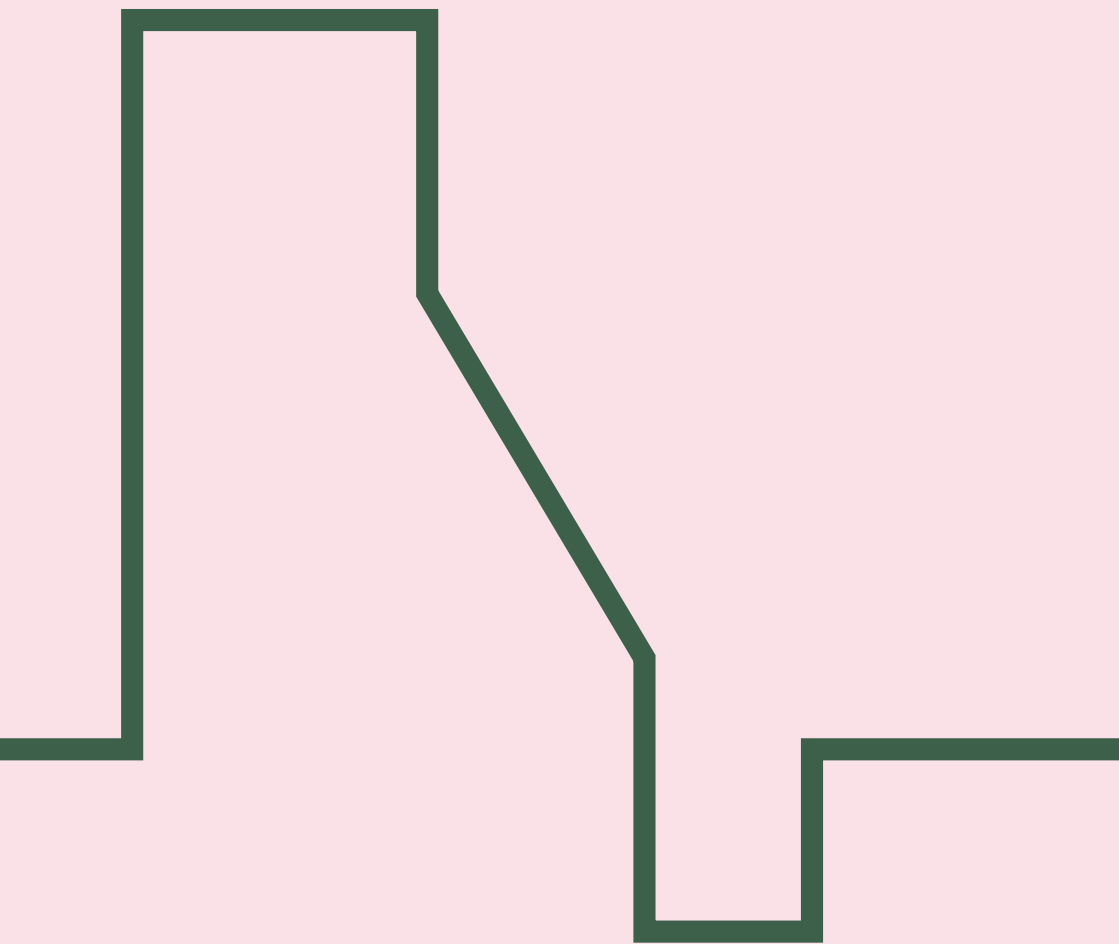


local action plan



homewards newport

Contents

Introduction	04
Executive summary	
Section 1	20
Supporting women experiencing multiple disadvantages	
Section 2	28
Supporting families at risk of, and experiencing, homelessness and poverty	
Section 3	36
Encouraging services to focus on prevention as early as possible	
Section 4	42
Providing holistic, trauma-informed support	
Section 5	50
Strengthening access to employment	
Section 6	54
Making more affordable homes available	
Contact Information	62

Executive summary



Homewards is...

