

## **Appendix B – 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 the focus on early intervention and preventing homelessness in line with new homelessness duties, supporting and advising people to sustain their accommodation and access services they need.
- Increase Young People's awareness of housing issues by establishing Homeless Prevention work into curriculum for 15/16 year olds attending Oxford Schools.
- Develop stronger and broader working relations and new partnership approaches with stakeholders to facilitate a collaboratively co-designed City-wide framework and response to preventing and tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Successfully implement the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer project, investing in early intervention and solutions to prevent households from becoming homeless, including joint work with partners to improve discharges from hospitals or prison.
- Ensure our homelessness services remain among the best in the country, recognised by maintaining the national 'Gold Standard'.
- Minimise the number of households in Temporary Accommodation by increasing access to longer term housing solutions.
- Ensure sufficient provision of suitable Temporary Accommodation, at best value to the Council, to avoid the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation.

### **To reduce rough sleeping and single homelessness we will:**

- Increase our focus on early intervention and preventing single homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Work to establish a city-wide partnership that works collaboratively to deliver effective, long-term solutions to rough sleeping and homelessness, and the creation of an agreed City-wide framework for Oxford.
- Ensure provision of a proactive and collaborative outreach service to provide improved prevention, diversion and reconnection work (No First Night Out), with a rapid assessment focus (No Second Night Out) and personalised services (No Living on the Streets).
- Explore feasible options to accommodate and/or support homeless rough sleepers in the City who have no local connection to the City or anywhere else, and no recourse to public funds.
- Ensure a sufficient and appropriate mix of supported accommodation, with appropriate levels of support to match needs.
- Ensure the provision of an effective pathway of accommodation and specialist housing (including use of the 'Housing First' model) to help people move on from hostels to permanent settled housing.
- Reduce evictions from supported housing, especially through more work with partners, including mental health services (No Return to the Streets).

- Work in partnership to support clients to progress through the adult homeless pathway and to maintain settled accommodation with wrap around services, including training and employment initiatives, and effective floating support provision.
- Ensure adequate crisis accommodation, including reviewing winter and severe weather provision.
- Work with the Police, Community Safety and others to tackle unacceptable anti-social behaviour, health and safety risks and criminal activity on Oxford's streets to improve life for all of Oxford's residents, safeguard those involved and at risk of criminal exploitation, and encourage clients to engage with services.
- Actively work to promote and support an 'Alternative Giving Campaign' linked to anti-begging initiatives, to raise additional resources for homeless services.