A National Plan to end Homelessness

15th January 2026

Introduction

- Outline the Government's new National Plan to End Homelessness
- Share findings from the review of Bury's homelessness strategy 2022 – 2025
- Next steps

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Vision

- The strategy sets out a whole system approach to tacking the root causes of homelessness, improving emergency response and embedding prevention in and across public services.

- Homelessness should be rare, brief and non recurring

- Shift from crisis response to prevention and recovery

Key targets and investment

- Eliminate the unlawful use bed and breakfast for families

- Halve long term rough sleeping

- Increase proportion of households helped to stay in their home or move into a settled home

- Build 1.5 millions homes, including a major boost in social and affordable housing

- £3.5 billion over 5 years for homelessness and rough sleeping

- £39 billion over 10 years for social and affordable housing

FIVE PILLARS TO END HOMELESSNESS

UNIVERSAL PREVENTION

Tackle-root causes. build social housing, reform private renting, and reduce poverty.
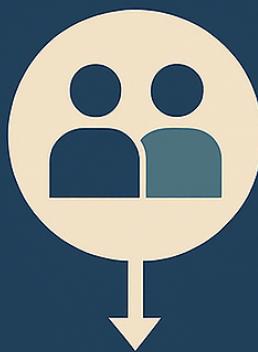
TARGETED PREVENTION

Support vulnerable groups like care leavers, veterans, and domestic abuse survivors.

PREVENTING CRISIS

Early intervention and logal advice to stop homelessness before it happens.

IMPROVING EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Ensure safe, decent temporary accommodation and end unlawful B&B use.

RECOVERY & PREVENTING REPEAT HOMELESSNESS

Expand Housing First, mental health support, and employment pathways.

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Universal prevention – tackling the root causes of homelessness

Goal – Make homelessness rare by reducing risk across the whole population through early action

- **Increase supply of affordable housing** – SAHP, 10 year rent settlement, reform of Right to Buy
- **Ensure social housing reaches those who need it most** – update statutory guidance on allocations, remove barriers for care leavers, Veterans and domestic abuse survivors, require nomination agreements for homes funded by SAHP
- **Expand supported housing** – invest £124 m to deliver supported housing, new licensing regime for supported housing providers, reform DFGs
- **Reform private rented sector** – renters rights act
- **Tackle poverty and boost living standards** – scrap two child limit, national living wage increases, universal credit increases, Better Futures Fund, Crisis and Resilience Fund

Targeted prevention – support for people at higher risk of homelessness

Goal – Prevent homelessness among people at higher risk due to life events or vulnerabilities

- **Cross government targets**
  - long term ambition that no one should leave a public institution into homelessness
  - reduce homelessness from prisons, hospitals, care system and asylum accommodation.
- **Duty to collaborate**
  - introduce a legal duty for public services to work together to prevent homelessness. Councils, health, justice, education and voluntary sector must share responsibility.

Targeted prevention – support for people at higher risk of homelessness

Goal – Prevent homelessness among people at higher risk due to life events or vulnerabilities

- **Support for Vulnerable Groups**
  - Care leavers - New duty for councils to provide "Staying Close" support up to age 25.
  - Young people - Expand early intervention, mental health support in schools, and family mediation.
  - Veterans - Extend Op FORTITUDE and VALOUR programmes; improve housing access.
  - Refugees & migrants - Ensure councils receive timely data; provide integration support.
  - Domestic abuse survivors - Develop prevention toolkit; strengthen housing protections.
  - Victims of exploitation & trafficking - Update guidance and improve safeguarding.
  - People facing multiple disadvantage - Invest £55.8m in a new programme for integrated support.

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Preventing crisis – helping people stay in their homes

Goal - Help people stay in their homes and avoid homelessness when they are at imminent risk of homelessness

- **Shift from Crisis to Prevention**
  - Move away from reactive responses and embed a culture of early intervention.
  - Ensure people can access help before they reach crisis point.
- **Funding & Support**
  - Provide £3.5 billion over three years for homelessness and rough sleeping services.
  - Introduce multi-year funding arrangements for councils to invest in prevention.
- **Early Intervention**
  - Expand access to legal advice and "know your rights" materials.
  - Strengthen partnerships with landlords and housing providers to prevent evictions.
  - Develop a Prevention Toolkit for councils.

