

5 YEAR REPORT FOR THE HOMELESSNESS PARTNERSHIP

01/01/2014
to 31/12/2018

2014-18

Improving the lives of homeless people and preventing homelessness in Bath and North East Somerset

It is five years since Bath and North East Somerset Council published its Homelessness Strategy 'Preventing Homelessness and Making Every Contact Count'. Demand for affordable housing at that time was far outstripping supply, and there were increasing problems with accessing good quality, affordable private rented accommodation. Our rough sleeping numbers were on the increase, especially for females, and people without a local connection to the district were arriving without a plan for their accommodation.

It will be no surprise to say that meeting the demand for affordable housing in the district remains a challenge. It is clear that there are more people facing housing difficulty, and this has forced the Partnership to be ever more creative and flexible in preventing homelessness. We better manage expectations with the message that social housing is not the only solution. We talk about what other options will resolve and prevent homelessness as part of our every-day message. We work with private landlords and letting agents to increase access to good quality, affordable housing. Our improvements to rough sleeping services has helped to change lives and created opportunities for people to return home or find somewhere else to live.

There have been significant legislative changes during the life of the Strategy. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 (HRA) and government welfare reforms have placed additional pressures on the way we work in preventing and relieving homelessness. We are proud to say that Bath & North East Somerset was ahead of the curve in meeting the challenge of the HRA and were able to make that transition smoothly and effectively. The Partnership is strengthened and focusing on reducing rough sleeping numbers using innovation and good practice. Rough sleeping numbers during the strategy reduced by just over a third.

Our message to you is that people facing homelessness in our area are now able to access better more responsive services, thanks to the commitment of individual members working together as a partnership. We acknowledge that there is much more to do as we look forward to the years ahead to make Bath and North East Somerset a place where everyone has a place to call home and no-one needs to sleep rough on our streets.

Homelessness Partnership

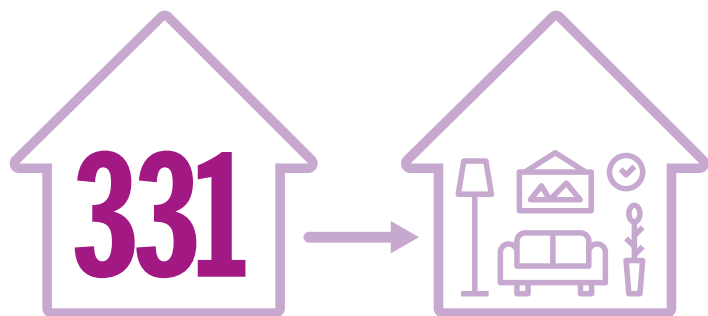
**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE**



ACHIEVEMENTS

INCREASED ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Empty properties brought back into use



20 Shared housing places for young people with YMCA 'Platform for Life'



186 Loans to pay a deposit and rent in advance on a tenancy



PREVENT HOMELESSNESS



- Awarded the Government's Silver Standard for homelessness prevention
- Young people given a place to stay with a volunteer called 'Nightstop'
- Education about homelessness available to schools through the Natural Theatre Company
- Extended licensing of houses in multiple-occupation to help improve the standard in private rented housing
- Housing advice and support in One Stop Shops in Bath and North East Somerset
- Money advice to prepare for a tenancy available through Curo's Passport to Housing

SUPPORT SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

- Specialist domestic violence adviser is working within the Housing Options Team
- Up to 75 survivors of domestic abuse every year take part in a 12-week 'Freedom Programme' to make positive changes and recover from domestic abuse
- More supported refuge spaces to end the cycle of offending behaviour for women who have suffered trauma and homelessness
- Men fleeing domestic violence can access the refuge spaces in the district
- People with complex needs can access refuge spaces in the district



ENDING ROUGH SLEEPING

13

Homes for rough sleepers with complex needs to be delivered by March 2020



'Safe Sleep' shelter provided over the winter months so no-one needs to sleep rough during severe weather



£4,000



Secured to help rough sleepers purchase furniture for their new home

200+



People were helped to end their rough sleeping and return to live in their home local authority

96

Patients given advice and support in hospital to stop them returning to live on the streets



Figure from 1st September 2018 – 31st December 2018:

- Homelessness Relieved: **42**
- Homelessness Prevented: **44**
- Unsuccessful Interventions: **10**

A public interface to alert services to people rough sleeping
www.streetlink.org.uk




Specialists working with our Rough Sleeper Outreach Team in areas of mental health and substance misuse