A five-year, locally led programme, launched by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales in June 2023.

The aim of Homewards is...

To demonstrate that together, it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief, and unrepeated.

Homewards was inspired by...

Successful projects from across the UK and around the world, all of which had one mission: to prevent and end homelessness.

They brought together all sectors of society and started with a focus on specific groups – to understand the help that is needed. And they showed clearly: it can be done.

The Royal Foundation has selected six flagship locations across the UK...

Working with them to form Coalitions of committed organisations and people from their public, private and voluntary sectors all committed to the shared mission of demonstrating it is possible to end homelessness:

- Aberdeen
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Lambeth
- Newport
- Northern Ireland
- Sheffield

Each local Coalition has created their own Local Action Plan...

Detailing the support that will be given to groups of people who are experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness in that area – for example women, young people and single-parent families.

Each Local Action Plan will also set out where new groundwork will need to be laid to prevent homelessness. Encompassing a wide range of solutions – from housing to data to employment – the aim of the Local Action Plans is to make the prevention of homelessness ‘business as usual’.

Through the Homewards Partnership, an unprecedented network of individuals and organisations, including top experts, and leading homelessness organisations, brought together by The Royal Foundation, have supported the Coalitions to develop the Local Action Plans. The Homewards Partnership will continue to support the organisations in the locations to deliver the Local Action Plans, galvanising national and international momentum.

Each Local Action Plan will be reviewed every six months...

To reflect on progress and capture new opportunities, activities in the Local Action Plans vary from testing new pilots that could be scaled, to fundamentally changing how people in their location work together to prevent homelessness.

These are ambitious plans and we may find some elements need to be adjusted or updated as time goes on. Work may get completed and new ambitions set, or conditions beyond the Coalitions' control might change which fundamentally impact delivery of some activity. These plans are therefore agile documents, growing with our Coalitions to ensure they remain focused on working to deliver tangible change and maximum impact towards the shared mission of demonstrating it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief and unrepeatable.

‘By demonstrating what is working to prevent homelessness with these groups and across these key areas, Homewards will demonstrate it is possible to end homelessness, together.’

Homewards
National Expert Panel

The Royal Foundation will support each of our six flagship locations with...

Additional Capacity

Homewards has provided each flagship location with a Local Delivery Lead, alongside project management and administrative support, to help drive the work forward and help the location to reach its goals.

Seed Funding

We have set up the Homewards Fund, which provides up to £500,000 in seed funding to support the delivery of each Local Action Plan.

Expertise

Homewards has convened the Homewards Partnership, which includes national businesses, global experts, leading sector organisations and many more. Their support includes hosting webinars that our Coalitions can join, to hear about best practice and get support.

Changing the Narrative

Homewards will be leading on national campaigns, communications moments, and events to help drive conversation that will improve understanding of homelessness, encourage empathy towards those who experience it, and inspire optimism it can be ended. We will also set up local working groups to replicate this work in the locations, with the aim to deliver campaigns that will shine a light on the work being carried out – and which will engage the community through events and activities.

Evaluation and Learning

Homewards is working with a research partner to help to share what is working, and to evaluate success. We will encourage peer to peer learning across our locations as well as prepare annual programme evaluation reports to show the impact of our Local Action Plans and a small number of thematic learning papers each year on key topics, to show what is working and help inspire other areas of the UK and beyond.

Homes

Homewards is working with leading organisations in the sector, to help our flagship locations understand the types of homes they need – and to bring together the people and organisations that can deliver them.

Funding and Finance

Using the convening power and platform of The Royal Foundation, Homewards will help the flagship locations to secure new sources of funding and investment.

Employment

Regular work is an important way to prevent homelessness, Homewards will again deploy the convening power and platform of The Royal Foundation. Bringing together employers at both local and national level, we will unlock new or improved pathways to employment and training opportunities.