Preventing crisis – helping people stay in their homes

Goal - Ensure that if people do become homeless, they receive safe, decent, and high-quality temporary accommodation, and that experiences are improved while reducing reliance on emergency solutions.

- **Data & Technology**
  - Use data and AI to identify households at risk 3–6 months before crisis.
  - Pilot predictive analytics to target support earlier.

- **Person-Centred Support**
  - Tailor interventions for individuals with complex needs.
  - Avoid requiring people to sleep rough to access help.

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Improving emergency responses – improving temporary accommodation and making people's experiences better if they do become homeless

Goal - Help people stay in their homes and avoid homelessness when they are at imminent risk of homelessness

- **Eliminate Unlawful Use of B&Bs**
  - Set a national target to end the use of B&Bs for families beyond the 6-week statutory limit, except for very short-term emergencies.
- **Increase Supply of Good-Quality Temporary Accommodation**
  - Invest £950 million through the Local Authority Housing Fund to deliver up to 5,000 homes by 2030.
  - Explore partnerships with social impact and institutional investors to expand supply.
- **Improve Physical Standards**
  - Apply the Decent Homes Standard to temporary accommodation.
  - Extend Awaab's Law to ensure urgent repairs for hazards like damp and mould.

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Improving emergency responses – improving temporary accommodation and making people's experiences better if they do become homeless

Goal - Help people stay in their homes and avoid homelessness when they are at imminent risk of homelessness

- **Enhance Experience for Families**
  - Reduce disruption to schooling and healthcare.
  - Minimise out-of-area placements and multiple moves.
  - Provide access to basic facilities (cooking, laundry, Wi-Fi).
- **Place-Based Solutions**
  - Scale up Emergency Accommodation Reduction Programme (£30m funding) to tackle poor practice and reduce B&B use.
  - Share best practice through a Temporary Accommodation Toolkit.

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Recovery and preventing repeat homelessness sleeping

Goal - Ensure people do not experience homelessness more than once and halve long-term rough sleeping.

- **Halve Long-Term Rough Sleeping**
  - Launch a £15 million Long-Term Rough Sleeping Innovation Programme to support councils with high pressures.
  - Introduce Long-Term Rough Sleeping Partnership Plans for areas with persistent challenges.
- **Expand Housing First and Supported Housing**
  - Provide housing-led solutions for people with complex needs.
  - Deliver supported housing units and embed Housing First as a core model.
- **Access to Specialist Services**
  - Improve access to mental health, substance use treatment, and physical health care.
  - Invest £185 million in drug and alcohol treatment programmes.
  - Implement the Co-occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Delivery Framework.

Recovery and preventing repeat homelessness sleeping

Goal - Ensure people do not experience homelessness more than once and halve long-term rough sleeping.

- **Person-Centred Recovery**
  - Embed trauma-informed, holistic support.
  - Strengthen community-based services and peer support networks.
  - Invest £37 million in the Ending Homelessness in Communities Fund to support voluntary and faith sector initiatives.
- **Employment and Financial Stability**
  - Remove work disincentives for people in temporary or supported housing.
  - Expand tailored employment support through the Connect to Work programme.
 - Improve financial inclusion (e.g., access to bank accounts) and debt support.

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Foundations for delivery

- Strong national and local accountability with new Outcomes Framework.
- Councils must publish action plans with local targets.
- New National Workforce Programme for training and skills.
- Embed lived experience in design and delivery.
- Use data, evidence, and AI to improve services.

## Review of Bury's homelessness strategy 2022 – 2025

- The homelessness strategy 2022 – 2025 has been reviewed in depth with partners and individuals with lived experience through a series of workshops and surveys.

- In depth analysis of homelessness data between 2022 – 2025.

