# **Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2023 - 2028**

### **Strategic Priority One: Rough Sleeping Interventions**

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
1.1	Year 1- Continue to embed the Rough Sleeping Outreach and Support Service  Years 2-5 – Keep under review and explore alternative funding options ahead of RSI funding ending in 2025	Timely response to reports of rough sleeping.  Ongoing follow up to those who do not initially engage with offers of help.  Support to those placed in short term housing to help them sustain tenancies and engage with statutory and voluntary services.	Homechoice & RSI Manager Rough Sleeping Support Officer	Waverley Borough Council York Road Project	Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funding 22-25  Rough Sleeping Accommodation programme (RSAP) revenue funding  Staffing	
1.2	Year 1- Explore options to increase short-term accommodation options for rough sleepers e.g. new build, short life properties, supported housing  Years 2-5 – keep under review	Increase in accommodation options for clients – particularly for those with complex needs who struggle to stay in current emergency provision.	Homechoice and RSI Manager Housing Needs Manager Development Manager	Waverley Borough Council Supported housing providers	RSAP Capital Funding  Short life Waverley owned accommodation identified for future development.  Homelessness Prevention Grant	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
1.3	Year 1 – Co- ordinate Waverley's annual rough sleeping estimate in the autumn of 2023  Years 2-5 – Continue for 2024- 2027 - subject to Government requirements	An accurate estimate of those sleeping rough in the Waverley area to gauge the effectiveness of Waverley's homelessness prevention approach.  Statistical information for the Government	Homechoice and RSI Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council  Homeless Link  Police  York Road Project, Woking  Probation  Faith forum/groups  Citizens Advice South West Surrey	Staff time Statutory and Voluntary agency time	
1.4	Year 1 – Co- ordinate Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) arrangements as required. Years 2-5 - Keep under review.	Rough sleepers provided with emergency accommodation and support during extreme weather events.  Reduce the health and wellbeing risks for rough sleeping clients when there are weather extremes. This can also encourage reengagement from clients.	Homechoice & RSI Manager Rough Sleeping Support Officer	Waverley Borough Council York Road Project, Woking	Staff time Homelessness Budget RSI 5 funding	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
1.6	Year 1 – Fund Rough Sleeping Outreach Worker Year 2-5 Monitor and review as needed	Early follow up on Streetlink rough sleeping referrals in Waverley  Rough sleeping client's circumstances assessed and accommodation options advice, support and sign posting provided.	Homechoice and RSI Manager Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council	RSI 5 funding  Homeless prevention grant .	
1.7	Year 1 – Fund 2 x complex needs bedspaces with Transform Housing.  Years 2-5 – monitor and review arrangements as RSI funding ends March 2025	Homeless clients with more complex needs assisted with accommodation that otherwise would not be available.  Provision of additional support helps increase chances of tenancy sustainment and engagement with support and health services	Housing Needs Manager  Housing Options Manager  Homechoice & RSI Manager	Waverley Borough Council Transform Housing	RSI5 funding Homelessness budget	
1.8	Year 1 – Fund additional bedspace at York Road Project using RSI 5 funding. Years 2-5 – Monitor and review - funding ends March 2025.	Emergency first stage supported accommodation.  Experienced support staff help clients progress to longer term accommodation options	Housing Options Manager Homechioce & RSI Manager	Waverley Borough Council York Road Project, Woking	RSI 5 Funding Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
1.9	Year 1 -Monitor effectiveness of all the rough sleeper interventions (outreach, support, accommodation) and adapt the interventions to maximise resources and effectiveness.  Years 2-5 — Ongoing monitoring and adjustment of service as needed	Reduction in number of entrenched rough sleepers  Maximising/targeting resources where most needed	Housing Needs Manager  Homechoice and RSI Manager  Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council DLUHC RSI rep	Staff time  RSI and Homeless prevention grant funding	

