Oldham Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-31

1. Introduction
2. Partnership
3. Legislative & Strategic Context
4. Our Priorities
    - Earlier identification and intervention to prevent homelessness
    - Ensuring that when homelessness occurs it is rare, brief and non-recurring
    - Improving access to affordable, safe and suitable accommodation
    - Strengthening partnership working to end homelessness and rough sleeping
5. Homelessness in Oldham
6. Consultation
7. Local Outcomes Framework
8. Monitoring
9. Action Plan
10. Glossary
11. Contact

1. Introduction

Our Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026–31 has been developed following a comprehensive review of homelessness within the borough between 2021-2025. In partnership with elected members, community stakeholders and residents, it establishes a collaborative blueprint for tackling housing insecurity across the borough over the next five years. It demonstrates our collective commitment to ending homelessness and minimising the wider impact it has on our residents and communities. By unifying local resources and insights, the strategy aims to deliver sustainable, long-term housing solutions and ensure that homelessness and rough sleeping become rare, brief, and non-recurring

Since the implementation of our last Homelessness Prevention and Reduction Strategy 2021-2026, Oldham Council officially declared a housing crisis in February 2024 after temporary accommodation numbers surged to unprecedented levels along with the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation. By working closely with our Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) advisors to implement our Bed & Breakfast elimination plan and adopting a whole Council approach to tackling these issues we are now in a position where we have no households in bed and breakfast and the number of households in temporary accommodation has significantly reduced. Moving into the next strategic phase, Oldham Council is shifting its ambition from emergency reduction to long-term sustainability. The council's future focus will centre on maintaining a reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation and actively working to end the use of Bed & Breakfast units as temporary accommodation entirely.

By prioritizing a collaborative, partnership approach to homelessness within Oldham there have been numerous other key developments and milestones over the last 5 years, including:

- A significant increase in the provision of non-statutory temporary accommodation options for households who would otherwise be rough sleeping at risk of rough sleeping including:
    - 33 bedspaces in Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) funded A Bed Every Night (ABEN) initiative
    - 19 bedspaces in Community Accommodation Service – Tier 3 (CAS3) providing up to 84 nights (12 weeks) of temporary accommodation and basic support for prison leavers who are at immediate risk of homelessness, ensuring they have an address on the night of their release
    - 10 Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) properties providing high-quality, self-contained move-on homes and tailored support for our most entrenched rough sleepers.

        - 5 bedspaces in Greater Manchester Move-On (GMMOP) providing step-down accommodation from NHS Mental Health wards
- An expansion of Rough Sleeping (RS) services marking a significant enhancement in local specialised support. Building upon the existing framework of the RS Co-ordinator, Outreach workers, and RS Navigator, the addition of a specialist RS Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant Navigator alongside a dedicated Dual Diagnosis worker ensures a highly targeted approach to complex needs
- The introduction of the Early Break Pathfinder Programme. A Greater Manchester initiative for youths aged 18–25 (up to 35). Providing coaching and support to prevent homelessness, manage debt, and resolve family conflicts.
- Successful applications to the Test & Learn System Wide Evaluation programme led by the Centre for Homelessness Impact trialling interventions to relieve and prevent rough sleeping and other forms of homelessness.
    - Personalised Budgets: evaluating the impact of providing financial support for people with a history of rough sleeping tied to a purpose that would allow them to exit homelessness. Including things like buying work tools, getting a driver's licence or securing a deposit.
    - Outreach with Health Specialists: evaluating the impact of including a health specialist as part of a rough sleeping outreach team to test the benefit to people sleeping rough with more acute health needs and whether this has a positive impact on other individuals sleeping out.

Our strategy embraces the ambitions and aspirations of the Governments National Plan to End Homelessness. Together we share a vision to reduce the impact of homelessness on our residents, whilst improving outcomes our for children's education, health and future. We welcome the opportunity to set ambitious targets within our Local Outcomes Framework to prevent and reduce homelessness and rough sleeping. To ensure these targets translate into meaningful change, we will rigorously monitor and measure our progress using robust data and clear performance indicators. This systematic oversight will allow us to track success, identify service gaps, and continuously refine our strategic interventions.

The strategy is shaped around four key priorities that reflect the challenges and opportunities in addressing homelessness in Oldham. These are:

- ❖ Earlier identification and intervention to prevent homelessness
- ❖ Ensuring that where homelessness occurs it is rare, brief and non-recurring
- ❖ Improving access to affordable, safe and suitable accommodation
- ❖ Strengthening partnership working to end Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

We are focused on delivering high-quality, person-centred services through early intervention, better access to appropriate housing, and strong collaborative

partnerships and remain committed to a shared goal of ending rough sleeping in Oldham.

A separate Action Plan sits alongside the strategy listing the specific steps the council and partners will take over the next five years. The plan links actions to each of the four priorities and will be reviewed annually to ensure we take a holistic approach to address the complex and evolving nature of homelessness within the borough

2. Partnership

In Oldham we recognise that no single organization can end homelessness alone. The causes of homelessness are complex and for this reason we place collaboration at the heart of everything we do.

We recognise that the key to success lies in sharing our knowledge, skills and expertise as a partnership.

In our collective ambition to end homelessness within the borough we recognise that it will still occur but where it does we want it to be rare, brief and non-recurring.

The Strategy has been developed in consultation with and will continue to be monitored by:

- Oldham Rough Sleeper Steering Group. A collective of VCSE organisations with a shared passion and goal of ending rough sleeping
- Oldham Homelessness Forum. A multi-agency network with representation from across the voluntary, faith, social enterprise and statutory sectors
- Oldham Strategic Housing Partnership, representing social housing providers developing and managing social housing in Oldham.
- Oldham Housing Recovery Board. Implementing a dedicated investment plan recognising the need to work together as a Council and with partners locally to improve our residents experience of homelessness

Our Action Plan has been developed in consultation with the partnerships, who will help to drive forward implementation alongside the Strategic Housing team.

3. Legislative & Strategic Context

Oldham's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy sits within a wider legislative and strategic context. The aims of which are to support the health, housing and other socioeconomic factors affecting our residents.

Timeline of legal developments

Year	Development	Implications
2021	Domestic Abuse Act 2021	The Domestic Abuse Act significantly strengthened the rights of people experiencing homelessness due to domestic abuse. Key updates include an automatic "priority need" for housing, a broadened definition of abuse, and new duties for local authorities to provide safe accommodation.
2023	Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023	The Act requires local councils to produce a Supported Housing Strategy, establish licensing schemes, enforce minimum care/support standards, and links housing benefit eligibility to these licenses.
April 2026	Children, Schools and Wellbeing Act	Includes a key provision to address intentional homelessness for care leavers, stipulating that no care leaver up to age 25 should be deemed intentionally homeless during a homelessness assessment.
May 2026	Renters Right Act	Expected to abolish Section 21 'no-fault' evictions and end fixed-term tenancies for all new and existing contracts, converting them into rolling, periodic tenancies. The bill also proposes a new Decent Homes Standard for private rentals, a ban on rental bidding wars, and new rules for rent increases.
June 2026	Repeal of the Vagrancy Act 1824	Effectively decriminalising rough sleeping in England and Wales. The repeal is part of a broader effort to address homelessness and ensure that individuals are not penalized for simply trying to survive on the streets.

