

# Health and Wellbeing Board

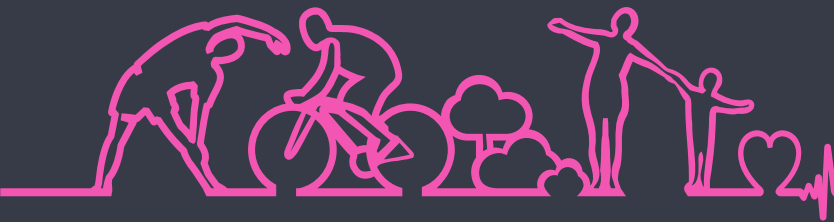
## 22 November 2023

Draft County Durham Housing Strategy and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

Consultation: 30 October 2023 – 18 December 2023



Better for everyone

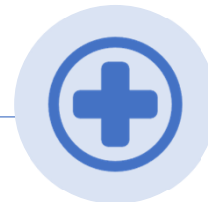


# Main messages from the Housing Conversation

- Overwhelming support for the vision, principles and priorities
- Concerns about anti-social behaviour and crime
- Support for the delivery of homes to meet needs
- The importance of adaptation of houses to meet changing needs over a lifetime
- Energy efficiency improvements
- Financial pressures
- Concerns about the impact of concentrations of private rented properties
- Support for regulation of landlords
- Local schemes to improve our towns and villages recognised as an important future priority
- Impact of student housing
- Recognition of the rising issue of homelessness
- Independent living for those with a disability
- Bringing empty homes back into use where appropriate
- Good quality housing is a significant factor in supporting health and wellbeing outcomes
- New housing needs sufficient infrastructure to accommodate the impact of the development

# Housing Strategy: Vision

'By 2035 County Durham will be a place that has good quality homes that meet the needs of existing and future residents that they can afford. The provision and quality of housing will support economic growth, contribute to improved health, and create and maintain sustainable, mixed and balanced communities. People will live long and independent lives within connected communities.'



# Housing Strategy: Principles



**Principle 1:** Everyone has a right to a warm, safe, and decent home



**Principle 2:** Everyone should have access to a home that is affordable to them



**Principle 3:** Housing is the cornerstone of communities and should support improved health, **community safety**, educational attainment, and the local economy



**Principle 4:** The strategy will be for the county, not the council, and will promote local solutions underpinned by community engagement



**Principle 5:** All new homes should be accessible, tenure ~~neutral~~ **blind** and provide flexible living for different stages in a person's life, always aiming to allow people to be independent, including remaining in their home for as long as they desire



**Principle 6:** Existing and new communities should be physically, digitally, culturally, and economically connected to support the creation of **sustainable, safe**, mixed and balanced communities, including bringing empty homes back into use



**Principle 7:** The strategy will support energy efficiency and carbon reduction in existing and new housing and contribute towards the Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan

# Housing Strategy: Priorities



**Priority 1:** Increase the delivery of new homes, including secure, affordable housing to meet housing needs and ~~to provide a Housing First approach, along~~ **together** with the infrastructure required



**Priority 2:** Ensure that everyone has access to appropriate, safe and secure housing that ~~meets their needs~~ **support health and wellbeing**



**Priority 3:** Ensure high quality, **energy efficient** homes and **effective** landlord services



**Priority 4:** Ensure a comprehensive range of housing options for older and vulnerable people, disabled people and children and young people, including specialist accommodation and support



**Priority 5:** Ensure high quality placemaking, creating ~~great~~ **safe, accessible, prosperous** and sustainable places to live

# Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

## Background

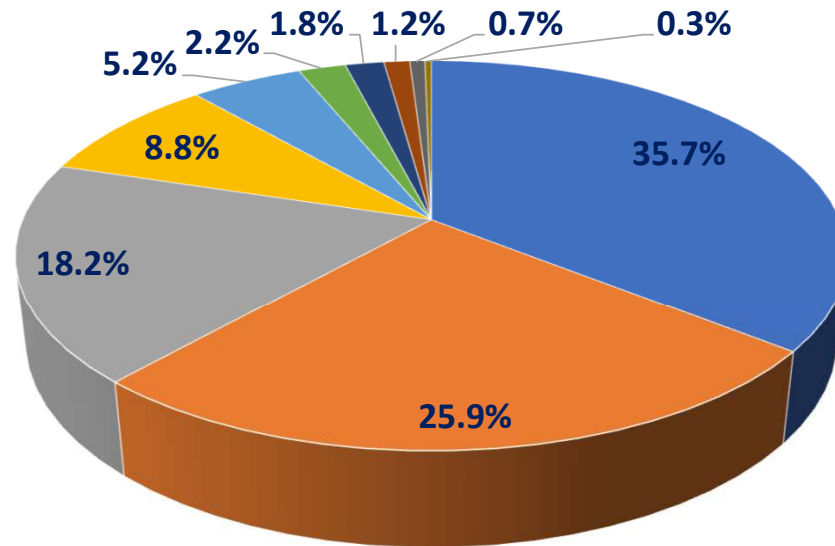
- Statutory requirement to have a strategy in place
- In depth review of homelessness and rough sleeping carried out over a 3 year period
- Consultation earlier in the year on proposed priorities with a range of partners and members of the public