## **Strategic Priority Two: Prevention**

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
2.1	Year 1 – Maintain good quality housing options advice, casework and other interventions through the Council's Housing Options Team  Years 2-5 – Monitor and review and explore capturing customer feedback	Customers homelessness prevented and temporary accommodation numbers kept to a minimum.  Staff receive required training and supervision.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Private landlords Letting agents Supported housing providers.	Staff time Training Partnership working	
2.2	Year 1 - Continue to use the homelessness budget flexibly to help prevent homelessness e.g. spend to save payments, paying rent in advance, etc.  Years 2-5 — Monitor and review.	Prevention of homelessness and minimising the upheaval for customers.  Value for Money by targeting resources at the most costeffective solution to prevent homelessness.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Private landlords Letting agents	Homelessness budget Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
2.3	Year 1 –Recruit to vacant Housing Options Officer roles and review staffing structure to ensure it has the capacity and resilience to meet demand/caseload  Years 2-5 – Monitor and review.	Well trained staff team with sufficient capacity to assist clients approaching the Council as homeless.  Clients given timely advice and support to prevent and relieve their homelessness  Officers have manageable caseloads so they can correctly and fairly discharge the Council's homelessness duties and keep the number of households having to be placed into emergency accommodation to a minimum	Housing Needs Manager Housing Options Manager	Waverley	Homelessness Budget  DLUHC Homelessness Grant	
2.4	Years 1-5 — Provide updated two-year spending plan for homelessness grant and RSI funding to management board and Exec in Feb of each year.	Senior management and Executive aware of the challenges and opportunities in preventing homelessness and effective targeting of resources to tackle homelessness.  Outline implications of potential for reduced Govt. funding in 25-26, proposed mitigations and impact on Waverley's own budgets	Executive Head of Housing Services Housing Needs Manager	Waverley DLUHC	Homelessness Budget DLUHC Homelessness Grant	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
2.5	Year 1 –Continue to support Ukrainian households and their hosts to help ensure the stability of placements and / or rematching to other hosts or referral to private landlords.  Years 2-5 –  Monitor & review	Prevention of homelessness and minimising the upheaval for customers  Value for Money by targeting resources at the most cost effective solution to prevent homelessness.	Resettlement Manager – Homes for Ukraine	Waverley Borough Council Surrey County Council Local charities and support groups	Government grants	
2.6	Year 1 -Embed new working arrangements for the Sanctuary Scheme managed by the South-West Surrey DA Outreach Service to help victims of domestic violence safely remain in their homes.  Year 2-5 - Monitor & review	Victims of domestic abuse made safe & able to avoid the upheaval of moving away from support networks.  Reduced costs in providing emergency temporary accommodation.	Specialist Housing Options Manager	South-West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service  Waverley Borough Council  Waverley's Building Contractor – Ian Williams  Police  Fire Service	Staff time  Housing Revenue Account for Council homes needing security measures.  DLUHC Domestic abuse grant passported to South-West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
2.7	Year 1 - Monitor impact of affordability crisis and refer households in need to the Housing Support Fund, Citizens Advice Waverley and other interventions.  Years 2-5  Monitor & review.	To ensure that households receive timely help with food, energy costs and debts so that they can continue to meet their housing costs	Housing Options Manager  Community Services Manager	Waverley Borough Council Surrey County Council Citizens Advice South- West Surrey	Staff time  DLUHC grant  Council grant to Citizens Advice South-West Surrey.	
2.8	Years 1 - 5 - Monitor data from Government returns.	Local authority homelessness data uploaded to Government Portal (Delta), highlights primary causes of homelessness in Waverley & outcomes from prevention actions a so resources can be targeted effectively	Housing Options Manager  Specialist Housing Options Manager  Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Statutory and Voluntary Partners	MRI (Jigsaw) IT database – yearly revenue cost Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
2.9	Year 1 – Continue to invest in staff training and well-being.  Years 2-5 - Monitor and review	Staff supported through regular 121s and given relevant training on emerging priorities and changes in legislation.  Continued funding of Systemic Psychotherapist so staff have the voluntary option of monthly confidential supervision and wellbeing support.  Refresh Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse training	Housing Needs Manager Housing Options Manager	Training organisations  Freelance Systemic Psychotherapist  South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach service  Surrey County Council	Staff time  Homelessness prevention grant	
2.10	Years 1-5 Ensure that online information regarding the Housing Options Service is up to date and is helping clients self-serve where possible	Customers able to self serve where possible so that telephone and in person interactions with the Housing Options team are maximised.	Housing Options Manager Website Manager	Waverley Borough Council	Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
2.11	Years 1-5 – Ensure that as many housing options clients as are eligible are registered on the Council's Housing Register	Ensures that households who the Council has helped into private rented accommodation to prevent their homelessness, have maximised their chances of future social housing.  This means that in the event of future threatened homelessness households may be able to resolve their difficulties by bidding successful for social housing.  Reduced costs to the council in preventing homelessness.	Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council	Staff time	
2.12	Year 1 – Urgently review the impacts of the potential Government funding shortfall for 25-26 and devise plans to ensure continuity and improved resilience of service (staffing and accommodation)  Years 2-5 Monitor & Review	Housing Options Service is sufficiently funded and staffed to provide an effective homeless prevention and relief service so the number of households having to be placed into emergency B&B/Hotel accommodation is kept to a minimum	Housing Needs Manager  Senior Accountant  Financial Services Manager  HR Business Partner	Waverley Borough Council  Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities	Staff time	

