

REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS IN PENDLE

2025

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Structure and Methodology of the Review

The review is divided into seven sections: section one provides background information; section two comprises a literature review of relevant national, regional and local documents; section three presents an overview of the current homelessness situation in Pendle and is followed by an overview of principle services related to housing options, rehousing and support services for people at risk of (or actually) homeless. Section five provides an examination of the current and likely future, housing needs of individual groups and the services available to them. Section six considers feedback from consultation exercises carried out and the review concludes with a final summary of findings and recommendations suggested to be taken forward to the strategy document. Needs will be assessed by means of statistical data, agency consultation and, where possible, service user consultation. Services will be described under the headings of: prevention; multi agency working and providing a safety net. The aim is to present a thorough review that will not only form the evidential underpinning for the homelessness strategy but will also help to inform other related strategies currently being developed in Pendle and Lancashire.

Section 1 Background

The statutory duty to provide a housing advice and homelessness service is delivered by Pendle Borough Council's (PBC) Housing Needs section, based at Contact Pendle - Number One Market Street, which forms part of the Council's purpose-built contact centre for all general enquiries. PBC Housing Needs forms part of Housing and Environmental Health service area within the Council.

Every local authority must produce a homelessness strategy within a five year period. This review is being undertaken to support the development of an updated strategy.

In delivering a homelessness service, PBC Housing Needs must adhere to homelessness legislation, consider guidance issued by Government and take into account caselaw as and when it develops.

1.1 Legislation

Homelessness legislation derives primarily from the 1996 Housing Act Part VII as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and statutory instruments that are enacted from time to time.

1.2 Homelessness Code of Guidance

The Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities regulates the way in which homelessness must be administered by Councils. It was last updated in June 2024.

The Code contains a section on the development of new homelessness strategies; the strategy must be informed by a review and contain details of:

- a) The levels, and likely future levels, of homelessness in the district
- b) The activities which are carried out for any of the following purposes (or which contribute to achieving any of them):
 - i. Preventing homelessness
 - ii. Securing accommodation for people who are or may become homeless
 - iii. Providing support for people who are or may become homeless or who have been homeless and need support to prevent them from becoming homeless again
- c) The resources available for the activities in b above

1.3 Homelessness Caselaw

From time to time, caselaw develops within homelessness legislation which affects the way that local authorities provide their statutory homelessness service. Although a number of cases have emerged since the last homelessness strategy was developed in 2019, none of these have significantly altered the way in which homelessness services are delivered.

As this review has only been developed shortly after the announcement of the proposed Renters' Rights Bill commencement of this Act, it is too early to understand what impact this may have on homelessness in Pendle.

1.4 Potential new legislation and consultations

The main piece of forthcoming legislation which will affect homelessness is the Renter Rights Bill which was introduced to parliament on 11th September 2024.

The Renters' Rights Bill will:

- **Abolish section 21 evictions** and move to a simpler tenancy structure where all assured tenancies are periodic – providing more security for tenants and empowering them to challenge poor practice and unfair rent increases without fear of eviction. We will implement this new system in one stage, giving all tenants security immediately.
- **Ensure possession grounds are fair to both parties**, giving tenants more security, while ensuring landlords can recover their property when reasonable. The bill introduces new safeguards for tenants, giving them more time to find a home if landlords evict to move in or sell, and ensuring unscrupulous landlords cannot misuse grounds.
- **Provide stronger protections against backdoor eviction** by ensuring tenants are able to appeal excessive above-market rents which are purely designed to force them out. As now, landlords will still be able to increase rents to market price for their properties and an independent tribunal will make a judgement on this, if needed.
- **Introduce a new Private Rented Sector Landlord Ombudsman** that will provide quick, fair, impartial and binding resolution for tenants' complaints about their landlord. This will bring tenant-landlord complaint resolution on par with established redress practices for tenants in social housing and consumers of property agent services
- **Create a Private Rented Sector Database** to help landlords understand their legal obligations and demonstrate compliance (giving good landlords confidence in their position), alongside providing better information to tenants to make informed decisions when entering into a tenancy agreement. It will also support local councils – helping them target enforcement activity where it is needed most. Landlords will need to be registered on the database in order to use certain possession grounds.

- **Give tenants strengthened rights to request a pet in the property**, which the landlord must consider and cannot unreasonably refuse. To support this, landlords will be able to require pet insurance to cover any damage to their property
- **Apply the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector** to give renters safer, better value homes and remove the blight of poor-quality homes in local communities.
- **Apply 'Awaab's Law' to the sector**, setting clear legal expectations about the timeframes within which landlords in the private rented sector must take action to make homes safe where they contain serious hazards.
- **Make it illegal for landlords and agents to discriminate against prospective tenants in receipt of benefits or with children** – helping to ensure everyone is treated fairly when looking for a place to live.
- **End the practice of rental bidding by prohibiting landlords and agents from asking for or accepting offers above the advertised rent.** Landlords and agents will be required to publish an asking rent for their property and it will be illegal to accept offers made above this rate.
- **Strengthen local authority enforcement** by expanding civil penalties, introducing a package of investigatory powers and bringing in a new requirement for local authorities to report on enforcement activity.
- **Strengthen rent repayment orders** by extending them to superior landlords, doubling the maximum penalty and ensuring repeat offenders have to repay the maximum amount.

The main points of the bill which will likely have an impact on preventing homelessness appear to be

- **Abolishing section 21 evictions** which will providing more security for tenants
- **Ensure possession grounds are fair to both parties**, giving tenants more security and allowing more time to find a home if landlords evict to move in or sell.
- **Provide stronger protections against backdoor eviction** by ensuring tenants are able to appeal excessive above-market rents which are purely designed to force them out.

1.5 Funding for homelessness services

PBC Housing Needs is funded primarily from the Council itself but also receives some funding from MHCLG in the form of an annual Preventing Homelessness Grant. It is not known at the time of writing what budget will be available from central Government for homelessness services going forward but the budget speech on 30th October confirm £233m in additional funding for local authorities to prevent increases in the number of families in temporary accommodation and prevent rough sleeping.

From time to time, Government funding also becomes available for particular issues within homelessness. In this regard:

Rough Sleeper Initiative 2022-25 (*Rough Sleeper Navigator Service*)

Government provides funding for the Rough Sleeping Initiative, which provides local councils with funding to support those sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping. Rossendale Borough Council (*lead authority*), supported by Burnley and Pendle Council, was successful in securing funding. Through this scheme Pendle benefits from a Rough Sleeper Navigator Service provided by Calico housing association whereby an officer will visit reported locations of rough sleepers and provide advice and support to help get that person into accommodation.

Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF)

Under this scheme, the council has been allocated funding to provide 1 x property for homelessness temporary accommodation and also 1 x property for Afghan resettlement. It is anticipated that both properties will begin accepting residents from 2025-26.

1.6 Conclusions

Since the last homelessness review and strategy in 2019, there has not been any caselaw which has fundamentally changed the way the service is delivered. Whilst the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act has been implemented successfully, there could be considerable changes as a result of the proposed Renters Rights Bill, which is projected to come into force in 2025. This could have a wide impact both in terms of preventing homelessness, but conversely result in many landlords leaving the private rented sector and as such, more difficulties in securing rehousing to prevent homelessness.

1.7 Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are being made:-

- To successfully implement the Renters' Rights Act in Pendle
- Support any future bid for funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative programme
- Implement the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme to develop temporary accommodation.

Section 2 Literature Review

2.1 National and regional reports & strategies

In September 2022, the Government launched its ***Ending Rough Sleeping for Good*** strategy which defines success; the end goal is for rough sleeping to be prevented wherever possible but when it does occur, it must be rare, brief and non-recurring. The strategy would deploy all the tools available, including the Homelessness Reduction Act, to prevent more people from finding themselves without a safe roof over their heads. The Government considers rough sleeping will have ended when every local area ensures rough sleeping is 'prevented wherever possible and, where it cannot be prevented, it is a rare, brief and non-recurring experience'. In practice this means that we want to see more effective support to prevent rough sleeping from happening in the first place, and a tailored offer of support where it does, so people can build an independent life off the streets. At the time of writing this review, there has since been a change of government and it is not known if the new Government will continue with this strategy or set out its own strategy going forward to tackle this issue.

2.2 Sub-regional reports, strategies & partnerships

Sub-regional areas in this context include Lancashire-wide (not including the two unitary authorities of Blackpool and Blackburn) and Pennine Lancashire-wide (which includes Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Rossendale, Ribble Valley and Blackburn with Darwen)

Lancashire Joint Homelessness Prevention Protocol

This document is in process of being refreshed to take account of any 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 current 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.

2.3 Pendle strategies

Pendle Homelessness Strategy - Action Plan 2019-24

All actions contained within the 2019 Homelessness Strategy Action Plan were completed.

Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy 2019

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 in 2019, that based on previous years utilisation of temporary accommodation, it was felt that the needs of those using temporary accommodation are being met. Whilst ideally, all temporary accommodation would be located within Pendle, unfortunately such accommodation is not available and the need does not appear to justify the significant expense of providing new accommodation in the borough. Many placements are for a very short period and are often within the neighbouring borough where there are excellent transport links into Pendle. However, should the opportunity become available to secure a wider source of temporary accommodation within Pendle, which is of suitable quality and which is affordable, the Council would seek to utilise such accommodation in order to improve its offer in meeting its duties under homelessness legislation.

