

# Sefton Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018 - 2023

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Commission by: Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
Formulated by: Neil Morland Housing Consultant Ltd



### **Sefton Council**

Sefton Borough Council, a metropolitan district, was founded in 1974. The Council is led by a Mayor and Leader. The Council is currently administered by Labour, with opposition from Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Independents. The Council is a member of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority, and Merseyside Police & Crime Panel. Elections are held every four years using a multiple member first-past-the-post voting system.

### **Neil Morland Housing Consultant Ltd**

Established in 2011, Neil Morland Housing Consultant Ltd provides specialist advice on homelessness and housing allocation to public authorities, voluntary organisations, and others, throughout Great Britain. Our ethos is to provide efficient and quality services that are value for money. Our ambition is to reduce housing inequalities by improving social policies and practices.

### **Acknowledgement**

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Disclaimer: All views and any errors contained in this report are the responsibility of the author. The views expressed should not be assumed to be those of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council or any of the persons who contributed to this Strategy.



## Table of Contents

<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL HOMELESSNESS CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 STATISTICS .....	4
2.2 HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT 2017 .....	6
2.3 HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RELIEF .....	6
2.4 UK GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES.....	7
2.5 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY .....	8
<b>3. LOCAL HOMELESSNESS CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>9</b>
3.1 SEFTON HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2013 - 2018 .....	9
3.2 LEVELS OF HOMELESSNESS .....	9
3.3 RESOURCES FOR TACKLING HOMELESSNESS .....	10
3.4 ACTIVITIES TO PREVENT PEOPLE BECOMING HOMELESS .....	11
3.5 ACTIVITIES TO SECURING ACCOMMODATION FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS .....	11
3.6 ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT PEOPLE WHO ARE, OR HAVE BEEN, HOMELESS .....	12
3.7 CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDER AND SERVICE USERS .....	13
3.8 FINDINGS .....	13
<b>4. DELIVERING THIS HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>16</b>
4.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES .....	16
4.2 CORPORATE COMMITMENT .....	16
4.3 HOMELESSNESS SERVICE PROVIDERS FORUM .....	17
<b>5. ACTION PLAN.....</b>	<b>18</b>
5.1 HOMELESSNESS REVIEW FINDINGS.....	18
5.2 HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY OBJECTIVES .....	19



# 1. Introduction

The approach taken to formulating this Homelessness Strategy, the fourth adopted by Sefton Council, complies with the obligations explained in the Homelessness Act 2002.

This Strategy seeks to tackle all forms of homelessness, including those owed a statutory duty (typically families with dependent children, or vulnerable adults), but also people who are single, sleeping on the streets, or other in transient arrangements (e.g. sleeping on a friends' sofa).

When formulating this Strategy, regard was had to the conclusions of the recently published Sefton Homelessness Review, which assesses the levels and patterns of homelessness, plus identified gaps in knowledge and services, for the period of 2012/13 to 2017/18.

While the Sefton Homelessness Review paints a picture on homelessness locally, it is the Sefton Homelessness Strategy that sets out how to address the issues locally.

When formulating this strategy, other local and national plans for addressing homelessness were taken into account, as was the local Housing Allocations Policy and Tenancy Strategy, plus regional housing strategies.

The results of the Sefton Homelessness Review, have been used to inform this Strategy. The Strategy has specific objectives for:

- Preventing homelessness
- Securing suitable accommodation for those who are, or may become homeless
- Providing support to those who are, or used to be homeless or at risk of becoming so, to prevent them from becoming homeless again

A range of actions have been identified for Sefton Council, along with other organisations involved with tackling homelessness. Specific actions have been included for people who are more at risk of homelessness. The actions contained in this Strategy take consideration of how Sefton discharges its homelessness functions. Also taken into account are the functions exercised by Sefton Council's children and adult social care responsibilities. The Strategy promotes working across organisations and policy boundaries, to ensure social inclusion and equality of access to services.

Prior to finalising the strategy, a broad range of organisations have been consulted, including people that have experienced homelessness.

This strategy will be place for the period of 2018 to 2023.



## 2. National and Regional Homelessness Context

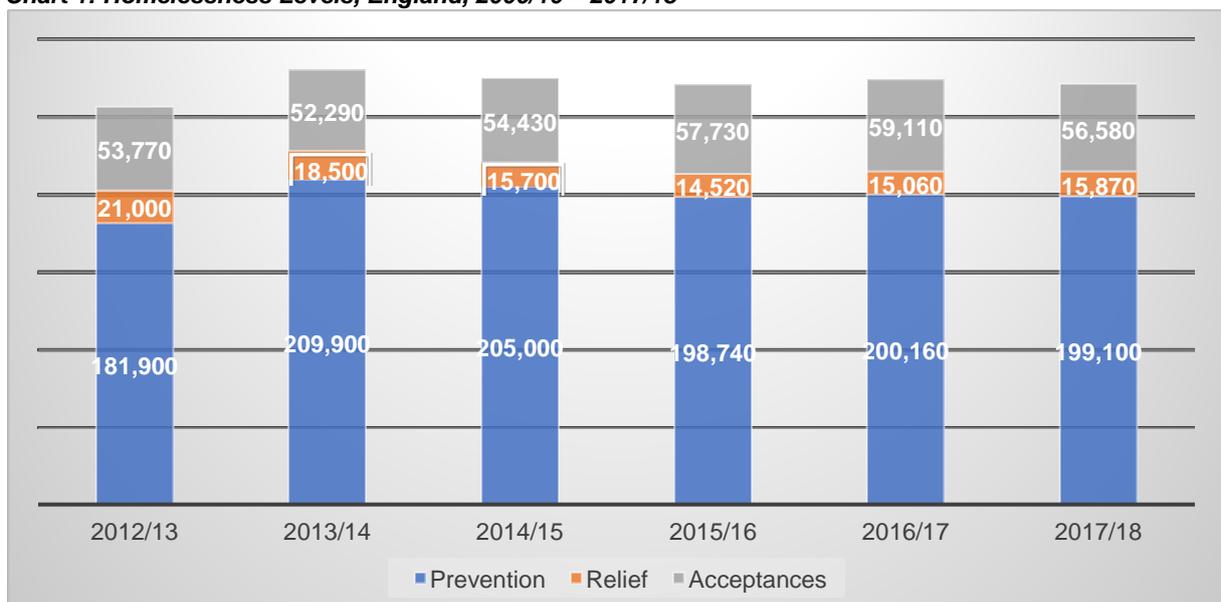
Decisions about homelessness law for England is the responsibility of the UK Government, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Governments is charged with leading on policy formulation and implementation.