Timeline of Local, Regional and National Strategies

2021	Greater Manchester GM Strategies	Housing standards will be improved, with the Good Landlord Charter exposing poor landlords. By 2030 there will be at least 10,000 new, energy efficient homes for social rent across all 10 local authority areas.
2022	Oldham Domestic Abuse Strategy	Oldham's Domestic Abuse Strategy focuses on preventing abuse, protecting victims, and supporting recovery through a coordinated, multi-agency approach. It prioritises early intervention, improved victim support services, and holding perpetrators accountable to reduce harm across the borough.
2022	Ending Rough Sleeping for Good	Ending Rough Sleeping for Good is the UK government's cross-departmental strategy to end rough sleeping in England during this Parliament. Supported by over £2 billion in funding through 2025, it aims to ensure rough sleeping is rare, brief, and non-recurrent by focusing on prevention, intervention, and tailored support.
2024	GM Capital strategies and programmes	The overarching Capital Strategy for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is to ensure that all resources are directed towards achieving the outcomes contained within the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) by maximising the use of external funding to deliver the highest impact affordable programme.
2024	GM Live Well	GM Live Well is a partnership between NHS GM, 10GM and GMCA, the 10 local authorities, health, business, the Voluntary, Community, Faith and social enterprise sector and people and communities. Working together we will create conditions for people to thrive, not just survive, removing barriers to opportunity and tackling

		health, social and economic inequalities.
2024	Oldham Plan & Corporate Plan	Oldham Council's Corporate Plan 2024-27 describes how the Council will maximise the impact of our efforts and resource to improve the lives of residents in the borough over the next three years. The plan sets out three key missions: Happier, Healthier Lives; Great Place to Live; and Green and Growing.
2025	Oldham Works: Our Employment and Skills Plan 2025–2030	Oldham Works: Our Employment and Skills Plan 2025–2030 is a strategic framework aiming to create a fairer, more prosperous economy by connecting residents to high-quality jobs, enhancing skills, and supporting local business growth. It emphasizes partnership-driven, sector-focused initiatives—particularly in green technology and digital innovation—to build a future-ready workforce.
2025	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy: A National Plan to end Homelessness	The National Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, published in December 2025, aims to make homelessness "rare, brief, and non-recurring". Backed by £3.5 billion in funding, the strategy focuses on prevention, increasing social housing supply, and ending the unlawful use of B&Bs for families by the end of this parliament

Throughout the lifetime of this Strategy, we will remain committed to integrating our strategic priorities with other local, regional, and national Strategies. By aligning with such Strategies, we aim to optimize resource allocation and deliver cohesive support to our residents.

4. Our Priorities

- Earlier identification and intervention to prevent homelessness
- Ensuring that when homelessness occurs it is rare, brief and non-recurring

- Improving access to affordable, safe and suitable accommodation
- Strengthening partnership working to end homelessness and rough sleeping

5. Homelessness in Oldham

The following provides a brief overview of the key statistical data from the Oldham Homelessness Review 2021-25 which has been used to inform the Action Plan behind the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-31.

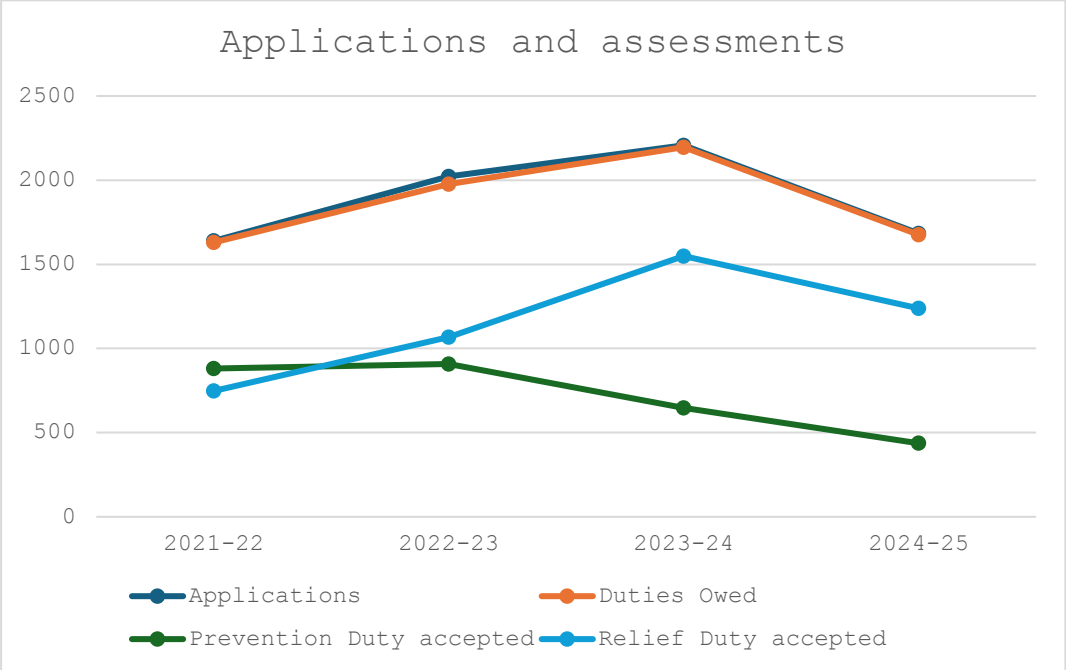
5.1 Applications and assessments

The Homelessness Review provides an in-depth analysis of trends in homelessness in Oldham between 2021-25.

Since the last Homelessness Strategy applications for homelessness support steadily increased peaking in 2023/24. However, during 2024/2025, there has been a reduction in the number of applications made.

The chart below shows the total number of homeless applications made and, of those:

- The numbers that were owed a subsequent duty – where they were not, this was due to the household either being found not homeless or not eligible for assistance
- The numbers of those owed a 'Prevention Duty' – to take steps to prevent the applicant from becoming homeless
- The numbers of those owed a 'Relief Duty' – to take steps to relieve the applicant's homelessness where this had already occurred.



