Trafford Council

Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024

Annual Statement 2022



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# Introduction

Trafford Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 was launched in March 2019. The Strategy set out the priorities for Trafford over the next 5 years. It is a statutory requirement, as contained in the Homelessness Act 2002 (as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017), for every local authority to produce a Homelessness Strategy outlining the main causes of homelessness and the strategic plan and operational actions for the Council and partners to undertake to tackle homelessness in Trafford. The Strategy underpins the Council’s Corporate Priorities and Housing Strategy 2018-2023.

The six Strategic Priorities of the Homelessness Strategy are to:

1. Prevent homelessness in Trafford.
2. Improve access to permanent affordable accommodation and supported homes, primarily through the increased supply of social housing.
3. Aim to eradicate the use of B&B and increase the provision of good quality temporary accommodation for homeless people in Trafford.
4. Work towards ending rough sleeping in Trafford.
5. Improve access to employment, education, and training for homeless people in Trafford.
6. Improve health & wellbeing for homeless people in Trafford.

# Annual Review 2022

It is important that the Trafford Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024 is reviewed on a regular basis. This annual review provides an update on the following:

* Changes to the national and sub-regional homelessness initiatives, policies, and strategies.
* A Review of Homelessness in Trafford 2021/22.
* Delivery of the Homelessness Strategy.
* The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan Update:
  + What have we achieved?
  + What are we working towards?
  + What do we still have to do?

# Policy and Strategic Context

## National Context

**Cost of living crisis**

The cost-of-living crisis refers to the fall in real incomes (adjusted for inflation and tax) that the UK has experienced since late 2021. It is being caused by a combination of factors including increases in gas and electricity prices, the cost of oil and energy supply issues caused by the war in Ukraine. These issues coupled with the increasing interest rate, are having a significant impact on households .

It is anticipated that the cost-of-living crisis will place additional pressures on Local Authority homelessness services as families struggle to pay their rent and mortgages. Homelessness charity St Mungos states those on low incomes or reliant on welfare benefits are feeling the hike in costs the hardest. They believe the crisis will result in more people sleeping rough for the first time and will threaten the progress of people who have rebuilt their lives after homelessness[[1]](#footnote-1).

**Rough Sleeper Strategy**[[2]](#footnote-2)

In August 2018, the government published the Rough Sleeping Strategy which committed to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and eradicating it by 2027. The vision is that by 2027 all parts of central and local government, in partnership with businesses, the public and wider society; are working together to ensure that no-one has to experience rough sleeping again. Linked to the delivery of this Strategy, the government announced a range of cross-government initiatives which will see the start of new joint working; including a health provision for people who sleep rough and working in prisons to prevent people from sleeping rough in the first place.

**Ending Rough Sleeping for good**[[3]](#footnote-3)

In September 2022, the government published the ‘Ending Rough Sleeping for Good’ policy paper. This is a cross-government strategy which sets out how the government and its partners will work together to deliver on the government’s manifesto commitment to end rough sleeping in this Parliament. It also lays the foundations for long-term style change to end rough sleeping sustainably and for good. Importantly, the strategy lays out a clear and defined vision for ending rough sleeping in that it is “prevented wherever possible, and where it does occur it is rare, brief, and non-recurrent”.

The Strategy promises an investment of £500 million into the Rough Sleeping Initiative over three years and a £12 million Test and Learn Programme to trial innovative approaches and test what works to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping.

A new £200 million Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme will be launched to deliver up to 2,400 homes and wrap-around support by March 2025. This will provide new supported housing and Housing First accommodation, including for young people at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.

## Regional Context

**Greater Manchester Housing Strategy[[4]](#footnote-4)**

The Greater Manchester (GM) Housing Strategy 2019-2024 identified decent and affordable housing as a priority. The GM Housing Strategy details how the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the GM Combined Authority (GMCA) and the ten Greater Manchester authorities will maximise the leverage of the resources available to them. In addition, the GMCA has agreed to invest surpluses from the £300 million GM Housing Investment Loan Fund to help support the delivery of truly affordable housing, tackle empty homes, and issues in the private rented sector including rogue landlords as contained within the Housing Strategy.

Since the launch of the Strategy, GMCA has developed an Implementation Plan to steer and track progress in the delivery of the agenda set out in the Housing Strategy. It captures activity already underway as well as new lines of work to be commenced in the coming months. The Implementation Plan is updated on a six-monthly reporting cycle, with updates taken to the Greater Manchester Planning and Housing Commission. The most recent update was published at the end of December 2021[[5]](#footnote-5).

**A Bed Every Night (ABEN)**

The GM initiative A Bed Every Night (ABEN) is a commitment to meet the needs of those who are rough sleeping or at imminent risk of rough sleeping in GM and cannot access other accommodation. The programme was launched on 1st November 2018 with the aim to offer a GM response to acute need when other resources are unavailable.

The programme offers quick access to accommodation which will meet people’s basic needs and will include a food offer, access to bathing facilities etc. The programme makes every effort to address the needs of those rough sleeping and directs those with less acute housing need to more appropriate services. The service offers a rapid access process with fewer criteria than other forms of accommodation.

To date, the ABEN initiative has contributed to a 67% reduction in rough sleeping across Greater Manchester. From April to December 2021, 2,418 people were accommodated under the ABEN scheme with 41% of people being moved on positively into other housing settings – the majority to supported accommodation and private rented tenancies[[6]](#footnote-6).

Greater Manchester leaders have agreed a new three-year plan for ABEN with funding set out until 2025[[7]](#footnote-7).

**Greater Manchester Housing First Pilot**

Housing First is an evidence-based approach which uses housing as a platform to enable individuals with multiple and complex needs to begin recovery and move away from homelessness. The GM Housing First (GMHF) pilot was commissioned for three years by the GMCA with funding from the then Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC))**.** The pilot launched in April 2019 with the aim of rehousing more than 300 people, over the three years, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness within GM.

In October 2021, GMCA published an evaluation of the scheme which highlighted successful implementation. As of June 2021, the pilot had accepted 442 referrals and was providing support to 348 people. 221 people were accommodated in their own properties, with an overall tenancy sustainment rate of 89%.

In September 2022, the Government announced that funding for The Housing First pilot in Greater Manchester will be extended until March 2025[[8]](#footnote-8).

**Greater Manchester Homelessness Prevention Strategy[[9]](#footnote-9)**

In October 2019, a plan to develop the GM Homelessness Prevention Strategy was approved by the GM Homelessness Programme Board and GM Homelessness Action Network Advisory Board. The Strategy, published in July 2021, was co-produced by GMCA and people with lived experiences of homelessness and those who work with them.

