



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ending Homelessness in Wales:

A high level action plan
2021-2026

Update Summer 2023

Ending Homelessness in Wales: A High-Level Action Plan 2021-26

Update

Summer 2023

Overview

In November 2021, the Welsh Government published [‘Ending Homelessness in Wales: A High Level Action Plan 2021-26’](#).

The Action Plan draws on the [Welsh Government’s Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness](#) and the work of the expert [Homelessness Action Group \(HAG\)](#) and the three reports produced between October 2019 and July 2020. The HAG engaged extensively with a wide range of stakeholders, including people who have had personal experience of homelessness, resulting in a series of high-level actions in which shared responsibility, partnership working and collaboration are key to ending homelessness in Wales.

There were two key commitments within the Programme for Government that were part of a wider commitment to strengthen our communities across Wales – a commitment to fundamentally reform homelessness services to focus on prevention and Rapid Rehousing; and the provision of 20,000 low carbon, good quality homes for social rent. This is aligned with the **Welsh Government’s commitment to reform housing law and implement the HAG’s recommendations, which included developing an action plan. This also forms part of the Cooperation Agreement with Plaid Cymru.** This High Level Action Plan helps us align these commitments, providing strategic direction and enabling a measure of progress, which is vital to assist in ending homelessness across Wales.

As outlined at the time of publication in 2021, the plan is intended to be a live document, with regular updates published to ensure actions continue to reflect the latest position and to provide transparency on implementation progress. This is therefore the first of the planned updates, and provides an overview of the changing context, key progress to date, and updated action tables with a number of refined actions and underlying activities incorporated.

The original 16 actions remain, as these continue to be essential to ensure the Welsh Government achieve the ambitious commitment to end homelessness across Wales. However, the steps to be taken underpinning these actions have been updated and changed as necessary to take account of the current economic and housing environment that are impacting on the demand for homelessness services.

Context

The Ending Homelessness Action Plan was published at a time of considerable uncertainty, with the pandemic in its second year, and the pandemic homelessness response well established. The Welsh Government made clear in the plan its continuing commitment to the 'no-one left out approach' and additional funding was provided to support the approach.

Since publication of the plan, whilst the pandemic has ended and we have moved into a post pandemic recovery phase, the wider context has remained extremely challenging, with new presentations to homelessness services remaining consistently high. This is due to a combination of factors, including the continuing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; the cost of living crisis; wider inflationary pressures on housing and related services; and the humanitarian crisis arising from the war in Ukraine.

This combination of external factors has resulted in continued high levels of homelessness presentations, increased pressures on housing supply in both the social and private sector, and consequently an increase in the number of people in temporary accommodation. [Latest published data](#) shows that at the end of 31 May 2023, 10,872 people were in temporary accommodation. It is important, however, not to lose sight of the total number of people who have been supported with temporary accommodation since the start of the pandemic, over 37,300 people. Therefore, whilst there is significant work still required to further increase prevention activity and increase move-on rates – it is important to acknowledge the significant number of people who have had their homelessness resolved and supported into suitable permanent homes – all as a direct result of the hard work of the dedicated teams in local authorities, registered social landlords and third sector partners.

We recognise the impact the continuing challenging context has, and continues to have, on the homelessness and housing support workforce. We also recognise the importance of the workforce and the commitment and dedication of them in supporting people facing or experiencing homelessness. This is why we have a specific action in the plan to '*develop a resilient and valued workforce recognised for their expertise*' and a Task and Finish Group of partners from across the sector have been working to take forward this important strand of work.

Implementation Progress

Despite the continuing challenging context, considerable progress has been made in implementing the Ending Homelessness Action Plan.

In 2022, the Welsh Government introduced legislation to add an eleventh priority need category for those who are 'street homeless' to ensure no-one in Wales is forced to sleep rough. This ensured the continuation of the 'no-one left out' approach, ahead of wider scale legislative reform. This was supported with additional

funding for local authorities for both temporary accommodation provision and increased homelessness prevention measures. This increase in funding takes investment in homelessness prevention and housing support services to over £210m in 2023/24.

We have allocated record levels of funding to the Social Housing Grant, nearly £1.2bn allocated for the first four years of this Senedd term, including £300m in 2022/23. In January 2023, the Welsh Government announced £50m funding over the next 2 years to bring up to 2,000 long-term empty properties across Wales back into use through a national empty homes grant scheme.

The Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) was introduced in 2022/23 to support the delivery of good quality longer term accommodation at pace. In its first year, TACP supported local authorities and registered social landlords with £76.4m, to bring forward 936 homes, working flexibly and quickly to deliver better quality homes and move people out of temporary accommodation.

To improve access to longer term affordable housing in the private rented sector, Leasing Scheme Wales was launched in January 2022, providing £30m over 5 years. To date, 61% of properties brought into use under the scheme were previously empty.

As well as responding to the immediate pressures in the housing system, we have also made significant progress in taking forward the longer-term strategic policy and legislative reform identified in the plan. In summer 2022, the Minister for Climate Change commissioned an expert review panel to review existing homelessness legislation and to provide evidence and inform future legislation and policy reform. The panel, chaired by Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick, is developing proposals and advice to the Welsh Government, which will inform a White Paper to be published later this year. This work, which has been shaped and informed by extensive engagement with people with lived experience of homelessness, will help to ensure our future legislation targets early homelessness prevention and where homelessness is experienced provide rapid access to housing and wider support, as appropriate.

To ensure transparency in progress towards ending homelessness, the Welsh Government has co-produced a new Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework. This provides oversight of work to prevent and end homelessness, by identifying long-term outcomes and illustrating progress towards achieving those outcomes over time. This Framework is currently out to public consultation, but its implementation will be crucial to measuring future progress in this area.

