

# SCRUTINY REPORT



**MEETING:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 9th January 2024

**SUBJECT:** Homelessness strategy update

**REPORT FROM:** Councillor Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services

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## 1.0 Background / update

The Council has a statutory duty to support people that are homeless in the Borough and the Council must have an updated and robust Homelessness Strategy to clearly demonstrate how we will meet the required statutory duties and obligations for homelessness in the Borough.

Over the past decade Bury has seen a gradual increase in homeless cases within the Borough with greater increases over the past 5 years.

In 2020 a new Housing Strategy was agreed for the Borough of Bury which included a commitment to end rough sleeping by 2025. The new Homelessness Strategy has been co-produced with the Bury Homelessness Partnership to deliver this, by applying the Borough-Wide 'Lets Do it' ethos of prevention, early intervention and the targeting of public service resources.

The strategy continues to build and expands on the wonderful work since last year's update. Homelessness is an issue and continues to be high on the national agenda since the new homelessness strategy was approved in April 2022 and the increasing evidence of a Housing crisis during 2023.

The 'Everyone In' response to the COVID-19 pandemic has shown what can be achieved in addressing rough sleeping with a joined-up response, whilst helping people in transformative ways with sufficient funding. We need to continue to build on this progress and the commitments in this strategy reflects this.

The strategy continues to be a wide-ranging and proactive response with the community and all stakeholders playing a vital part in helping to deliver. Integral to our response is involving those individuals who have lived experience or who have been disproportionately affected by homelessness in shaping our services and delivery so that they best meet the needs of those people that need them most with the focus of delivery through the Homelessness partnership, lived experience and all stakeholders and partners in the Borough.

A key issue since the last update in 2023 is the increasing migration pressures to support asylum seekers and refugees in the Borough due to existing and changing

policy by the Government and the Home office and an increasing shift in duty towards Local Authorities for this co-hort especially for the provision of temporary and permanent accommodation. Therefore, we are seeing significantly more asylum seekers accessing statutory and non-statutory housing and homeless services. There have also been significant increases in rough sleepers from migration, some with no recourse to public funds because the Home office do not manage their negative decision cases and evict into Communities with no access to support or funding. Many of this co-hort disappear into the 'black economy' but others are picked up by Local Authorities when destitute with no accommodation or support with no access to public funding. The continuing Ukrainian war is also now impacting on statutory services more due to the host arrangements with residents ending and becoming unsustainable via the Governments Homes for Ukrainian scheme. It is projected that if the conflict continues we will be greater numbers of host arrangements ending in 2024.

The cost-of-living crisis is also impacting, with increased cases further affecting service demands and pressures to provide temporary and permanent accommodation to levels not seen before within the Borough. A compounding issue has been the reduction in social housing becoming available from our stock and other registered providers in the Borough as people are now less transient and likely to move due to their limited options to get onto the housing ladder which is also further compounded by the fact that the private rented sector in Bury is small and very expensive and unaffordable to access for many of our residents. The recent Autumn statement did announce that from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 the Local Housing Allowance Rates (LHA) would be unfrozen from 2020 and would be back to the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile of private rents, this will increase the number of affordable properties in the private rented sector to people on benefits.

Due to the increasing pressures, our temporary accommodation is now always at capacity and we are now having to use hotel provision for our temporary accommodation placements to meet our statutory homelessness duty which is not ideal and very expensive. Due to the lack of suitable move on accommodation we are also seeing longer placements within our temporary dispersed accommodation portfolio with some families placed in our temporary accommodation in excess of 12 months. We also have a waiting list now for our non-statutory provision, ABEN which provides accommodation for our rough sleepers and is always at capacity due to the continued increase in numbers. The last official rough sleeper count in November 23 saw an increase in rough sleepers across the Borough to 16 from 3 at the same count in 2022.

GMCA recently produced data and information to clearly show this is a Greater Manchester, Region and National crisis (see appendices 1)



GM Homelessness  
and Asylum Pressures

There has also been numerous articles recently highlighting the increasing pressures on homelessness services and particularly from migration due to the changing Government policies to fast track asylum decisions, increase dispersal in the Borough and empty their bridging hotels, all adding further pressure on our services. (See appendices 2 – Big Issue). This crisis is not local to Bury but a Greater Manchester, regional and national problem.



