

PENDLE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2017 - 2022



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Foreword

Every local authority must produce a homelessness strategy within each five year period. As the Council have produced strategies in 2003, 2007 and 2012, the next strategy needed to be completed by 2017.

There have not been any major changes to homelessness legislation since 2007 although this will change with the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which is expected to be commenced in April 2018. As such, a significant part of this Strategy is aimed at successfully implementing the new legislation in Pendle, which, it is hoped will help reduce homelessness across the borough.

There does however remain economic uncertainty which may indirectly affect homelessness in Pendle. This includes continued implementation of Welfare Reform measures and the process of Brexit which may have broader unintended economic consequences and potentially affect eligibility to access homelessness services for some EU residents in Pendle.

Despite these ongoing changes, this strategy shows that there continues to be a number of services within Pendle available to those who are or may become homeless. This includes provision of emergency accommodation through to significant units of supported accommodation for young people. There is also substantial preventative work being delivered across the borough by the Council and external partners.

Whilst the strategy recognises the challenges that may face the borough in terms of potential and actual homelessness, our action plan outlines how we will ensure successful implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and work to maximise services. We are confident that Pendle will continue to meet local and national challenges and continue to provide essential and valuable services to help people who are or may become homeless.

Aims of the Strategy

The key aims of the Pendle Homelessness Strategy are:

- To prevent homelessness by
 - Reviewing PBC Housing Needs advice and support work to ensure continued effectiveness in preventing homelessness
 - Ensuring continued awareness of homelessness preventative services
 - Supporting initiatives to prevent homelessness, whether directly from the Council or via external partners

- To continue to ensure that there is a safety net of accommodation for people who are or who may become homeless by
 - Updating the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy
 - Working with partners to maximise options for provision of temporary accommodation in and around the borough
 - Working with partners to maximise options for supported housing in and around the borough

- To provide support to people who are or may become homeless or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again by
 - Implementing the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in Pendle
 - Implementing the Homelessness Trailblazer program in Pendle
 - Seeking funding where possible to ensure that current projects are able to continue

Pendle Policy

Pendle Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-18

'Our Pendle, Our Future' is the borough's ten year plan for achieving a more sustainable community. It sets out our challenges for improving the quality of life for our residents. And it also galvanises our determination to make a real difference for Pendle people, by working together.

Eight priority goals were identified in the strategy: support confident communities; create and sustain a dynamic, competitive and healthy local economy; create a vibrant housing market; make communities safer; improve health and wellbeing; care for our environment; care for our future generations; and improve quality of life for older people.

A Priority Objective of the Strategy is the prevention of homelessness.

Pendle Strategic Plan 2015-18

A three year 'strategic plan' was produced in 2015. The four strategic objectives of the plan are:

- Working with partners, the community and volunteers to sustain services of good value (Strong Services)
- Helping to create and sustain jobs with strong economic and housing growth (Strong Economy)
- Helping to create and sustain resilient communities (Strong Communities)
- Maintaining a sustainable, resilient and efficient organisation which is Digital by Default (Strong organisation)

A key priority in the Strong Communities Objective is to continue to manage homelessness in Pendle by conducting a homelessness review to inform the production of a new Homelessness Strategy, tackle youth homelessness via the Lancashire Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer pilot and effectively respond to changes from the Homelessness Reduction Bill.

Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2012-17 (inc subsequent 2014-17 Action Plan)

This Strategy was developed at a time of considerable economic uncertainty and when a number of significant changes to benefits would be introduced over the lifetime of the strategy. This included direct payment of universal credit, changes to local housing allowance and limiting housing benefit to claimants living within social rented housing who may be under-occupying – aka the Under Occupation Charge / 'Bedroom Tax'. The Council has worked closely with partners to help mitigate the impact of these measures, which may have indirectly led to homelessness.

The Strategy also helped ensure that sufficient help and support services continued to be made available for those at risk of homelessness through repossession. Whilst there was considerable court action taken against Pendle residents and that inevitably in a number of cases, repossession did occur, thankfully court action has gradually receded significantly from 2014 onwards.

Finally, whilst there has been considerable pressure on services following reductions in funding, and in some cases, loss of services inc generic floating support, the vast majority of services have survived. This is to the credit of local agencies who, perhaps through reconfiguration, reduction in service and / or innovation, have managed to continue to provide with these vital services.

Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy

This policy was developed as a result of guidance issued in [Nzolameso v Westminster City Council – Supreme Court Judgement – April 15](#).

- *Ideally, each local authority should have, and keep up to date, a policy for procuring sufficient units of temporary accommodation to meet the anticipated demand during the coming year.*

The Policy concluded at the time that it was felt that the needs of those using temporary accommodation was being met.

Following the undertaking of a review of Homelessness in Pendle 2017, which will help inform this Strategy, it was recommended that this policy is refreshed to coincide with the 2017-22 Pendle Homelessness Strategy. As such, this is contained within the Action Plan.

Regional Policy

Lancashire Young People's Homelessness and Housing Strategy 2011-14

This strategy is Lancashire's first Young People's Homelessness and Housing Strategy and has been developed to address the accommodation and support needs of young people in the county. The vision of the strategy is to prevent, reduce and aim to eradicate youth homelessness. The strategy covers young people under 16 identified as being at risk of homelessness; young people aged 16 and 17 who are homeless or at risk; care leavers aged 16 – 21 who are moving to independent living; and young people aged 16 – 18 who need accommodation and a high level of support due to complex needs. The aims of the strategy are to ensure the accommodation and support needs of young people are met through: early intervention and homelessness prevention; effective joint working; and provision of accommodation and support.

Lancashire Joint Protocol 2017- 2020 - Joint Working Arrangements for homeless 16/17 year olds

This document has been refreshed to take account of a wide range of new legislation being issued in relation to young people as well as the need to respond to a changing environment regarding support and accommodation for vulnerable young people. The Protocol outlines the joint responsibilities of Children's Social Care and District Housing Authority partners concerning the assessment of need and provision of accommodation services to homeless 16/17 year olds. Functions defined in the Protocol inc:-

- Wherever possible to provide early help and prevention services to support young people to stay safely within their families or reunite them with their families.
- To better safeguard young people who are at risk of, or who are homeless.
- To ensure that by working together young people receive the right service at the right time.
- To establish a practical, easy to use system in order to place young people in suitable and safe accommodation appropriately.
- The protocol defines the jointly agreed pathways which young people can use to get housing and support should they be homeless or at risk of homelessness and in need of early help or prevention support.

Lancashire Prevention & Early Help Fund

The Lancashire Supporting People Partnership (SP), which now provides funding for schemes under the Prevention & Early Help Fund (P&EHF) brought together Lancashire County Council, district councils (inc Pendle), probation, health, LDAAT, voluntary organisations, housing associations, support agencies and customers.

The P&EHF continues to fund supported accommodation services for vulnerable adults in Lancashire to assist people to live as independently as possible. This includes funding for women's refuges and supported accommodation for young people.

Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy 2009-2029

This sub-regional strategy, of which Pendle is part, highlighted the following objective:

'To meet the housing, health and support needs of our residents and vulnerable people, promoting better services, more choice, accessible and integrated fully into local communities'

As part of meeting this objective:

- housing options have been strengthened via an 'Enhanced Housing Options' approach in terms of access to a wide range of housing options for those who are homeless and in housing need, the vulnerable and those with support needs
- The B-with-us sub-regional regional choice based lettings system has been developed
- Pennine Lancashire Mental Health & Housing Project developed

National Policy

No Second Night Out

The Government has set up a Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness, which is a cross-Government body aiming to prevent and reduce homelessness, and improve the lives of those people who do become homeless. On 6th July 2011, the first report 'Vision to End Rough Sleeping: No Second Night Out Nationwide' – was published.

There are a number of actions which includes an action plan to:-

- Helping people off the streets
- Helping people to access healthcare
- Helping people into work
- Reducing bureaucratic burdens
- Increasing local control over investments in service
- Devolving responsibility for tackling homelessness

Making Every Contact Count: A Joint Approach to Preventing Homelessness

This second report from the Government Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness has the aim of making sure that 'every contact local agencies make with vulnerable people and families really counts'. The report poses 'ten local challenges' to local providers and councils:

- Adopt a corporate commitment to prevent homelessness which has buy in across all local authority services
- Actively work in partnership with voluntary sector and other local partners to address support, education, employment and training needs
- Offer a Housing Options prevention service, including written advice, to all clients
- Adopt a *No Second Night Out* model or an effective local alternative
- Have housing pathways agreed or in development with each key partner and client group that includes appropriate accommodation and support
- Develop a suitable private rented sector offer for all client groups, including advice and support to both clients and landlords
- Actively engage in preventing mortgage repossessions including through the Mortgage Rescue Scheme
- Have a homelessness strategy which sets out a proactive approach to preventing homelessness and is reviewed annually so that it is responsive to emerging needs
- Not place any young person aged 16 or 17 in Bed and Breakfast accommodation
- Not place any families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation unless in an emergency and then for no longer than 6 weeks

Legislation and Guidance

In delivering a homelessness service, Pendle Borough Council Housing Needs must adhere to homelessness legislation and consider guidance issued by Government.

Homelessness legislation derives principally from the 1996 Housing Act Part VII as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and Localism Act 2011. Since the last Pendle Homelessness Strategy was published in 2012, there has not been any new legislation although a new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has passed the Royal Assent stage and is anticipated to commence by April 2018. The Act will contain thirteen clauses that will introduce new duties, powers and functions in relation to homelessness, and changes to how local housing authorities exercise their current legal duties. The main changes contained within the clauses include:-

Meaning of homeless and threatened with homelessness amended.

This measure extends the period an applicant is “threatened with homelessness” from 28 to 56 days, and in addition ensures that anyone that has been served with a valid section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 eviction notice that expires in 56 days or less is classed as “threatened with homelessness”.

Linked to this, section 195(6) of the Housing Act 1996 (inserted by clause 4(2)) ensures that, while an applicant remains in the same property with no other accommodation available to him following being classed as “threatened with homelessness” (as a result of receiving a valid section 21 eviction notice for this property that will expire within 56 days or has already expired), the prevention duty continues to be owed until the local housing authority brings it to an end for one of the reasons set out in the clause 4, even if 56 days have passed.

Duty to provide advisory services.

This measure extends the existing duty to provide advisory services by placing a duty on local housing authorities (LHAs) in England to provide free information and advice to any person in the LHA’s district on preventing and relieving homelessness, the rights of homeless people or those threatened with homelessness, as well as the help that is available from the LHA or others and how to access that help. The service should be designed with certain listed vulnerable groups in mind (e.g. care leavers, victims of domestic abuse). It also permits LHAs to outsource advisory services.

Duty to assess all eligible applicants' cases and agree a plan

This measure (in Clause 3) will require local housing authorities (LHAs) to carry out an assessment in all cases where an eligible applicant is homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. Following this assessment the LHA must work with the person who has applied for help, to agree the actions to be taken by both parties to ensure the person has and is able to retain suitable accommodation. Of these actions, there will be a small number of key steps the individual would be required to take. These steps would be tailored to their needs and be those most relevant to securing and keeping accommodation. These actions must be reasonable and achievable.

Duty in cases threatened with homelessness (prevention).

Homelessness prevention is about helping those at risk of homelessness to avoid their situation turning into a homelessness crisis. The Homelessness Reduction Act (in clause 4) will require LHAs to take reasonable steps to help prevent any eligible person who is at risk of homelessness from becoming homeless. This means either helping them to stay in their current accommodation or helping them to find a new place to live. The Act extends the period for

which people are considered threatened with homelessness from 28 days to 56 days before they are likely to become homeless, ensuring that LHAs can intervene earlier to avert a crisis.

Duty owed to those who are homeless (relief).

Homelessness relief is action taken to help resolve homelessness. Where, for example, an eligible applicant has sought help from the LHA when they are already homeless or if homelessness prevention work has not been successful, they will be owed the relief duty. The relief duty requires LHAs to take reasonable steps to help secure accommodation for any eligible person who is homeless. This help could be, for example, the provision of a rent deposit or debt advice.

The duty lasts for up to 56 days, and would be available to all those who are homeless and eligible regardless of whether they have a priority need. Those who have a priority need (for example they have dependent children or are vulnerable in some way) will be provided with interim accommodation whilst the LHA carries out the reasonable steps.

Duty to help to secure accommodation.

