



Prosperous Communities Committee

Tuesday 27 January 2026

Subject: West Lindsey Homelessness Approach 2026-2028

Report by:	Director of Planning, Regeneration & Communities
Contact Officer:	Sarah Elvin Homes, Health & Wellbeing Team Manager sarah.elvin@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To give an overview of homelessness in West Lindsey and propose an approach to the delivery of frontline services from April 2026- March 2028.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Members acknowledge the positive work of the Homelessness Services as detailed in the report.
2. Members approve the homelessness approach as set out within the report detailed at section 15 and recommend inclusion within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
3. Members agree to officers continuing to work with Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust to develop proposals for new ways of working.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

The main legal framework for homelessness is Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, strengthened by the Homelessness Act 2002 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Local authorities must prevent and relieve homelessness and provide assistance to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

This report sets out the homelessness approach in West Lindsey within this legal context.

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/149/26/MT/SL

The Government announced the 2026/2027 provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on the 17th of December 2025, which included the following 3-year allocation for Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant.

West Lindsey District Council

Year	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant total	Of which, funding for homelessness and rough sleeping
Financial year 2026/27 (Provisional)	£562,454	£527,820
Financial year 2027/28 (Provisional)	£585,743	£551,109
Financial year 2028/29 (Provisional)	£606,116	£571,482
Total Allocation Financial Years 2026-29 (Provisional)	£1,754,313	£1,650,411

The grant allocation has been included within the draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2026/2027 within the 'funding' element of the accounts with corresponding expenditure budgets held within the Homelessness service. Draft budget subject to Council approval of the MTFP on the 2nd of March 2026.

(N.B.) All committee reports MUST have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

This paper proposes a new member of staff in the homelessness team.

Should this approach be approved, the process for recruitment will be followed and a new Rough sleeping support officer will be in place for a fixed two-year post.

The post will require a new job description which will be evaluated through the Job Evaluation process, it is budgeted for at a band 8 with the final band to be confirmed.

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report MUST have a HR Ref

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

All homelessness applicants are assessed using the Homelessness Code of Guidance. This code of guidance [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities - Chapter 1: Introduction - Guidance - GOV.UK](#) sets out the equality requirements at 1.10 for all local authorities to adhere to.

Data Protection Implications :

None related to this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :

None directly related to this report

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations :

West Lindsey work closely with the police for all homelessness support services. Some of West Lindsey's most vulnerable and complex people access these services and robust working across the system can help with keeping both individuals and communities safe in their homes.

Health Implications:

Having a roof over your head is one of the most basic human rights. This report sets out the approach taken by West Lindsey to ensure everyone has somewhere suitable for them that they can call home.

The health implications of an unsuitable home or no home at all are huge with West Lindsey deeming housing and homelessness as one of the priority lever areas in the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Alongside other Lincolnshire Authorities, the Lincolnshire Homelessness Partnership Manager works across the county to ensure new initiatives can be implemented which can prevent homelessness and ensure it is brief, rare and non-recurring.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

Risk Assessment :
N/A

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to
urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has
significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out a renewed homelessness approach for 2026–2028 in response to stable but significant demand for services, shifting national priorities, and major changes to government funding structures effective from April 2026.
- 1.2 The proposal builds on strong existing performance and proposes a future model designed to maintain low levels of rough sleeping, enhance support for vulnerable households, and maximise the impact of new consolidated national funding.
- 1.3 Homelessness demand in West Lindsey has remained consistent over the last three years, with positive outcomes achieved for the majority of applicants.
- 1.4 Between 2022 and 2025, WLDC delivered strong results with increasing prevention rates and consistently low rough sleeping figures. This progress reflects enhanced early intervention, flexible financial support, and strengthened partnership working across the whole system.
- 1.5 New proposals for homelessness funding were consulted on in the summer of 2025 and the new way of working sees authorities or other organisations no longer receive separate ringfenced grants for homelessness, but instead, a single allocation from a consolidated ringfenced Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and domestic abuse grant, alongside funding from the Local Government Finance Settlement.
- 1.6 Currently, West Lindsey District Council receive funding for Homelessness through the Homelessness Prevention Grant. P3 receive funding directly from Homes England for the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme, and South Kesteven receive funding from MHCLG to deliver the Rough Sleeper Initiative (Change 4 Lincs) in West Lindsey and across the district Council areas of SKDC, SHDC & NKDC.
- 1.7 Through this new allocation, all of those grants will be amalgamated and provided directly to West Lindsey to determine the best way in which to allocate that funding.
- 1.7 This consolidation has been implemented to provide authorities with greater flexibility to make decisions on how to spend the funding to best meet local need and deliver national priorities.
- 1.7 West Lindsey will receive a total of £808,842 in funding which is an increase in 12% from 2025 (based on the funding received through all three of the above named grants.) A funding settlement for three years has been received which gives certainty on the approach at least up until Local Government Reorganisation. This is broken down to £562,454 for Homelessness Prevention, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse and £246,388 for temporary accommodation.
- 1.8 The report sets out the approach taken now to homelessness and looks to agree the way in which the homelessness service will operate and how the