Data

Homewards will convene experts; to help the flagship locations improve the way they use the data that is stored, with partners across the locations. Bringing together that different information will help the Coalitions to understand who is at risk of homelessness and when – and to understand what services are proving the most effective.

Early Intervention

Homewards is focused on prevention. To help the flagship locations pivot their approach to this, we will support them to test and deliver ideas that help people at the earliest point possible. Homewards will then look to show how other locations can deploy the approaches that are successful.

All the flagship locations have identified these as the areas where The Royal Foundation through Homewards can give the most valuable support, to help the Coalitions demonstrate that it is possible to end homelessness. The Royal Foundation is committed to this support and will continue to evaluate how we can best help our flagship locations throughout the programme.



How has The Royal Foundation supported our six locations so far

The Royal Foundation has helped to leverage a number of significant commitments from local and national partners to support our six locations. These include:

Creating more job opportunities for people with lived experience or at risk of homelessness

In September 2023, Pret A Manger committed - through Homewards - to expand their long-standing Rising Stars programme, which helps break the cycle of homelessness by providing support, training, and employment. Over the next five years it will support at least 500 people experiencing or at risk of homelessness into jobs at Pret's UK shops, including in Homewards locations where Pret has a presence.

Helping to prevent family homelessness with private landlords

In March 2024, local Sheffield landlords pledged to support Homewards with a commitment to providing an initial thirty-three homes to house families at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in the city. They are working with Homewards to develop a package of support for both tenants and landlords to help to improve tenancy sustainment.

Recognising the tireless work of the homelessness workforce

Blue Light Card, the nation's leading discount provider for the emergency services, NHS, social care sector and armed forces, have extended its membership to include the homelessness workforce. The commitment supports an estimated 60,000 people in the UK homelessness workforce, which includes housing officers, night shelter managers, outreach workers and many more and gives them discounts to groceries, entertainment, and utilities. This partnership helps to raise awareness of the work that the workforce does and the essential role they play in supporting the social care sector.

‘Homewards has the right approach. They have brought a range of new players to the table, to focus minds on what it takes to prevent homelessness from happening in the first place.

It has been exciting, and unprecedented, to see these six coalitions come together to focus on delivering on that goal.’

Matt Downie, CEO, Crisis

Homewards in Newport: Executive Summary

Each of the Coalitions in the six Homewards flagship locations have created a Local Action Plan. This plan will be reviewed every six months and will adapt and change according to the needs of the locations.

For Homewards Newport,
we have set out:

1. The initial groups of people that the local Coalition will support
2. The actions to be taken by organisations in the local Coalition over the next 12 months and beyond
3. How we will know what has been successful / Our success indicators

This Local Action Plan is the beginning of a long road of work for Newport – but signals a new approach, with prevention and collaboration at its heart. The number of people experiencing homelessness in Newport may take years to decrease, while the Coalition's action takes effect.

These are ambitious plans and we may find some elements need to be adjusted or updated as time goes on. Work may get completed and new ambitions set, or conditions beyond the Coalitions' control might change which fundamentally impact delivery of some activity. These plans are therefore agile documents,

growing with our Coalitions to ensure they remain focused on working to deliver tangible change and maximum impact towards the shared mission of demonstrating it is possible to end homelessness – making it rare, brief and unrepeated.

The local Coalition will measure success in several ways – as set out in more detail in the following pages – to ensure we know what is working.

**‘A focus on prevention,
backed by the new
partners Homewards
has brought to the table,
will put these locations
on a path to ending
homelessness.’**

Professor Peter Mackie
Cardiff University

Groups where Homewards can help the most

In Newport, the cost of living, high rents, and lack of homes that people can afford means the number of people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness is continuing to rise. Groups the Coalition have identified as most in need of support include families, with greater numbers currently staying in temporary accommodation, and women facing multiple disadvantages.