Each local authority should have, and keep up to date, a policy for allocating those units to individual homeless household.

In Pendle's particular case, the Council doesn't specifically own or manage any temporary accommodation for homeless households and does not have any nomination rights to any temporary accommodation. Therefore, for all forms of temporary accommodation, PBC Housing Needs work with providers to see what is available and make referrals as and when placements become available. The establishments themselves decide whether to accept such referrals. Where households are aged 16/17 or have children/pregnant, such households are prioritised for move on into more suitable accommodation such as hostels as soon as possible. Although PBC Housing Needs ability to influence the allocation of these different types of temporary accommodation is very limited, where possible, there is a fair system for allocating temporary accommodation based mainly on the Council's legal duties towards each household.

Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy will be refreshed to coincide with the newly developed 2025 – 2030.

Homelessness Strategy. It is proposed this becomes an Action within the subsequent Homelessness Strategy 2025 – 2030 which will encompass an Action Plan.

Pendle Housing Strategy 2018

The Pendle Housing Strategy was developed to deliver the housing elements of the ***Pendle Council Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023***. The objectives of the strategy were:-

Objective 1 - To ensure a sufficient quantity, quality, and appropriate type of housing supply, to meet the aspirations and social needs of Pendle

Objective 2 - To develop sustainable neighbourhoods that can retain and attract successful households

Objective 3 - To meet the housing and support needs of residents and vulnerable people

It is intended that the Pendle Homelessness Strategy 2030 - 2035, will mainly support achieving Objective 3.

2.4 Conclusions from Literature Review

There continues to be greater emphasis by Government on tackling rough sleeping, which also includes ensuring that rough sleeping remains part of new homelessness strategies. Although rough sleeping has historically been low in Pendle (*see table 4*), instances of rough sleeping has increased in Pendle over recent years and the new strategy will continue to need to address this issue. Strategic approaches occur at a Lancashire-wide level, including through the Lancashire Joint Homelessness Prevention Protocol, Lancashire Housing Reference Group and a Lancashire-wide homelessness forum. On a local authority level, a number of strategies exist which shows that homelessness impacts other areas of work such as reducing reoffending, older people, domestic abuse to name but a few. The last Pendle homelessness strategy was generally very successful in completing all actions.

2.5 Recommendations:

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are being made:-

- To ensure that any future developments within the Government's approach towards homelessness is successfully implemented.
- To contribute to the development of the refreshed Lancashire Joint Homeless Prevention Protocol for 16 and 17 year olds – 2024 and ensures successful implementation of the protocol locally.
- To refresh the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy
- To update the 2025 - 2030 Homelessness Strategy Action Plan on a quarterly basis

Section 3 Homelessness in Pendle – an Overview

3.1 How many people are homeless?

Many people believe anyone who is homeless is actually living on the streets. However, this is rarely the case. The legal definition of homelessness which local authorities work to is contained within Part VII, s175 of the Housing Act 1996. Broadly, when assessing whether a person is homeless or not, the Housing Act states that an applicant is not homeless if he/she has accommodation, which is available for the applicant's occupation, to which there are rights of occupation, entry or use to which is not restricted, and which it is reasonable for the applicant to continue to occupy. Consequently many people may be classed as homeless even if s/he is staying temporarily with friends / family and not specifically because s/he is living on the streets ie 'roofless' or 'street homeless'.

The precise level of homelessness is impossible to ascertain due to a number of factors:-

- a person could become homeless at any point or their homelessness be resolved at any point, thus numbers potentially homeless may change on a day to day basis.
- it is known that not all homeless people will present to the Council ie they approach a wide number of agencies, who may help to prevent their homelessness
- there may be 'hidden' homelessness ie some people may decide not to approach local authorities or any other agencies for assistance.

It is however, possible to gain a broad overview of the situation by analysing data available the Council and other agencies.

3.2 Homelessness applications

All local authorities have a legal responsibility to help homeless people and their families, and to ensure their rights are upheld. This duty arises under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended. The law sets out clear guidelines on who is homeless and what duties may arise. Pendle Borough Council (PBC) Housing Needs look at whether the applicant is eligible for assistance, homeless, in priority need, unintentionally homeless and has a local connection to Pendle, when assessing a homeless application.

Depending on the applicant's circumstances, a number of duties may arise which range from no duty, providing advice and assistance, providing temporary accommodation pending further enquiries through to a full duty to provide secure, permanent accommodation. Table 1 shows the numbers of homeless applications received by PBC Housing Needs since April 2019.

Table 1 - Homeless applications - April 2019 – September 2024

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 *up to 30 th Sept 24
Out-turn	732	680	688	789	1076	682

Homelessness applications were relatively static between 2019 and 2023 but have since grown considerably, with a large increase expected in 2024-25. There can be many reasons why homelessness occurs (Table 6, p14), although there could also be wider economic reasons which doesn't necessarily directly affect homelessness but which does have an impact ie over the last few years there appears to have been the following general issues locally, and perhaps nationally:

- less vacancies arising in social housing for people to move into
- longer turnaround times for when social housing properties are 'void'. Anecdotally, housing associations have said there has been a shortage of staff and / or materials to undertake the required works to repair properties before they can be let again.
- Rising rents with the private rented sector, which appears to have resulted in such properties becoming less affordable for people to access.

3.3 Homelessness and ethnicity

Table 2 shows the number of homeless applications made by ethnicity.

Table 2 - Applicant households for which homelessness cases were opened during the year*

Ethnicity	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 *up to 30 th Sept 24
Any other Asian Background	1	1	3	6	13	12
Any other Black/ African / Caribbean background	0	0	0	1	3	1
Any other ethnic group	3	1	5	5	24	8
Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background	1	0	2	0	5	2
Any other White background	11	20	17	29	23	19
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	3	3	2	1	2	2
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	1	0	1	0	2	1
Asian/Asian British: Indian	0	2	1	2	2	1
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	74	61	59	72	124 (11.5%)	85 (12.5%)
Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British: African	2	1	6	5	15	2
Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	3	3	2	3	1	1
Don't know / refused	8	17	15	25	36	23

Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	7	4	11	6	13	7
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	1	1	0	2	2	3
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	2	8	5	8	5	1
Other ethnic group: Arab	4	1	2	2	60 (5.5%)	80 (11.7%)
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	594	541	547	618	742 (68.9%)	432 (63.3%)
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	3	5	2	0	1	0
White: Irish	9	10	8	4	4	2
Total	732	680	688	789	1076	682

**Ethnicity is selected by the applicant, rather than specifically verified*

In order to consider the trends in Table 2, it is useful to compare it to the general ethnic make-up of the population of Pendle – see Table 3 below. Whilst the census figures are from three years ago, it is assumed that there has not been such a change in population as to make the statistics meaningless.

Table 3 - Population of Pendle by ethnic group

Ethnicity	Percentage of population
White	70.6
Asian	26.7
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	1.6
All black or minority ethnic	0.3
Other ethnic group	0.9

**2021 Census data used*

The figures from Tables 2 and 3 broadly suggests a correlation between applications for assistance under homelessness legislation and ethnicity, although not to such an extent as to mirror the ratio's exactly. It is notable that applications from people who define themselves as 'Asian' is roughly only half of the population within the 2021 census. It is also notable that there has been a large increase from people who define themselves as 'other ethnic group – Arab'. This can be accounted for from asylum seeker dispersed accommodation being situated within the borough and many of the people claiming asylum have an ethnicity best described as 'other ethnic group – Arab'. When such people have successfully claimed asylum, they need to secure rehousing and as such are approaching the council for assistance. It is important that homelessness services continue to meet the needs of all sections of the Pendle population and therefore, it is proposed that ongoing monitoring occurs to ensure this remains the case. This Action should be taken forward within the subsequent Homelessness Strategy 2025 - 30 – which will encompass an Action Plan.

3.4 Rough sleeping

Whilst people do sleep rough from time to time, historically, it has tended to be for a very short period of time eg a few days, and then the person has been helped into alternative accommodation or resolved their housing issues themselves. It appears however that over the last few years that this, most visual expression of homelessness, has been more prevalent, whether rough sleeping itself, or perhaps street begging. It should be noted that not all of those begging are found to actually be homeless.

PBC Housing Needs offer help to anyone rough sleeping / begging whether via help to secure accommodation, multi-agency support panels such as Transforming Lives and / or referring to community-based agencies who are able to offer assistance. Upon receipt of a report of rough sleeping, the council notifies the **Rough Sleeper Navigator Service** (page 6) service who undertake a visit to the location and attempt to offer assistance to the person sleeping rough. If the person isn't there, a leaflet is left with contact details for assistance. However, unfortunately not all rough sleepers / beggars choose to engage with Council services and accept help. The Council is required to submit to Government, a figure for numbers of people sleeping rough in its area on a typical night. As the Pendle area consistently returns low figures of rough sleepers (Table 4), the Council undertakes an estimate rather than a count. In estimating, all members of Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum are contacted when a night is chosen and ask that they submit any evidence of rough sleeping on that particular night. Evidence must be sufficient to show that a person in all probability slept rough that night.