### 2.1 Statistics

The UK Government published strategies for preventing homelessness and ending rough sleeping in 2011 and 2012. Nevertheless, statistics collected by all English local housing authorities show that homelessness has worsened. Between 2012/13 to 2017/18, there was;

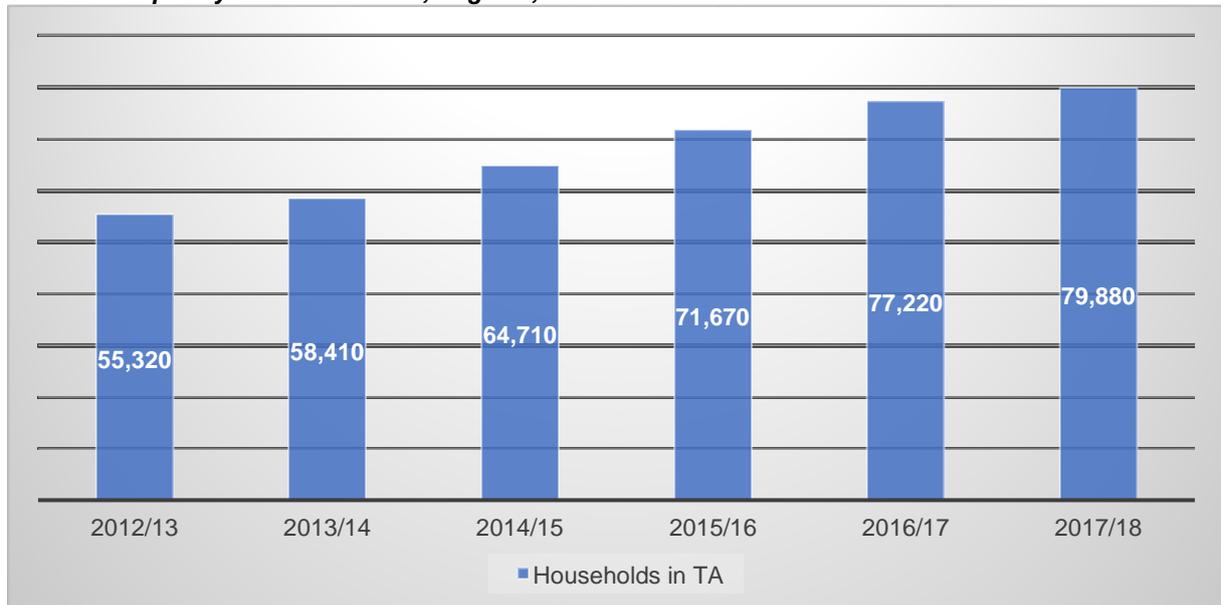
- 6% increase in the overall number of people assisted by local authorities, with levels peaking at record high of 280,690 in 2013/14, 9% above a low of 256,670 in 2013/14
- 6% increase in the number of people whose homelessness was prevented, with levels peaking at a record high of 209,900 in 2013/14, 14% below a low of 181,900 in 2013/14
- 29% reduction in the number of people whose homelessness was relieved, with levels peaking at a high of 21,000 in 2012/13, 33% above the record low of 14,520 2015/16
- 6% increase in the number of people owed the main housing (homelessness) duty of assistance (s.193(2), part 7, Housing Act 1996), with levels peaking in at 59,110 2016/17, an increase of 12% in the record low of 52,290 in 2013/14
- 31% increase in the number of households living in local authority temporary accommodation, from the low of 55,320 in 2012/13
- 51% increase in the number of people sleeping rough, from a low of 2,309 in 2012.

**Chart 1: Homelessness Levels, England, 2009/10 – 2017/18**



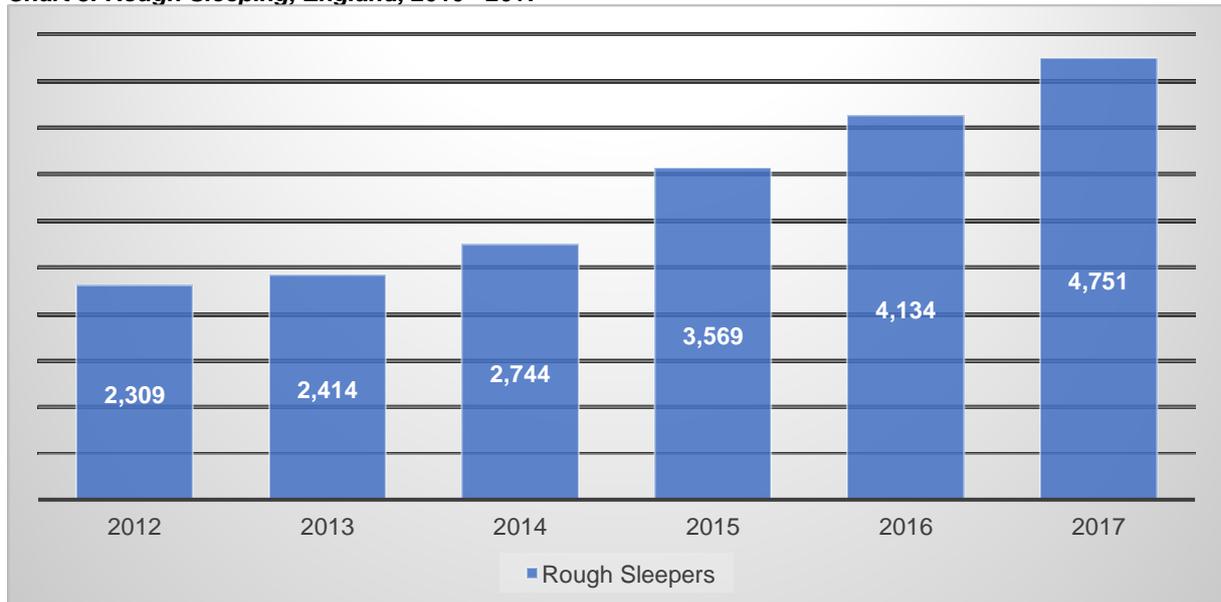
Source: UK Government

**Chart 2: Temporary Accommodation, England, 2009/10 – 2017/18**



Source: UK Government

**Chart 3: Rough Sleeping, England, 2010 - 2017**



Source: UK Government

These statistics show that more people are approaching local authorities for assistance, however the method in which they are being assisted has changed. The success of homelessness prevention activity continues to increase. However, fewer people are having their homelessness relieved. At the same time, more people are benefiting from the statutory safety net, applicable to those who have a priority need for accommodation and are not intentionally homeless. This has driven-up the number of people being provided with temporary accommodation. Meanwhile, the levels of people experiencing street