Actions to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond

There is already lots of work taking place in the local area to support people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

Homewards is focused on adding value to this existing activity. The Homewards Newport Coalition recognises that there is a real opportunity to improve collaboration, and to focus on preventing homelessness. This can potentially make a real difference and a wider impact across Newport.

Homewards Newport plans to lay new groundwork – and make a lasting impact – in six specific ways:

1. Supporting women experiencing multiple disadvantages
2. Supporting families at risk of, and experiencing, homelessness and poverty
3. Encouraging services to focus on prevention as early as possible
4. Providing holistic, trauma-informed support
5. Strengthening access to employment
6. Making more affordable homes available

More detail on each of these areas is set out in the following pages.

How we will know what has been successful / our success indicators

The Newport Coalition has set the following indicators of success (to be assessed at yearly intervals):

- We will have brought together new and existing partners to create sustainable ways of working, which in turn have helped to (1) make more homes available; (2) create more jobs for those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness; and (3) ensure that those at risk of homelessness got the preventative support they needed at the right time.
- We will have delivered successful projects, or tested innovative approaches, that prevented people from experiencing homelessness.
- We will have built local understanding around homelessness and encouraged empathy towards those locally who are experiencing homelessness, through local campaigns and putting lived experience at the heart of everything we do.
- By sharing what works, we will also have generated optimism that homelessness can be ended, which will be evident through greater community engagement and improved local public perceptions.
- We will have laid the groundwork needed to grow these successful projects across Newport, so that they can help more people (specifically other groups who are at a higher risk of homelessness).

Against each of the Action Plan sections in the following pages, the Homewards Newport Coalition has identified specific signs of success, which will tell us that our activities are leading to change.



1.

Supporting women experiencing multiple disadvantages

Local context

Women experiencing multiple disadvantages, which can include domestic violence, substance use and poverty, have been identified as a priority group in Newport. Their experiences are often different to men, and they experience unique challenges and barriers, including the impact of complex trauma.

Although the number of women reportedly experiencing homelessness is low in comparison to men, the actual number is likely to be a lot higher. This is because women do not tend to be as visible in how they experience homelessness. They are less likely to rough sleep as they may feel unsafe, and instead may (for example) look to sofa surf, or to sleep on public transport.

‘There are many factors that contribute to women facing homelessness, we believe that if someone is experiencing domestic and or sexual violence, to leave that abuse, puts them at risk of experiencing homelessness, and that could happen at any point, we also know that women are less visibly homeless.’

Jo Parry,
Director of Support Services,
Cyfannol Women’s Aid

Homelessness makes women susceptible to exploitation, and they may be involved in street sex work and other dangerous activity whilst under the control of an abuser. Newport City Council data reports 26 women have been seen rough sleeping in 2023-24 – but this is likely an underestimate, as 83 women were seen by sexual exploitation services in Newport over the same period, of whom 82 were experiencing some form of homelessness.

Sadly, this also means that we tend to know a lot less about why women are pushed into homelessness, or what specific help they need.

This provides Homewards Newport a unique opportunity to come together to find new approaches that can support women, hopefully inspiring and sharing learnings with other locations across the UK and beyond. Homewards Newport Coalition aims to focus on getting a better understanding of what help local women need by working with them directly, gauging what services are currently available, and building on this to ensure that any gaps are filled through the right training and support.

Homewards Newport will use data and research to create a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Newport. A JSNA looks at the current and future health and care needs of local populations, to inform and guide the planning and commissioning of health, wellbeing, and social care services within a local authority area.

By recognising the unique challenges faced by women, Homewards Newport can support integrated commissioning that designs targeted interventions to prioritise their needs. Collaborative efforts across the stakeholders will involve women with lived experience of homelessness in the design, delivery, and evaluation of services, to ensure that those services meet their real needs.

This approach is essential to creating supportive environments that empower women to regain stability and independence.

