



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Eddie Hughes MP

Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing

**Department for Levelling up, Housing and
Communities**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

To: All Council Leaders in England
cc All Local Authority Chief Executives in
England

Tel: 0303 444 3460

Email: eddie.hughes@levellingup.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dluhc

05 August 2022

Dear Leader,

CROSS-GOVERNMENT STRATEGY TO END ROUGH SLEEPING

I am pleased to inform you that the Government's [new strategy to end rough sleeping for good](#) was published on 3 September 2022.

Local Authorities play a vital role in delivering the services that both prevent individuals sleeping rough and supporting those that unfortunately do. Our aim in this strategy is to ensure LAs and delivery partners have the tools they need to work effectively together to provide the tailored support needed to end rough sleeping. DLUHC's resident team of expert homelessness and rough sleeping advisers will continue to work with local authorities to provide bespoke support across every region of England to help local areas achieve their goals.

This Government has made the unprecedented commitment to end rough sleeping within this Parliament and this strategy will help us to deliver that goal. Working with you, local authorities, and all our local partners across the sector, we have delivered remarkable progress so far, with rough sleeping levels in the most recent Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot at an 8-year low. However, we face significant challenges if we are to end rough sleeping for good and we must work across government and with local partners to step up our efforts.

The strategy will build on that progress and help us end rough sleeping for good by bringing forward a bold new approach backed by £2 billion of funding over the next three years to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

For the first time, we are defining what we mean by ending rough sleeping - that rough sleeping will be prevented wherever possible, and when it does occur, it will be rare, brief and non-recurrent. We will bring forward a new data framework which will enable us to track progress against the definition and ensure all local and central partners are doing their bit.

We will embed a 'prevention first' approach that builds on what is already working with a new focus on preventing rough sleeping earlier in people's journey, intervening well before crisis point to help people off a path to rough sleeping. This offer has three core components. First, helping to improve housing affordability and accessibility by maximising affordable housing supply and delivering our landmark reforms for a fairer Private Rented Sector. Second, helping local authorities, in partnership with other agencies, to better prevent rough sleeping by fully embedding the Homelessness Reduction Act, pivoting funding through the Rough Sleeping Initiative to ensure a focus on prevention and working to develop a new assessment

framework for those at risk of rough sleeping. Third, providing targeted action for people we know are most at risk of rough sleeping across the system at some of the most challenging transitional points in people's lives. As part of this, we will provide new funding over the next three years to expand the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders programme so that people at risk of homelessness including rough sleeping in all parts of England are supported into long-term, settled accommodation.

For people sleeping rough it means a tailored offer of support so they can build an independent life off the streets. To achieve this, we are extending our flagship Rough Sleeping Initiative to 2025, with up to £500 million funding so that local areas can provide the tailored support needed to end rough sleeping over the next three years. We will complete delivery of the Housing First pilots in Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region and the West Midlands, providing a further £13.9 million over two years on top of the £28 million already invested, and over £32 million on Housing First more widely through the Rough Sleeping Initiative

Alongside this we will launch a new £200 million Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme. This will deliver up to 2,400 much-needed homes for vulnerable people at risk of homelessness or rough sleeping, including young people and those with the most complex needs, alongside expanding existing accommodation programmes which we know work.

We will act across the system to reduce rough sleeping. We will expand support provided through the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant. We will ensure new local Integrated Care Systems in the NHS consider the health and social care needs of those sleeping rough in their area in the development of their strategies. Jobcentres will work closely with local authorities to support people experiencing rough sleeping to access benefits and employment advice. We will be launching a new homelessness employer covenant with Crisis to help employers recruit and support employees who have been homeless or rough sleeping.

A quarter of people sleeping rough nationally are not from the UK, rising to nearly half in London. Since the pandemic we have seen local authorities looking to exhaust all options to support this group away from the streets: we want to see this continue.

This strategy seeks to ensure that local authorities have the tools they need to exhaust all options for non-UK nationals with restricted eligibility due to their immigration status. For those here legally but with restricted eligibility for public funds, we want to see them get appropriate support to sustain a life away from the streets. For those with no immigration status in the UK, we are committed to introducing an offer of tailored support for those that wish to return to their home country voluntarily. The strategy will set out a new commitment from Government to piloting improved support to explore what more can be done to increase take up and support for those engaged with the voluntary returns process. For those with unresolved immigration status, the Government will also deliver a reformed Rough Sleeping Support Service that will enable the immigration status of individuals to be swiftly resolved.

As part of the strategy we are announcing allocations for areas in a range of key initiatives including the Rough Sleeping Initiative, Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme, Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant and Housing First. Full details of allocations can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rough-sleepers-helped-to-rebuild-their-lives-with-new-strategy-backed-by-2bn-government-support>.

The whole of Government is united in ending rough sleeping. In order to achieve this all partners, across central and local Government, voluntary organisations, delivery partners and the public must work together as one.

We want our ambitious approach to be matched by bold local delivery and expect all those involved in ending rough sleeping to play their part. We want to ensure rough sleeping is ended in a way that is sustainable in the long-term, and this strategy lays the foundations for the long-term system change needed to support that.

This strategy shows that this Government is committed to ending rough sleeping. To deliver this strategy, we expect local authorities, in collaboration with local partners, to take the lead in accountability for local rough sleeping outcomes - and we will continue to work with local and national partners to achieve this.

I look forward to continuing to work with you going forward as we jointly seek to end rough sleeping.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Hughes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

EDDIE HUGHES MP