homelessness has gone-up to a new high. The publication of homelessness statistics by the UK Government was criticised in 2015, by the UK Statistics Authority, for a lack of clarity. Subsequently, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has arranged to make significant changes to how homelessness is monitored from April 2018.

## **2.2 Homelessness Reduction Act 2017**

As a consequence of the increase in homelessness, the Communities and Local Government Select Committee launched an enquiry into homelessness in December 2015, The Committee concluded that, the cost and availability of housing has pushed the problem of homelessness to such a level that a renewed Government-wide strategy is needed.

A Homelessness Reduction Bill was produced following the inquiry into homelessness, which subsequently became the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. From April 2018, a number of new duties were introduced, including:

- Assessment of all eligible applicants' cases and agreement a plan to meet housing and support needs
- To relieve homelessness for anyone who is homeless as defined by law
- To help to secure accommodation for people who are homeless or threatened homelessness
- For public authorities to refer cases of homelessness to a local housing authority

## **2.3 Homelessness Prevention and Relief**

Local authorities have voluntarily carried-out activities to prevent and relieve homelessness since 2003 onwards. A range of discretionary initiatives have been used to assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Any casework action that has been taken, is done so outside any legal obligation to do so. The UK Government recognises three forms of homelessness prevention:

- Early Prevention - Making accommodation and support available before crisis point.
- Pre-Crisis Prevention - Advice and proactive intervention to allow time to move to alternative accommodation.
- Preventing Reoccurring Homelessness - Support to ensure tenancy sustainment, avoid repeat homelessness.

In 2012/13, the split between people being helped to remain in their existing homes verses being helped to obtained alternative accommodation was 52/48 respectively.

The most common casework action taken to prevent homelessness, by helping people to remain in their existing accommodation, include:

- 12% - resolving housing benefit problems

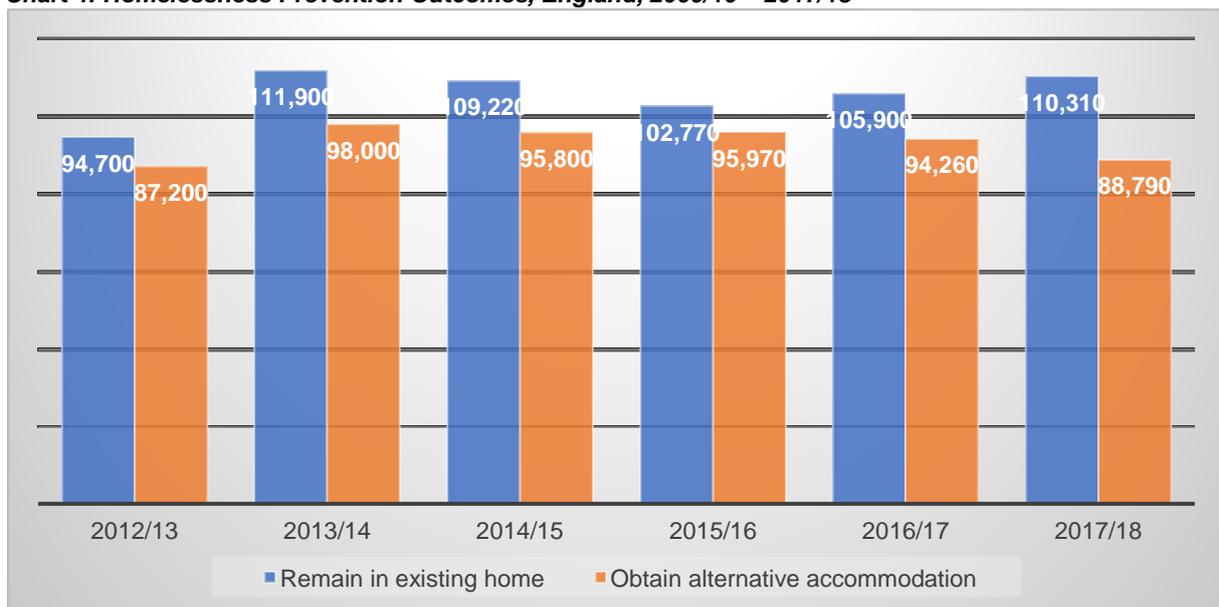


- 10% - assistance to remain in private rented sector accommodation
- 6% - debt advice

The most common casework action taken to prevent or relieve homelessness, by assisting people to obtain alternative accommodation, include:

- 28% - private rented sector (with or without use of a landlord incentive)
- 24% - allocation of social housing
- 17% - hostel or house of multiple occupation

**Chart 4: Homelessness Prevention Outcomes, England, 2009/10 – 2017/18**



Source: UK Government

Casework action associated with housing benefit problems has doubled in recent years, During the same period the number of people whose reason for loss of their last settle home is due to the end of assured shorthold tenancy has increased to become the main reason for homelessness, accounting for 31% of cases in 2016/17. The National Audit Office, reported in 2017 that a succession of reforms to welfare benefits entitlements, implemented by the UK Government, are not coincidental. The report criticised the lack of a joined-up Government strategy for tackling homelessness.

## 2.4 UK Government Priorities

The UK Government has received criticism about rising levels of homelessness and lack of a coherent strategy for tackling the problems from the UK Statistics Authority (in 2015), the Communities & Local Government Select Committee (in 2016), the National Audit Office, the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman, and the Commons Public Account Committee (all in 2017).

