consultation. |
| **Theme A: Identify Homelessness Triggers Earlier** | |
| 6. | Commission or carry out qualitative research into the reasons and triggers of homelessness (*including case studies; surveys; interviews with service users and support organisations and individual Erewash Homelessness Partners).* |
| 7. | Agree plans to identify when people are not coping and get them the help they need (*before they get into a situation where they run the risk of losing their home).* |
| 8. | Review and improve access to comprehensive housing related information and support (*when people first need it, including making good use of online resources).* |
| 9. | Review the processes and impact of the Home Options Choice Based Lettings Scheme policies and priorities *(regarding the effectiveness of averting the risk of homelessness and reducing the number who need to approach as homeless).* |
| **Theme B: Enable people to prevent their own homelessness** | |
| 10. | Review how/if services and processes encourage self-reliance. |
| 11. | Review and improve access to comprehensive housing related information and support *when people first need it (including making good use of online resources).* |
| 12. | The Council will explore the possibility of using the private rented sector to discharge homelessness duties. |
| 13. | Establish an online directory of ‘housing tools’ which people can access directly to help them deal with their housing issues *not just at the point of homelessness (including mediation, legal advice, support services, deposit guarantee schemes, bonds, loans).* |
| **Theme C: Reduce Rough Sleeping in Erewash** | |
| 14. | Agree plans to ensure partners’ services and processes work effectively for vulnerable people *(including information presented in suitable formats, possible allocation of a number of social homes specifically for vulnerable groups).* |
| 15. | Review and report on the range of suitable housing options, products and assistance available to Armed Forces personnel and their families when they need it *(including reviewing the effectiveness of processes and protocols).* |
| 16. | Agree plans to meet the needs of people with complex and high needs *(including those with challenging behaviour and repeated presentations to services).* |
| 17. | Agree plans for long term flexible solutions to reduce rough sleeping *(building on the work of the rough sleeper initiatives in Derbyshire during 2019/20).* |