

Priority 3

Enabling Independent Living

3.1 Tackling Homelessness

Homelessness can manifest in many forms including people sleeping on the streets, young people who are 'sofa-surfing', women living in violent situations and families living in overcrowded or other poor housing conditions.

The Council has since 2008 seen a significant rise in the number of people presenting for housing advice and this can be largely attributed to the economic situation.

Despite the rise in presentations, temporary accommodation placements in the city are at the lowest levels since the 1980s.

This has been achieved by a focus on preventing homelessness by helping people to maintain existing housing or to secure alternative accommodation. More can be done by forging new partnerships and looking at how timely and accessible information sources can help people to find their own solutions.

The city is determined to minimise rough sleeping and to ensure no one needs to sleep out for more than one night. The St George's Crypt Hub is an example of this commitment. We need to improve links to health and social care to help the most entrenched rough sleepers.

Targets

- No families in B&B
- 3500 preventions per year
- Homeless decisions made within 20 days
- Max 180 households in Temporary Accommodation
- No one needs to sleep rough for more than 1 night

Actions

- 1 Maintain homeless prevention funding
- 2 Develop new preventative initiatives including self-help options
- 3 Establish pre- eviction protocols with all social landlords
- 4 Develop tenancy relations services to improve private rented 'offer'
- 5 Better link street outreach/Hub with health and social care
- 6 Develop move on focus in emergency accommodation



Case Study Leeds Hub

The Leeds Hub is emergency accommodation provision managed by St George's Crypt and funded by Leeds City Council. The Hub provides an emergency accommodation service for people who have previously slept rough and/or are at risk of sleeping rough. The service is part of the city's commitment to '[No Second Night Out](#)' that no one needs to sleep rough for more than one night in Leeds. The service is linked to the Street Outreach Service, managed by CRI and funded by the Council, that finds rough sleepers and helps to get them off the streets. The Hub is also linked to the Council's Housing Options Service, with the Crypt, CRI and the Council working together to find Hub residents longer term housing options. Staff from the Housing Options Service are at the Hub every day. The target is to help people move on within 3 working days.