Progress has also been made in the development and implementation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans. We recognise, however, that in the context of increased pressures in the housing system, the transformational shift towards Rapid Rehousing will take longer than originally envisaged – the end goal, however, remains unchanged. Eighteen local authorities have finalised initial transition plans, which have been submitted to Welsh Government, and four plans remain outstanding. We remain committed to working with all local authorities to support them in this

transformation, and understand this will be an evolving process. Plans will need to be continually reviewed and developed throughout their implementation, with priorities and required actions changing over the short, medium and longer term. To support the required strategic planning, the Welsh Government has provided additional funding to local authorities to put in place strategic co-ordinators to support corporate ownership and multi-agency working.

Wider Impacts of the High-Level Action Plan

This plan sets out high level actions to be undertaken to move us towards ending homelessness across Wales. It is a collection of activities to be taken by the Welsh Government and our key partners to achieve this shared ambition. Each action is critical to moving us successfully towards this aim.

As such, an impact assessment of the plan and subsequent review has not been explicitly undertaken. Rather, the individual actions, where new policy or programmes or work are required, are assessed throughout the development and implementation of those actions. Completed Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs), which consider and assess wider impacts of planned policy, programme or legislation, have been undertaken. These assessments include having due regard of the impacts of decisions on protected groups and human rights (under the Equalities Act 2010), the rights of children and young people, socio-economic consequences, the climate, sustainability and the Welsh Language.

Original impacts were considered in the development of this overarching High Level Action Plan, when it was [consulted](#) on in 2021. During the period since the original plan, the Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework has been subject to an IIA, as has the transitional legal measures introduced under this Framework to introduce an eleventh category of priority need. As part of the overall wider reform of homelessness legislation and policy in Wales, there will be a wider, detailed IIA undertaken, which will help with future reviews of actions to be undertaken across Wales.

Updated Actions

The action tables below have been updated to reflect new activity (shown in blue) and an overview provided under each section of the progress made during the period since publication.

Table of High Level Actions
Update 2023

No.	Action	Delivery partners (national, regional or local)	Timetable (short (<1 year), medium (1-2 years) or long-term (>3 years)	Resource requirement / provided
Transformation of the homelessness system				
1	<p>Develop and deliver Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans in all areas of Wales</p> <p>Local authorities to develop Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans as part of their Housing Support Programme Strategies. WG will develop and publish guidance to support LAs in this process, as well as holding a range of engagement events to explain and explore issues and challenges where Rapid Rehousing may conflict with existing allocation policies.</p> <p>Continue to support the expansion and maintain fidelity of Housing First across Wales.</p>	<p>LAs / WG / RSLs</p> <p>LAs will lead on this work working with housing provider partners.</p>	<p>Short term – Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans in place by end of September 2022 (draft by end of June 2022)</p> <p>Short/ Medium Term – Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders established under National Advisory Board to support implementation</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Medium Term – Continue internal review of submitted plans, identifying and sharing best practice. Support local authorities who have been unable to develop a plan.</p>	<p>WG guidance will be available to LAs to help shape their Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans. Ongoing support will be provided where needed through WG policy officials and relationship managers.</p> <p>Flexibility within Housing Support Grant for LA resource to support planning and transition.</p> <p>£1.9m Housing First Programme Rapid Rehousing Task and Finish Group to identify any resourcing aspects required for effective implementation.</p>

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Rapid Rehousing Implementation

Engagement events were held in July 2021 and March 2022 with local authorities and key partners ahead of introducing Rapid Rehousing, including in-depth workshops and demonstrations of the Rapid Rehousing Excel tool kit.

[Guidance on Rapid Rehousing](#) to support understanding and transition planning was drafted in consultation with local authorities and other key partners and published in August 2022.

Grant funding: WG has provided funding since 2022/23 for a Strategic Coordinator post in each local authority to support the move to a Rapid Rehousing approach. This post is intended to support multi-agency and partnership working across Housing Strategy and development teams as well as partnership working with landlords and support providers.

Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans

Welsh Government officials continue to work closely with local authorities to support development and implementation of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs). As a result of the continuing challenging environment and pressures on services, the original deadline for submission of September 2022 was extended. However, to date, Welsh Government has received completed plans from 18 LAs and are working with them to support further development and implementation of those plans. Where final plans have not been received, Welsh Government are working with these 4 LAs to identify barriers to delivery in a support and challenge capacity.

In both 2022 and 2023 regional engagement events have taken place, bringing key partners together to promote Rapid Rehousing and to discuss barriers and share solutions.

Rapid Rehousing Task & Finish Group

A Rapid Rehousing Task & Finish Group was established in October 2021, to advise and support the Ending Homelessness National Advisory Board in relation to the delivery of the national transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach. The group meets regularly and will make recommendations to the National Board, and subsequently Welsh Ministers as a result of this work.

Housing First

Welsh Government direct funding, in conjunction with funding via LAs, means projects are operating across 16 LAs, 3 of which are fully accredited by Cymorth Cymru and show alignment and fidelity of the Housing First Principles. The Welsh Government

Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund is also funding 4 Housing First for Youth projects across 5 LAs in Wales, supporting 16-25 year olds.

Future and Ongoing work:

We continue to work with local authorities to support wider corporate ownership of homelessness across LAs and wider partners, including health and social services. This will be critical to the delivery and success of Rapid Rehousing, and in delivering an approach that is trauma-informed and personalised to the needs of the individual.

A programme of communication delivered through the Rapid Rehousing Task & Finish Group will support the messages of shared responsibilities and the need for partnership working across a wide range of services.

Welsh Government commissioned a data feasibility study around social housing allocations policies in Wales, to increase our understanding of data available on housing allocation activity across all social landlords. The [report](#) was published in June 2023 and supports the proposal to take forward a second stage of in-depth research across social housing allocations across Wales. This will begin in Winter 2023.

To understand and evaluate further the success of innovative homelessness interventions introduced in Wales, an external evaluation is being carried out to assess homelessness services and projects which were part of the 2021 Phase 2 grant funding round, as well as Housing First and the Youth Innovation Fund projects. The findings of this evaluation, which will be published in Autumn 2023, will inform and shape our policy further in this area.

