



DISTRICT COUNCIL  
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council

Equality and Climate Impact Assessment

September 2020

## Section 1: Summary details

<b>Directorate and Service Area</b>	<p>Adult Social Care and Housing – coordinating the consultation on this new county wide strategy on behalf of the County Wide Steering Group which comprises Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Cherwell District Council, South Oxfordshire Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, West Oxfordshire Council, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Oxford Health and SOHA.</p>
<b>What is being assessed</b> (e.g. name of policy, procedure, project, service or proposed service change).	<p>County Wide Homelessness Strategy</p>
<b>Is this a new or existing function or policy?</b>	<p>New</p>
<b>Summary of assessment</b> Briefly summarise the policy or proposed service change. Summarise possible impacts. Does the proposal bias, discriminate or unfairly disadvantage individuals or groups within the community? (following completion of the assessment).	<p>This strategy sets out for the first time how the lead public sector agencies in the county will work together and with people of lived experience (PLE) and the voluntary and community sector to prevent and resolve homelessness across the county through a housing-led approach that is based on the findings of Crisis research in Oxfordshire in 2019/20.</p> <p>The City and District Councils as housing authorities are required by law to have their own homelessness strategies that are based on an assessment of local housing need and are reviewed and revised every 5 years.</p> <p>Although a county wide strategy across the City and 4 District Council areas is not a statutory requirement it is seen as fundamental to a person-centred approach to tackling homelessness across the county. This strategy is about doing the best for people across Oxfordshire that are affected by homelessness and rough sleeping, working across geographical and professional boundaries to end rough sleeping and target resources collectively and in a prioritised way to meet the needs and aspirations of people affected.</p>
<b>Completed By</b>	<p>Gillian Douglas</p>

<b>Authorised By</b>	Count Wide Homelessness Steering Group - tbc
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	26/10/20

## Section 2: Detail of proposal:

<p><b>Context / Background</b></p> <p>Briefly summarise the background to the policy or proposed service change, including reasons for any changes from previous versions.</p>	<p>This is the first strategy developed on homelessness that is multi-agency and county wide.</p> <p>It reflects the findings of Crisis research undertaken in Oxfordshire in to a housing led approach for Oxfordshire by looking at the experiences of single homeless people, what has been learned from strengths based needs assessments during the covid-19 period and what is and is not working in the current homelessness system. This research has been considered by partners and is due for publication in November 2020.</p> <p>The strategy also takes in to account the recommendations from the thematic review of the deaths of 9 people in 2018/19 who had experienced multiple exclusion homelessness. This report is also due for publication in November 2020.</p>
<p><b>Proposals</b></p> <p>Explain the detail of the proposals, including why this has been decided as the best course of action.</p>	<p>The strategy sets out the following vision and principles :</p> <p><b>Vision</b>  <u>To prevent and resolve homelessness, so that no one sleeps rough in Oxfordshire.</u></p> <p><b>Principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We treat people in need of our services with respect</li> <li>• We acknowledge people as individuals and work with their strengths</li> <li>• We work in a ‘psychologically informed way’, understanding how past trauma affects people who experience homelessness</li> <li>• We actively involve people affected by homelessness in identifying solutions</li> <li>• We focus on the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people who experience homeless, addressing the whole person, not just housing needs</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We co-operate to deliver a co-ordinated and consistent service across the county</li> </ul> <p>The strategy sets out 5 areas for action and improvement :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proactively prevent homelessness</li> <li>2. Rapid response to rough sleeping</li> <li>3. Focus on the person, not the problem</li> <li>4. Timely move on</li> <li>5. The right home in the right place</li> </ol> <p>And is supported by an action plan outlining the key actions and what will be changed over the next 5 years.</p>
<p><b>Evidence / Intelligence</b></p> <p>List and explain any data, consultation outcomes, research findings, feedback from service users and stakeholders etc, that supports your proposals and can help to inform the judgements you make about potential impact on different individuals, communities or groups and our ability to deliver our climate commitments.</p>	<p>The views of 30 people who were rough sleeping or who were homeless and in some form of temporary accommodation were gathered by peer researchers as part of the Crisis research. In addition, the strengths based needs assessments carried out with 86 of the people accommodated as part of 'Everyone In' were considered in order to inform the findings.</p> <p>At a national level, based on the November 2019 data which counted 4,266 rough sleepers we know that :</p> <p>Rough sleeping has increased by 141% since 2010 although according to the annual count numbers decreased by 9% between 2018 and 2019.</p> <p>86% of rough sleepers are men and 14% are women. People who have no recourse to public funds are over-represented face major barriers in receiving help from housing authorities because of their immigration status and related ineligibility for most housing help.</p> <p>Research suggests that there has been an upward trend of women sleeping rough, in both proportional and absolute terms. The average age of death for women who experience rough sleeping is lower than that of men who sleep rough (42 years compared to 44 years. In comparison the average age at death in the general population is 76 years for men and 81 for women).</p>