Review of Bury's homelessness strategy 2022 – 2025

Number of New Cases Opened
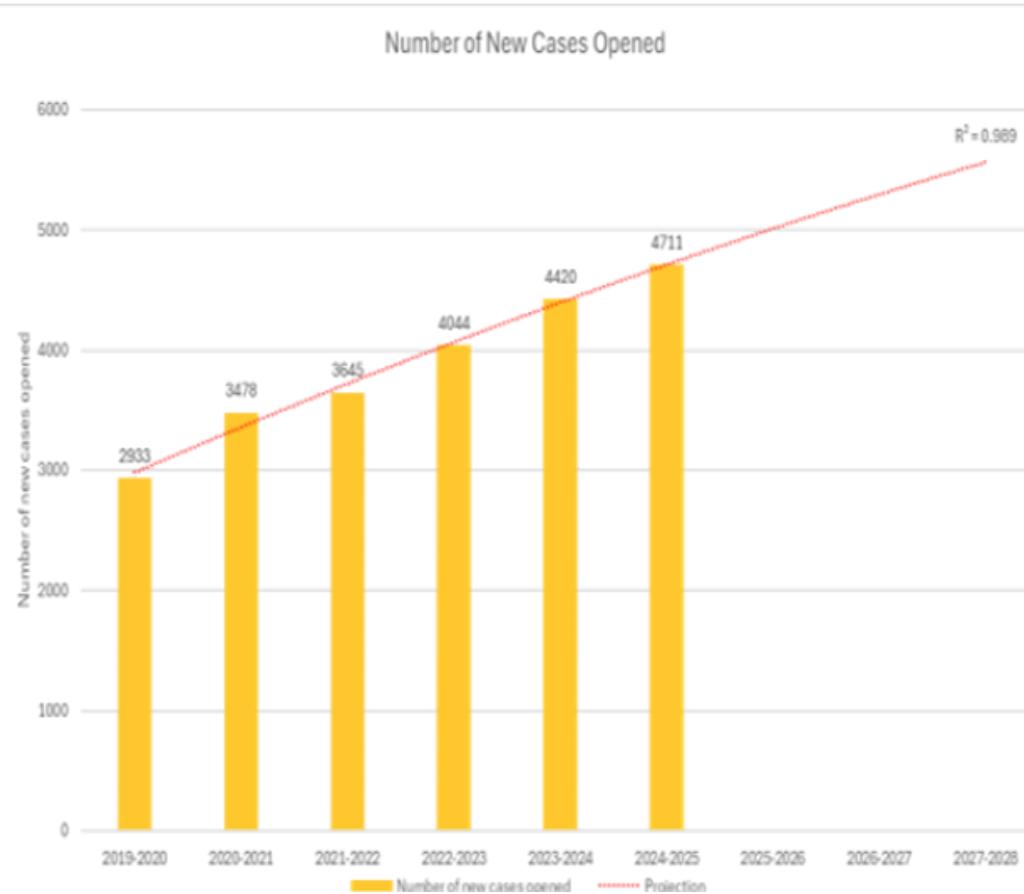
- Demand for Bury Council's Homeless Advice Service rose sharply due to the cost-of-living crisis and changes in Private Rented legislation, while staffing remained static.
- It has been projected that demand may rise to 5,600 contacts by 2027–2028: an 18.9% increase from 2024–2025, if homelessness trends continue to be the same.

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Review of Bury's homelessness strategy 2022 – 2025

Number of households in TA on last day of month
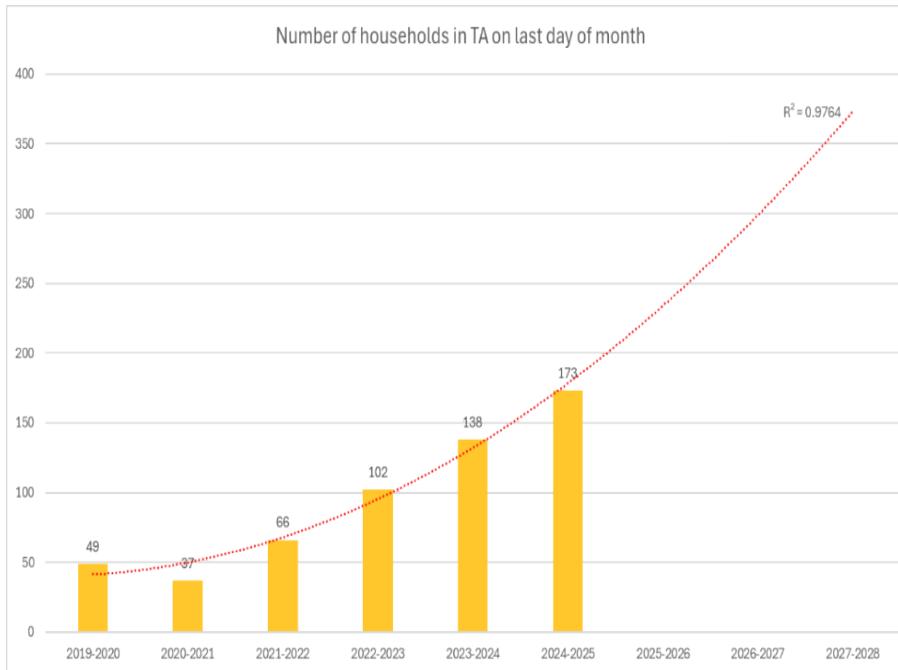
- By 2023 supply of temporary accommodation could no longer meet demand leading to the use of B&B as emergency accommodation
- The use of bed and breakfast (B&B) placements peaked at 58. This increase was linked to a rise in cases where a homelessness duty was owed, alongside limited staffing capacity to deliver early prevention work. Consequently, Bury was issued a B&B elimination plan by the MHCLG.
- At September 2025 have 222 households in temporary accommodation (401 children), 109 families in dispersed stock, 26 singles and 24 families in bed and breakfast accommodation. 56 families in pay nightly accommodation and 8 singles in council commissioned service.
- It is forecasted that if there was a "do nothing attitude" in three years the Council will need an additional 109 properties, on top of the current 110 dispersed and 8 commissioned.