2	<p>Support the continued emergency response and transition to Rapid Rehousing</p> <p>WG to maintain the emergency (public health) housing arrangements, developing guidance and direction on the transition process for Rapid Rehousing and provide local authorities with the means to revise and develop their housing and homelessness services so that they are aligned with Rapid Rehousing.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Whilst moving away from the Covid-19 response, WG will continue to develop guidance and direction on the transition process in light of continued increasing demand, and wider pressures, ensuring alignment with Rapid Rehousing, and increasing the focus on reducing reliance on temporary accommodation across Wales.</p>	<p>WG, LAs and RSLs, Third sector partners</p> <p>WG will be the primary lead, engaging other partners in this work</p>	<p>Short term – funding to LAs in 2021/22 through the Local Authority Hardship Fund for continued emergency response. Guidance on Rapid Rehousing transition developed and issued.</p> <p>Medium term – LA transition plans in place and implementation underway</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u></p> <p>Short term – Continued development and provision of guidance to cover the short, medium and long term actions and priorities in response to current and emerging pressures. Continuation of TACP Publication of more granular data on temporary accommodation use and move-on details.</p>	<p>Housing Support Grant budget increased by £40m in 2021-22 (taking total to £166.7m) in recognition of level of previously unmet support needs.</p> <p>Additional £10m added to homelessness aspect of Hardship Fund for Q3 and Q4 of 2021-22.</p> <p>Additional £2m for discretionary homelessness prevention measures.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Homelessness Prevention Budget increased, with £15m provided to LAs for TA and £6m for discretionary homelessness in 2023/24 (total homelessness and housing support budget over £210m). TACP extended into 2023/24 for increased capital investment to support move away from TA.</p>
---	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Welsh Government has maintained the no-one left out approach to ensure no one is required to be street homeless in Wales. On 24th October 2022, Welsh Government introduced the [Homelessness \(Priority Need and Intentionality\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2022](#), to legally recognise those who are street homeless or at risk of being street homeless are a priority need for emergency accommodation and support. The Welsh Government drafted additional [statutory guidance](#) to support local authorities with their implementation of this legislative change.

In response to the increasing pressures in the homelessness system, we established the Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP) in 2022/23 to bring forward more good quality accommodation at pace to help move people from temporary accommodation into longer term homes where they can settle. In its first year, TACP supported local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) with £76.4million to bring forward 936 more homes, working flexibly and responsively to deliver better quality, longer-term accommodation.

Welsh Government also provided additional funding in 2022/23 to support LAs, with an initial £10m for TA costs, and £6m for discretionary homelessness prevention measures, with this initial funding increasing by a further £10m to a total of £26m as a result of in-year funding.

To ensure transparency, Welsh Government has continued to publish [monthly management information](#) on rough sleeping, TA and move-on. Work has been ongoing to improve the quality of this data collection, with a view to publishing more granular data.

Future and Ongoing work:

We will continue to support local authorities in their transition work, including working with them to reduce the reliance on temporary accommodation in Wales, particularly hotels and B&Bs. This is a key focus of Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans, with a vision of how authorities will work with partners to increase housing supply, including through funding programmes like TACP, and move away from a dependence on temporary solutions, allowing them to prioritise and plan activities to drive this forward. Further guidance is currently being developed to support this.

3	<p>Develop and publish a Green Paper examining required legislative reform</p> <p>The WG will evaluate existing homelessness prevention legal provision and review areas to improve the law, to maintain the ‘no-one left out’ approach taken through the pandemic and to ensure that all public services are working in partnership to prevent homelessness. This work will be taken forward initially through a Green Paper, examining both legislative and non-legislative options.</p> <p>This will include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority Need - Intentionality - Allocations - Evictions - Local connection - Suitability - Duties on public bodies - Rights based approach <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Welsh Government has moved directly to the development of a White Paper, in order to address the increasing demands in the</p>	WG – engaging with a range of partners	<p>Short term – Green Paper to be published in 2022</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Short term – White Paper to be published in autumn 2023</p>	<p>Welsh Government establishing an expert group of stakeholders to assist in the development of the potential legislative reform.</p> <p>The development of the Green Paper will be delivered primarily by WG policy officials and lawyers, who will engage with a wide-range of stakeholders.</p> <p>A regulatory impact assessment, including an equality impact assessment, will be developed alongside legislative proposals to provide the best estimates of the likely impact of possible reforms.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> The development of the White Paper will be delivered primarily by WG policy officials and lawyers, who will engage with a wide-range of stakeholders.</p>
---	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	system, and deliver legislative reform within this Senedd Term.			
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

PROGRESS UPDATE:

In order to deliver legislative reform this term, and in recognition of the significant ground work already undertaken, including the detailed work of the Expert Panel, we are moving directly to publication of a White Paper, rather than a Green paper. The White Paper will be published before the end of 2023.

An Expert Review Panel was established in 2022 to make recommendations to the Welsh Government on proposed legislative changes to end homelessness in Wales. The Panel was convened by Crisis and is chaired by Professor Suzanne Fitzpatrick, and includes representation from local government, housing associations, the third sector, equality organisations and experts from academic and legal fields. It is due to report in September 2023.

Significant stakeholder engagement is underway to support the work of the panel and development of the White Paper. Cymorth Cymru have led work to engage people with lived experience of homelessness and over 300 experts by experience have informed the proposed reforms so far. Tai Pawb have also undertaken an additional project to ensure the views of people with a range of protected characteristics and lived experience of homelessness have been engaged in the work. Crisis has also delivered online stakeholder sessions throughout the course of the panel to seek views, and have reached out to seek views from groups who are known to be at increased risk of homelessness. Welsh Government has established a local authority reference group, to engage on key areas of reform, the findings of which are fed back to the panel and inform their discussions.

Future and Ongoing work:

The Expert Panel is due to report at the end of August 2023, which will inform a White Paper to be published in Autumn 2023. A formal consultation process will then be undertaken, including various public and stakeholder engagement events.