All options are being explored and considered to increase our accommodation and stock to be able to access more affordable and social housing within the Borough working in partnership with all stakeholders and registered providers and we are working on a new general needs and social housing strategy to help set clear targets and outcomes even though we would never be able to meet full demands for social and affordable housing in the Borough with the available funding and capacity.

Therefore the priorities and principles remain :-

- The Homelessness strategy from 2022 to 2025 continues to set out how we will strategically deliver services and meet homeless and rough sleeping demands over the next 2 years to provide the best support and accommodation within the Borough from both a statutory and non-statutory perspective.
- At the heart of this strategy continues to be the commitment to prevention, early intervention, sustainment both support and accommodation and the co-design of solutions with communities aligned with the Councils corporate 'Let's Do It !' and Housing Strategies.
- The strategy continues to be co-delivered by the Homeless partnership and key stakeholders and continues to deliver the vision for how the strategic objective to eliminate rough sleeping and prevent homelessness will be achieved and how outcomes for these vulnerable people will be secured through a proactive, multi-agency approach.
- The focus continues to be prevention and sustainment of accommodation but importantly support despite the challenges and increasing demands over the past 12 months.
- To explore all options to maximise opportunities to increase temporary and permanent affordable accommodation within the Borough.
- The strategy is continually being refreshed and reviewed due to the changing landscape of homelessness and new challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis and the ever-increasing refugee and asylum seeker demands within the Borough that impact on Statutory and non-statutory services.

## **2.0 Context**

Demand on Council housing services including statutory homelessness and rough sleeping has continue to increase since the strategy approval and since the Homeless Reduction Act 2017. Over the last 36 months demand for statutory services in Bury has increased by over 49% and expected to continue to increase further and the number of rough sleepers and non-statutory customers has more than doubled and continues to increase and is becoming more challenging to accommodate and support due to the increasing complexities and with the resources and suitable accommodation available.

The increase in demand in Bury continues to align with GM, regional and national trends and the proportion of pressure experienced locally remains consistent with other boroughs. The reason for this increase includes:

- The impact of complex lives which can result in an inability to sustain mortgage payments or a rented tenancy and subsequent evictions. The

majority of homeless people have experienced some combination of financial, emotional, health or substance abuse.

- Mortgage repossessions and the cost of living crisis – even though we haven’t seen the full impact of the crisis, the expectation over the next 12 months will see numbers increasing further, particularly working families and people due to their ability to pay their mortgages and rent with the associated housing and general costs. This is a new co-hort system accessing the service as most people at present are reliant on the benefit system.
- PRS – Increase in evictions and Section 21 notices – mainly affordability issues but also landlords looking at other options due to the Government initiatives / intervention that now make it more difficult for landlords in the PRS to operate and is now less attractive to rent properties.
- Migration and change of Govt / Home office policy - Asylum seekers and refugees that have had an impact on both statutory and non-statutory services and the impact of the new Home Office dispersal and resettlement scheme introduced last year, fast track system and closure of the Afghan bridging hotels.
- The lack of available and affordable move-on property because of the short housing supply in Bury means people are staying longer in emergency accommodation, which limits availability for others. The average length of stay in emergency accommodation is currently 169 days.

The Council continues to deliver the significant work across all housing and homeless partners to respond to this context, which is described within this report.

### 3.0 Headline Data / statistics

Table 1. Open homelessness statutory cases monthly (Dec 2018-Nov 2023).

Open Homeless statutory cases each month						
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
April	Not collected	293	412	505	701	782
May		285	467	460	772	739
June		293	481	446	829	724
July		318	511	540	682	752
August		344	476	547	766	793
September		316	462	523	732	845
October		319	559	588	765	884
November		340	557	603	892	763
December	287	333	527	597	816	
January	239	363	556	674	887	
February	274	417	521	642	761	
March	278	394	476	630	801	

Source: Bury Council, 2023

Figure 1. Open homeless statutory cases monthly (Dec 2018-Nov 2023).