Subsequently, the UK Government made a manifesto commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end it by 2027. A taskforce has been assembled to provide advice on the

formulation of a national strategy. Piloting of the Housing First approach to help people stop sleeping rough has been announced, which includes the Liverpool City Region. A Rough Sleeping Initiative was launched at the end of March 2018, this involves a cross-disciplinary team of made up of experts from the homelessness sector. A new strategy for ending rough sleeping in England is due to be published by the UK Government in July 2018, focusing on the themes of prevention, intervention and recovery.

The UK Government has allocated a substantial sum of funding to help tackle homelessness. During the present spending period (2016/17 – 2019/20), £1.2bn will be awarded to local authorities and voluntary organisations.

The UK Government has established a Homelessness Advice and Support Team, offering support to local authorities. A new statutory code of guidance and secondary legislation has been published. The National Homelessness Advice Service has delivered funding to frontline staff. A new Duty to Refer cases of homelessness will come into force from October for specified public bodies, to help identify and assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

## **2.5 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority**

The strategic authority which covers the Merseyside Metropolitan County, plus Halton, has no devolved responsibility for homelessness policy, this remains a matter for national and local governments. Nevertheless, Steve Rotheram, the Elected Mayor of the Liverpool City Region made a manifesto pledge to tackle homelessness and street sleeping. An advisor was appointed shortly after his election and more recently a strategic lead for homelessness has been appointed to the Liverpool City region Combined Authority. The Combined

Authority has already backed a report published by Crisis, calling for adoption of the Housing

First approach across the City Region. Subsequently £.7.7m has been awarded to the Combined Authority to carry out a Housing First Pilot, together with £2.2m for a homeless trailblazer initiative.



### 3. Local Homelessness Context

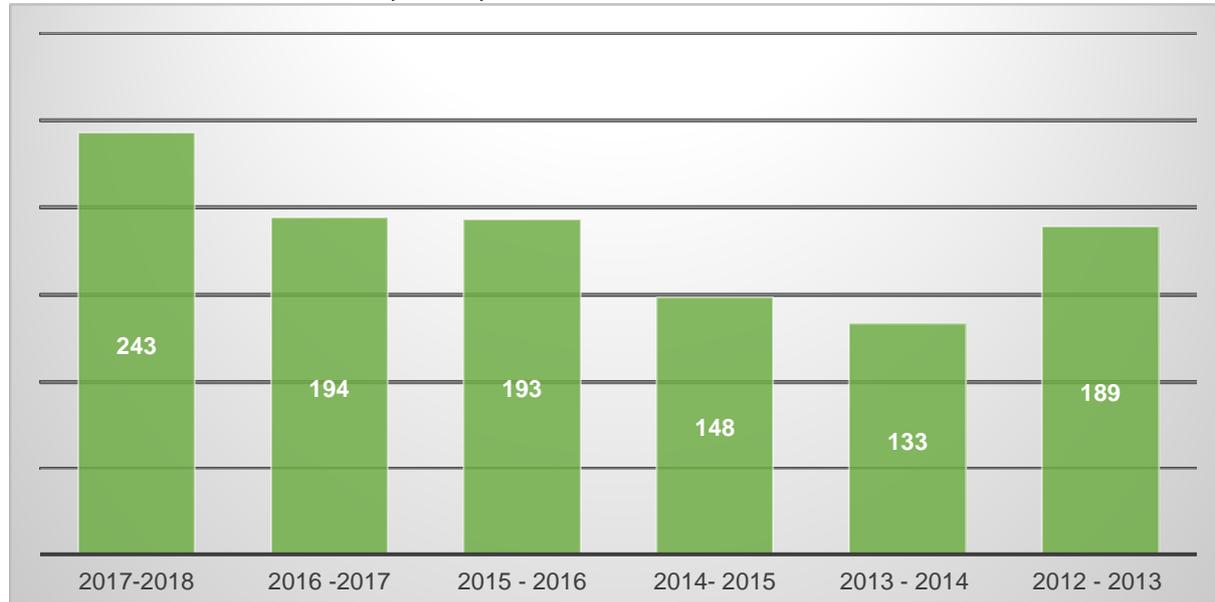
#### 3.1 Sefton Homelessness Strategy 2013 - 2018

Sefton's previous Homelessness Strategy, for the period of 2013 – 2018, saw a number of actions delivered to reduce the levels of rough sleeping, this included introduction of services offered to people sleeping rough. Actions to prevent homelessness included the reintroduction of home visits for people at risk of homelessness. Actions to ensure that sufficient accommodation is available to tackle homelessness included a review of all supported accommodation and commissioning of new services. Alongside this Emmaus were supported to deliver new accommodation with employment/training for homeless people in Seaforth. Actions to provide support, information, advice and assistance to tackle homelessness included a review of tenancy support provision, and commissioning of new services. Actions to make available the required levels of resources for tackling homelessness included continued investment in homelessness services by the Council.

#### 3.2 Levels of Homelessness

Homelessness decisions taken by Sefton Council over the last six years have remained relatively stable, except for a slight reduction in 2013/14 and 2014/15, and then there has been a large increase in 2017 – 2018. White single men aged 25-44 years of age represents the most common characteristic of households making an application for homelessness assistance.