existing services will be structured and funded from April 26 when the new funding structure is implemented.

- 1.9 It is proposed to continue with a number of the services already in place including the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme, interventions in place via the current Change 4 Lincs service (which will be brought in house at West Lindsey for rough sleeper support) and the Homelessness Partnership role.
- 1.10 This approach will see our already well performing Homelessness team continue with the flexible approach to homelessness prevention and allows for consideration of other Countywide projects which could assist some of West Lindsey most vulnerable residents to get the help and support they require.
- 1.11 The below table sets out the suggested approach to homelessness in order to deliver the services required whilst maximising available accommodation options.

Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse full allocation	£562,454
Of which Domestic abuse allocation (not separately ringfenced for DA activity)	£34,634
Proposed approach	
Rough sleeper accommodation programme (RSAP)	£86,000
Framework support contract	£47,999
Homelessness Partnership Manager	£12,000
Outreach - City of Lincoln	£23,000
Crash Bed – LEAP	£20,000
Emergency Accommodation	£15,000
Support worker	£46,000
Remaining for flexible homelessness prevention/relief activity	£277,821
Total	£562,454

2. Introduction

- 2.1 This paper sets out the current approach taken to homelessness in West Lindsey and looks to recommend an approach to delivery over the next two years.
- 2.2 The paper aims to give members a clear overview of the position in relation to homelessness, the actual numbers that approach West Lindsey as homeless and the ways in which we work with some of our most vulnerable residents to either prevent them from becoming homeless, or, should that not be achievable, secure them a new home with any required support they may need to sustain a tenancy.
- 2.3 The purpose of updating our approach to homelessness is due to the amended way in which homelessness services are going to be funded from

April 2026 onwards. This paper goes into more detail on the new funding structure and then proposes how funding is utilised for the next two years based on our evidenced approach.

2.4 Even though this is a new approach to funding, the approach is consistent with the way in which these services are delivered currently, so this paper does not propose to undertake anything new, it simply recommends to continue with the services that are currently externally funded and then looks to explore ways of working with other partners to try and improve services across the whole system.

3. Overview of homelessness in West Lindsey

3.1 The number of people approaching West Lindsey as homeless has remained consistent over the past 3 years. Alongside that, our positive outcomes for our homeless applicants also remains high as detailed in the table below.

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026*
New homeless applications	604	730	714	487
Percentage of approaches with positive outcome	74%	86%	81%	83%
Percentage prevented	58%	47%	46%	54%
Percentage relieved	41%	52%	54%	46%

*To end Nov 2025

3.2 A positive outcome is determined as anyone who whereby the case is closed and they have been successfully either prevented from becoming homeless, or, once they have become homeless, we have successfully sourced suitable accommodation and have discharged our homelessness duty for that household.

3.3 The table above shows a shift in the past year towards a more prevention focussed approach which has been difficult to achieve in the past 3 years. The increase in cases has meant capacity has been focussed on those in the highest priority which often means that robust and effective homelessness prevention case work is harder to undertake.

3.4 Central Government have made it clear homelessness prevention is to be the focus for Local Authorities and West Lindsey have worked hard over the past 18 months to align our work with this approach and work with partners earlier to prevent households from becoming homeless. This is reflective in the figures above and this increase in prevention should be able to increase through the new approach proposed through this report.

3.5 Rough sleeping is not hugely prevalent in West Lindsey currently and the Homelessness Prevention Officers work hard delivering both a daily duty service and an out of hours service to ensure anyone who presents as homeless tonight can access advice and support that same day.

