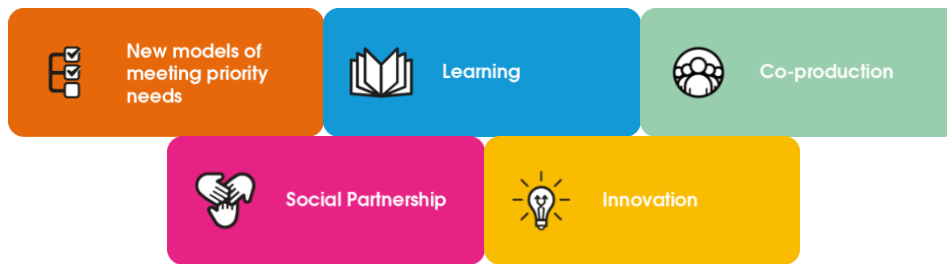




Co-operative Councils

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Stevenage Borough Council

Housing First

EMERGING FUTURES



HAVEN FIRST



Summary

Stevenage Borough Council's (SBC) Housing First Strategy (HFS, 2019-2024) outlines SBC's ambitions around assisting rough sleepers into accommodation, including holistic support. The service was created in partnership with council staff, residents and homeless individuals of Stevenage.

Background

In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic was announced and the initial lockdown occurred, which brought the 'Everyone In' directive from central government. All rough sleepers were offered accommodation regardless of priority need and most were placed into hotels on short term, emergency basis to safeguard them. Directly resulting from the pandemic, the



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HFS was launched. Government funding enabled SBC to place 28 individuals into the private rented sector, as hotels stays ended in July 2020

SBC worked closely with organisations such as; Hertfordshire County Council, Haven First, No More Service & Emerging Futures to launch HFS. Multiple accommodation sites were set up and adapted, which now has 42 bed/unit capacities. Additionally, further support is provided by the No More Service, Haven First & Emerging Futures, as well as SBC's internal Rough Sleeper Team.

Achievements to date

- 42 rough sleepers and homeless clients have moved into secure, private rented accommodation since July 2020
- HFS is discretionary, with clients deemed non-priority under Homelessness law. Therefore prior to HFS being operational, these clients wouldn't have been offered accommodation or dedicated support, instead referred to local agencies and hostels with a higher possibility of returning to sleeping rough.
- Partnership working with internal teams and external organisations has improved due to better communication and collaborative approaches to problem solving. This is having a positive effect on service delivery and outcomes for residents impacted by homelessness and rough sleeping.

Next Steps

- Continue refining and improving the HFS to make a long-term sustainable scheme which continues to assist rough sleeping clients in Stevenage, improving their lives and increasing long-term independence.
- Carry on building strong relationships with local partner agencies and support organisations to create even better pathways to suitable and correct support for clients

For further information contact:

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