



PURPOSE: Final Decision Report

KEY OR NON-KEY DECISION: Key decision over £500k spend/save & impacts more than 2 wards

COMMITTEE: Homes and Housing Delivery Committee

DATE: 14 February 2025

TITLE: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping grants 2025/2026

Ward(s): City Wide

Officer presenting the report: Paul Sylvester **Job title:** Head of Housing Options

Committee Chair: Cllr Barry Parsons

Executive Director lead: John Smith: Executive Director for Growth & Regeneration

Proposal origin: BCC Staff

Purpose of Report:

1. To seek approval to accept and spend Bristol's 2025/26 grant allocations for: the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) and the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSP&RG formerly RSI including the Accommodation for Ex-offenders – AFEO - scheme). The total grant allocation is £11,368,664.

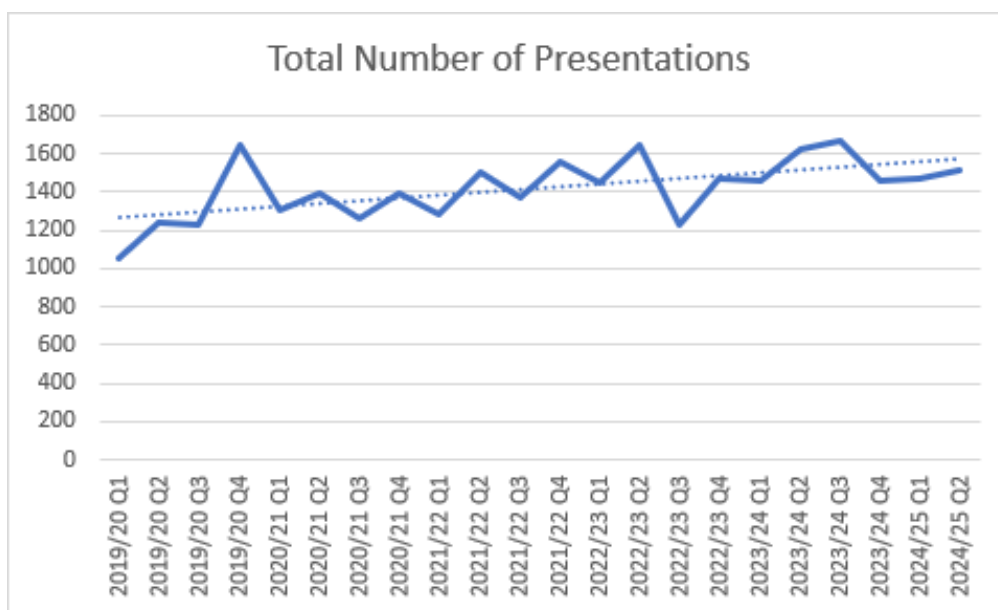
Evidence Base / Options to consider:

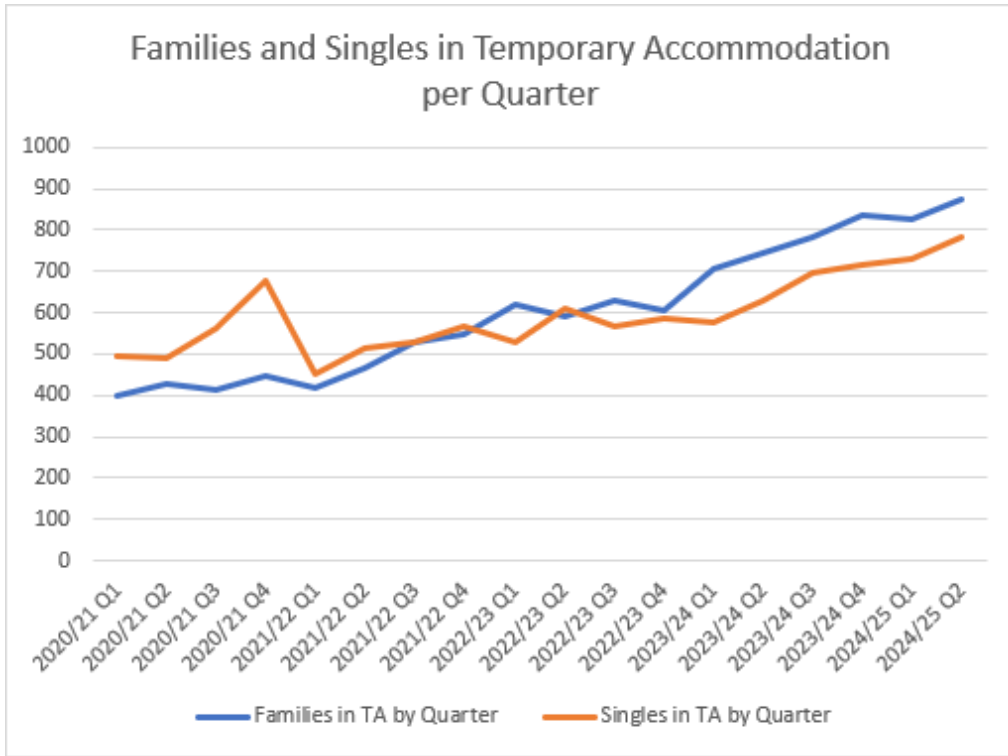
Homelessness pressures in Bristol

1. Bristol has experienced rising rates of homelessness. Since the pandemic we have seen a 18% increase in households approaching Bristol City Council because of homelessness related issues. The number of households in temporary accommodation (TA) has more than doubled since before the pandemic.
2. During the pandemic and "Everyone in" the number of single people accommodated increased significantly. Family homelessness has increased since the end of lockdowns and the removal of protections like the eviction ban; similarly, single homelessness and number of people coming onto the streets has increased, as has the proportion of people who have been rough sleeping longer term.
3. The cost-of-living crisis and continuing challenges around supply and affordability of both homes for sale and private renting are contributing to high levels of homelessness presentations, against a backdrop of diminishing social housing lettings each year.
4. The increase in Temporary Accommodation placements has created a £4m - as at P9 reporting

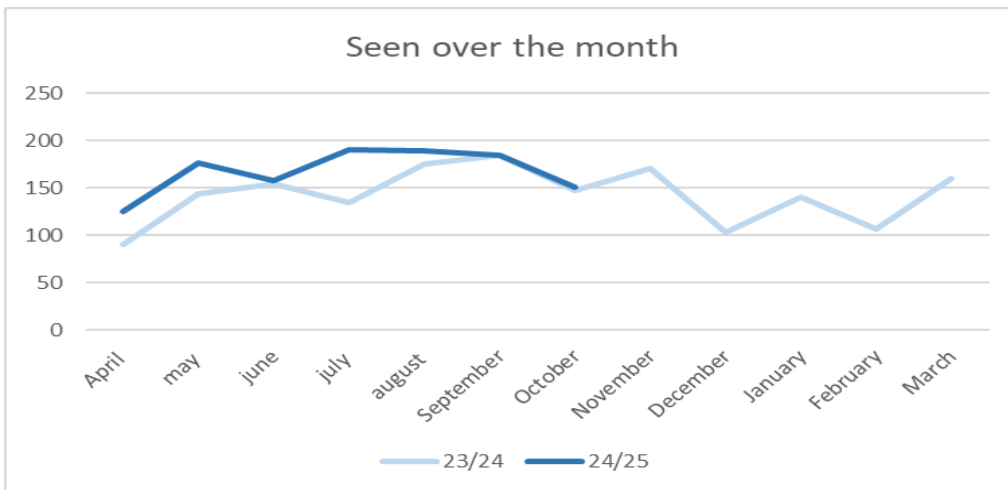
period - financial pressure for the Council in 24/25.

5. The grant interventions presented in this paper, the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) and the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP), and the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSP&RG formerly RSI including the Accommodation for Ex-offenders – AFEO - scheme) work together in a whole systems approach to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in the city.
6. Despite working within a challenging housing context in Bristol, including a lack of supply of affordable homes and soaring rent prices, these services have significantly contributed to:
 - Ensuring that snapshot count numbers remain consistent despite an increase in people coming onto the streets.
 - Supporting people to build the skills needed to live independently.
 - Providing appropriate accommodation and levels of support according to the needs of individuals.
 - Preventing homelessness and finding suitable alternative accommodation for people presenting to the council.
 - Preventing homelessness when people leave prison by providing them with private rented accommodation and support.
 - The Tackling Homelessness Programme to prevent homelessness and reduce the use of TA and the associated housing benefit subsidy loss.

