

## Hastings Housing Strategy – Sub-Group Summary

<b>Name of Subgroup</b>	Supported Housing
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chris Hancock
<b>Subgroup members (full names &amp; Organisations)</b>	Michael Courts – Public Health Sophie Honeysett – Hastings Borough Council Yasmeen Hussein – Foundations UK Jill Rimmer – East Sussex County Council Ron Daly – Sanctuary Supported Living Debbie Donnison – Sanctuary Supported Living Lori Godby – East Sussex County Council Paul Goddard – BHT Sussex Kirsten McCarthy – YMCA DLG Jim Aspdin – Southdown David Pepper – Strategy Steering Group Andy Seddon – Strategy Steering Group

Thinking about the Strategy Vision for Everyone in Hastings to have a decent home to live in...

<p><b>Challenges</b> <i>What are the challenges in meeting this Vision? What isn't working? How do we know?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding – many existing services are funded by short term grants, which makes sustainable service planning challenging.</li> <li>• Need to strengthen joint working arrangements with housing benefit and DWP teams, to ensure a consistent approach to evidencing the requirements of enhanced housing benefit rates.</li> <li>• Delays in move on due to a lack of affordable housing solutions, means people have to stay longer in supported housing than they need, which means people who do need the support cannot move in and benefit from it.</li> <li>• A shortage of move on options for people requiring ongoing support, such as Housing First.</li> <li>• Implementation of Renters Rights Bill. Concerns that an unintended consequence of the changes may be that private landlords are less willing to let their properties to people without a history of tenancy sustainment or choose to leave the market altogether reducing the availability of move on accommodation .</li> <li>• Current East Sussex County Council budget proposals, which include reductions to supported accommodation provision and floating support.</li> <li>• Providers are highlighting increased cost pressures through National Insurance uplifts.</li> <li>• Gaps in provision for accessible and adaptable accommodation – particularly challenging given the topography of the town and older housing stock.</li> <li>• Projected aging population and considering and developing tailored provision.</li> <li>• Gaps in accommodation provision in other pathways, for example for people leaving hospital and prison.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What are the opportunities for us to meet the Vision? Add bullet points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New supported accommodation regulations – a government consultation on the new regulations is running until mid-May 2025. This includes requirements for local housing authorities to produce a supported accommodation strategy, including how they will address gaps in provision. The target implementation date for the new regulations is 2026/27. The local housing authorities in East Sussex have previously agreed to develop a county wide strategy. Colleagues from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government have offered to contribute to the strategy development process.</li> <li>• Lobbying government through the strategy and local partnerships to highlight the need for longer term funding settlements.</li> <li>• Involvement of people with lived experience of living in supported housing in the strategy development. The aim of this is to make sure the reality faced by people experiencing homelessness and supported accommodation is properly understood.</li> <li>• Involvement of DWP and housing benefit colleagues in the strategy development process.</li> <li>• Expanding trauma informed working practices and creating psychologically informed environments.</li> <li>• Consider how learning from existing Housing First style accommodation for rough sleepers could be used to expand similar schemes for people with multiple compound needs and also make sure funding and practice means Housing First principles can be met.</li> </ul>

- Learning from the recent multiple compound needs assessment carried out by Public Health.
- Strengthening links to Registered Providers.
- Additional funding through the Single Homelessness Accommodation Pathway will create at least 25 new homes for people to move out of rough sleeping, how do we make best use of these?

**What questions does the strategy need to answer? Add bullet points**

- Providing greater assurance for housing benefit departments and DWP that local providers are meeting the requirements for enhanced housing benefit.
- Meeting the requirements of the new supported accommodation regulations.
- Highlighting gaps in existing provision and developing a pipeline approach to addressing these over the life of the strategy.
- Expanding the range of move on options from supported accommodation.

**What are the non-negotiables? (What must be in the Strategy) What do we all agreed on? Add bullet points**

- Setting out pipeline of accommodation (and support) provision which providers can work towards meeting, based on gaps identified through the strategy development process. Priorities include:
  - Creating refuge provision for victims of domestic abuse, including tailored options for people with multiple compound needs.
  - Responding to the needs of an aging population, ensuring a mix of accommodation options for older people
  - Housing First style accommodation
  - Developing temporary and move on accommodation for rough sleepers
  - Creating supported accommodation options for people with a dual diagnosis of substance dependency and mental health support needs
- Strengthening collaboration between housing benefit, housing services and supported accommodation providers.
- Improving access to move on accommodation for people who are ready to leave supported housing
- Cross sector working with health, mental health and social care partners.
- Propose joint funding opportunities to create provision with statutory and community sector partners.
- Retaining existing supported housing assets within the system where viable and where they are effectively preventing and ending homelessness.
- A fair and transparent approach to allocating supported housing to those most in need.

**Areas for negotiation / development – what do we not agree on at this stage, or we don't know enough about it yet...?**

- Defining key performance indicators and metrics to measure progress against the accommodation pipeline – what would a supported housing system which prevents and ends homelessness look like?
- What exactly do the opportunities to engage people with lived experience of supported housing look like? What would work best?

**What are the priorities? Add bullet points**

- Supporting the development of an accommodation pathway for rough sleepers, including temporary and move on options. The aim of the pathway is to have a range of accommodation options to meet individual needs and working practices which reduce the likelihood of eviction / people losing engagement with support.
- Tailoring for specific groups including young people and care leavers, victims of domestic abuse and people with multiple compound needs.
- Creating refuge accommodation in Hastings for victims of domestic abuse.
- Creating supported alternatives to general needs, unsupported temporary accommodation.
- Creating a shared understanding of gaps in provision and priorities across partners.

- Increasing the range of move and long-term housing options such as Housing First
- A partnership approach across housing, accommodation providers, health, mental health, social care and substance dependency services.
- Maximising capital and revenue investment, including grant funding, to increase the supply of supported housing.

**Are there any Cross Cutting Themes which apply right across the Strategy? – e.g., Climate Change / Inequalities / Community**

- Climate Change – support for providers to retrofit their properties.
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping – importance of accommodation options with support in avoiding repeat homelessness.
- Housing supply – links to expanding range of affordable move on options.
- Making the best use of existing housing stock - improving the offer for older people's accommodation could encourage people who are under-occupying their property to downsize.
- Increasing supply of affordable housing – including increasing move on options for supported accommodation.

**Links to the East Sussex Housing Partnership Strategy:**

- Homelessness Prevention – providing alternatives to general needs temporary accommodation.
- Housing, Health and Care – supporting cross-sector working and ensuring accommodation options for people with additional needs. A collaborative approach to preparing for the new social housing reforms.
- A system wide approach to supporting people with multiple compound needs, including former rough sleepers.
- Development and Enablement – increasing the supply of supported accommodation units.

**Good Practice**

*Add any examples of good practice – links/ evidence/ data etc*

- Phase 1, Brighton – supported accommodation provision for people with multiple compound needs (identified through BHT).
- Learning from Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP).
- Hold scheme in Worthing.
- New 28-unit scheme of adapted accommodation in Brighton- 'Brickfields' (identified through Southdown)