



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 2 October 2025

Report of Councillor 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 our Homelessness and Rough Sleeper services

### Recommendations

- 1. 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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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. The Council's funding allocation is £753,955 which is a 27% increase from last year's allocation of £592,433. Details of all allocations can be found here: [Homelessness Prevention Grant allocations: 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)
- 1.2 A further £646,348 for Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant has also been received which funds the Change4Lincs team. Details of all allocations can be found here: [Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant allocations 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

*Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer*

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

- 1.2 This is an update report for noting, there are no known governance implications

Completed by: Alison Hall-Wright, Deputy Monitoring Officer

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. 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

### 3.1. Rough Sleeper Initiative

- 3.2. As previously reported, SKDC's Rough Sleeper initiative is delivered via the Change 4 Lincs (C4L) team which covers four local authority areas: South Kesteven District Council, North Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council
- 3.3. The team is hosted by South Kesteven District Council and was created by each district council contributing their Rough Sleeper Initiative funding.
- 3.4. The team consists of seven team members who provide an outreach service, support service and access into the private rented sector. The team is managed by the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Manager and managers from the other three districts also provide support to help shape the service.
- 3.5. A new outreach worker has recently been recruited and starts on 4 October 2025. This person will cover the areas of South Holland and South Kesteven.
- 3.6. Most recently the Rough Sleeping Team Leader for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has been supporting the oversight of the outreach team to ensure their working practices align with those of the wider districts.
- 3.7. Table 1 details the C4L case numbers as of 17 September 2025.

**Table 1 – C4L Case Numbers**

District	Number In Temporary Accommodation	Number of Open Cases
South Kesteven	1	12
North Kesteven	2	4
West Lindsey	4	12
South Holland	2	15

- 3.8. The number of people in accommodation is low compared to the number of people being supported. This could be because the people being supported are already in accommodation and require support to maintain it, or they have refused the offer of temporary accommodation.
  - 3.9. Those who are placed in temporary accommodation must engage with the intensive support that is available to them, or their placement will come to an end.
- 3.10. Rough sleeping in Grantham**
- 3.11. Earlier in the year, there was an increase in the visibility of rough sleepers across parks and green spaces in Grantham, with several individuals setting up tents in these areas. Through the continued work of the Housing Options service and partner agencies, many of these individuals have since moved into accommodation placements. As of 17 September 2025 the team are not aware of anyone who is currently sleeping in a tent.

- 3.12. Rough sleeping is often complex and entrenched, with many individuals facing multiple and overlapping challenges such as mental health issues, substance dependency, and a history of trauma.
- 3.13. As of 17 September 2025 there are 4 individuals rough sleeping in SKDC that the team are aware of. All of whom are known to the team and have been offered accommodation at various points in the past. The team continue to engage with these individuals and will continue to explore all housing options.
- 3.14. The Council is also operating a supported accommodation model, where a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) is being utilised for those who have been rough sleeping, providing them with a temporary accommodation placement and support with the aim of moving them into more permanent accommodation.

### **3.15. Homelessness update**

- 3.16. The Housing Options team provide the Council's statutory homeless function. The team consists of four Housing Options Assistants, six Housing Options officers, a Senior Housing Options Officer and a Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Manager.
- 3.17. A new Temporary Accommodation Officer role has been established to support individuals and families residing in temporary accommodation, with a focus on assisting those who require guidance in securing more permanent housing solutions.
- 3.18. Table 2 provides details of the homelessness case figures for the last three months:

**Table 2 – Homelessness Case Figures**

	June 25	July 25	August 25
Number of active Homelessness cases	243	223	247
Number of new approaches	161	151	166
Number in temporary accommodation	60	65	70
Of which – nightly paid	19	18	20
Of which – our stock	41	47	49

- 3.19. 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.

3.20. To support the reduction of nightly paid placements, the Council has secured access to an HMO 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.

### **3.21. Night shelter**

3.22. Discussions have continued with partner organisations to re-open this provision in the Winter months.

3.23. At present the location of this provision is being explored and has not yet been finalised.

3.24. Although there was an increase in Rough Sleeping during the summer months, it was identified that a low number of people would have accepted the offer of a night shelter.

3.25. It is suspected that this was due to the good weather and individuals preferring to stay in tents.

3.26. This perception is likely to change once temperatures drop so these options will continue to be explored.

### **3.27. Resettlement pressures**

3.28. Officers have been working in close collaboration with partners from the Strategic Migration Partnership and East Midlands Councils to fulfil our obligations under the National Resettlement Scheme. This scheme is a pathway for refugees in vulnerable situations from around the world.

3.29. Across SKDC, Serco manages 39 properties for resettlement purposes. This includes 2 self-contained properties and 37 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), collectively providing 166 bedspaces, 134 of which are currently occupied.

3.30. The council is now receiving funding to help address resettlement pressures. Various options are currently being explored to determine the most effective use of these resources.

3.31. A resettlement support officer post has been created within the Housing Options team and has been recruited to. This is to assist with the expected impact on the

demand for this service. This will be reviewed and other options considered should the demand continue to grow.

#### **4. Other Options Considered**

4.1 This report is for noting

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

5.1. This report is for noting