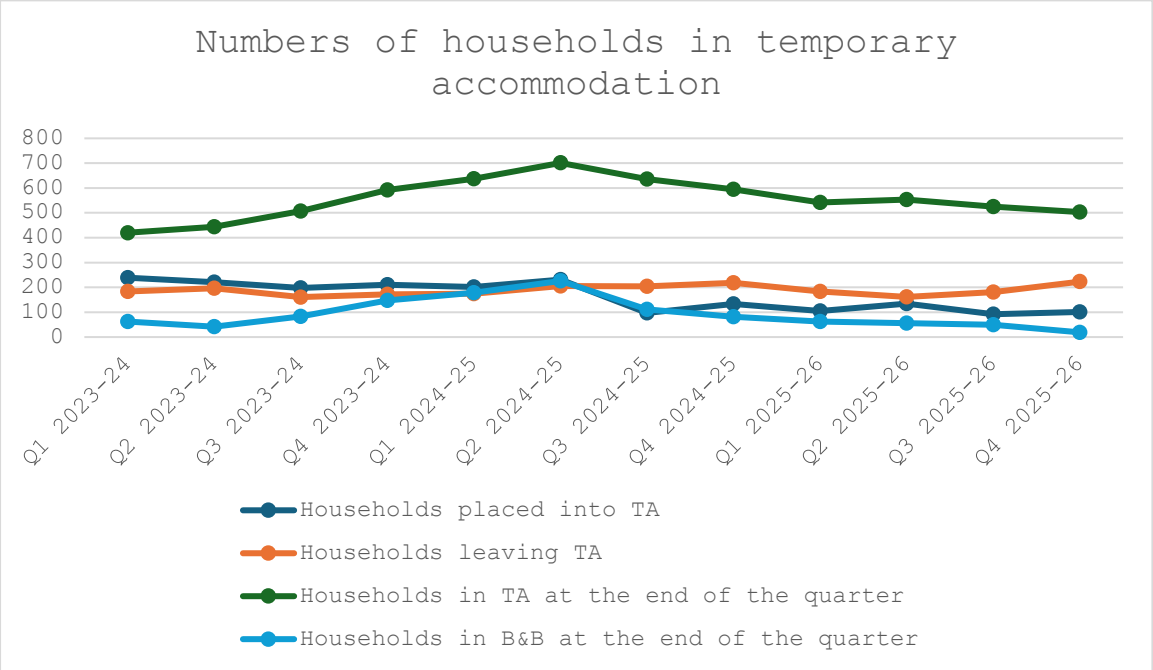
There has been a significant reduction in the number of prevention duties accepted between 2021/22 and 2024/25 when compared with the National average. Whilst this could be indicative of households presenting as homeless at crisis, it clearly demonstrates the need for earlier intervention. Oldham will need to drive change locally improve outcomes for our residents.

5.2 Temporary Accommodation

As stated, Oldham Council officially declared a housing crisis in February 2024 after temporary accommodation numbers surged to unprecedented levels along with the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

Whilst this was reflected Nationally, since then Oldham Council has focused considerable efforts to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation (as set out in our B&B elimination plan), reducing the overall number of households in temporary accommodation, and reducing the number of placements out of borough. For the first time the number of households going into temporary accommodation are significantly less than those leaving temporary accommodation.

Our challenges are to maintain these commitments moving forward and to strive to improve the standard and quality of temporary accommodation provided to our residents

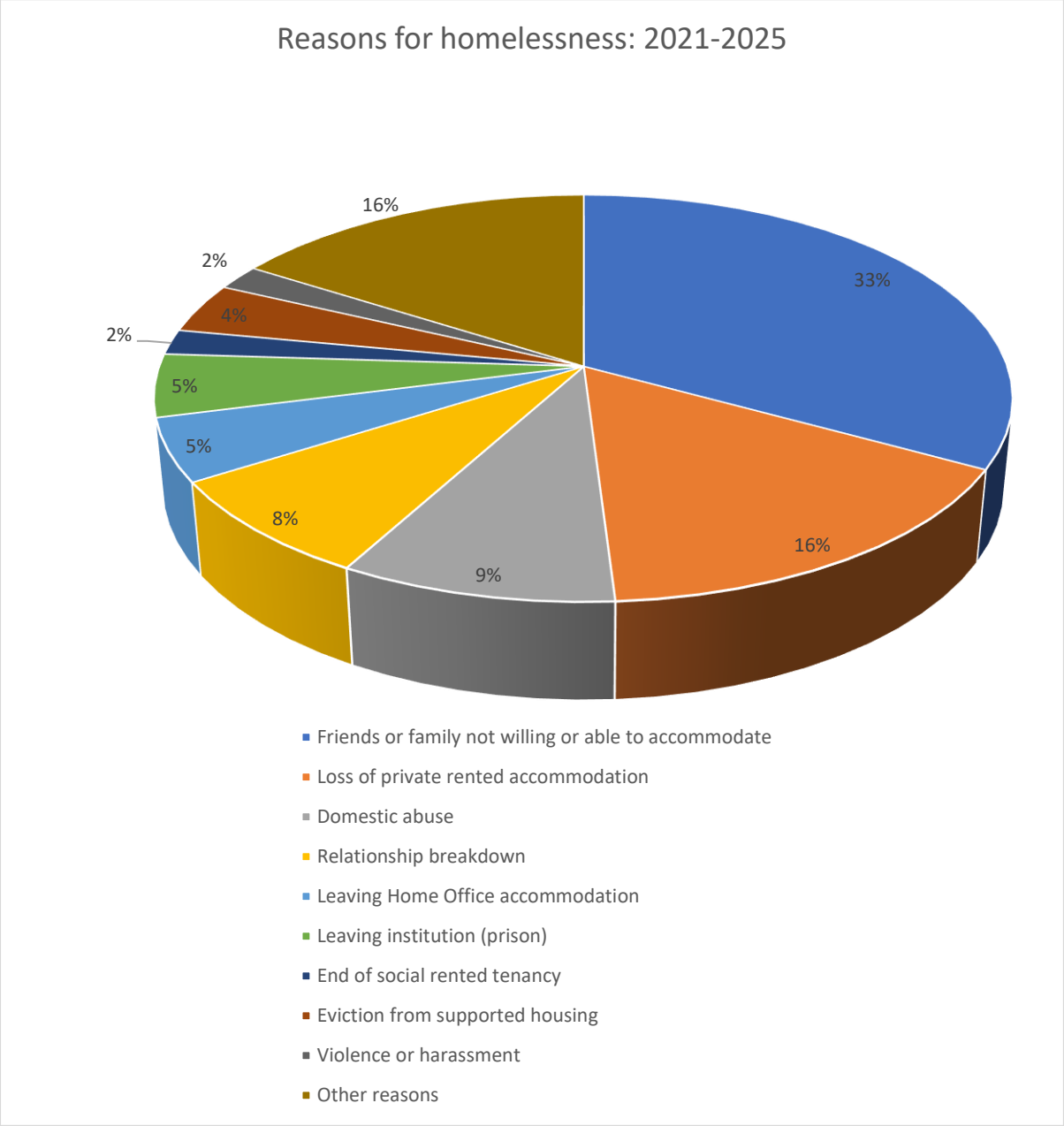


5.3 Reasons for Homelessness

The primary reasons for homelessness in Oldham have remained largely unchanged since the previous Homelessness Strategy was published in 2021. While these factors

mirror national trends, local challenges like overcrowding, health disparities, and housing market pressures can intensify the issue locally. As a result,

- Oldham has higher levels of households being asked to leave by family and friends than the national average
- Oldham has higher levels of households becoming homeless as a result of non-violent relationship breakdown than the national average
- Oldham has higher levels of households who are homeless as a result of departure from an institution