4	<p>Increase housing supply, availability and accessibility in the social and private sector</p> <p>WG will work with LAs, RSLs, RSW and others to increase supply, availability and accessibility across both sectors – ensuring that the needs of those experiencing homelessness are reflected in the processes for assessing need, developing and delivering additional homes and within allocation arrangements.</p> <p>WG’s target is to deliver 20,000 additional social homes for rent within this term of government, including homes leased from private landlords. This will help ease pressure on housing services for people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>The Welsh Government recognises the vital role private landlords will need to play to help end homelessness and will identify with the sector barriers which can be removed or opportunities taken to increase and sustain their contribution.</p>	<p>WG (via 20k target), LAs with RSLs control over how housing development links reflects the homeless population.</p>	<p>Short term - increased funding. 2021-22 – Social Housing Grant funding almost doubled to £250m to support increased delivery.</p> <p>Short/ Medium term – national roll-out of PRS Leasing Scheme.</p> <p>Long term – deliver 20,000 homes by end of term of government.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Leasing Scheme Wales was launched in January 2022.</p> <p>Short term – Continuation of TACP into a second year</p> <p>Medium Term – White Paper on Housing Adequacy, Fair Rents and Affordability.</p>	<p>£250m allocated in 2021/22 to Social Housing Grant</p> <p>£262,000 revenue and £170,000 capital funding will be provided in 2021/22 to support the national roll-out of the private rented sector leasing scheme, with up to £66.3m set aside for this work over the next ten years.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Short term – Record investment in Social Housing Grant - £300m in 2022-23 and £300m in 2023-24. Also providing funding to the TACP.</p> <p>In its first year, TACP provided £76.4m to local authorities and RSLs to support the delivery of good quality longer term accommodation at pace.</p>
---	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

20,000 Homes Commitment

We have allocated record levels of funding to the Social Housing Grant, with nearly £1.2bn allocated for the first four years of this Senedd term, including £300m in 2022/23 and £300m in 2023/24. Despite this record investment, there are a number of challenges facing the house-building sector. The economic context has led to higher borrowing costs, materials shortages and a reduced contractor base. Environmental issues such as the need to reduce the levels of phosphorus in Wales's Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). Rivers are also a challenge to newbuild housing development. Welsh Government is working closely with the sector to help mitigate or overcome these challenges where possible. But in order to deliver more homes towards the 20,000 target at pace, as well as funding newbuild homes, we are supporting a range of initiatives, such as acquiring properties, remodelling existing accommodation, and converting buildings into good quality accommodation.

Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP)

TACP was established in 2022-23 to provide good quality longer-term accommodation for everyone in housing need. In its first year, the Programme brought forward 936 homes, working in partnership with LAs and RSLs. Recognising the key role it has played in bringing forward good quality accommodation to reduce the demands on poorer quality temporary accommodation, the TACP will continue into 2023/24.

Leasing Scheme Wales

Leasing Scheme Wales (LSW) was launched in January 2022, and has a target of including 1,500 properties by the end of March 2027. As at 31st March 2023, 105 properties have been brought into the scheme, increasing the volume of properties available for rent for social housing applicants. 61% of these were previously empty for six months or more, so have directly contributed to increasing the number of homes available across Wales. Currently, 16 local authorities are signed up to offering the scheme across Wales.

Empty Homes Grant Scheme

In January 2023, Welsh Government announced £50million funding over the next 2 years to bring up to 2,000 long-term empty properties across Wales back into use through a national empty homes grant scheme.

Securing a Path to Adequate Housing – Green Paper

Welsh Government published a [Green Paper](#) call for evidence in June 2023, to inform development of a White Paper to include proposals on securing a path towards adequate housing, fair rents and new approaches to making homes affordable for those on local incomes.

5	<p>Develop a resilient and valued workforce recognised for their expertise</p> <p>WG will commission work to develop with partners a workforce recruitment, training and development framework for homelessness and housing support staff. This work will promote the sector as a career and explore how we establish a psychologically informed approach across housing services. The framework will highlight how we influence cultures across governance, funding and commissioning structures as well as front line teams in the sector.</p>	WG, LAs and service delivery partners	<p>Short term – Task and Finish Group established of key stakeholders under National Advisory Board to lead development of work</p> <p>Medium to long-term – delivery and implementation of the framework</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Short term – Task & Finish Group to develop a set of recommendations to be made to the Ending Homelessness National Advisory Board.</p> <p>Short term – Further communications campaign to support recruitment and promote sector.</p>	Task and Finish Group to identify any resourcing aspects required for effective implementation.
---	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

A Task and Finish group was established in 2021 under the Ending Homelessness National Advisory Board to take forward this work. The Group agreed the following 5 themes of work. On completion, a set of recommendations will be made to the Ending Homelessness National Advisory Board and subsequently to Welsh Government.

1. Pay – An independent external research company has been commissioned to undertake a benchmarking exercise of pay within the homelessness and housing support sector and comparative roles outside the sector. This factfinding work is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2023 and will be submitted to the Workforce T&F for review. This will help inform recommendations to be made by the Task and Finish Group to the EHNAB by November 2023, and subsequently Welsh Government.

2. Support for staff - Work has been undertaken to scope current research to inform models of best practice which will form a set of recommendations to WG. This work is also aligned to exploratory discussions on the availability of a self-referral, mental health service for staff, including existing models in health and social care.

3. Staff qualifications and accreditation - Following feedback from homelessness front line workforce and managers a workstream has been established to scope a qualifications and accreditation framework for the homelessness sector. This work includes consideration of a qualification framework developed in England to be reviewed as part of developing final proposals.

4. Recruitment – Work is underway to scope a best practice toolkit to assist with current challenges related to recruitment and retention within the sector. With input from members of the Task and Finish Group, Welsh Government ran 2 phases of a homelessness and housing support recruitment campaign in July 2022 and February to March 2023. The campaign encouraged more people to apply for jobs in the sector, promoting it as a rewarding place to work. A job site was developed with Cymorth Cymru and there were 28,000 users on the website during the second phase of the campaign. Positive feedback from those using the site to recruit to vacancies was received. Feedback included an increase in the diversity of applicants, a significant increase in number of applicants and an increase in the quality of applicants. Campaign materials remain available for use by local authorities and providers to signpost to job vacancies advertised on the Cymorth Cymru jobs site.

