

Homelessness Strategy

2011-2016



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1. Introduction

1.1 The 2002 Homelessness Act introduced a requirement on Local Authorities to ensure that they took a strategic approach to dealing with the issue of homelessness within their Borough.

This is to be done by:

- carrying out a review of homelessness within their area; and
- producing a Homelessness Strategy based on the findings of this review.



The Act goes on to state that the purpose of this strategic approach is around:

- preventing homelessness in the district of the authority;
- securing that accommodation is or will be available for people in the district who are or may become homeless; and
- providing support for people in the district (who are or may become homeless).

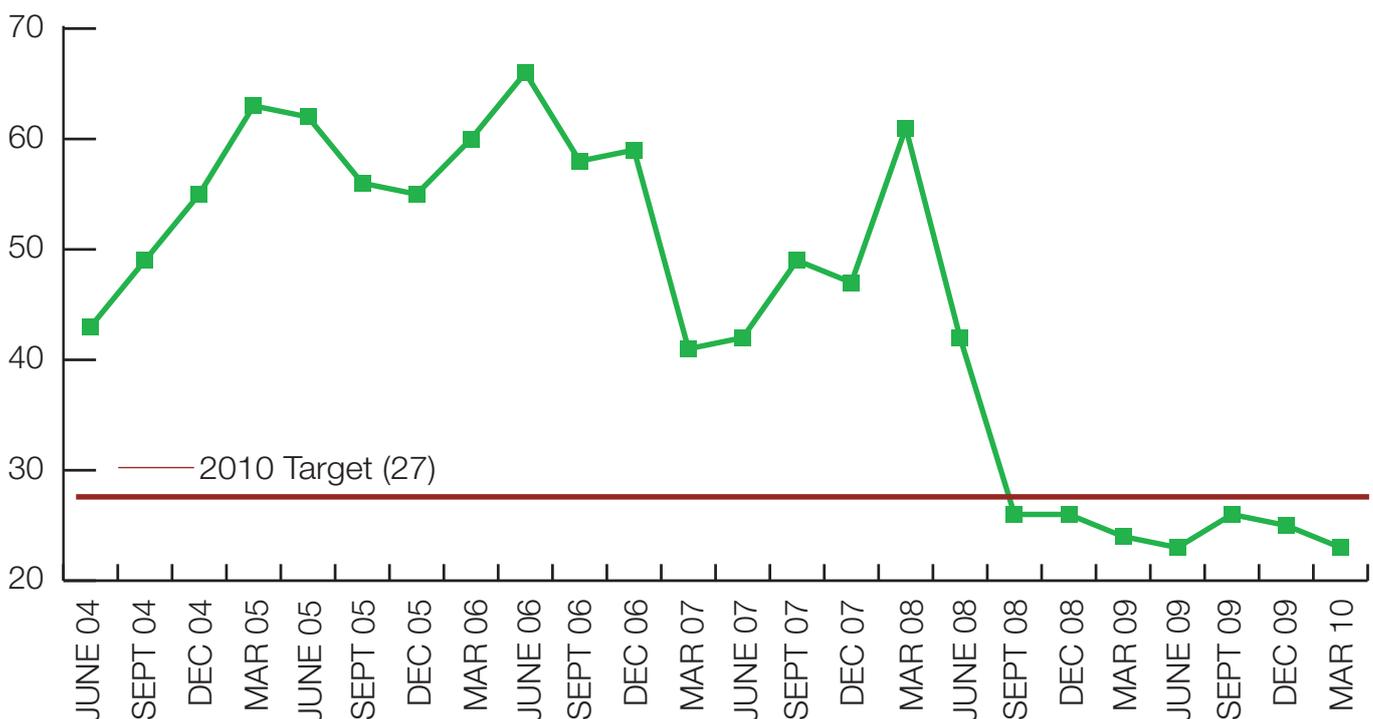
1.2 The legislation requires that homelessness strategies must run for up to a maximum period of five years. In 2003 a decision was taken to produce Stockport's first strategy for a three year period as it was thought that the environment, both nationally and locally, was developing rapidly and so a further review of the situation would be needed sooner. This was replicated in the 2007 strategy, but this 2011 strategy will cover a five year period. This is due to the current unpredictable economic climate, and anticipated changes to funding that may make service delivery more challenging; however there is an option to undertake an earlier review if required.

1.3 The last Homelessness Strategy was also produced to satisfy a number of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) set by central government, including homelessness prevention and repeat homelessness. These were replaced by the National Indicator set in 2008, of which homelessness services directly contribute to one – NI156: numbers of households in temporary accommodation. NI156 has been included in recent government business plans, so remains a priority. Additionally the old BVPIs continue to be monitored on a local level to highlight key areas of performance

BVPI	Description	2007/08	BVPI Discontinued – now monitored as local indicators	2008/09	2009/10
183a	Households in bed-and-breakfast	0		0	0
183b	Households in shared temporary accommodation	2.5 weeks		1.5 weeks	0
202	Estimate of rough sleepers	1		2	0
203	Average % change in number of households in temporary accommodation	-9%		See NI156	See NI156
213	Cases of homelessness prevention in relation to Borough population (per 1000)	2.5 (314 cases)		3.9 (485 cases)	4.2 (515 cases)
214	Repeat homelessness cases (priority need)	1.3 (2 cases)		0 (0 cases)	0 (0 cases)

1.4 Stockport achieved the National Indicator 156 target (27) in September 2008; one and a half years prior to the deadline. Additionally, it achieved its local target (23) by 2010, as anticipated. This is an overall reduction of 58%, or 62% when looked at proportionately per 1,000 households in the Borough. Early indications in late 2010 however are that this indicator is now under significant pressure, and therefore in the forthcoming financial year it will have to be revised upwards.

