

Homelessness Strategy 2010-2014

A Presentation for the Community Commission

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Strategy structure

1. What is the current scope and extent of homelessness in Derby? What resources are available to tackle it?
2. What is our vision for the future – where do we want to be in 5 years time in terms of levels and type of service provision and impact on the future incidence of homelessness?
3. How will we achieve our goals? What specific actions will we take and who will be accountable? What barriers are there and how will we overcome them? How will we know we've been successful?

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The Strategy: a two-stage process

1. The review stage, which examines in depth the major changes since the last strategy (in 2003), current demand levels and current resource levels.
2. The 2nd stage is the 'strategy proper', which builds on the findings of the review and sets out our key priorities for the next 5 year period, along with a detailed action plan as to how we intend to achieve them.

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Why a separate review?

- It corresponds to Gov. guidance on the implementation of the Homelessness Act 2002, requiring all LA's in England to conduct a homelessness review
- Although it informs the strategy, it is a substantial piece of research and evaluation of sufficient size to be considered in its own right
- Previous experience...

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Review Content

It responds to question 1 of 3 in slide three – the where are we now... and how we got here.

In fact it:

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- Analyses the key changes to the context in which homelessness services are delivered
- Establishes the extent of homelessness in Derby,
- Identifies what is currently being done, and by whom,
- Assesses the level of resources available to prevent and tackle homelessness.

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Components of the Review (1)

- Summarises the major changes to the context in which homelessness services have been delivered including political, legal, financial economic and demographic changes
- Outlines the Derby response and our key achievements in the last 5-7 years

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Components of the Review (2)

Analyses the extent and nature of homelessness in Derby, and the 'key drivers' for groups such as:

1. Rough sleepers
2. Foreign nationals
3. Care leavers and young persons
4. Offenders and ex-offenders
5. Families with dependent children
6. Single person households
7. Other vulnerable groups

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Components of the Review (3)

...and the response of service providers to these groups while also dealing with other issues/agendas such as:

1. Prevention
2. Providing specialised accommodation for special needs groups
3. Effective use of temporary accommodation
4. Accessing the private sector
5. Improving tenancy support
6. Reconfiguring HOC facilities & procedures

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Components of the Review (4)

Supply of and Demand for Homelessness Services in Derby

Demand on Services

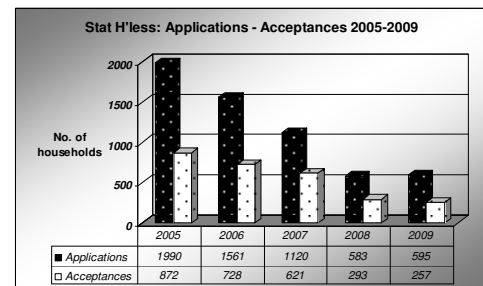
- Stat H'less Groups
- Non-Stat H'less Groups
- Other susceptible groups (prevention)

Available Resources

- Social Housing stock
- SP funding
- Private sector
- Voluntary sector
- Housing Options Service and Advice teams

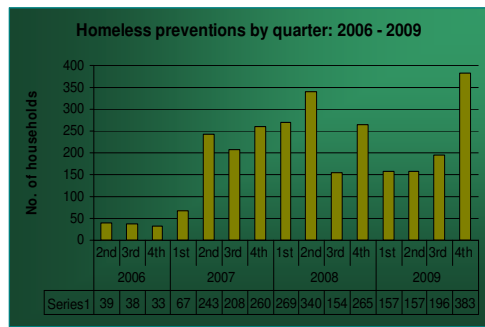
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Major achievements/successes (1)



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Major achievements/successes (2)



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How have the reductions been achieved?

- Amendments to the allocations policy
- A staffing restructure to promote increased emphasis on proactive case working and early intervention
- The appointment of specialist officers dealing with 'high risk' groups such as those suffering domestic violence.
- Facilitating greater ease of access to mainstream housing from hostels and refuges
- Increased provision of affordable housing and accommodation for those with specialist needs

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Other highlights from the last 5 years...

Milestone House: The 'Single Point of Entry'

- £2.2m scheme opening in 2008
- Provides holistic assessment and support services for single persons & childless couples
- Comprises a reception/assessment area, offices, and 35 emergency bed spaces
- Partnership working with Derventio Housing Trust and other agencies
- Finalist in 2008 UK Housing Awards.

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Other highlights from the last 5 years...