3.6 Every year, West Lindsey undertake an annual rough sleeper estimate. Due to the small number of rough sleepers in West Lindsey, there is not a requirement to undertake a full count. This estimate is completed by engaging with all services in the district who either work with rough sleepers or are aware of them due to the nature of their own work such as the Police, CCTV or other emergency services. To include a person within the estimate we have to make a decision as a collective of services on the likelihood that the person was rough sleeping on one specific night. This does not include people known to be sofa surfing or otherwise insecurely housed.

3.7 The purpose is to provide a snapshot of rough sleeping across the country at any one time to understand the scale of the issue.

3.8 The numbers of rough sleepers thought to be rough sleeping in the district during these estimates has remained consistently low and were for the last 4 years as follows:

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Rough sleeper annual estimate figure	2	6	3	3

Current position

4. Homelessness prevention and relief case work

4.1 In 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act was implemented which extended the period for homelessness prevention from 28 days to 56 days, this was to allow Local Authorities to work with households who were threatened with homelessness earlier to try and prevent them from becoming homeless.

4.2 This shift towards prevention has been challenging as often it is not until people hit crisis that they start to engage with services, however, in West Lindsey we have managed to turn the prevention figures around and have shown in the last year an increase in homelessness prevention over relief with a trajectory from this year of increasing that even further.

4.3 We take a flexible approach to homelessness prevention, providing advice and support alongside signposting to relevant support services and also offering financial support where appropriate for interventions such as small payments towards rent arrears, rent in advance payments, cost of removals, anything that can ensure households do not end up homeless and in turn, requiring temporary accommodation.

- 4.4 The Home Choices team consists of a Team Leader, four Homelessness Prevention Officers and two Homelessness Prevention Assistants. These officers undertake all the work in relation to all homelessness applicants.
- 4.5 Additional funding was provided to WLDC to deliver on the new burdens which the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed on Local Authorities to accept anyone fleeing Domestic Abuse as in a priority need with no requirement for any additional vulnerabilities.
- 4.6 A decision was made to utilise this funding to provide an additional homelessness prevention officer in the team. This additional capacity allowed for a new approach to be implemented which see's a homelessness duty officer in place every day from 9am-5pm to ensure the team has the required capacity to undertake an assessment of risk for anyone feeling domestic abuse as soon as they approach the council for support.
- 4.7 This also offers a simple process for customers approaching the council as homeless tonight to be spoken to on the day of approach which in turn means we have the opportunity to prevent rough sleeping.
- 4.8 A separate funding stream was set up via a paper to committee in July 2025 which allocated some of the Asylum Dispersal Grant funding to homelessness. This allows for funding to support with temporary accommodation and access to the private rented sector.
- 4.9. To date, West Lindsey have had approaches from 16 people who have been granted refugee status and require housing support, only 3 of them have resulted in offers of temporary accommodation and to date, none have been financially supported to access accommodation in West Lindsey, all preferring to move out of the area.

5. Temporary Accommodation

- 5.1 In 2022, West Lindsey were successful in a bid to the Local Government Association Housing Advisors Programme and received funding to undertake a review of temporary accommodation in West Lindsey with a view to identifying the level of need for temporary accommodation in the future.
- 5.2 This review concluded there was a requirement for an additional 8 units of temporary accommodation across West Lindsey making a total of 13 units with at least 2 of these being outside of Gainsborough.
- 5.3 It also proposed that these units needs to be dispersed and their location ensuing that all cohorts can utilise the accommodation.
- 5.4 This led to the recommissioning of the existing temporary accommodation contract to expand out to 13 units of accommodation with stipulations around dispersal, size, location and disabled accessibility.
- 5.5 This contract was re-commissioned in April 2025 and saw Framework Housing be appointed at the partner for this delivery.
- 5.6 In June 2025, Central Government announced Local Authority Housing fund round 3 which gave all councils the opportunity to bid for funding to deliver

temporary accommodation and resettlement accommodation. West Lindsey bid and were successful in securing over £1.29m of funding to deliver 7 units of temporary accommodation and 4 units of resettlement accommodation.