## **Strategic Priority Three: Accommodation**

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
3.1	Year 1 —  Encourage households under occupying social housing to downsize e.g. Transfer incentive scheme, mutual exchanges, high banding priority.  Years 2-5 —  Monitor & Review outcomes.	Family sized properties released for those who need them.  Smaller households and those who are elderly or have disabilities helped into accommodation that is more suitable for their needs  Social housing stock maximised  Reduced use of Discretionary Housing Payment budget for under occupiers will mean budget can be targeted at those in greatest need.	Homechoice Manager Transfer/ Easy Move Officer Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council	Staff time  Promotion of the Council's Easy Move scheme through tenant publications/ website  Transfer incentive payment budget	
3.2	Year 1- Continue to fund three bed spaces at York Road Project, Woking Years 2-5 – Monitor & Review	Emergency first stage supported accommodation.  Experienced support staff help clients progress to longer term accommodation options.	Housing Options Manager Homechoice & Rough Sleeping Manager	Waverley Borough Council  York Road Project,  Woking	Homelessness Budget	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
3.3	Year 1 -Develop new Waverley owned affordable housing.  Years 2-5  Development of new Waverley owned affordable housing	New Council-owned homes for Housing Register applicants (8 new units expected 23-24, 67 in 24-25)	Housing Development Manager  Executive Head of Planning Services	Waverley Borough Council Building Contractors	: Housing revenue account development budget Staff time	
3.4	Year 1 - Support and enable development of more affordable and supported housing developed by housing associations / voluntary groups  Years 2-5 - Monitor & review	Increase in supported and affordable housing for Housing Register applicants and customers facing homelessness.  (72 Housing association affordable rent / Social rent units expected 23-24)	Executive Head of Housing Services  Housing Strategy & Enabling Manager  Executive Head of Planning Services	Waverley Borough Council Housing Associations	Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
3.5	Year 1- Continue to fund 5 supported housing bed spaces at - Pilgrim Court, Milford - A2 Dominion  Years 2-5 — Monitor and review	Supported housing provision for singles and small families.  Clients receive support to help them develop independent living skills.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council A2 Dominion	Homelessness Budget  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2023-2024 £616,834  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2024-25 £622,744	
3.6	Year 1 – Continue to fund 2 x bed spaces at Simmonds Court, Farnham – Transform Housing  Years 2-5 – Monitor and review	Supported housing provision for single homeless clients.  Clients receive support to help them develop independent living skills.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Transform Housing	Homelessness Budget  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2023-2024 £616,834  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2024-25 £622,744	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
3.7	Year 1 - Increase supply of private rented accommodation for all household groups, but particularly for single homeless households. e.g.:  -Monitor and review shared houses scheme with Ethical Lettings  -Radio advertising to attract new landlords  - Explore and trial landlord incentives  -Liaison with agents/Landlords  Year 2-5 -  Monitor and review	Housing Options team have a range of accommodation options that can be offered to those to whom a homelessness prevention or relief duty is owed.  Reduced use of & cost of emergency B&B accommodation  Waverley's deposit scheme remains attractive to landlords and is competitive compared with others.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Ethical Lettings Woking Borough Council Letting Agents Private landlords	Staff time Homelessness Budget  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2023-2024 £616,834  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2024-25 £622,744	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
3.8	Year 1 - Explore opportunities to purchase additional bed spaces in supported housing schemes  Years 2-5  Monitor and review	Increase in number and variety of units for single vulnerable clients  Reduced use of & cost of emergency B&B accommodation	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Supported Housing Providers e.g. York Road Project Woking, Transform Housing, A2 Dominion etc.	Homelessness Budget  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2023-2024 £616,834  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2024-25 £622,744	
3.8	Explore opportunities that may arise for capital investment in housing schemes (within or outside Waverley) in return for nomination rights to bed spaces	Increase in supply of emergency and short to medium term accommodation for homeless households.  Reduced costs of emergency B&B accommodation  Reduced rough sleeping.	Executive Head of Housing Services Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council Housing Providers Other Borough / District Councils	Capital funding	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
3.9	Year 1 – Monitor / review lease arrangements for unused / harder to let Council properties to assess effectiveness in preventing homelessness and providing move on accommodation from supported housing  Years 1-5 – assess whether other Council owned units can used similarly	Reducing void loss and maximising rental income to the HRA on harder to let properties  Move on accommodation for supported housing schemes provides much needed turnover in higher support schemes to help prevent homelessness  Use of harder to let stock to prevent or relieve homelessness	Housing Options Manager  Executive Head of Housing Services  Housing Needs Manager  Legal Services Manager	Waverley Borough Council York Road Project Riverside Housing Ethical Lettings A2 Dominion	Staff Time  Hard to let / under used Council accommodation	
3.10	Year 1 – Fund 7 supported housing bed- spaces at The Crescent, Woking Years 1-3 Review and monitor	Additional supported housing for vulnerable clients – scheme particularly suited to younger age group  Enables vulnerable clients to receive support to help them develop independent living skills	Housing Needs Manager Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council Transform Housing & Support	Homelessness Budget  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2023-2024 £616,834  DLUHC Homelessness Grant 2024-25 £622,744	