5. Commissioning – Following progress with the workstreams outlined above, a workstream has been established to scope this work, which will include developing best practice commissioning guidance for local authorities.

In addition to the work of the Task and Finish Group, Welsh Government has co-produced a new [Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework \(EHOF\)](#) to provide a clear strategic direction for preventing and ending homelessness in Wales by identifying desired long-term outcomes and illustrate progress towards achieving these outcomes over time. One of the strategic areas of the framework is the homelessness and housing support Workforce. This strategic outcome reflects our commitment to develop a resilient and valued homelessness and housing support workforce recognized for their expertise. The framework is currently out to consultation. A new Welsh Government survey is being developed of the experiences of the homelessness and housing support workforce to measure progress in this outcome area.

6	<p>Adopt assertive outreach approaches across Wales</p> <p>Local authorities and homelessness prevention service providers to ensure outreach workers have capacity and capability to support move away from rough sleeping to appropriate accommodation at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>LAs</p> <p>LAs will lead on this action working with housing provider partners and those supporting housing services more generally.</p>	<p>Short to medium term</p>	<p>£166.7m Housing Support Grant provided in 2021/22, which can be used by LAs to pay for outreach services, and training for HSG funded staff.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> The Housing Support Grant has continued to be provided for this purpose, with £166.7m provided for 2023/24.</p>
---	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Outreach is a priority within local authority Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans. At the height of the pandemic, rough sleeping or street homelessness reduced considerably as part of the ‘no-one left out’ approach. Following the pandemic, unfortunately rough sleeping numbers have increased in some areas, although significantly lower levels than prior to the pandemic. Local authorities transition plans outline how they will continue to build on and develop further the relationships and prevention activities they implemented throughout the pandemic.

On 24th October 2022, the Welsh Government introduced the [Homelessness \(Priority Need and Intentionality\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2022](#),. The Welsh Government drafted additional [statutory guidance](#) to support local authorities with their implementation of this legislative change.

A [key principle](#) of Housing First is centred around assertive outreach and positive, proactive communication with those in need. Success of such activities can be seen in high levels of tenancy sustainment for those engaged in such schemes, (90% tenancy sustainment rate). The Welsh Government will continue to communicate these success stories with local authorities and look for opportunities to further embed Housing First related activities within Rapid Rehousing work.

7	<p>Strengthen Housing Support Services</p> <p>WG and local authorities to ensure that funding and commissioning frameworks ensure comprehensive tenancy sustainment services are in place, designed to respond proactively to issues, as they arise, that could lead to people becoming homeless.</p> <p>Services should not be limited to housing alone and will extend more widely, recognising the integrated nature of factors influencing homelessness. Effective responses will require a person-centred approach extending across a variety of sectors.</p>	<p>LAs</p> <p>LAs will lead on this work working with housing provider partners and those supporting housing services more generally.</p>	<p>Short term – funding to Housing Support Grant – increase by £40m to £166.7m in 2021/22. Review HSG guidance.</p> <p>Medium term – Revised guidance as required to strengthen support services.</p>	<p>£166.7m Housing Support Grant provided in 2021/22 to Local Authorities to plan and commission housing related support services, including services which support tenancy sustainment.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> The Housing Support Grant has continued to be provided for this purpose, with £166.7m provided for 2023/24.</p>
---	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

The Housing Support Grant (HSG) is provided to LAs to plan and commission housing related support services, including services which support tenancy sustainment, and services for individuals with more complex needs.

Despite the budgetary pressures, we have maintained the £40m increase to the Housing Support Grant budget awarded in 2021-22 so that it remains at £166.763m in 2023-24. However, we recognise the increasing challenges and demands on homelessness and housing support services across Wales, and the pressures on this budget, including increasing costs of running services as a result of inflationary pressures.

The [HSG Practice Guidance](#) promotes cross working with relevant sectors, and a person centred and multi-agency approach to be adopted to ensure a holistic service can be provided. The HSG Guidance criteria was updated January 2023 to allow for HSG to be used to:

- a) fund family mediation services for individuals under 16, the purpose of which is to allow the individual under 16 to remain within the family home, and
- b) where appropriate, 'leasing costs' of a building can be considered as part of the 10% "management charges" of a support project.

LAs are required to have in place a 4 year Housing Support Programme Strategy which should provide a single strategic view of the LA's approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services. As such, it would include both statutory homelessness functions funded through the revenue settlement and non-statutory preventative services funded through the HSG. This Strategy should also include their Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, which should set out the LAs plan to moving towards a Rapid Rehousing approach, with the HSG being the main revenue funding available to support delivery of this.

No.	Action	Delivery partners (national, regional or local)	Timetable (short (<1 year), medium (1-2 years) or long-term (>3 years)	Resource requirement / provided
Prevention				
8	<p>Ensure alignment with the ACEs Plan, Trauma-Informed Wales Framework and Tackling poverty policies</p> <p>WG to ensure that the workforce development of Welsh public services is designed to reduce poverty, including child poverty, promote financial security and independence and is aligned with homelessness prevention policy and practice</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> The Welsh Government will also ensure alignment with the Trauma-Informed Wales Framework that was published in July 2022.</p>	<p>WG (Housing Policy, Tackling poverty, Health and Social Care, SM/MH)</p> <p>WG will be the primary lead, engaging other partners in this work</p>	<p>Short Term – review resources and work underway in this area</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Medium Term – Implement an Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework to monitor whether services are ensuring support and advice teams are equipped to support people affected by adversity and trauma.</p>	<p>Review to assess current resources and identify gaps further investment required</p>

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Housing Support Grant guidance specifies that commissioned services must have a sustainable impact on the root causes of homelessness, such as the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) or other forms of adversity and trauma. Services should be commissioned and delivered using a psychologically informed approach that recognises and responds appropriately to the impact of trauma.

The Welsh Government has published a consultation on an Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework. The framework includes outcomes to ensure public services work effectively in a trauma informed way to end homelessness, and to ensure homelessness and housing support staff have the support, time and are skilled and confident, in delivering person centred trauma informed support.