The Strategy outlines 5 missions:

1. Everyone can access and sustain a home that is safe, decent, accessible and affordable.
2. Everyone leaves our places of care with a safe place to go.
3. Everyone can access quality advice, advocacy and support to prevent homelessness.
4. People experiencing homelessness have respite, recovery and re-connection to support.
5. Homelessness is never an entrenched or repeat experience.

To achieve these missions, 3 principles were outlined:

1. Working with People; being truly person-centred, reducing and responding to inequalities and trauma.
2. Building Participation; building inclusive participation so that people can participate in decisions that affect their lives and where lived experience is highly valued.
3. Embedding Prevention; reforming public services to deliver genuinely preventative and person-centred support.

An Action Plan was launched in October 2021[[10]](#footnote-10) which details what steps will be taken to deliver the Strategy. The Action Plan will be reviewed every 6 months to identify progress, and once a year to allow for new or amended actions to be included.

## Local Context

There have been several new local strategies that have affected the housing sector in Trafford since the Housing Strategy was published in 2018. These include:

[**Trafford Corporate Plan 2021-202**](https://www.trafford.gov.uk/about-your-council/strategies-plans-and-policies/docs/Corporate-Plan-2019.pdf)**4**[[11]](#footnote-11)

Trafford Council has recently refreshed its Corporate Plan and created a new overarching vision: *“Trafford – Where our residents, communities and businesses prosper*”. This vision will ensure Trafford builds back better out of the Covid pandemic to develop a borough fit for everyone. To achieve this vision, three new Corporate Priorities have been set:

1. Reducing health inequalities: Working with people, communities and partners, particularly in deprived areas, to improve the physical and mental health of all our residents.
2. Supporting people out of poverty: Tackling the root causes to prevent people from falling into poverty and raising people out of it.
3. Addressing our Climate Crisis: Reducing our carbon footprint and tackling the impact of climate change.

The Corporate Plan 2021-2024 details how performance will be measured in respect of delivering on these priorities and outlines a commitment to produce quarterly reports on how successfully the priorities are being achieved.

**Trafford Draft Supported Housing Strategy 2022-2027**

The Trafford Housing Strategy 2019-2024 highlighted a need to produce a Supported Housing Strategy to determine current and future need for supported housing in Trafford. Trafford Council began drafting the Supported Housing Strategy in 2019, but progress was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, the draft was updated and included the addition of a section focusing on domestic abuse in light of the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Draft Supported Housing Strategy consultation launched on 5th September 2022 and will be open until 16th October 2022[[12]](#footnote-12).

It is anticipated the Supported Housing Strategy will be published in winter 2022/23.

[**Trafford Together Locality Plan 2019-2024**](http://www.traffordpartnership.org/locality-working/Docs/Trafford-Together-Locality-Plan.pdf)[[13]](#footnote-13)

The Locality Plan 2019-2024 is the blueprint for the transformation of health and social care over a 5-year period. This is part of a wider Trafford Partnership which includes the many areas of change that health and social care is part of to share resources and aspirations. The plan is set around four main principles:

* our population,
* the people we serve,
* the place where we live and work and,
* the partnerships we create.

The objective is to improve the lives of the most vulnerable, to improve the wellbeing for all residents, and to improve connections across communities. Central to this is a belief that people should be supported to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible, remaining connected to families, friends and their local communities.

**Trafford Domestic Abuse Strategy 2022 – 2025**[[14]](#footnote-14)

This Strategy sets out Trafford’s vision of enabling our residents, their families, and communities to live a healthy life, free from abuse and violence. The Strategy outlines that this vision will be supported by reducing the impact of domestic abuse on the population of Trafford by developing and implementing a sustainable system wide approach to prevention, early intervention, response, and support.

The Strategy outlines four priorities that will enable Trafford to work towards a long-term response that meets the needs of victims, their children, and perpetrators across the borough. These are:

1. Ensure that every victim is identified early and has access to the support they need.
2. Ensure the support for families is co-ordinated.
3. Ensure that communities are able to spot the signs of abuse and know where to get help.
4. Ensure multi-agency system is joined up so that individuals, families and communities who seek support can find it, and access it.

The Strategy also sets out thirteen objectives which will be used to work towards delivering the strategies priorities. The objectives will be delivered by the Domestic Abuse Partnership through an implementation plan which is contained within the Strategy’s appendix. An report will be produced annually outlining achievements and providing a refreshed implementation plan.

In line with Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Trafford Council established a Domestic Abuse Partnership Board in July 2021. The Board is made up of representatives from Community Safety, Public Health, Commissioning, Adult and Children’s Social Care, Housing, Education, Emergency Services, Probation, TDAS, Women MATTA, LGBT Foundation, and Talk Listen Change. The Board is responsible for providing advice to the Council about the exercise of the functions under section 57 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, and the provision of other local authority support in the authority’s area.

# Achievements 2021/22



Average length of stay for those placed in B&B decreased by 32% in 2021/22



HOST provided advice to 71,766 households in 2021/22



Number of rough sleepers decreased from 3 to 2 at the end of the year.



109 placements made into the A Bed Every Night scheme (ABEN) in 2021/22.



61 people re-housed from the ABEN in 2021/22.



HOST prevented 311 households from becoming homeless in 2021/22



15 rough sleepers secured permanent accommodation in 2021/22.



The Tenancy Support prevented 88 households from becoming homeless.

HOST received 32 compliments from customers in 2021/22.

56 new affordable housing units completed in 2021/22

561 affordable housing units commenced development.

374 households provided with Tenancy Support in 2021/22.



# Housing & Homelessness Performance in Trafford

Housing Options Service Trafford (HOST) delivers the Council’s statutory homelessness service.

Housing Options and Homelessness

The figures in the table below are taken from the HOST Performance Monitoring Workbook for 2021/22 compared to the previous year 2020/21.

| **Category** | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **% Change** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Homeless Applications | 3374 | 3289 | -2.5% |
| Number of homeless households seeking advice only (included in the number of Applications overall) | 2490 | 2307 | -7.4% |
| Actual Homeless Cases/Applications | 884 | 982 | 11.1% |
| Number of Personal Homelessness Plans (PHPs) opened | 838 | 1137 | 35.7% |
| Number of PHPs closed | 818 | 1199 | 46.6% |
| Number of applicants within the Prevention Duty (as at the end of the year) | 69 | 103 | 49.3% |
| Number of applicants prevented from becoming homeless in 2020/21 | 303 | 311 | 2.6% |
| Number of applicants within the Relief Duty (as at the end of the year) | 96 | 106 | 10.4% |
| Number of applicants in Main Duty (as at the end of the year) | 117 | 135 | 15.4% |
| Decisions made in period (Main Duty) | 236 | 257 | 8.9% |
| Eligible, unintentional and in priority need | 155 | 203 | 31% |
| Eligible, homeless but not in priority need | 69 | 48 | -30.4% |
| Eligible but not homeless | 6 | 2 | -66.6% |
| Ineligible | 0 | 0 | - |
| Intentionally homeless | 6 | 4 | -33.3% |
| Total number of applicants where any duty ceased due to an offer of accommodation in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) in the year | 78 | 60 | -23.1 |
| Total number of applicants where any duty ceased due to an offer of accommodation in Social Rented Sector in the year | 219 | 237 | 8.2% |

The total number of homeless applications received by HOST decreased by 2.5% in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. However, the number of actual homelessness cases in 2021/22 increased by 11.1%. This demonstrates that those who approached the service required more intensive casework/support than those approaching last year.