Numbers in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter



1.5 Alongside NI156, the Homelessness Strategy and services delivered by the Housing Options Team also contribute to a number of other indicators, including:

National Indicator	Lead agency	Housing Options Team contribution
NI142: Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living	Stockport Homes	Housing Support Point; support planning in temporary accommodation; homelessness prevention
NI46: Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	Youth Offending Team	Joint working protocol; dedicated officer for offenders
NI143: Offenders under Probation supervision living in settled and suitable accommodation at the end of their order or license	Probation	Joint working protocol; dedicated officer for offenders
NI145: Adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation	Social Care	Joint working protocol offering withheld properties
NI146: Care leavers in suitable accommodation	Social Care	Joint working protocol offering withheld properties

2. The Context

2.1 Since the 2007 Homelessness Strategy there has not been a new national strategy for tackling homelessness, but developments in other areas have influenced the way services are delivered.

An 'enhanced housing options' approach has been encouraged by the Government; this suggested that housing options services take an holistic approach to addressing homelessness in their area, such as by providing complementary health, employment and financial advice alongside traditional housing services. These issues are explored in depth in the Homelessness Review.



2.2 With the change in government in May 2010, a new climate and set of priorities has had to be considered. The main priority for the incoming government has been tackling the budget deficit, primarily through reduced spending to services including welfare benefits; initial indicators appear to show increasing pressures on housing options and homelessness services. The Housing Minister has indicated that some degree of priority will be afforded to ending rough sleeping and tackling worklessness, as well as taking forward the government's 'Big Society' agenda by giving an increasing role to the charitable and voluntary sectors. Utilising these sectors is one way in which the strategy must look to combat reduced funding in traditional public sector services such as Supporting People, which is a common thread running through this strategy.

2.3 Despite the lack of a current overarching national Homelessness Strategy, there have been several key updates in homelessness case law which have indicated some areas of focus for this Homelessness Strategy. For example, case law has led to a decision that all lone, homeless 16-17 year olds should be assessed by Social Services under the Children's Act to determine whether they are deemed vulnerable enough to become 'looked after' by the state. In most cases this will lead to a reduction in young people accommodated by the housing authority, but increased problems with regards to commissioning suitable accommodation for this age group. Additionally there have been decisions around the eligibility status of EU members, and on-going cases about the definition of and legal remedies which can be offered to victims of domestic violence. These decisions will all have an influence upon the ways homeless applications are assessed, and for the preventative measures that need to be developed by this strategy.

2.4 As homelessness has been demonstrated to not exist in isolation from other issues, this strategy has been designed to link in with a number of other policy and strategy areas. For example:

Stockport Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11

The Stockport LAA states Stockport's key challenges to be building a competitive economy; creating a more socially inclusive community; and improving the quality of Stockport's environment. The LAA encompasses National Indicators around education, employment, safety and economy; the Homelessness Strategy therefore will link with these areas.

Stockport Housing Strategy 2010-15

The Stockport Housing Strategy provides an overview of the key housing issues in Stockport and how it plans to address them. The Homelessness Strategy can form strategic links with priorities to facilitate regeneration, improvement and investment in deprived neighbourhoods.

Stockport Allocations Policy Review

The Allocations Policy Review has been underway throughout the same time period as this strategy; therefore joint recommendations are included in the action plan of this document. The review aims to ensure that allocations are fair and seen to be fair, whilst also promoting mixed communities and incentives to work.

Stockport Working Communities Strategy

The Working Communities Strategy describes what action Stockport Homes is going to take to help people: develop their skills and confidence; get experience of work through placements and other opportunities; and apply for work and be supported to stay in work. Again, the action plan in this strategy makes direct links to achieve mutual aims.

Stockport Supporting People Strategy

Supporting People continues to be both an important partner and funding source for several services within Stockport Homes, including the three temporary accommodation schemes. However with the removal of the ring fence around Supporting People funding and forthcoming budget cuts, it is anticipated that resources could become more scarce, and competition and demand for contracts higher than previously.

No One Left Out: Communities Ending Rough Sleeping (National Rough Sleeping Strategy)

The outgoing Government produced this strategy with the overall target of ending rough sleeping by 2012, and the new Housing Minister has further emphasised tackling rough sleeping as a priority. This has included a review of the frequency and way in which rough sleepers are recorded on street counts, which may lead to higher numbers being reported. At the last count in November 2010 conducted by Stockport Homes, Police, drug and alcohol agencies, the Wellspring and other partners, one rough sleeper was found. Stockport Homes continues to provide accommodation for rough sleepers, and will visit any suspected rough sleeping site within 24 hours.

Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls (National Domestic Abuse Strategy)

The government strategy has placed an emphasis on prevention, protection and provision. In terms of its implications for housing, the strategy calls for closer working between the Home Office, Police, Children's Trust Boards and other agencies to tackle domestic violence in their areas. In Stockport, a domestic violence court has been established, and the homelessness strategy will make connections with this.

Strategies around children and young people

The service remains interconnected with agencies such as Children's Services and Connexions, so attention will continue to be paid to their own strategic priorities and service developments. There was an especially clear focus from the outgoing Government on the assessment and accommodation of homeless 16-17 year olds, and the cost and support implications of the relevant case law and statutory guidance will need to be given further consideration. Work is currently ongoing on a new Commissioning Strategy for Children's Services, with housing services as both a partner agency and an accommodation provider.

Drug and alcohol strategies

Wide ranging research has found a link between homelessness and substance misuse; this is further evidenced by monitoring of homelessness applications and support given to applicants whilst in temporary accommodation. Care pathways for customers with alcohol misuse were raised several times throughout consultation for the strategy; therefore related points are contained within the action plan.