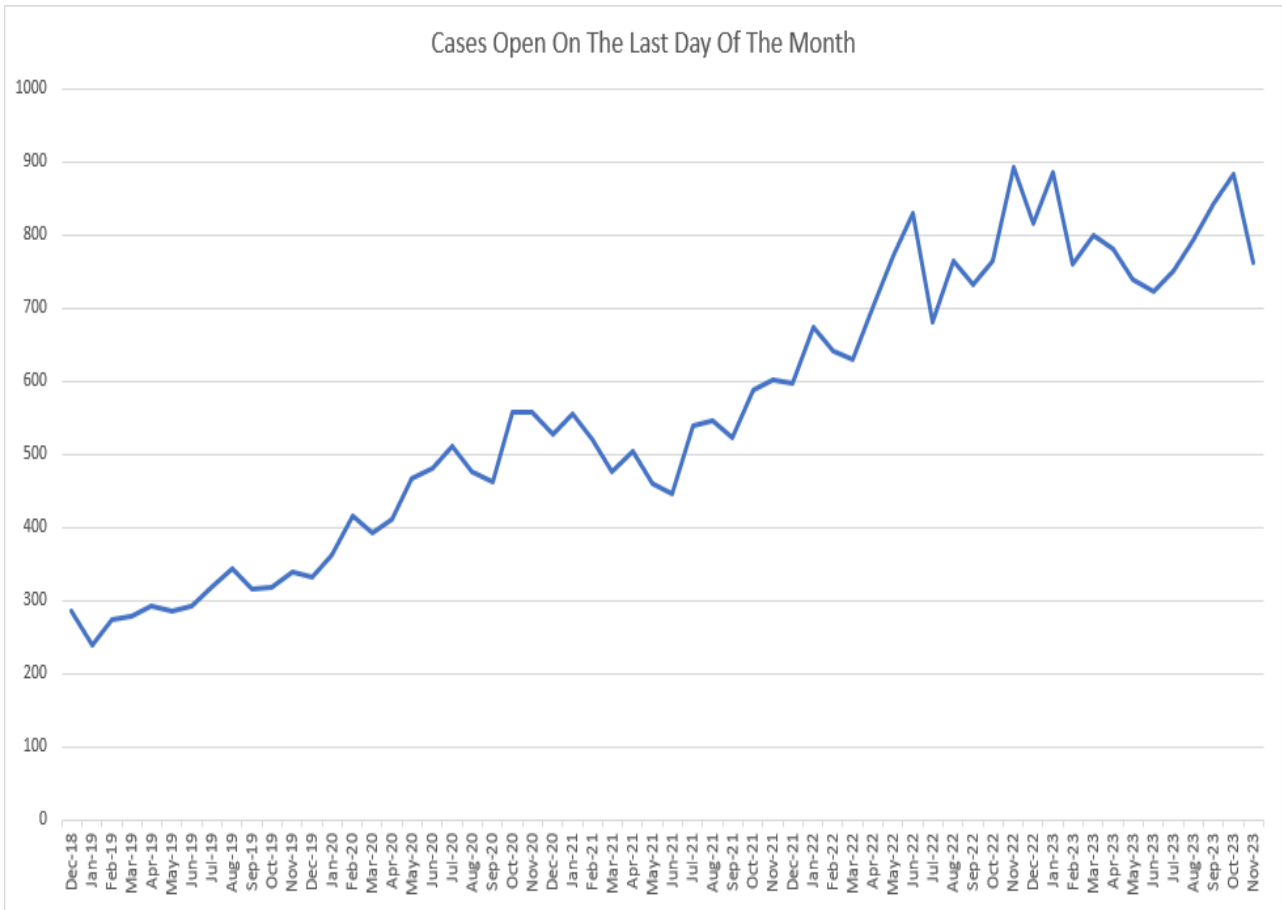


Figure 2. Households in Temporary Accommodation (Dec 2018 to Nov 2023)

