



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 5 February 2026

Report of Councillor Virginia Moran
Cabinet Member for Housing

Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Update

Report Author

Sarah McQueen, Head of Service (Housing Options)

✉ sarah.mcqueen@southkesteven.gov.uk

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| Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?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 Wards |

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

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

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

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

Rough Sleeper Initiative

- 3.1. 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.
- 3.2. The team is hosted by South Kesteven District Council and was created by each district council contributing their Rough Sleeper Initiative funding.
- 3.3. 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.
- 3.4. This team is funded by the Council's Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant funding. The funding in this current format is due to end 31st March 2026.
- 3.5. The government has confirmed that each Council will receive its own funding allocation to deliver the service. Discussions between the four district councils are ongoing to plan how the service will evolve.
- 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 in South Kesteven and South Holland to ensure their working practices align with those of the wider districts.
- 3.7. In North Kesteven and West Lindsey, the outreach service has now been outsourced to City of Lincoln Council funded from their proportion of the Rough Sleeper grant.
- 3.8. In addition, South Holland has recruited 2 support workers in-house to assist with the delivery of the service alongside the support provided by C4L.
- 3.9. Table 1 details the C4L case numbers as of 16th January 2026

Table 1 – C4L Case Numbers

| District | Number In Temporary Accommodation | Number of Open Cases |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| South Kesteven | 2 | 17 |
| North Kesteven | 2 | 3 |
| West Lindsey | 3 | 16 |
| South Holland | 6 | 12 |

- 3.10. 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.

- 3.11. 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.

Rough sleeping

- 3.12. Rough sleeping continues to be a challenge faced by the district councils. SKDC reported 4 rough sleepers in the SKDC area in the December monthly return. This number would have been far greater if not for the provision of the Night Shelter in Grantham.
- 3.13. Change 4 Lincs outreach teams conduct twice weekly outreach sessions in the early hours to attempt to engage with all those who are rough sleeping in the SKDC area.
- 3.14. 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.

Homelessness update

- 3.15. 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.
- 3.16. Table 2 provides details of the homelessness case figures for the last three months:

Table 2 – Homelessness Case Figures

| | Oct 25 | Nov 25 | Dec 25 |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of active Homelessness cases | 224 | 202 | 202 |
| Number of new approaches | 143 | 113 | 89 |
| Number in temporary accommodation | 49 | 48 | 51 |
| Of which – nightly paid | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| Of which – SKDC stock | 40 | 46 | 44 |

- 3.17. The number of Veterans the team are currently supporting is 5.
- 3.18. 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.

- 3.19. 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.

Night shelter

- 3.20. 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.
- 3.21. 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.
- 3.22. The first guest was accommodated on 11 November 2025. The service has operated every night since opening at a total cost of approximately £15,200.
- 3.23. In total, 18 individuals accessed the night shelter during this period. Of these, 12 have been successfully supported into more permanent accommodation. This outcome has been achieved through a collaborative partnership between South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) and Living Concepts.
- 3.24. It is estimated that, had the night shelter not been utilised, the Council would have incurred approximately £27,000 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.
- 3.25. A comprehensive housing pathway has been established which ensures that all individuals are considered for support.

Supported accommodation

- 3.26. SKDCs' partner, Living Concepts, is now operating as a supported housing provider, delivering supported accommodation in Grantham for individuals with identified support needs.
- 3.27. This integrated provision enables a flexible and inclusive response to a wide range of housing and support requirements.

With this approach, the risk of individuals being excluded from accommodation options will be significantly reduced.

- 3.28. Whilst the service is newly launched, it is anticipated that this approach will reduce gaps in service provision, strengthen engagement with service users and improve communication between partners. This will then improve the sustainability of housing outcomes.