Table 4 - Rough Sleeper Out-turns submitted to DLUCH / MHCLG by year

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Out-turn	0	0	0	0	5	1

This indicates that rough sleeping does not appear to be a major issue in Pendle, although it must be remembered that the table is a snapshot of one night only and it could be that on a different night, there could be more people sleeping rough. Anecdotally, it is believed by PBC Housing Needs staff that at any one night, there are likely to be between one and four people sleeping rough in Pendle. Throughout the year, PBC Housing Needs receive reports of people sleeping rough and when this occurs, officer's visit where a person was reported as rough sleeping. Often the person is no longer there, but there could be evidence of rough sleeping eg bedding has been left behind etc. PBC Housing Needs will try to work with the rough sleeper wherever possible although often the person tends to disappear or chooses not to engage.

3.5 Main causes of homelessness

Advice enquiries to PBC Housing Needs

Table 5 shows the number of housing enquiries the Housing Needs Service receives. Enquiries could include via drop in, email, letter or telephone. In some cases there may be very little information given by a client other than a basic request for information / support. Conversely, the enquiry may result in extensive work to resolve the issue, depending on their particular circumstances.

Table 5 - Housing enquiries dealt with by Housing Needs 2019 – 2024

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 *up to 30 th Sept 24
Out-turn	943	769	944	1125	1669	916

The figures are broadly static between 2019 and 2022 but then rise significantly. In many ways, ‘housing enquiries’ have provided a more accurate gauge of the work of PBC Housing Needs as all people who approach the service undertake a ‘housing enquiry’, prior to moving on to a homelessness application if triggered. It is assumed that the so called ‘housing crisis’, referred to on page 11 is the primary reason for this rise in enquiries.

Table 6 – Reason cited for homelessness - 2019 – 2024

Type of enquiry	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 *up to 30 th Sept 24
Departure from institution: Custody	n/a	n/a	14	40	36	36
Departure from institution: Hospital (general)	n/a	n/a	2	5	5	3
Departure from institution: Hospital (psychiatric)	n/a	n/a	4	3	9	3
Domestic abuse – alleged perpetrator excluded from property	n/a	n/a	1	5	4	5
Domestic abuse – victim	n/a	n/a	40	44	76	35
Domestic abuse (<i>retired now</i>)	42	62	9	n/a	n/a	n/a
End of private rented tenancy – assured shorthold tenancy	75	42	129	140	197	90
End of private rented tenancy - not assured shorthold tenancy	12	13	36	56	39	26
End of social rented tenancy	9	3	15	9	10	12
Eviction from supported housing	17	10	19	29	44	15
Family no longer willing or able to accommodate	128	157	148	172	219	144
Fire or flood / other emergency	4	5	6	8	4	6

Friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	27	57	44	86	86	46
Home no longer suitable due to disability / ill health	n/a	n/a	22	15	29	19
Left HM Forces	0	1	0	1	0	0
Left institution with no accommodation available (retired now)	20	19	3	n/a	n/a	n/a
Loss of tied accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mortgage repossession or sale of owner occupier property	6	3	2	9	28	14
Non-racially motivated / other motivated violence or harassment	10	13	13	10	19	18
Not known due to last settled accommodation Not known	n/a	n/a	0	23	25	21
Other (retired now)	212	166	66	11	1	n/a
Property disrepair	21	18	20	21	36	12
Racially motivated violence or harassment	5	2	6	1	9	2
Relationship with partner ended (non-violent breakdown)	79	77	72	68	77	55
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	3	2	4	10	97	86
Unsuccessful placement or exclusion from resettlement scheme/sponsorship	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	4
Voluntarily left accommodation to relocate	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	12	4
Not specified	62	30	13	22	14	10
Total	732	680	688	789	1076	682

** This question is completed by the applicant when applying and therefore may not necessarily be a true reflection of the actual cause of homelessness. PBC Housing Needs will update the response where evidence suggests the cause of homelessness was different.*

The categories that a person or an officer could select are determined in central government. These statistics have significantly improved in terms of accuracy once the option to select 'other' was removed. The main reasons for seeking accommodation have been the following categories which is not surprising as these have generally always been the main reasons for loss of accommodation at least over the last twenty years.

- End of private rented tenancy – assured shorthold tenancy
- Family no longer willing or able to accommodate
- Friends no longer willing or able to accommodate
- Relationship with partner ended (non-violent breakdown)

There has however been a notable increase in departing from custody and also required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support, which now accounts for a large number of enquiries. This is due to asylum seeker dispersal properties being sited within the Pendle area.

3.6 Temporary Accommodation (TA) in and around Pendle

Under homelessness legislation, if a household is eligible, homeless and there is reason to believe the applicant is in priority need, the Council must provide suitable TA pending further enquiries into their homelessness. Since the last review in 2019, TA options have changed as a result of a redefining of how some accommodation is considered and also access arrangements changing. Thus the Council no longer has access to Safespace Emergency units, Gateway has been redefined as supported accommodation for homeless people and East Lancashire Homeless Families service is also supported accommodation. Whilst these accommodation options still exist, they are no longer classified as homelessness TA. As such, the only option realistically for homeless households are hotels, guest houses and bed & breakfasts (B&B) all of which are classified as B&B for statistical purposes.

Bed & Breakfast (B&B) placements

Sadly, availability of B&Bs in Pendle are very limited, therefore most placements are made outside of the borough, which can be some distance away but does have good transport links into Pendle and many amenities.

Table 7 - B&B placements April 2019 – September 2024

Year	Number of nights	Number of placements	Average length of stay (days)
2019/20	768	79	9.72
2020/21	2077	130	15.98
2021/22	3530	121	29.17
2022/23	5372	195	27.55
2023/24	5837	209	27.93
2024/25 (up to 30 th Sept 2024)	2708	110	24.6

**a number of placements overlap into new financial years, and where this occurs, they are counted as two separate placements*

The use of B&B has significantly increased since 2019 and is presently at a plateau of over 5,000 nights per annum. The reason appears to be down to a number of factors related to the so called 'housing crisis' which has resulted in significantly more homelessness enquiries and

a corresponding rise in the council having legal duties to provide TA. Although numbers of people using B&B is high, their average length of stay is relatively low as PBC Housing Needs help to move the household onto alternative housing options quickly wherever possible.

The Council has struggled to adhere to the [Homelessness \(Suitability of accommodation\) \(England\) Order 2003](#) in ensuring that no household with family commitments has stayed in B&B beyond 6 weeks, due to the huge rise in TA usage.

The council recognises the need to reduce TA use on a number of grounds, including that there is a large financial cost, such accommodation for families is considered to be unsuitable as this type of accommodation can be very disruptive to households. As such, steps are presently being taken in terms of reviewing TA usage with a view to expanding the availability of TA. It is recommended that there is an action within the Action Plan to continue with the review and implement its findings.

Out of Hours – Emergency Placements

PBC Housing Needs in accordance with good practice, provide an 'out of hours' emergency service to people who become homeless.

3.7 Conclusions

Since 2019, homelessness applications, enquiries and use of TA has increased significantly. The Housing Needs service has recently received great staffing resource to help tackle this workload but there is a recognised issue to address the usage of TA and improve TA options. In more cases triggering homelessness applications although it's not clear as yet whether it has had an impact on additional use of B&B. As temporary accommodation options have changed, it makes sense to update the Homelessness Temporary Accommodation is updated for 2019.

3.8 Recommendations:

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are being made:-

- Continue to monitor enquiries and applications to the council's Housing Needs service to ensure the service is being accessed by all sections of the community.
- Continue to undertake the review of TA and implement the findings of that review.

Section Four – Housing Options & Advice, Rehousing and Support Services

4.1 Housing options, advice and homelessness prevention services

PBC Housing Needs

The Council does not own any housing stock but continues to take a strategic enabling role with regard to the provision of housing. The strategic role for housing is managed within the Housing & Environmental Health Service area. PBC Housing Needs service is located at Contact Pendle - Number One Market Street, Nelson and forms part of the Council's purpose-built contact centre for all general enquiries. However, most housing / homelessness enquiries are now completed online via its customer portal or by telephone. There is also an appointment-based system for more complex housing / homelessness enquiries.

The staff team currently comprises of a manager and c3.5 FTE Housing Needs Officers. The team deliver a generic service rather than having specialist officers for prevention and homelessness applications which is seen as being the most appropriate approach considering the numbers of enquiries and the staff capacity and means that in most cases the same officer will conduct the initial housing enquiry and, where necessary, the homelessness enquiry.

The Housing Needs Service receives Homelessness Grant from central Government to help prevent homelessness. Its anticipated this grant will continue to be provided. The Grant is used to implement a suite of measures to prevent homelessness and helps fund external agencies such as:-

- Open Door – for homelessness prevention work
- B-With-Us Choice-Based Lettings – the Council's commitment to this multi-agency partnership which allocates housing across the sub-region of east Lancashire.

The Grant also helps to fund other homelessness prevention measures such as provision of deposits and rent in advance to help secure private rented accommodation for applicants. Awards are given on a case by case basis and considering whether paying a deposit / rent in advance will likely save the council from higher payments elsewhere eg paying for temporary accommodation.