Review of Bury's homelessness strategy 2022 – 2025

Number of Rough Sleepers Homeless Being Supported
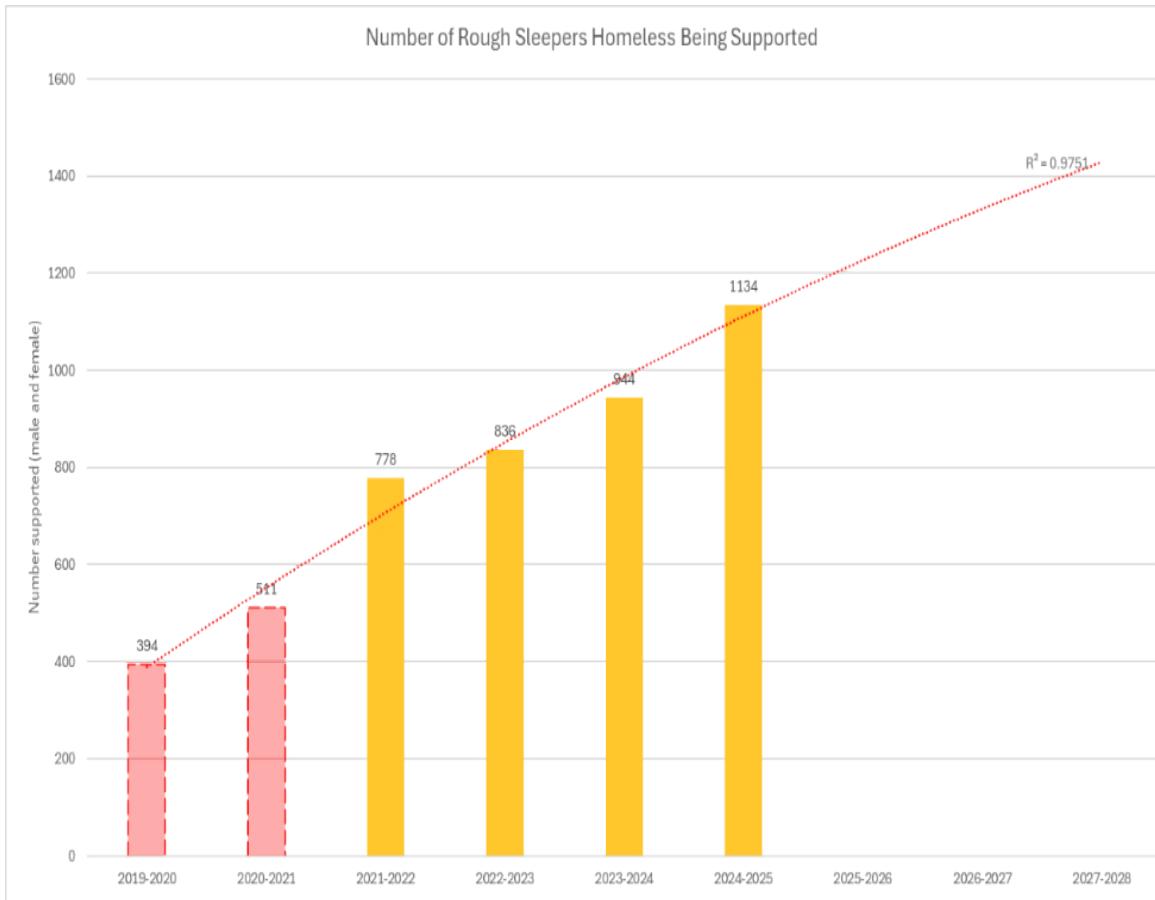
- Rough sleeping has risen significantly across the borough in recent years, with the highest numbers recorded in 2024.
- This mirrors regional and national trends, with the majority of those affected being males aged 30–45, including individuals recently granted leave to remain after leaving NASS accommodation.
- If current trends were to continue, rough sleeper supported by the team has been projected to increase to1452 in 2027-2028 compared to 1134 in 204-2025 this is a 28.4% increase.