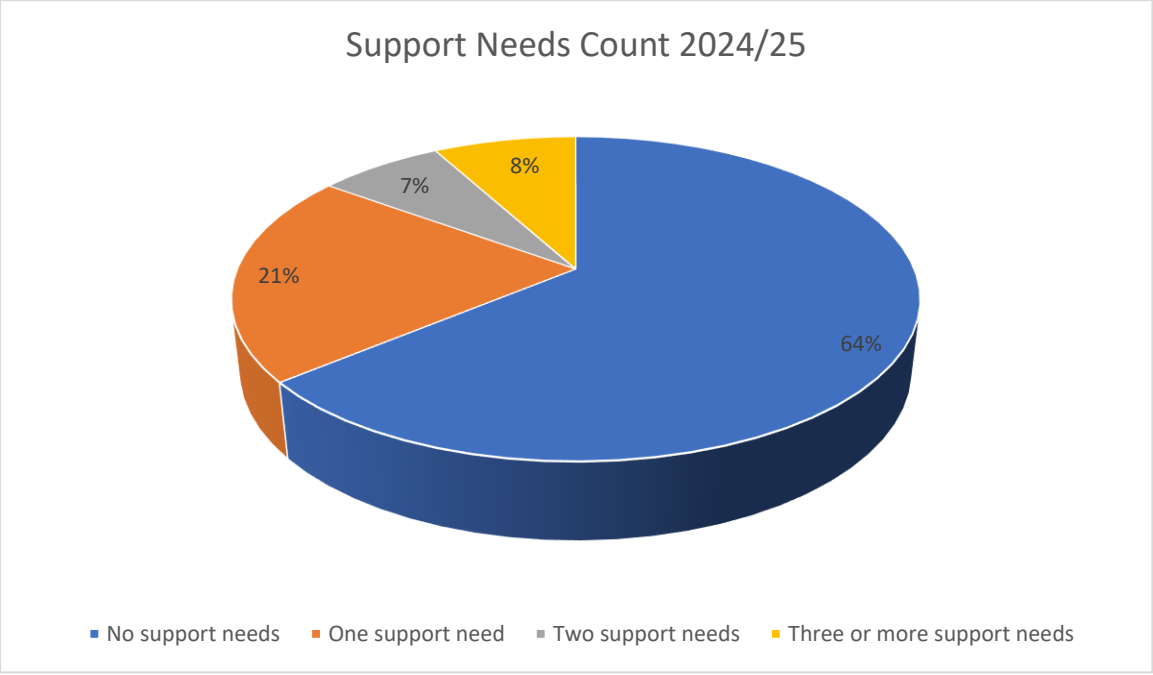


By identifying why people face homelessness, the Council can better direct its resources for the 2026 Homelessness Strategy. Currently, the leading and fastest-growing cause of homelessness is individuals being asked to leave by family or friends. While the Council must focus its prevention efforts on this specific issue, the trend also highlights a wider, borough-wide gap between the supply and demand for affordable housing.

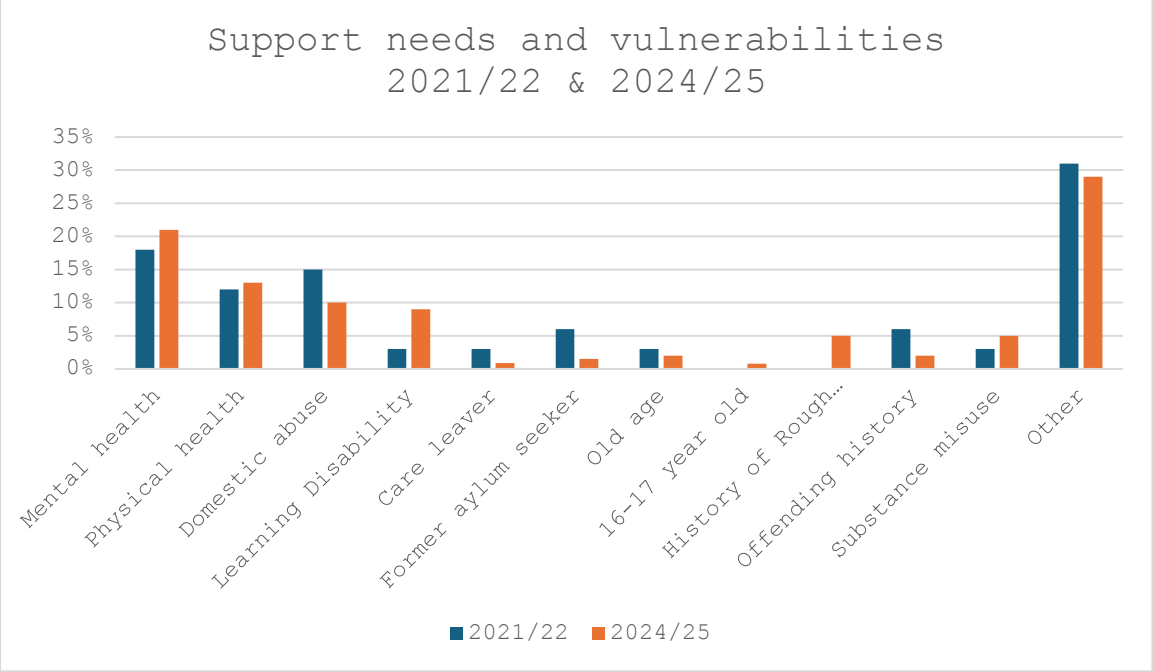
5.4 Support needs

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 introduced Personal Housing Plans, and a requirement for Local Authorities to consider the support needs of applicants in helping them to secure suitable accommodation.

Across the review period, the vast majority of applicants report to have no support needs. In addition, less than a quarter of all homeless applicants reported to have two or more support needs. However, the data on support needs is self-declared and may not, therefore, reflect the true level of complexity of households presenting as homeless in Oldham

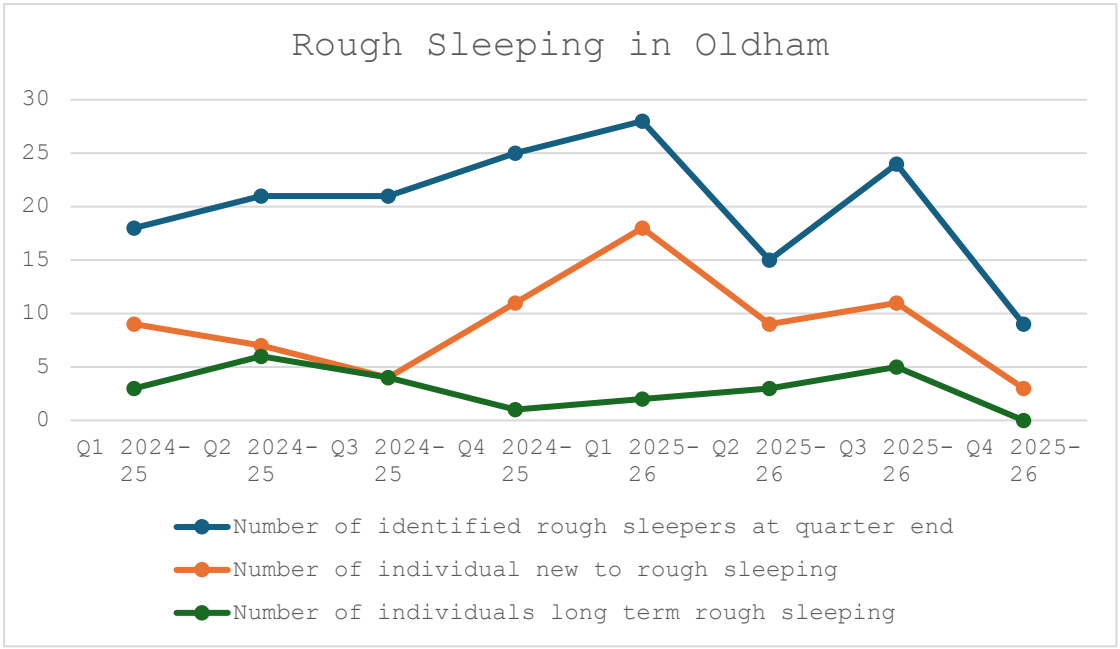


At the same time when comparing the support needs of households in 2021/22 with that of 2024/25 we see increases in the number of households declaring to have mental and physical health issues, learning disabilities, substance misuse and a history of rough sleeping. Consequently, our action plan must be tailored to address these shifting demographics and optimize targeted interventions.