**Chart 5: Homelessness decisions, Sefton, 2012/13 – 2017/18**

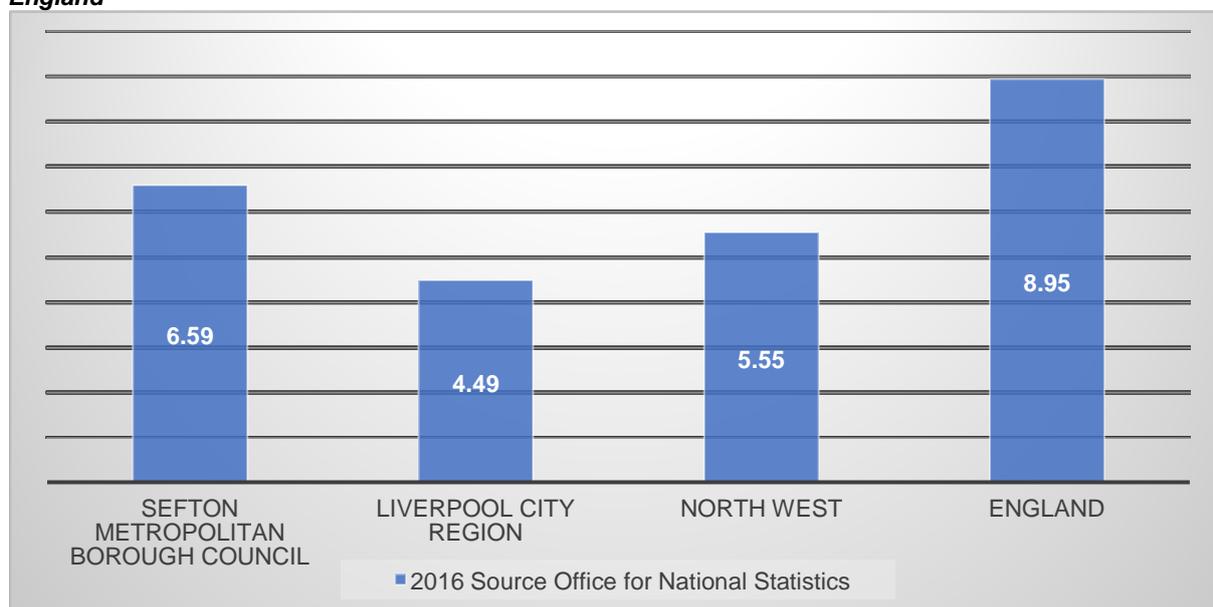


Source: Sefton Council

Just under a quarter of all children in Sefton are living in poverty. Just over a quarter of all people aged 16-64 years living in Sefton are economically inactive. The ratio of house prices to earnings is 6.59 times for Sefton households. Future levels of homelessness are likely to increase due to economic and housing market factors. House price to earnings ratios

are of particular concern, meaning many people will not be able to afford to buy a home, putting further pressure on already limited supply of affordable housing.

**Chart 6: Ratio of house prices to earnings, Sefton compared to Liverpool City Region, North West, and England**



Source: UK Government

### 3.3 Resources for tackling homelessness

Sefton Council's own spending on homelessness is complemented by grants received from the UK Government. £1.4m is budgeted from Sefton Council's own funds, the contribution from UK Government has increased by 32%.

**Table 1: UK Government Homelessness Funding Allocations to Sefton Council, 2016/17 – 2019/20**

Homelessness Grant	£346,311
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant	£505,476
Homelessness Reduction Act 2016 New Burdens Grant	£163,909
<i>Total</i>	<i>£505,476</i>

Source: UK Government

Local authority employs 12 people full-time staff to administer homeless duties, nine permanent posts are being complemented with three additional temporary positions. If future levels of homelessness increase as predicted, more people will need to be employed to perform the public law responsibilities.

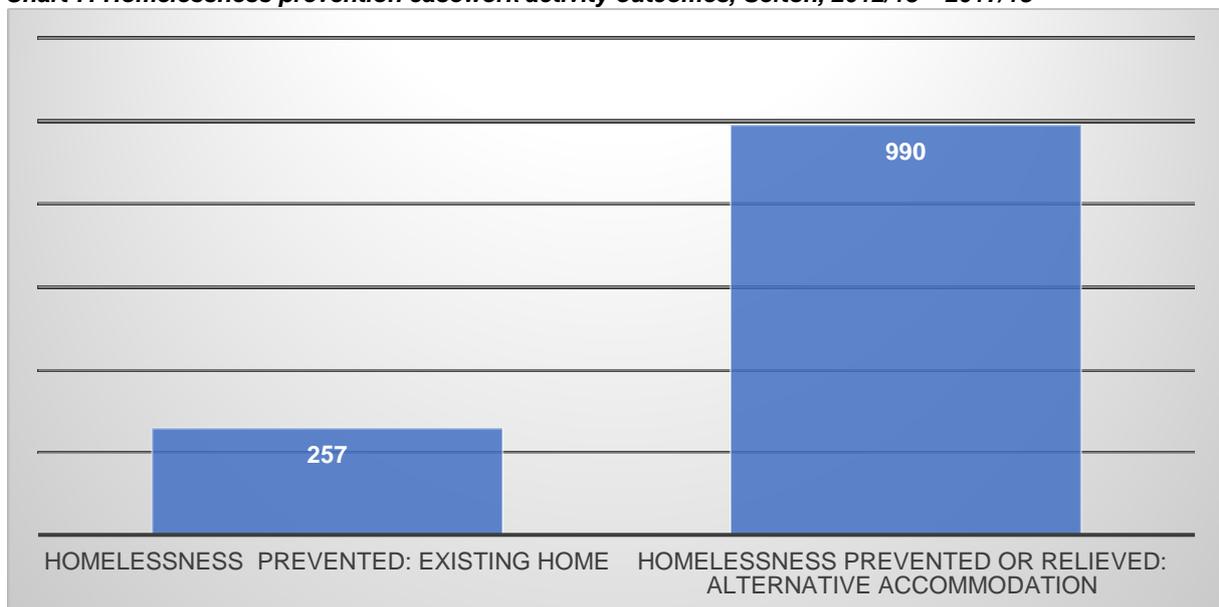
Recent IT upgrade has been installed to aid administration of homeless functions, which will help to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Sefton Council's Homelessness Service.

### 3.4 Activities to Prevent People Becoming Homeless

Some early homelessness prevention activity is currently taking place to help people who are more at risk of becoming homeless, by a number of public authorities. However, not enough is being done to help people leaving prison, and those who are vulnerable adults. Improvements could be made to how people leaving care, hospital and escaping domestic abuse are helped. Sefton Council has effective arrangements for to help children aged 16 or 17 years of age who are at risk of homelessness.

Sefton Council's Homelessness Service is undertaking limited pre-crisis homelessness prevention activity. This is primarily concentrated on helping to obtain alternative accommodation. Much more needs to be done to help people remain in existing accommodation, whenever this is safe to do so.

