

**REPORT OF: HOUSING, HEALTH AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
MANAGER**

TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATES: 19th September 2019

Contact Details: Wayne Forrest
Tel. No: 01282 661044
E-mail: wayne.forrest@pendle.gov.uk

**PENDLE HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2019 – 2024
and PENDLE HOMELESSNESS TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION POLICY 2019**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To note the Pendle Homelessness Review 2019
2. To agree the Pendle Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2024.
3. To agree the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Policy and Resources Committee approve the Pendle Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024.
2. That Policy and Resources Committee approve the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

1. To support MHCLG in delivering a commitment within its *Rough Sleeping Strategy: Delivery Plan* that all local authorities update their strategies and rebadge them as homelessness and rough sleeping strategies.
2. That the Council continues to meet its statutory duty to carry out a Homelessness Review for its district and formulate a Homelessness Strategy based on the results of that Review at least every 5 years.
3. That the Council continues to meet guidance issued by the Supreme Court in ensuring it has, and keeps up to date, a policy for procuring sufficient units of temporary accommodation to meet the anticipated demand during the coming year.

ISSUE

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 at least every 5 years. Although the Council last produced a homelessness strategy in 2017, one of the commitments by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in their ***Rough Sleeping Strategy: delivery plan*** is that MHCLG will work with the Local Government Association and local authorities so that by winter 2019, all local authorities update their strategies and rebadge them as homelessness and rough sleeping strategies.

As such, the Pendle Homelessness Review 2019 has been carried out which has considered the levels and likely future levels of homelessness in Pendle. The Review makes a number of recommendations which have been added into the Pendle Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019 – 2024 (Appendix 1), which broadly includes:-

- Review of all literature / advice, homeless prevention and relief work and update where required
- Support schemes, programs and projects associated with preventing and relieving homelessness in Pendle.
- Develop specific policies and a bespoke advice pack to help provide more assistance to people who find themselves sleeping rough in the borough.

Aims of the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2019 – 2024

The key aims of the Strategy are:-

- To prevent homelessness
- To continue to ensure that there is a safety net of accommodation for people who are or who may become homeless
- 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.

Taking the Strategy Forward

A significant part of the Strategy is dedicated to the prevention of homelessness in 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.

The strategy encompasses an action plan which will hopefully help to deliver its aims. The strategy will remain a working document and as such, the action plan will be added to where required to meet any additional issues which may arise throughout the life of the strategy

Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019

As part of the review and formulation of the Homelessness Strategy, it was recognised that the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2017 required review. This document is intended to meet guidance issued in [Nzolameso v Westminster City Council](#) by the Supreme Court, which states ‘...*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 updated policy states:-

- It is the Council's policy to ensure that there is sufficient and suitable temporary accommodation available to meet the expected need.
- It is the Council's policy to ensure a fair system when reaching decisions on the allocation of temporary accommodation.

The policy document considers legislation, caselaw and guidance in relation to the provision of temporary accommodation and reaches conclusions in relation to procurement and allocations. When considering all the factors which affect procurement and allocations, it is felt that at present existing and anticipated future requirements for temporary accommodation and allocations are being met, although this will of course, remain under constant review.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy

The Pendle Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 will be used to support the Pendle Housing Strategy 2018. The updated Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019 continues to meet guidance issued at the Supreme Court.

Financial

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy concerns itself primarily with prevention of homelessness. It is anticipated that whilst measures related to homelessness prevention may require some financial cost, any such costs will be met through existing budgets. There are no known financial implications arising from the updated Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy.

Legal

The Council has a statutory duty to carry out a Homelessness Review for its district and formulate a Homelessness Strategy based on the results of that Review at least every 5 years. It is believed that Appendix 1 and 2 continue to meet this requirement. It is also believed that the updated Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019 continues to meet guidance issued by the Supreme Court.

Risk Management

Failure to update the Council's Homelessness strategy and rebadge it as a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping strategy risks the MHCLG failing to meet one of its commitments within their Rough Sleeping Strategy: delivery plan. This could result in negative publicity for the Council and risk to reputation. Failure to keep the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy up to date risks possible future legal challenge and risk to reputation.

Health and Safety:

There are no health and safety implications arising from this report.

Sustainability:

The development of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 and Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019 ensures that the Council continues to meet its statutory duties towards homeless households.

Community Safety:

There are no known community safety issues arising from the contents of this report.

Equality and Diversity:

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019- 2024 is aimed at provision of homelessness services for all, regardless of background. A service impact assessment has been

undertaken and there are believed to be no known negative impacts on any particular group with protected characteristics. There are no known equality and diversity implications arising from the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Pendle Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Pendle Homelessness Review 2019

Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019