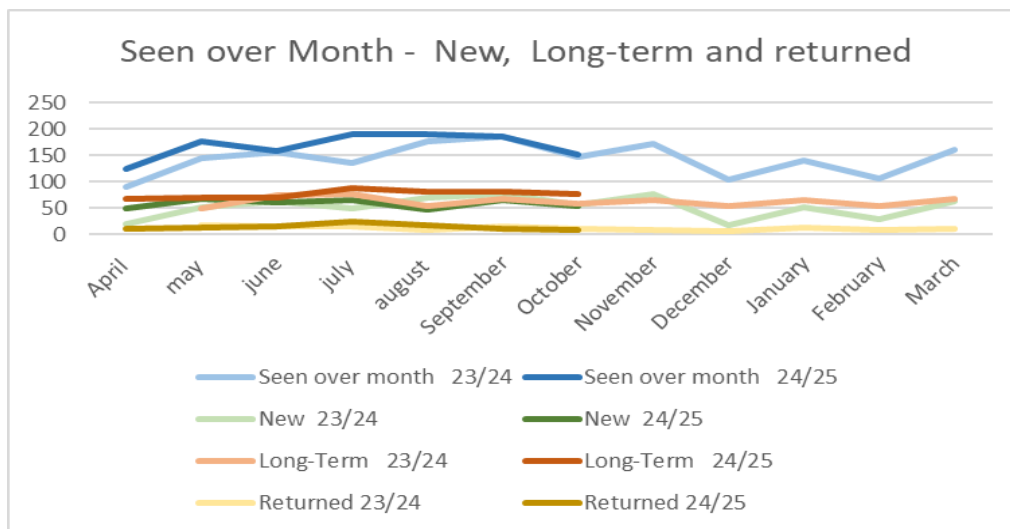




Data for people sleeping rough



Rough Sleepers seen over the month by the Outreach Team divided into cohorts of new to rough sleeping, returners and long-term rough sleepers



Grant awards and government priorities

- MHCLG have indicated that a longer-term grant allocation will be awarded in 26/27, this is likely to be for three to four years. Therefore, we will continue existing services in 25/26 and use the year to evaluate these services, gaps and blocks in the system (in partnership with Changing Futures) and review how they need to look in the future. This includes standardising monitoring across commissioned services and setting up a government bids task group to prepare for and apply for any new bids that come in over the next 6-12 months.
- The government have set out the following priority impacts to achieve from the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rough Sleeping funding:

Services are designed to meet local need across family and single homelessness and rough sleeping. This includes provision targeted at people at highest risk of repeat and enduring homelessness, such as people leaving institutions and care, and the most vulnerable families.

Deliver a high-quality service that is accessible to all, delivering provision that includes face to face engagement for all, and is designed to meet needs of those with additional access or support needs in mind.

Homelessness and rough sleeping are prevented, increasing prevention activities that result in fewer placements in temporary accommodation and fewer people sleeping rough for the first time before accessing services.

Homelessness and rough sleeping are brief, delivering a reduction in:

- the number of families in unsuitable temporary accommodation and B&B.
- long stays in temporary accommodation without plans to move on.
- the number of people sleeping rough in the long-term.

Returns to homelessness and rough sleeping are minimalised through delivering sustainable accommodation and support solutions.

Homelessness Prevention Grant

Background

9. The Homelessness Prevention Grant was created in 20/21 by combining two government grants, the Flexible Homelessness Support grant and the Homelessness Reduction (New Burdens) grant, both of which have been in place since 2017. The grant is allocated to Local Authorities based on a published methodology; no bidding is required.
10. The purpose of the Homelessness Prevention Grant is to give local authorities control and flexibility in managing homelessness pressures and supporting those who are at risk of homelessness.
11. Further information on how the grant is calculated can be found at Homelessness Prevention Grant 2025-26: technical note - GOV.UK
12. For 2025-26, the government have introduced a new ringfence within the Homelessness Prevention Grant, to maintain prevention activities during this period. This means that 49% of local authorities' funding allocation must be spent on prevention, relief and staffing activity. In effect this caps the amount of grant local authorities can spend on Temporary Accommodation.
13. The Homelessness Prevention Grant is used to:
 - Pay for additional resources to work with an increasing number of households that are homeless and to carry out the enhanced duties of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, with the aim of preventing homelessness and reducing TA.
 - Pay for initiatives that increase access to affordable housing.
 - Pay for higher quality and cost-effective supported housing as an alternative to expensive TA.
 - Directly cover some costs of TA (Housing Benefit subsidy loss).
 - Prevention grant expenditure will be monitored closely and during 25-26 it may be necessary to adjust expenditure between the different initiatives, whilst remaining within the budget envelope, to address changes in demand and financial pressures.