**Chart 7: Homelessness prevention casework activity outcomes, Sefton, 2012/13 – 2017/18**



Source: Sefton Council

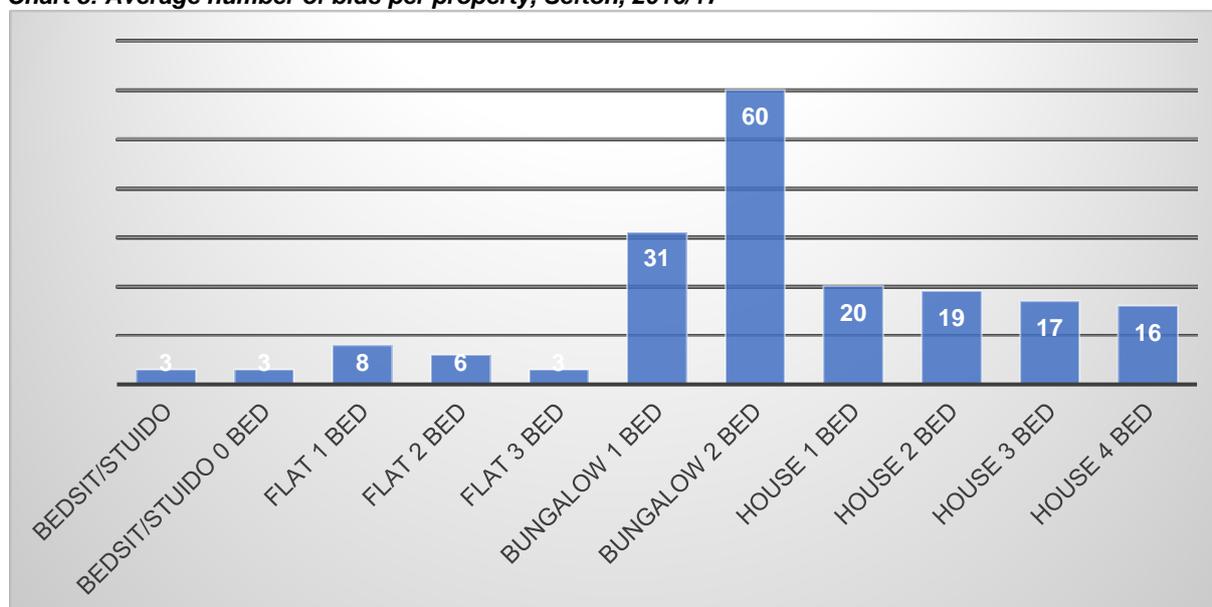
### 3.5 Activities to Securing Accommodation for People Who Are Homeless

Temporary accommodation provided or commissioned by Sefton Council to homeless applicants has increased by 24% during the past five years, however the actual number remain low. The number of single males and those with mental ill health is far above rates elsewhere. Most people move-on from temporary accommodation within 6 months.

Sefton Council's Homelessness Service undertakes very limited homelessness relief activity. There is limited affordable private rented sector accommodation for people having to claim help with paying housing costs. Demand for social housing does not match the supply available. Three-bedroom bungalows have the highest number of bids, three-bedroom flats have the lowest number of bids. The administration of allocating social housing is performed by One Vision Housing on behalf of the local authority, with the policy for controlling this process is jointly agreed with five neighbouring local housing authorities, plus more than 20 social landlords. These arrangements would benefit from

being reviewed, to ensure they remain effective, value for money and a quality service is provided. The housing allocation policy would benefit from being checked to ensure compliance with the law.

**Chart 8: Average number of bids per property, Sefton, 2016/17**



Source: Sefton Council

### 3.6 Activities to Support People Who Are, or Have Been, Homeless

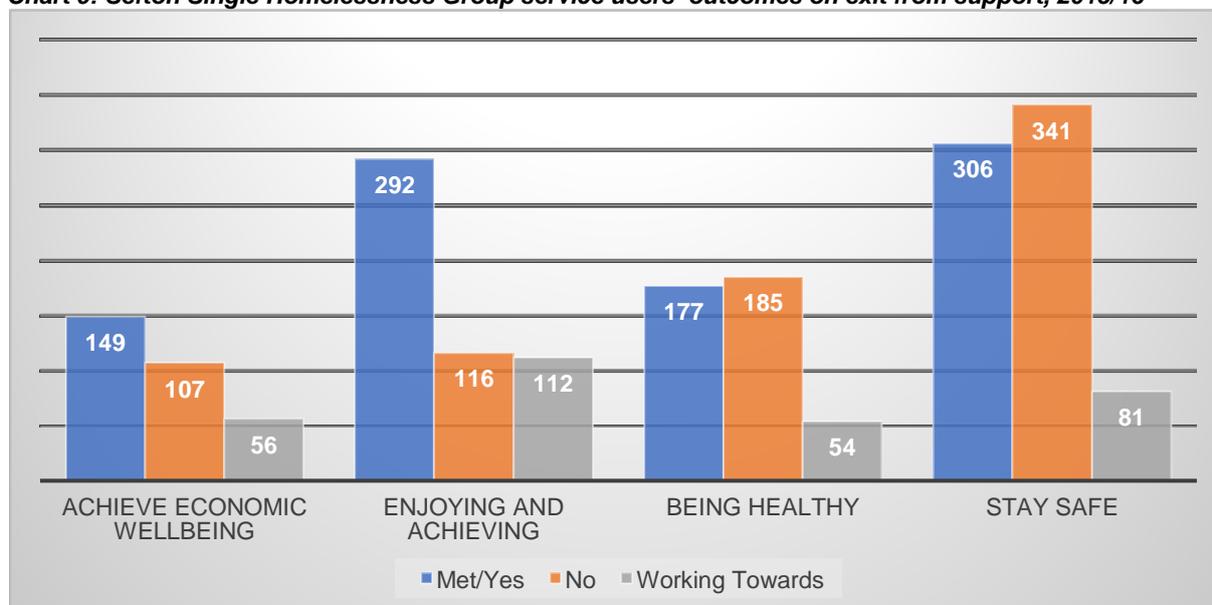
Statutory homeless households are primarily single males, with mental illness who became homeless due to others no longer willing to accommodate them. This makes Sefton a significant outlier to the rest of the country.