# **Strategic Priority Four: Support**

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
4.1	Year 1 -Maintain and develop the Specialist Housing Options Service  Years 2-5-Monitor and review	Assessment of the needs and homelessness duties owed to vulnerable housing options clients.  Tenancy and welfare support to vulnerable clients living in all tenures to help ensure accommodation sustained and homelessness prevented.  Co-ordination with other statutory and voluntary agencies e.g. Social Services, Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, Police, Health	Specialist Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council	Staff time	
4.2	Year 1 –Continue to use SCC funding to fund an additional Specialist Housing Options Officer role  Year 2- 5 Monitor and review – SCC funding until 2025 with additional 2 year option	Additional resource to help the Council fulfil its HRA 2017 duties  Tenancy and welfare support to prevent homelessness and promoted health and well being of clients	Housing Needs Manager Specialist Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council Adult Social Care Surrey	Staff time Surrey County Council Housing Related Support Funding	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
4.3	Year 1 – Rough Sleeper Support Officer to continue to support rough sleepers recently placed in emergency accommodation. Year 2- 5 Monitor and review	Helps clients engage with health and welfare services  Clients supported in setting up utilities and applying for the benefits they are entitled to.  Clients develop independent living skills to enable them to sustain accommodation  Clients encouraged to explore to volunteering opportunities and / or train for future employment	Homechoice and RSI Manager RSI support Officer	Waverley Borough Council	Staff time and RSI 5 and RSAP funding	
4.4	Year 1 – Refer complex need clients to Surrey Adults Matter/Bridge the Gap/Changing futures team.  Year 2- 5 Monitor and review	Clients receive additional support hours from specialist services.  Clients more likely to be able to address behavioural issues linked to mental health and drug/alcohol dependency.	Homechoice and RSI Manager RSI Support Officer Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council Surrey County Council	Staff time	