Mental and physical healthcare strategies

Health has explicit links to homelessness, as demonstrated by numerous studies. The Housing Options Team already has a good working protocol with the Community Mental Health Team and wards at Stepping Hill, providing an outreach service and a dedicated mental health accommodation panel. This will be expanded upon in this

strategy, also taking stock of recent national guidance from the CLG and Department of Health around the combined effect of mental health and homelessness.

Regional Homelessness Strategy

The first North West Regional Homelessness Strategy was launched in April 2008; the delivery plan has since been subject to ongoing revision. A particular focus of the strategy has been to coordinate complementary activity within the North West regions, as well as informing the objectives of devolved strategies. Better joint working between authorities could contribute to reducing homelessness in Stockport, by establishing reconnection protocols, joint ventures for identifying rough sleepers, information sharing and through benchmarking.

2.5 The overarching Stockport Community Strategy, 'The Stockport Strategy 2020' (May 2009) sets out the long-term vision for services and provision with four priorities to make Stockport:

1. Thriving
2. Safer and stronger
3. Healthy
4. Greener

The strategy is a ten year action plan for the Borough, and sets out priorities including:

- supporting diversity;
- improving quality of life for everyone;
- supporting long-term unemployed residents through the Stockport into Work programme;
- pilot Working Neighbourhood Teams and hold skills and employment events in priority areas;
- encourage and support young people to make a positive contribution;
- develop and simplify opportunities for local people to have their say and be involved in the local decision making process; and
- adopt a community based approach to health.

Additionally all partners in the Local Strategic Partnership delivering the Community Strategy have signed up to the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which aims to improve the quality of life in priority areas and reduce spatial inequality.

At present the Community Strategy and Local Strategic Partnership do not cite the Homelessness Strategy as a supporting strategy or operational action plan; however they do link to the Stockport Housing Strategy, and the Homelessness Strategy 2011

will build links by establishing overlapping strategic priorities.

2.6 This third Homelessness Strategy is developed out of the findings of a review of homelessness in Stockport in 2010, and is produced for the period 2011-16. The strategy takes forward and develops further the services provided to people who are homeless or potentially homeless. The Homelessness Review 2010 identified once again that homelessness comes with several associated issues, and affects a wider range of groups. Discussion included:

- domestic violence;
- asked to leave by parents / relatives / friends;
- termination of assured shorthold tenancy / accredited landlords;
- required to leave NASS accommodation;
- non-priority homelessness;
- intentional homelessness;
- Black Minority Ethnic (BME) homelessness;
- disability;
- youth homelessness;
- looked after children;
- eligibility;
- rough sleeping;
- finances, benefits and debt;
- education, skills and employment;
- repossessions;
- arrears;
- offending / crime;
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), incorporating harassment and actual or threatened violence;
- drugs and alcohol;
- mental and physical health;
- ward characteristics / Priority One Areas;
- Registered Social Landlords (RSLs);
- affordable housing; and
- risks / threats.

2.7 The services to people who are homeless span a range of agencies and link with many other key strategies. The Review of Homelessness 2010 makes reference to these and in virtually all cases the objectives within this Homelessness Strategy aim to achieve cross-cutting outcomes.

2.8 It is important to bear in the mind the dramatically different political, economic and social context this strategy has been produced in to its predecessor. Previously the strategy was able to plan actions whilst being relatively confident of funding and development opportunities; this strategy must plan to tackle homelessness in an environment of reducing resources.

As a result of considering all of the factors outlined above, the recommended actions have been grouped into seven overarching objectives:

1. Improve range of housing options within the Borough
2. Promote financial inclusion, welfare rights and debt advice
3. Improve housing related advice
4. Develop homelessness prevention initiatives
5. Improve the health and wellbeing of homeless people
6. Develop strategic links
7. Take advantage of new opportunities and ways of working

The objectives grouped under these themes have arisen in a number of ways, including:

- Priorities from central government;
- Priorities from local government, the Council and Stockport Homes;
- Analysis of data, trends, and information from research;
- Consultation with customers, elected representatives including councillors and board members, and stakeholder agencies; and
- Staff member suggestions.

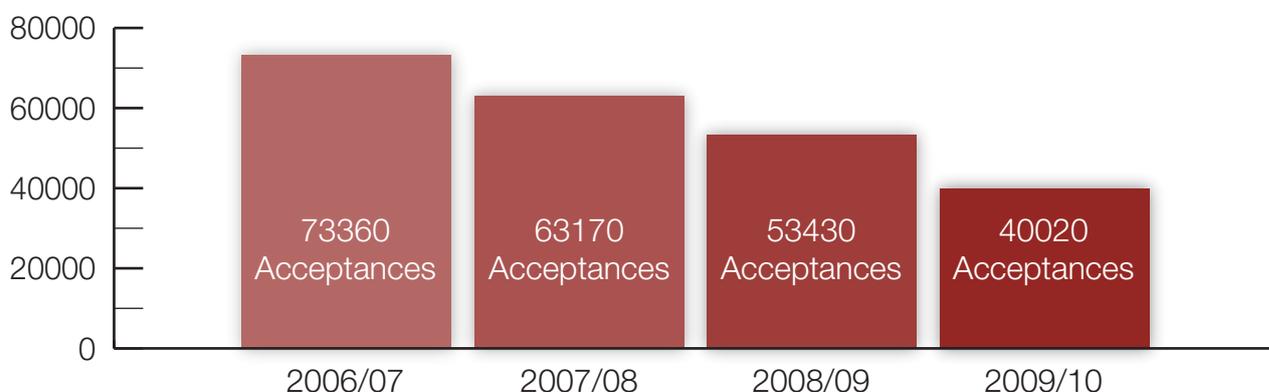
3. Overview of homelessness

3.1 National homelessness acceptances have been declining steadily over the past five years. When the previous review commenced after the 2005/06 financial year 93,980 households had been given a full homelessness duty; by 2009/10 40,020 households were accepted, representing a reduction of 43% over the period. However, more recent data at the beginning of this strategy seems to indicate an increase beginning to appear – in the third quarter of 2010 acceptances were 14% higher than the same time last year.