- 5.7 This funding has allowed west Lindsey to purchase 7 units of temporary accommodation to lease to framework, securing the delivery of temporary accommodation past the end of the existing contract and giving West Lindsey opportunity to deliver good quality temporary accommodation for our most vulnerable residents.
- 5.8 This project will be fully completed by 31st March 2026 and a full written update on the project will be provided to members through the member newsletter in April / May 2026.
- 5.9 The full implementation of this project will see the B&B usage which is currently sat within a performance improvement plan reduce with opportunity through the new contract for additional temporary accommodation to be delivered if required.

6. Rough Sleeper Initiative – Change 4 Lincs

- 6.1 In 2022, West Lindsey joined with South Kesteven, North Kesteven and South Holland Councils to submit a bid to Central Government Rough Sleeper Initiative. This bid was led by South Kesteven and looked to put in a place a number of interventions specifically designed to tackle rough sleeping across the four areas. The main requirement of this service is to deliver services to those who are not determined as being in priority need so we can't help them through our statutory obligations.
- 6.2 The bid was successful and allocated over £2.4m of funding over three years to April 2025 to deliver outreach, emergency accommodation and floating support services to rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping across the four districts. This service was named Change 4 Lincs. Over the three years, the project struggled with delivery over such a large geographical area and with the rough sleeping landscape changing dramatically in the south of the county, it left West Lindsey falling behind in the share of the services received.
- 6.3 The project also struggled with staff recruitment and retention with the service only offering fixed term, lower-level roles working over a large area with vulnerable people with complex needs.
- 6.4 Due to the change in government, the funding was extended for another year to the end of March 2026 while a full funding review took place. This triggered the four councils to review its current ways of working and put in a new approach for the financial year 2025/2026 to try and improve the services and in turn, outcomes for rough sleepers.
- 6.5 This was picked up by a new MHCLG Rough Sleeping Advisor who began to work across the region and determined a new approach to our services was required.

6.6 The funding was still allocated to South Kesteven and a service level agreement was put in place to specify the way of working across the four districts for the financial year 25/26 which looked to mitigate some of the challenges that we had been facing over the past 3 years.

6.7 This approach saw the following interventions delivered under the Change 4 Lincs project:

6.8 **Outreach services:** Street outreach service with response services for those rough sleeping and provision of verifying rough sleepers. This service is delivered by Lincoln City Council on behalf of West Lindsey.

6.13 The new outreach service put in place with City of Lincoln Council is a reactive service. Delivering a reactive service allows West Lindsey and North Kesteven to submit referrals to City of Lincoln who will verify rough sleepers within 48 hours of receiving a referral.

6.14 This new way of working has been very successful allowing West Lindsey to verify rough sleepers in a more efficient and effective way, being able to react quicker to referrals and deliver better frontline services to those who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

6.15 Housing Support: Ongoing delivery of a floating support service for homeless individuals eligible for assistance, including assessing needs, managing temporary accommodation placements, and assisting with sourcing accommodation.

6.16 This service has capacity to support between 15 and 20 people at any one time who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

6.17 Crash bed service: delivering emergency instant access accommodation for those rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

6.18 The crash bed in West Lindsey is delivered in partnership with LEAP and offers instant access emergency accommodation for single people who are rough sleeping. This is a new intervention brought in this financial year and has so far seen a utilisation rate of over 75% meaning there has been an off-the-street offer for people where other options were not suitable.

6.19 The service was put in place in response to MHCLG requiring councils to deliver interventions for their target priority cohort. The target priority cohort for rough sleeping typically includes individuals with the longest histories of rough sleeping or the most complex needs, such as those with long-term or cyclical homelessness, mental and physical health issues, or trauma. This cohort require different interventions due to their complexities and MHCLG are always looking for councils to implement new interventions and off the street offers that this group will be able to access and maintain to work towards no longer being street homeless.

