

# HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERSHIP

21<sup>st</sup> October 2025



# Agenda

1. Housing Needs Service – summary of current trends
2. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy – summary of progress
3. Priorities for next six months



# Current Homelessness and Rough Sleeping trends

## Current numbers in temporary accommodation

*Snapshot at end of the quarter*

**Number of households in  
accommodation of Q2 2025/26**

**68**

**Compared to Q1 2025/26**



**-3**

**Compared to Q2 2024/25**



**-8**

Of these: 35 in nightly paid (32 single people, three families)

## Number of Homeless applications

**Number of Homeless applications taken  
in Q2 2025/26**

**144**

**Compared to Q1 2025/26**



**-25.77%**

**Compared to Q2 2024/25**



**-42.86%**

Note: total cases including Advice have remained high: 428 in Q2 25/26 compared with 413 in Q1 25/26 and 473 in Q2 24/25. Possible explanations include earlier presentations and interventions, or higher level of withdrawals prior to homelessness



# Current Homelessness and Rough Sleeping trends

Number of properties advertised		
Properties advertised Q2 2025/26	Compared to Q1 2025/26	Compared to Q2 2024/25
202	 56	 -78

Number of people eligible  
for social housing

1227

Number of people verified  
sleeping rough as of 17  
October

3

Number of people verified  
sleeping rough across  
December 2025

7

Typical numbers remain between 0 and 3. Outreach team are aware of all the above and are providing support towards accommodation



## 2. Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

### Summary of progress



# Prevention

## Key areas of progress:

- Relunched Sustainable Housing Pathway Service (SHPS)
  - Focus on mediation and families
  - Joined-up work with other local partners
- Relunched Purfleet Intensive Support Service
  - Focus on prevention and sustainment
  - Retaining function for identifying people sleeping rough and supporting them into accommodation



# Intervention

## Key areas of progress:

- Welfare Cabin replacement
  - Kingsway 'pods' to be decommissioned October 2025
  - Replacement: four self-contained units in central location, managed by Sanctuary Supported Living
- By Name partnership launched Summer 2025
  - Multi-agency partnership
  - Supporting people furthest away from having their housing needs met



# Accommodation

## Key areas of progress:

- Supported Accommodation Partnership
  - Improving flow of people into supported housing plus improved shared information
- Single person accommodation that incentivises employment
  - The Castle, Downham Market
- Allocation policy review
  - New policy approved by council July 2025
  - Re-banding to occur November 2025





# Recovery

## Key areas of progress:

- Engaging local businesses in the recovery process
  - Work with Boost and Purfleet Trust
- Access to leisure and cultural facilities
  - Work with Alive Leisure



# Systems Support / Service Culture

## Key areas of progress:

- Implementation Partnership and Sub-groups
  - Fully operational
- Embedding lived experience into development of services
  - Further work required re: lived experience



### 3. Priorities for the next six months



# Prevention

## Key areas of focus:

- Proactive campaign with Letting Agents
  - in advance of Renters Rights Act
- Bring together *all parties* towards supporting people in the Private Rented Sector
  - Shared messages for landlords and tenants
  - Before, during and at the end of a tenancy



# Intervention

## Key areas of focus:

- Designing sufficient emergency accommodation to meet need
  - Forthcoming Temporary Accommodation policy
  - Procurement of additional TA units
- Redesigning Personal Housing Plans
  - Aim to improve communication with homeless applicants



# Accommodation

## Key areas of focus:

- Review effectiveness of hostel pathway
  - In advance of forthcoming Supported Housing regulations
- Working with key providers around void properties



# Recovery

## Key areas of focus:

- Recovery offer for people seeking to address alcohol dependency
- Access to mainstream health services
  - Both areas in early stages of development – initial meeting December 2025



# Systems Support / Service Culture

## Key areas of focus:

- Developing links between key services, council departments and elected members
  - All-councillor briefing 27<sup>th</sup> November
- Refresh advice letters and communications
  - Aim to improve communication with homeless applicants





## 5. Any other business?

