



Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 4 December 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 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Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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. 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 change for Lincs team. Details of all allocations can be found here: [Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant allocations 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)
- 1.3 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

- 2.1 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. This team is funded by the Council's Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant funding. This funding is due to end in March 2026.
- 3.6. The specific grant amount for the 2026/27 has not yet been confirmed. However, it has been indicated that a three-year settlement, could be announced later this year which should contain further details on future homelessness related grant funding
- 3.7. It is anticipated that the funding structure will be changed so that each local authority will receive allocated funding to deliver the service. Discussions between the 4 districts are ongoing to plan how the service will evolve if this is the case.
- 3.8. Most recently the Rough Sleeping Team Leader for the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has been supporting the oversight of the outreach team in South Kesteven and South Holland to ensure their working practices align with those of the wider districts.
- 3.9. In North Kesteven and West Lindsey, the outreach service has now been outsourced to Lincoln City Council funded from their proportion of the Rough sleeper grant.
- 3.10. In addition, South Holland have recruited 2 support workers in-house to assist with the delivery of the service alongside the support provided by C4L.

3.11. Table 1 details the C4L case numbers as of 17th November 2025.

Table 1 – C4L Case Numbers

District	Number In Temporary Accommodation	Number of Open Cases
South Kesteven	2	15
North Kesteven	0	0
West Lindsey	3	16
South Holland	6	13

3.12. 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.

3.13. NK continue to have very low numbers of Rough sleepers and therefore at present have no open cases with C4L.

3.14. 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.

3.15. Rough sleeping in Grantham

3.16. Since autumn 2010, all local authorities have been required to submit an annual snapshot figure to MHCLG to indicate the number of people sleeping rough in their area on a 'typical' night between 1st October and 30th November.

3.17. The night chosen for the count was 30 October 2025. Evidence was gathered from partner agencies who work closely with rough sleepers, as well as intelligence from the C4L outreach services.

3.18. Based on the evidence gathered, 10 rough sleepers were reported to be rough sleeping across all SKDC on the night of 30 October 2025.

3.19. Of the 10 rough sleepers, 1 has been rehoused, 5 have not been located by outreach team since the count was undertaken and have not been in contact with the team and 4 will not currently engage with the service.

3.20. 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.

3.21. Homelessness update

3.22. 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.

3.23. Table 2 provides details of the homelessness case figures for the last three months:

Table 2 – Homelessness Case Figures

	August 25	Sept 25	Oct 25
Number of active Homelessness cases	247	213	224
Number of new approaches	166	141	143
Number in temporary accommodation	70	73	49
Of which – nightly paid	21	19	9
Of which – SKDC stock	49	54	40

3.24. The number of Veterans the team are currently supporting is 3.

3.25. 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.

3.26. 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.

3.27. Night shelter

3.28. SKDC in partnership with the Ark, re opened the Night shelter on 10 November 2025. This has reopened in the same format as last winter, with SKDC utilising a 3 bed flat for this provision.

3.29. As of 17 November 2025, only 1 individual has stayed in the shelter, despite it being offered as an option to all those identified as rough sleeping.

3.30. It is anticipated that as the temperatures reduce over the coming weeks, there will be an increased demand for this service which the committee will be updated on in future meetings. SWEP was activated by the Council on 19th November 2025 which resulted in accommodation being provided to rough sleepers.

3.31. Resettlement pressures

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

3.33. Across SKDC, Serco manages 45 properties for resettlement purposes. This includes 3 self-contained properties and 42 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), collectively providing 194 bedspaces, 168 of which are currently occupied.

3.34. The council receives funding to help address resettlement pressures. Various options are currently being explored to determine the most effective use of these resources. The Council has a Resettlement Support Officer which sits within the Housing Options team whose role is to offer support to those in dispersed accommodation, this post is funded by Lincolnshire County Council. The officer also attends local voluntary support groups to ensure that anyone attending them who requires support can also be linked into the Council.

3.35. It is important to note that the duty to support asylum seekers in dispersed accommodation does not lie with SKDC as the District Council, however this service has been created to ensure this cohort are fully aware of the support options available to them.

4. Other Options Considered

1.1 This report is for noting.

5. Reasons for the Recommendations

5.1. This report is for noting.