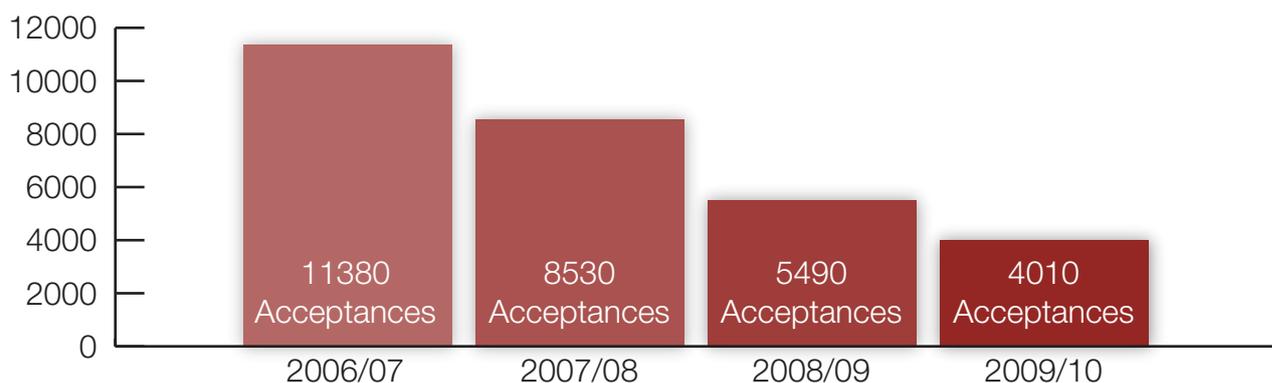


3.2 Regionally there has been a similar decline; when the previous Homelessness Review was published acceptances had fallen to 13,180 in the 2005/06 financial year. Since then acceptances have continued to drop, and in 2009/10 4,010 households had been accepted as homeless in the North West region.¹

