

# Public Document Pack

**High Peak Borough Council**



## **INFORMATION DIGEST DOCUMENT PACK**

**Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022**

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### **PART 1**

1. Homeless Prevention Expenditure Update (**Pages 3 - 12**)

**MARK TRILLO**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND MONITORING OFFICER**

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# ***Information Digest***



**To: Community Select**

**Date: 28 July 2022**

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## ***Homeless Prevention Expenditure Update***

**Councillor Fiona Sloman  
Leader**

**Helen Core  
Head of Housing Services**

## **1. Reason for the Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide information relating to homelessness funding.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the contents of the report be kindly noted.
- 2.2 Information relating to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (6.12- 6.14) and homelessness funding programmes (6.15- 6.17) are also noted.

## **3. Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The Council receives a variety of homelessness grants from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) formerly Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government. It is up local authorities how they distribute this funding provided they meet with DLUHCs intended purpose; support the development and enhancement of services for the homeless or those threatened with homelessness.
- 3.2 Funding relating to 2022-4 (2 year) Second Homes Council Tax funding programme, an agreement with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to use 75% of council tax income raised from second homes to support vulnerable people, has now been approved.
- 3.3 Additional funding has been provided in relation to the Domestic Abuse Act, and partnership DLUHC grant funding applications secure additional funding from the Rough Sleeper Initiative and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.

## **4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The strategy contributes to the Corporate Plan 2019-23 aim of helping to create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live and work.

**Martin Owen**  
**Executive Director**

### **Web Links and Background Papers**

[Homelessness Review and Strategy 2018-2022](#)

### **Contact details**

Helen Core  
Head of Housing Services  
[Helen.Core@highpeak.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Core@highpeak.gov.uk)  
0345 129 7777 x 6511

## 5. Introduction

- 5.1 This report considers the homelessness funding available to prevent and address homelessness and provide support to vulnerable households.
- 5.2 The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2018-2022) set out four key priorities in order to address and prevent homelessness. It was intended that funded projects should meet with one or more of the strategic priorities, as set out below:
- 1) To prevent homelessness through a comprehensive range of services
  - 2) Ensure suitable accommodation is available to address and prevent homelessness
  - 3) Improve the Private Rented Sector Offer
  - 4) Ensure sufficient support is available to address and prevent homelessness

## 6. Funding Allocation

- 6.1 The anticipated Homelessness Prevention total funding allocation available for 2022/23 is detailed below:
- £568,000- Funding carried forward from ear marked reserves. This includes DLUHC grant funding allocations of; 1) New Burdens to support implementation of Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 2) Flexible Homelessness Support Grant 3) Homelessness Prevention Grant allocations
  - £183,970 - 2022/23 DLUHC Homelessness Prevention Grant allocation
  - 115,000- DCC Second Homes Council Tax

	<b>Previous Years funding unallocated (£)</b>	<b>2022/23 Allocation (£)</b>	<b>TOTAL (£)</b>
<b><i>DLUHC Grant Funding:</i></b>	568,000	183,970	751,970
<b><i>DCC Funding:</i></b> Second Homes Council Tax Funding		115,000	115,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	568,000	298,970	866,970

- 6.2 The intended purpose of the Flexible Homelessness Support Grant was to assist with homelessness and prevention activity, and reduce or eliminate the use of emergency B&B, particularly for periods over 6 weeks. As such, there is greater flexibility to move away from costly intervention when a household is already homeless, to prioritising preventing homelessness happening in the first place.
- 6.3 The Homelessness Prevention Grant gives authorities flexibilities managing homelessness pressures, supporting those at risk of homelessness and continuing to implement the Homeless Reduction Act 2017.

