



# HYNDBURN

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## URGENT CABINET DECISION

### Summary and Approvals

A report, using the Cabinet report template, must be attached.

- Title of Report:** Hyndburn's Homelessness Strategy 2020 - 2025
- Report Author:** Fiona Goodfellow, Housing Strategy and Policy Manager
- Summary:** To seek Cabinet approval of the Hyndburn Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- Decision required:** Approve Hyndburn's Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and accompanying Homelessness Review
- Reason for Urgency:** The deadline for the submission of a revised Homelessness Review and Strategy to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and there is no Cabinet being held before this date.
- Approvals of Members and Officers**

Designation	Signature
Chief Officer	
Chief Executive	
Executive Director (Resources)	
Monitoring Officer	
Leader	
Deputy Leader	
Portfolio Holder	
Mayor (Approval to exempt the decision from the call-in process)	

- Date of Decision (when finally approved):**



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Urgent Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Councillor Loraine Cox , Regeneration and Housing
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	Fiona Goodfellow, Housing Strategy and Policy Manager
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Hyndburn's Homelessness Strategy 2020 - 2025

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval of the Hyndburn Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

## 2. Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve Hyndburn's Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and accompanying Homelessness Review attached at Appendix 1 and 2.

## 3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 The Homelessness Act 2002 requires every local housing authority to carry out a review of homelessness for their district at least every 5 years and formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review. Since 2018 housing authorities also need to take into account the additional duties introduced through the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

- 3.2 Homelessness cannot be tackled by the Council working alone and strong partnership working is the key to tackling homelessness in Hyndburn. This is Hyndburn's 4th strategy and replaces the previous strategy for 2014-2019. It defines the strategic approach that Hyndburn Borough Council and its partners will take towards addressing and tackling homelessness in the borough over the next 5 years by finding lasting and effective solutions.

- 3.3 Hyndburn Homelessness Review 2019 (see Appendix 1)

This document gives an overview of the current homelessness situation in Hyndburn and trends over the last 5 years. It looks at:-

- The levels and likely future levels of homelessness in Hyndburn
- The activities carried out in respect of preventing homelessness, securing accommodation and providing support for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
- The resources available

## 3.4 Key Messages

The main causes of homelessness in Hyndburn are:-

- Ending of a private rented tenancy

- Family / friends no longer willing / able to accommodate
- Domestic abuse / non-violent relationship breakdown

- 3.5 Single people make up the majority of all approaches to the housing advice team at 66%. The majority of these are under 44 years of age. They often present with multiple and complex needs and are therefore hard to rehouse. Specific prevention options will need to be developed to meet their needs. Single parents with dependent children make up 28% of all approaches.
- 3.6 A history of mental health problems tops the support needs of homeless households presenting to the local authority for assistance. Closer working with mental health services is required. Initial discussions are beginning to take place with health colleagues.
- 3.7 The number of households placed in bed and breakfast has increased since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act. Alternative options need to be developed along with the development of a temporary accommodation policy.

B&B placements (all applicants) April 2014 – March 2019

Year	Number of placements	Number of nights	Average length of stay (days)
2014/15	10	69	6.9
2015/16	6	43	7.1
2016/17	5	38	7.6
2017/18	10	73	7.3
2018/19	17	151	8.8

Source:- Hyndburn Borough Council records

Over the last 18 months there was only one placement that exceeded the Governments 6 week limit for families in temporary accommodation. A single parent with one child was in B&B for 45 days / 6 and a half weeks whilst waiting for a social housing property to be ready for occupation. The Council did not place any 16 or 17 year olds in bed and breakfast during the 5 year period.

The cost to the Council of these B&B placements has been increasing year on year reflecting the increase in households accommodated. Projected costs for 2019/20 indicate a £10,000 increase in spend on previous years spend, however the additional costs can be absorbed within the overall homelessness budget. Ways of reducing these costs will be looked at as part of the budget setting process and through the exploration of alternative temporary accommodation options detailed in the strategy action plan.

The Calico Homeless Families Project is currently in the process of being established. This will provide 3 units of short term supported accommodation for homeless families and pregnant women, and provide an alternative to B&B and reduce its use in the future.

Other accommodation available includes Maundy Night Shelter, Crossroads supported accommodation and refuge and safe house placements.

3.8 Rough Sleeping -The number of people sleeping rough in Hyndburn has increased over the last 5 years. Work is being undertaken to address the need and develop help and support including the provision of a Night Shelter and Navigator Service at Maundy Relief.

YEAR	NUMBER SLEEPING ROUGH
2013	3
2014	4
2015	4
2016	2
2017	6
2018	7
2019	6

3.9.1 The most successful prevention tools used are assisting households to move into social housing and private rented accommodation.

3.9.2 Welfare benefit changes and the introduction of Universal Credit have created many challenges for homeless households in Hyndburn. Joint working with the Department of Works and Pensions and other partners will continue to address this.

3.9.3 Hyndburn Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (see Appendix 2)

Strategic aims – following analysis of the data and consultation held 4 strategic aims have been identified:-

- Prevention and Relief of homelessness
- Provision of temporary accommodation
- Working with landlords and suppliers of accommodation
- Tackle and reduce the levels of rough sleeping

3.9.4 The Action Plan details specific activities / actions that will be undertaken to help meet these aims and improve the services and response available to homeless households in Hyndburn.

#### **4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

4.1 The Council is required under the Homelessness Act 2002 to have an up to date Homelessness Strategy in place in and undertake a review every 5 years. Therefore not having a Strategy is not an option.

4.2 The strategy provides housing advice and assistance to the most vulnerable households across the Borough and those in greatest need.

#### **5. Consultations**

5.1 During the development of the proposed Strategy the following consultation has taken place:-

- Homeless in Hyndburn Forum – presentations, workshops and discussions
- Desktop analysis of statistics (Hyndburn Borough Council and partners)
- Desktop review of literature, research and policies

- Housing Advice service user survey
- One to one consultation with stakeholders
- Hyndburn Health & Wellbeing Partnership discussion
- Hyndburn Community Safety Partnership discussion
- Private Landlord Workshop

## 6. Implications

<p><b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b></p>	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of Hyndburn’s Homelessness Strategy. However there will be costs incurred to implement some of the Council’s statutory obligations (temporary accommodation placements, out of hour’s service) and to fund homeless prevention initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Legal and human rights implications</b></p>	<p>There is a legal requirement for the Council under the Homelessness Act 2002 requiring every local housing authority to carry out a review of homelessness for their district at least every 5 years and formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on the results of the review.</p>
<p><b>Assessment of risk</b></p>	<p>By not approving and publishing a homelessness strategy the Council will be failing in its legal duty. The main financial risk is not having sufficient funding to undertake our statutory homeless duties e.g. provision of temporary accommodation and funding to deliver homeless prevention initiatives.</p>
<p><b>Equality and diversity implications</b>  <i>A <u>Customer First Analysis</u> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i></p>	<p>The Council is subject to the public sector equality duty introduced by the Equality Act 2010. When making a decision in respect of the recommendations in this report Cabinet must have regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and</li> <li>• advance equality of opportunity between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don’t; and</li> <li>• foster good relations between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who don’t.</li> </ul> <p>For these purposes the relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. When making a decision in respect of the proposals in this report members should have regard to the Customer First Analysis annexed to this report at Appendix 3.</p>

7. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:  
List of Background Papers

7.1 None.