Homeless Acceptances National

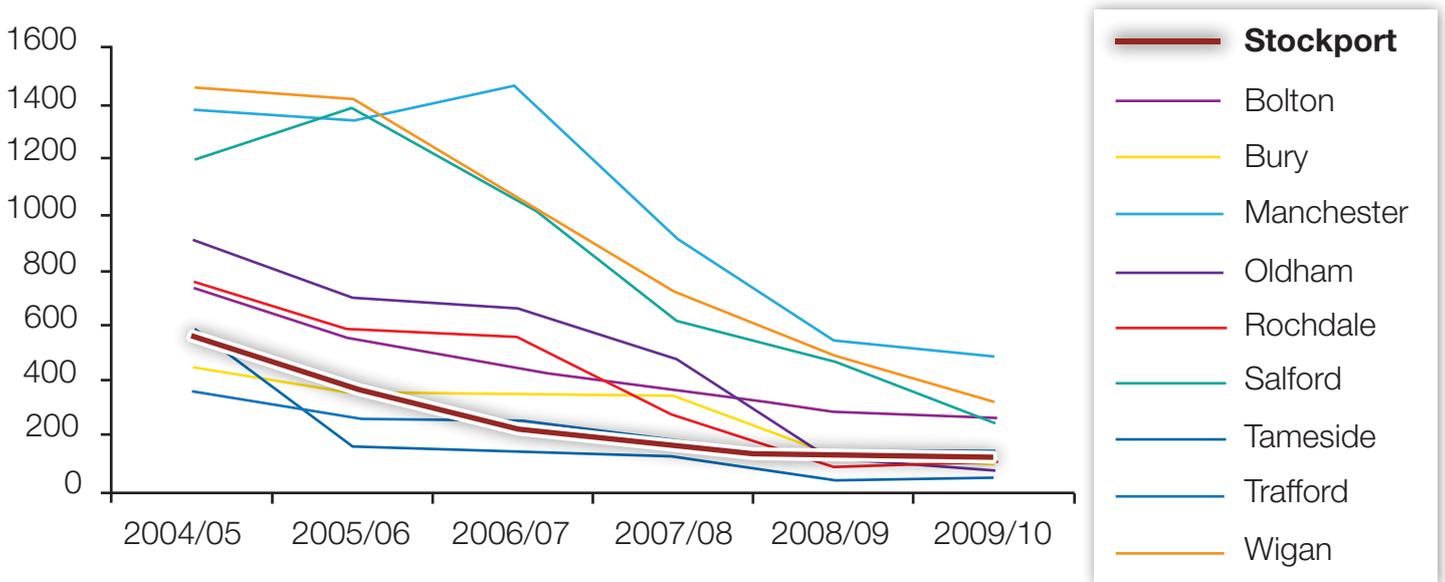


Homeless Acceptances North West



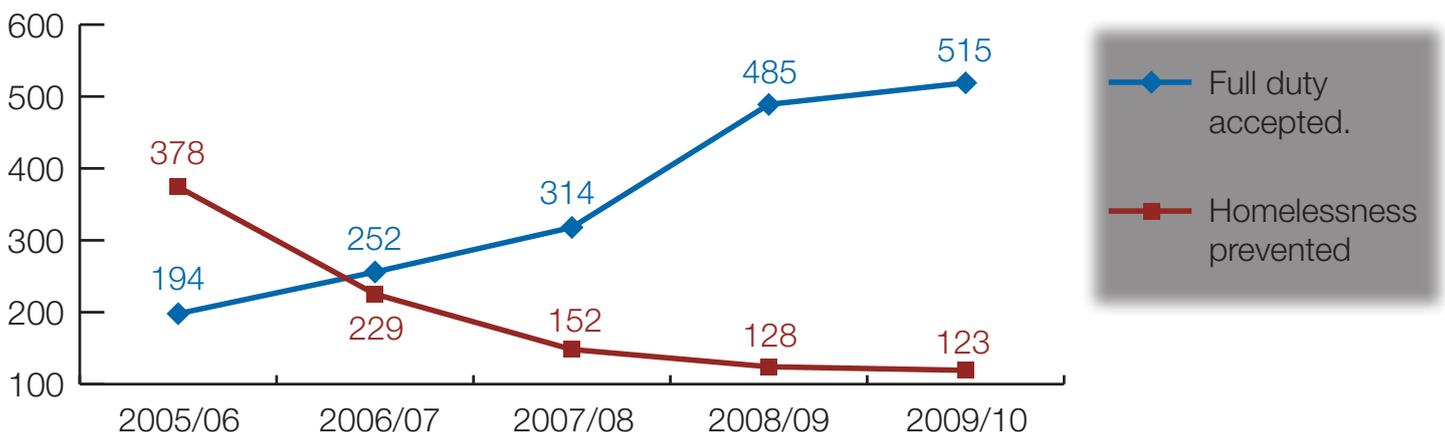
¹ Accessed via CLG website: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/livetables>

3.3 As can be expected from national and regional indications, homelessness acceptances have also fallen within the Greater Manchester sub-region. The graph below shows the decline in acceptances from their peak in 2004/05, to their current lowest levels.



3.4 In Stockport this represents an overall reduction in homeless acceptances of 78% over this time period, and 46% over the lifetime of the previous Homelessness Strategy.

3.5 Complementing this reduction in homeless acceptances is the increase in homelessness preventions over the review period. Stockport has continuously strived to prevent homelessness and reduce its level of acceptances, despite being the third largest Borough in the Greater Manchester region. The graph below shows that prevention cases in Stockport last year amounted to over four times the level as priority need cases who became unintentionally homeless:



3.6

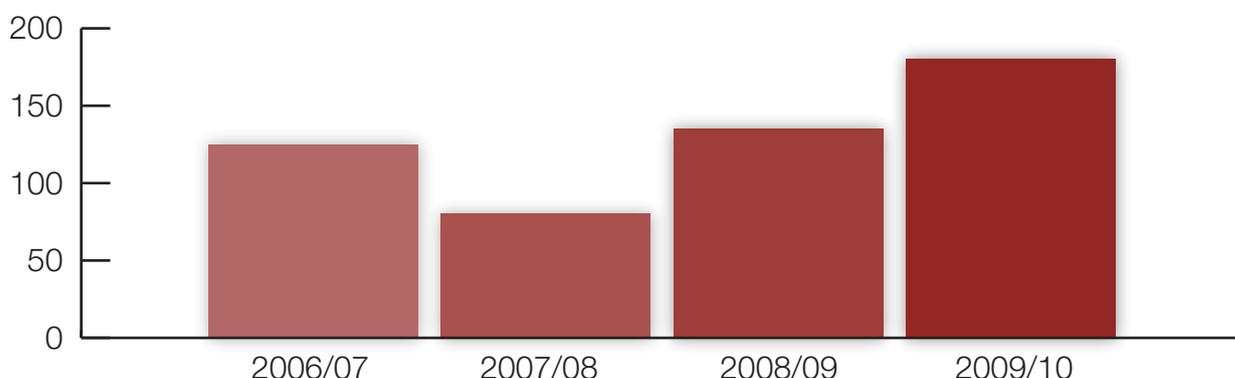
The following table shows the change in main reasons for homelessness acceptances in Stockport changing over the 2007 – 2010 period:

Cause of homelessness	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/2010
Domestic violence	47 (21%)	32 (21%)	20 (16%)	24 (20%)
Asked to leave by parents	61 (27%)	39 (26%)	38 (30%)	21 (17%)
Asked to leave by other relatives / friends	17 (7%)	4 (3%)	7 (5%)	10 (8%)
Termination of assured shorthold	29 (13%)	13 (9%)	12 (9%)	12 (10%)
Required to leave NASS accommodation	4 (2%)	18 (12%)	9 (7%)	7 (6%)

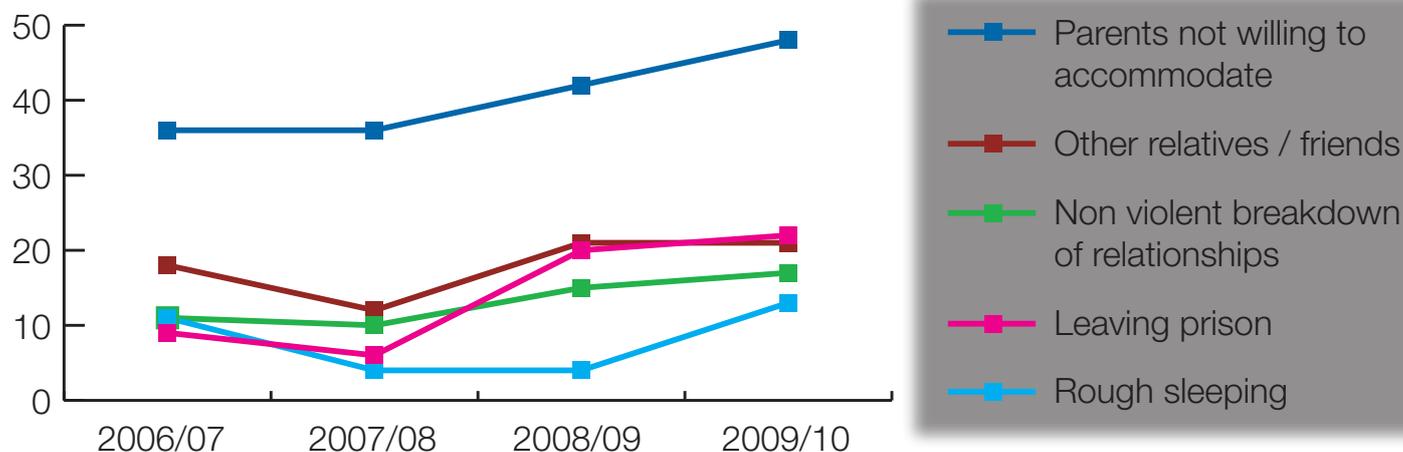
3.7 As can be seen from the above tables and charts, Stockport has experienced a dramatic reduction in homeless acceptances from people asked to leave by friends; 9% more than the national figure. There has also been a reduction in the proportion of domestic violence acceptances, but overall this has taken over from being asked to leave by parents as the main cause of homelessness in Stockport. The only rise in proportion of acceptances over the review period has been applicants required to leave NASS accommodation as a result of a positive asylum decision from the Home Office. Each of these areas, alongside other causes of homelessness such as those amongst non-priority applicants, indicates a need for action to prevent homelessness further.