- 6.4 In October 2021 an additional £30,415 uplift to the Homelessness Prevention Grant was received to support Vulnerable Renters, the funding recognises the impact the pandemic has had on households in the private rented sector with the lowest income and funds interventions to prevent evictions and homelessness due to loss of a tenancy. Payments can be made to an existing landlord to reduce rent arrears or a new landlord to support a household secure a new home.
- 6.5 Funding from the Second Homes Council Tax programme 2021-23, an agreement with DCC to use 75% of council tax income raised from second homes to support vulnerable people, was approved by DCC Cabinet February 2022.
- 6.6 The aim of the Homelessness Prevention Budget is to support the delivery of services which will address, prevent and relieve homelessness and provide support to vulnerable households.
- 6.7 Funded projects meet with one or more of the strategic priorities within the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (2018-2022) as set out in section 5.2.
- 6.8 The table below provides an outline of projected Homelessness Prevention funding allocations over the next year. The council has funded many of the initiatives previously and the proposed 2022/23 expenditure is a continuation.

Project Name	Strategic Priority	Service Description	2022/23 Allocation		Total 2022/23 Allocation
			DCC Second Homes Council Tax 2022/23	Homeless Funding	
Debt Advice Project	1,4	Money, debt and budgeting advice project delivered to households that maybe at risk of homelessness due to debt, rent or mortgage arrears	£10,000	£15,000	25,000
Meeting the accommodation needs of people with disabilities	2	Grants to achieve the Lifetime Homes standard in new build affordable homes or adaptations through additional Disabled Facility Grants	£50,000	-	£50,000
Support for Families in Crisis Project	2, 4	Good News FamilyCare provides accommodation for vulnerable women and families who are homeless and have domestic abuse or drug and alcohol support needs	£20,000	-	£20,000
Domestic Abuse Project	2,4	Crossroads Derbyshire provide specialist service and supported accommodation to younger women (under 25 years) to address issues of domestic abuse	£20,000	-	£20,000
Vulnerable adults affected by	1,4	Financial assistance for vulnerable households affected	£10,000	-	£10,000

welfare reforms		by welfare reforms with the associated costs of for instance downsizing to avoid future arrears, assistance with removals or rent arrears.			
Action Housing Project	2,4	Supported accommodation for high risk offenders. This project was previously funded through DCC but funding reduced.	£3,000	£420	£3,420
Move On Officer	2	A Derbyshire wide project to help vulnerable people leaving supported accommodation to move-on into independent living.	£2,000	-	£2,000
Access to the Private Rented Sector Project (Adullam contract 2+1Yr, 2022-4)	1,2,3,4	Provides combination of services including pre tenancy training, rent Bond assistance and tenancy support.	-	£77,965	£77,965
Private Sector Bond (delivered Adullam contract)	1,2	Top up funding for Bond issue	-	£15,000	£15,000
Prevention Fund	1,2,3	Financial assistance to those at risk of homelessness to enable households to retain or secure accommodation	-	£12,000	12,000
'Call Before You Serve' scheme	Principally 3, also 1, 2 & 4.	Early intervention private landlord support service	-	£9,313	£9,313
Discretionary Housing Payments	1,4	Top up funding for Discretionary Housing Payments 20/21	-	£20,000	£20,000
Additional Housing Officer hours (11.5 hrs pw)		Temporary Accommodation support, housing and homelessness advice and assistance.	-	£11,110	£11,110
Housing Adviser F/T post		Housing and homelessness advice and assistance.	-	£38,024	£38,024
B&B		B&B budget expenditure top up	-	£18,000	£18,000
Temporary accommodation provision	2	Costs associated with temporary accommodation	-	£9,000	£9,000
Homeless Prevention Project	1 & 4	Derbyshire Law Centre Project assisting social & private tenants to retain tenancies		£16,500	£16,500
Out of Hours Service		Emergency homelessness response outside of business opening hours		10,388	10,388
Probation Link Worker	1 & 4	Supports authority and services through the early identification of individuals being released from custody with no fixed abode		2,000	2,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>£115,000</b>	<b>254,720</b>	<b>£369,719.5</b>

6.9 The causes of homelessness are complex, however the main reason associated with those accepted as homeless is predominantly the loss of a private sector tenancy. The eviction ban, preventing evictions from taking place due to the pandemic (except in exceptional cases) came to an end on