Allocation for 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 and Government expectations

	Homelessness Prevention Grant - total allocation for 2023-24 (£322.8m)	Homelessness Prevention Grant (including top-up) - total allocation for 2024-25 (£440.4m)	Homelessness Prevention Grant - total allocation for 2025-26 (633.2m)
Bristol	£3,076,538	£4,199,221	£6,584,126
% Increase	£108,200 (3.6%)	£134,963 (4.4%)	£2,384,905 (36.2%)

14. Bristol has received the fourth highest allocation of funding outside of London, after Birmingham, Manchester, and Brighton.
15. The full list of awards can be found at:
[Homelessness Prevention Grant 2025 to 2026 allocations.ods](#)

16. MHCLG expect local authorities to use the grant to deliver the following priorities:

- Embed the Homelessness Reduction Act and contribute to ending rough sleeping by increasing activity to prevent single homelessness.
- Reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation by maximising family homelessness prevention.
- Reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families and eliminate family B&B placements beyond the statutory six-week limit.

17. Planned Expenditure

Prevention Grant – high level anticipated expenditure

	25/26 £000's
Contribution to Housing Benefit subsidy loss	1,300
Employee Costs	2,600
Accessing Private rented accommodation and sustaining tenancies	2,286
Additional family supported housing - support costs	212
Call centre (Homelessness Prevention Team)	135
Home Turf Lettings	20
Roof over my head contribution	15
Home finder (nationwide social housing letting service - annual fee)	16
Total cost	6,584

Contribution to Housing Benefit subsidy loss

18. Housing Benefit subsidy loss rose to £13m in 23/24 due to the increase of households in TA.

19. Whilst there are longer term plans to change the provision of TA using different models that don't attract the same level of subsidy loss, it is necessary to use £1.3m of grant to contribute to TA costs

Employee costs and activities

20. Additional posts have been created over the last 7 years in response to additional duties placed on local authorities and changes in demand. All posts are on permanent contracts. There is a high turnover within these posts, which means that we can respond to any potential reduction in grant funding by holding vacancies.

21. The additional HPG for 25/26 will cover the salary costs of the Housing Options service re-design as part of the wider Tackling Homelessness Programme.

22. Activities:

- Support clients in TA to improve move on and reduce the length of time in TA by removing

barriers for example arrears and other debts

- Work with specific client groups - prison leavers, hospital discharge and early intervention on family exclusion
- Additional resource to manage the increase in homelessness presentations
- Co-ordinate an increase in supported housing placements, effective prioritisation of clients out of TA and rough sleeping
- Manage increase in Housing Register applications, effective prioritisation of urgent cases to avoid homelessness
- Provide welfare benefits and related housing/homelessness advice to people at risk of homelessness and the agencies working with them to prevent homelessness and/or enable move on to sustainable housing.
- Provide expert welfare benefits advice to people at risk of homelessness and the agencies working with them, including representation at social security tribunals and the delivery of a range of welfare benefits training packages for BCC staff and partner agencies.
- Increase the supply of affordable move on accommodation for single homeless clients
- Respond to an increase in statutory reviews.
- Ensure staff are fully equipped and trained in the requirements of the HRA and fully compliant with the legislation.

Accessing Private Rented accommodation and sustaining tenancies

23. There is not enough social housing to meet the needs of households that are homeless in the city. The number of social housing lettings per year has reduced by 50% in the last decade. The private rented sector accounts for over 30% of properties in Bristol. The market is very buoyant with only 1-2% of properties let at or below the Local Housing Allowance (LHA). Current snapshot of the market indicates an average of rents based on the median being £542 per month above LHA.

24. Prevention grant funding is used to support households to move into an affordable private rented tenancy. This can be through support with rent in advance or deposits or one-off incentive payments to private landlords to keep rents at the LHA and affordable. The grant is also used to prevent homelessness by sustaining private rented tenancies through one off interventions. A common example is clearing rent arrears through the provision of an interest free loan.

25. Preventing homelessness with private landlords also means support and incentives when tenancies come to the end of their fixed term period as the market moves forward and rents increase. The need for landlords to increase rents to meet higher mortgage rents and expenses means guidance and support is more important than ever to assist in keeping tenants who are at LHA rates in their properties to avoid presentations as homeless.

26. Any payments to landlords are made on the condition that:

- Landlord will issue a minimum of a 12-month Assured Shorthold Tenancy, wherever possible
- The tenancy is affordable and sustainable
- Confirmation that the property is in good condition
- The landlord is a 'fit and proper person'. Checks are made with the Private Housing Service

27. Since 1st April 2023, Housing Options have enabled 518 households to move into private

rented accommodation.

Additional family supported housing - support costs.