3.8 The levels and main causes of non-priority homelessness over the review period were as follows:

Non priority decisions



Reasons for non priority decisions

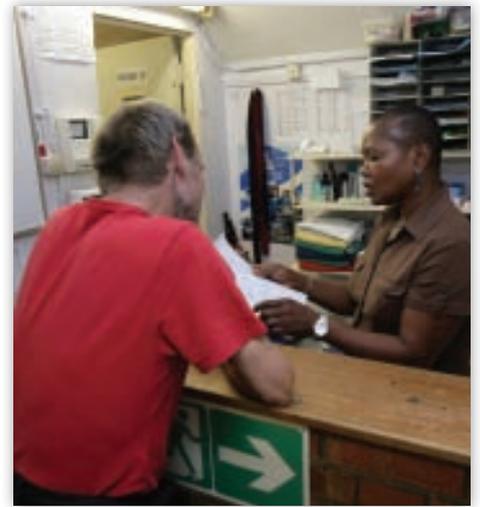


3.9 The charts above clearly show that despite increased homelessness preventions and a reduction in homeless acceptances, non-priority homelessness has been rising throughout the review period. This is likely to be exacerbated by forthcoming welfare reforms, budget cuts and other financial implications announced by the incoming government. As a result the action plan within this strategy will seek to raise awareness of remedies to the effects these will have across the Stockport Borough.

3.10 Based on research arising from the Homelessness Review 2010, this strategy sets out the key themes for 2011-16, including specific actions as required. In a changing environment it is likely in the lifespan of this strategy other opportunities will occur and these will be explored and developed for impact against the key themes identified.

4. Recommendations for Action

4.1 The full range of actions outlined in this strategy will span 2011-2016. At the beginning of each year, actions will be prioritised for the year ahead and progress reported at year end. The priority of specific actions may vary depending on factors such as progress of earlier actions, the priorities of partner agencies, or external pressures and events (for example, new guidance, interest rate rises).



4.2 The tables over the next few pages shows recommended actions to deliver this strategy over the next five years, originating from the key themes explored within the Homelessness Review 2010.

As a result of considering all of the factors outlined above, the recommended actions have been grouped into seven overarching objectives:

1. Improve range of housing options within the Borough
2. Promote financial inclusion, welfare rights and debt advice
3. Improve housing related advice
4. Develop homelessness prevention initiatives
5. Improve the health and wellbeing of homeless people
6. Develop strategic links
7. Take advantage of new opportunities and ways of working

Objective 1) Improve range of housing options within the borough

	Action	Lead Agency	Partners / Support	Target
1	Raising standard of private rented accommodation through implementation of Accredited Landlord scheme and raising awareness of appropriate standards and regulation; enabling private rented tenancies to be advertised through Homechoice.	Housing Standards	Homechoice; HOT; SHL Deposit Scheme	March 2013
2	Improve range of options available to younger people, such as increased supported lodgings provision, 'foyer' style accommodation, and specialist accommodation for young offenders	HOT	Strategic Housing; SP; Social Care (CS); YOT	March 2014
3	Investigate establishing 'spare room scheme' for under 35s	HOT	Strategic Housing	March 2015
4	Work with housing associations to ensure nominations and allocation processes assist proportionately with rehousing homeless applicants and those moving on from supported accommodation. Targets to be set where appropriate and monitored through the Stockport Housing Partnership.	Strategic Housing	HOT; RSLs; Offender Management Services; SP	March 2013
5	Develop the engagement of housing providers in the Priority Prolific Offenders (PPO) Protocol to support crime reduction strategies	Strategic Housing	RSLs; Offender Management Services	March 2013
6	Seek to increase the supply of affordable housing in the Borough	Strategic Housing	SHL; RSLs	March 2016
7	Revise Council Allocation Policy, with particular focus upon those experiencing domestic abuse and encouraging employment and training	Homechoice	Strategic Housing; HOT	October 2011
8	Investigate the provision of a Community Supported Lodgings Scheme for Adults	HOT	SHF; Strategic Housing; SP	March 2015

Objective 2) Promote financial inclusion, welfare rights and debt advice

	Action	Lead Agency	Partners / Support	Target
9	Increase the provision of debt and welfare rights advice for social housing tenants	Strategic Housing	HOT; Stockport Advice; SCAIN	October 2011
10	Map provision of Legal Aid and general advice within the Borough to enable gaps in services to be identified and addressed, and customers appropriately signposted	SCAIN	HOT	March 2012
11	Promote take-up of the Credit Union affordable loans and savings options and more general financial and budgeting advice for Stockport Homes Tenants	SHL Social Inclusion Team	HOT	March 2012
12	Link to and utilise Supported Employment and Work Programmes in increasing the number of work and training places available to homeless / formerly homeless groups	Regeneration	Strategic Housing; SP; SHL Social Inclusion / Human Resources	March 2014
13	Increase range of life skills training for temporary accommodation residents	(Employment Development)	TA; SHL Social Inclusion / Customer Involvement	March 2014