85

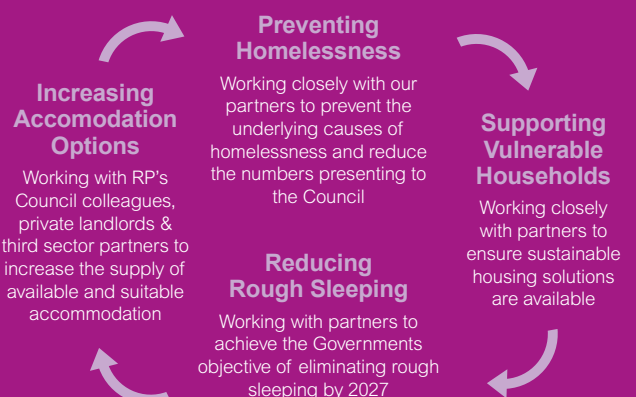
Rough sleepers helped to return to their existing tenancy



 Gender specific accommodation and support for female rough sleepers

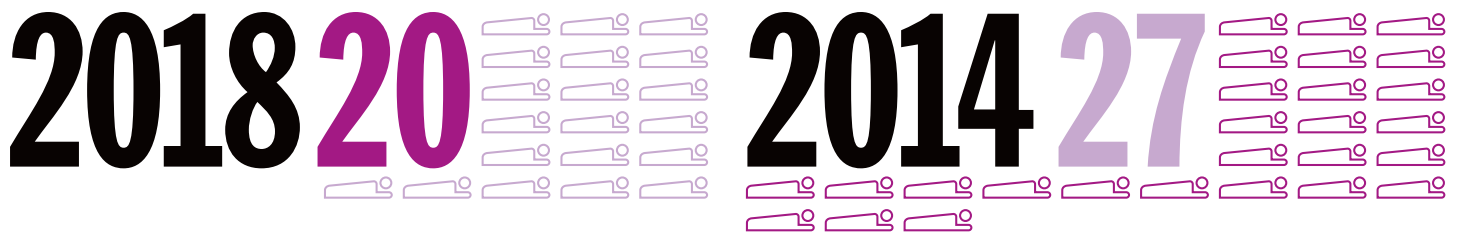
STRATEGY AIMS - 2019 TO 2024

The Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019/24 was prepared for agreement by Cabinet in November 2019. It covers the latest picture around causes and impact of homelessness in Bath & North East Somerset and an action plan to address local needs. The strategic approach to tackling homelessness in Bath & North East Somerset is:



NOW AND THEN

ROUGH SLEEPING COUNT



MAIN REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS

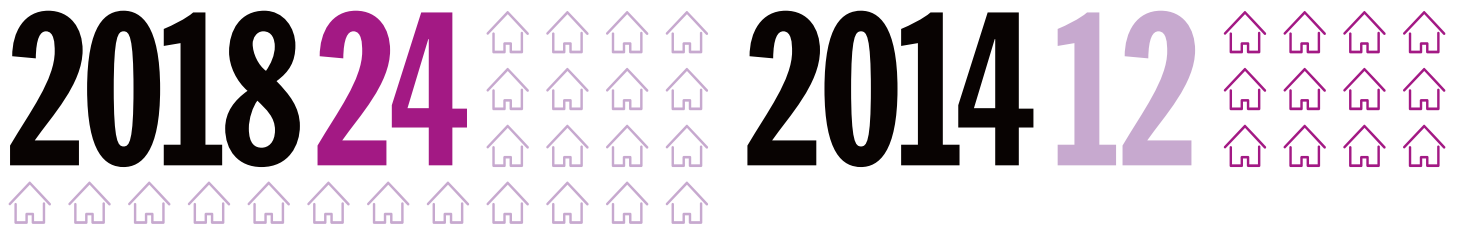
Rank 2018

- 1st** Loss of private rented accommodation
- 2nd** Asked to leave by family and friend
- 3rd** Relationship breakdown (non-violence)

Rank 2014

- 1st** Asked to leave by family and friends
- 2nd** Loss of private rented accommodation
- 3rd** Loss of home due to violence or harassment

HOUSEHOLDS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION



ADVICE AND PREVENTION ACTIVITY

YEAR	APPROACHES	INTERVENTION, PREVENTION OR RELIEF CASES	SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES
2018	1,433	698	48.7%
2014	1,295	548	42.3%

HOMESEARCH: NUMBER ON THE REGISTER VS LETS

YEAR	ON THE REGISTER	LETS
2018	4,855	571
2014	4,265	840