Feedback from people with lived experience

- Homelessness is driven by a complex interplay of factors including relationship breakdown, financial hardship and systematic barriers.

- Many individual reported that temporary housing solutions are often inadequate and the journey towards stability is both emotionally and physically exhausting.

- Support service vary significantly across different demographics, underscoring the need for inclusive, trauma informed approaches.

- Gaps were highlighted in life skills support and called for more robust pathways to independence.

- Digital exclusion was identified as a barriers to accessing housing with suggestions for app based solutions to improve accessibility.

- Concerns were raised about the rigidity of the rough sleeper verification process.

- Service users consistently expressed a desire to be treated with respect and individuality and to be actively involved in shaping solutions.

- Top priorities identified include increasing the availability of recovery housing, ensuring fairer access to housing, and repurposing empty buildings.

- Additional needs include the provision of mentors with lived experience, simplified systems and greater recognition of non-housing related challenges that impact homelessness.

Key findings from review

Key cohorts

- A number of key cohorts were identified as important to include within the strategy including young people, veterans, victims of domestic abuse, those with complex needs and refugees.

Early warning signs and prevention

- Use the warning signs from the following indicators include rent arrears, health decline, A&E visits, carer strain, anti social behaviour, relationship breakdown, school attendance issues to help prevent homelessness.

- Services should intervene earlier by improving cross agency communication, training frontline staff and using data to identify risk patterns.

- Reduce stigma around support services (e.g. rename food banks, promote community shops)

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Key findings from review

Education and awareness

- Increase homelessness education in schools and colleges – use school newsletters and drop down days to share advice and resources
- Improve public access to translated materials and service information

Service integration and collaboration

- Strengthen links between housing, health, education and social care
- Introduce single points of contact, shared consent forms and regular networking
- Promote service offers in community spaces (GPs, schools etc)

Housing solutions and temporary accommodation

- Improve quality, safety and transparency of temporary accommodation
- Prioritise family friendly spaces with cooking facilities and privacy.
- Explore use of empty homes, retirement properties and new build agreements for social housing.

Key findings from review

Family centred support

- Tailored services to individual family needs, avoiding stereotypes
- Provide wraparound support, peer mentoring and life skills training
- Ensure transitional support when moving out of temporary accommodation

Domestic abuse and stability

- Assign a single advocate per family to reduce stress and improve continuity
- Create safe, stable housing options that empower recovery and independence

Engagement and trust building

- Ensure consistency in staffing and service delivery
- Expand outreach teams and peer mentor roles, especially those with lived experience
- Foster trust through friendly, respectful communication and multiple chances to engage

Key findings from review

Accessibility and communication

- Improve access to basic amenities
- Reduce stigma around food banks by renaming them as community shops
- Simplify language used in services (e.g. clarify terms like 'relief duty')
- Create explainer videos and access signposting platforms
- Introduce digital tools like AI chatbot (e.g. Bernard) to offer real time empathic support.

Pathways to stable housing

- Develop transitional pathways in supported accommodation with goal setting and gradual independence
- Improve tenancy sustainment through long term follow up and wrap around support
- Address practical barriers such as access to bank accounts, transport, and healthcare within accommodation settings

Key priorities from the review

- Priority One - Strengthen our prevention offer

- Priority Two - Provide more suitable, safe accommodation and affordable accommodation.

- Priority Three - Reduce rough sleeping in the borough

- Priority Four - Improve support for a better quality of life

Next steps

- Finalise strategy and develop and publish local action plan by October 2026.

- Strengthen governance and accountability
  - Review the homelessness partnership and its role

- Review the current service provision and transition to early prevention using multi year funding settlement

- Carry out temporary accommodation occupancy audit – additional funding has been provided for this

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