Objective 3) Improve housing related advice

14	Target areas or groups (e.g. repossession activity, Priority One areas) with higher levels of homelessness through advice campaigns, engaging with partner agencies, and establishing advice surgeries where appropriate (e.g GP surgeries and health centres)	HOT	PCT; Stockport Advice; SCAIN	March 2012
15	Further develop internet based housing options advice, enabling customers to access in depth advice more flexibly	HOT	SCAIN	March 2012

Objective 3) Improve housing related advice

	Action	Lead Agency	Partners / Support	Target
16	Undertake review of out of hours service to ensure efficiency and value for money	HOT	SHL Housing Mgmt / Social Inclusion	March 2013
17	Co-ordinate publicity around implications of planned welfare reforms to social and private tenants and landlords, and identify at-risk tenancies via housing benefit and other records (e.g under-occupiers, those on higher LHA rates)	HOT	Revenues and Benefits; Stockport Advice; SCAIN	October 2011
18	Complete and establish work already commenced on the rough sleepers protocol / virtual team – with future rough sleeper counts co-ordinated with neighbouring authorities	HOT	Rough sleepers virtual group members; GM Homelessness Forum	March 2014
19	Assess housing needs and aspirations of emerging and established BME communities to ensure housing options services are accessible and targeted appropriately	Strategic Housing	HOT	March 2014
20	Undertake research into diversity monitoring for homelessness and housing options (e.g. regarding lack of responses and representation around sexuality), and promote accessibility of services	HOT	SHL Social Inclusion Team	March 2014
21	Help address domestic abuse through establishment of advice on domestic violence courts, streamlined referral pathways and related support.	HOT	Stockport Magistrates Court; Probation; SWA; DVU	March 2012

Objective 4) Develop homeless prevention initiatives

22	Continue focus upon homelessness prevention, seeking new funding opportunities as they arise and ensuring numbers of priority need households in TA are minimised	HOT	TA; H3	March 2014
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Objective 4) Develop homeless prevention initiatives

	Action	Lead Agency	Partners / Support	Target
23	Explore development of 'Youth Homelessness Forum' with wider remit beyond those in care.	HOT	Social Care (CS); YOT; Connexions; Central Youth; MOSAIC	March 2013
24	Develop measures to identify young people in Council accommodation at risk of losing tenancies (e.g. eviction panel), with particular focus upon care leavers when statutory support duties end.	HOT	SHL Housing Mgmt / Social Inclusion / Resettlement; Social care	March 2012
25	Develop the 'exceptional payment fund' beyond focus on accessing private rented accommodation, and ensure sustainability through effective collection of recoverable funds.	HOT	H3	March 2013
26	Develop early notification protocol with private sector NASS accommodation providers	HOT	Strategic Housing; NASS providers	March 2012
27	Agree further measures with SHL, housing associations and other partner agencies to identify tenants at risk of eviction, either due to rent arrears action, ASB, drug or alcohol use.	HOT	SHL Housing Mgmt / Customer Finance; ASBAT; RSLs; Housing Standards; all drug and alcohol services	March 2014
28	Implement recommendations and promote 'Hospital to Home' – the Greater Manchester hospital discharge protocol	Hospital Discharge Steering Group	Strategic Housing; HOT; PCT	March 2012

Objective 5) Improve health and wellbeing of homeless people

29	Establish pathways and encourage a range of stakeholders within the emerging alcohol virtual team	PCT (Alcohol)	HOT; CAT; PCT; ADAS; Probation; SP ; MOSAIC	March 2013
30	Source pathways to counselling, especially for dual diagnosis (substance misuse and mental health combined)	CMHT	HOT; TA; SP ; MOSAIC	March 2015
31	Implement more health and wellbeing activities for residents in temporary accommodation	TA	HOT; SHL Customer Involvement; PCT	March 2013

Objective 5) Improve health and wellbeing of homeless people

	Action	Lead Agency	Partners / Support	Target
32	Develop service provision as per DCLG / DoH guidance for meeting the psychological and emotional needs of people who are homeless	CMHT	HOT; TA	March 2015
33	Investigate expanding the provision of detox / abstinence based services as per Move on Strategy recommendations	Strategic Housing	HOT; SP; all drug and alcohol services	March 2016

Objective 6) Develop strategic links

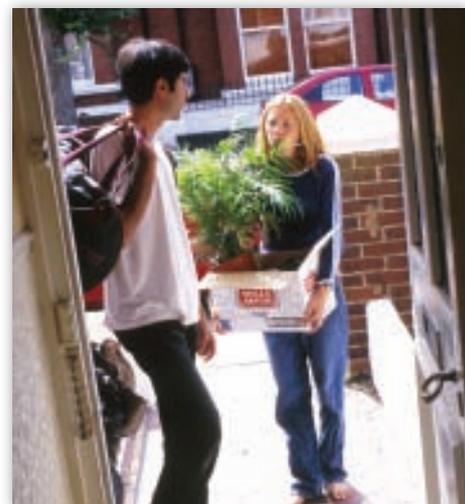
34	Take forward recommendations within the Working Communities, Total Place and related strategies, e.g. worklessness initiatives	Strategic Housing	Total Place Boards; SHL Social Inclusion Team; HOT	March 2013
35	Ensure Place Boards establish strategic links and focus on housing provision and need	Strategic Housing	Total Place Boards; HOT	March 2013
36	Develop empty home strategies	Strategic Housing	HOT	March 2015
37	Implement and develop Council maximising stock strategy, including revised approach towards age restrictions, and negotiating similar changes with Stockport Housing Partnership	Homechoice / HOT	Strategic Housing; SHL Housing Mgmt (Area Managers)	March 2013
38	Establish Problem Solving Courts, ensuring housing is a key stakeholder	RRB	SSP; Strategic Housing; HOT	March 2012