We recognise that childhood adversity can result in trauma, which is why the introduction of the ACEs Plan in September 2023 will be aligned with the [Trauma-Informed Wales Framework](#), which was co-produced by ACE Hub Wales and Traumatic Stress Wales and published in July 2022. The framework and the promotion of trauma-informed approaches will be a cornerstone of future Welsh Government policy across a range of areas, including ending homelessness. The Welsh Government has made available over **£2.3m** of additional funding, over the 2022 to 2026 period, to support the framework's implementation.

Following the [2022 progress report](#) of the existing strategy, the Welsh Government is consulting on a [revised Child Poverty Strategy for Wales](#). The draft strategy contains a number of cross-government commitments on tackling child poverty. The consultation closes on 11 September 2023, once a final version is published, we will work to ensure alignment between the delivery of this Plan and delivery of the Child Poverty Strategy. This is likely to include ensuring support and advice teams are equipped to support families in getting advice on reducing costs, understanding their entitlements, and maximising their incomes.

9	<p>Improve early intervention and targeted prevention measures</p> <p>Local authorities to strengthen systems for identifying young people at risk of homelessness much earlier. Ensuring suitable support is put in place for those identified.</p> <p>WG will work to develop, revise or improve implementation of pathways with tailored support, appropriate interventions and housing solutions for groups at risk of harm (children at risk of adverse childhood experiences, people leaving prison, those fleeing VAWDASV, ethnic minority people, care experienced young people, disabled people, including those with mental health problems and those with learning disabilities, former members of the Armed Forces, refugees, etc.). This will lead to public services adopting a no discharge/release into homelessness policy. Measures should recognise the urgency of need and deliver support at pace whenever that is required.</p>	<p>WG (Housing Policy, Health, Education and Social Care, SM/MH), HMPPS/MoJ, LAs</p> <p>WG will lead on this and will rely on partner organisations with operational responsibility to deliver on this action.</p>	<p>Short to medium term – Young People: Integrated approach in WG Children and Young People’s Plan Refresh of YEPF to strengthen early identification of young people at risk Continued investment in Youth Homelessness Co-ordinators</p> <p>People leaving prison: Development and implementation of strategy with HMPPS, WLGA and WG</p> <p>Targeted prevention for other groups: Develop, revise or improve implementation of pathways with tailored support, appropriate interventions and housing solutions.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Explore where there are requirements or evidence for specific pathways of support to be developed.</p>	<p>£3.7m of the Homelessness Prevention Grant allocated to the Youth Support Grant to support early identification activity.</p> <p>£3.1m of the Homelessness Prevention Grant allocated to the Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund</p> <p>£762,977 of the Homelessness Prevention Grant allocated to the Accommodating those leaving prison programme</p>
---	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Our legislative reform work has involved engagement with a range of stakeholders in order to ensure that we capture the experiences and needs of diverse groups. This is helping to inform the development of legislative reform that includes both targeted prevention for specific groups and how homelessness and the experience of protected characteristics can intersect. We will continue this engagement throughout the forthcoming consultation period.

The Ending Homelessness Outcome Framework (EHOF) that is currently being developed and is out to public consultation, encompasses outcomes that sets the strategic direction, and allows for the measurement of outcomes of a person-centred, trauma-informed service. This includes the collection of data, to measure progress of the impact of services on specific and protected groups.

Specific targeted prevention work has focused on youth homelessness, including care experienced young people, and has also focused on those leaving the secure estate, and those with complex needs.

Youth Homelessness

A refresh of the [Youth Engagement and Progression Framework](#) has been undertaken, which now includes the prevention of youth homelessness. This was published in September 2022. Guidance on the early identification of those at-risk of homelessness pre-16 is being developed and will be published in Autumn 2023.

Welsh Government has provided a further £3.7m of funding to Youth Services in 2023-24 to support the early intervention and prevention of youth homelessness and also to continue the Youth Homelessness Coordinator role in each LA in Wales.

Refresh of the [Care leavers accommodation and support framework for Wales](#), to improve the transition from care into independent living, was published in May 2023.

Over 20 projects providing new and innovative housing and support approaches to young people are operational across Wales as a result of our investment of over £3.1m in the Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund. The youth homelessness innovation fund projects are specific to vulnerable young people aged 16-25 at risk of becoming homeless or currently homeless including but not limited to, care leavers, disabled young people and those who have previously been in the youth justice system.

Examples of these projects include supported accommodation, supported lodgings, training flats, tenancy support, a shared accommodation scheme, a transition support scheme and an LGBTQ+ supported housing scheme. There are also 4 Housing First for Youth projects, running across 5 local authorities as part of the fund.

People leaving prison

Welsh Government continues to work with His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) and Prison Link Cymru (PLC) to review and refresh the prisoner pathway, to ensure services are brought together to work with individuals at the earliest opportunity, to prevent people leaving the secure estate into homelessness. Work is also underway, to review where additional flexibility can be built into Ministry of Justice Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (MoJ CAS3) funding models, so that the process aligns more closely with the Welsh Government's ambition of Rapid Rehousing and away from temporary short-term accommodation stays.

Complex Needs

Following the successful implementation of Complex Needs Funding in four Area Planning Board (APB) areas in 2020-23, Welsh Government doubled the funding to £2m and to cover all seven APBs. This has been further increased in 2023-24 to £3.5m and will increase by a further £1m next year.

Complex Needs Funding is provided to APBs to improve services to people who are experiencing homelessness or housing issues and the proposals need to be developed in close partnership with both relevant health board mental health and local authority housing teams.

The funding is supporting a range of relevant services including additional outreach staff. The Welsh Government will continue to review and monitor the impact of this funding to promote best practice.

