
Move on Policy

Contents

1.	Purpose	2
2.	Applicability	2
3.	Roles and Responsibilities	2
4.	Review	2
5.	Rough Sleeping in West Berkshire	2
6.	Legal Context	3
7.	Move On – A definition	3
8.	Accommodation Pathway	4
9.	Managing an Accommodation Pathway	4

Part One: Purpose and Context

1. Purpose

1.1 This policy has been developed following the implementation of the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025 which highlighted the need to develop a planned process for move-on accommodation to ensure that customers who are placed in emergency or interim accommodation are subject to an individual housing plan. This document sets out the process for these reviews to ensure that existing accommodation supply enables movement and that the Councils financial exposure is minimised.

1.2 This policy was approved on the 16th March 2021

2. Applicability

- 2.1 This policy applies to clients following either a Homelessness referral or having been verified as being or are at risk of being a Rough Sleeper and are placed in emergency accommodation or interim accommodation. This accommodation may include hotel placements, other forms of temporary accommodation, hostel accommodation or short term supported accommodation.
- 2.2 This policy is to be read alongside the Housing Strategy 2020 – 2036; and the Preventing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020 – 2025 for context and strategic direction.
- 2.3 This document is publicly available for reference and viewing.
- 2.3 The Council has consulted with relevant stakeholders, including Registered Providers and voluntary sector partners in approving this policy.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1. The Housing Service Manager is responsible for:
- Directing and reviewing this Policy.
 - Ensuring that there is effective consultation and communication with West Berkshire Council staff, clients and key stakeholders in relation to this policy.
 - Publishing and promoting the adoption of this policy.
 - Ensuring compliance with published standards, procedures, working practices and technological changes.
- 3.3. The Strategy, Development and Review Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Rough Sleeper service ensuring implementation of this policy.

4 Review

- 4.1 The Council will review this Policy every five years or sooner if there is a legislative or policy requirement to do so.

5. Rough Sleeping in West Berkshire

- 5.1 Rough sleeping is often the most visible form of homelessness and regularly impacts on the most vulnerable residents who often have complex needs. Preventing rough sleeping is a key Government priority and in 2018 its Rough Sleeping Strategy was published. The strategy set out the vision for halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending rough sleeping by 2027.
- 5.2 In 2019 the Council adopted its own plan for preventing and reducing rough sleeping – ‘Reducing Rough Sleeping in West Berkshire: A plan to ensure that no-one has the need to sleep rough’. This plan sets out the actions that the Council will take to prevent and reduce rough sleeping working in partnership with a range of partners operating in the homelessness sector.
- 5.3 Nationally rough sleeping has risen year on year since 2010 until a reduction in 2018, while across West Berkshire the number of people sleeping rough has fluctuated over the same period, peaking at 23 in 2014. At the time of producing this policy (March 2021) no one is currently sleeping rough in the area. This position is directly linked to the additional funding provided by the Government during the third national lockdown, compelling local authorities to ensure “Everyone In” and making additional funds available to assist local authorities to manage the additional pressures during the pandemic.
- 5.4 This policy aims to contribute to the key priorities that have arisen out of the Housing Strategy, namely to:
- Enable every resident to have access to a home that meets their needs
 - Reduce Homelessness

6. Legal Context

- 6.1 This policy is not a statutory requirement. In developing this policy the Council has followed and fully considered the following legislation:
- The Housing Act 1996, Part 6 as amended by Localism Act 2011 (England).
 - The Housing Act 1996, Part 7 amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.
 - The Equality Act 2010.

7. Move On – A definition

- 7.1 In order to achieve the aim of ensuring everyone has access to a suitable home, a successful move on plan towards achieving sustainable accommodation is needed for every individual.
- 7.2 The nature of the move on accommodation will depend on the individual, but is not dependent on securing independent living in order to be viewed as successful. However, a successful and sustainable Move On policy is integral to the Councils aims of ending Rough Sleeping in the District.

- 7.3 In the context of this policy Move On is defined as providing the best housing solution available for a client at that time, whilst taking into account the need to make the best use of the limited accommodation resources that are available to the Council.
- 7.4 Move On also needs to be viewed as enabling individuals to make progress in their lives and enabling them to achieve this through delivering a sustainable housing solution.