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

1.1 Early intervention workers

Homewards Newport will trial an early intervention worker within Cyfannol for six months. They will be funded by Cyfannol and NHS Health and will focus on prevention support rather than crisis management. The worker will support women at risk of domestic abuse and sexual violence. After six months, the post will be reviewed to understand its impact and whether it should be continued.

Who is leading this work? Cyfannol Women's Aid

1.2 Women's Homelessness Census

Drawing on learnings from Solace Women's Aid's Rough Sleeping Census (an innovative project that collects data to reflect the different ways in which women experience homelessness), Homewards Newport will develop and pilot a Women's Homelessness Census across Newport.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

1.3 Changing perceptions

Homewards Newport will work with local organisations to change perceptions of women who are experiencing homelessness. This includes working with a local photographer on expanding their "Women of Newport" photography exhibition, to include women with lived experience of homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

1.4 Overnight 'safe space' for women

Homewards Newport will explore and develop options for an overnight "safe space" provision for women, with the aim of confirming the location and the partners to support it.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

1.5 Women's refuges

Homewards Newport will work with local and national partners across different sectors, including the Welsh Government, to explore opportunities to improve access to and delivery of women's refuges.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

1.6 Women from minority groups

Bawso and University of South Wales have secured funding to undertake research around women from minority groups and their access to support services. Homewards Newport will work with these partners to use the outputs from this research to inform the future development of support services for women.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

1.7 Anonymised data gathering

Homewards Newport will work with local services and partners to bring together anonymised data on those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness. The data will show how these people are supported by health, social services, housing, police and the third sector in the local area.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

1.8 Lived experience working groups

Homewards Newport will work with local organisations – including charities, faith groups and drop-in services – to encourage women who have experienced (or are experiencing) homelessness locally to attend or contribute to working groups to help develop Homewards Newport.

Who is leading this work? Women's Working Group

Key partners

→ Cyfannol
→ Llamau
→ Nelson Trust
→ Newport City Council, Housing Services
→ NHS Wales
→ Pobl
→ Welsh Women's Aid

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

-
- 1.1 Early intervention worker
 - 1.2 Women's Homelessness Census
 - 1.4 Overnight 'safe space' for women
 - 1.5 Women's refuges
 - 1.7 Anonymised data gathering

New evidence about the needs of women experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness is used to improve co-ordination of health, wellbeing, and social care services.

-
- 1.3 Changing perceptions
 - 1.8 Lived experience working groups

Decisions about how to prevent homelessness in Newport are taken in partnership with people who have experienced homelessness.

-
- 1.6 Women from minority groups
- New partnerships and ways of working established that specifically support diverse communities.**



2. Supporting families at risk of, and experiencing, homelessness and poverty

31

Newport
households presented
as homeless each month

Family homelessness is on the rise in Newport. In 2023/24, 31 households presented as homeless each month in Newport, which is a significant number for a city of 159,600 residents. There are also many other families at risk of homelessness, which could escalate if support is not given.

A positive start in life is crucial to breaking the inter-generational cycle of homelessness, with experiences in your early years directly linked to experiencing homelessness again throughout your life. By addressing family homelessness, Homewards Newport can help break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, ensuring that the next generation has a better chance at a stable future. A focus on prevention can also reduce the likelihood of future reliance on public services, welfare, and homelessness support.

Homewards Newport will build on the Welsh Government's existing work, which places a strong emphasis on preventing homelessness and supporting families through policies such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Ending Homelessness in Wales white paper.

‘The Homewards Newport Families working group’s vision is that no child is harmed from homelessness, and we would really like spaces such as the Hive to positively support and help people. That is an offer we can take to other locations, whereby a community space can offer that safe space for families.’

Samantha Howells, Area
Regeneration Manager, Pobl

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

2.1 Resources for schools

Homewards Newport will develop resources for schools to improve training and awareness of how to support families at risk of homelessness. These resources will draw on learning from the prevention work being piloted in a local school and will be developed with the support of partners including Shelter and Newport City Council.

