

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Priority 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.

Tackling Homelessness Actions

- Maintain Homeless Prevention Funding
- Develop new preventative initiatives including self-help options and pre-action protocols with all social landlords
- Deliver a timely and legally robust housing needs assessment service
- Develop tenancy relations services to improve private rented ‘offer’
- Better link rough sleeper housing services with health and social care services

Tackling Homelessness Targets

No families with children, placed in B&B, unless exceptional circumstances, and then no longer than 3 days

Minimum 3500 homeless preventions per year

Minimum 80% homeless decisions made within 20 days

Maximum 180 households placed in temporary accommodation per night

No more than 10 rough sleepers on any night

Baseline Position

No placements since April 2014

4665 (forecast) 2014/15

90% made within 20 days

140 households in TA February 2015

15 rough sleepers found on head count in November 2014

Case Study: Leeds Hub

The Leeds Hub is emergency accommodation provision managed by St George’s Crypt and funded by the Crypt and Leeds City Council. The Hub provides an emergency accommodation provision for people who have previously slept rough and/or 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, which finds rough sleepers and helps them to get 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 Housing Options are at the Hub every working day. The target is to move people on within three working days.

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Priority 3.2: Housing Related Support

The Council commissions housing related support services to the value of just over £11m per annum. This includes accommodation and visiting floating support services. Around 12,000 individuals are supported annually. These services contribute to the delivery of actions listed throughout priority 3 of this strategy. A range of services are commissioned including a street outreach service to offer support to people rough sleeping or begging, temporary accommodation for people who are homeless, support and accommodation for young people, visiting support for a range of client groups including people with mental health issues and services for people experiencing domestic violence including an advice line, accommodation in a refuge and self-contained tenancies and support. Services support clients and help them to achieve, maintain and progress towards independent living. This includes helping people to manage their finances, be good neighbours, keep healthy and find work.

Housing Related Support Actions

- Review accommodation and floating support services to ensure they are fit for purpose and are able to meet future needs
- Strengthen links between commissioned housing related support, housing management and housing options services then links between commissioned housing related support,
- Work in partnership with Children’s Services to review support to families and to embed the ‘Think Family’ approach
- Embed the new performance management system to better capture information about outcomes, to inform service improvement, future commissioning decisions and to maximise service impact
- Complete the review of services for older people to inform future commissioning, to ensure services meet need and contribute to the ‘Ageing Well’ agenda
- Review housing related support domestic violence services to ensure alignment with and contribution to the delivery of the city’s Domestic Violence and Abuse strategy

Housing Related Support Targets

Baseline Position

People in need supported to achieve, maintain and progress to independent living	Q3: 2014/15 8,039 supported through the programme
Review of accommodation and floating support services completed by mid-2017	Review work commenced with 45 services in scope
Review of older people’s services completed by April 2016	Initial review complete and 1 year pilot model of the services delivered by Care and Repair to start in April 2015
Review of domestic violence and abuse services to be completed by mid-2017	Work commenced with review stage to be completed July 2015.

Case Study: Positive Pathways

Positive Pathways is a city-wide housing related support service for people who have mental health issues and are in housing need. This includes people who are resettled following a stay in hospital, leaving prison, or people who are already living in accommodation and in need of support. The key aims of the service are to help people to recover, maintain good mental health and independent living. The service is delivered by a consortium led by Community Links in partnership with Leeds MIND, Touchstone, Leeds Irish Health and Homes, St Anne’s Community Services and Leeds Federated Housing Association. Up to 500 people are supported at any time and can be for up to two years. Once people are ready to exit the service then they can access a Peer Support and Befriending Service which is provided by trained volunteers. The service includes a single point of referral.