6.20 The target priority cohort in West Lindsey was identified as one and this is reviewed on a regular basis.

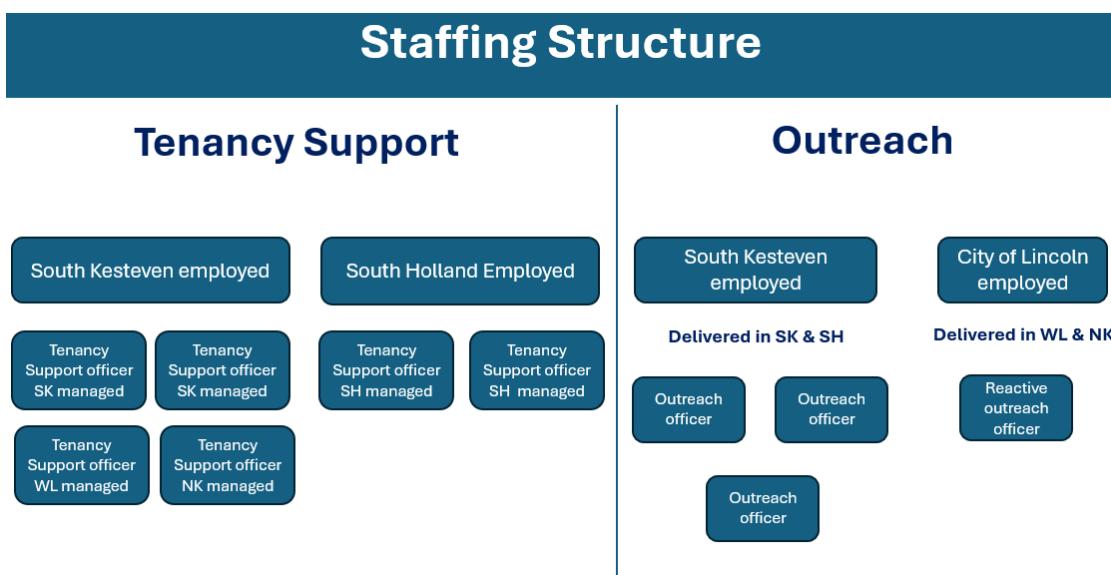
6.21 Emergency accommodation: providing emergency accommodation in the form of B&B or nightly paid accommodation for those who are not in a priority need but are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

6.22 Having a separate funding pot for this ensures that we can always deliver on our statutory duties and the funding for delivery of those statutory duties is protected while being able to maintain an off-the-street offer for those who would not be owed a duty.

6.23 Access to private sector accommodation: Financially supporting service users to access the private rented sector with a separate pot of funding as with the emergency accommodation provision.

6.24 The new approach looked at what had worked well and what challenges there had been with the previous services to put new interventions and expand or clarify previous interventions to ensure the project could deliver the best possible service to this cohort.

6.25 One of the biggest challenges was ensuring equity over the services in the four areas. Where previously all of the budget had been held by SKDC and spent disproportionately across the four areas, it was agreed that funding for some of the interventions would be passed to the councils to ensure that it was being spent in each area. This led to the following structure's being agreed by the Change for Lincs steering Group in February 2025.



Funding Structure

Intervention – Emergency Accommodation

Nightly paid/ instant access accommodation	Crash bed
SHDC £45k	WLDC crash bed £18,557
WLDC £15k	NKDC crash bed £17,488

Intervention – Access to the Private Rented Sector (PRS)

Funding for access to PRS
SHDC £24k
WLDC £12k

	Emergency accommodation	Crash bed	Private Rented access	Outreach	Tenancy Support officers	Total
SKDC	£30,000	-	£18,000	£135,000	£180,000	£363,000
SHDC	£45,000	-	£24,000	-	£90,000	£159,000
NKDC	£10,000	£17,488	£6,000	-	-	£33,488
WLDC	£15,000	£18,557	£12,000	-	-	£45,557
City of Lincoln	-	-	-	£46,000	-	£46,000
Total allocation for four council areas						£647,045

7. Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme / Next Steps Accommodation Programme

7.1 The Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) was put in place in 2020 to provide long term supported accommodation for rough sleepers. In comparison, the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP) was a specific initiative, primarily created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to prevent people from returning to the streets after being placed in emergency shelter under the “everyone in” campaign. NSAP focused on securing move-on accommodation and support for those who were temporarily housed during the pandemic.

7.2 Both aim to move individuals from temporary or emergency housing to stable, long-term solutions.

7.3 The funding model delivered by MHCLG and Homes England included providing capital funding for the acquisition of properties which would be utilised to tackle rough sleeping in the long term.

7.4 Alongside that, revenue funding was provided for a minimum of 3 years to provide high level of support to people for people residing in the accommodation with issues such as mental health or substance misuse as well as supporting to find training or employment opportunities to help people sustain their new housing in the long term.