The new prevention and relief duties need sufficient flexibility to allow LHAs to help resolve people's housing issues but also allow people to find their own accommodation when possible. 'Help to secure' means that the LHA would be able to provide support and advice to households who would then be responsible for securing their own accommodation. Introducing the concept of 'help to secure', rather than secure in each case, will increase choice and control for applicants and allow the LHA to help to resolve a person's particular problems rather than direct resources at finding a place for everyone that seeks help. It still remains open to the LHA to secure accommodation for eligible applicants where appropriate.

Deliberate and unreasonable refusal to co-operate

Clause 7 sets out the actions a local housing authority may take if an applicant who is homeless or threatened with homelessness deliberately and unreasonably refuses to take any steps set out in the personalised plan. They also set out the procedure and duties which apply if an applicant who is homeless refuses, at the relief stage, a suitable final accommodation offer in the private rented sector or an allocation of social housing (a part 6 offer).

Local connection for care leavers.

This measure amends the definition of a 'local connection' for young people leaving care. Local connection affects which LHA offers assistance under parts of the homelessness legislation, including the existing main homelessness duty and the new duties to assist homeless applicants.

If an applicant is owed one of these duties by LHA, that LHA can consider whether the person has a local connection to their area, and, if they don't, whether they have a local connection to another area. If they do they may refer them there rather than providing the service themselves.

This measure will ensure that a young homeless care leaver has a local connection to the area of the local authority that looked after them or, if it is different, the area where they normally live and have lived for at least 2 years including some time before they reached 16. This will make it easier for them to get help in whichever of these areas they feel most at home.

Reviews

This measure means that new prevention and relief duties will be covered under the existing review legislation, so that applicants will be able to challenge decisions relating to these new stages of the homelessness support process.

Duty of Public Authority to refer cases to local housing authority.

Commonly shortened to *Duty to Refer*, this part of the Bill:-

- Requires public authorities in England specified in regulations to notify a LHA of service users they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- Requires the public authority to have consent from the individual before referring them, and allows the individual to choose which LHA they are referred to.

Codes of Practice

This measure gives the Secretary of State a power to issue statutory codes of practice, providing further guidance on how local housing authorities (LHAs) should deliver and monitor their homelessness and homelessness prevention functions.

Homelessness Code of Guidance

The Government is currently reviewing the 2006 Homelessness Code of Guidance and plan to publish a draft for consultation in the autumn ahead of publication of the final Code in spring 2018.

Funding

Homelessness provision in Pendle is currently funded through a variety of sources. In addition to support from Pendle Borough Council the following grants and funds are being used in the borough:

Preventing Homelessness Grant

Pendle Borough Council Housing Needs receive an annual grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). No funding has been confirmed beyond 2019/20.

'New Burdens' funding – Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

It has been confirmed that the Government will fund the Act in line with the longstanding 'new burdens' arrangement and provide funding to local authorities to meet the new burdens cost of the Act. The distribution formula however has not as yet been finalised and it is not known whether the funding provided will meet the full costs of implementing the Act.

Homelessness Trailblazer Funding

The Council along with Blackburn with Darwen BC (lead authority), Lancashire County Council (East Lancashire only), Burnley, Hyndburn, Ribble Valley and Rossendale were successful in bidding for £735,000 from the DCLG Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer program to develop innovative new approaches to prevent homelessness.

The Homelessness Trailblazer program aims to tackle youth homelessness by preventing family breakdown before things reach a crisis point. It will trial new approaches to effectively identify young people at greatest risk of homelessness, improve parenting capacity to support teenagers in danger and share the experiences of young people who have been homeless so those at risk can learn from their peers. These include:

- **early intervention services for 14-25 year olds** at risk of eviction in east Lancashire to mediate with the young people and their parents / carers;
- **an interactive website** to provide information and advice to young people at risk of homelessness and their parents / carers, such as maps to emergency shelters, virtual tours of accommodation and support videos; and
- **'respite' services** - very short term safe places for young people to stay while ongoing work continues to enable them to return home and/or prepare them to leave home in a safe and planned way.

The Homelessness Trailblazer program 2017-19 is intended to be a pilot, which can be rolled out into a system of more integrated working across the whole of the Lancashire area and nationally.

Homelessness in Pendle

The Council uses Performance indicators to monitor homelessness work, including the following

HN 1 – Cases where positive action is taken to prevent or relieve homelessness

Table 1 below shows the number of cases where homelessness was prevented or relieved.