The support needs profile reinforces the importance of a balanced service model. Most applicants are recorded as having no support need or only one identified need, while a smaller but significant cohort presents with multiple or overlapping needs that are likely to be under-recorded in the data. Specialist, trauma-informed and multi-agency responses will remain essential for applicants with higher levels of vulnerability, repeat homelessness or multiple disadvantage, but these should be complemented by a universal prevention approach that does not neglect the largest customer group. Many households may not meet thresholds for specialist intervention but could still avoid homelessness if they receive early advice, mediation, tenancy sustainment or financial support at the right time.

5.5 Rough Sleeping



Whilst Oldham has lower overall levels of rough sleeping compared to other areas across the region, we remain ambitious in our plans to end rough sleeping within the borough. Overall, since Q1 2025/26 there has been a gradual reduction in the number of individuals identified as rough sleeping during the month. This is also reflected in the number of long-term rough sleepers recorded

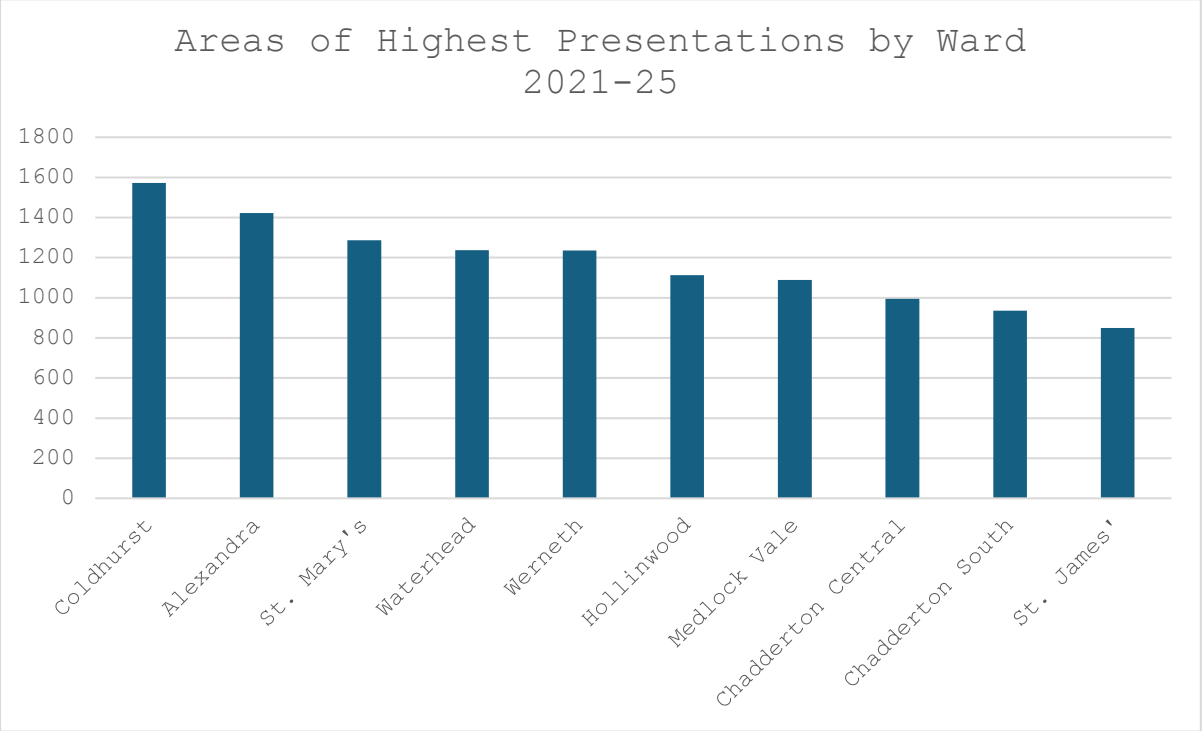
Official single-night snapshot counts in Oldham traditionally record very low single digit figures on a given night due to pro-active local interventions, strategic partnerships and engagement opportunities with Rough Sleeping Services.

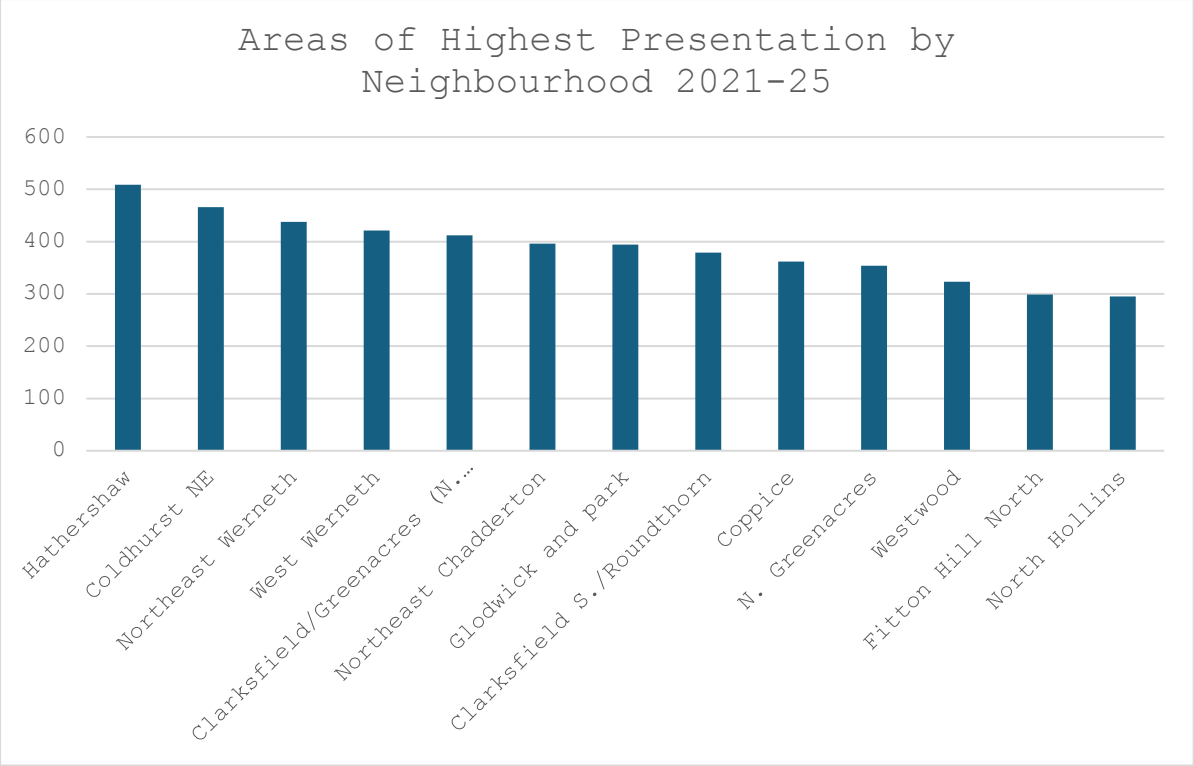
Our challenges moving forward will be to eliminate long term rough sleeping within the borough (as detailed in our Local Outcomes Framework and our Long-Term Rough Sleeping Partnership Plan) and focus our interventions on preventing new instances of rough sleeping.