A number of voluntary organisations are commissioned by the local authority to provide accommodation-based and floating support for single homeless people, people with a history of offending and people with a substance misuse problem. Single homeless people living in supported accommodation stay on average between 99 to 231 days. Accommodation-based support housing is reliant on shared and communal living arrangements, in often older properties that can't be described as psychologically informed environments that are conducive to recovering from the experience of being homeless. Floating support provision is taking longer to achieve the standard of outcomes being achieved by accommodation-based schemes. A light touch performance monitoring and contract management regime is in place to oversee the delivery of these services.

Sefton Supported Housing Group, consortium of voluntary organisations, operate a range of accommodation-based support services for single homeless people, with supported housing located in Southport and Bootle. The consortium members consist of Bosco, Excel Housing, New Start, and Venus. Outcomes achieved for people living in the supported housing are monitored by the Sefton Council, to ensure contracts are value for money, delivery quality support and being operating efficiently. Support providers are monitored

against four key outcomes that people in receipt of support are expected to achieve whilst in receipt of support. Typically, positive outcomes are reported for economic wellbeing and enjoying achieving, with more mixed outcomes being reported for being healthy and staying safe.

**Chart 9: Sefton Single Homelessness Group service users' outcomes on exit from support, 2015/16**



People experiencing street homeless are concentrated in Southport, assisted via numerous community-based initiatives. Alongside this are numerous incidents of anti-social 'street activities' such as begging, and drinking, which distort the true levels of rough sleeping.

People throughout the borough are likely to be experiencing hidden homeless. No specific services are commissioned to tackle hidden homelessness, and not enough information is collected on the scale of this form of homelessness.

### 3.7 Consultation with stakeholder and service users

Stakeholders and service users agreed that social housing was the best housing option for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Stakeholders believed that more needs to be done to prevent homelessness, service users wanted more housing to be available to help those who are already homeless.

### 3.8 Findings

The local authority could do more to monitor the current and future levels of homelessness. Better sharing of this intelligence would lead to a greater understand of the scale and nature of homelessness in Sefton, and assist policy making.

Research needs to be carried out into why there is such a high prevalence of single homeless males with mental ill health in Sefton.

An increase in early and pre-crisis homelessness prevention activities are required. This will help to better target people more at risk of homelessness, plus help people to remain in their existing accommodation or secure alternative accommodation prior to becoming homeless.

Additional accommodation is needed for people who are experiencing homelessness. Further incentives to encourage private landlords need to be expanded and developed. The rules and practices for allocating social housing would benefit from being reviewed.

A dispersed provision of temporary accommodation would be better than current arrangements, which concentrates this provision in the Bootle area. In future temporary accommodation should be located as near as possible to a persons' last settled address, with opportunities for converting temporary into permanent being facilitated. This accommodation could be procured by the local authority and/or a third-party agent, from social and private landlords, and be managed by a local authority and/or a third-party agent. Floating support should be provided to all occupants of temporary accommodation.

Commissioning of supported housing would benefit from building on the existing consortium already in place and being more housing-led. The current provision of supported housing services is not personalised enough. The model relies on specific separate institutions which segregates people away from the wider community. This approach often dwells on people's deficits, and negatively focuses on the challenging behaviour sometimes associated with being homeless, rather than addressing the poverty people are experiencing. A proposed future provision of supported housing homelessness specific services, would be housing-led, primarily based around the Housing First approach, but having mixed range of accommodation to cater for all types of needs. The method is based on what works to tackle multiple exclusion:

- Personalised support – individually-tailored support that is open-ended, persistent, flexible and co-ordinated
- Mainstream housing – social or private rented housing as an option as far as possible
- Reintegration – Support to socialise and work in ordinary mainstream social settings
- Asset-based – Identifies and nurtures people's strengths and assets, as well as addressing their needs
- Poverty Informed – Directly tackles the financial and material hardships that cause homelessness

Street homelessness services need to concentrate on getting people into accommodation and getting them the right support. The current provision has too much of a reliance on volunteers who are seeking to improve the dignity of people sleeping by offering free food,



clothing, bedding and showers. While this helps people to feel more comfortable when sleeping rough, it doesn't always help to end the need for people to sleep rough. The day services on offer are well intentioned but often create a dependency and distract from the real goal of getting people off the streets. The accommodation being offered to people sleeping rough isn't appealing to many, and even when there is a willingness to be referred, rules on exclusions can prohibit them from accessing this provision. A multi-disciplinary team of professionals from voluntary organisations will be best able to make contact and diagnose the support needs of people experiencing street homelessness and to assist them to broker access to mainstream services. This should include workers who have specialist knowledge or skills in homelessness law and housing advice, mental illness, substance dependency, offending behaviour and sexual health. Initial help should focus on securing short-term emergency accommodation (for a couple of days or weeks at the very most), until more mainstream accommodation can be obtained, in which they can recover from their experience of being homeless. Awarding each person an individual budget that they control the spending of, will help them to purchase the items they need to help off the streets and remain indoors. Enabling assistance from a peer mentor, will provide the additional encouragement to live a more sustainable a way of life.

This package of support could be funded via the integration of housing, health, social care, and criminal justice budgets. Alternatively, or additionally, funds could be raised by issuing a social impact bond, which has proven successful in Greater London.

A better understand of the scale and nature of hidden homelessness is needed, so specific services can be commissioned. No official statistics are collected in Sefton, or elsewhere in the UK, about the number of people experiencing hidden homelessness. However, the London Assembly has forecast that the levels are 13 times greater than those who are street homeless. A response to hidden homelessness should focus on:

- Prevention
  - Awareness raising about hidden homelessness
    - Risk assessment of people more likely to experience hidden homelessness
- Relief
  - Targeted advice for people who are experiencing hidden homelessness
  - Help to obtain accommodation
- Support
  - To escape assault and exploitation
  - To transition from childhood to adulthood
    - To identify as LGBT
    - To recover from domestic abuse

Light for Life is one the few services that consciously offers services to those experiencing hidden homelessness, plus collects some intelligence on scale of this form of homelessness.



The local response to hidden homelessness should be formalised so that better solutions can be put in place to prevent and relieve it for people from Sefton.

Consultation with people who are, or have been, homeless should be carried-out more frequently.

## 4. Delivering this Homelessness Strategy

### 4.1 General Principles

All of the approaches, as set out below, are recommended for the local authority to undertake. This will allow Sefton Council to deliver this Homelessness Strategy in the most appropriate and effective manner.