8. Accommodation Pathway

- 8.1 The typical accommodation pathway for a client of the Rough Sleeper service would be

Accommodation	Provider
Emergency accommodation - hotel or hostel	Private sector Registered Provider partner
Second stage supported housing	Registered Provider partner
Treatment based accommodation (Rehab or detox)	Private sector/ Health service
Supported housing	Registered Provider/Health service/Third Tier Sector
Housing First	2 Saints & Registered Provider partners
Social rent offer through CBL scheme or direct let	Registered Provider partners
Extra care accommodation	Registered Provider/ Social Services
Private rented sector with floating support	Council & Private landlord/ letting agent
Planned move to other areas	Various

Other non-planned, non-tenancy move on may also take place such as:

- Return home to family
- Hospitalisation
- Employment with tied accommodation (e.g. entering employment in the forces).

9. Managing the Move On Pathway

- 9.1 Responsibility for managing the move on of clients rests with West Berkshire Council but can only be delivered in partnership with our core partners. The Move On pathway will be personalised for every client but there are some broad principles which are in place to ensure that there is progression to forming some sustainable accommodation solution and preventing a repeat instance of sleeping rough.
- 9.2 The Councils Rough Sleeper Initiative funding bid for 2021/22 makes provision to for implementing positive changes for rough sleeping. It will be the responsibility of

the council to work with partner agencies from who make up the Homelessness Strategy Group to oversee the implementation of this policy while the Disadvantaged Adult Resolution Meeting (DARM) will review the planned Move On process to ensure that the accommodation plans of all service users are being appropriately delivered.

- 9.3 A key aim of the review of Move On is to make best use of the resources that are available to the Council and to minimise the use of emergency accommodation such as hotel placements to as short a period as possible.
- 9.4 **Hostel accommodation** – a further aim of this policy is to improve the efficiency of the use of our hostel facility and to ensure that clients are not staying in this accommodation longer than is necessary. Our target is that the average length of stay in hostel accommodation should be no longer than 6 months before clients move on to the next appropriate step in their pathway.
- 9.5 **Housing First** - This initiative was launched in West Berkshire in May 2019 to support homeless people with complex needs by providing a long-term place to live with ongoing support. The initiative has been funded through the Rough Sleeping Initiative. The aim of the project within the first year was to access 10 one-bedroom flats from Sovereign Housing Association's general needs stock with housing related support provided by Two Saints. For 2021-22 the target has increased to 25 units. Individuals do not need to prove they are ready for independent housing and there are no conditions placed on residents, other than a willingness to maintain a tenancy agreement.
- 9.6 **Supported housing** – this next step to independent living should be managed with an aim of providing up to 12 months accommodation, however certain cases may require longer term supported housing.
- 9.7 The level of support will vary according to the individual, but could include: pre-tenancy training, support with benefits and budgeting, and support into education, training and employment.
- 9.8 The next stage in the Move On pathway will be some longer term form of accommodation.
- 9.9 Where a client is in need of Extra Care support due to disability or other permanent medical condition, a move on plan will be developed in partnership with the Council's Adult Social Care department who manage access into the extra care accommodation which is managed by registered providers in the area.
- 9.10 **Independent living** – where a client is deemed to be capable of moving on to their own independent living solution, they will be provided with the support to enable them to access the appropriate accommodation. This may be assistance with bidding for social rented accommodation through the Councils Choice Based Lettings (CBL) scheme, or via the private rented sector where assistance with

sourcing accommodation, provision of deposit and payments for rent in advance may be provided by the Council.

- 9.11 Where clients are assisted with a move to more independent living, a suitable support plan will be devised which will focus on setting up the tenancy appropriately to begin with. Types of support provided will include ensuring direct debits for payment of bills are in place, applications for all benefit related income are maximised; access to furniture and any other steps as appropriate to assist the client to settle into their accommodation and focus on ensuring that sustaining the tenancy is achieved.

Document Control

Document Ref:	MOP 1	Date Created:	24/2/2021
Version:	0.2	Date Modified:	01/03/2021
Revision due			
Author:	Nick Caprara	Sign & Date:	
Head of Service	Gary Lugg		
Owning Service	Development and Planning		
Equality Impact Assessment: (EIA)	Date undertaken:		
	Issues (if any):		

Change History

Version	Date	Description	Change ID
0.1	26/2/21		NC
0.2	01/03/21	Initial draft review	JW
0.3	02/03/21	Implement changes	NC