Guiding Principle 2: Prevention
The best way to tackle homelessness is to stop it happening in the first place, particularly where there are known routes into homelessness like leaving prison or fleeing domestic abuse. There are already housing and support pathways in place including some bespoke ones that focus on young people and those fleeing domestic abuse and sexual violence. Is there more we could do?

Approach 7: Clear, Complete and Meaningful Housing and Support Pathways are in Place to Meet All Needs

You said & Evidence Summary
- **Young People**: Identified as the highest priority cohort by key stakeholders; and meeting the needs of young people identified as a main challenge/barrier by key stakeholders. Vulnerable older adolescents are identified as a current issue by Safer Cornwall.
- **Mental Health**: Identified as the 3rd highest priority cohort, a main challenge/barrier and a future issue by key stakeholders and identified by service users as a main cause of their homelessness.
- **Single People**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders.
- **Potential and New Rough Sleepers**: Identified as a current issue by key stakeholders. Upstream prevention measures finding solutions for sofa surfers are also a key tool for tackling flow rough sleeping - it is likely the marked reduction in flow rough sleepers this year has been influenced by the Nos da Kernow outcomes that offer up housing solutions for this group. Upstream prevention measures mitigating the drivers for losing PRS accommodation need to be considered a key solution to tackling flow rough sleeping - this needs to include a focus on mitigating the impact of relationship breakdown (Single Homelessness Survey 2017).
- **Families/Single Parent Families**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders.
- **Those Discharged from Prison**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders; the housing of offenders is identified as a current issue by Safer Cornwall and is subject to a new performance metric; MHCLG have identified concerns around female offenders.
- **Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders.
- **Care Leavers**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders.
- **Individuals with Addictions**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders. Addiction to alcohol and drugs is cited as the second biggest reason for becoming homeless (31% of all respondents) (Single Homelessness Survey 2017)
- **Ex-Service Personnel**: Identified as a priority cohort by key stakeholders.
- **Older People**: Identified as a priority by key stakeholders.
- **Disability**: Identified as a priority by key stakeholders.
- **LGBT**: Identified as a potential issue through evidence base.
- **Couples**: Identified as potential issue through evidence base.
- **Hospital Discharge**: Identified as potential issue through evidence base.
- **Non UK nationals**: Identified as a potential issue through evidence base and identified in MHCLG plan.
- **Single homelessness Survey 2017 - Relationship breakdown is cited as the main reason (42% of all respondents) for why they became homeless. Addiction to alcohol and drugs is cited as the second biggest reason for becoming homeless (31% of all respondents). Support needs for finding accommodation and for mental health supersedes all other needs for our respondents. Upstream prevention measures mitigating the drivers for losing PRS accommodation need to be considered a key solution to tackling flow rough sleeping - this needs to include a focus on mitigating the impact of relationship breakdown. Self-identified support needs for mental health with 46 respondents stating they need support with this and less than half feeling they receive support with this. 15 respondents stated they had been in local authority care as young person - 13 of these stated they had slept rough the night before the survey.

Why - costs and benefits
- Homelessness Strategy guidance is clear - the local preventing homelessness strategy should concern itself with all client groups. It should seek to promote the delivery of improved and improving services to both statutory and non-statutory homeless people in the local area.
- Preventing people sleeping rough in the first place is seen as vitally important in reducing the overall numbers of rough sleepers in Cornwall. As well as providing assistance to individuals whose primary need is accommodation, efforts must be made to engage with those who are at risk of rough sleeping through their situation (vulnerably housed, sofa surfers) or their support needs (poor mental health, substance misuse, low motivation).

What has been achieved to date
- There is a current Homelessness Strategy in place that runs until March 2020;
- Housing and support pathways are in place including for young people and for those fleeing domestic violence & sexual abuse
- Local needs assessments – Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence, Drug & Alcohol Addiction, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, etc....
- Children Schools and Families are funding a mediation course in which Cornwall Housing, Nos Da Kernow and Supported Accommodation Providers will be attending. New contracts will be in place from the 1st April for supported accommodation, offering support to young people, young parents and families that present as homeless. Transition Support is part of this. Learning Partnership are the contract holder for our “11+” contract, which includes information, advice and guidance to 11-25 year olds, including advice on housing;
- Adult Social Care have re-designed their commissioning intentions in terms of prevention. The budget and responsibility for the outreach and crisis provision transferred from Adult Social Care to Housing Strategy and Partnerships in April 2019. This will allow Housing Strategy and Partnerships to take a more streamlined approach to the commissioning of services for rough sleepers and homeless people. The existing outreach contract comes to an end September 2019 and from October 2019 a new contract will be in place that extends the service from street outreach only, to include support for people at risk of rough sleeping (taking Nos Da Kernow forward), street outreach and resettlement support (including support for people in Housing First properties following the pilot).
- A Rough Sleeping Reduction Strategy runs until March 2020 key aim was to 'prevent rough sleeping by minimising the flow of new homeless people onto the streets and preventing a return to sleeping rough after a period of settled accommodation. The accompanying action plan included:
  - Action 1 - Develop and deliver the Nos Da (No First Night Out) project;
  - Action 3 - CHL to provide an additional dedicated Housing Options Officer within the existing rough sleeper service;
Where do we want to be?