Table 8 – Cases where PBC Housing Needs has managed to prevent or relieve homelessness

Year	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25 (up to 30 th sept 2024)
Out-turn	357*	123	107	184	256	122

**cases from external organisations also counted. From 2020/21 only PBC Housing Needs counted*

These cases are required to meet particular criteria, broadly that a household was at risk of homelessness and that intervention by PBC Housing Needs has resulted in the household being able to remain where they are for at least 6 months or rehoused for an expected six month period or more, prior to a full rehousing duty being awarded.

Discounting 2019/20 which included large numbers of cases from external agencies, prevention and relief out-turns were believed to be heavily depressed due to the covid-19 pandemic where landlords were banned from serving evictions, but since this time as more cases have come through, PBC Housing Needs have managed to prevent or relieve more homelessness. As this work is so important it is recommended that PBC Housing Needs reviews its work in relation to prevention and relief to ensure the best steps are taken forward to continue to prevent homelessness.

PBC Housing Needs has updated its webpages and advice letters since the last strategy to provide much more comprehensive advice on housing and homelessness issues. However there is a need to continue to ensure advice and guidance remains fully accurate and therefore it is recommended that advice continues to be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Pendle Borough Council – Environmental Health (Residential) Team

The Council's Environmental Health team is responsible for maintaining standards in the private sector, aiming to reduce the number of empty properties in the borough and dealing with Disabilities Facilities Grants (DFG's). In many cases, homelessness is prevented due to intervention between landlords and tenants with regards harassment, disrepair, ensuring correct notices are given and where possible preventing illegal evictions. Further, this team help to prevent homelessness, perhaps more indirectly by administration of DFG's. These grants may help some people, particularly the elderly and disabled, to remain within their own homes rather than being forced to move due to the property becoming unsuitable for them to live in.

4.2 Supported Housing Schemes in Pendle

Accommodation for those fleeing or at risk of domestic abuse

Pendle Womens Refuge provides safe refuge accommodation and support for victims of domestic abuse. In addition, Be Free manage Safehouses to support women and children escaping domestic abuse. There are 2 houses that provide 6 units of accommodation in total. Residents share a living room, dining room, bathroom, play room and have their own bedroom that they share with their own children.

East Lancashire Homeless Families Project

The project administered by Calico, provides 2 x houses for use by PBC Housing Needs. The project supports homeless families and pregnant women (*in exceptional circumstances, couples will also be considered*) who find it difficult to secure and maintain independent

accommodation because of the level or complexity of support needs. The project aims to target those who demonstrate a range of support needs including families who are fleeing violence and families with additional and complex needs including a low or moderate level of learning disability, mental health needs, substance misuse issues, a history of offending behaviour and other diagnosed and undiagnosed conditions and/or other challenging behaviour. PBC Housing Needs prioritises access to this scheme for those already placed in TA or at risk of requiring TA. Thus, subject to the outcome of the review regarding TA, the council need to consider whether there is scope to expand this scheme in Pendle.

Gateway – supported accommodation for homeless people

Gateway offers 30 rooms, four emergency rooms, shared laundry facilities, communal areas with TV and internet access, and a shared kitchen space. Support is provided by staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Residents are assigned a key worker on arrival, who works with the resident in addressing all their support needs. It also develops residents' skills and employability and supports them to move on to permanent accommodation. Cold weather provision and 'sit-up' service is also available. The council has priority access along with Burnley Borough Council and where reasonably possible seeks to move people out of B&B into this service as quickly as possible.

M3 Project Ltd – supported lodgings

M3 provides accommodation in a home environment to homeless young people aged 16 to 21. The accommodation is in the homes of providers who offer a room, along with some level of support for the young person. People accepted as providers will have undergone DBS checks, as will all members of their household. In addition, part of the induction process for providers includes training in homelessness issues, equal opportunities and confidentiality. The accommodation offered will have been inspected and Health and Safety checks conducted. M3 aims to assist young people to live independent lives, and to encourage, support, empower and develop them as they mature. They will be treated with respect and dignity and encouraged to make choices. They will be encouraged to develop day to day life skills, leading to greater independence and helping them to take control of their own lives.

M3 Project Ltd – Teenage Family Move-On:

Young parents or families are given their own fully furnished property with support, and assisted in moving on after a 12 month programme, to their own fully independent accommodation. Usually they access this through B-with-Us or private landlords, but occasionally the property is signed over to them so they can remain in it. Placements are funded across East Lancashire. Any young person from Lancashire can access any of the properties in any area.

SafeSpace - Supported Housing Scheme

The scheme is based at Leeds Road, Nelson and provides 24 hour a day staffed self-contained supported accommodation units. SafeSpace provides supported accommodation to young, single people aged between 16 and 21 who have become homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The project includes 19 self-contained flats which includes kitchen, bathroom, lounge and bedroom. In addition there is also a communal lounge, training kitchen, communal dining area, activity rooms and outdoor spaces. There is 24 hours 7 days a week support

from staff to provide help, advice and support around independent living skills and personal development needs. SafeSpace also offer a package of resettlement supporting the period of move on from supported accommodation into their next stage of independence this is facilitated by their support team to provide consistency.

Stepping Stone Project (Dispersed Housing – Pendle)

The project accommodates up to thirty 16-21 year olds, in fully furnished, shared houses (with lockable bedrooms) and single person accommodation within Pendle. The scheme aims to provide secure, supported accommodation to young people, and is ideal for anyone that would like to live independently but who would like support around developing the skills necessary to maintain a tenancy.

Stepping Stone - Dispersed Housing Scheme

Stepping Stone - Dispersed Housing Project accommodates up to eight 16 and 17 year old looked after children, in fully furnished, shared houses (with lockable bedrooms) within Pendle. The scheme aims to provide secure, supported accommodation to young people, and is ideal for anyone that would like to live independently but who would like support around developing skills necessary to maintain a tenancy. Once accepted and housed on the project, the young person is given a named support worker. This worker will engage with the young person to provide a holistic package of support, including training and support to develop independent living skills; assistance to maintain their tenancy and help with accessing specialist services, if necessary.

4.3 Supported Housing Schemes outside Pendle

There are a number of schemes located outside the borough where Pendle residents are able to apply for through LCC:-

Emmaus - Old Hall Street, Burnley

The scheme offers homeless people accommodation and meaningful work at their Social Enterprise. Emmaus House, our residential site on Old Hall Street (formerly Booth Court) has capacity to accommodate up to 24 companions at any one time.

Stepping Stone Ltd - Spa Mill, Burnley

This project consists of 12 fully furnished self-contained flats for 16-21 year old single people who are homeless or in housing need. There is a training and events room used by residents and staff. Each tenant has a Resettlement Worker who works with them on a one-to-one basis in order to develop their independent living skills and address individual support needs.

Stepping Stone Ltd –Westgate, Burnley

This project consists of 6 fully furnished self-contained flats for 16-21 year old single people. Each tenant has a Resettlement Worker who works with them on a one-to-one basis in order to develop their independent living skills and address individual support needs.

Stepping Stone Ltd - Spenser Street, Padiham

This project consists of 4 fully furnished self-contained studio flats for 16-21 year old single people who require a low level of support. The project is situated on a residential street in Padiham, close to the town centre and on a main bus route into Burnley. Each tenant has a Floating Support Worker who works with them on a one-to-one basis in order to develop their independent living skills and address individual support needs.

4.4 Registered Provider (RPs) accommodation in Pendle

All social housing in Pendle is provided by Registered Providers (housing associations) and the Council no longer holds any stock, following stock transfer to Housing Pendle which in turn became Together Housing Association. The Council has joined with other local authorities and many RP's (not all RP's have joined the scheme though most in Pendle have) to work in partnership under the B-with-us Choice-based Lettings (CBL) Scheme in providing a single allocation policy across the east Lancashire sub-region (excluding Ribble Valley). By joining such a scheme, applicants from Pendle are able to bid for properties within Pendle, Burnley, Hyndburn, Rossendale and Blackburn with Darwen boroughs.

Those accepted as statutorily homeless under legislation receive the highest priority banding (band 1) under this scheme and are in a very good position to be successful in bidding for property which would discharge the Council's duty to rehouse such applicants. Applicants who are owed a prevention or relief duty under the Homelessness Reduction Act are awarded Band 2 and all other persons who are homeless receive band 3.

4.5 Private sector accommodation in Pendle

In common with other east Lancashire boroughs, Pendle has a large amount of private sector rented accommodation with a considerable range in price and quality. As a generalisation, the urban areas of the borough tend to be less expensive than more rural locations. In some areas, particularly parts of Nelson and Brierfield, there tends to be more private sector accommodation which is available to rent. This is perhaps less so in Colne, Barnoldswick and Earby, although to some extent properties here remain affordable to people who are able to secure sufficient Local Housing Allowance (LHA). This has meant that many people who might otherwise be homeless are able to move around in private sector tenancies and may not therefore present to PBC Housing Needs for assistance. The availability of tenancies also means that PBC Housing Needs may be able to assist with deposits and rent in advance, when trying to prevent homelessness.