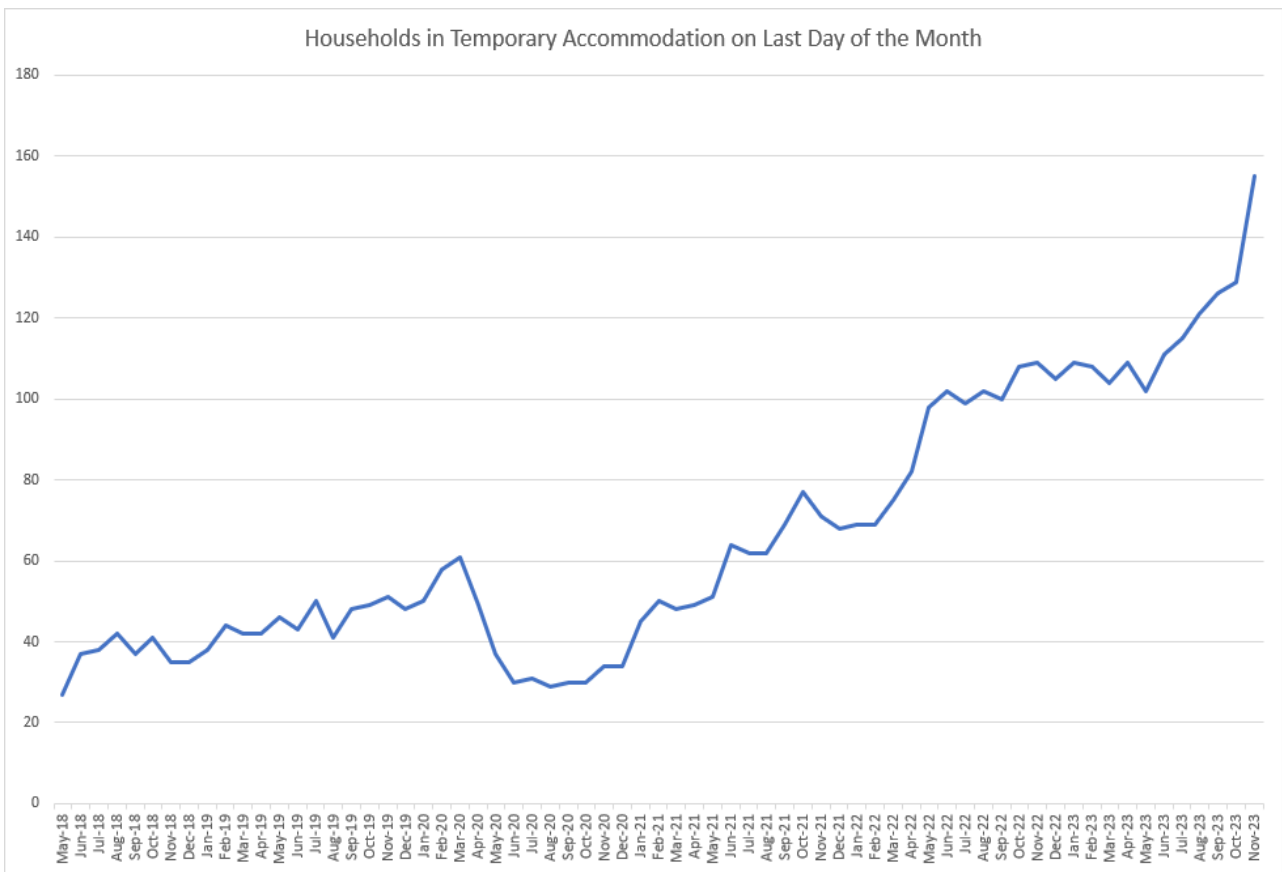


Table 2. Numbers of rough sleepers from 2018/19-2023/24.

		<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Rough Sleepers	Single Male	7	16	75	77	112	66
	Single Female		4	17	21	28	54
	Single Transgender				1		
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>120*</b>

Source: Bury Council, 2023. \* As at 30/11/2023

## Migration

Based on projections we are expecting a 100%+ increase in dispersal numbers in the Borough by the Home Office and Serco from 435 to 970 in the next 6 to 12 months. We have seen increases of unplanned referrals due to the closure of the Afghan Bridging hotels by the Home office with referrals to Bury from southern Local Authorities. The fast track programme and data also shows an extra 60 asylum seekers via this pathway.

From Nov 22 to Nov 23 we have had an additional 55 rough sleepers via the migration pathways. We have had 38 asylum seekers via Serco placed in our ABEN provision from Nov 22 to Nov 23 with a further 12 placed into our supported housing provision and 1 into our Rough sleeper accommodation programme. As of November 23 there were 18 ABEN placements associated with migration out of a total 25 bed spaces, taking 72% capacity. This is a significant increase from the past 12 months. Actual people rough sleeping at Dec 23 was 19 with 15 being from migration – 80%.

