



Bristol City Council Preventing Homelessness Accommodation Pathways – families and adults (22+)

Final commissioning plan – summary version

May 2017

Introduction and context

This summary plan describes how we will provide accommodation services to protect people from homelessness now and in the future. It informs providers of services, users of services and other stakeholders about how the Council will work with its partners to provide the right accommodation at the right time to tackle homelessness in Bristol. The full plan is available [online](#)¹.

Homelessness (including rough sleeping and the number of households in emergency accommodation) is increasing nationally and in Bristol. In addition, the Council needs to make savings, meaning that this commissioning plan needs to deliver a minimum of £632,189 savings from the current annual expenditure.

The annual budget for the services in this plan, including the substance misuse accommodation pathway is therefore £6,337,886. This plan sets out how we will make the required savings without a reduction in bedspaces, and how we will design more efficiency into homelessness services to better equip them to meet rising demand.

We developed this plan with partners, including a 12 week consultation on a draft version. A summary of consultation responses and how our plans changed as a result is available [online](#)², and there is also a needs analysis and equalities impact assessment to support this work.

This plan links closely with other projects, including those focusing on services for young people, parents with higher support needs and Recovery Orientated Alcohol and Drugs Services (ROADS). There are also links to the work being done by the [City Office](#)³, and through the government funded [Homelessness Prevention and Reduction projects](#)⁴.

Current supply

For families there are 78 specifically commissioned units of accommodation with support, and some units that are accommodating small families despite being commissioned for single people.

For single adults (22+) and couples there are 703 units of supported accommodation, ranging from 24 hour high support to visiting low support, and 140 units of specific substance misuse accommodation.

There are two floating support services to help prevent homelessness and one to work with people with substance misuse support needs.

A new model of accommodation and support

1. We will create up to 100 additional units of supported family accommodation

We will enter into new contracts for up to 140 units of supported family accommodation, procured via a bespoke online purchasing system/open framework for supported housing. This is in addition to the family accommodation provided directly by the council.

¹ <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/housing/commissioning-homelessness-prevention-services>

² <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/housing/commissioning-homelessness-prevention-services>

³ <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/mayor/city-office>

⁴ http://news.bristol.gov.uk/bristol_awarded_over_2_5million_for_new_approach_to

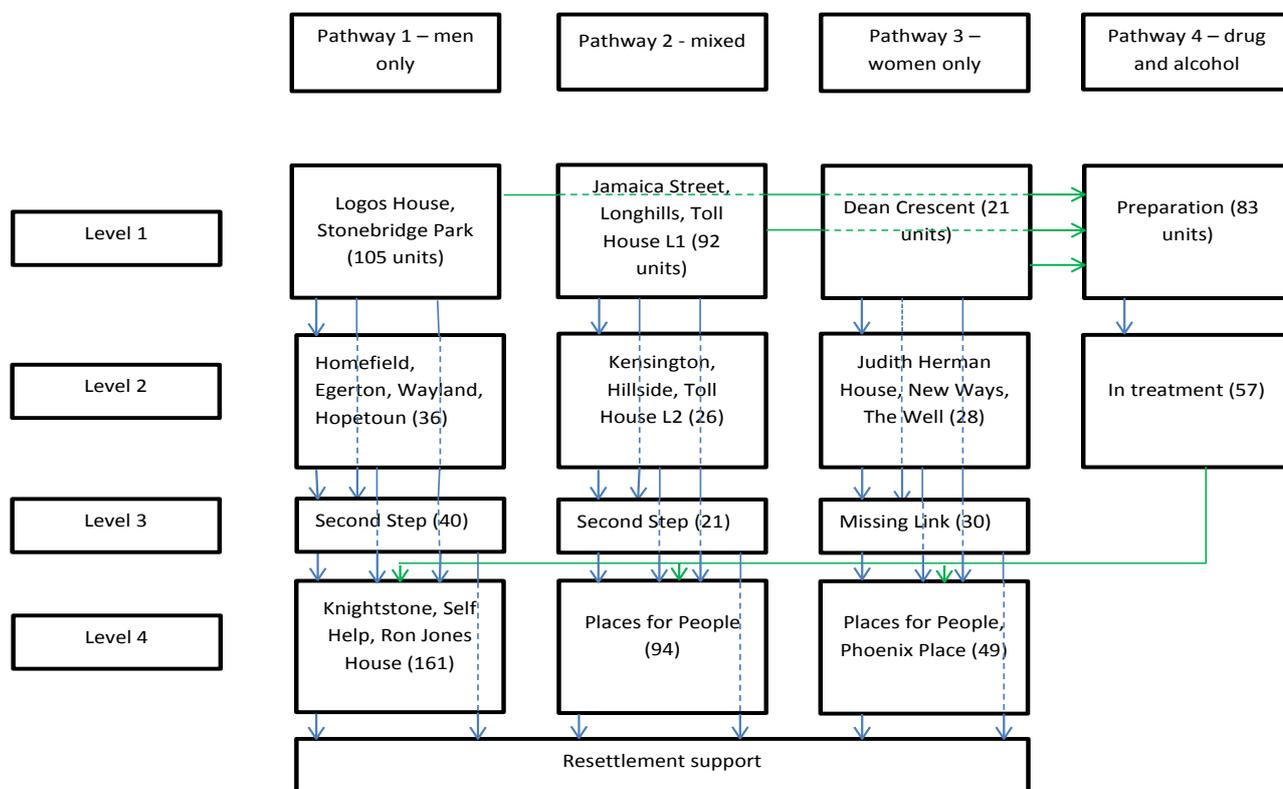
We will build flexibility into the contracts so that the units can change to supporting single people if the demand for family accommodation changes.

