

**WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**HOUSING OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**20 MARCH 2018**

---

**Title:**

**HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2018 - 2023**

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King ]  
[Wards Affected: All]

---

**Summary and purpose:**

The Council is legally required to produce a Homelessness Strategy at least every five years. Waverley's current strategy runs from July 2013 - July 2018. This report introduces Waverley's draft Strategy for 2018 – 2023.

---

**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

Homelessness can have a devastating impact on health and welling and life chances for those affected by it. By trying to provide services to prevent and relieve homelessness and to give support those affected by it, the Homelessness Strategy supports Waverley's commitment to ensuring that those that live and work in Waverley have equal life chances.

**Financial Implications:**

The Strategy highlights that when similar changes to homelessness legislation contained in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 were introduced in Wales, Councils experienced additional costs from an increased number of customers and an increase in administrative burdens in managing each case. Whilst Waverley will receive some new burdens funding to manage the increased duties, this is very unlikely to be sufficient for the Council to fulfil its new obligations under the new Act.

**Legal Implications:**

Waverley has a statutory duty to assess homeless applications and to provide housing advice to its residents under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended) and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduces significant changes to the statutory framework.

---

**Background**

1. Nationally, and within Surrey, homelessness is on the rise. Key indicators of this trend are the number of homeless households being placed in temporary accommodation under Councils' statutory homelessness duties and the number of people sleeping rough.

2. There has been a 58% national increase in the number of homeless households being placed in temporary accommodation since 2010 and a 169% increase in those sleeping rough in the same period.
3. The rise in the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation in Surrey is shown in the following table:

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
187	231	357	461	608	707	788	830

4. Annual reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have highlighted that despite this national and Surrey trend, Waverley has continued to maintain its excellent record in preventing homelessness. As a result the numbers of rough sleepers and households having to be placed into temporary accommodation has remained exceptionally low, as shown in the following tables:

#### **Annual rough sleeping estimate for Waverley**

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
0	3	0	2	4	1

#### **Homeless households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March.**

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
7	2	2	1	4	5	1	1

5. Waverley's success in preventing homelessness has been recognised by being granted the Silver Award by the National Practitioner Support Service in 2017.
6. In November 2017 Officers advised Housing O&S Committee members of very significant changes in the homelessness legislation being introduced from April 2018 by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
7. Officers have therefore taken the opportunity of the introduction of the new legislation to consult with customers and its statutory and voluntary partners regarding its Homelessness Strategy for 2018 -2023. This included a multi-agency strategy event held on 17 October 2017.
8. Following the consultation and a review of homelessness services currently provided by the Council and its partners for homeless households, Officers have produced a draft Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan. These documents are attached to this report, as is the lengthier Homelessness Review. The documents will be shared with the Council's statutory and voluntary partners for any final comment of suggestions.

## **Recommendation**

The Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- note the Council's continued success in preventing homelessness;
- endorse the proposed Homelessness Strategy for 2018-2023; and,
- agree any comments it wishes to pass to the Executive.

---

## **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

---

## **CONTACT OFFICER:**

**Name:** Michael Rivers  
Housing Needs Manager

**Telephone:** 01483 523013  
**E-mail:** michael.rivers@waverley.gov.uk