6.6 Geographical Trends

The 2021–25 review shows that homelessness presentations are concentrated in a number of areas, particularly in and around central Oldham. At ward level, the highest presenting areas were Coldhurst (1,572), Alexandra (1,423), St Mary's (1,286), Waterhead (1,237) and Werneth (1,235).

At neighbourhood/postcode sector level, the highest presenting areas included Hathershaw (509), Coldhurst North East (466), North East Werneth (438), West Werneth (421) and Clarksfield/Greenacres (412).





Analysing geographical trends helps to identify where homelessness is most concentrated across the borough, so that prevention activity, outreach, partnership working and wider housing support can be targeted more effectively. It also helps to test whether homelessness demand is linked to wider structural inequalities such as deprivation, poor health, insecure housing and poverty, and therefore informs a more place-based and evidence-led homelessness strategy.

Moving forward we will need to target resources and support to areas with the highest demand and expand our commitment to ensuring great everyday support is available in all our neighbourhoods shifting efforts from crisis to prevention and creating conditions for people to thrive as with Greater Manchester's Live Well commitment

6. Consultation

To support the development of the 2026 Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy Oldham Council undertook three simultaneously run consultations between 12 September 2025 - 03 November 2025. The surveys were promoted via a web survey link to members, partners, and residents and distributed via e-mail, Oldham Homelessness Forum, and social media. Below is representation of the key issues identified by all and the priorities to be addressed.

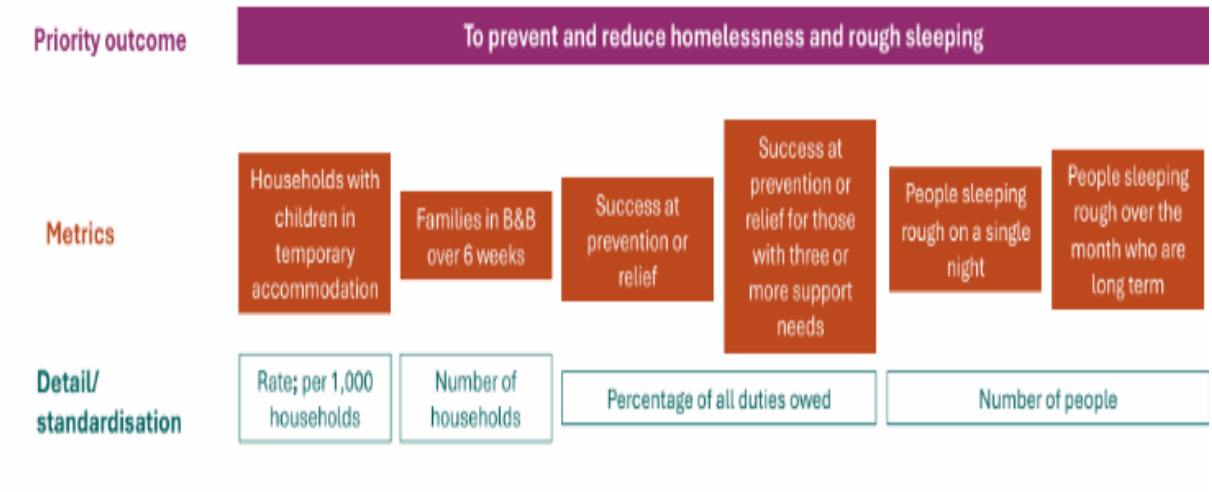
Theme / issue	Residents said	Partners said	Members said	Commonality / shared message
1. Affordable, suitable housing supply is the biggest need	The strongest prevention measure chosen was **access to affordable, safe and suitable accommodation (148 mentions)**. Residents repeatedly asked for **council housing / social housing**, more suitable homes, faster rehousing and better options for families, disabled people and larger households.	Partners repeatedly described **lack of affordable housing** as the core structural issue, including need for **more social housing, 1-bed homes, age-friendly homes, shared housing and bringing empty homes back into use**. They also linked shortage to repeat homelessness and blocked move-on.	Members explicitly called for **"more homes"** and highlighted accommodation pressures caused by family breakdown, PRS exits and mortgage repossession.	**Strongest shared theme across all cohorts:** Oldham needs more **affordable, suitable housing**, not just more process.
2. Prevention and early intervention need to happen sooner	Residents selected **earlier intervention (45 mentions)** and often said support came **too late**—for example, after eviction had already happened, after long waits, or only at crisis point.	Partners repeatedly called for **pre-crisis work**, earlier intervention, mediation, budgeting support, tenancy sustainment, and support "upstream" before homelessness happens.	Members explicitly said **"more early interventions"** and criticised services not being embedded enough in communities, meaning people reach emergency need before support is offered.	Very strong commonality: all cohorts want a strategy that shifts from **reactive crisis response** to **earlier prevention.**
3. Housing-related support / tenancy sustainment is essential	The second most-selected prevention measure was **housing-related support services (94 mentions)**. Residents also wanted support with the housing process, applications,	Partners strongly supported **housing-related support (26 selections)**, **tenant and landlord support (25)**, and repeatedly raised the loss/gap in floating support and wraparound tenancy sustainment.	Members said services should work more directly with public and private landlords, increase property numbers, and improve early support in communities.	Shared message: preventing homelessness is not just about housing supply; people also need **practical, ongoing support**

	private renting, pre-tenancy skills and practical help to avoid homelessness.			

7. Local Outcomes Framework

The Local Outcomes Framework (LOF) provides a clear structure for how Oldham will measure progress in reducing homelessness and improving outcomes for residents. It translates national priorities into locally relevant targets, enabling performance benchmarking, accountability, and continuous improvement.

The framework focuses on a small number of high-impact indicators that reflect system-wide effectiveness—particularly prevention, use of temporary accommodation, and rough sleeping—aligned to the national ambition to make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring.



In response, Oldham has established a set of targets for the next three years, aligned with MHCLG guidance, to drive improvement across prevention, temporary accommodation use, and overall outcomes.