The number of applicants that were prevented from becoming homeless in 2021/22 has increased by 2.6%. This is despite the impact of the cost-of-living crisis creating barriers for prevention efforts.

The number of applicants within the Relief Duty increased by 10.4% between 2020/21 and 2021/22. This is likely due to the eviction ban which was introduced by the government in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The ban remained in force until 31st May 2021, at which point eviction rates slowly increased resulting in more Relief Duties being owed.

There has been an 8.9% increase in the number of decisions made on Main Duty applications in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. This was anticipated as the previous difficulties in collecting the detailed information required to form these decisions were eased following lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.

The number of applicants who were found to be eligible, homeless but not in priority need, eligible but not homeless, and intentionally homeless decreased in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 while the number of applicants found to be eligible, homeless, and in priority need (and therefore owed the Main Duty) increased by 31%. This resulted in a 15.4% increase in number of applicants in the Main Duty at the end of the financial year.

Housing Advice Enquiries

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **% Change** |
| Advice Enquiries (reception, email, and telephone) | 41,392 | 71,766 | 73.4% |
| Number of cases relating to Domestic Abuse | 126 | 206 | 63.5% |
| Number of cases relating to affordability/ benefit issues | 256 | 262 | 2.3% |

There has been a significant increase in the number of advice enquiries received in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. This can be explained by Sale Waterside being closed to the general public for the majority of 2020/21. As the office has been open during 2021/22, more applicants were able to approach for assistance. The various legislative changes made during 2021/22 may also account for an increase in queries. Futher, the pages on Trafford’s Website relating to housing and homelessness advice were refreshed and updated which may have prompted more contact to HOST.

There was a 63% increase in approaches to HOST from individuals who were experiencing domestic abuse. This was expected following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which provided a legal definition of domestic abuse and stipulated that homeless applicants who lost their home due to domestic abuse are automatically considered to be in ‘priority need’.

There has been a slight increase in the number of cases relating to affordability and benefit issues in 2021/22, which was expected given the financial difficulties brought on by the pandemic. It is anticipated this figure will increase further in 2022/23 due to the cost-of-living crisis.

Households in Temporary Accommodation

|  | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **% Change** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Number of applicants in self-contained Temporary Accommodation (at end of year) | 114 | 97 | -14.9% |
| Number of applicants in self-contained Temporary Accommodation (Relief) | 41 | 25 | -39% |
| Number of applicants in self-contained Temporary Accommodation (Main) | 73 | 72 | -1.4% |
| Families in self- contained TA | 71 | 73 | 2.8% |
| Intentional Households in self -contained TA | 0 | 0 | - |

HOST currently lease 46 units of temporary accommodation from Trafford Housing Trust (THT). In 2018/19 an additional 68 units were secured within the private sector for use as Temporary Accommodation, bringing the total number of units available up to 114. HOST continues to proactively work to increase the provision of temporary accommodation in Trafford to try and eradicate the use of B&B.

The table above demonstrates a 14.5% decrease in the number of people in temporary accommodation. This can be attributed to the ending of the government’s ‘Everybody In’ scheme which was launched in March 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation (B&B)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **% change** |
| Total number of B&B placements made | 95 | 166 | 74.7% |
| Number of families/ pregnant households over 6 weeks as at end of the year | 0 | 0 | - |
| Average Length of stay in B&B - Singles & Families (nights) | 28.9 | 19.7 | -31.8% |
| Average Length of stay in B&B - Singles (nights) | 35.3 | 24.6 | -30.3% |
| Average Length of stay in B&B - Families (nights) | 9.4 | 7.4 | -21.3% |

There has been a significant increase in the number of B&B placements made in 2021/22, the majority of these placements were made in Q4 2021/22 when the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol was triggered.

Despite the above, the average length of stay in B&B for both single and family applicants decreased by 31.8% from 2020/21. This shows that although more placements were made into B&B, HOST were proactive in moving individuals/households on to either temporary accommodation, supported accommodation, or settled accommodation.

Rough Sleepers

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2020/21** | **2021/22** | **% change** |
| Number of rough sleepers reported during the year | 160 | 143 | -10.6% |
| Number of visits to reports of rough sleepers during the year | 623 | 235 | -62.3% |
| Number of rough sleepers re-housed in the year | 13 | 15 | 15.4% |
| Number of actual rough sleepers at the end of the year | 3 | 2 | -33.3% |

As part of the DLUCH Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding, Trafford Council carry out a rough sleeper count every two months. These counts are facilitated using HOST and Housing Strategy & Growth staff. The most recent rough sleeper count was conducted on 28th July 2022 and 3 rough sleepers were found. All three individuals were offered support by HOST.

The figure for the number of actual rough sleepers is taken from information provided by the Rough Sleeper Team. There are currently 2 entrenched rough sleepers in Trafford who are both well known to the service but have so far refused to accept offers of assistance.

The number of visits to reports of rough sleepers has decreased in 2021/22. This is the result of the extra capacity within the Rough Sleeper Team which means staff can provide more intensive support to rough sleepers to reduce the chances of them returning to the streets. This approach has proven successful which has led to a reduction in number of visits overall.

The expansion of the Rough Sleeper Team in Trafford has helped to reduce the actual number of rough sleepers in 2021/22. It is hoped this will continue and the target of 0 rough sleepers will be achieved in the coming years.

# Homelessness in Trafford 2021/22

Since the Homelessness Strategy was launched in March 2019, the data collected by DLUCH has changed and the original P1E form has been replaced with H-CLIC. A summary of the analysis of the H-CLIC data available for Trafford has been undertaken.

**Initial Assessment**

Most homeless applicants in 2021/22 lost their last settled home due to family or friends no longer being willing/able to accommodate them, which has remained the most common reason for homeless applications in the borough for the last 4 years.

In 2021/22, most homeless applicants were residing with family at the point they approached Housing Options Service Trafford for assistance.

Most applicants owed a homelessness duty by Trafford Council in 2021/22 were registered unemployed.

Most homeless applicants owed a duty in 2021/22 were single males.