28. Family supported housing managed by Registered Providers is a cost-effective alternative to unsupported privately managed Temporary Accommodation and clients benefit from receiving support.
29. The only costs to BCC are those of commissioning. This type of provision attracts no Housing Benefit subsidy loss. Support costs are approximately £3k per unit per year, compared to the average net family TA cost of £15k per year.
30. £142k p/a of prevention grant pays for support to 49 units of accommodation. This was approved at Cabinet on 5/2/19 [Decision Pathway Cabinet Report Family Supported Mayor Office Final.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#).
31. Further to this Cabinet approved, on 2/11/21, [Decision Pathway Report final draft.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#) the addition of up to a further 100 properties to the Family Supported Accommodation Framework. The funding for the support will come from the Prevention grant on a spend to save basis, reducing the subsidy loss.
32. The Family Supported Accommodation Framework has expanded into 2024/25 by a further 21 properties. As above, the funding for the support, which comes to c.£56K p/a, will come from the Prevention grant on a spend to save basis, reducing the subsidy loss.
33. During the last 12 months, the services have successfully supported 62 families to move into a permanent accommodation and have had 81 new placements into their services from our expensive Temporary Accommodation.

Call centre (Homelessness Prevention Team)

34. The citizen service centre (CSC) has been handling homelessness related telephone enquiries since November 2019. On average the CSC handles approximately 1,920 calls per month.
35. The CSC advisors are cross skilled across a range of services including Home Choice Bristol, Care Direct and are able to provide a holistic wrap around service to citizens. The advisors assist with enquiries, offer solutions and may arrange additional support to prevent citizens from becoming homeless, this may also include advising the citizen how they can apply for universal credit or other benefits such as the Local Crisis Prevention Fund. The CSC advisors work very closely with the customer service point (CSP) and are able to liaise on issues such as non-payment of housing benefits, the CSP advisors are then able to make enquiries and follow through on any further action required for the citizen.
36. The CSC advisors are equipped to provide a holistic service and have seen an increase in challenging calls, often from citizens with complex needs. Over the last 12 months, there has been a significant rise in calls from citizens affected by

the housing crisis in Bristol, as well as from individuals dealing with mental health issues.

37. The charge from HPT pays for 3 FTE advisors and part of a team leader. The move has improved the call handling performance and customer experience as well as freeing Housing Advisors from general enquiries allowing them to focus on caseload.
38. Regular point of contact meetings are held between Housing Options and Citizen Services to ensure on-going issues or concerns as well as themes are discussed and action taken in a timely fashion. The overall experience for citizens has been positive since the CSC started taking Homelessness calls.

Home Turf Lettings

39. In 2015 Bristol City Council entered a property acquisition scheme with Resonance, a social investor, see cabinet paper [1103 7.pdf \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#)
40. Bristol City Council has 100% nomination rights to 99 properties (held by the fund) through the NHPF1 [National Homelessness Property Fund - Resonance](#) and NHPF 2 [National Homelessness Property 2 fund - Resonance](#). All properties have rent set at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and are managed by local organisation Delivering Health and Independence (DHI). The properties are medium term move on accommodation and DHI provide support to move on to other private rented accommodation, as well as housing management.
41. Part of the agreement is that BCC pays a £2,750 placement fee for every successful nomination. This is the only cost to BCC and is far cheaper than a TA placement.
42. There were 20 new placements in 23/24, giving an average tenancy length between 4 and 5 years.

Heading home contribution

43. Heading home is a tenancy preparedness course for clients who are homeless, many in TA. It provides clients with the knowledge and skills needed to manage and sustain a tenancy with the aim of preventing future homelessness. The key areas of learning are:
 - Understanding housing options in Bristol, including how to access private rented.
 - Rights and responsibilities as a tenant.
 - Being a good neighbour and managing conflict.
 - Support with maximising income, benefit entitlement.
44. Approximately 100 learners a year complete the course. The course is managed and coordinated by colleagues in employment and skills who make good use of drawing down government funding to support course delivery. The £15k contribution from Housing Options helps to bridge the gap between the costs of the course and available government funding.

Home finder (nationwide social housing letting service - annual license fee)

45. Home finder [Homefinder UK | Homefinder](#) is an on-line service that matches clients to low demand social housing in other parts of England, Wales, and Scotland. Through this scheme we move an average of 5 households a year, or £3.2k per household, which represents a saving compared to the cost of an average placement in TA of £15k. This is a great option for clients who have friends and family in other parts of the UK.