10	<p>Review and reform family mediation provision to ensure effective and consistent provision across Wales</p> <p>WG will undertake a review of family mediation services with the aim of developing an approach to ensure effective and consistent provision across Wales to assist families at an earlier stage.</p>	<p>WG</p> <p>WG will be the primary lead, engaging other partners in this work as part of the review process.</p>	<p>Short term – Transfer funding for family mediation services into Housing Support Grant and develop supplementary guidance</p> <p>Medium term – Review provision across Wales</p>	<p>£373,000 funding for family mediation currently within the Homelessness Prevention Grant</p>
----	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

From 2022-23, funding for thirty Homelessness Prevention Grant funded projects transferred to the Housing Support grant for a transitional period of two years (by end 2023-24). Of these, just under half focus on family mediation and conflict resolution, totalling £586k.

During the transition period, local authorities are engaging closely with project providers to better understand the service provision and how it aligns with LA priorities, as informed by needs assessments and set out in its Housing Support programme Strategies, and with other services the LA commissions using the Housing Support Grant. This engagement activity will inform LA decisions as to if and how they will continue funding these projects from 2024-25. Welsh Government is continuing to engage with LAs and providers during the first half of 2023-24 to understand the emerging thinking and implications on services.

This will also inform plans to develop Housing Support Grant supplementary guidance on mediation services and good practice.

11	<p>Improving practice and provision of services for people with mental health and/or neurodevelopmental issues</p> <p>We will continue to support our key actions within the mental health delivery plan to enable tailored mental health support for individuals to manage tenancies independently, and support the trial of new approaches to working in partnership to support rough sleepers and people who are homeless or who are at risk of homeless.</p> <p>We will identify and map, through a programme of research, the spectrum of individuals and the differing needs of people who are experiencing homelessness. This will include developing a better insight into the differing groups of people (for example those using stimulants, depressants or opioids) and their mental health and substance misuse needs, as well as those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. We will use this information to strengthen pathways</p>	WG, Health Boards, Local authorities and Third sector	Short Term – Establish Health and Housing Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders under National Advisory Board to support development and implementation	Task and Finish Group to assist in establishing any resource implications
----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------

	to services that will help prevent or address homelessness.			
--	-------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	--

PROGRESS UPDATE:

A National Strategic Health Inclusion Group was established in early 2023 to develop and deliver an annual programme of work to support strategic coordination around public health and health care service provision, including primary care. 'Inclusion health' is a term developed to address the health and care needs of people who are traditionally excluded, including people experiencing homelessness. The work of the group, which includes representatives from Health Boards in Wales, Primary Care and senior Welsh Government Health and Housing Officials, will be to improve practice and provision to reduce inequalities and improve health outcomes for inclusion health populations in Wales including people experiencing homelessness, and feeds directly into the Ending Homeless National Advisory Board. This work will align with the development of the new Mental Health Strategy for Wales, which will include a focus on equality and equity of access to services.

End Youth Homelessness Cymru (EYHC), supported by co-ordination funding from Welsh Government, plan to publish a report on the link between neurodiversity and youth homelessness in September 2023. Engagement sessions have been held with Youth Homelessness Coordinators in local authorities, with a view to raising awareness and supporting the development of inclusive services.

12	<p>Improve practice and provision of services for people with substance misuse issues including those with co-occurring mental health issues</p> <p>Although many people who experience homelessness or at risk of homelessness will not have substance misuse or mental health problems, homelessness may lead to pressures that make sustaining a tenancy difficult.</p> <p>We will continue to support our key actions within both the substance misuse and mental health delivery plans to support the homeless. This will include learning from the £1m in Complex Needs we have provided to four pilots in Wales specifically supporting this work. Further development will be led through our Deep Dive group supporting improvements in provision for those experiencing co-occurring substance misuse and mental health.</p>	WG, Area Planning Boards, Health Boards, Local authorities and Third sector	Short Term – Establish Health and Housing Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders under National Advisory Board to support development and implementation	<p>£166.7m Housing Support Grant provided in 2021/22, which can be used by LAs to ensure sufficient wrap-around support in place to support those with complex needs to maintain tenancies.</p> <p>The Welsh Government invests over £67m annually in substance misuse services. Providing support and treatment for people who experience homelessness is a priority within both substance misuse and mental health delivery plans.</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> Welsh Government has increased its Complex Needs funding to £3.5m in 2023-24 and this is planned to further increase by £1m in 2024-25. This funding is specifically supporting the development of services and interventions for substance misuse and</p>
----	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

				mental health, working in partnership with local authority homelessness teams.
<p>PROGRESS UPDATE:</p> <p>Following the successful implementation of Complex Needs Funding in four Area Planning Board (APB) areas in 2020-23 the Welsh Government doubled the funding to £2m and to cover all seven APBs. This has been further increased in 2023-24 to £3.5m and will increase by a further £1m next year.</p> <p>Complex Needs Funding is provided to APBs to improve services to people who are experiencing homelessness or housing issues and the proposals need to be developed in close partnership with both relevant health board mental health and local authority housing teams.</p> <p>The funding is supporting a range of relevant services including additional outreach staff. The Welsh Government will continue to review and monitor the impact of this funding to promote best practice.</p>				

No.	Action	Delivery partners (national, regional or local)	Timetable (short (<1 year), medium (1-2 years) or long-term (>3 years)	Resource requirement / provided
Overarching supporting actions				
13	<p>Develop new Homelessness Outcomes Framework</p> <p>The homelessness outcomes within the framework will be designed so that other policy frameworks are integrated and contributing actively to their achievement.</p>	<p>WG, LAs, RSLs, Third Sector housing partners</p> <p>WG will be the primary lead, engaging other partners in this work</p>	<p>Short to medium term</p> <p>Policy development - Now to May 2022</p> <p>Informal Stakeholder Engagement – Now to May 2022</p> <p>Formal consultation – June 2022</p> <p>Launch - End 2022</p> <p>Evaluation - Six months after launch</p> <p>2023 Update: Due to the extensive engagement and collaboration undertaken with key stakeholders, final development and consultation of the Outcomes Framework has been undertaken over a longer period. The Consultation launched on 12 June 2023.</p>	<p>The work will be delivered through a Task and Finish Group of the Housing Support National Advisory Board, policy officials and officers within relevant organisations.</p> <p>Resource implications on contributory organisations will be considered during development phase.</p> <p>Engagement and communications resource will be required once the Framework is developed.</p> <p>Evaluation resource will be required once the Framework is operational.</p>

			<p>Short term – Publish final Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework in winter 2023.</p> <p>Medium/long term – following implementation in early 2024 with publication of a ‘baseline’ report, annual updates will be reported.</p>	
--	--	--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

PROGRESS UPDATE:

The Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework (EHOF) Strategic Task & Finish Group worked collaboratively to co-produce the EHOF during 2022.

