

Health, Wellbeing, and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

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Introduction

- Homes and Neighbourhoods and Adult Social Care have excellent partnership working arrangements. The work between the Homes and Neighbourhood service and the ASC Operations service is national best practice.
- The majority of our vulnerable adults in Housing do not meet the care package criteria of ASC. However, we do have effective partnership arrangements with ASC Operations service to manage demand and need
- Meet with ASC Operations service daily.
- Good work around cuckooing of properties, complex needs of tenants with referrals conducted in partnership with fast information sharing.
- Good work around aids and adaptations and partnership work.

Current national and local trends

- The number of children who are homeless and living in temporary accommodation with their families in England has rocketed to 151,630- an increase of 15% in a year - and the highest figure since records began in 2004. The increase in Islington has seen a 35% increase over the last 12 months and we now have 1,586 homeless households living in TA .There are 1,340 children living in temporary accommodation in Islington within 865 families. There are 721 homeless single vulnerable adults living in temporary accommodation. However, vulnerable homeless households do not meet the threshold to access Adult Social Care services because they do not have needs identified within the Care Act
- The number of homeless families living in emergency accommodation such as B&Bs and hostels has reached 8,860 – a rise of 29% in a year. This type of emergency accommodation is notoriously overcrowded, expensive and unsuitable. Islington’s figures are zero.
- There are 18 multiple complex needs people sleeping rough in Islington. However, none of these people receive care package support from Adult Social Care again, because they do not have Care Act eligible needs. Overall, there are now a record 117,450 homeless households living in temporary accommodation in England – the highest figure ever and up 12% in a year. The increase in Islington has seen a 35% increase over the last 12 months. No homeless household living in temporary accommodation has Adult Social Care support packages.

- There are no Private Rented Sector properties available in Islington at the Local Housing Allowance rate. The average rent for a private rented property in Islington is £2,533 per month an increase of 14.2% in the last 12 months.
- The average property price is £687,000 in Islington
- Only 11% of people approaching Islington Council as homeless are in full time employment and therefore are unable to afford to live locally due to the high value of the private rented market. Poverty is the main reason for homelessness in Islington.
- There are no ASC support packages provided to any resident at Stacey Street scheme for single people sleeping rough or the homeless hostels provided by Homes and Neighbourhood's because they do not have care and support needs under the care act
- There are 15 properties provided to Adult Social Care each year by Homes and Neighbourhoods through a quota framework for people who have moved to independence, but there is limited if any take up of these properties and ASC wish to explore how to increase usage.
- Two new build schemes are being developed for Adult Social Care by the Homes and Neighbourhood service one for people with mental health support needs (Beaumont Rise) and one for people with learning disabilities (Rosehip formely known as Windsor Street).
- The commissioned service for Floating Support and Housing First will terminate in March 2026 and Homes and Neighbourhoods are exploring with ASC what elements may be brought in house as part of a restructure and which may be directly commissioned by ASC.



Context of local demand

- 103% increase in homeless presentations due to Domestic Abuse in the last 12 months
- 35% increase in homeless applications over the last 12 months
- 1,143 tenants of Islington Council receives support from Adult Social Care. This is one third of all care packages provided by Adult Social Care. There are 3,429 care packages in place from Adult Social Care. 16.80% General Fund budget spent on Adult Social Care in Islington. There are 25,357 Islington council tenants with 4% receiving Adult Social Care packages. 40% of Islington population live in social housing with 25% are living in Islington Council properties.
- 2% of the General Fund is spent on the homelessness service for 1,586 households living in temporary accommodation and 4,932 homeless applications over the last 12 months. 29% of homeless applications have complex multiple needs but not receive Adult Social Care services as they are not eligible for support under the care act.
- 18 people with multiple complex needs sleeping rough in Islington today. In London, there were 1,132 people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in Autumn 2023. This was an increase of 274 people or a 32% increase from 2022 and an increase of 717 people or 172% since 2010. There are 16,776 households on the housing register waiting to be rehoused. Only 7% of these households will be receive alternative accommodation over the next 12 months. 50% of homeless households living in temporary accommodation in Islington, 45% living in neighbouring boroughs and 5% living in other parts of London e.g. Greenwich or outside of London.