Table 1 - Homelessness prevention cases

Year	Homelessness prevention cases
2006/07	126
2007/08	114
2008/09	178
2009/10	188
2010/11	206
2011/12	209
2012/13	245
2013/14	196
2014/15	225
2015/16	177
2016/17	192
TOTAL	2056

The majority of these preventions were completed by the Council's Housing Needs section. Such prevention action has included provision of a bond guarantee scheme which helps clients access the private rented sector, mediation work with parents to try to ensure a return home of young people and also resolving local housing allowance issues. The Council's Housing Needs section also help fund external agencies to prevent homelessness and these include Open Door, Pendle Domestic Violence Initiative, HAPI and also the Pennine Lancashire Mental Health and Housing Project.

HN 3 – Number of nights provided in bed and breakfast (B&B) to homeless applicants

Table 2 below shows the number of B&B placements arranged by PBC Housing Needs

Table 2 - B&B placements (all applicants) April 2009 – March 2017

Year	Number of nights	Number of placements	Average length of stay (days)
2009/10	1063	137	12.8
2010/11	472	108	4.37
2011/12	619	126	4.91
2012/13	622	126	4.94
2013/14	281	72	3.9
2014/15	223	36	6.19
2015/16	405	70	5.79
2016/17	248	41	6.05

* source: Pendle Borough Council Housing Needs

Broadly, there has been significant reduction in the use of B&B since 2019/10. This is primarily as a result of preventative work being undertaken and when a placement is made, steps taken to try to minimise the household's length of stay in B&B.

Homelessness Enquiries and Decisions

Table 3 below shows the number of homelessness enquiries received by PBC Housing Needs and decisions taken

Table 3 – Homelessness enquiries and decisions April 2009 – March 2017

Year	Homeless applications	Ineligible households	Not homeless	Homeless Non priority	intentionally homeless	Full duty
2009/10	103	0	63	12	7	21
2010/11	85	0	40	9	2	34
2011/12	201	2	139	23	4	33
2012/13	205	4	156	16	7	22
2013/14	191	9	123	33	8	18
2014/15	157	3	131	12	2	9
2015/16	124	4	107	6	1	6
2016/17	101	8	70	7	1	15

* source: Pendle Borough Council Housing Needs Database

Since the last homelessness strategy in 2012, homelessness applications have steadily reduced to a low of 101 in 2016/17. The reductions are likely to be as a result of homelessness preventative action including Housing Options interviews. This process involves a first step towards helping people by aiming to prevent homelessness where reasonable to do so, and seeking alternative accommodation. Consequently, many approaches for assistance do not result in an actual homelessness application or in many cases, they are determined as 'not homeless'. This is also helped by the support being provided to vulnerable people by the various specialist agencies working in partnership with the Council which are a contributory factor to the overall reduction in homeless applications.

Housing Enquiries dealt with by Housing Needs

Table 4 below shows the number of housing enquiries received by PBC Housing Needs

Table 4 - Housing enquiries dealt with by PBC Housing Needs April 2009 – March 2017

Year	Housing Enquiries dealt with by Housing Needs
2009 / 10	926
2010 / 11	1147
2011 / 12	1246
2012 / 13	1262
2013 / 14	1239
2014 / 15	1090
2015 / 16	1000
2016 / 17	968

The figures show an initial increase of housing enquiries up to 2012/13 and then a gradual decline to 2016/17 which almost mirrors figures for 2019/10. In many ways, 'housing enquiries' provide a more accurate gauge of the work of Housing Needs as all people who approach the service undertake a 'housing enquiry', prior to moving on to a homelessness application if triggered. There does not appear to be a clear reason for the rise and general fall in 'enquiry-types'.

Consultation and Partner Involvement

Consultation has occurred with various agencies concerned with homelessness across Pendle. These agencies included registered providers, supported housing providers, local advice & support agencies, Probation, Job Centre Plus, health services, drugs & alcohol mis-use services, Children's Social Care, Councillors and Pendle Borough Council departments.

All members of the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum were invited to provide comment/ feedback on the following three questions:

- What do you think are likely to be the biggest challenges over the next 5 years for homelessness services?
- What improvements / changes would agencies like to see in homelessness service provision?
- Any further ideas which you would like to put forward

A wide variety of responses were made by different sections of people, some of which work at agencies who are providing services directed towards preventing homelessness, whilst others are actual people who have been affected by being homeless or at risk of homelessness.