4.6 Support Services in Pendle

Whilst all people at risk of homelessness or actually homeless can access statutory services eg health, social services etc, there are additional support services which are also able to help:

Be Free

Be Free, as part of the parent charity Positive Action in the Community (PAC), provides a comprehensive low risk / early intervention service to those persons who are or have suffered from domestic abuse. This includes but not limited to prevention support, provision of a helpline, sanctuary scheme, emergency funds / provisions, awareness-raising work , safety planning, information, advice and guidance. The council has for many years, entered into a Service Level Agreement with Be Free, whereby as part of this, Be Free help to prevent homelessness through work being undertaken.

Homelessness Awareness and Prevention Interventions (HAPI)

HAPI, delivered by Positive Action in the Community (PAC), works with 16 to 25 year olds where there is a risk of homelessness, providing independent advice and support. This includes discussing all options and opportunities open to the young person in addressing their homelessness and all related holistic needs that they may have. The aim of the scheme is therefore to prevent homelessness or secure a return home to parents / carers if appropriate or alternatively to secure a planned move to supported housing / independent living where it is safe to do so, whilst also addressing any needs that a young person may have. Whilst statutory partners inc PBC Housing Needs deal with any legal rights that may arise, HAPI act as 'lead professional' in aiming to secure a successful outcome for the young person including co-ordinating joint work with all partners on a case by case basis to ensure individual's needs are met.

Lancashire Victims Service

Lancashire Victims Service, provided on behalf of Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) provides a service for victims of hate crime, young victims, sexual abuse and domestic abuse as well victims of more general crime types and of repeat ASB. Service delivery, in particular for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse services, is provided either by home visits or 1-2-1 meetings in community venues. The services are also supported by accredited volunteers based in the multi-crime teams who offer additional "step-down" support for victims.

Open Door Project

The Open Door Project is a not-for-profit charitable trust. Established in 1998 by Colne Churches together, it responds to the needs of the people in Colne and surrounding areas. It does this primarily, but not exclusively, for the benefit of those who are marginalised and disadvantaged. The project works with individuals, voluntary and community groups and statutory organisations to help improve the quality of life in Colne. The project provides the local community with a community café, emergency food parcels, cyber café, information point & signposting, counselling facility, meetings room for hire, volunteer opportunities and support for individuals & local voluntary & community

groups. The PBC Housing Needs service has, since April 2005 agreed a Service Level Agreement with Open Door, whereby funding has been provided for the centre's homelessness prevention work.

Open Door Furniture Recycling

Open Door Furniture Recycling is a Pendle wide charitable organisation that was started through an initiative by Colne Churches together. It operates primarily within Burnley and Pendle for the collection and delivery of furniture. The project offers basic furniture, household goods and domestic appliances for disadvantaged people living within Burnley and Pendle who have difficulties affording to buy these items through traditional outlets.

Pendle New Neighbours

This service has been set up to provide care and support to asylum seekers and refugees in living in the Pendle area. Their aim is the promotion of social inclusion for the public benefit among people who are refugees and asylum seekers who are living in the Pendle area, who are socially excluded on the grounds of their social and economic position. They do this by providing

- advice, support, advocacy, interpreting, translating and signposting to other services.
- English classes (informal ESOL) and other opportunities for learning the English language.
- Trips and visits to UK cities, towns, and country to learn about our heritage, traditions, and culture. Relief of poverty or financial hardship by making small grants and distributing funds from other organisations • Social and recreational facilities and events involving the local community
- Information and education of the general public about the issues relating to refugees and those seeking asylum.

Shelter - Lancashire

Shelter provides an independent housing and homelessness advice service which includes providing legal representation for people receiving benefits or on low incomes. Shelter work in conjunction with Burnley & Pendle Citizen's Advice and undertake general housing advice casework along with repossession prevention work including managing a Court Desk at Burnley County Court, where the majority of people from Pendle who are subjected to court action, will have their cases heard.

The Lookout

Be Free, as part of the parent charity Positive Action in the Community (PAC), offers confidential therapeutic services to young people affected by domestic abuse aged between 11 and 25. The Lookout provides a personal plan of support to young people who are experiencing or are affected by domestic abuse. This is delivered through; The Lookout programme within schools which addresses issues surrounding domestic abuse including healthy relationships, self-esteem, confidence, forced marriage issues etc., one to one support to individuals to address their needs including developing safety plans, accessing additional support where needed and seeking appropriate safe accommodation where needed, group work to develop peer support and resilience and also positive diversionary activities for young people to support and promote their holistic wellbeing.

Other advice & support services in Pendle

There are a number of other agencies not already mentioned in and around Pendle that provide general advice and support to help people. Whilst the primary role of the agency may not be to specifically prevent homelessness, often this may occur by performing their role. The following list of agencies, though not exhaustive, may help to prevent homelessness through the work that they do:- Brierfield Cyber Café, Citizen's Advice, Grassroots, Inspire, Ithaad Advisory Service, Pendle Early Intervention and Prevention Project, Pendle Homecare & Repair, People's Enterprise and Empowerment Forum (PEEF), Pendle Women's Centre, Royal British Legion, Relate – Lancashire, Salvation Army, Surestart and Welfare Rights.

It is recognised that a large number of agencies are in a position to give out general advice and that not everyone who approaches these agencies, would automatically approach the Council. PBC Housing Needs therefore provide advice online so that up to date information remains accessible.

4.7 Prevention of Repossession

Where PBC Housing Needs becomes aware of a person at risk of repossession, the person is directed to contact Shelter who provide specialist advice and support including at the court itself. The main area where this issue appears to affect homelessness relates to when landlords are seeking possession of their property from tenants. In such circumstances, PBC Housing Needs award priority bandings on B-with-us depending on individual circumstances to help rehouse tenant faced with eviction.

4.8 Multi Agency Groups / dissemination of information

Pendle works with Burnley and Rossendale in administering the multi-agency Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum that meets on a quarterly basis. The forum acts principally as an information exchange, provides a networking opportunity for members and Councils provide regular updates regarding their respective homelessness strategy action plans. Through the forum, vacancies within supported housing are advertised on a weekly basis. Pendle also works in partnership at the Lancashire Homelessness Forum.

4.9 Conclusions from Review of Advice, Housing and Support Services

Prevention of homelessness remains the main aim of PBC Housing Needs Service and this is shown through the increasing numbers of households who have had homelessness prevented. However, its also recognised that prevention work need not come directly from the

Council and therefore external agencies are also funded who through their own specialist work, help to prevent homelessness where able to do so. Although there are pressures on Council's funding, it is recognised that funding to external agencies can also prove effective and many of these external agencies offer added value through their own funded work.

Since the last Homelessness Strategy in 2019, the number of supported accommodation units has remained relatively static although allocations policies now prioritise those aged 16/17, followed by those owed a statutory duty as a care leaver by LCC, followed by those now owed any duty aged 18 – 21. This means that broadly, those aged 22 and above can no longer access this type of accommodation. Although it is recognised that not all young people wish to apply for supported accommodation, alternative options for rehousing for under 21's can be limited in that flats advertised via the B-with-us CBL often attract significant numbers of bids. However, young people are able to move on to housing association property through 'supported move on' which awards a 'band 2' once the young person is ready to move on from supported housing.

There is very good partnership work across Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale, where often an agency may work across all three boroughs and therefore it is therefore vitally important that partnership work across agencies remains effective.

4.10 Recommendations:

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are being made.

Recommendations

- Review all literature / advice being given out and update information where required.
- Review 'prevention' work and implement any changes recommended to continue to help prevent homelessness
- Review 'relief' work and implement any changes recommended to help relieve homelessness
- Continue to contribute towards the review of the B-with-us choice-based lettings scheme allocations policy to ensure sufficient reasonable preference for applicants at risk of, or who are homeless.

Section Five – Needs and Service Mapping

This section attempts to provide a breakdown of the needs of the various groups who may become homeless and the services available to them. Evidence of need is considered from a variety of sources, notably PBC Housing Advice database, P1e returns to government regarding homelessness applications and from external sources where available.

5.1 Families (including teenage parents)

Present and future needs

In 2023-24 there were 344 homelessness applications where the applicant had a dependent child. This clearly shows that many households with family commitments are at risk of homelessness. As this is such a high number, there is no reason to suggest that households with dependent children will not continue to be at risk of homelessness from time to time in the future.

Present and planned services - Prevention

Families are able to access private rented accommodation within some parts of the borough although anecdotally, its likely this option has reduced. Those on benefits claim UC Housing Payment towards rent, but it is accepted that usually the household will need to pay a 'top-up' to pay for rent. Unfortunately the private rented sector is a market, and like most parts of the country, such accommodation has become more and more unaffordable. PBC Housing Needs is able to assist with deposits and rent in advance on a case by case basis to prevent families from becoming homeless but realistically, there is a need for more social housing availability to try and alleviate homelessness.

Multi agency working

PBC Housing Needs liaise with all relevant agencies that a family may be accessing in trying to prevent homelessness where at all possible. Any families found to be intentionally homeless are referred to the Children's Social Care for assessment of needs which could mean they receive assistance with accommodation as a duty under the Children's Act 1989.

Providing a safety net

The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003, states that no family should be placed in B&B accommodation except in an emergency and then for no longer than six weeks. In an emergency, including out of hours placements, homeless families are often placed in B&B accommodation as alternative accommodation is not always available straightaway. This issue of TA is at present being reviewed which may mean additional TA options. It is also possible that the East Lancashire Homeless Families Project is expanded in the future.