## **Strategic Priority Five: Partnership Work**

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
5.1	Years 1-5 - Maintain Housing Service representation and participation at multi agency meetings e.g. Surrey Housing Needs Managers Meeting, MARAC, MAPPA, Social Services case conferences, Housing Association Forum, CHarMM.	Partnership working to achieve best possible outcomes for clients, avoid duplication and maximise/share resources	Housing Needs Manager Housing Options Manager Specialist Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council Surrey Boroughs / Districts Surrey County Council Surrey Police Health Housing Associations Probation Community Mental Health Recovery Service (CMHRS) South-West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service	Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
5.2	Year 1 - Continue to manage and coordinate Waverley's Single Housing Panel  Years 2 - 5 Monitor and review	Housing and support needs of vulnerable clients assessed and suitable housing and support options identified.  Partnership working to achieve best possible outcomes for clients, avoid duplication and maximise/share resources.	Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council Supported housing providers Floating Support Services Health CMHRS Social Services Probation	Staff time	
5.3	Year 1- Explore opportunities to share best practice and work jointly with Guildford Borough Council on new initiatives / projects  Years 2-5 - Monitor and review	Service improvement  Economies of scale and value for money	Housing Needs Manager  Housing Options Manager  Homechoice and Rough Sleeping Manager	Waverley Borough Council Guildford Borough Council	Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
5.4	Year 1 – Attend regular careleaver update meetings  Years 2-5 – Monitor and review	To assess the needs of careleavers with a Waverley connection so that longer term housing pathways can be agreed to minimise risk of homelessness.	Housing Options Manager	Waverley Borough Council	Staff time	
5.5	Year 1 Continue to support the work of Citizens Advice Waverley and monitor performance through Service Level Agreement  Years 2-5 – Monitor and review	Waverley residents receive independent, free advice in regard to debt, welfare benefits, employment and housing rights and responsibilities etc.  Maximisation of income & welfare benefits, social inclusion and prevention of homelessness.	Community Services Manager	Waverley Borough Council Citizens Advice South West Surrey	Waverley Grant Staff time	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
5.6	Years 1 – 5 – Arrange and co- ordinate regular private landlord forums	To engage with private sector landlords and letting agents to promote best practice and maximise opportunities to help homeless clients access private rented homes	Private Sector Housing Manager	Ethical Lettings  Letting agents and private landlords	Staff time	
5.7	Years 1 – 5 – Arrange and co- ordinate annual Homelessness Strategy Conference / update meeting	To review the Council and its partners' progress in preventing homelessness and delivering the 23-28 homelessness strategy priorities.  Identify and celebrate successes  Identify emerging challenges and agree partnership actions to meet the challenges.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Adult Social Care Children's Services Citizens Advice Waverley CMHRS Supported Housing Providers SW Surrey DA Outreach Health Probation Letting Agents / Private landlords Ethical Lettings Neighbouring Boroughs/Districts	Staff time  Homelessness budget for refreshments and any printing	

No.	Action	Aims / Outcomes	Lead Officers	Partner Agencies	Resources	Status / Comments
5.8	Years 1-5 Offer opportunities to statutory and voluntary partners for senior housing options managers/team leaders to attend partner team meetings. to explain housing options customer journey and to better understand remits and challenges of partner services	Help partner agencies set realistic expectations for their customers about the help available from the Housing Options Team  Mutual understanding from the Council and its partners as to challenges and constraints our organisations share.  Explore opportunities to work collaboratively for the benefit of customers, particularly in regard to safeguarding.	Housing Options Manager Housing Needs Manager	Waverley Borough Council Adult Social Care Children's Services Citizens Advice Waverley CMHRS Supported Housing Providers Health Probation South-West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service	Staff time	