From Aug 2023 to August 24 it has been projected there will be 200 customers through migration that will trigger priority need, in terms of cost if our existing temporary accommodation remains at capacity and we have to place into hotels, the projected cost to accommodate would be significant.

## 4.0 The Homeless Strategy – Themes and prevention

The Homeless Reduction Act 2017 requires local authorities to take a preventative approach to homelessness through a multi-agency approach; this is delivered in Bury through an independent Homelessness partnership comprised of community leaders; service users; the Council, commissioned providers and partners, Housing Associations, charities, voluntary sector and registered providers to name a few.

Preventing Homelessness is the key objective. Homeless prevention and meaningful response can only be achieved on a system-wide, multi-agency basis.

The Homeless partnership has therefore continued to work as a collective and continues to comprise and be delivered on the seven key priorities and themes:

- Prevention
- Person
- Property
- Promote
- Purpose

- Place
- Partnership

The underpinning action plan, key activities within continue to include:

- Specific awareness raising for young people around homelessness
- Promoting life skills and managing debt in all situations.
- Early interventions in all aspects and not just housing but Health, Childrens & Adults services including external agencies and partners.
- Early tenancy sustainment support for tenants and people at risk of homelessness.
- Performance and data measured correctly for local needs, as well as national and regional insight to align resources and react positively to increasing trends and demands. Proactive approach rather than reactive which provides better outcomes.
- Prevent people being discharged from hospital before housing options in place.
- Resolutions to the challenges created by welfare reform.
- Strengthening Private Rented Sector (PRS) landlord support, advice and assistance to avoid S21 notices and evictions
- A clear plan to be ready for people - 'in-reach'" prevention work (how to manage a tenancy) with prisons / prison liaison with operational pathways
- Training offers for all frontline staff to address barriers to housing, including debt management.
- Ensuring that the Asylum and Refugee community are given early housing options and support.
- Partnership approach with all stakeholders to help prevent homelessness and improve resources and capacity.
- Promotion of the positive work within the Borough with a partnership webpage developed with all stakeholder with regular updates on services for our customers.

The recent Council decision to transfer STH back into full Council control in January 2024 will provide greater opportunity to maximise the delivery of sustainment with better governance and control to ultimately reduce failed tenancies that impact on our statutory and homeless services. The Council and Six Town Housing (STH) continue to work together to ensure we have a robust and deliverable tenancy sustainment strategy for all our social tenants and tenancies that form the majority of our homelessness move on accommodation. Their sustainment strategy will need reviewing on transfer as part of the transition back to the Council to achieve better outcomes for our tenants and residents but better aligned to public sector reform principles and tenure neutral support services with engagement with landlords and tenants in the private rented sector also to broaden its potential application to help reduce failed tenancies and demands on our 'front door' and Council duty across all sectors both the social and private.

The sustainment strategy once reviewed in 2024 will define partnership arrangements for identifying and supporting people at risk of eviction and the eviction process itself, should that ultimately occur. More fundamentally, however, it will seek to define how public services identify and proactively support people with complex lives who, as a result, may be at risk of tenancy failure. This includes residents experiencing domestic abuse, for example, or affected by anti-social behaviour; financial deprivation or substance misuse.

The Homeless and Housing options service will need greater capacity to align with better prevention work but also the sustainment of accommodation linked with the Councils Neighbourhood model and the Lets Do It! Strategy. This approach is also vital to supporting and linking in with other community resources such as our new Neighbourhood housing services post transfer in January 2024 and our Housing officer capacity and fully generic role and the 'anchor' of services and but also other registered social housing providers in the Borough to work across our most deprived neighbourhoods to prevent homelessness and sustain communities.

The reviewed sustainment strategy will focus on supporting the 'person' not the 'property' to break the cycle of homelessness for many complex and high need residents. The intention is to use the neighbourhood model to bring together all public services in a place to share insight; stratify risk and proactively intervene in high-risk situations. This strategy will be led and delivered by the Councils new Neighbourhood housing service and its resource involving a partnership working approach with key partners including the Council's Adult and children Services, GMCA, DWP, Health services, Housing Associations and GMP to name a few.