Should a family be placed in B&B, PBC Housing Needs work with families to help maximise rehousing options and seek 'move on' from B&B as quickly as possible. Table 7 shows that whilst there are a large number of placements within B&B, the average length of stay for all applicants is relatively short. Households who have dependent children or a member who is pregnant are automatically in 'priority need' under homelessness legislation and as such there is a safety net through provision of temporary accommodation. Should the household lose this accommodation eg via their own actions, there are provisions under the Children's Act to protect any children from being homeless.

5.2 Young People (aged 16 – 25)

Present and future needs

In 2023-24, there were 186 applications made by a person aged between 16 and 25. This clearly shows that many young people are at risk of homelessness and there's no reason to suggest this need will reduce in the future.

Present and planned services - Prevention

The HAPI scheme has a significant impact on supporting young people, providing advice, support and potential access to supported housing for young people. There continues to be a good level of supported housing for young people in the borough, although this accommodation is prioritised by LCC for young people who have been in care. As such, those young people who have not been in care, have limited options for accommodation and they struggle to access alternative housing options.

Multi agency working

Lancashire Joint Homelessness Prevention Protocol (page 7) for homeless 16/17 year olds is in process of being updated and likely to be launched in 2025. It sets out joint responsibilities for providing emergency accommodation, assessment and initial support for homeless young people aged sixteen and seventeen.

The Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum continues to meet quarterly and brings together agencies concerned with young people's issues including supported accommodation providers.

Providing a safety net

Young people aged 16-17 are automatically 'priority need' under homelessness legislation and would be owed duties under the Children's Act should they wish to exercise this option. Supported housing options prioritise applications from young people aged 16 and 17. As such there is a considerable safety net for people aged 16/17. There is less of a safety net for those aged above 18 although there continues to be a significant number of supported accommodation options in the borough designed to meet the needs of this group.

5.3 Care Leavers

Present and future needs

Whilst homelessness applications from those who have identified themselves as care leavers is relatively small, it is recognised that such applicants require additional support. This statistic does not necessarily reveal the whole picture as 'care leavers' are able to access alternative accommodation such as private rented and supported accommodation without need to approach Housing Needs.

Present and planned services - Prevention

Care leavers aged 16 and 17 are not eligible to apply as homeless but do receive intensive support from LCC Children's Social Care which includes provision of accommodation and are allocated a support worker. Those aged 18 – 21 are not subject to single room rent restrictions and are able to claim for local housing allowance to a level that would allow them to access the private rented sector.

Multi agency working

PBC Housing Needs and LCC Children's Social Care liaise on a case by case basis where housing has become an issue. PBC Housing Needs also work with LCC on relevant strategies as and when required.

Providing a safety net

Care leavers aged 16 – 17 are provided with accommodation by LCC Children's Social Care and those aged 18 – 20 are deemed priority need under homelessness legislation, thus are eligible for temporary accommodation. It is also possible that those aged above 21 are considered priority need, depending on circumstances. There is therefore a significant safety net for Care Leavers although less so for those aged 21 to 25.

5.4 Victims of Domestic Abuse

Present and future needs

Table 6 below shows that there remains considerable numbers of homelessness applications from people who are fleeing domestic abuse and such applications have risen in 2023-24. This suggests there will continue to be a need for this group in future.

Present and planned services - Prevention

Victims of domestic abuse are able to receive specialist support from BeFree and Lancashire Victims Service. These services help victims of domestic abuse / violence, many of which help to prevent homelessness. Particular work includes supporting victims to remain within their own home where reasonable to do so and where the client requests it. This could include provision of alarms and legal redress such as

injunctions and non-molestation orders against perpetrators. There is also supported accommodation through Safenet who manage Pendle Women's Refuge and BeFree who manage 2 x safehouses in Pendle.

Multi agency working

Pendle Domestic Violence Forum meets quarterly to help improve services across Pendle. The Council, in conjunction with the forum also develops and delivers Action Plans.

Providing a safety net

Pendle Women's Refuge offers good quality accommodation for up to nine women and their children. Although the refuge provides accommodation mainly for local women, referrals are accepted from other parts of the country. However, there is also a large refuge within the neighbouring borough of Burnley and also refuges elsewhere which Pendle residents could access. PDVI also deliver safehouses within the borough which helps improve accommodation options for women and their children.

It needs noting however that women who are employed face difficulties in that they may be unable to afford the support costs at the refuge or safehouses due to their being unable to claim sufficient Housing Benefit. Whilst the woman would be accommodated in the short term and perhaps be subsidised, the high costs often means that the woman must either cease working in order to be eligible for housing benefit or pay the rent herself. This issue is not exclusive to Pendle as other refuges and safehouses also encounter this problem.

Women deemed ineligible due to their immigration status who are without access to public funds also face extreme difficulty in that they are unable to afford to stay in the Refuge. In these circumstances, PBC Housing Needs service would seek an 'assisted place' at another refuge if available. Refuges with assisted places tend to be in the larger urban areas such as Burnley and Blackburn. An assisted place is a subsidised room for a woman who is unable to pay for or claim benefit for, a refuge place. LCC Children's Social Care may be able to assist under the Children's Act if the woman has a child with her, but if not her options are extremely limited.

Victims are also recognised under the B-with-us Choice-based lettings scheme and may be awarded Band 2 or even Band 1 'additional preference' if found to be statutorily homeless. As a result of this recognition within the allocations policy, many victims are able to access more stable housing elsewhere relatively quickly.

5.5 People involved with the Criminal Justice System

Present and future needs

People involved with the criminal justice system tend to be those who are:-

- In prison / about to leave prison

- Living in the community but involved with probation and youth offending teams

Unfortunately it is not possible to provide specific statistics on people involved with the whole of the criminal justice system, but Table 6 shows that applications have been rising where the applicant has stated 'departure from institution: custody'. These statistics suggest that future need will likely continue to rise or remain substantial. There are no specific statistics available on those who have an involvement with CRCs / Probation / YOT and who have applied as homeless as not all people who apply may wish to advise to disclose their involvement.

Present and planned services - Prevention

Much of the work to prevent homelessness for this client group relies on multi-agency work with the criminal justice system eg probation and prisons, as well as with other agencies whom the client group may work with such as Inspire. This preventative work is also perhaps more intensified with cases where the client is subject to Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). The client group are able to access all housing schemes like other client groups, although there may be some restrictions on access depending on their particular risk due to the offences they have committed. PBC Housing Needs will consider whether to support such applicants with deposits / rent in advance to help access the private rented sector on a case by case basis.

Multi agency working

As mentioned above, there continues to be multi-agency work occurring in Pendle to assist this group.

Providing a safety net

Some people within this client group may be deemed in 'priority need' as a result of time spent in custody and whether this has made them vulnerable. If so, PBC Housing Needs would have a duty to provide temporary accommodation under homelessness legislation pending further enquiries. However, even if there are legal duties to provide temporary accommodation, it often proves extremely difficult to secure accommodation as providers often refuse to take on the risk of allowing these service users to stay at their establishment.

5.6 People with Drug & Alcohol Problems

Present and future needs

It is difficult to gauge the need within this group as whilst alcohol and / or drugs can often be a contributory factor, it is rarely the actual cause of housing problems / homelessness. Causes of homelessness as a result of such problems could include all the main causes of homelessness ie non-violent / violent relationship breakdown, parent / friends or relative unwilling to accommodate or possible loss of assured shorthold tenancy eg non-payment of rent, anti-social behaviour. Not all applicants will necessarily advise of any problematic addictions for fear of perhaps thinking their rehousing options will be limited. Indeed in 2023-24 there were just 11 applicants who identified

themselves as either have drug-related issues or alcohol dependency. Anecdotally, this is felt to be a very low number and the actual numbers are considerably higher. There is no evidence to suggest demand will fall going forward.

Present and planned services - Prevention

A number of agencies have been set up to specifically help meet the needs of this client group, which include:-

- *Inspire* - Inspire East Lancashire Integrated Substance Misuse Service is a fully integrated substance misuse service offers a wide range of support for anyone worried about their own or somebody else's substance/alcohol use. They offer advice and guidance to individuals and family members through rapid, open access assessment leading to support and treatment.
- *Holgate House Rehabilitation Centre* - This scheme is dedicated to helping supporting and empowering ongoing abstinence from drug and alcohol dependency, exploring opportunity for personal growth and development. The service also offers aftercare in the form of second stage treatment for men /women in the community recovery houses in Colne, Lancashire.
- *Elisha House* – offers supported housing to men aged 25+ that have come out of a detox or rehab program, or are living an abstinence life style, and are looking for safe secure managed abstinence accommodation. This also includes supported move on accommodation based in Colne Lancashire, helping individuals with reintegration back into the community. They can accommodate 9 men at any one time.

These services clearly show that there is an ongoing need for people within this client group.

Multi agency working

PBC Housing Needs works with Inspire, Holgate House and Elisha House to help prevent homelessness where reasonable to do so. Often this client group may also be involved with other services such as police, probation, health services and LCC social services and where appropriate, case conferences are arranged. This client group are able to apply for all housing options like all other applicants although they may have restricted access depending on their particular case ie their problematic addiction may mean they are suspended until they can show that their risk to themselves / the project is manageable.