A homelessness review document was also circulated to the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum to seek feedback in terms of the content and the recommendations.

There were a significant number of responses to the aforementioned consultation. A number of challenges were identified for homelessness services over the coming years. These included:

- Continued uncertainty over future funding for homelessness services
- Universal Credit roll out in Pendle / Welfare Reform
- Housing options for 22-25 year olds
- More housing choices for young people from Barnoldswick and Earby

A number of improvements /changes were also suggested. These included a need for:

- More temporary accommodation available
- Suitable tenancy support
- More affordable housing especially for u35s
- More joint working between boroughs
-] choices in different areas of Pendle consistent and useful information if a person becomes homeless
- Better communication between agencies

The Strategy and Action Plan

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, the Council must carry out a homelessness review for their district and formulate a homelessness strategy based on the results of that review. As such, a 'Homelessness in Pendle Review – 2017' has been carried out which has considered the levels and likely future levels of homelessness in Pendle.

The Review also makes a number of recommendations in relation to the implementation of the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and also prevention of homelessness in general. The recommendations made have been used to develop the Action Plan of this strategy (p19- 24) and set out as actions using SMART' criteria – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time based. It is recognised that there may be 'overlap' with regards some of the actions as many of the recommendations relate towards homelessness preventative work.

Action Plan

Baseline position Nov 2017	What will we do	When will we do it by	Who will deliver Lead in bold	How will we measure success	Where will the resources come from	Which other strategies will this support
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Review all literature / advice already being given out and update information where required.	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Review completed and information updated where required	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Review the service being provided to ensure it is designed with certain listed vulnerable groups in mind e.g. care leavers, victims of domestic abuse	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Service reviewed and confirmed compliance with the requirements of the Act	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Review the Housing Options Interview process and associated forms to ensure that action plans meet the new legislative requirement	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Housing Options Interviews process + associated forms reviewed	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Review 'prevention' work to ensure the Council complies with the new legislative requirement from 56 days	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Prevention work reviewed and confirmed compliance with the new legislative requirement	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Review 'relief' work to ensure the Council is taking all reasonable steps to help secure accommodation for any eligible person who is homeless	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Relief work reviewed and confirmed compliance that reasonable steps taken to help secure accommodation	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy

Baseline position Nov 2017	What will we do	When will we do it by	Who will deliver Lead in bold	How will we measure success	Where will the resources come from	Which other strategies will this support
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Review the types of work undertaken to ascertain whether any improvements can be made to services / information provided	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Review services and information provided	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Need to ensure the PBC Housing Needs service complies with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017	Develop a 'review' procedure related to the new stages of the homelessness support process	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Review procedure developed	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
The Council's homelessness and housing advice database will not capture the information required by Government following implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.	Update the Council's current homelessness and housing advice database to capture the required data by Government.	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Database updated and able to capture required data	DCLG funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
The Homelessness Trailblazer requires implementation in Pendle	To implement the Homelessness Trailblazer Program in Pendle	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Homelessness Trailblazer implemented	DCLG Funding PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
It is not known what impact there will be following review of the Prevention and Early Help (P&EH) fund	Following review of P&EH funded schemes, the Council will need to understand the nature of what changes to service there may be, how this may affect service users and whether there are any options to mitigate the impact of any loss of service.	Dec 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Steps taken to mitigate where possible, the impact of any loss of service following review of P&EH	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy

Baseline position Nov 2017	What will we do	When will we do it by	Who will deliver Lead in bold	How will we measure success	Where will the resources come from	Which other strategies will this support
Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation policy requires updating	That the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy is refreshed to coincide with the newly developed 2017 Homelessness Strategy.	Dec 2017	Housing Needs Manager	Policy updated	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
It is not known whether ethnic minority populations in the borough are fully aware of the Council's PBC Housing Needs service	An awareness-raising exercise is conducted to outline the services of PBC Housing Needs to ethnic minority populations within the borough.	Dec 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Awareness-raising exercises undertaken	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
It is not known how effective the Council's Bond Guarantee Scheme is	Review the PBC Bond Guarantee Scheme to ascertain its effectiveness	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Review completed and any identified actions taken	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
There is a need to improve the quality of data captured by the homelessness and housing advice database	Review the categories contained within the homelessness and housing advice database to improve the quality of data which can be extracted.	Dec 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Review completed and any identified actions taken	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
There is a need to ensure the new facility at Burnley (called Gateway) is a success and understand what the future of Elizabeth St Project (ESP) will be.	Work with Calico Homes Ltd regarding the future of ESP and the new facility to try to ensure the best possible service for potential service users from the Pendle area.	Dec 2018	Housing Needs Manager Calico Homes Ltd	The Gateway project has been launched successfully and the future of ESP is known.	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy

Baseline position Nov 2017	What will we do	When will we do it by	Who will deliver Lead in bold	How will we measure success	Where will the resources come from	Which other strategies will this support
The Housing Needs webpages need reviewing to ensure they remain up to date.	Review and update where required, the Council's Housing Needs webpages	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Webpages reviewed and updated where required	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
The Housing Options Booklet needs reviewing to ensure it remains up to date	Review and update the Council's Housing Options Booklet	Sept 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Booklet reviewed and updated where required	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
It is not known if agencies have access to the latest information contained within the Council's Housing Options booklet	Undertake an awareness-raising exercise to ensure that agencies have access to the latest information contained within the Council's Housing Options booklet	Sept 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Updated booklet circulated to agencies	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
B-with-us allocations policy requires reviewing	Work with B-with-us partners in reviewing the allocations policy, ensuring that any changes made are implemented successfully.	June 2018	Housing Needs Manager B-With-us Partners	Allocations policy reviewed and new scheme implemented	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
The future funding of HAPI is uncertain	If funding is not secured by the Homelessness Trailblazer Scheme for the HAPI scheme, the Council to consider other opportunities to try to fund this scheme.	April 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Funding secured via Homelessness Trailblazer but if not, other opportunities to fund the scheme have been considered.	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Future funding of preventative work in schools is uncertain	To consider options for the future funding of preventative work in schools	July 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Option for funding considered	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy

Baseline position Nov 2017	What will we do	When will we do it by	Who will deliver Lead in bold	How will we measure success	Where will the resources come from	Which other strategies will this support
Following review, implement the new HARP agreement in Pendle	Following review of Lancashire Reducing Re-offending Housing and Resettlement Protocol (HARP), implement this agreement in Pendle.	Dec 2018	Housing Needs Manager	New HARP agreement implemented in Pendle	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Need to support clients who are at risk of or are homeless with the roll out of Universal Credit.	To work with Job Centre Plus / DWP and other agencies to help ensure that roll out of Universal Credit is achieved successfully for people who are at risk of / or are homeless.	April 2019	Housing Needs Manager Job Centre Plus Manager	No known issues with those at risk of / are homeless, in receiving UC.	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Review provision of supported housing within Earby / Barnoldswick and if its believed to be insufficient, consider feasibility for improving provision.	To discuss with supported housing providers, the extent of supported housing within the Earby / Barnoldswick areas and where it is found that provision appears to be insufficient, to ascertain whether there is any feasibility for expanding into these areas.	June 2018	Housing Needs Manager Supported housing providers	Provision within Earby / Barnoldswick reviewed and where its believed to be insufficient, consider feasibility for improving provision	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
It is not known whether all Pendle agencies with an interest in homelessness, are members of the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum.	Review the forum mailing list to ascertain whether there are any agencies within Pendle which ought to be involved and which presently are not. If there are any such agencies, encourage membership of the forum.	June 2018	Housing Needs Manager	Forum mailing list reviewed. Any potential agencies not represented are identified and contacted to become members of the forum.	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy

Baseline position Nov 2017	What will we do	When will we do it by	Who will deliver Lead in bold	How will we measure success	Where will the resources come from	Which other strategies will this support
It is now known what impact the process of Brexit may have on homelessness in Pendle	Review the impact of Brexit on homelessness as this process is taken forward.	April 2020	Housing Needs Manager	Impact of Brexit on homelessness known.	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy
Action Plan needs to be updated and reported to Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum.	That the 2017 Pendle Homelessness Strategy Action Plan is updated on an at least quarterly basis and circulated to Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Homelessness Forum.	April 2018 (<i>ongoing action</i>)	Housing Needs Manager	Action Plan updated and circulated to forum members	PBC General Revenue fund	Pendle Sustainable Communities Strategy