#### **4.1 Statutory homeless response**

The Councils homelessness services are now more focussed and efficient with clarity around our statutory and non-statutory services based and evidenced on demands. Since the restructure of the service in 2021, numbers have continued to increase as shown in this report and the service is now becoming increasingly under resourced to meet current and future demand. The Homeless assessment service was also redesigned from a staffing perspective in January 2023 to be more focused on preventative work and which we are now seeing the benefits of increased prevention cases and numbers.

The service is currently supporting and assisting 845 homeless cases and on average the Council receives around 250 homeless self-referrals / new cases per month (a 300% increase from before Covid 19) and 60+ "duty to refer" cases each month. We are also seeing an increase of complex cases that are more time consuming to support and assess.

In response, the Homelessness and Housing Options team:

- manages 115 properties to meet the statutory duty which is a mix of dispersed houses, maisonettes and flats. This portfolio provides a total of 364 bed spaces when at full capacity.
- provides wider, personal support and facilitates outreach to people who need to access emergency accommodation.
- seeks to move people into more sustainable accommodation as quickly as possible.
- Proactive work with PRS Landlords to avoid Evictions.
- Robust partnership and multi-agency working across all sectors and stakeholders.
- Council approval to use Hotel / B&B provision to meet homeless statutory duty – currently 24 rooms being used at the 8<sup>th</sup> December 23.

In addition to fulfilling the Council's statutory duties in relation to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, the team also provide specialist support to particular vulnerable cohorts including:



- Victims of domestic abuse (DA). As part of a recent review of DA arrangements and the development of a new strategy, the provision of specialist housing for singles of both genders and families has now been implemented through a commissioned service with Safenet within the Borough with floating support when appropriate.
- Council Care Leavers - As part of the Childrens and Young Persons improvement plan, arrangements for care leavers are currently under review to ensure all services support and meet the Councils corporate parenting responsibilities.
- Asylum and Immigration support services to refugees and asylum seekers through pathways with new commissioned services, Serco and the Home Office. Recent approval to recruit to 3 new migration staff to specifically support migration within the Borough.
- Prison release protocols and pathways with the Prison Service (HMPS) and Probation to ensure support and accommodation is provided on release.

## **4.2 Support to rough sleepers**

The Council continues to see increases in rough sleeper numbers over the past 12 months with a 1400% increase since 2018/19. The current number of recorded rough sleepers was 140 in 2022/23 from 7 in 2018/19. A Bed for Every Night (ABEN) and other commissioned emergency accommodation support rough sleepers into longer term move on accommodation. We have recently implemented our additional cold weather provision when temperatures go below zero degrees to ensure all rough sleepers are supported and accommodated during the cold weather. Due to the success of the above provision and funding we have help keep rough sleeper numbers manageable, but we currently have a waiting list for our ABEN provision with 19 known rough sleeper actually on the streets (@ 8/12/23), with whom the outreach service is working closely with to engage and move into appropriate supported accommodation as soon as available. This number would have been significantly more if this non-statutory provision had not been developed and available aligned to best practice and operational procedures since the inception of this service in 2019/20.

The Council continues to receive additional external funding from GMCA for ABEN and DLUHC via RSi (Rough sleeper initiative) and RSAP (Rough sleeper accommodation programme) and over the past 12 month this has amounted to circa £1m of additional ring-fenced funding in addition to the Homeless Prevention Grant that all Councils receive to meet their statutory duties. Unfortunately, this temporary funding is due to end in March 2025.

This funding continues to be invested in commissioned provision through independent partners and funds the staffing for the rough sleeper service.

It is a Government and Bury target is to end rough sleeping by 2025 but due to unexpected demand particularly from migration, controlled and managed by centralised Home Office but impacts on local people, communities and services. Unfortunately, its likely this target will be unachievable unless there is a change in policy and approach by the Government and the Home office. Without the circa 70 to 80% of current rough sleepers from migration our target to end rough sleeping and to keep all people off the streets in Bury was on target to be achieved by 2025 with our existing staffing capacity and accommodation resources.

The team with our partners continues to have success in moving rough sleepers into more secure, longer-term accommodation, despite the increase in caseloads and challenges in finding suitable move on accommodation and we will continue to work

closely with GMCA, RSMP and all stakeholders to support and proactively find solutions.

