

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Customer Services Committee on Monday 29th September 2025

Update on Bolsover Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2022-2027

Report of Councillor Philip Smith, Portfolio for Housing

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Elizabeth Ellis, Housing Options Manager

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the Bolsover Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy (2022 - 2027) To outline the action plan, and achievements resulting from this.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Bolsover Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy (Appendix 1) seeks to build upon a multi-agency response that was seen during the pandemic, to continue this, to prevent and reduce homelessness.
- 1.2 There are four clear strategic priorities, that are broken down into individual actions within the action plan (see Appendix 2):
 1. Make homelessness everyone's responsibility through a system wide approach.
 2. Prevent and respond to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions.
 3. End rough sleeping and repeat homelessness.
 4. Develop sustainable supported and settled housing solutions.
- 1.3 The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017) has enabled councils to be more proactive and encourages early intervention for those facing homelessness. The Government are committed to ending rough sleeping, our Strategy is fully in keeping with the positive spirit of the homelessness legislation and the ambition of the Government's target.
- 1.4 The five-year Strategy was developed in partnership with all Derbyshire district and borough councils as well as Derbyshire County Council. All councils adopted the relevant strategy by the end of 2022. The Strategy was formally launched in May 2023 with an event attended by over one hundred partners from across the county.

- 1.5 In February 2023 a project officer was employed to lead the implementation and future development of the Strategy. This role is currently hosted by North East Derbyshire District Council, with funding for the role coming from all districts, borough and county councils. The Homelessness Special Projects Officer has taken the lead on setting up a steering group to help drive the work needed to complete some of the more complex actions in the strategy, which reports to the Derbyshire Housing and Health Systems Group.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Appendix 2 contains the Action Plan which has been developed by Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group (DHOG) and which is being progressed by Homelessness Special Projects Officer.
- 2.2 The areas of action within each of the key priorities set out in the Strategy are set out in the Action Plan and updates have been added against each one for Members' information. Progress is shown using the red / amber / green (RAG) system.
- 2.3 Building on achievements outlined at the July 2024 Customer Services Committee, an update from the last 12 months:

Supported housing improvement programme (SHIP)

As part of our joint initiative to improve the quality of supported housing within North Derbyshire. The team has consulted with supported housing providers and produced a common referral form which has been rolled out across Derbyshire.

Supported housing needs assessment being conducted by Homeless Link, to be completed by Autumn 2025.

Trauma Informed Derbyshire

As part of a public health initiative, trauma informed training and development was offered to all frontline staff within Derbyshire. This included staff who work for our commissioned housing providers for rough sleepers funded by our Derbyshire RSPARG grant (rough sleeping prevention and recovery grant).

The opportunity also offered 6 reflective practice sessions for staff, which was received positively. Giving space for staff to reflect on their roles, which can require a high level of emotional resilience.

Health Needs Audit

To improve access to health services and improve health outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness, we first need to understand their health needs.

Commissioned Homeless Link to carry out a health needs audit, with Public Health (DCC). To be completed Autumn 2025.

SIGNAL pilot extension

SIGNAL is a holistic assessment tool that captures location-specific data on a wide range of markers including homelessness, health, poverty, and general wellbeing.

SIGNAL have worked with three of our key VCS organisations; P3 charity, Pathways of Chesterfield and The Elm Foundation to develop an integrated homelessness and wellbeing assessment for homeless service users. The project will help form the basis of a needs assessment for wider research to inform future service planning.

SALUS project

We continue to work with Derbyshire County Council providing immediate access housing provision and advocacy support for those fleeing domestic abuse. The service provides accommodation where emergency refuge where refuge is not immediately available for Derbyshire residents.

Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG) funded projects

Current funding arrangements for services are a joint bid with all local authorities within Derbyshire.

There is still some uncertainty about how central government will be funding rough sleeping from 2026, so we have started a process of assessing our options depending on the level of funding we receive.

2.4 Current / future actions:

- Prison release protocol, final draft presented to Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group (DHOG) in September 2025. The protocol is a collaborative commitment to improve data sharing for individuals in custody where they are presenting with unstable housing options. To ensure that where possible rough sleeping is rare, brief and non-recurring, and to collaborate with partners to ensure efforts to secure accommodation begin as soon as possible to prevent homelessness on release.
- Temporary accommodation review, analysis of usage and availability across the Derbyshire region. To be completed by the Homelessness Special Projects Officer to forecast future demand, and suitability of current options.
- Continued representation at EMCCA meetings – to continue to attend and advocate for commitment to collaborate within the EMCCA region.
- Duty to refer improvements. Specific public bodies have a duty to refer to notify the council if a person is homeless, or at risk of homelessness within 56 days. The timeliness, and quality of these referrals is very important for an effective response.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To inform scrutiny of the Homeless and Rough Sleeper Strategy Action Plan and give any updates where available.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the Housing Strategy Action Plan Monitoring Update: September 2025 and make any necessary recommendations arising from this work area.

Approved by Councillor Philip Smith Portfolio Holder for Housing

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
There are no financial implication arising from this report.		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
The are no legal implications arising from the report. The strategy and action plan supplement the Councils statutory homeless duties.		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<u>Staffing</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		
There are no staffing implication arising from this report. The Homeless Special Project Officer referred to within the report is funded jointly be all Derbyshire authorities and housed by North East Derbyshire District Council.		
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		
<u>Equality and Diversity Impact and Consultation</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:		

On behalf of Information, Engagement and Performance Manager	
<u>Environment</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.	
Details: N/A	
On behalf of Climate Change Officer	

DECISION INFORMATION:

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:</p> <p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District, or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p>Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(a) <input type="checkbox"/> (b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>* Is the Call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer and the relevant Scrutiny Chair)</i></p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> *No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>District Wards Significantly Affected: (to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</p> <p>Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>All <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Consultation: (this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval) Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Portfolio holder Executive Director Health & wellbeing board

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
<p>The Strategy links to the Council's Housing Ambition of Preventing and responding to homelessness through early intervention and personalised solutions.</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Bolsover Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy
2	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan

Background Papers
N/A