Who is leading this work? Families Working Group

2.2 Wellbeing app

Homewards Newport has been working with IWN, Gwent Public health team to build out the “Your Newport, Your Wellbeing” app to also include family services that are available within the community. This will provide families with the opportunity to get help earlier, because they are more aware of those services, rather than waiting for crisis point.

Who is leading this work? Families Working Group

2.3 Support for families in temporary accommodation

Over the last six months, the Homewards Newport Families Working Group has provided additional support for families living in temporary accommodation. This has so far included two services opening in the evenings to provide space, support, and access to cooking facilities. It has also provided laundry vouchers and helped

make hotels more suitable for families staying there to mitigate potential long-term harm. Homewards Newport will continue to build on this offer so that no family experiences isolation or cannot access basic needs. This will include seeking funding for a volunteer coordinator to support those currently in temporary accommodation with permanent accommodation, and to ensure that they do not experience homelessness again.

Who is leading this work? Families Working Group

2.4 Lived experience working groups

Homewards Newport will work with local organisations – including charities, faith groups and drop-in services – to encourage families who have experienced, or are experiencing, homelessness locally to attend or contribute to working groups to help develop Homewards Newport.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation’s Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Newport

2.5 Multi-agency prevention

Homewards Newport will bring together a cross-sector group of organisations to develop a multi-agency prevention approach, based on learning from previous cases, which will improve the way organisations work together to support families with complex needs.

Who is leading this work? Senior Delivery Group

Key partners

- Barnardo’s
- Newport Cathedral and Churches
- Newport City Council, Education Services
- Newport City Council, Housing Services
- NHS Wales
- Pobl
- Shelter



Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

- 2.1 Resources for schools
- 2.2 Wellbeing app
- 2.3 Support for families in temporary accommodation
- 2.5 Multi-agency prevention

Homewards Newport will enable a coordinated response focused on homelessness prevention by developing (1) materials and training for schools on homelessness prevention; (2) a public-facing directory of family services; (3) support for families in temporary accommodation and (4) a multi-agency approach to homelessness prevention.

- 2.4 Lived experience working groups
- Decisions about how to prevent homelessness in Newport are taken in partnership with people who have experienced homelessness



3.

Encouraging services to focus on prevention as early as possible

Local context

In Newport, like much of the UK, efforts to tackle homelessness are concentrated on supporting and managing the crisis of homelessness.



By focusing more on prevention across all areas, we can ensure that we are focused on addressing the root causes (or risk factors) before they manifest as health issues, social problems, or homelessness. This is called 'upstream' prevention because it aims to intervene early in the chain of events, rather than addressing the consequences after they have occurred.

Homewards Newport is laying the groundwork for more upstream prevention activity. Work will include supporting new data infrastructure needed to spot people at risk of homelessness at much earlier times in their lives and piloting early interventions for young people at risk of homelessness.

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

3.1 Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL)

Homewards Newport will pilot SAIL (Secure Anonymised Information Linkage), a data bank that can be used to identify people who are most in need of support and help them earlier than at the point of crisis.

Who is leading this work?

University of South Wales and Newport City Council

3.2 Intervention in schools

Homewards Newport will support schools to intervene where needed. We will look to pilot a universal prevention offer, initially in one school. Staff will be trained to spot early warning signs that a child is at risk of homelessness and to identify families at risk of eviction or housing instability. Then, the schools will intervene by working with early support services. Homewards Newport will review whether this has helped children and families to prevent or reduce homelessness, before deciding whether to roll it out to other schools.

Who is leading this work? Prevention Leads from Homewards Newport

3.3 Corporate Parenting Strategy

Homewards Newport will support the development and implementation of a new “Corporate Parenting Strategy” – a strategy which sets out how all agencies that support care-experienced young people work together to improve experiences of children in the care system. Homewards Newport will work with partners to set up working groups to ensure that key priorities of the strategy are implemented, and that no child leaves the care system without a safe and secure home of their own.

