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# Housing Options - Spotlight Presentation

## October 2023

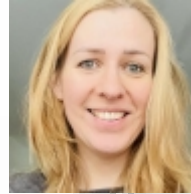


# Our Team

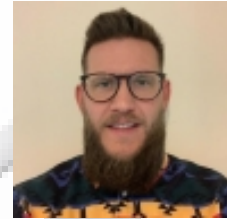
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Ricky Szulz –  
Housing Options  
Team Leader



Sarah McQueen  
Interim Head of Housing  
Options



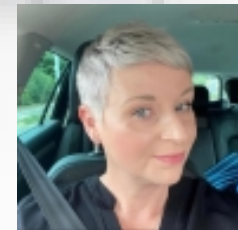
Robert Endersby –  
Change4Lincs team  
leader



Helen Brown – Senior  
Allocations Officer



Charlotte Cowley –  
Choice Based lettings  
Project manager



Rachael Bradley – Domestic  
Abuse Support Officer



# Overview

- Provide the Council's statutory homelessness function
- Host a Rough Sleeper team, covering 4 districts
- Manage the Council's housing register and allocation of District wide social housing stock
- Newly created post – domestic abuse support officer
- Service Pressures
  - Afghan Resettlement Project
  - Homes for Ukraine
  - Asylum pressures
  - Increased cases with complex needs



# Homelessness

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## The 5 tests

1. Are you eligible?
2. Are you homeless or at risk of homelessness within 56 days?
3. Are you in priority need?
4. Are you intentionally homeless?
5. Local connection

## The 3 Stages

1. Prevention
2. Relief
3. Main Duty

We currently have 328 active Homeless cases.

We currently have 55 Households in Temporary Accommodation. Massive financial impact. But a necessary one

Duty officer on the desk everyday & out of hours – 24hr Service.

Afghan Resettlement / Ukrainian Resettlement.





CHANGE4Lincs

## **Rough Sleeper Team**

### **Hosted by SKDC, covering the following districts**



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**



**North Kesteven  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# What is Change4Lincs

- Run in partnership with 4 districts:  
**South Kesteven, North Kesteven, South Holland, West Lindsey**
- Support provided to transition into settled accommodation
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Accept referrals from All 4 Districts & Various Agencies and Partners
- Funded by Rough Sleeper initiative grant funding
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> We provide Outreach across All 4 Districts each week.
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> Currently have 41 cases (engaging)



# Allocations

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- Demand vs Supply – 1582 on housing register
- Properties let last financial year: 253
- Council Stock – just under 6000 properties
- Nomination agreements with Housing Associations
- Current allocation process- The need for change





# Choice Based Lettings

New allocation procedure called SK Homechoice  
Launches on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

- Gives customers more control over the process and they can see what properties we have available.
- All current applicants asked to re-register – over 2000 letters sent on 5th September.
- Have received approx. 990 new applications so far
- New policy – new criteria
- Looking to 'Go Live' end of October and welcome all new applications.





- **Domestic Abuse support**

- Newly created role in Housing Options
- Bridges the gap between the homelessness process and the support required
- Definition of Domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse can be a key cause of homelessness & reason for resettlement
- Strong links to partner agencies



# Enquiries

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- Please submit any enquiries to [housingenquiry@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:housingenquiry@southkesteven.gov.uk)
- This allows us to fully review the case and provide a fully comprehensive response.