Purpose into Action so what is Islington Council doing differently

- We have purchased 363 Ex Right to Buy properties in Islington to be used as Temporary Accommodation since 2021. This is the largest property purchase programme by any council in the country. These properties are being allocated to vulnerable and homeless households.
- We will purchase 94 more properties this financial year and a further 136 properties in 2025/2026
- We have provided 49 properties over two schemes for people sleeping rough. We have the lowest level of people sleeping rough in central London, Please note these people do not qualify for ASC.
- We will be Investing £200m in homelessness support and prevention over two years.
- We have the 7th highest number of homeless applications in London with 47% having multiple complex needs
- We have been awarded a City of Sanctuary accreditation, the Stonewall Housing accreditation and the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance accreditation for our Housing Services
- We are restructuring the Housing Needs service to place prevention of homelessness at the heart of the service
- We have commissioned Shelter, Crisis, Homeless Link and PPL to conduct Mystery Shopping, Critical Friend, Customer Focus Groups, and a deep dive lean review to inform the restructure and service offer. ASC have been fully involved with the redesigns of our services.

Purpose into Action so what is Islington Council doing differently

- We have the Duty to Prevent not the Duty to Refer so any organisation can refer someone to the council who they believe are homeless or about to be made homeless and this assists with our vulnerable adult's work. ASC are one of these partners who refer into the service.
- We have an effective Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Forum chaired by an independent organisation which challenges the council's work again assisting with our vulnerable adult's work. ASC regularly attend these meetings
- We adopted quality standards for all TA two years ago designed in partnership with ASC.
- Anyone can access face to face services Monday to Friday. We have abolished the term Intentionally homeless, and we are committed to providing a single front door with ASC and health in the future and are currently exploring this with ASC colleagues.
- No one will ever leave hospital, prison, Home Office hotels, or any statutory institutions and sleep rough in Islington. We have an effective Housing First offer and excellent ASC partnerships in place.
- There will be an anticipated £2.25 million overspend for temporary accommodation in the current financial year compared to the average overspend in London being £7 million, but Islington has the 7th largest number of homeless applications. 60% of homeless applications are from vulnerable adults in Islington and most of these are not eligible for adult social care support.
- 635 adults have left the two local Home Office hotels with the right to remain in the country, with 829 current residents living in these hotels. The Director of Adult Social Service chairs the meeting, looking at needs of residents giving good strategic oversight as well as oversight on the ground. Currently none of the residents have identified ASC needs.

Local housing provision

- 25,357 Islington Council tenants and over 9,000 leaseholders.
- 16,521 Housing Association rented homes of which 2,197 are supported housing or housing for older people provided by 52 Housing Associations.
- Islington Council now embarking on an ambitious housing management restructure to ensure all residents receive the best service in the country.
- Resident empowerment framework, community drop-in sessions, RSIG, tenants and leaseholders appointed to the Housing and Communities Scrutiny Committee, Tenants and Residents Association work and TSM work.
- Fair, Inclusive and Accessible Housing Services Commitment, Anti-Social Behaviour Policy, Islington's Providers Partnership agreement and the Good Neighbourhood Management Policy will support our work with residents in Islington designed in partnership with ASC.
- Excellent partnership work with ASC Operations, and Assurance, Strategy, and Improvement service with seamless service provision. These two teams are the best I have experienced.
- Effective and professional communication with ASC Operations and Housing.
- LGA Peer Review identified excellent and effective partnership work between Housing and ASC

Future Plans

- ✓ We are proud of the quality of our housing services, and we do believe we can positively change the world for our residents. However, we do need structural changes to be made by central Government to help us to make Islington a more equal place. Therefore, we hope the Government will work in partnership with councils across England in the following areas:
- ✓ Increase homelessness funding to councils through the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping Initiative and for this increase in funding to be confirmed for every council during the lifetime of the Parliament
- ✓ The homeless prevention grant funding must address the highest numbers of homelessness since records began
- ✓ To provide additional Local Authority Housing Funding to enable councils to purchase Ex Right to Buy properties every year through the lifetime of the Parliament
- ✓ To provide grant funding which allows councils and housing association to build social rented housing to meet our growing community's needs.
- ✓ Update the framework around the Local Housing Allowance to allow councils to access private rented sector accommodation

Challenges

- The overspends we are seeing across the country for homeless services will continue with some council's facing extreme financial challenges and having to issue section 114 notices because of overspends in the homelessness services.
- Some councils are spending 50% of the entire council expenditure on homelessness services. Islington spends 2% of its budget on homelessness services
- Homeless adults and families will be forced to live outside of Islington, and this will impact on the education attainment of children, and the well-being of families.
- The number of Islington Council and Housing Association lettings will continue to reduce due to the cost-of-living crisis, the reduction in the provision of new build accommodation and people being unable to access other forms of accommodation.
- We need to address poverty if we are to address homelessness services. We are recruiting people to work in housing with lived homelessness and living in social housing experience and we are empowering our residents to help us to design our services.