## Key points

The draft strategy differs from the existing strategy: -

- It has a more detailed evidence base to inform the strategy
- Reviewed the housing needs across a range of cohorts to identify gaps and service offer
- It is clear which landlords we need to engage with to assist in homeless prevention and access to the supply of accommodation

# Key points – who presents in Durham



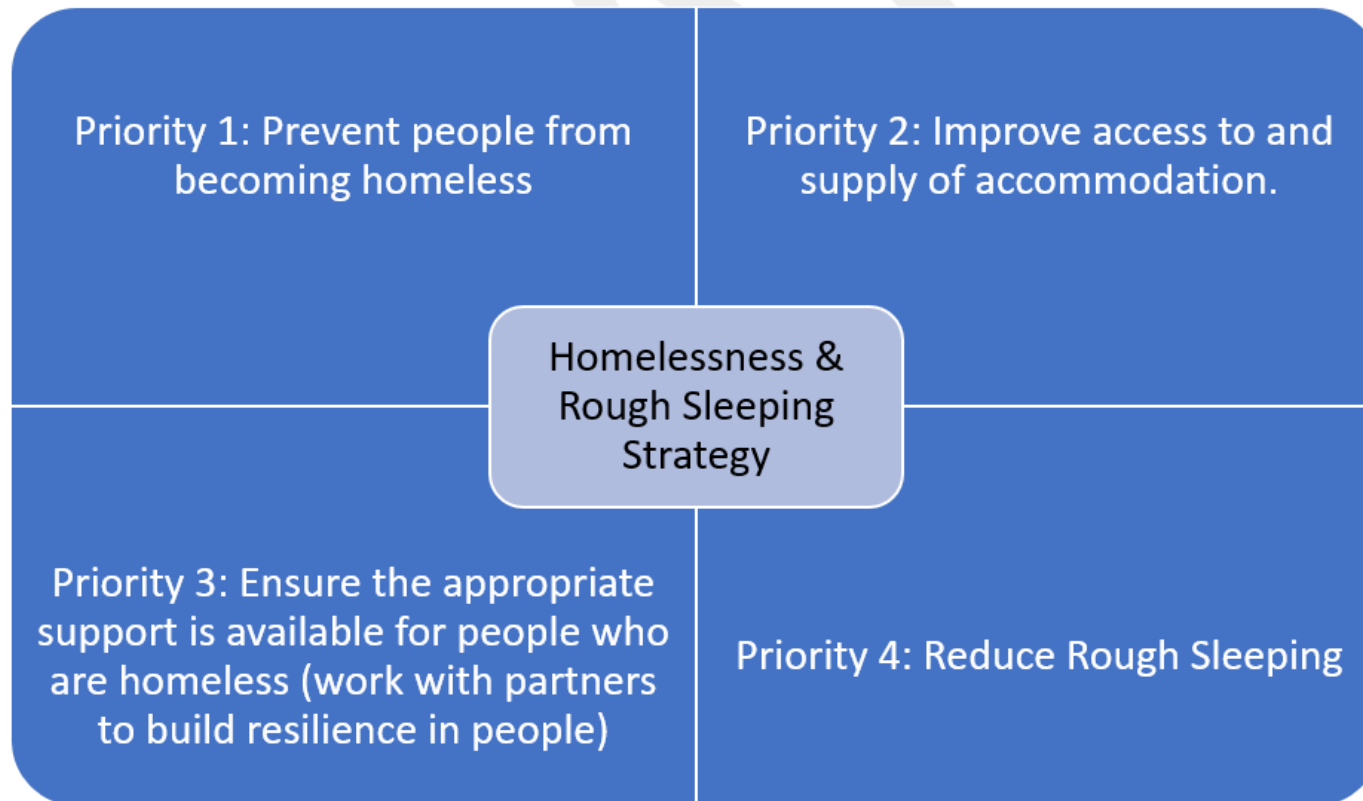
- General homeless 35.7%
- Complex Needs 25.9%
- Young People 18.2%
- Domestic Abuse 8.8%
- Offenders 5.2%
- Larger families 2.2%
- Rough Sleepers 1.8%
- Hospital discharge 0.7%
- Veterans 0.3%
- Care Leavers 1.2%

# Key points

- Around 7,500 people contact the housing service each year claiming homelessness
- Of those around 2,500 are accepted as being homeless in line with legislation
- Main reasons for homelessness are, end of private rented tenancy, domestic abuse and parent/friends no longer willing to accommodate.
- Large increase in number of people requiring early advice
- Reduction in helping people remain in their existing home
- Increase in numbers of people with complex needs
- Access to some tenures for certain cohorts is difficult
- Pressures on temporary accommodation



# Key points/priorities of the strategy



# Next steps

- Approved by Cabinet
- **7 week consultation period for both draft strategies: 30 October and 18 December 2023**

## You can provide feedback

- Online at [www.durham.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation)
  - Via two virtual meetings, which can be booked via the web page above:
    - Monday 13 November 2023 from 1.30pm to 3.00pm
    - Monday 20 November 2023 from 6.00pm to 7.30pm
  - By emailing comments to [thehousingconversation@durham.gov.uk](mailto:thehousingconversation@durham.gov.uk)
  - In person at any Council Customer Access Point or library
- 
- Final approval in March 24
  - Establishment of a Homelessness Forum
  - Development of a delivery plan