### **4.3 Asylum dispersal, including refugee crisis (Afghan & Ukrainian).**

Over the past 12 months demand continues to increase. Historically the Council typically supported the dispersal of around 40 families each year, through the Home Office and Serco. In Bury this is a challenge in the context of the scale of statutory demand as described and the shortage of housing supply which means the private rented sector is similarly at full capacity.

The current provision and capacity in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the Borough has increased aligned to funding and good practice with a more joined up and robust response to meet current and future demands and comprises of:-

- ARAP supported accommodation for the Afghan refugee crisis – 10 family properties dispersed across the Borough and supported via a commissioned partner to approximately 40 people.
- Ukrainian refugee crisis – Supported through two home office schemes – Homes for Ukraine and the Family visa scheme. At November 23 we had 62 hosts and 107 refugees and 4 families via the family visa route with two already placed into permanent housing.
- Statutory homeless services – Pathways into Council accommodation once the Home office determine the immigration status of asylum seekers in their dispersed accommodation in Bury and then duty passes to the Council.
- Multi agency approach with all stakeholders across all sectors, voluntary, faith and public. Recent Strategic Migration partnership group has been set up.
- New migration team of 4 officers to maximise external funding and better support migration within the Borough and all sectors.

The Home office introduced a new dispersal and resettlement scheme during 2022. Bury continues to work collectively and in partnership with GMCA and the NW RSMP (Regional Strategic Migration Partnership). There is a clear desire to continue to support asylum seekers across Greater Manchester but the lack of affordable and suitable accommodation is now becoming saturated within all 10 LA's and the current number of placements across GM and the NW is disproportionately high when compared to the rest of the UK and other regions.

The new compulsory dispersal and resettlement programme should balance out asylum numbers fairly and equitably across all regions of the UK to ensure the right support and outcomes are achieved. Despite the new dispersal scheme and remit, the expectation and impact over the next 12 months of increased numbers of asylum seekers and refugees will still be significant and the projected numbers, therefore demand and numbers will continue to increase in Bury. The Home Office and Serco continue to procure properties in the Borough to meet their dispersal demands but are generally procuring in post code areas that have high ASB, hate crime and concentration numbers for complex people due to their model of funding and approach despite recommendation from the Council not to do so.

The current number of asylum seekers in temporary Home Office accommodation within the Borough is 435 at November 23. The proposed number for Bury through the consultation would increase to 567 by December 2023, the Home office have been unable to achieve these numbers and the challenges of procuring sufficient properties to increase the numbers in the private sector. The Home office is still working to a cluster limit of 1:200 residents which could mean an actual increase to 970 based on current population levels within the Borough with a 100%+ increase.

This worse case scenario would mean an increase of Home office and Serco accommodation of over 100% from circa 150 to 300 properties in the PRS. Even the lowest number stated would be extremely challenging in the short and medium term due to the continued lack of suitable and affordable accommodation within the Borough. The cost-of-living crisis and the general increases in homelessness make the impact of these numbers more significant.

The Home office when factoring in their dispersal and cluster ratios to determine asylum numbers continue to not include the additionality of the refugee co-hort and their other existing pathways such as ARAP (Afghan) and Homes for Ukrainian and the family visa schemes, in Bury this adds a further circa 100 refugees within the Borough that we are already accommodating and supporting in either permanent or temporary housing or via hosts. We are supporting 58 hosts with five placements into hotels, moved 5 into permanent accommodation and two into the private rented sector. Due to the Ukrainian conflict continuing its is expected that more host arrangements will fail significantly during 2024 and add further pressure on statutory services. The current conflict in the middle east and Gaza may also add further numbers and risks especially if this situation escalates or continues.

The wider impact is on the Private rented sector which in Bury is already small and expensive, an objective for the Council is to supplement our social housing stock to meet demands by accessing and incentivising PRS landlords to increase access to properties in the PRS for homelessness and people on our housing register and robustly access the 1000+ long terms voids in the PRS, this continues but with slow progress. Its likely that we will be competing with Serco for these properties and market forces are likely to increase private rents further, make the properties less affordable which would be counter productive and have a negative impact on expected outcomes. We are seeing some success for out of borough placements, particularly East Lancashire were rents are cheaper and more affordable to be able to discharge our homeless duty.