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Priority 3.3: Gypsies and Travellers

The challenge of responding to unauthorised encampments of Gypsies and Travellers (G&T) and better meeting the housing needs of this group has been a priority for the Council/city for a number of years. Whilst the Council has no duty to provide sites for G&T there is a legal duty to assess housing need and make reasonable provision thereafter. Leeds has agreed a pitch need figure, as part of the city's Core Strategy, up to 2028. The figures are a total of 62 pitches: 28 private, 25 public, 9 temporary. There is no doubt that achieving these figures will be a challenge. The next stage is to identify potential sites to be included in the city's Site Allocation Plan. The government has refused the planning application to develop 12 new pitches at Cottingley Springs. This reinforces the need to additional sites through the Site Allocations Plan. Some G&T have expressed a reluctance to make planning applications for private sites because of a perception that applications will not be approved. Building confidence and assisting to make applications for sustainable private sites is a key priority. The Council is also committed to looking at temporary negotiated stopping sites. More needs to be done in terms of the wider service to G&T including those living in conventional housing and improving access to health care and education.

Gypsy and Traveller Actions

- Identify potential accommodation sites for Gypsy and Travellers as part of the Site Allocations Plan
- Delivery minimum of 12 additional public pitches within term of Housing Strategy
- Improve engagement with Gypsy and Travellers including delivery of 'Listening Project'
- Deliver managed negotiated stopping site options
- Look at improving housing options for Gypsy and Travellers in 'conventional' housing
- Improve access to health and care in education

Gypsy and Traveller Targets

Include potential site options in draft Site Allocations Plan to be sent out for consultation in summer/autumn 2015.
 Develop 12 additional pitches by 2018

Publish the Leeds 'Listening Project' by end of December 2015

Maintain provision at Kidacre Street for three year planning term

All G&T who want conventional housing offered housing options service

All residents of Cottingley Springs able to access primary care services.

Baseline Position

Site Allocation Plan work underway.

8 temporary pitches in place for three years at Kidacre Street. Need to identify one more site in Site Allocation Plan for development by 2018.

Work on 'Listening Project' commenced. Community involvement in Core Strategy development cited as example of national best practice

Investment Plan, including funding bid to HCA, being drawn up

57 households surveyed out of 115 for Core Strategy submission were in conventional housing

G&T life expectancy 50; settled population 78 years

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Case Study: Partnership with GATE

GATE (Gypsy and Traveller Exchange) is a local advocacy and support service for Gypsies and Travellers. The Council has an increasingly strong partnership with GATE. This was reflected in the work to calculate pitch need for the Core Strategy submission. Representative from GATE and the Council developed a questionnaire to capture housing need and preference. Community members completed the questionnaire with individual households and this ensured community 'buy in' and capture of 'hard to reach' households. This was an excellent piece of joint work between the Council, GATE and the G&T community. It is envisaged that this partnership approach be extended to the Site Allocation Plan work and communication/engagement in respect of day to day management of site provision: 'Listening Project'.

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Priority 3.4: Children and Young People

Access to quality housing and effective housing interventions make an important contribution to Leeds being a 'child friendly' city where children are safe from harm and live in safe and supportive families. A number of housing commitments are set out in the Children & Young People's Housing Plan. A good example of better joint working is a cross Council commitment to fully fund adaptation schemes so that disabled children can thrive with their families rather than struggling to cope or a child going into care. There is much to do, with a top priority being to consider how child related priorities are responded to in all housing decisions. The housing needs of young people who are homeless or vulnerably housed is a top priority. There is a commitment to help young people to return home so that they can move onto independence in a sustainable way. If this is not possible then a commitment is made that placements in B&B and 'adult' hostels are not made. All young people are to be offered assistance to help them prepare and sustain independent housing options. A particular focus will be made on young people who secure a council tenancy. Representatives from Housing Leeds, Children's Services, Public Health and the third sector hold a weekly Young People's Housing Operations Group to discuss different housing options for care leavers and other young people. The Council has reconfigured its housing support service for UP and care leavers with FLAGSHIP (see case study) being the core service.