Who is leading this work? Newport City Council and Fostered Futures

Key partners

- Barnardo's
- Llamau
- Newport City Council, Education Services
- Newport City Council, Fostered Futures
- Newport City Council, Social Services
- Pobl
- University South Wales

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

3.1 Secure Anonymised Information Linkage (SAIL)

Approach to using data to prevent homelessness developed and tested in Newport.

3.2 Intervention in schools

Projects to prevent homelessness, delivered in schools, tested in Newport. For successful projects, Homewards Newport identifies what is needed to roll out further.

3.3 Corporate Parenting Strategy

Homewards Newport will enable a coordinated response focused on homelessness prevention, by working with partners to ensure no child leaves the care system without a safe and secure home.

4.

Providing holistic, trauma-informed support

Local context

Working with people who have experienced trauma requires specialist training. Without the right training, support services can have the opposite of the intended impact – and cause the person with trauma to go backwards in their recovery, and/or negatively impact the staff delivering the services too.

The Coalition is already making great progress.

Homewards Newport's Coalition intends to convene local partners to ensure services for people at risk of homelessness are coordinated, trauma-informed, and inclusive.

The Coalition is already making great progress. To date, 125 frontline staff and managers have attended training to ensure this work is embedded into their day-to-day roles.

However, the Coalition is aware that this is just the first step. More system support is needed to ensure (1) that services respond appropriately to the trauma that people have experienced, and (2) that frontline staff are receiving the support they need. This priority also recognises that the voice of those who have experienced homelessness is essential in the design of these services, and that services must adapt to meet the needs of those for whom they exist.



What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

4.1 Review of current practices

Homewards Newport will encourage all organisations working with people who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in Newport to sign up to a trauma-informed self-assessment. It will review current practices, identify areas for improvement and highlight where additional support is needed.

Who is leading this work?

Boost Gwent and Homewards Newport

4.2 Trauma-informed training

Homewards Newport will offer additional training and support to all staff in homelessness services (including managers) to help them to become trauma informed.

Who is leading this work? Trauma Informed Forum

4.3 Translation services

Homewards Newport will trial translation devices to improve access to services for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Who is leading this work? Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

4.4 Lived experience working groups

Homewards Newport will develop a support framework and a process to enable and encourage people with experience of homelessness to engage in working groups.

Who is leading this work? Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

4.5 EDI outreach

Homewards Newport will proactively seek to include organisations that work with diverse communities, to ensure that all its work represents and meets the needs of all residents of Newport.

Who is leading this work?

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

4.6 EDI training

Homewards Newport will make EDI (equity, diversity, and inclusion) training available for all staff, volunteers, and leadership across different sectors in Newport. Topics will include anti-racism, cultural competence, and understanding the unique needs of vulnerable populations.

Who is leading this work? Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

4.7 Community outreach & events

Homewards Newport will engage in local community and business events to share key messages and stories of people experiencing homelessness. The aim is to change perceptions, build understanding, and reframe narratives.

Who is leading this work? Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

4.8 Breaking down barriers to access

Homewards Newport will conduct a needs assessment to identify the unique barriers different populations face in accessing services (for example cultural, linguistic, physical, or systemic) in Newport. We will also ensure that processes are in place for data to be analysed and shared, so that any disparities between different populations can be understood and improved.

Who is leading this work? Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

4.9 Improving demographic data

Homewards Newport will work with services to promote the importance of, and improve, demographic data on the people that are being supported (for example race, ethnicity, gender, disability status). This data is crucial in understanding who is most impacted by homelessness in Newport, and to identify service gaps.