- There should be clear, complete and meaningful housing and support pathways in place for specific groups of service users that have been identified through the review of homelessness.
- Trends in homelessness are used to identify any other cohorts that may require their own housing and support pathway.

Context & Notes

External Factors

- MHCLG Delivery Plan: have a number of plans in place to support a number of cohorts including offenders, care leavers, vulnerable persons and those fleeing domestic abuse:
  - DWP/Moj: Improve the support available to prisoners prior to release through the New Futures Network;
  - DWP/Moj: improve the current prisoner benefit claim process to ensure they have timely access to financial support on release through advance payments where needed.
  - Female Offender Strategy: work with local and national partners to develop a pilot for ‘residential women’s centres’ and National Concordat on Female Offenders;
  - Prison Governors’ accommodation on release’ performance metric from 2019/20
  - MHCLG pilots in small resettlement prisons to support offenders who have been identified as being at risk of rough sleeping on release - pilot ends March 2022.
  - Funding £3.2 million in 47 areas to employ specialist personal advisers to provide intensive support, appropriate to the needs of the most at risk care leavers.
  - Next steps in supporting victims of domestic abuse will be set out in the first annual refresh of the Government’s Rough Sleeping Strategy
  - New specific training packages focussed on identifying and supporting vulnerable groups, including victims of modern slavery and domestic abuse
  - Training for front-line staff on how to deal with unpredictable environments, for instance with clients under the influence of New Psychoactive Substances such as Spice (Summer 2019)
  - Training and non-statutory guidance around LGBT issues and how to most effectively support individual. (Summer 2019)
  - Research into hospital discharge and primary care is underway, with publication expected in January 2019 and July 2019 respectively.
  - Launch of a new £5 million fund to help local areas take action to help non-UK nationals who sleep rough off the streets.
  - Training for staff on how to support non-UK nationals, including ensuring they access the full range of support they are entitled to (Summer 2019)
  - Add in outcomes expected from MHCLG delivery plan by March 2020....
  - Cornwall is developing a new Mental Health Strategy
  - Consultation on access to social housing for members of the armed forces, veterans and their families (9th January to 8th March 2019)
  - Consultation on ‘Tackling Homelessness together: A consultation on structures that support partnership working and accountability in homelessness’.

- Single Homelessness Survey 2017 identified that there has been a marked reduction in the number of people who stated they slept rough the night before the single homelessness survey was completed - falling by 34% on the previous year. Upstream prevention measures finding solutions for sofa surfers are also a key tool for tackling flow rough sleeping - it is likely the marked reduction in flow rough sleepers this year has been influenced by the Nos da Kernow outcomes that offer up housing solutions for this group
- Resettlement services are key to delivering support pathways for rough sleepers and have been established in Camborne, Truro and Penzance.
- Rough Sleeping Initiatives Action Plan - Appoint a dedicated Rough Sleeper Coordinator; Organise & report bi-monthly and annual counts of rough sleepers; Organise a regular (Monthly) multi-agency case working group for those rough sleeping cases that are most complex and/or of highest concern; Elicit Member engagement; Assemble Team (Coastline); Prepare property (Bassett Road - Coastline); Recruit 2 Assertive Outreach Workers (St Petroc’s); Identify accommodation for use as CWP (St Petroc’s); Deliver 29 bedspaces of short-term temporary accommodation with resettlement support; Deliver a landlord liaison role via CHL; Nos Da Kernow – No First Night Out - Procure future service via ASC commissioning; Additional Prevention & engagement Officers dedicated to rough sleeping service.

- Cornwall Council has signed the ‘Homes for Cathy Housing Association’ Operational Delivery Programme Gold Standard
- Cornwall is developing a new Mental Health Strategy
- MHCLG pilots in small resettlement prisons to support offenders who have been identified as being at risk of rough sleeping on release - pilot ends March 2022.
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