



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

# Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 8 June 2026

Report of Cllr Virginia Moran Cabinet  
Member for Housing

## Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Update

### Report Author

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### Purpose of Report

To update the committee on the status and recent activity in SKDC's Homelessness and Rough Sleeper services

### Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to note the latest position of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper services**

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Housing Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	All

## **1. Implications**

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance and Procurement***

- 1.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report but it should be noted that to fund Local Council's homelessness services, Central government distribute a Homelessness Prevention Grant which for 2026/27 is £920k
- 1.2 All funding received is being used to deliver the service in meeting homelessness and rough sleeper demands  
*Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer.*

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.3 This report is provided to the committee for information and oversight purposes only; accordingly, there are no substantive legal or governance implications arising.
- 1.4 The Council's homelessness functions are exercised in accordance with the Council's statutory duties and powers under housing and homelessness legislation. Any decisions relating to homelessness applications, temporary accommodation and support interventions must be undertaken in accordance with the relevant legislative framework and public law principles.
- 1.5 Any processing or sharing of personal information relating to applicants or service users must be done in accordance with the Council's data protection obligations.

*Completed by: Graham Kitchen, Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)*

## **2. Background to the Report**

- 1.1. It was agreed by the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee that there will be a standing agenda item updating the committee on Homelessness and Rough Sleeper services. This report will give an overview of the recent work and status of both teams as well as some key updates in specific areas of interest.

## **3. Key Considerations**

### **Rough Sleeping**

- 1.1. As previously reported, the Change 4 Lincs (C4L) service offer has now come to an end.
- 1.2. In order to continue to deliver a rough sleeper service, 2 roles have been created within the housing options team which are currently being recruited to.
- 1.3. In the meantime, all known rough sleepers are supported by our housing options team who will continue to signpost to support services.
- 1.4. In April 2026 3 number of rough sleepers were reported across SKDC

### **Homelessness update**

- 1.5. The Housing Options team provide the Council's statutory homeless function. The team consists of one Temporary Accommodation Support Officer, four Housing Options Assistants, six Housing Options officers, a Senior Housing Options Officer and a Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Manager.
- 1.6. Table 1 provides details of the homelessness case figures for the last three months:

**Table 1 – Homelessness Case Figures**

	Feb 26	Mar 26	April 26
Number of active Homelessness cases	224	227	279
Number of new approaches	124	156	146
Number in temporary accommodation	57	50	55
Of which – nightly paid	8	11	12
Of which – SKDC stock	49	39	46

- 1.7. The number of Veterans the team are currently supporting is 9
- 1.8. It is important to note that not every homelessness case results in a need for temporary accommodation. The Housing Options team works closely with households at risk of homelessness to prevent it wherever possible, helping reduce the demand for temporary placements.
- 1.9. To support the reduction of nightly paid placements, the Council has secured access to 13 bed spaces in Grantham through a partner agency. This accommodation is now being fully utilised and has proven effective in helping meet temporary housing needs for individuals for whom other options are unsuitable.

## **Night shelter**

- 1.10. During the winter period, the Council once again opened the night shelter to support individuals who did not meet the statutory priority need criteria and who would otherwise have been at risk of rough sleeping.
- 1.11. SKDC in partnership with the Ark, reopened the Night shelter on 10 November 2025 in the same format as last winter, with SKDC utilising a 3-bed flat for the provision.
- 1.12. The first guest was accommodated on 11 November 2025. The service has operated every night since opening at a total cost of approximately £50,000.
- 1.13. In total, 38 individuals accessed the night shelter during November 2025 – May 2026. Of these, 18 have been successfully supported into more permanent accommodation. This outcome has been achieved through a collaborative partnership between SKDC and Living Concepts.
- 1.14. It is estimated that, had the night shelter not been utilised, the Council would have incurred approximately £83,500 in costs for nightly paid accommodation over the same period. The use of the night shelter has therefore delivered a significant cost saving in addition to the housing outcomes achieved.
- 1.15. There has been a significant reduction in the number people using the night shelter since the weather has improved.
- 1.16. A comprehensive housing pathway has been established which ensures that all individuals are considered for support.
- 1.17. In partnership with the Ark, SKDC has been successful in ensuring that the Shelter remains open on a year-round basis at a cost of £35k for the year.

## **Newly Launched Homelessness prevention service**

- 1.18. SKDC, in partnership with Living Concepts has now launched a new Homelessness Prevention service.
- 1.19. Prevention is the foundation for tackling homelessness as intervening before eviction delivers the best outcomes for residents and the greatest value for the council.
- 1.20. The Prevention service will provide the following:

### ***Early Intervention***

- 1.21. This prevents homelessness and delivers better outcomes and value for both residents and the council.

### ***Comprehensive Support Services***

- 1.22. Direct action through tenancy assessments, support with budgeting, landlord mediation, and property searches and applications

### ***Ongoing Engagement***

- 1.23. Regular check-ins during critical periods and follow-up after housing moves to maintain engagement and stability.

### ***System Benefits***

- 1.24. Effective prevention reduces temporary accommodation needs, eases system pressure, and prevents family trauma.
- 1.25. The Service will be monitored regularly through monthly meetings with Living Concepts, it is hoped the Council will see an improvement in the number of successful homelessness prevention cases.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 This report is for noting

## **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1 This report is for noting