31/5/21. From 1/10/21 notice periods returned to their pre-pandemic levels. From 1/11/21 the “overall arrangements for possession proceedings” (such as review hearings, prioritisation of specific types of possession claims) were brought to an end. More customers are approaching for assistance in maintaining privately rented accommodation (minimum 32% caseload 2021/22 year to 14.3.22). The work by the ‘Call Before you Serve’ service aims to mediate between landlords and tenants before notice is served. Anecdotal information suggests landlords are selling due to their own financial circumstances or choosing to leave market.

- 6.10 The table below provides a summary of the commitments as listed above, identifying currently unallocated funding.

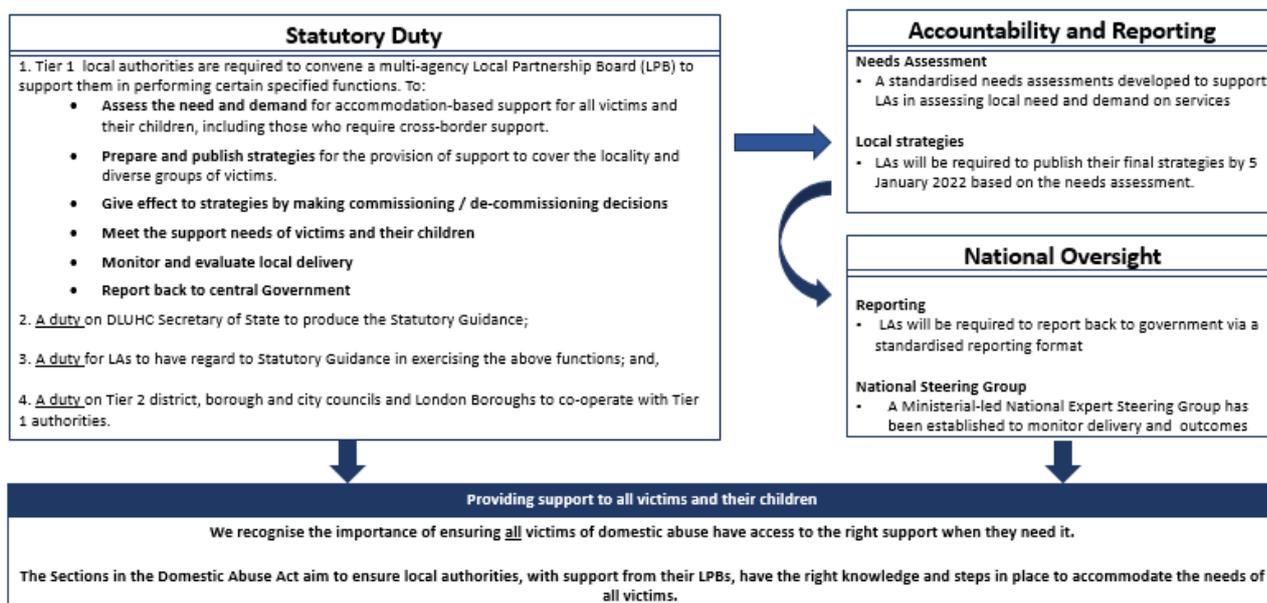
	£
Estimated available funding 2022/23	866,970.00
Committed 2022/2023	369,719.50
Uncommitted	497,250.50

Whilst it appears there are significant funds available, these funds are also used for reactive prevention works on a case-by-case basis and provision of emergency accommodation. New burdens that arise during the year, such as Asylum Dispersal and the situation in the Ukraine are also likely to require additional initiatives using this funding.

- 6.11 There is uncertainty in respect of non-recurrent short term external DLUHC funding, and so some of the funding uncommitted may need to be utilised in future years if funding allocations reduce. That said, DLUHC have been very clear that those at risk of street homelessness are to be accommodated and assisted in preventing this wherever possible. The headroom also affords opportunity to support the delivery of further services which will address, prevent and relief homelessness and provide support to vulnerable households.