The number of homeless applicants owed a Relief duty in 2021/22 remained steady compared to 2020/21, while the number of applicants owed a Prevention Duty increased by 41.5%.

**Prevention Duty**

The most common reason for ending the Prevention Duty in 2021/22 was the applicant securing accommodation for 6+ months, closely followed by the household becoming homeless. The number of cases where the Prevention Duty ended due to contact with the customer being lost more than doubled in 2021/22.

Most households owed a Prevention Duty in 2021/22 secured social rented sector accommodation. There was a decrease in the number of households securing private rented sector accommodation and of those staying with family in 2021/22 when compared to previous years.

The main activities that resulted in accommodation being secured for those owed a Prevention Duty in 2021/22 was other financial payments issued by the Council and accommodation being secured by Housing Options Service Trafford.

**Relief Duty**

The main reason for the Relief Duty ending in 2021/22 was the 56-day legal time limit elapsing. As settled accommodation was not secured within the Relief Duty, these applications would go on to be assessed for the Main Duty. The second most common reason for the Relief Duty ending was the applicant’s securing accommodation for 6+ months.

Most households owed a Relief Duty in 2021/22 secured social rented accommodation, which ended their homelessness duty.

The main activity that resulted in accommodation being secured for those owed a Relief Duty in 2021/22 was accommodation being secured by HOST. There was a decrease in households who secured accommodation due to financial assistance being provided and due to no activity being undertaken.

**Main Duty**

Most Main Duty decisions made in 2021/22 determined the applicant was homeless, in priority need, and unintentionally homeless and therefore owed the Main Duty. There was a decrease in 2021/22 in those found to be intentionally homeless, not in priority need, and those deemed to be not homeless.

The most common reason for households being found to be in priority need in 2021/22 was that the household included dependent children. The second most common reason was that the applicant was vulnerable because of mental health problems. There was a significant increase in households being found to be in priority need due to being ‘vulnerable with children’.

The majority of households owed the Main Duty in 2021/22 accepted an offer of suitable social rented accommodation, which ended the homelessness duty. There was a 94% decrease in main duty applicants accepting offers of private rented accommodation in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21.

# Delivery of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan

The delivery of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan is being led by the Homeless Champions Group (HCG). Several Task & Finish groups have been established to drive forward the delivery of the Action Plan, which include:

1. Prevent Homelessness
2. Rough Sleepers
3. B&B and Temporary Accommodation
4. Employment, Education & Training
5. Health & Wellbeing

# Homelessness Strategy Action Plan Update 2022

A review of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024 has been undertaken to determine what has been achieved, what we are working towards and what we have still left to do. A copy of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan update is contained within Appendix 1.

## What have we achieved?

**Prevent Homelessness**

* Maintain the Trafford Domestic Abuse Forum.
* Continue to offer Floating Support to assist with the prevention of homelessness.
* Establish links and work in partnership with drug and alcohol services, health services, domestic abuse services and the VCSE sector to prevent homelessness.
* Ensure additional support with Universal Credit and related benefits is available so people are aware of the benefits available, how they can apply and how to appeal.
* Continue to work in partnership with the After Care Team to provide a pathway for those homeless Care Leavers.
* All HOST staff have received training in mediation to reduce homelessness where parents, relatives or friends are no long willing or able to accommodate
* Trafford Domestic Abuse Service can offer a Sanctuary Scheme function where required.

**Improve access to Permanent Affordable Accommodation & Supported Homes**

* Develop an Empty Property Strategy for Trafford.
* Continue to operate and promote the Empty Property Match Maker Scheme.

**End Rough Sleeping**

* Offer a bed for the night for all rough sleepers during the winter period (October – March).
* Establish links with faith, community organisations and other partners to enable a bed for every night in winter can be provided in Trafford.
* Ensure Trafford makes use of the available funding through the GM Mayoral Fund.
* Utilise the Social Impact Board (SIB) and Housing First initiatives introduced at a Greater Manchester level.
* Explore the opportunity to establish a ‘pay forward scheme’ with a local café or restaurant as an alternative to giving rough sleepers/beggars on the street.
* Explore the opportunity to establish a card service for rough sleepers to access money donated.
* Explore options to provide ‘A Bed Every Night’ throughout the year regardless of weather.

**Improve Access to Employment, Education and Training**

* Improve links with Trafford College to enable homeless people to access courses.
* Publicise the grants available for homeless people to access college courses.
* Ensure HOST and Job Centre staff are aware of the opportunities available for homeless people in terms of education.
* Explore options for a facility for homeless people where they can prepare for job interviews
* Explore options to provide training courses to homeless people on budgeting, cooking, nutrition and CV writing.
* Explore options to provide driving lessons and specific job-related courses.

**Improve Health & Wellbeing for Homeless People**

* Improve access to substance misuse services for homeless people in Trafford.
* Develop a Mental Health Strategy for Trafford.
* Improve access to mental health services for homeless people in Trafford.
* Improve access to health and GP services for homeless people in Trafford.
* Explore options to introduce a mobile health/therapy clinic that can take services directly to where it is needed.

## What are we underway with?

**Prevent Homelessness**

* Continue to Prevent Homelessness as a priority - The prevention of homelessness continues to be an important part of Housing Options Service Trafford. A Prevent Homelessness Task & Finish Group has been established to ensure that preventing homelessness is a key priority for all stakeholders in Trafford. HOST services have been promoted via social media, the Council and Registered Provider (RP) websites and posters displayed in key locations.
* Explore the options to introduce a Private Landlords Incentive Scheme which will increase tenancy length and security for tenants in the private sector - This action is ongoing. There are several schemes in place which are working well including Trafford’s Bond Scheme, Local Housing Allowance (LHA) Uplift from Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) monies, and the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AFEO) scheme.
* Work in partnership with the Police and Community Safety Team to tackle homelessness due to domestic abuse - HOST are members of the newly formed Domestic Abuse Partnership Board which is also attended by Probation and Police. In addition, the Housing Strategy & Growth Team attends the Domestic Abuse Strategic Forum on a monthly basis alongside representatives from the Police and Community Safety Team.
* Explore options to provide financial and budgeting training for existing tenants to prevent homelessness - All RPs have been contacted and a list of all the financial and budgeting training currently available to their tenants has been collated. Next step is to see if these services can be extended to those people who are not tenants of RP properties.
* Establish links with services for young people to support Trafford’s young people and educate regarding the risks of homelessness - A list of all the school contacts has been supplied to HOST who will undertake visits to schools to provide a briefing session on homelessness.
* Continue to offer Floating Support to assist with the prevention of homelessness – Trafford has 8 Tenancy Support Officers; 3 dedicated to generic tenancy support and 5 focused on specialist cohorts including ex-offenders, domestic abuse victims, asylum seekers, and rough sleepers.
* Establish links and work in partnership with drug and alcohol services, health services, domestic abuse services and the VCSE sector to prevent homelessness – A member of staff from Achieve and Trafford Domestic Abuse Service (TDAS) sit with HOST on a weekly basis. HOST have also formed links with Blusci in Trafford.
* Continue to work in partnership with the After Care Team to provide a pathway for those homeless Care Leavers – A member of staff from HOST sits with the Aftercare team on a weekly basis.