Centenary House Project

- Opened in 2005: specialist provision for persons with alcohol dependency
- Service for six former rough sleepers with history of chaotic alcohol abuse
- Rough sleeping reduced by almost 50%, while ASB on the streets also reduced
- Winner of Community Care award in 2005 for services in the 'drug & alcohol' category.

CC comment: "a compelling model that works"

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Other highlights from the last 5 years...

Measures to prevent youth homelessness

Crash pads

- Opened in 2009
- Partnership with YMCA/CYP/YOS/HOC
- Respite care for 16-17 year olds for typically 2-8 weeks while mediation ensues.
- Based at the YMCA campus - five units.

Mediation Service

- running since 2005
- Aims to enable YPs to stay in family home
- Often ensues while YPs temporarily in crash pads
- cognitive behaviour therapy now available in certain cases

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Key learning points for the strategy...

The main cause of homelessness has become 'eviction' by parents/relatives/friends.

This has replaced domestic violence as the primary cause and accounts for over 40% of all cases.

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Key learning points for the strategy...

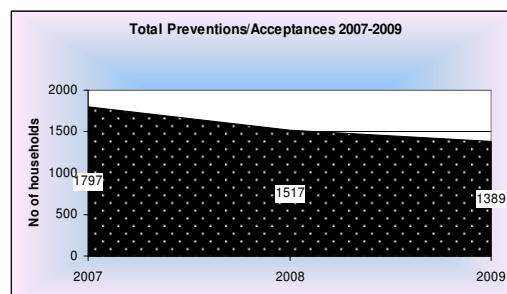
- The number of homeless acceptances is decreasing each year - 75% reduction since 2003

Result of an increased focus on homeless prevention and the delivery of sustainable housing solutions.

Although statutory levels of homelessness are reducing, there are high levels of demand for housing provision and advice.

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Demand Levels for Homelessness Services



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Key learning points for the strategy...

Age Profile

- Younger age groups remaining the most susceptible to homelessness. the age ranges 16-24 and 25-44 have comprised over 90% of all cases of the last 4 consecutive years.
- Within this range there is an increasing proportion in the upper tier, reflecting greater levels of family breakdown and reducing average household size

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Key learning points for the strategy...

Household type

Single parents remain the most vulnerable group to becoming statutorily homeless, comprising in excess of half of the total throughout the period. Couples with dependent children are the second largest group consistently accounting for over one quarter of the total.

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Key learning points for the strategy...

Ethnicity

- 'White British' around 70% of all homeless.
- BME groups therefore proportionally over represented – continuing the long term trend
- Over the last year there has been a rise in the numbers of 'Black/Black British.'
- This mainly due to a surge of UKBA decisions granting former asylum seekers indefinite leave to remain.

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Key learning points for the strategy

The provision of new dedicated staff to tackle the root causes of homelessness is a measure that works.

E.g. DV was the primary cause of H'less in 2003 accounting for over 300 cases pa - 23% of all cases. Following the appointment of a DV caseworker this figure had fallen by 2009 to 2.7% of the total, just seven cases.

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Components of the Strategy

Building on the problem areas and identified in the review, the strategy will set out a detailed plan for further preventing and reducing the levels of homelessness in Derby.

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“Derby City Council, through joint working with a range of partner organisations, will strive to continuously improve its effectiveness in the prevention and alleviation of homelessness...”

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The focus will continue to be on proactive intervention – identifying those at risk of homelessness at an early stage and acting to prevent it wherever possible. But where homelessness does arise, we will provide people with appropriate housing, care and support, with a clear pathway towards stable and independent living”

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How we will achieve our goals (a sample of our proposed actions)

Improving the efficiency & accessibility of our service through the 'enhanced housing options' process

Allocations policy review to continue our focus on the prevention agenda

Increased use of the private rented sector - via joint working on the social lettings agency

Further reduce the use of B&B and TA by more effective management practices and reducing the length of time taken to make a final offer

Roll out cross boundary CBL

Continue to work with partners to prevent homelessness

Continue to use innovative approaches to prevent homelessness such as the continued use of the prevention fund/repossession fund/ and increase our ability to tackle financial exclusion

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The challenges

- Funding Streams - ending of ring fencing of SP and homelessness grant
- Migration – further decisions by UKBA
- National political changes – how these may impact on the 'agenda' and of course resources
- Stretched physical resources. For example Milestone house currently turns away over 20 people per week due to lack of bed spaces
- Personal indebtedness, recession, unemployment.

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ENDS

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