*Additional Funding -Domestic Abuse Act*

- 6.12 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 provides several new duties. All eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have ‘priority need’ for homelessness assistance. Where a local authority, for reasons connected with domestic abuse, grants a new secure tenancy to a social tenant who had or has a secure lifetime or assured tenancy (other than an assured shorthold tenancy) this must now be a secure lifetime tenancy. The Act also places new duties on Tier 1 Local Authorities in England to provide accommodation based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within ‘safe accommodation’, including refuges. Local authority officers are working with Derbyshire County Council to implement the duties, which include needs assessment and development of Derby and Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Support in Accommodation Strategy (2021-24). A summary of the duty to provide accommodation based support is shown below.



6.13 DLUHC has allocated the following Domestic Abuse Act New Burdens funding to local authorities to support the delivery of domestic abuse support in safe accommodation.

Local Authority	2021/22	2022/23
Derbyshire County Council	£1,471,203	£ 1,475,275
HPBC	£31,987	£32,013

6.14 A summary of other new duties included in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 are below.

- Create a statutory definition of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse
- Establish in law the office of Domestic Abuse Commissioner and set out the Commissioner's functions and powers
- Provide for a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order
- Prohibit perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims in person in the civil and family courts in England and Wales
- Create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are eligible for special measures in the criminal, civil and family courts
- Clarify the circumstances in which a court may make a barring order under section 91(14) of the Children Act 1989 to prevent family proceedings that can further traumatise victims
- Extend the controlling or coercive behaviour offence to cover post-separation abuse.
- Extend the offence of disclosing private sexual photographs and films with intent to cause distress (known as the "revenge porn" offence) to cover threats to disclose such material

- Create a new offence of non-fatal strangulation or suffocation of another person.
- Clarify by restating in statute law the general proposition that a person may not consent to the infliction of serious harm and, by extension, is unable to consent to their own death
- Extend the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the criminal courts in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to further violent and sexual offences
- Provide for a statutory domestic abuse perpetrator strategy
- Enable domestic abuse offenders to be subject to polygraph testing as a condition of their licence following their release from custody
- Place the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (“Clare’s law”) on a statutory footing.
- Prohibit GPs and other health professionals in general practice from charging a victim of domestic abuse for a letter to support an application for legal aid
- Provide for a statutory code of practice relating to the processing of domestic abuse data for immigration purposes

*Additional Homelessness Funding – Partner Bids*

- 6.15 In addition to DLUHC local authority allocated funding specifically to HPBC, several partnership applications have been made to available funding programmes.
- 6.16 In partnership with Framework Housing Association a successful application to the DLUHC Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) 2021-2024 secures £489,840 to provide supported accommodation for people who have slept rough or are at risk of rough sleeping. 4 units of self-contained supported accommodation will be provided within Buxton and 4 within Leek.
- 6.17 A collective bid with authorities within the DHOG (Derbyshire Homeless Officers Group) DHOG partnership has been submitted to the DLUHC 2022-25 Rough Sleeper Initiative. If awarded the grant would secure the following across ten local authorities:
- Rough sleeper co-ordinators
  - Rough sleeper outreach services to engage with rough sleepers, who may have multiple and complex needs, and move them off the street.
  - Tenancy related support for rough sleepers assisted to move away from the street into accommodation or those that may be at risk of rough sleeping.
  - Prison navigator role to provide intensive ‘through the gate’ support to individuals on release from custody to secure accommodation and to help break the cycle of repeat custodial sentences and homelessness
  - Substance misuse navigator roles will provide support to those with a prevalent need of alcohol and/or substance use to improve levels of engagement and increase the number of people in treatment
  - Mental Health link worker will work with an Approved Mental Health Practitioner to support access to assessments and support.
  - Bi-monthly rough sleeper street counts allow the impact of services to be considered

- P3 commissioned service provider links with all Housing Advice services

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