The Government freezing the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) since 2020 is also having a significant impact in affordability because the gap between market rents increasing over this period and HB rates being static is widening and becoming unaffordable for most people on benefits. The Autumn statement brough some positive news in that the LHA rates would be unfrozen from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. This should help make more properties affordable to people on benefits.

## **5.0 Future strategy and innovation**

The Homeless and Housing Options service continue to be active in identifying and securing funding to explore new delivery models and maximise support for vulnerable people.

At present, over the past 12 months a total of approximately £1m+ of extra short-term ring-fenced homeless funding has been secured via successful bids and additional DLUHC and home office funding and through positive partnership working.

The wider Housing department needs to be innovative and flex to meet the increasing demands for social and affordable housing over the next 12 months and beyond with the new general needs housing strategy that will complement the wider Housing strategy.

Building more social and affordable housing in partnership is key in the longer term but short term objectives and strategies are currently being developed to meet the increasing demands for our people that need it the most.

A key strategy in meeting these demands in the short term to medium term will continue to be the empty homes strategy and accessing the 1000+ long term voids in the private rented sector and exploring other sites that may create new affordable and social housing in the short term for our most vulnerable families and people.

Stop or reduce the reliance on hotel and B&B provision to meet our statutory homelessness demands for temporary accommodation which is not good for our residents but also expensive.

Increased and better partnerships and engagement with the VCFA in Bury to support the delivery of meeting the challenges of the increasing migration pressures in the Borough.

The development and delivery of a Bury Homeless Hub has continued over the past 12 months and is becoming increasingly important to support our more complex and high need single people and rough sleepers and would provide a hub of 30 / 35 temporary supported self-contained units. A robust business case has been further developed with a feasibility study and this option is under active consideration.

## **6.0 Conclusion / Summary**

There is no doubt that the next 12 months will continue to be extremely challenging for the Council in ensuring we meet our statutory duties and obligations but despite these challenges and demands our strategy and robust delivery will continue and there is confidence we will meet the challenges head on for the benefit of our most vulnerable families and people. Partners must remain focussed around prevention and sustainment activity, to ensure the whole system is robustly supporting all homeless people from rough sleepers to statutory homeless families and single people.

A key issue within Bury is limited access to affordable housing and the small and high-cost private rented sector. Housing supply issues constrain both move-on options for people in emergency accommodation and the opportunities for people to access and maintain independent affordable housing.

Unfortunately, we have had to change policy and start to use B&B provision to meet our statutory obligations and duty to accommodate our homeless which is not good practice, expensive or good for our customers. Every effort will be made over the next 12 months to reverse this decision but will be subject to our success in increasing our affordable accommodation objectives and opportunities, realistically though it is unlikely that we will meet the projected demands in the short to medium term. The service is now operating outside ring fenced and our statutory homeless funding stream for our core provision and currently projected to overspend by year end on current revenue service income.

The Council continues to robustly deliver the homeless strategy with all stakeholders and the homeless partnership. A partnership steering group continues to review and help deliver the action plan objectives and targets and reflect on the past 12 months to re-priorities as needed. A recent review of the plan objectives show that we are successfully continuing to deliver over 80% of the expected outcomes and on track to deliver all objectives over the next 2 years in a collaborative and partnership approach.

We will continue to proactively engagement with GMCA, RSMP and all GM Local Authorities to seek a more proactive model and solution to the impacts of asylum and migration with government to reduce demands and help achieve the targets and outcomes of our strategy and benefit our communities.

A key objective within the homelessness strategy and for the Government Nationally is to end rough sleeping by 2025, unfortunately due to new and increasing demands particularly due to migration within the Borough its unlikely that this objective will be met, current data shows the opposite with an upward trend across Bury, GM, Regionally and Nationally in the last 12 months.

Feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny committee is welcome including, for example, how:

- homeless prevention is aligned to the principles and priorities within the borough strategy, *Let's do it*.
- The significant increases and challenges of migration in the Borough.
- The challenges of the cost of living and the general increases in Homelessness
- The challenges to increase our stock of affordable and social housing.

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**List of Background Papers:-** None.

**Contact Details:-** Phil Cole, Head of Homelessness & Housing Options