Metric	**Baseline**	**Target Sept 2026**	**Target Sept 2027**	**Target Sept 2028**
Households with children in temporary accommodation	274 - Dec 2025 (HCLIC)	230	200	170
Households with children in temporary accommodation per 000 households	2.9% - Dec 2025 (HCLIC)	2.4%	1.9%	1.5%

Households with children in B&B over 6 weeks	8 - Dec 2025 (HCLIC)	0	0	0
Success at preventing or relieving homelessness	19.9% -Dec 2025 (HCLIC)	25%	35%	45%
Success at preventing and relieving homelessness for those experiencing multiple disadvantage	20% Dec 2025 (HCLIC)	25%	35%	45%
People sleeping rough who are long term	3 - Nov 2025 (Rough Sleeping Data Framework)	2	1	0
People sleeping rough on a single night	6 - the snapshot count in Autumn 2025 (Snapshot)	5	4	3

8. Monitoring

The following initial Action Plan will serve as a live document that adapts to the evolving needs, challenges and priorities of homeless households in Oldham.

The Strategy will be overseen by our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Forum, a public and voluntary sector partnership that brings together statutory agencies, housing teams, health services, and community partners to ensure a coordinated response to homelessness across the borough.

Our progress will be measured by annual report to and review by these partners to track actions, modifications and completion.

9. Action Plan

OLDHAM HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION & ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY - 5 YEAR ACTION PLAN 2026-2031			
1. EARLIER IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVENTION TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS			
AIMS	ACTIONS	LEAD/PARTNERS	YEARS 1-5
To target resources to households threatened with homelessness and intervene to prevent at the earliest opportunity	Embed the GM Live Well commitment to ensuring that great everyday support is available in every neighbourhood by expanding our place-based working delivery model targeting areas placing the highest demand on Housing and Advice Services	Housing Options	Year 2
	Develop and deliver training to embed the new duty to collaborate locally, and effectively work with partners to prevent homelessness occurring	Housing Strategy	Year 1
	Promote Prevention Focused services through the Homelessness Forum	Housing Strategy	Ongoing
	Introduce Local Prevention Targets with a focus on improving performance and outcomes for residents	Housing Strategy	Year 1
	Explore the feasibility of a predictive homelessness risk model that pulls data from a range of sources to identify and target support to people at greatest risk of becoming homeless before they reach crisis point.	Housing Strategy	Year 3
	Deliver training to partner agencies to promote early identification and referrals for housing advice	Housing Strategy	Ongoing
	Commission Domestic Abuse training for Housing Options and specialist IDVA services to promote positive partnership working to prevent homelessness	Housing Options	Year 1
	Encourage, promote and support where required voluntary, faith & charitable sector organisations to submit relevant funding applications which enhance and support our local offer to homeless households	Housing Strategy	Ongoing
	Maximise the creative use of incentives to encourage homeless prevention through maintaining existing living arrangements	Housing Options	Year 2
	Create a Family Support offer to prevent relationship breakdown	Housing Strategy	Year 3

To minimise the impact of homelessness as a result of leaving an institution	Proactively monitor and review people leaving all institutions in collaboration with partners to identify accommodation pathways and prevent homelessness occurring	Housing Strategy	Year 2
	Explore opportunities with NHS partners to expand provision of hospital step-down accommodation	Housing Strategy/NHS	Year 3
	Work with HPT to evidence the need to further expand CAS3 accommodation provision in Oldham for individuals leaving prison or AP	Housing Strategy/Probation	Year 2
	Increase the use of personalisation funding for those with specific and complex needs	Housing Options/RSI	Year 1
	Continue to commit to securing accommodation within the private rented sector for ex-offenders via Landlord incentives	Housing Strategy	Year 1
To help people access the right help at the right time.	Promote “Know Your Rights “materials explaining common misconceptions and realities of making a homelessness application	Housing Strategy/MHCLG	Year 2
	Explore opportunities via the National Workforce Programme to ensure that homelessness and rough sleeping staff are provided with essential training, are able to deliver expert housing and homelessness advice, and are highly skilled.	Housing Options/MHCLG	Ongoing
	Embed best practice guidance to reduce tenancy failure with partners via the Strategic Housing Partnership and strengthen tenant engagement to reduce the risk of homelessness	Housing Strategy/RSL’s	Year 3
	Review Website ensuring there is a strong focus on information for members of the public on what to do and where to contact if at risk of homelessness and self-help online advice	Housing Strategy	Year 5
	Explore newly emerging and increasing reasons for homelessness to ensure data accuracy and target resources to prevention homelessness occurring	Housing Strategy	Year 5
	Develop processes to release funds to prevent homelessness in a faster, more efficient manner	Housing Strategy	Year 4
	Review information provided to Domestic Abuse victims on initial contact to promote empowerment and self help	Housing Strategy/IDVA	Year 3

2. ENSURING THAT WHEN HOMELESSNESS OCCURS IT IS RARE, BRIEF AND NON-RECURRENT			
AIMS	ACTIONS	LEAD/PARTNERS	YEARS 1-5
To minimise the impact of and promote recovery from rough sleeping	Pilot a Smart Sharing Housing Pathway to promote long-term and sustainable recovery from rough sleeping into employment at affordable rent	Housing Strategy/RSI	Year 2
	Compile an evidence-base to support the continuation of the post of an Outreach Nurse for rough sleepers and demonstrate how targeted health interventions aid recovery from rough sleeping.	Housing Strategy/Cardiff University/Public Health	Year 2
	Increase the use of flexible Personalisation Funding to support long-term solutions to rough sleeping in Oldham	Housing Strategy/RSI	Year 5
	Review Target Priority Groups of entrenched Rough Sleepers annually in consultation with partner and Rough Sleeping Steering Group members	Housing Strategy/RS Steering Group	Ongoing
	Conduct a deep dive of individuals new to rough sleeping to establish potential opportunities where interventions could have prevented rough sleeping occurring	Housing Strategy	Year 4
	Implement targets to ensure individuals at risk of rough sleeping are placed into accommodation	Housing Strategy/RSI	Year 1
	Embed the shift from Verification of rough sleepers to needs based engagement and support	Housing Strategy/RSI	Year 1
	Collaborate with partners to explore funding opportunities to improve community connection to aid recovery from rough sleeping, breaking the cycle of homelessness	Housing Strategy/VCSE	Ongoing
	Understand factors leading to returning to rough sleeping Using data to identify repeat patterns, implement targeted interventions, and redesign support offers.	Housing Strategy	Year 4
	Explore potential funding for the expansion of a Dual Diagnosis as a preventative response to positive recovery journeys	Housing Strategy/Public Health	Year 5
To end long term rough sleeping	Develop and implement an Ending Long Term Rough Sleeping Partnership Plan	Housing Strategy/Rough Sleeper Steering Group	Year 1
	Implement a Solidarity Locker System and Postal Boxes as a means of engaging individuals into Rough Sleeping Services and reducing long term rough sleeping	Housing Strategy/Action Together/RSI	Year 1