7.5 In West Lindsey, P3 were successful in their bids to both the RSAP and NSAP programmes securing the following funding:

Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme	
Number of properties	6
P3 capital investment	£195,000
Homes England capital investment	£237,000
WLDC capital investment (S106 funding)	£42,000
Total scheme cost	£474,000

Next Steps Accommodation Programme	
Number of properties	6
P3 capital investment	£210,000
Homes England capital investment	£210,000
WLDC capital investment	£0
Total scheme cost	£420,000

7.6 This project was implemented by MHCLG to tackle some of the most complex homeless cases and provide high level supported accommodation to people who previously have struggled to maintain accommodation.

7.7 Since the project began, there have been 25 service users supported in the accommodation equating to over 11,000 nights of accommodation for people who were rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

7.8 Although this sounds like a relatively low number of individual service users, it has to be highlighted the complex and challenging nature of this cohort and to have not only provided accommodation for so many nights, but the service has seen only 6 evictions in the life of the project showing that with increased support, the majority of this cohort were able to maintain a tenancy and over 40% moved on from the project in a planned way into other accommodation.

8. Homelessness Partnership

8.1 As part of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Partnership, a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy was published in 2022.

- 8.2 This strategy details the current position and challenges across the county in relation to homelessness and identifies the priorities and actions that together, aim to prevent homelessness and reduce rough sleeping across the county.
- 8.3 Part of this partnership see's all 7 Local Authorities across the County joint fund a Homelessness Partnership Manager. This manager is responsible for the co-ordination and delivery of the Homelessness Strategy and leads on initiatives identified as a priority across Lincolnshire to improve ways of working.

9. Housing Related Support

- 9.1 Lincolnshire County Council currently commission a Housing Related Support Service across the whole of Lincolnshire. The Housing Related Support service offers short term support for vulnerable adults who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, and have substance misuse and /or mental health concerns. It helps them deal with the issues that led to their current situation and develop skills to live independently. Support is offered in various locations, including hostels, people's own homes and within the community.
- 9.2 The current service is delivered by the Lincolnshire Housing Related Support Partnership, which is made up of Framework Housing, Amplius (formerly Longhurst Group), The Salvation Army and Nacro.
- 9.3 In West Lindsey this service is provided by Longhurst and there are 31 units delivered as part of this contract, these break down as 16 accommodation-based units and 15 floating support. The accommodation-based units are delivered in two ways, 12 units of supported accommodation at The Foyer in Gainsborough and 4 units of self-contained move-on accommodation.
- 9.4 All referrals into this service come from West Lindsey District Council and so to be eligible you have to be accessing West Lindsey homelessness services. Both the accommodation based and floating support services hold a waiting list due to the demand for the support in West Lindsey,.
- 9.5 In the past 3 years, since 16th December 2022, West Lindsey District Council Homelessness Prevention team have made 335 referrals to the accommodation-based support and 273 to the floating support. That is over 600 vulnerable people who have been eligible for support through this service in West Lindsey.
- 9.6 The service in its current form is in place until September 2026 and there is a consultation underway currently to help inform future decisions by LCC about the direction of the service moving forward.
- 9.7 Although this service is Housing Related Support, in order to be eligible, people must have either a mental health or substance misuse issue. This service is in place to prevent the requirement for Adult Social Care to provide other support and services, and so even though it is a housing related support service, the housing element of this is funded through housing benefit and not from Lincolnshire County Council, they are only funding the additional mental health or substance misuse support.

9.8 Lincolnshire County Council have indicated there may not be as much funding available for this service from September 2026 onwards. This would have huge implications for our residents with so many of the most vulnerable residents in the area being referred to this service for support.

9.9 Work is underway across the County with other District housing leads to demonstrate the importance of this service and evidence the impact a reduction in this service would have on some of our most vulnerable residents.

10. New funding structure

10.1 In the summer of 2025, Central government undertook two funding consultations. The first was a consultation on the homelessness prevention grant funding formula and how that would be allocated to councils across the country and the second was the Fair Funding review which looked to simplify grant funding provided to Local Authorities to give more flexibility and certainty over a greater portion of funding received.

