



APPENDIX B

NATIONAL & LOCAL CONTEXT: POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

National & Local Context – Policies and Strategies

The following lists the national and local legislation and strategies that shape and affect how homelessness and rough sleeping is prevented within Ipswich.

National Context:

The Housing Act 1996 & The Homelessness Act 2002

Part 7 of The Housing Act 1996 contains the statutory primary homelessness legislation. This legislation was amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 which extended the priority need categories and introduced a more strategic approach in how homelessness was prevented.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

A new Act to standardise the Housing Options and homelessness approach across England. The new Act introduces new statutory duties upon councils when dealing with people who are threatened with homelessness:

1. The period in which an applicant is 'threatened with homelessness' has been extended from 28 days to 56 days.
2. A duty to provide advisory services to any person in the LA's district on preventing and relieving homelessness.
3. A duty to assess all eligible applicant's cases and agree a plan
4. A homelessness prevention duty requiring LA's to take reasonable steps to help prevent any eligible person who is at risk of homelessness from becoming homeless, by helping them to either stay in current accommodation or helping them to find a new place to live.
5. A relief duty to help resolve homelessness if homelessness prevention work has not been successful or when an applicant approached the LA already homeless.
6. The LA to 'help to secure' accommodation by providing advice and support to households who would then be responsible for securing their own accommodation.
7. New 'Non-Cooperation' duty that a LA can use if an applicant deliberately and unreasonably refuses to take steps set out in their personalised plan.

8. An extension of existing review legislation so that applicants can challenge decisions relating to the new prevention and relief duties
 9. Duty of public authority to refer cases to local housing authority
 10. A new measure defining local connection for care leavers
- The new Act commenced on 3rd April 2018

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/13/contents/enacted/data.htm>

Homelessness Code of Guidance

The Homelessness Code of Guidance provides guidance to local authorities as to how they should exercise their functions in accordance with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The most recent code was published in June 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>

Rough Sleeping Strategy

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published the government's first Rough Sleeping Strategy in August 2018. The Strategy provides detail as to how the government plans to achieve its aim to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eradicate rough sleeping by 2027. The Strategy is based around three principles – prevention, intervention and recovery.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf

Department for Work and Pensions: Universal Credit and Homeless People: Guide for Supporting Organisations

This guide helps agencies support claimants to make and manage a claim to Universal Credit. It also provides information on the support they can expect to receive from the Department for Work and Pensions and other organisations. This guidance was published on the 27th November 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/universal-credit-and-homeless-people/universal-credit-and-homeless-people-guide-for-supporting-organisations>

Local Context:

Ipswich Housing Strategy 2017-22

IBC published its Housing Strategy in 2017. The Strategy is underpinned by an Action Plan that is regularly monitored and governed. The Strategy currently consists of four priorities: 1. Enabling building of houses of all tenures 2. Improving the quality of existing housing, especially private rented 3. Meeting the housing needs of all communities and the challenges of an ageing population 4. Prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping. The Housing Strategy will be updated in Summer 2019 to reflect the removal of Priority 4 into this new Strategy.

<https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/content/ipswich-housing-strategy>

Gateway to Homechoice Allocation Policy 2018

Gateway to Homechoice is the name given to the single housing register and choice based lettings scheme for the allocation of social housing. Gateway to Homechoice is a partnership register and scheme between IBC, Babergh Council, Braintree Council, Colchester Council, Maldon Council, Mid Suffolk Council, Suffolk Coastal Council and Waveney Council.

<https://www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk/Data/Pub/PublicWebsite/ImageLibrary/Allocations%20Policy%20-%20April%202018.pdf>

Ipswich Locality Homelessness Partnership

The Ipswich Locality Homelessness Partnership (ILHP) is a network of partners from statutory and voluntary organisations in and around Ipswich whose work deals with homelessness and rough sleeping. The aim of the ILHP is to ensure there is a strategic, effective and co-ordinated approach to all aspects of homelessness. IBC is a partner in the ILHP.

<http://www.ilhp.org.uk/>

A Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy for Suffolk

This document is produced by the countywide Suffolk Health & Wellbeing Board. The strategic outcomes are 1. Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life 2. Improving independent life for people with physical and learning difficulties 3. Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life 4. People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/council-and-democracy/the-council-and-its-committees/health-wellbeing-board/JHW-Refreshed-Strategy-for-Suffolk.pdf>