

Appendix 3

Gravesham Borough Council – Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2019 – 2024

This action plan has been developed to support each of the priorities contained within Gravesham Borough Councils Homelessness Strategy.

Strategic Priority - Intervene in a timely manner for those at risk of homelessness					
Outcome	Action	When will this be done by	How will it be done	Who will do it	Progress
Officers know what prevention tools they can use and have clear guidelines as to how they can be used	Review of prevention tools and the development of policies and procedures to support the delivery of these	September 2109	<p>By reviewing existing polices where they exist ensuring they are fit for purpose and updating in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act</p> <p>By developing new policies where there are none</p> <p>By developing staff procedures to support the policies</p> <p>Training for staff on the new policies and procedures to ensure a consistent application</p>	<p>Housing Needs and Improvement Manager</p> <p>Housing Needs Team Manager</p>	
Access to the service	The “front door” is redesigned to better meet the needs of those who may be threatened with homelessness	June 2019	<p>Review and redesign the current desk duty to determine if it still meets the needs of the service and customer</p> <p>Ensure the website is up to date so that people can</p>		

			access information and self-help or know where to go to get early help		
Ensure that information and advice on housing and homelessness prevention is widely available	Develop and increase access to a range of information for clients and stakeholders.	June 2019	<p>Update the website to include:</p> <p>General advice on what the Council can do to help if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness</p> <p>How to go about privately renting</p> <p>Your rights as a private tenant</p> <p>Renting a room in your home</p> <p>Housing Register/Allocations</p> <p>Homelessness duties</p> <p>Homelessness Reviews</p>		
Strategic Priority - Strengthen our partnerships to support vulnerable groups ending the repeat cycle of homelessness					
What is the outcome we want from this	What action will we take to achieve the outcome	When will this action be completed by	How will the action be done	Who will complete the action	How will we measure the success and ensure we have achieved our outcome?

Provision of support to ensure prevent repeat homelessness	Review level of support to local voluntary agencies and charities to assist families and individuals becoming homeless.	October 2019		Housing Needs & Improvements Manager Housing Options Team Leader	
	Where possible, sign up to the voluntary duty to refer by Housing Associations to ensure that families threatened with homelessness are given advice and assistance in a timely manner.	As and when possible			
	Review tenancy sustainment duties provided by the Authority.	October 2019			
	Develop a local lettings agency in partnership with a neighbouring Authority to assist in procurement of accommodation in the private rented sector	March 2020			
Strategic Priority – Prevent Rough Sleeping					
Outcome	Action	When will this be done by	How will it be done	Who will do it	Progress
Rough Sleeping in the district is reduced	Develop a rough sleeper strategy	October 2019	Review of Rough Sleeping in the district and development of evidence to support a strategy Develop a Rough Sleeper Strategy	Housing Needs & Improvement Manager	
	Develop an approach to rough sleeping which includes SWEP, Rough Sleeper Protocol and a reconnection protocol	June 2019	Work with key partners to develop an approach to Rough Sleeping where all partners are clear of their roles	Housing Needs & Improvement Manager	

	Pilot a Housing First project	March 2020	Start a pilot to test a housing first approach to tackling homelessness	Housing Needs & Improvement Manager	
Strategic Priority – Improve access to decent affordable accommodation in the Private Rented Sector					
Outcome	Action	When will this be done by	How will it be done	Who will do it	Progress
	Increase the supply of good quality private rented housing in Gravesend and improve working relationships with private landlords and agents.	March 2020	Strengthen work with local landlord forum networks Develop incentives for landlords to take homeless applicants as a discharge of duty or prevention. Review existing Rent Deposit Scheme and develop in line with audit recommendations	Housing Needs Team Manager	
Strategic Priority – Improve the health and wellbeing of those threatened with homelessness or who are already homeless					
Outcome	Action	When will this be done by	How will it be done	Who will do it	Progress
Develop information relating to the health needs of those who are homeless	Complete a full health needs audit using the Homeless Link Tool	March 2020		Housing Needs Team Manager	