10.2 The consultation included proposals for consolidating revenue funding for homelessness and rough sleeping services and proposed:

- The creation of a consolidated homelessness and rough sleeping grant- bringing together the prevention and relief element of Homelessness Prevention Grant, with the Rough Sleeping Initiative and the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP.)
- Rolling funding for Temporary Accommodation, currently part of Homelessness Prevention Grant, into the Local Government Finance Settlement Revenue Support Grant.

10.3 Taking this approach of separating out temporary accommodation funding aims to end the current tension that local authorities frequently face between investment in prevention and meeting temporary accommodation costs.

10.4 The proposals mean authorities no longer receive separate ringfenced grants for homelessness, but instead, a single allocation from a consolidated ringfenced homelessness and rough sleeping grant, alongside funding from the Local Government Finance Settlement. This consolidation has been implemented to provide authorities with greater flexibility to make decisions on how to spend the funding to best meet local need and deliver national priorities.

10.5 The allocation of funding for temporary accommodation will be set out within the Revenue Support Grant allocation and it will be ringfenced for spend on temporary accommodation.

Proposed ways of working 2026-2028

11. Temporary accommodation

11.1 As detailed above, the temporary accommodation project will be fully implemented by April 2026 and in turn the cost of temporary accommodation will reduce through this new way of working.

11.2 The funding received for temporary accommodation, ring fenced in the revenue support grant, is currently proposed to be £246,388, this is the same allocation as in 2025/2026. The consultation for this funding is on-going so this amount is not confirmed.

11.3 The cost of the temporary accommodation support contract held by Framework will be covered from the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant.

11.4 All other temporary accommodation costs will be covered through this funding held in the Revenue Support Grant and will be utilised in the same way as it is currently which is that spot purchased temporary accommodation will be determined as required by each officer and funded where we have a statutory duty to provide temporary accommodation to a homeless applicant.

11.5 If this need for temporary accommodation increases, there is the opportunity through the existing contract with Framework for them to expand the provision and this can be undertaken through a contract variation which was built into the existing contract for expansion of the project.

12. Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant

12.1 The allocation of funding under the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant has now been released, and West Lindsey will be receiving **£562,454** in grant funding.

12.2 There is published guidance for this funding and the final grant conditions for this are due to be published in January. The funding is ringfenced for all activity related to delivering on statutory homelessness duties with the exception of temporary accommodation which is now funded separately.

West Lindsey District Council

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12.3 The way in which this funding is to be allocated to services is detailed below which includes detailed financial information regarding funding allocated to each type of support or intervention available.

12.4 This doesn't go into specific homelessness prevention interventions that will be utilising the remaining funding. The requirement from the grant funding is

that the funding is utilised to undertake homelessness duties and there is a requirement to remain flexible with this so the homelessness prevention approach detailed above at section 3 will still be in place.

- 12.5 in 2025/2026, West Lindsey received £289,838 for homelessness prevention and domestic abuse and £246,725 for temporary accommodation
- 12.6 P3 received £81,030 to deliver the RSAP services and South Kesteven received £647,045 for 4 Local Authorities rough sleeper initiatives, with West Lindsey proportion of that being around £100,000.
- 12.7 Taking all of that into account, there has been roughly an 12% increase in funding allocated to West Lindsey for homelessness over the next 3 years.

13 Rough Sleeper support

- 13.1 It is the intention for West Lindey to continue to deliver a rough sleeper service which falls outside of our statutory requirements. This is to ensure rough sleeper numbers remain low and can continue to offer discretionary offers to people who are not otherwise eligible for support.
- 13.2 There are a number of interventions proposed for this service to continue which are detailed below, the intention is to put all of these in place until 31st March 2028.
- 13.3 **Outreach** – City of Lincoln Council deliver a reactive outreach service to West Lindsey as detailed at section 6.8. This proposal includes a continuation of that service at a cost to West Lindsey of £23,000 per annum
- 13.4 **Crash bed** – The crash bed is a vital part of the “off the street offer” for some of West Lindsey’s most vulnerable residents. This would be continued through this proposal at a cost of £20,000 per annum.
- 13.5 **Emergency Accommodation** – It’s important that a separate allocation of funding is provided for this type of accommodation offer, this is due to situations such a SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency protocol) or when a person requires accommodation for a short period of time for a specific reason. MHCLG are clear there needs to be a valid and active “off-the-street offer” and ensuring funding is allocated to this will give officers the freedom to make those discretionary offers when they feel it is appropriate to do so. The proposal is to allocate the same level of funding to this of £15,000 per annum to allow for this intervention to be implemented.
- 13.6 **Rough sleeping support worker** – This will be a new role to West Lindsey and is being proposed to work closely with anyone who is rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping and is not eligible for support due to not being a priority need. It is vital that we continue to be able to support this vulnerable cohort without affecting our frontline homelessness services. This role will hold a case load of between 15 and 20 cases. There is a support worker role within the Change 4 Lincs service but through this new way of working, we are proposing to make changes to the way in which that support is provided trough this role.