Children and Young People Actions

- Children and Young People's Housing Plan updated to cover housing management offer
- All homeless 16/17 year olds to have a 'child in need' assessment
- Review supported housing services for young people and care leavers
- Roll out youth mediation service to young people in foster care
- Look at adopting 'social contract' council tenancies with young people
- Re-establish peer experience initiative to tell young people about homelessness

Children and Young People Targets

No 16 or 17 year old placed in B&B, unless exceptional circumstances, and then no longer than 3 days

No 16 or 17 year old placed in 'adult' hostels, unless exceptional circumstances, and then no longer than 7 days

No families with children, placed in B&B, unless exceptional circumstances, and then no longer than 3 days

All 16 or 17 year old homeless people have a 'child in need' assessment

All care leavers and 16 and 17 year olds have a sustainable support plan at point of council tenancy sign up

Minimum 300 young people helped to return home through mediation

Baseline Position

No placements in 2014/15

Placements where no other options, due to exclusions, available and cases discussed at YP housing group

No placements since April 2014

Joint Working Protocol between Housing Leeds and Children's Services being reviewed

Joint working sessions to be held between Housing Advisors, Housing Officers and Personal Advisors. All tenancy sign ups to be overseen by YP Housing Operations Group.

307 youth mediation preventions achieved April 2014 to January 2015

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Case Study: FLAGSHIP

FLAGSHIP is a consortium comprising three 'local' third sector organisations: GIPSIL, Leeds Housing Concern and Foundation Housing. It offers housing support to young people and care leavers. The service is commissioned by Children's Services, Housing Leeds and Public Health. The service offers 'floating support' to up to 225 young people and 150 'trainer flats'. Both the floating support and trainer flats prepare young people for independent living and help the Council to fulfil its legal duties to 'children in need' and homeless young people. Representatives from FLAGSHIP meet with Council officers from Children's Services, Housing Leeds and other third sector housing support services to plan and prioritise placement and put in place other housing and support options.

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living

Priority 3.5: Vulnerable Adults

Access to quality housing and effective housing interventions is vital for vulnerable adults and contributes positively to the city priority of promoting health and wellbeing. The approach is framed around the housing pathways of helping vulnerable people to 'stay put' in their existing homes or to make a 'planned move' to alternative housing. This preventative approach generates 'invest to save' benefits for housing, social care, health and community safety partners. Disabled people can be enabled to live independently through adaptations. Developing a consistent cross tenure service and better matching people to properties are key priorities. Support people who have experienced domestic violence to make their own housing choices is another priority. Preserving prevention schemes such as Sanctuary will be important and so will taking appropriate action against perpetrators. The strategy sets a target that no person should remain unnecessarily in hospital due to lack of or poor housing. HALP shows what can be done by working in partnership and this work will be extended across different circumstances. It is important that a comparable plan to the C&YP Housing Plan is developed for vulnerable adults.

Vulnerable Adults Actions

- Develop and Vulnerable Adult's Housing Plan
- Embed a preventative approach to hoarding in housing
- Frame new adaptation service around assessment and delivery functions
- Develop Accessible Housing Register
- Ensure housing services are key part of Domestic Violence and Abuse Hub
- Embed joint working with health services around hospital discharge

Vulnerable Adults Targets

- Vulnerable Adults Housing Plan in place by end of September 2015
- Minimum 90% of major adaptations completed in target timescales
- Minimum 300 Sanctuary installations per year
- All Sanctuary installations carried out within 3 working days
- All housing needs assessments for DV&A Hub referrals commenced on day of referral
- No housing related delayed hospital discharges

Baseline Position

- Discussions commenced between Housing Leeds and ASC
- 96% private housing 2014/15
90% council housing 2014/15
- 2014/15 forecast 330 Sanctuary installations
- Service transferred to Council's Property and Contracts service and target accepted
- DV&A Hub to be operational from April 2015
- Improved operational links made between Housing Leeds, ASC and Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust including escalation arrangements

Case Study: HALP

HALP (Homeless Accommodation Leeds Pathway) is a partnership comprising Leeds City Council, CRI, St George's Crypt, Foundation Housing and Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. The service targets hospital patients who are likely to be homeless at the point of discharge. Historically housing status, and specifically homelessness, was only identified as an issue with the patient was fit to be discharged. Opportunities to find suitable housing were often missed and people were sometimes discharged to the streets. Hospital staff now work in partnership with the Council and supported housing services to put in place suitable housing options in a timely way. If needed bed spaces at the Crypt and held for HALP customers. The service was a DoH pilot that finished in March 2014; Leeds Public Health is continuing to fund in 14/15.

Leeds Housing Strategy 2015-2018
Theme 3: Promoting Independent Living