

# Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy

## Background

Housing Operations have developed a new Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy (Appendix 1) to replace our current strategy which ended in 2023. It sets out how we meet our statutory duties and work together with our partners and colleagues across departments to prevent homelessness and eliminate rough sleeping in Islington.

## Our priorities

Four draft priorities have been identified to deliver our aim to meet current and emerging needs in Islington and our work is aligned with and supports the overarching aims of the council in delivering Mission 3: A safe place to call home.

Our priorities are based on our current and programmed work to prevent and relieve homelessness in Islington, they are aligned with the council's commitment to promote fairness and equality and with our Housing Strategy and Allocation Scheme.

### Priority 1: Prevent and relieve homelessness through early and tailored intervention

Homelessness is not inevitable and it can be prevented. We work to provide early help for those at risk of homeless and we believe that everyone who is homeless should have a right to a safe, secure home along with an appropriate level of support to create a good quality of life.

### Priority 2: Eliminate rough sleeping and help people into settled housing

We work side-by-side and holistically with our council colleagues and partners to eliminate rough sleeping; we work to the values set out in our Homelessness Charter with the aim to reach Functional Zero.

### Priority 3: Improve housing options available to meet the needs of our residents

We aim to providing every individual accessing our services with a realistic, sustainable good quality housing option where people can feel safe, maintain contact with their family and friends and which support their life choices

### Priority 4: Providing accommodation and resettlement services to refugees and migrants

Islington Council became an accredited Borough of Sanctuary in 2023. We work ambitiously with our partners to make Islington is a place of welcome, safety & success for all and to integrate new communities, build social cohesion and eradicate poverty.

The work already underway and planned for us to deliver each priority is set out in a series of associated objectives in the accompanying Action Plan (Appendix 2) and our progress will be monitored against these objectives.

## Next steps

The draft strategy and action plan are due for presentation to CMT later this month after which we will engage in a formal consultation for 6 weeks. Upon completion of this exercise and collation of feedback received, the final drafts will be submitted for Executive approval prior to implementation.