Domestic abuse – Respite rooms

46. Bristol have always taken a progressive approach to supporting clients who are homeless due to domestic abuse, agreeing priority need before legislation made it a legal requirement. MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) referrals have increasingly been made for a cohort of women who experience multiple overlapping risk factors and for whom traditional services are no longer enough.

47. The Respite Rooms provision offers 10 units of emergency accommodation with staff on site 24 hours a day and support for women who need more specialised, trauma and gender informed support than is available in our adult homelessness pathway and for whom other refuge provision may not be appropriate. Alongside input from multiple agencies in the city (to address client needs) the project offers women short-term assistance to ensure they get the support they need, in advance of further guidance to help them towards longer-term solutions for their personal needs.

48. Following a successful pilot the scheme – including a visit from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales – the support workers were funded until March 2025 through RSI (with an HPG contribution) and funding from Public Health for specific support in relation to Domestic abuse from Next Link.

49. The pilot has demonstrated the effectiveness of this type of service for supporting and engaging with this vulnerable client group and is extended into 25-26 alongside the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant and funding from Public Health.

Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSP&RG) (formerly the Rough Sleeping initiative – RSI – funding).

Background

50. The Rough Sleeping Initiative funding began in 2018-19 following the publication of the (then) Conservative govts Rough Sleeping Strategy committed to ‘halve rough sleeping in this Parliament and to end it for good by 2027’. Bristol City Council has received significant amounts of funding since in recognition of the high levels of people who end up rough sleeping rough in the city.

51. RSI 5 was the last long term RSI funding award made with local authorities and this funding lasted from 2022-25, with funding ending on 31st March 2025. In January

advisors from the Dept for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published a Deep Dive report looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the system to reduce rough sleeping in the city which noted that the services in place to reduce and relief rough sleeping were effective.

52. Further work to implement the recommendations for this report will be implemented through the Bristol Reducing Rough Sleeping Partnership. This work will also link to a full review of the services prior to bidding for longer term funding from April 2026 onwards that will reflect the priorities of the new government's rough sleeping strategy due to be published in June 2025.

Services Funded

53. The services funded conform with the strategic approach linked to the RSI programme reflecting services that prevent rough sleeping, those that intervene to help someone move off the streets, services that help people recover and move towards independent living and are underpinned by a clear governance structure and engagement with the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee chairs and members.

54. These are the services that are currently funded, and it is our intention to fund these services in 2025-26 through RSP&RG whilst services are reviewed in line with future bids for funding to reduce rough sleeping in the city:

Type	Service	Description
Prevention	1. Prison Release Posts	Workers delivering pre-release and post-release support to offenders at risk of homelessness. Direct access to the prison to link with prisoners, secure accommodation and meet on the day of release. Also attend HPT meetings with prisons, probation and BCC Housing Advisors.
	2. Joint funding of Offender Housing Options Worker	A 50% contribution to joint funding for a BCC/MOJ post providing strategic coordination for prison release work. The postholder will have experience of the Criminal Justice system, link to other prisons outside Bristol and will be co-located with BCC staff and the two prison release workers above. Post will be co-managed with probation.
	3. Rough Sleeper Prevention Service	A service with a team of support workers with attached dedicated short-term stay accommodation working to prevent first-time rough sleeping. This also includes a hospital discharge worker and a hospital discharge coordinator.
	4. HMO Cluster	Costs for a 'cluster' of temporary accommodation houses working with people for whom our Supported Accommodation Pathway has not worked in the past. Support in this cluster is provided by the Higher Needs Floating Support Service (see '13' below)
	5. Rapid Intervention / Lower Needs Floating Support Service	A Lower needs floating service working with low-medium needs clients, mostly in private rented accommodation who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service has a sub-team offering rapid response to clients at risk of losing social housing tenancies.