The delivery of the strategy requires close working between housing services, adult social care services, children services, all of which are located within Sefton Council. These sections of the Sefton Council are required in law to take responsibility for tackling homelessness.

Social landlords have regulatory responsibilities to assist local authorities with their homelessness functions. Therefore, these organisations are also expected to play an active role in the delivery of the strategy.

Throughout duration of this strategy, Sefton Council will seek to build stronger relationship between departments and agencies, to foster a multi-agency commitment to deliver of the strategy. Sefton Council is especially keen to ensure involvement from the voluntary organisations, along with co-operation with a wide range of other public authorities (e.g. Prisons, NHS Trusts). Sefton Council will frequently confer with people who have experience of being homeless, to get their views about what works, any barriers to service and any suggestions for improvements.

### 4.2 Corporate Commitment

Progress towards tackling homelessness and achieving the objectives of this strategy will be reported to the Sefton Council's Cabinet Member for Communities & Housing. Annual service plans should have clear responsibilities for tackling homelessness, linked to chief officers. *An elected councillor could be selected to champion the issue of homelessness across all Sefton Council business.*

The Council's Scrutiny & Review committee of elected councillors may also scrutinise the delivery of the homelessness strategy over its lifetime. They might consider a report on (i) levels of homelessness, (ii) activities on preventing homelessness, securing accommodation and providing support, (iii) resources for tackling homelessness.



### **4.3 Homelessness Service Providers Forum**

A Homelessness Providers Forum will be used to oversee the delivery of the Sefton Homelessness Strategy Action Plan. The Group will meet every three months to (i) review the levels of homelessness, (ii) consider the activities for preventing homelessness, securing accommodation and providing support, and (iii) coordinate the resources for tackling homelessness. The Group will be responsible for annually updating the Plan, to ensure it remains relevant. Membership consists of the Sefton Council's strategic housing officers together with external agencies (commissioned and non-commissioned) who provide services to resolve homelessness.

The Forum will be chaired by the lead Officer with responsibility for local housing authority functions. Lead officers with responsible for public law functions and/or funding of services that affect homelessness may join the membership of the Group, from the following business areas:

- Adult social care
- Children services
- Public health
- Community safety
- Housing benefit
- Plus, at least one representative of local social housing providers

Membership of the Forum could also include all other agencies who make a contribution to resolving homelessness:

- Any other public authority
- Voluntary organisations
- Any other interested persons (including those with experience of being homeless)

Homelessness Strategy Task & Finish Groups will be established as and when needed, to accomplish specific tasks from the Sefton Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.

Membership will consist of any relevant public authority, voluntary organisation or other person that attends the Homelessness Forum. These groups will be for a fixed term of no more than 12 months. Specific action plans will be formulated to control the work of any such group.

The Forum will also be the vehicle to recruit interested parties to participate in Homelessness Strategy Task & Finish Groups.

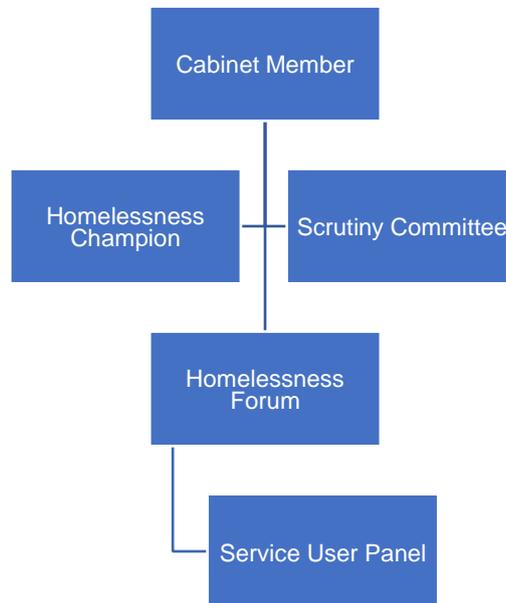
### **4.5 Service User Involvement**

A panel of service user could be assembled annually to review the progress of delivering the Sefton Homelessness Strategy Action Plan, plus be consulted about the priorities for the year ahead. Their know-how will be used to ensure the activities carried out will have a relevant impact on the lives of those who it is intended to benefit.



Additionally, an annual service users survey will be carried-out, to seek views of what's working well and what could better in respect of the advice and assistance they receive to prevent or relieve homelessness.

**Diagram 1: Sefton Homelessness Strategy Governance Structure**



## 5. Action Plan

### 5.1 Homelessness Review Findings

The Review of Homelessness in Sefton (July 2018) assessed the current context of homelessness in the Sefton local authority area. An in-depth analysis was carried-out of the:

- Current and future levels of homelessness
- Resources available to tackle homelessness
- Activities carried-out to
  - prevent homelessness
  - secure accommodation for people who are or maybe homeless

- o provide support for people who are or have been homeless

The Review included assessment of needs of people who experience statutory, single, street and hidden homelessness, such as persons who have become intentionally homeless, as those who do not have a priority need for accommodation. This Strategy features actions that will benefit the four forms of homelessness described above, such as actions to tackle anti-social behaviours often associated with rough sleeping, in addition to recommissioning and redesigning of supported housing provision, so that in the future it is housing-led.

The Review identified what services worked well, for example help for 16/17-year-old children who are at risk of homelessness, as well as what provision could be better, for example the procurement and management of temporary accommodation so that this provision is dispersed across the borough, instead of being concentrated in one location. Actions for tackling youth homelessness and securing a suitable supply of temporary accommodation feature in the Strategy Action Plan.

The review also covered staffing arrangements, which will need to be re-evaluated 12 months after enactment of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, plus funding for which Sefton Council (along with neighbouring local authorities) will need to work with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to pilot the 'housing first' approach across the Merseyside and Halton area. Actions for remodelling supported housing features in the Strategy Action Plan.

## **5.2 Homelessness Strategy Objectives**

Taking a lead from the primary areas covered by the review, the following objectives have been adopted for this Strategy:

1. Monitor the current and future likely levels of homelessness
2. Resource activities to tackle homelessness
3. Prevent homelessness
4. Secure accommodation for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
5. Support people who are, or have been, homeless
6. Collaborative work with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

The most up to date Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan can be found via [this link](#) to Sefton's website.