Objective 7) Take advantage of new opportunities and ways of working

39	Continue to take advantage of funding and strategic opportunities as they arise throughout the lifetime of this strategy	HOT	Strategic Housing; SP; H3	March 2016
40	Explore and develop new ways of delivering services (e.g the expansion of Stockport Homes Volunteering Scheme)	HOT	H3; SMBC Funding Team / Synergy Stockport	March 2015

5. Delivery

5.1 The Homelessness Strategy is a document which is owned by the Council, although Stockport Homes delivers homelessness services in Stockport on their behalf. Therefore the strategy will be delivered as a partnership also incorporating key stakeholders throughout the Borough, with Stockport Homes delivering many actions and continuing to undertake day to day homelessness assessments and provisions.



5.2 The progress of the Homelessness Strategy and Review has been subject to supervision and scrutiny by a Project Board comprising of representatives from both the Council and Stockport Homes.

5.3 Progress in delivering the objectives of the Homelessness Strategy will be reported both to the multi-agency Stockport Homelessness Forum, and in periodic updates within the Homelessness Contract Monitoring Meetings between the Council and Stockport Homes' Housing Options Team.

5.4 In addition to the above, and as occurred previously, annual updates on progress will be published for customers, stakeholders, elected representatives and Board members to maintain awareness of the strategy. These are published via the Stockport Homes website and also available upon request from the Housing Options Team.

5.5 The full range of actions outlined in this strategy will span 2011- 2016. At the beginning of each year, actions will be prioritised for the year ahead and progress reported at year end. The priority of specific actions may vary depending on factors such as progress of earlier actions, the priorities of partner agencies, or external pressures and events (e.g. new guidance, interest rate rises). Additionally there remains an option to undertake a review earlier than five years if there are significant changes in the economic and political environment.

Suggested Reading

1. Compendium of research and analysis on the Offenders Assessment System (Ministry of Justice, 2009)
2. Ends and Means: the future roles of social housing (CLG/Hills, 2007)
3. Expanding Choice, Addressing need: addressing housing need through the enhanced housing options approach (CLG, 2008)
4. Hidden Homelessness: Britain's invisible city (Crisis, 2004)
5. Homes and Jobs for all (Crisis, 2009)
6. Homes for the Future: more affordable, more sustainable (CLG, 2007)
7. Home Truths (National Housing Federation, 2009)
8. Homelessness Prevention: a guide to good practice (DCLG, 2006)
9. Linking Black and Minority Ethnic organisations with mainstream homeless service providers (Race Equality Foundation, 2010)
10. More than a Roof: a report into tackling homelessness (ODPM, 2002)
11. No One Left Out: communities ending rough sleeping (CLG, 2008)
12. Strong Foundations: building homes and communities (Conservative Green Paper 10, 2009)
13. Sustainable Communities: settled homes, changing lives (ODPM, 2003)
14. Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls – national domestic abuse strategy (HM Government, 2009)
15. Work Matters (St Mungos, 2010)

Glossary

Abbreviation	Explanation
ADS	Addiction Dependency Solutions
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic
BVPI	Best Value Performance Indicator
Case Law	Court cases offering interpretation / clarification of housing law
CAT	Community Alcohol Team
CBL	Choice Based Lettings
CDT	Community Drugs Team
CMHT	Community Mental Health Team
DAS	Stockport Drug and Alcohol Services (part of SSP)
DAT	Drug Action Team
EU	European Union – usually referring to workers and/or state members who may/may not be eligible for homelessness assistance
Floating support	Support workers allocation to households wherever they live
HOT	Housing Options Team
LAC	Looked After Children (care leavers)
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (domestic abuse)
MOSAIC	Young people's (25 and under) drug and alcohol services
NI (number)	National performance indicators
Non Priority	Where a homeless household is not deemed to be vulnerable
PCT	Primary Care Trust (health body)
Priority need	Homelessness legislation category where a household is deemed to be vulnerable / duty to rehouse
PPO	Priority Prolific Offenders
RRB	Reducing Re-offending Board
RSLs	Registered Social Landlords (Housing Associations)

Abbreviation	Explanation
SCAIN	Stockport Community Advice and Information Network
SHF	Stockport Homelessness Forum
SSP	Safer Stockport Partnership
Stockport Advice	The Council's advice and information service, comprising of Stockport Direct advice centres; Welfare Rights; and Debt Advice
Strategic Housing	Strategic team within Council
Supporting People	Supporting People – commissioning and funding body for housing related support services
SWA	Stockport Women's Aid
TA	Temporary Accommodation (Brindale House, Buxton Road, Strathclyde House)
Worklessness	Term used to describe economically inactive people not in or seeking employment, education or training

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Accessing our Services

For more information please contact Fiona Carr, Homeless Strategy Officer, **0161 474 3726** or email **fiona.carr@stockporthomes.org**

This leaflet gives you information about the Homelessness Strategy 2007-2010 Year One achievements. If you would like a copy in large print, Braille, on audio tape or CD, please contact the Service Improvement Team on **0161 474 2860** or email: **inclusion@stockporthomes.org**

Esta publicação fornece-lhe informações relativas ao Homeless Strategy. Existe um serviço de interpretação caso precise de ajuda com esta publicação. Queira contactar a Unidade de Interpretação de Stockport (Stockport Interpreting Unit) no 0161 477 9000. Correio Electrónico: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

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