**Improve access to Permanent Affordable Accommodation & Supported Homes**

* Increase the supply of affordable housing including social rent across Trafford – 56 new affordable homes were completed in 2021/22. 604 affordable homes have planning permission in Trafford and construction of 581 of these units has already commenced. Promotion of the Trafford Affordable Housing Fund continues, and RPs are encouraged to provide social rented accommodation in Trafford.
* Continue to utilise the Homes England grants and work in partnership with our Registered Providers to ensure that the supply of affordable housing across Trafford increases – Trafford Council continues to work with RPs and Homes England to encourage the development of affordable housing (including social rented) across the borough.
* Continue to promote the Trafford Affordable Housing Fund - Trafford Affordable Housing Fund was established in September 2018 and combines all affordable housing planning contributions made via a S106. The Fund is promoted quarterly with the Strategic Housing Partnership. A review of the criteria now allows for RPs and the Council to utilise the Fund alongside other grants.
* Work with Registered Providers and developers to support the ambition to increase private rented accommodation and actively promote Build for Rent, supported through the Homes England Homebuilding Fund – This action is ongoing and is discussed at the Strategic Housing Partnership and Increase Housing Delivery Group.
* Encourage Registered Providers to offer a high quality management agent (landlord) service to private landlords - GM Ethical Lettings Agency (Let Us) established which brings together GM RPs to provide a management services for landlords in GM. The Council’s Housing Strategy & Growth Team meets with Let Us quarterly to promote uptake in the borough.
* Address the stock condition in the Private Sector using the results of the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey - The results of the last Private Sector Stock Condition have enabled the Housing Standards Team to develop area actions plans to address property conditions within the Private Sector.

* Increase the provision of good quality Private Rented Sector accommodation across Trafford – A successful bid was made to source 10 private rented properties through Approved Property Group and rent to clients with a 20% LHA uplift provided.
* Continue to operate the Bond scheme for tenants looking to access the private rented sector - HOST assisted 24 customers with cash deposits and 48 customers with paper bonds in 2021/22.
* Explore options to bring empty properties back into use as affordable accommodation using available powers - A scoring matrix has been used to determine the priority status of each empty properties in the borough. The Council’s Housing Standards Team continues to work pro-actively to identify ways in which to bring the empty homes back into use.

**Eradicate the use of B&B**

* Aim to eradicate the use of Bed & Breakfast for emergency accommodation in Trafford - The use of B&B has decreased by almost 50% over the last year, however it is still used in exceptional circumstances. HOST continue to explore ways to increase the provision of emergency accommodation.
* Continue to allocate families with children self-contained temporary accommodation as a priority rather than B&B – HOST continue to work hard to prevent families with children being placed in B&B style temporary accommodation.

**Increase the Provision of Temporary Accommodation**

* Increase the provision of temporary accommodation - HOST has increased the portfolio utilising Salix Living and Approved Property Group. This action will be ongoing as HOST continues to increase the temporary accommodation portfolio.
* Work in partnership with RPs and private landlords to increase the provision of temporary accommodation - HOST has a dedicated Private Rented Sector (PRS) officer within the team whose roles is to increase the provision of accommodation within the PRS and engage effectively with landlords.
* Explore options to bring back empty properties for use as temporary accommodation – Housing Standards continue to work with homeowners to bring empty homes back into use. One property has been brought into use; a 4 bed HMO which has been converted to 4 individual flats for use as TA.

**End Rough Sleeping**

* End the need for rough sleeping in Trafford by 2024 in line with the Greater Manchester commitment - Trafford’s number has decreased from 12 in March 2019 to 2 in 2021/22 following intensive work from Trafford’s Rough Sleeper Outreach Workers and Navigators funded by DLUCH Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) monies.
* Ensure there are effective outreach services in Trafford to play a critical role in identifying needs of a rough sleeper at an early stage - St John’s Church in Stretford has provided a comprehensive list of services available to rough sleepers. Trafford has two Rough Sleeper Outreach workers and a Rough Sleeper Navigator who are working intensively with this cohort.
* Ensure those rough sleepers with complex needs and chaotic lifestyles have access to the appropriate support – GMCA has recruited a Dual Diagnosis Worker and an Outreach Nurse with RSI monies. These posts will be shared across the 10 GM boroughs. Trafford also continues to support GM’s Housing First Pilot.
* Explore new ways to create additional spaces to meet short term peaks in demand of rough sleepers – Trafford opened a second A Bed Every Night (ABEN) provision in March 2021. The ABEN scheme now provides 11 bedspaces. HOST access alternative accommodation to address peaks in demand for this type of provision.
* Explore ways for people to donate that do not inadvertently support and encourage street begging – Real Change was put on hold due to Covid-19 pressures and will be picked back up in 2023.
* Work with sofa surfers to prevent rough sleeping - HOST continues to work with sofa surfers who have a homeless application; all clients have a housing options assessment and a Personal Housing Plan formulated in line with HRA. Those clients that may have slept rough are able to access funds aimed at reducing rough sleeper numbers.

**Improve Access to Employment, Education and Training**

* Continue to ensure that homeless people or those not living in-secure tenancies are a priority group for the Trafford Pledge – This action is ongoing.
* Continue to refer people to GM employment projects such as Working Well, Skills for Employment and Motiv8 who provide intensive one to one support working with individuals to overcoming their barriers and provide help to raise confidence, upskill and increase employability - HOST and DWP continue to refer people to the GM employment projects such as Working Well, Skills for Employment and Motivate. DWP have formalised HOST as a referral partner.
* Work with construction employers to ensure there are apprenticeships and careers structures in place - The Construction sub-group has agreed to coordinate all upcoming opportunities through Procure Plus who have Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) funding to create local training hubs in areas where there are a number of projects.

