

Housing and Health Update

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18 March 2025



Better for everyone

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 – 2029

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1. Prevent people from becoming homeless
2. Improve access to and supply of accommodation
3. Ensure the appropriate support is available for people who are homeless (work with partners to build resilience in people)
4. Reduce Rough Sleeping

The County Durham Housing Strategy

The County Durham Housing Strategy

1. Increase the delivery of new housing, including secure, affordable housing to meet housing needs together with the infrastructure required.
2. Ensure that everyone has access to appropriate, safe and secure housing that support health and wellbeing.
3. Ensure high quality, energy efficient houses and effective landlord services.
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.
5. Ensure high quality placemaking, creating safe, accessible, prosperous and sustainable places to live.



Strategic Priority – making smoking history

- **Smoke Free County Durham** - information sharing and service referrals.
- **Dedicated Welfare Rights Officer** – maximising income and signposting to services.
- **NHS Health Squad** – supporting vulnerable people who are far removed from health services.
- **Staff training and development** – Making Every Contact Count (MECC), ‘Eyes on the Baby’ Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) pilot, and ‘Eyes Wide Open’ training delivered by Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

Strategic Priority – enabling healthy weight for all

- **Foodbanks** – including food pantries who offer fresh fruit, vegetables and bread.
- **Healthy cooking and cooking on a budget** – workshops offered by supported accommodation providers.
- **Exercise and activities** – local group activities and walking.
- **National Planning Policy Framework** – promote good health and reduce health inequalities, restrictions on hot food takeaways and fast-food

Strategic Priority – improving mental health, resilience and wellbeing

- **Fuel Poverty** – Warm and Healthy Homes Project, gas boiler service or minor repair, Energy Company Obligation (ECO).
- **Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs)** – home adaptations for adults and children to live independently in their homes.
- **Rough Sleepers** – dedicated team including an adult's social worker/ approved mental health practitioner.
- **SHAP** – Additional 32 bedspaces for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping
- **Support to vulnerable clients** – homeless, domestic abuse, humanitarian support, hospital discharge, health squad, supported accommodation
- **Supported Housing Improved Programme (SHIP)** – Improve standards of accommodation and support in the non-commissioned supported housing sector
- **Partnership working**- Housing poverty group
- **Selective Licensing and Private Sector Housing Team** – raising accommodation standards in the private housing sector.



Strategic Priority – reducing alcohol harms

- **Drug and alcohol workers** – employed by Waythrough to work directly with the non-commissioned supported housing providers and with homeless clients
- **Partnership working** with commissioned providers
- **Health squad** to promote drug and alcohol services

Conclusion

- Housing is a key determinant to health and wellbeing.
- Housing and health is referenced in our key strategic documents including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the County Durham Plan, the County Durham Housing Strategy and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.
- Access to housing, improving housing and the home environment is key to improving health outcomes for individuals, families, and the elderly.
- Housing have delivered a number of key projects to assist with improving the health of the population of County Durham.
- Housing will continue to work with partners to deliver the strategic aims of our key strategies.