Providing a safety net

Some people within this client group may be deemed in 'priority need' as a result of possible manifestation of their problems into mental illness and whether this has made them vulnerable. If so, PBC Housing needs would have a duty to provide temporary accommodation under homelessness legislation pending further enquiries.

5.7 People with a Physical Disability

Present and future needs

In most cases homelessness due to physical disability is caused by illness or accident that makes it unreasonable for a person to continue to occupy their present accommodation or by discharge from hospital into unsuitable accommodation. In 2023-24 there were just five applicants who identified themselves as having physical ill health and disability, which seems extremely low, and perhaps such applicants have indicated other needs instead. It is not anticipated that demand will rise substantially in the future.

Present and planned services - Prevention

There are no specific prevention initiatives in place to prevent homelessness caused by physical disability but a hospital discharge policy is in place to help prepare for such cases. Applicants in such circumstances may be banded in a reasonable preference category within the B-with-us choice-based lettings scheme whereby the present accommodation is no longer suitable to their needs. PBC Housing Needs may be able to help with deposits where appropriate to help secure private sector accommodation quickly if the client requests it.

Multi agency working

A hospital discharge policy has been agreed which sets out responsibilities of health and housing services in ensuring that accommodation is available for people being discharged from hospital. Due to the difficulties in rehousing clients with such particular needs, there is often close working between health and housing on a case by case basis to resolve any issues that arise.

Providing a safety net

There is no dedicated temporary accommodation for people facing homelessness as a result of physical disability although some B&B's are able to support applicants as they are on the ground floor or have lifts to different floors. Applicants with a physical disability could perhaps be considered as priority need, and as such, have a greater priority for rehousing.

5.8 People with Mental Health Problems

In 2023-24 there were just 13 applicants who identified themselves as having a history of mental health problems, which again seems extremely low, and perhaps such applicants have indicated other needs and / or have decided not to advise of these issues.

Present and planned services - Prevention

Mental ill-health can cover a wide range in terms of severity and manifestations. Depending on a person's particular diagnosis, help could be provided statutory health services or access to support.

Multi agency working

On a case by case basis, PBC Housing Needs works with a number of agencies to try and resolve homelessness issues for people who are suffering mental ill-health.

Providing a safety net

Whilst there is specialist accommodation available to those who have a particular level of mental ill health, for many clients with a lower level of mental ill-health, temporary accommodation may be provided under a homelessness duty if the client is seen as in 'priority need'. Clients are also able to access supported housing and rehousing via the B-with-us Choice-based lettings scheme.

5.9 Asylum Seekers / Refugees and people who have successfully applied for asylum

Present and future needs

Asylum seekers are unable to apply as homeless. Whilst awaiting a decision, asylum seekers who require accommodation, are in most cases, provided with accommodation in dispersed accommodation and as a last resort, hotels. Once asylum seekers receive a positive decision, they are able to seek support from PBC Housing Needs. As per Table 6, the number of applicants has risen substantially as the number of dispersed accommodation has grown in Pendle. It is anticipated that needs will increase in future for this group.

The council also support and implement a number of refugee-type schemes in Pendle including the Homes for Ukraine scheme, UK Resettlement Scheme and Afghan Resettlement schemes. Whilst homelessness applications from such scheme are relatively minor, its anticipated that applications will begin to rise as people rehoused through these schemes leave supported housing provided for them locally.

Present and planned services - Prevention

PBC Housing Needs work closely with Pendle New Neighbours (page 24) who provide advice, support and help accommodate asylum seekers as they leave Serco accommodation. They also support other refugees and those under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Multi agency working

The Pendle – Displaced Persons Resettlement Steering Group, which is a multi-agency group has been set up and which considers issues in relation to refugees and asylum seekers. PBC Housing Needs work with Serco, Pendle New Neighbours and other agencies to help people move on from their accommodation, following a successful application for asylum.

Providing a safety net

There is no specific temporary accommodation provided for this group although successful asylum seekers would be assessed under homelessness legislation to determine whether a duty to provide accommodation is met. Clients are able to access supported housing and rehousing via the B-with-us Choice-based lettings scheme provided they are eligible.

5.10 Travellers and Gypsies***Present and future needs***

The PBC Housing Needs database regarding housing options enquiries and / or homelessness applications shows there were on average four people who applied each year who identified themselves as 'white gypsy or Irish traveller'. Anecdotally, PBC Housing needs staff report that enquiries each year have generally been extremely low.

Bi-annual counts since July 2007, have not recorded any gypsy or traveller camp sites in Pendle. At present there is very little quantifiable evidence of homelessness amongst this group.

Present and planned services - Prevention

To date there is no present / planned services specifically related to homelessness issues for this client group as there does not appear to be evidence of a need for this response.

Multi agency working

There is no multi-agency work specifically related to homelessness issues for this client group as there does not appear to be evidence of a need for this response.

Providing a safety net

There are no official temporary accommodation sites for travellers and gypsy's in Pendle although caravan sites in the borough may accept this client group on occasion. Clients would be assessed under homelessness legislation to determine whether a duty to provide accommodation is met. Clients are also able to access supported housing and rehousing via the B-with-us Choice-based lettings scheme provided they are eligible.

5.11 Older People

Present and future needs

The table below shows housing enquires in relation to age.

Table 9 – Homelessness Applications by age

Year	Homelessness Applications		
	Age 55 - 64	65 - 74	75+
2019 / 20	56	20	6
2020 / 21	30	17	4
2021 / 22	49	23	6
2022 / 23	51	21	10
2023 / 24	62	14	8

The table suggests that over time, applications are relatively static and may not necessarily change in future years.

Present and planned services - Prevention

There are no specific prevention initiatives aimed at older people as this client group are able to access services in the same way as all other client groups and there does not appear to be a specific need for a specialist service regarding homelessness.

Multi agency working

PBC Housing Needs work with all relevant agencies to support people within these age groups where required. In some cases, case conferences may be called to help resolve rehousing issues for older people who present with a number of issues.

Providing a safety net

There is no specific temporary accommodation provided for this group although clients would be assessed under homelessness legislation to determine whether a duty to provide accommodation is met. Clients are able to access supported sheltered housing and rehousing via the B-with-us Choice-based lettings scheme.

5.12 Ex-Services Personnel

Present and future needs

In 2023-24 there were no applicants who identified themselves as having support needs as a result of having served in HM forces. This seems extremely low, and perhaps such applicants have indicated other needs and / or have decided not to advise of these issues.

Present and planned services - Prevention

There are no present / planned services specifically related to homelessness issues for this client group as there does not appear to be evidence of a need for this response.

Multi agency working

In response to the National Covenant, the Council has developed its own Covenant and have established the Pendle Armed Forces Community Covenant Group to coordinate approaches and help that can be provided.

Providing a safety net

There is no temporary accommodation specifically for ex-service personnel, although ex-services personnel are recognised within the B-with-us choice based lettings allocation policy and receive additional preference as a result. Under homelessness legislation, ex-services personnel may be deemed to be in priority need if s/he is vulnerable as a result of their service.

5.13 Conclusions from Detailed Needs and Service Mapping

There are a large number of different groups affected by homelessness and in some cases, each group demand specific responses to their needs. Broadly speaking, there appears to be significant correlation between the numbers of people within each group, numbers affected by homelessness and services provided towards these groups to alleviate homelessness.

As an example, households with families / young people which tend to be the largest client groups, tend to have the most people affected by homelessness and tend to have the most services aimed at preventing their homelessness as a result. Conversely those who are in such groupings as ex-services personnel and asylum seekers, which generally appear to be low in actual numbers, tend to have a small number of people affected by homelessness and tend to have less service directed at them. However, there are exceptions and a large proportion of the population could be classed as 'older people', although instances of homelessness are relatively small in this group compared to other groups such as those with physical disability or mental ill-health where homelessness has tended to be higher.

It is also recognised that some groups such as Young People Leaving Care, which may have relatively low numbers of homelessness perhaps but more services aimed at them. However, the particular vulnerability of these groups in comparison to other groups means that services are more comprehensive.

Finally it is also clear that some people may fall within more than one category or even a number of categories eg a person who is ex-services personnel may not necessarily receive as much support specifically due to this issue, but as they are also a young person / or have a family, may receive greater support due to their household demographic. Naturally, this issue can and does affect the overall statistics.

5.14 Recommendations:

Based on the above findings, there are no specific recommendations. This however is because earlier recommendations in the review will support some of these groups.

Section Six – Consultation

The development of the Homelessness review has not been completed in isolation and consultation has occurred with various agencies concerned with homelessness across Pendle. In September / October 2024, all members of the Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Homelessness Forum were invited to provide comment / feedback on the following three general questions set:-

- 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

Whilst its recognised that a much more comprehensive consultation could have been implemented, it was felt the above questions were sufficiently broad and provided an easy to understand format to encourage a response from agencies and service users. Table 10 shows the variety of responses made.