To reduce the length of time households, spend in temporary accommodation	Target Move-On Support to households in all forms of temporary accommodation to minimize the impact of homelessness	Housing Options	Ongoing
	Develop our approach and relationships with the PRS landlords including reviewing our incentive scheme and support offers to increase accommodation options available	Housing Options	Year 3
	Make best use of the ability to direct match households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness to available social rented	Housing Options	Year 1
Improve the experience of and minimize the impact on households living in temporary accommodation	Introduce customer satisfaction surveys and health and wellbeing checks	Housing Options	Year 2
	Expand current notification procedures to GP surgeries and Schools of families being placed in temporary accommodation to include notifications to Health Visitors.	Housing Options	Year 1
	Review the Temporary Accommodation Family Information booklet with updated safe sleeping advice and activities for children	Housing Strategy/RSI	Year 4
	Work with GMCA to ensure every child in temporary accommodation has free transport to school if relocated more than 2 miles away	Housing Options/GMCA	Year 1
	Develop and enforce quality standards for all temporary accommodation, ensuring it is safe, clean, and suitable for all households.	Housing Options	Year 2
	Increase the number of high-quality, self-contained, TA units for families with children	Housing Strategy	Ongoing
To prevent repeat homelessness	Improve financial resilience to prevent cycles of homelessness promote employment opportunities for households at risk of homelessness: including access to education, training, and employment opportunities as a standard where applicable in Personalised Housing Plans	Housing Options/DWP/Get Oldham Working	Year 3
	Improve pre-tenancy preparation to prevent cycles of homelessness. Co-produce modules covering healthy relationships, emotional resilience, managing low-level mental health triggers, community integration, and practical tenancy skills.	Housing Strategy/RSI	Year 4
	Undertake a review to establish why repeat homelessness occurs, and put measures in place to prevent this happening	Housing Strategy	Year 5
	Introduce comprehensive affordability and suitability assessments to ensure tenancy sustainability	Housing Options	Year 2

3. IMPROVING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, SAFE, AND SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION			
AIMS	ACTIONS	LEAD/PARTNERS	YEARS 1-5
To increase access to safe accommodation	Complete a procurement exercise in respect of Other Nightly Paid temporary accommodation with a focus on improved standards of accommodation	Housing Strategy	Year 1
	Create a checklist to be used during inspections of all temporary accommodation provision to ensure consistency of accommodation standards across all provisions.	Housing Options	Year 2
	Commit to carrying out an inspection regime to ensure that all temporary accommodation is safe, suitable and of an appropriate standard. All properties will be: • inspected before any placement is made. • subject to inspection at least once per month while in use as temporary accommodation	Housing Options	Year 1
	Ensure that staff responsible for assessing and inspecting temporary accommodation are appropriately trained in the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), to support the identification and management of hazards and to ensure that accommodation remains free from Category 1 hazards	Housing Options	Yeat 1
To increase access to suitable accommodation	Ensure that families are only placed into Bed &Breakfast accommodation as an emergency and for no longer than 6 weeks by maintaining high level strategic oversight	Housing Options	Ongoing
	By exception where necessary, reduce the number of households placed into temporary accommodation which is out of borough to zero by expanding local TA portfolio	Housing Options	Ongoing
	By exception where necessary end the use of Bed and Breakfast as a form of temporary accommodation by procuring alternative more suitable options	Housing Strategy	Ongoing
	Work with GMCA to bring empty properties within the Borough back into use	Housing Strategy/GMCA	Ongoing
	Review and update the Temporary Accommodation Allocation Policy with a specific focus on accommodation standards	Housing Strategy	Year 1
To increase access to affordable accommodation	Ensure that social housing is allocated to those most in need by reviewing the Allocations Policy upon publication of	Housing Options/MHCLG	Year 2

	updated statutory guidance on social housing allocations to reflect local needs and effectively support vulnerable households		
	Develop and implement a Right Sizing Scheme with incentives to increase the availability of family sized accommodation.	Housing Options/RSL's	Year 2
	To increase access to affordable privately rented sector accommodation within borough via proactive engagement with local landlords	Housing Options	Ongoing
	Collaborate with developers and Housing Associations to build new homes at social and affordable rents	Housing Strategy/RSL's	Ongoing

4. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO END HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING.			
AIMS	ACTIONS	LEAD/PARTNERS	YEARS 1-5
To work in partnership to make Homelessness Prevention a priority for everyone	Ensure representation at Key Strategic Partnership meetings to strengthen the council's commitment to coproduced outcomes and service delivery.	Housing Strategy	Ongoing
	Work collaboratively with key partners & GMCA to continue to lobby for long term funding from bodies such as MHCLG	Housing Strategy/GMCA	Ongoing
	Embed newly produced Government toolkits locally in partnership and promote best practice	Housing Strategy/MHCLG	Year 2
	Develop a shared outcomes framework using data to track progress, identify gaps and improve outcomes	Housing Strategy	Year 1
	Establish thematic subgroups e.g. youth homelessness; domestic abuse; health to drive focused action	Housing Strategy	Year
	Refresh and strengthen collaborative working via the Homelessness Forum by ensuring active partner engagement, aligned priorities, and a shared vision to end homelessness locally	Housing Strategy	Year 1
	Promote joint working between statutory, voluntary and community organisations to deliver person-centred and trauma-informed services by supporting flexible working arrangements and co-location.	Housing Strategy/VCSE	Ongoing
	Review eviction and move on processes with RSL's and supported accommodation providers and adopt a panel approach to identifying prevention focused solutions	Housing Strategy/RSL's/Supported Accommodation Providers	Year 4

To strengthen partnerships to support vulnerable groups	Apply co-production principles across service design and delivery, ensuring people with lived experience shape prevention and support approaches.	Housing Strategy/Rough Sleeper Steering Group	Ongoing
	Work with key partners in health, and treatment services to design and joint commission recovery housing accommodation	Housing Strategy/Commissioning	Year 2
	Explore options to deliver Longer Term Supported Accommodation for individuals with complex needs	Housing Strategy	Year 3
	Work in partnership with Public Health and NHS to embed inclusive healthcare practises that meet the treatment and care needs of people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping,	Housing Strategy/Public Health/NHS	Ongoing
	Ensure that no newborn child is discharged from hospital into Bed &Breakfast or other unsuitable temporary accommodation by having strategic oversight of expectant mothers in TA and establishing processes to identify appropriate discharge pathways	Housing Strategy/NHS	Year 1
	Work collaboratively with local partners to improve family experience in TA and promote positive health outcomes	Housing Strategy	Year 2
	Complete deep dive in respect of domestic abuse cases known to Statutory Homelessness; Domestic Abuse and Social Services to identify earlier opportunities for preventative interventions	Housing Strategy	Year 1

10. Glossary

CAS3: Community Accommodation Services Tier 3
DWP: Department of Work and Pensions
GM: Greater Manchester
GMCA: Greater Manchester Combined Authority
HPT: Homelessness Prevention Team
IDVA: Independent Domestic Violence Advocate
MHCLG: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
NHS: National Health Service
PRS: Private Rented Sector
RSI: Rough Sleeping Initiative
RSL: Registered Social Landlord
TA: Temporary Accommodation
VCSE: Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise

11. Contact

Oldham Council Strategic Housing

Housing.options@oldham.gov.uk