**Improve Health & Wellbeing for Homeless People**

* Work with partners to address the health of homeless people across Trafford - GM Health & Social Care Partnership established to address the wider agenda of health and homelessness across all 10 LAs. Trafford’s ABEN provision provides health support including Hep C awareness, flu vaccinations and Covid-19 support. Trafford will also involve health partners in the upcoming Mobile Health Unit.
* Explore specialist support services that can help those in need and reduce homelessness for those people with a disclosed mental health issue - Trafford now has a Mental Health Strategy and, in response to Covid-19, mental health support in has been extended. The Council is in the process of drafting a Supported Housing Strategy which will include supported housing for individuals with mental health needs.
* Ensure that Trafford is part of the discussions regarding mental health at the GM level as part of the homelessness charter – Trafford is part of the GM wide discussions relating to mental health and accessing services for homeless people.
* Continue to operate the GM Hospital Discharge protocol to ensure adequate notice is given regarding discharge to prevent homelessness and enable officers to find suitable accommodation - GM Hospital Discharge Protocol is in place and working well. There is an officer within HOST who is the main contact for those people admitted to hospital with no fixed abode.

## What do we still need to do?

**Improve Health & Wellbeing for Homeless People**

* Explore the opportunity to provide mindfulness and wellbeing courses for homeless people.
* Utilise the legal duties to ensure health, social care, and related services (including housing) integrate to reduce health inequalities in Trafford.
* Explore the opportunity of dedicated medical centre for homeless people.

**Next Steps**

1. The Homelessness Strategy Action Plan (2019-2024) will continue to be reviewed and updated quarterly and an annual update report produced and published.
2. A quarterly update on the progress of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan will continue to be provided to the Homeless Champions Group.
3. The Task & Finish Groups established to drive forward the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan will continue to meet until the specific task/outcomes have been achieved.

# Trafford_Logo_White_On_Black_SquareAppendix 1

# Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2019-2024A4-Poster-Single-Sided