	<p>There is increasing evidence showing that the cause of women’s homelessness, and trajectories they take through it, tend to differ from those of homeless men, and, for multiple reasons, women who experience rough sleeping also experience increased vulnerability.</p> <p>Evidence has shown that women who experience rough sleeping also experience higher rates of mental ill-health. These women are also more likely to experience sustained or repeated rough sleeping.</p> <p>Women who experience rough sleeping are more likely than men to have experienced traumas, including self-harming and domestic violence. Despite not always being a direct cause of homelessness, evidence has shown that experience of domestic violence and abuse is very common among women who become homeless.</p> <p>There is little or no data about the ethnicity of rough sleepers but we do know that 64% of rough sleepers are UK nationals, 22% are EU nationals and 4% are non-EU nationals.</p> <p>In terms of the health needs of rough sleepers data shows that 20% have no alcohol misuse, drug misuse or mental health support needs. 42% have alcohol misuse needs, 41% have drug misuse need and 50% have mental health support needs.</p>
<p><b>Alternatives considered / rejected</b></p> <p>Summarise any other approaches that have been considered in developing the policy or proposed service change, and the reasons why these were not adopted. This could include reasons why doing nothing is not an option.</p>	<p>The alternative option is to not have a county wide strategy and to continue only with individual housing authority strategies. This is not the preferred option because of the benefits of working in an integrated and county wide way that is to the benefit of our communities and specifically single homeless people and rough sleepers.</p> <p>We recognise we need to bring the housing, health and social care systems together in an integrated way to prevent homelessness and offer the solutions that are required.</p> <p>The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government also expects to see more integrated and joined up working in Oxfordshire and for better cooperation and coordinations to be developed between all agencies that have a role in ending homelessness.</p>

### Section 3: Impact Assessment

Please indicate for each of the Public Sector Equality Duty ‘protected characteristics’ whether there may be no impact, a positive or negative impact, or a mixture of both. If there is no impact, you do not need to complete the rest of that row.

Protected Characteristic	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of Impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner* (*Job Title, Organisation)	Timescale and monitoring arrangements
<b>Age</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	As shown by the data rough sleepers die on average 39 years prematurely (for women) and 32 years prematurely (for men). By improving prevention and effective intervention we will reduce the risk of early death.			
<b>Disability</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50% of rough sleepers are affected by mental ill health but also physical ill health which may result in disability. We aim to reduce this by improving prevention and response and making sure			

				people get the services they need.			
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Marriage &amp; Civil Partnership</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Race</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	While we do not have ethnicity data we know that a 26% of rough sleepers are non UK nationals and are more likely to be destitute and excluded from services as a result of their immigration/worker status.			
<b>Sex</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Women who are rough sleeping are particularly vulnerable targeted women-only services need to be considered.			
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research by the Albert Kennedy Trust has found that LGBT young people are more likely to find themselves homeless than their non			

				LGBT peers, comprising up to 24% of the youth homeless population.			
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Additional impacts</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Description of impact</b>	<b>Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts</b>	<b>Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)</b>	<b>Timescale and monitoring arrangements</b>
<b>Additional community impacts</b>							
<b>Rural communities</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Armed Forces</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Carers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Areas of deprivation</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Wider impacts</b>							
<b>Staff</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Other Council Services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				



<b>Providers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Social Value <sup>1</sup></b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<b>Climate change impacts</b>	<b>No Impact</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Description of impact</b>	<b>Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts</b>	<b>Action owner (*Job Title, Organisation)</b>	<b>Timescale and monitoring arrangements</b>
<b>OCC and CDC aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. How will your proposal affect our ability to reduce carbon emissions related to:</b>							
<b>Energy use in our buildings or highways</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Our fleet</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Staff travel</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Purchased services and products (including construction)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Maintained schools</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

<sup>1</sup> If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area

<b>We are also committed to enable Cherwell to become carbon neutral by 2030 and Oxfordshire by 2050. How will your proposal affect our ability to:</b>							
<b>Enable carbon emissions reduction at district/county level?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**Section 4: Review**

Where bias, negative impact or disadvantage is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

<b>Review Date</b>	
<b>Person Responsible for Review</b>	
<b>Authorised By</b>	