2. Services for single people and couples will operate in distinct pathways

3. With the Substance Misuse Team, jointly commission a substance misuse accommodation pathway with an increase in preparation stage units but without abstinent accommodation, or the substance misuse specific floating support service

4. The current external floating support service would become resettlement linked to the pathways

The diagram below shows how we will commission homelessness recovery services for adults aged 22+ without dependent children.



Services at different levels of support will be aligned to provide distinct pathways to support people from homelessness crisis to settled accommodation. There will be three distinct homelessness prevention pathways and one substance misuse pathway. We will achieve these pathways through negotiation with current providers. There will be one contract per pathway, with a partnership of different providers.

Once the pathways are established, we will create a resettlement service to replace the current external floating support service. This service will work with people leaving the homelessness pathways to ensure that they do not become homeless again. Support to prevent homelessness amongst people not exiting the homelessness pathways will be provided by the council’s Tenant Support Service.

People currently supported by the substance misuse floating support service who need ongoing support may either qualify for resettlement support (if they are leaving an accommodation pathway), the proposed complex needs service (proposed in the substance misuse commissioning plan) or another relevant service.

Other changes

5. Change the indicators to make them less resource intensive to provide (and monitor) and more flexible

The accommodation pathways will be provided under one contract per pathway, and the indicators will be 'whole pathway' indicators rather than for individual services. The family accommodation will have indicators for individual services. The key targets will be around the number of people moving into the pathway/service and the percentage of departures from the pathway/service that are planned and positive.

The resettlement service's main indicator will be the number of households that sustain accommodation after leaving the pathways.

6. Standardise the support cost per unit

Savings will be made by reducing the overall support costs of the pathways containing the most expensive services, rather than reducing bedspaces. This will mean that the amount paid for similar services is similar, and achieve the necessary savings.

7. Commission a jointly funded peer support service with the Substance Misuse Team (SMT)

We will expect services to employ around 20% of support staff who have lived experience and we will improve access to peer support by commissioning a specific service, jointly with the SMT. This service will recruit, train and supervise people who have been through homelessness and match them to support people in homelessness services. This service is dependent on the outcome of the substance misuse commissioning consultation.

Recommissioning Intentions

The proposals in this plan will lead to the following homelessness prevention and recovery services:

Service	Process	Timescale
Family accommodation – up to 180 units	Family accommodation will be secured through a bespoke competitive process. Contracts will be for five years with the option to extend for up to a further two periods of one year each.	Extend current contracts – 31 st March 2018 New service in place – 1 st April 2018
Accommodation pathways (men)	We will achieve successful distinct pathways by negotiation with current providers.	Development of partnership and

only, mixed, women only and substance misuse)	<p>There will be one contract for each pathway.</p> <p>Contracts will be for five years (until October 2022) with the option to extend for up to a further two periods of one year each.</p>	<p>proposal – May 2017 to September 2017</p> <p>New contracts commence – 28th October 2017</p>
Resettlement service	<p>We will have a competitive open tender for the resettlement service with the newly commissioned service in place for July 2018. We will extend the current floating support contract until then.</p> <p>The contract will be until October 2022 with the option to extend for up to a further two periods of one year each.</p>	<p>Contract extension – June 2018</p> <p>Competitive process – Spring 2018</p> <p>New service in place – July 2018</p>
Peer support service	<p>If, following consultation, that service forms part of the final commissioning plan, it is likely to be procured through a competitive tender as part of a wider substance misuse contract.</p>	<p>Competitive process – Summer 2017</p> <p>New contracts commence – October 2017</p>