Annual Review 2022





| **Colour Key:** | **Not Started** | **Underway** | | | **Completed** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | |  |  |  |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| **ACTION 1: PREVENT HOMELESSNESS** | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Continue to Prevent Homelessness as a priority. | | Ongoing | HOST | This action is ongoing.  The following actions have been taken to promote HOST services:   * Regular posts on social media and the white boxes so staffs know where to signpost. * Posters printed and displayed in public buildings. * Review and refresh of the Housing section of Trafford’s website to offer more detailed advice to those facing housing challenges. |
| 1.2 | Explore the introduction of an in-house mediation service, part of HOST, that would reduce homelessness where parents, relatives or friends are no long willing or able to accommodate. | | Spring 2020 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Adult Services, CCG. | **COMPLETED**  All HOST staff have received some training as part of the training for the HRA regarding mediation. HOST continue to look at further training for Officers on an ongoing basis. |
| 1.3 | Explore the options to introduce a Private Landlords Incentive Scheme which will increase tenancy length and security for tenants in the private sector. | | December 2023 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Housing Standards Team, HOST | Overall, the schemes in place such as the rental bond and the LHA uplift from RSI monies are working well.  HOST to attend the landlord forum and promote schemes. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| **ACTION 1: PREVENT HOMELESSNESS** | | | | | |
| 1.4 | Explore setting up a Sanctuary Scheme to enable victims of domestic abuse the opportunity to stay in their home with safe and secure measures thus reducing homelessness. | | Autumn 2020 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST, | **COMPLETED**  TDAS can offer this function where required. |
| 1.5 | Maintain the Trafford Domestic Abuse Forum. | | Ongoing | MARAC, Partnerships Team. | **COMPLETED**  The Forum has been re-named the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group and is well attended. |
| 1.6 | Work in partnership with the Police and Community Safety Team to tackle homelessness due to domestic abuse. | | Ongoing | HOST, GMP, Community Safety Team, Partnerships Team. | HOST also attend the Local DA Partnership Board and MARAC. HOST’s Domestic Abuse Tenancy Support Officer refers directly to Community Safety for target hardening. |
| 1.7 | Continue to offer Floating Support to assist with the prevention of homelessness. | | Ongoing | HOST, Adult Services | Trafford has 8 Tenancy Support Officers; 3 decided to generic support and 5 focused on specialist cohorts including ex-offenders, domestic abuse victims, asylum seekers, and rough sleepers. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 1.8 | Establish links and work in partnership with drug and alcohol services, health services, domestic abuse services and the VCSE sector to prevent homelessness. | | Ongoing | HOST, CCG, VCSE, MARAC, Adult Services | A member of staff from Achieve (Drug and Alcohol services) and Trafford Domestic Abuse Service sit with the HOST team on a weekly basis.  HOST have also formed links with BluSci. |
| 1.9 | Explore options to provide financial and budgeting training for existing tenants to prevent homelessness. | | December 2023 | HOST, RPs | All RPs have been contacted and a list of all the financial and budgeting training currently available to their tenants has been collated.  Tenancy Support provide budgeting and financial advice and refer to external agencies where required. |
| 1.10 | Ensure additional support with Universal Credit and related benefits is available so people are aware of the benefits available, how they can apply and also how to appeal. | | Ongoing | Exchequer Services, DWP, HOST | **COMPLETED**  HOST ensure all customers have appropriate benefits and Tenancy Support assist with applications and appeals.  A DWP worker attends the Homeless Champions Group and complex needs case meetings. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 1.11 | Establish links with services for young people to support Trafford’s young people and educate regarding the risks of homelessness. | | December 2023 | HOST | A list of all the school contacts has been supplied to HOST who are planning to undertake visits to provide a briefing session on homelessness and its affects. HOST also refer to GM Better Outcome Partnership (18–25) and Power2 (16-25). |
| 1.12 | Continue to work in partnership with the After Care Team to provide a pathway for those homeless Care Leavers. | | Ongoing | HOST, Adult Services, Children’s Service, | A member of staff from HOST sits with the Aftercare Team on a weekly basis. |
| **ACTION 2: IMPROVE ACCESS TO PERMANENT AFFORDABLE ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORTED HOMES** | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Increase the supply of affordable housing including social rent across Trafford. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Homes England, RPs. | 56 new affordable homes were completed in 2021/22. 604 affordable homes have planning permission and construction of 581 of these units has already commenced.  Promotion of the Trafford Affordable Housing Fund continues. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 2.2 | Continue to utilise the Homes England grants and work in partnership with our Registered Providers to ensure that the supply of affordable housing across Trafford increases. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Homes England, RPs. | Trafford Council continues to work with RPs and Homes England to encourage the development of affordable (including social rent) across the borough. |
| 2.3 | Continue to promote the Trafford Affordable Housing Fund. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, SHP, RPs | The Trafford Affordable Housing Fund is promoted quarterly with the Strategic Housing Partnership.  A review of the criteria now allows for RPs and the Council to utilise the Fund alongside other grants. |
| 2.4 | Work with Registered Providers and developers to support the ambition to increase private rented accommodation and actively promote Build for Rent, supported through the Homes England Homebuilding Fund. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Homes England, RPs, Housing Standards Team. | This action is ongoing and discussed at the Strategic Housing Partnership and Increase Housing Delivery Group. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 2.5 | Encourage Registered Providers to offer a high-quality management agent (landlord) service to private landlords. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Homes England, RPs, Housing Standards Team. | GM Ethical Lettings Agency established which brings together GM RPs to provide management services for landlords in GM. |
| 2.6 | Address the stock condition in the Private Sector using the results of the Private Sector Stock Condition Survey. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, RPs, Housing Standards Team, Private Landlords. | The results of the last Private Sector Stock Condition have enabled the Housing Standards Team to develop area actions plans to address property conditions within the Private Sector. |
| 2.7 | Increase the provision of good quality Private Rented Sector accommodation across Trafford. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Homes England, RPs, Housing Standards Team. | Successful bid made to source 10 private rented properties through Approved property group and rent to clients with a 20% LHA uplift provided. |
| 2.8 | Continue to operate the Bond scheme for tenants looking to access the private rented sector. | | Ongoing | HOST | The Rental Bond scheme with continue. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 2.9 | Develop an Empty Property Strategy for Trafford. | | December 2019 | Housing Standards Team, Housing Strategy & Growth Team. | **COMPLETED**  Strategy has been developed and launched in November 2019. |
| 2.10 | Explore options to back empty properties into use as affordable accommodation using available powers. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Legal, Housing Standards Team, RPs, Developers. | A scoring matrix has been used to determine the priority status of each empty properties in the borough. The Council’s Housing Standards Team continues to work pro-actively to identify ways in which to bring the empty homes back into use. |
| 2.11 | Continue to operate and promote the Empty Property Match Maker Scheme. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Housing Standards team, Communications and Marketing Team. | **COMPLETED**  Trafford’s Empty Property Match Maker Scheme has been launched and regular social media posts regarding the scheme are in place. |
| **ACTION 3: ERADICATE THE USE OF B&B** | | | | | |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 3.1 | Aim to eradicate the use of Bed & Breakfast for emergency accommodation in Trafford. | | March 2024 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST | The use of B&B has decreased by almost 50% over the last year, however it is still used in exceptional circumstances.  HOST continue to explore ways to increase the provision of emergency accommodation. |
| 3.2 | Continue to allocate families with children self-contained temporary accommodation as a priority rather than B&B. | | Ongoing | HOST | HOST work hard to ensure alternative temporary accommodation is offered to households including children. |
| **ACTION 4: INCREASE THE PROVISION OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION** | | | | | |
| 4.1 | Increase the provision of temporary accommodation. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, Homes England, HOST, RPs | HOST increased the portfolio by an additional 20 units during 2019/20.  HOST continue to explore opportunities to increase temporary accommodation provision with both registered providers and private landlords. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 4.2 | Work in partnership with RPs and private landlords to increase the provision of temporary accommodation. | | Ongoing | HOST, RPs, Private Landlords | HOST has a dedicated PRS officer within the team whose roles is to increase the provision of accommodation within the PRS and engage effectively with landlords. |
| 4.3 | Explore options to bring back empty properties for use as temporary accommodation. | | Ongoing | HOST, RPs, Private Landlords | Housing Standards continue to work with homeowners to bring empty homes back into use. One property has been brought into use – a 4 bed HMO which has been converted to 4 individual flats for use as TA. |
| **ACTION 5: END ROUGH SLEEPING** | | | | | |
| 5.1 | End the need for rough sleeping in Trafford by 2024 in line with the Greater Manchester commitment. | | Ongoing | HOST, GMCA | Trafford’s number has decreased from 12 in March 2019 to 2 in 2021/22 following intensive work from Trafford’s Rough Sleeper Outreach Workers and Navigators funded by DLUCH Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) monies. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 5.2 | Ensure there are effective outreach services in Trafford to play a critical role in identifying needs of a rough sleeper at an early stage. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Adults Services, HOST, CCG, Voluntary Sector | St John’s Church in Stretford has provided a comprehensive list of services available to rough sleepers.  Trafford has two Rough Sleeper Outreach workers and a Rough Sleeper Navigator who are working intensively with this cohort. |