13.7 If agreed, this role would be job evaluated and so the values indicated for this are just estimates based on a band 8 which aligns with that of a Homelessness Prevention Officer. This would allocate £46,000 per annum of this funding and be in place as a fixed term two-year role with the potential to extend if required.

14 Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP)

14.1 As detailed above in section 7, the RSAP is a vital tool in providing accommodation to those who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping.

14.2 This project offers high level support to some of the most vulnerable and complex homelessness cohort and even though this project does not see a high turnover of cases, the service meets a specific need for providing support to complex homelessness cases.

14.3 This proposal sees the continuation of this service for a fixed two-year period for all 12 of the accommodation-based support units located in Gainsborough.

14.4 The cost for this service for all 12 units is £86,000 per annum. This is a slight increase from 2025 where £81,030 was paid to P3 to provide this service direct from Homes England.

15. Proposed summary of approach

15.1 The below table sets out the suggested approach to homelessness in order to deliver the services required whilst maximising available accommodation options. Members are requested to approve this approach and recommend that the funding is allocated as below within the Medium-Term Financial Plan

Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and DA full allocation	£562,454
Of which Domestic abuse allocation (not separately ringfenced for DA activity)	£34,634
Proposed approach	
Rough sleeper accommodation programme (RSAP) - P3	£86,000
Framework support contract	£47,999
Homelessness Partnership Manager	£12,000
Outreach (provided by City of Lincoln)	£23,000
Crash Bed – LEAP	£20,000
Emergency Accommodation	£15,000
Support worker	£46,000
Remaining for flexible homelessness prevention/relief activity	£277,821
Total	£562,454

15.2 At this stage, leaving a large portion of the funding unallocated will allow for the potential to fund new projects that are currently being discussed across the county and these are detailed below. This funding will also be utilised to undertake the flexible prevention and relief activity as detailed in section 3.

- 15.3 Lincolnshire County Council are currently looking at the potential to joint fund a new Housing Related Support contract across the County due to funding pressures for the existing contract.
- 15.4 Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust (LPFT) are working on a proposal to implement a new Housing and Hospital Link worker to try and improve the numbers of vulnerable people who are able to be discharged from hospital but have no suitable accommodation to be discharged to.
- 15.5 With West Lindsey's allocation of funding being higher than previous years, West Lindsey could be in a position to work with both Lincolnshire County Council and LPFT on the above proposals, both looking to offer additional support to some of West Lindsey's most vulnerable residents.

16. Monitoring outcomes and progress.

- 16.1 Members already see the progress and delivery reports for the service which are included in the quarterly reports. These measures have been worked on with members and the project team to ensure they are informing all members of the operational picture and delivery in relation to homelessness.
- 16.2 Some of those targets are challenging but this has always been seen as a good thing, as a council striving to ensure that we can offer the best service possible to residents while ensuring that the homelessness code of guidance is adhered to has always been an important part of the delivery.
- 16.3 The agreements that will be in place should this approach be approved with our partner providers will include regular monitoring of the interventions to ensure they are delivering on the required outcomes. This will see quarterly meetings to update on any challenges or issues and regular reporting requirements to understand the service delivery and outcomes achieved.
- 16.4 An annual update will be provided to members through the newsletter of progress against these specific interventions.

17. Recommendations

- 17.1 Members acknowledge the positive work of the Homelessness Services as detailed in the report.
- 17.2 Members approve the homelessness approach as set out within the report detailed at section 15 and recommend inclusion within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 17.3 Members agree to officers continuing to work with Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust to develop proposals for new ways of working.