

Appendix A – Strategic priorities for preventing homelessness and meeting the needs of vulnerable people and rough sleepers

To prevent homelessness and meet the needs of vulnerable people we will:

- Increase our focus on preventing homelessness.
- Intervene early with advice and support to help people to sustain their accommodation and get help that they need.
- Work with young people at schools in Oxford to increase their awareness of housing issues.
- Work with other organisations to prevent and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Run a trailblazer project to identify new and better ways of preventing homelessness.
- Make sure that our homelessness services remain among the best in the country.
- Minimise the number of households in Temporary Accommodation by increasing access to longer term housing solutions.

To reduce rough sleeping and single homelessness we will:

- Increase our focus on preventing rough sleeping and single homelessness
- Continue to provide an assertive outreach service to help individuals to get off the streets, access suitable accommodation and get specialist support
- Look at what can be done to help rough sleepers who have no local connection to Oxford or anywhere else, and no recourse to public funds.
- Make sure that there is enough supported accommodation with appropriate levels of support to meet people's needs.
- Make sure that suitable accommodation and specialist housing is in place to help people move on from hostels to permanent settled homes.
- Work with other organisations, including mental health services, to reduce evictions from supported housing.
- Work with other organisations to provide supportive, wrap around services, including training and employment initiatives, that support clients to move on from the adult homeless pathway and maintain settled accommodation
- Make sure that there is enough crisis accommodation, including in the winter and severe weather.
- Work with the Police, Community Safety and others to tackle anti-social behaviour, health and safety risks and criminal activity on Oxford's streets.
- Increase funding for homelessness services by supporting an 'Alternative Giving Campaign' linked to anti-begging initiatives.

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