| 5.3 | Ensure those rough sleepers with complex needs and chaotic lifestyles have access to the appropriate support. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Adults Services, HOST, CCG, Voluntary Sector | GMCA, through Rough Sleeper Initiative monies, have recruited Dual Diagnosis Workers and Outreach Nurses to be shared across the GM boroughs.  Trafford are also investigating the possibility of commissioning supported accommodation units specifically for those with high level/complex needs. |
| 5.4 | Ensure Trafford utilise the Social Impact Board (SIB) and Housing First initiatives introduced at a Greater Manchester level. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Adults Services, HOST, CCG, Voluntary Sector | **COMPLETED**  Trafford is working with the SIB to maintain support once the project has decommissioned. Trafford have used the allocation for Housing First referrals. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 5.5 | Explore new ways to create additional spaces to meet short term peaks in demand of rough sleepers. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, Adults Services, HOST, CCG, Voluntary Sector | Trafford opened a second A Bed Every Night (ABEN) provision in March 2021. The ABEN scheme now provides 11 bedspaces.  HOST access alternative accommodation to address peaks in demand for this type of provision. |
| 5.6 | Explore ways for people to donate that do not inadvertently support and encourage street begging. | | December 2023 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST, Partnership Team, Real Change. | Real Change was put on hold due to Covid-19. This action will be re-looked at in 2023. |
| 5.7 | Explore the opportunity to establish a ‘pay forward scheme’ with a local café or restaurant as an alternative to giving rough sleepers/beggars on the street. | | December 2019 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST, Partnership Team, Real Change. | **COMPLETED**  This was explored and the group decided it wouldn’t be viable due to risks that may incur with theft and bullying as well as large numbers of rough sleepers congregating at participating venues. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 5.8 | Explore the opportunity to establish a card service for rough sleepers to access money donated. | | December 2019 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST, Partnership Team, Real Change. | **COMPLETED**  This was explored and the group decided it wouldn’t be viable due to risks that may incur with theft and bullying. |
| 5.9 | Offer a bed for the night for all rough sleepers during the winter period (October – March). | | Ongoing | RPs, HOST, GMCA | **COMPLETED**  Trafford have two units providing 11 bed spaces for ABEN. ABEN will remain open every night until March 2025. |
| 5.10 | Establish links with faith, community organisations and other partners to enable a bed for every night in winter can be provided in Trafford. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST, Partnership Team. | **COMPLETED**  Action no longer necessary as funding from GMCA has ensured accommodation is available. |
| 5.11 | Explore options to provide ‘a bed every night’ throughout the year regardless of weather. | | Dec 2020 | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST, Partnership Team, GMCA. | **COMPLETED**  This provision is in place. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 5.12 | Ensure Trafford makes use of the available funding through the GM Mayoral Fund. | | Ongoing | Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST. | **COMPLETED**  Trafford have a grant agreement in place with GMCA to receive monies for the mayoral fund for ABEN. |
| 5.13 | Work with sofa surfers to prevent rough sleeping | | Ongoing | HOST | All customers have a housing options assessment with a Personal Housing Plan formulated in line with the HRA.  Those at risk of rough sleeping, including sofa surfers, can access funds aimed at reducing rough sleeper numbers. |
| **ACTION 6: IMPROVE ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING** | | | | | |
| 6.1 | Continue to ensure that homeless people or those not living in-secure tenancies are a priority group for the Trafford Pledge. | | Ongoing | Strategic Growth Service, TEES. | This will continue. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 6.2 | Continue to refer people to GM employment projects such as Working Well, Skills for Employment and Motiv8 who provide intensive one to one support working with individuals to overcoming their barriers and provide help to raise confidence, upskill and increase employability. | | Ongoing | HOST, DWP, Job Centre, RPs, Probation Service | HOST have contacts with the employment projects and will continue to refer customer who need this support. |
| 6.3 | Improve links with Trafford College to enable homeless people to access courses. | | December 2019 | HOST, Trafford College. | **COMPLETED**  Links with Trafford College have been established. |
| 6.4 | Explore options to provide training courses to individuals at risk of homelessness, and those recently resettled following homelessness, on budgeting, cooking, nutrition and CV writing. | | Summer 2022 | HOST, Trafford College, RPs, Partnership Team. | **COMPLETED**  The Employment, Education, and Training Task & Finish Group established there are no such courses available to this cohort in Trafford. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 6.5 | Explore options to provide driving lessons and specific job-related courses. | | March 2022 | HOST, Trafford College, DWP, Job Centre | **COMPLETED**  The Employment, Education, and Training Task & Finish Group established there are no such courses available in Trafford. |
| 6.6 | Explore options for a facility for individuals at risk of homelessness, and that recently resettled following homelessness, where they can prepare for job interviews. | | March 2021 | HOST, Housing Strategy & Growth Team, RPs | **COMPLETED**  A facility has been established within Stretford Mall called ‘Working Wardrobe’ which allows homeless people and those on low incomes to access clothing for interviews. |
| 6.7 | Publicise the grants available for homeless people/ individuals at risk of homelessness, and that recently resettled following homelessness, to access college courses. | | Ongoing | HOST | **COMPLETED**  Trafford has explored this action and unfortunately Trafford College have confirmed that there aren’t any specific grants that could be publicised. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 6.8 | Ensure HOST and Job Centre staff are aware of the opportunities available for homeless people in terms of education. | | Ongoing | HOST, Job Centre, DWP. | **COMPLETED**  DWP liaise with HOST and the Homeless Champions Group to ensure up to date information continues to be available. |
| 6.9 | Work with construction employers to ensure there are apprenticeships and careers structures in place. | | Ongoing | Construction Sub-Group, Inclusive Growth Board, SHP, RPs. | This action is ongoing. |
| **ACTION 7: IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE** | | | | | |
| 7.1 | Work with partners to address the health of homeless people across Trafford. | | March 2024 | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, HOST, VCSE, RPs | GM Health & Social Care Partnership established to address the wider agenda of health and homelessness across all 10 LAs. Trafford’s ABEN provision provides health support including Hep C awareness, flu vaccinations and Covid-19 support.  Trafford will also involve health partners in the upcoming Mobile Health Unit which will visit temporary accommodation schemes & B&Bs to offer health services |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 7.2 | Improve access to mental health services for homeless people in Trafford. | | Ongoing | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST | **COMPLETED**  HOST utilise GMCA’s Dual Diagnosis Workers and Outreach Nurses. In addition, Trafford bid for additional monies to set up a Mobile Health Unit which will aim to link homeless people in with local health services. |
| 7.3 | Explore specialist support services that can help those in need and reduce homelessness for those people with a disclosed mental health issue. | | December 2023 | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST | Trafford now has a Mental Health Strategy and, in response to Covid-19, mental health support in has been extended.  The Council is consulting on a draft Supported Housing Strategy which includes supported housing for individuals with mental health needs. |
| 7.4 | Develop a Mental Health Strategy for Trafford. | | March 2020 | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST | **COMPLETED**  Strategy has been developed. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Updates** |
| 7.5 | Ensure that Trafford is part of the discussions regarding mental health at the GM level as part of the homelessness charter. | | Ongoing | HOST | Trafford is part of GM wide discussions relating to Mental Health and accessing services for homeless people. |
| 7.6 | Improve access to substance misuse services for homeless people in Trafford. | | Ongoing | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, Housing Strategy & Growth Team, HOST | **COMPLETED**  A member of staff from Achieve (Drug and Alcohol services) sits with the HOST team on a weekly basis.  Achieve are also involved in the upcoming Mobile Health Unit which will further improve access to their service for Trafford’s homeless cohort. |
| 7.7 | Explore the opportunity to provide mindfulness and wellbeing courses for homeless people. | | December 2023 | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, HOST | Action still to commence. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 7.8 | Continue to operate the GM Hospital Discharge protocol to ensure adequate notice is given regarding discharge to prevent homelessness and enable officers to find suitable accommodation. | | Ongoing | HOST, CCG, NHS | GM Hospital discharge protocol in place and there is an officer within HOST who is the main contact for those people admitted to hospital with no fixed abode. |
| 7.9 | Utilise the legal duties to ensure health, social care and related services (including housing) integrate to reduce health inequalities in Trafford. | | Ongoing | Adult Services, CCG, NHS, HOST | Action still to commence. |
| 7.10 | Explore the opportunity of dedicated medical centre for homeless people. | | December 2023 | CCG, NHS | Action still to commence. |
| 7.11 | Improve access to health and GP services for homeless people. | | Ongoing | CCG, NHS | **COMPLETED**  HOST ensure all customers are registered with a GP as part of the assessment. They also have links with a local dentist who provides free treatment to the homeless cohort.  The upcoming Mobile Health Unit will also assist with this action. |
| **Ref.** | **Action** | | **By when** | **By who** | **Update** |
| 7.12 | Explore options to introduce a mobile health/therapy clinic that can take services directly to where it is needed. | | December 2022 | CCG, NHS | **COMPLETED**  Trafford were successful in a bid for funding to enable to creation of a Mobile Health Unit which will visit temporary accommodation, supported accommodation, refuges, and B&B in the borough to deliver health initiatives. It is anticipated the unit will be launched by October 2022. |

1. [Cost of living crisis and homelessness - St Mungo's (mungos.org)](https://www.mungos.org/cost-of-living-crisis-and-homelessness/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
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4. <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/2257/gm-housing-strategy-2019-2024.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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