Formal consultation launched on 12 June 2023 and will run until 18 September. Welsh Government is running virtual engagement events during the consultation period to guide and support respondents through the more complex and technical detail of the framework.

Subject to the consultation responses, which will be considered in detail to shape the Framework, we aim to publish the final Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework in Winter 2023.

We propose to implement the EHOF from early 2024 through publication of a ‘baseline’ report.

Beyond that point, we intend to publish an update against the ‘baseline’ report annually to measure progress towards achieving the detailed outcomes.

14	<p>Review and revise data collection to support new outcomes framework</p> <p>WG will evaluate existing data collection arrangements and requirements, both statutory and non-statutory across homelessness and housing support to ensure they clearly and accurately illustrate progress towards ending homelessness and support the new outcomes framework</p>	<p>WG, LAs, RSLs and housing delivery partners</p> <p>WG will be the primary lead, engaging other partners in this work.</p>	<p>Short term – work to commence.</p> <p>Medium term – any new statutory data collection to align with legislative reform.</p>	<p>Resource implications will be considered and an equality impact assessment undertaken as part of the development of any new or changed statutory data requirement.</p>
----	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

As part of developing a new Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework (EHOF) during 2022, Welsh Government has worked with the Strategic Task & Finish group to identify a range of proposed ‘data indicators’ to measure progress against the outcomes identified in the EHOF. Welsh Government have worked iteratively to refine these data indicators – which comprise existing data currently collected, as well as new data indicators to be collected in near future, or others that require further work to develop.

As a result, statutory data tables that were paused due to the pandemic will be reinstated during 2023-24, for publication in summer 2024. In addition, a 6 monthly publication of two statutory tables will help obtain more timely data on key areas. The first of the 6 monthly publications will be released around Autumn/Winter time 2023.

The *homelessness accommodation provision and rough sleeping* monthly management data (MMI) will be published at a more-detailed level in the coming months, with further data breakdowns being considered for the near future. Work has also commenced on further insight into the rough sleeping element of the data collection, with the intention that new definitions that align with the Ending Homelessness Outcomes Framework data indicators can be included and published once the consultation period closes.

15	<p>Establish a communications programme to reduce stigma and increase understanding of the causes and solutions to homelessness</p> <p>WG to establish an ongoing communications programme aligned to the Outcomes Framework and aimed at reframing perceptions on a universal basis about homelessness and supporting delivery of the policy approach. The programme should have a national focus, but be suitable for adaptation to specific regional issues / audiences, including young people, where possible as part of elements of learning and education, as well as wider communications for adults. We will ensure the communications programme is accessible to those with all access requirements.</p>	<p>WG, LAs, RSLs and housing delivery partners</p> <p>WG will be the primary lead, engaging other partners in this work.</p>	<p>Short term – new WG communications campaign to be commissioned in Autumn 21.</p> <p>Medium term – communications programme established</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> The Communications programme will be extended to promote and embed a Rapid Rehousing approach to homelessness.</p>	<p>Welsh Government has allocated £250,000 of the Homelessness Prevention Budget in 2020/21 to support this work.</p> <p>This work will be delivered initially through policy officials and officers within relevant organisations, but also include specialist communications experts. A critical element of the work will require the input of people who have had experience of homelessness.</p>
----	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Welsh Government ran a campaign from March to May 2022 highlighting that there are many paths to homelessness and encouraged people who are at risk of becoming homeless to get help early. The campaign signposted people to Shelter Cymru's independent advice service to get support.

Two phases of a homelessness and housing support recruitment campaign ran in July 2022 and February to March 2023. The campaign encouraged more people to apply for jobs in the sector, promoting it as a rewarding place to work.

The Rapid Rehousing Task & Finish Group will continue to develop and deliver a communications campaign that aligns with reducing stigma and changing perceptions as to 'who' and 'how' people can experience homelessness.

16	<p>Empower people with lived experience to influence policy and practice</p> <p>WG to provide opportunities for people with lived experience to influence policy at National Advisory Board and through partners</p> <p>LAs, RSLs and third sector to develop mechanisms to involve people with lived experience in design, recruitment, delivery and evaluation of services.</p>	WG, LAs, RSLs, Third Sector	<p>Short to medium term</p> <p><u>2023 Update:</u> People with a lived experience of homelessness are a fundamental part of our work to develop the proposals for legislative reform.</p>	Resources will be provided through administrative budgets of respective partners.
----	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

PROGRESS UPDATE:

Those with lived experience of homelessness are crucial to the development of legislation. As part of Cymorth Cymru’s Experts by Experience work and through work with Tai Pawb we have engaged over 350 people with lived experience of homelessness in the design of the reforms so far.

In 2023/24, the Welsh Government is providing £237,000 to support Tai Pawb to capture the views of people with lived experience to inform and influence policy development. A report on [Research with diverse experts](#) by experience for Homelessness Expert Panel finalised and presented to Welsh Government in March 2023. A first meeting of the EDI subgroup was convened and chaired by Tai Pawb in May.

Housing First projects in place across Wales rely on customer and client satisfaction to measure their successes, and shape future policy developments. They continue to use case-studies of those with real lived-experience to demonstrate the success of the scheme and raise awareness of Housing First as a solution for those with multiple or complex needs. Individuals who have come through the scheme, sit on recruitment panels and work with case-workers to inform the future delivery and prioritisation of activities within the projects. The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring the voice of the service user not only contributes to the development of services, policy and the development of legislation.