	6. 3 x Embedded HPT Advisors	Three Homeless Prevention Team workers, with one embedded in a) Bristol Street Outreach and one in b) the proposed prevention service and one in c) Pathways (with a focus on preventing people abandoning / being discharged from pathway and returning / starting to rough sleep).
	7. Community-based Prevention worker	One worker building capacity to prevent homelessness among community-based services in the South and East of the city that don't currently have the knowledge or skills to do this function.
	8. Respite rooms (subject to agreement around model and funding with providers and Public Health).	Short-term accommodation with intensive specialist support for women with a history of rough sleeping experiencing Domestic Abuse or Sexual Violence.
Intervention / prevention of repeat homelessnes s	9. A single Rough Sleeping Navigators Service	A single service of Rough Sleeper and Specialist Navigators offering intensive support to help people with more complex needs to access and maintain supported accommodation
	10. Young Persons Navigator	As above - for young people. One staff member working with Youth Maps staff.
	11. TPG Workers	Two workers embedded in the Outreach Team concentrating on a named group of people who have been rough sleeping for many years.
	13. Higher Needs Floating Support Service	A single floating support service for higher needs clients, with an embedded Mental Health specialist, Substance Misuse specialist and out-of-hospital worker. This service will work with different cohorts of clients in different sorts of accommodation including Temporary Accommodation and private-rented accommodation and people in need of support around new social housing tenancies.
	14. Welfare Benefits Link workers x 2	Two WRAMAS welfare and benefits Link Workers working across services for people who sleep rough.
	15. Restricted Eligibility Specialist Support	Specialist support workers for clients with Restricted Eligibility including temporary accommodation, legal advice and linking with employability and welfare benefits support.
	16. High Stability Housing extension	An expansion of the existing High Stability Housing pilot, whilst developing a permanent service with Adult Social Care Commissioners.
	17. Surge Response	Costs for emergency prevention work including accommodation to help engage with people to move off the streets during the winter months. We will also seek to fund accommodation when weather is a threat to life during the winter through this funding or a linked funding stream (Winter pressures).
Recovery	18. Homeless Move On social work team	Resource for 3 social workers for the Homelessness Move On social work team that works closely to assess Care Act needs of people who are/have slept rough.
	19. Rough Sleeping Private Rented Sector Team	Two Lettings Negotiators and a Team Leader working with landlords to secure tenancies for homeless clients, including funds

		for rent top up, landlord incentives and client costs around new tenancies.
	20. Rent in Advance	Funding to cover 12 month's rent paid in advance to landlords to incentivise offers for forty clients per year. As rent is repaid it will be reused for new clients.
	21. Employment Support for Rough Sleepers	An extension of BCC's award-winning Move In Move On Move Up employability training, supporting clients into work to expand their options for settled tenancies.
	22. High needs ex-offender accommodation	To contribute to support for an additional five beds on top of the 10 beds that will be funded by Probation for people on probation and at risk of rough sleeping with more complex needs.
	23. Client spend for various services	This fund is used by various services to pay for client costs related to prevention, resettlement, and client engagement.
Support	24. BCC Coordination	Costs for contracts and commissioning staff working on the RSI programme.

55. In 2024-25, Bristol City Council have received around £3,722,590 from RSI, and related funding pots to fund these services.

56. The grant allocation for 25/26 is the same amount and we are therefore seeking approval to fund services up to the value of £3,722,590 in 25/26.

Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AFEO) funding

57. BCC successfully applied to be an AFEO pilot area in 2021, securing funding for a new project to help ex-offenders who have been in prison in the last 12 months move into private-rented tenancies. People are supported to identify accommodation, engage with landlords, move into accommodation and sustain their accommodation. The project uses funded landlord incentives, rent top up and rent in advance to remove barriers to new tenancies.

58. In 2021-22 the BCC project was one of most successful AFEO pilot areas, delivering 40 new tenancies against a target of 30. This period included a funding extension to allow for the initial full 12 months and was extended for a further six months to March 2023. Bristol has been the most successful pilot area and MHCLG have been keen to learn from our approach to share with other areas.

59. Bristol was invited to submit a further bid for this project on 18th November 2022 for the period 2023 to 2025. A bid was submitted by the deadline for £605,365 with approval to submit sought from the Executive Director, Section 151 Officer and the Deputy Mayor. On 29th December we were notified that we had been awarded £538,120.

60. The scheme in Bristol has been successful in accommodating over 30 people per year. The grant allocation for 25/26 is the same annual amount and we are therefore seeking approval to fund service up to the value of £269,060 In 25/26.

Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP)

61. In 2020/21 the MHCLG launched the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP), subsequently called the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), to support rough sleepers into long term accommodation. The programme offers capital and revenue funding to secure move-on homes, available as long-term assets, and accompanying support services to achieve a sustainable reduction in rough sleeping.
62. BCC submitted bids for NSAP and for multiple rounds of RSAP. In total, BCC was successful in securing up to £9,180,522 capital funding and up to £1,478,037 revenue funding to deliver a total of 150 units. BCC has partnered with St Mungo's, DHI and Places for People to fulfil these schemes under RSAP, as well as acquiring and developing BCC accommodation to be supported by the Temporary Accommodation Team.
63. Three of the schemes have withdrawn from RSAP over this time (Greville House: 1 unit, Mews House: 6 units, Brunel Ford: 1 unit). Therefore the current number of units that will be delivered is 141.
64. The original revenue funding was awarded to provide support until March 2024. In April 2023 MHCLG unexpectedly awarded additional revenue funding with an inflationary uplift of 10% to enable these units to be maintained until March 2025. The maximum revenue available across all units is £792,888. This was all external grant funding, with no contribution needed from BCC.
65. The grant allocation for 25/26 is for £792,888 and we are seeking approval to fund the services to this level in 25/26.

Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP)

66. BCC has been awarded £5,204,047 of funding for SHAP until March 2028 and therefore we do not expect a change in the grant allocation for 25/26. This will fund 30 x Housing First properties and contribute to the continuation of services within the Adult Homelessness Pathways.
67. However, we want to be prepared for if the MHCLG announce new bidding rounds to expand the services currently being delivered through SHAP. Therefore we are asking for approval to submit a bid and approve spend from any new bidding rounds.

Officer Recommendations:

That the Committee for Homes and Housing Delivery

1. Approves the report

Contractual:

1. Authorises the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration in consultation with Chair of the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee to enter into a grant agreement/Memorandum of Understanding and to take all steps required to accept and spend the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG), the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP), the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) and the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSP&RG) funding for 2025/26 as outlined in the report, including procuring and awarding contracts (which may be over £500k) in line with the procurement routes and

maximum budget envelopes set out in this report.

2. Authorises the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Chair of the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee to invoke any subsequent extensions/variations specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded, up to the maximum budget envelope outlined in this report.
3. Authorises the Executive Director of Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Chair of the Homes and Housing Delivery Committee to bid for future funding from the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme (SHAP) and if successful, to accept and spend the funding which may be over the key decision threshold.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

The recommendations in the report clearly link to the corporate strategy aims:

- Key commitment to reduce the overall level of homelessness and rough sleeping.
- Reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- Domestic abuse is also a particular focus. The recent Mayoral Commission on Domestic Abuse includes 35 recommendations that the city will take forward, moving us towards becoming a safer, kinder place where victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse feel supported and empowered to move forward and build new lives.

City Benefits:

1. Stable housing is intrinsically tied to how well people can focus on other needs or difficulties in their lives and participate within their communities. This proposal will have a positive impact on both the households who are supported and the communities they live in.

Consultation Details:

1. N/A

Background Documents:

[RSI 2022-25](#) cabinet decision 5 April 2022 and [RSI additional grant](#) 9 November 2023

[RSAP](#) cabinet decision details 3 October 2023

[HPG and AFEO](#) cabinet decision details 7 March 2023

[SHAP \(Pfp\)](#) cabinet decision 9 April 2024 and [SHAP \(expansion of Housing First\)](#) 7 November 2023 and [SHAP bid](#) 5 September 2024

Revenue Cost	£11,368,664	Source of Revenue Funding	Homelessness Prevention Grant 15156 Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 15636 Rough Sleeping Prevention & Recovery Grant 15325 Accommodation For Ex-Offenders 15611
---------------------	--------------------	----------------------------------	---

Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> If yes - existing or new saving? OR Income generation proposal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Professional comments section:

1. Finance Advice: The increase in homelessness and rough sleeping within Bristol and across the country as a whole has seen significant financial pressures come to bear on Local Authorities. As they grapple with both increased demand, reduced supply of accommodation and a resultant increase in unit costs. Without the income provided by these grants, BCC simply would not have the resources available to deliver the initiatives and mitigations detailed in this report, which ultimately would lead to a further significant increase in homelessness and financial pressures to the Council.

Finance Business Partner: Martin Johnson – Interim Finance Manager Housing and Landlord Services 4 December 2024

2. Legal Advice: The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations/Procurement Act 2023 and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements and the grant agreements and memorandum of understanding related to the funding allocations in this report.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 28 November 2024

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT regarding this activity.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 2 December 2024

HR Advice: The grant provides funding for various roles in the Housing Options service which work with households that are homeless and carry out the enhanced duties of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, with the aim of preventing homelessness and reducing temporary accommodation use. As the funding has remained the same for 2025-26 there will not be any impact on the workforce.

HR Partner: Celia Williams, HR Business Partner, 5 December 2024

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)	YES
Appendix C – Environmental Impact Assessment	YES
Appendix D – Decision Risk Assessment	NO
Appendix E – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix F – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO

Appendix G – Options appraisal matrix **NO**

Appendix H – Business case / financial analysis **NO**