6.1 Taking forward and responding to feedback

Table 10 - Feedback received and how it will be acted upon

	What do you think are likely to be the biggest challenges over the next 5 years for homelessness services?	How this feedback will be acted upon
1	I think the biggest challenge over the next five years is going to a fluctuation of homeless people and families due to inflation and the fact that landlords are no longer able to sustain their mortgages as the cost of living keeps rising.	It is difficult to know what will occur in the future, particularly as a result of the proposed Renters' Rights Bill and also the potential impact of the Budget on 30 th October 2024 and whether this has an impact on jobs / growth, both negatively or positively. An Action is recommended to ensure the council's successfully implements the Renters' Rights Bill, once it commences.
2	Definitely more housing – not enough of social or private rented (see if they change the s21) but then this will put more l/lrd off - need to be more thought of what type of housing that	The government has indicated that there will be a large increase in houses built across the country during this parliament (up to 2029). It is not known specifically how many will be built in Pendle and indeed the

	is also required ie; larger 4/5 bed but then also 2bed and adapted larger housing for families who have medical needs either the parent or child and the also bungalows.	split between tenures, but it is hoped that this will result in a reduction in homelessness as more housing options become available.
3	<p>Increase in worklessness, making housing affordability more of a challenge. Lack of move on affordable and sustainable housing for young people – particularly those at college / uni / working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of funding for early intervention to prevent homelessness. • Change in commissioning focusing on statutory duties to 16 & 17 yr olds (non statutory 16 & 17yr olds becoming less priority) 	As per response 2, it is hoped that an increase in housing availability and options will help improve housing prospects for all including young people.
4	Engaging with an increasing number of people with entrenched behaviour, a poor tenancy history and unwillingness to engage with services.	It is difficult to engage more fully with all the people PBC Housing Needs see due to lack of resources and rising numbers of cases. However, PBC Housing Needs do liaise closely with external agencies supporting people at risk of, or already homeless, to ensure the best possible outcomes are achieved.
	What improvements / changes would agencies like to see in homelessness service provision?	How this feedback will be acted upon?
5	I think having more temporary accommodation in the Pendle area would be massively beneficial as I do have a lot of young first time mothers who need temporary accommodation but are so scared of leaving behind their local connections in the community. I also feel like there isn't much services for over twenty five years.	For many years there has been difficulties in securing temporary accommodation in Pendle. This is due to the lack of establishments within Pendle willing to accept people who are or may become homeless. The council is presently reviewing temporary accommodation options and recommendations will be implemented.

6	Then the cost of temporary for Councils and not enough options for Pendle - maybe a hostel like Gateway?	The council is presently looking into expanding options for temporary accommodations and recommendations will be implemented.
7	<p>Investment in case work prevention of homelessness – early intervention – for young people and adults. Including wider housing support that can lead to homelessness when left unsupported (e.g. family dispute / asb / debt / housing quality / benefits support etc)</p> <p>Investment in housing that is accessible, affordable and sustainable for young people moving I from supported accommodation.</p> <p>Increase in options for crisis placements in Pendle area rather than having to travel to other boroughs</p>	<p>The council regularly monitors staffing levels in relation to the services which are delivered. Whilst the Council wish to maximise resources for all services delivered, resources are limited and are likely to continue to remain so for the future. At present, it is felt that staffing levels meet demands being placed on the Housing Needs service. That being said, PBC Housing Needs are always required to improve services and outcomes where reasonably possible.</p> <p>The Council will work closely with central Government and housing providers to improve housing options within the borough once details of how the government's proposals for new housing are known.</p> <p>As per response 5, the Council is presently reviewing this particular aspect of the service</p>
8	A sub-regional Housing First approach to providing accommodation for those described above....(<i>Engaging with an increasing number of people with entrenched behaviour, a poor tenancy history and unwillingness to engage with services</i>)	The Council are happy to consider all potential options to improve services and will consider Housing First as a model for improving services. A recommendation will be made to consider this model.
	Any further ideas which you would like to put forward?	How this feedback will be acted upon?
9	Look at supported housing for young people -especially those that move in but then start work and are not then able to remain - very few options for them for housing as not	Unfortunately, this issue relates to benefits rules applied nationwide in that those working aren't able to access sufficient housing benefit / UC housing payment to cover the rent in supported housing schemes. This

	affordable PT (I/lrd not willing to consider YP no background re holding a tenancy etc) and few 1bed social – bit discouraging when the government want people to move into work. However, then for YP-18yr/20yr when told to find work get no support with their housing and just given NTQ.	often results in young people being asked to leave. Wherever possible PBC Housing Needs will seek to help young people in such a position, where it isn't possible for the young person to remain.
10	<p>We need to grow the portfolio of different types of responses to prevent and manage homelessness – ensuring the wide range of reasons and impacts are addressed – no one size fits all.</p> <p>We need to address the compounded impact of those in employment affecting affordability to live independently – young people are having to choose between work or accessing support in their accommodation.</p> <p>Bring back floating support to help sustain housing options</p>	<p>It is quite right that no one size fits all. In an ideal world with significantly more resources, officers would be able to spend much more time with applicants to ascertain all needs and plan to address these. Unfortunately resources to do this are very limited.</p> <p>See response 9</p> <p>Funding for such schemes have historically been provided through LCC under programmes such as Supporting People. With more resources, such schemes could be reimplemented, but unfortunately resources don't exist to develop such schemes at present.</p>

6.2 Conclusions from Consultation

As can be seen from Table 10, there has been significant feedback. Unfortunately in many cases the issue is beyond the remit of the forthcoming homelessness strategy often due to the pressures on funding. However, the review does seek to find ways to respond to such issues, particularly in terms of how collaboration with partners to try and find solutions. The consultation exercise has shown that there are a number of issues which affect homelessness and which need to be considered as part of an overall strategy for tackling homelessness.

6.3 Recommendations

Based on the above findings, the following recommendations are being made:-

- To consider 'Housing First' as a model towards addressing homelessness within the borough

Section Seven – Final Summary

This section attempts to bring together the main points of the review, already summarised in the previous sections, and to provide the basis for the homelessness strategy action plan.

In the previous Pendle Homelessness Review of 2019, the major issue at the time was in continuing to implement the relatively new Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and accompanying Code of Guidance. Very broadly, the implementation went very well and services continued but on a much more of an online basis.

In 2020 / 2021, the covid-19 pandemic impacted hugely on the delivery of services, particularly due to the need to deliver services online and via telephone. This delivery mechanism has remained in place, particularly as caseloads have substantially increased over the last few years. Applicants are able to complete an online enquiry form and where appropriate, Housing Needs Officers can liaise with applicants via email. Whilst there can be some disadvantages to this way of working eg an applicant may not feel it is as personal a service as they would like, many applicants prefer to contact the Council via email rather than attend an interview, they can send documents online and it helps the Council to manage its resources more effectively. There is of course, always the option to attend an interview for particularly complex cases or where the applicant is particularly vulnerable.

Whilst some services since 2019 have disappeared and or reduced, fortunately there still remains a number of services whether via the Council, registered providers and substantially within the voluntary sector which exist in Pendle which provide services to those who are or may become homeless. Government funding for homelessness services remains in place at present and the proposed new legislation under the Renters' Rights Bill appears to be a positive step in helping to prevent homelessness.

Whilst the review seeks to be aspirational in its recommendations, it is recognised that if it is possible to keep existing services, this ought to also be seen as a success considering the uncertainties at present and in the future.

The Review makes a number of recommendations in relation to the implementation of new legislation and also prevention of homelessness in general. It is hoped that most of these recommendations will be taken forward by the forthcoming homelessness strategy. However, it is also recognised that not all of these recommendations can be taken forward to the action plan as they may not meet all of the 'SMART' criteria – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time based. It is also recognised that there may be 'overlap' with regards some of the actions as most relate towards homelessness preventative work.

7.1 Summary of Recommendations for Action Plan

The recommendations, summarised below have been derived from the research undertaken in the review and will form the basis of the action plan in the new Pendle Homelessness Strategy.

- To successfully implement the Renters' Rights Act in Pendle
- Support any future bid for funding under the Rough Sleeper Initiative programme
- Implement the Local Authority Housing Fund scheme to develop temporary accommodation.
- To ensure that any future developments within the Government's approach towards homelessness is successfully implemented.
- To contribute to the development of the refreshed Lancashire Joint Homeless Prevention Protocol for 16 and 17 year olds – 2024 and ensures successful implementation of the protocol locally.
- To refresh the Pendle Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Policy
- To update the 2025 - 2030 Homelessness Strategy Action Plan on a quarterly basis
- Continue to monitor enquires and applications to the council's Housing Needs service to ensure the service is being accessed by all sections of the community.
- Continue to undertake the review of TA and implement the findings of that review.
- Review all literature / advice being given out and update information where required.
- Review 'prevention' work and implement any changes recommended to continue to help prevent homelessness
- Review 'relief' work and implement any changes recommended to help relieve homelessness
- Continue to contribute towards the review of the B-with-us choice-based lettings scheme allocations policy to ensure sufficient reasonable preference for applicants at risk of, or who are homeless.
- To consider 'Housing First' as a model towards addressing homelessness within the borough

7.2 Resources

The recommendations made and eventual aims of the homelessness strategy cannot be realised without sufficient resources both in terms of staffing time and finance. It is however hoped that, in considering the very large rise in homelessness enquiries and applications, that there is some priority given towards tackling this particularly difficult and sadly more prevalent issue of homelessness.