Who is leading this work? Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Working Group

Key partners

- BOOST Gwent
- Newport City Council
- Community House
- NHS Wales
- Salvation Army
- Tai Pawb
- The Gap
- Trauma Informed Forum
[a partnership of Managers across Homelessness services]

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

4.1 Review of current practices

4.2 Trauma-informed training

Trauma-informed practice embedded across services that support people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

4.3 Translation services

4.5 EDI outreach

4.6 EDI training

4.7 Community outreach and events

4.8 Breaking down barriers to access

4.9 Improving demographic data

New partnerships and ways of working established that specifically support diverse communities.

4.4 Lived experience working groups

Decisions about how to prevent homelessness in Newport are taken in partnership with people who have experienced homelessness.



5. Strengthening access to employment

Local context

Strengthening access to employment and providing training opportunities for people at risk of homelessness will be crucial to putting Newport on a path to ending homelessness.

Current figures suggest that 4.1% of the population over the age of 16 is unemployed. That is the highest percentage in Wales. There are several major employers based in Newport, and a thriving local business community, creating significant opportunity for Homewards to add real value.

Homewards Newport's Coalition intends to bring together local businesses, to clear the path to employment for those at risk of homelessness – particularly focusing on setting up the right training and support, and on creating long-term employment opportunities.

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

5.1 Expanded job training

Homeworks Newport will expand job training and will source or fund additional sector-specific courses, which individuals will require to progress further into the labour market. Existing apprenticeships will be promoted, especially those of which the DWP are already aware via their large network of employers and partners.

Who is leading this work? Department for Work and Pensions

5.2 Employment coordinator

Homeworks Newport will seek funding for an employment coordinator. They will focus on supporting people currently in temporary accommodation but unable to work into meaningful employment. They will provide one-to-one group support to ensure that people experiencing homelessness can find employment and secure housing.

Who is leading this work? Prevention Working Group

5.3 Work readiness programme

Homeworks Newport will support the setup of a training programme for people who have experienced street homelessness and/or are experiencing a number of different challenges including mental health or substance use – who may be perceived as not being “work-ready.” This programme will initially focus on

construction skills training and will build on existing partnership work. The programme will be expanded to suit the needs of those accessing services.

Who is leading this work? Eden Gate and Business in the Community

5.4 Promoting the Crisis Covenant

Homeworks Newport will promote the Crisis Covenant to improve awareness of, and support for, individuals at risk of, or already experiencing, homelessness. The Homelessness Covenant is a pledge by employers to prevent and end homelessness through inclusive and supportive employment practices.

Who is leading this work? Prevention Working Group

5.5 Employer training

Homeworks Newport will work with DWP to ensure that local businesses feel equipped to employ people with lived experience of homelessness. This includes ensuring there is access to training (i.e., Mental Health First Aid), to support individuals to thrive in their role. Training will also ensure that businesses can direct employees to support to prevent them from being pushed into homelessness or getting help when they need it.

Who is leading this work? Prevention Working Group

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

5.1 Expanded Job Training

5.2 Employment coordinator

5.3 Work readiness programme

5.4 Promoting the Crisis Covenant

5.5 Employer training

5.6 Improving partnerships with employers

More job and training opportunities for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

5.6 Improving partnerships with employers

Homeworks Newport will improve partnerships between employers and support services, to improve collaboration and strengthen pathways into employment.

Who is leading this work? Prevention Working Group

Key partners

- Business in the Community [BITC]
- Business Improvement District [BID]
- Department for Work and Pensions [DWP]
- Dick Lovett Foundation
- Eden Gate
- Newport City Council

6. Making more affordable homes available

10%

10 years

Newport
population growth

The population of Newport is increasing rapidly, with a growth of almost 10% in the last 10 years.

As more people move to Newport seeking affordable living, housing demand rises, and more homes are needed. Like many parts of the UK, Newport has seen rising house prices in recent years. As demand outweighs supply, affordability becomes a challenge, particularly for first-time buyers and lower-income households.

High rents and no-fault evictions from the private rented sector are key drivers of homelessness, and the Homewards Newport Coalition has identified that greater work is needed between landlords and tenants to ensure sustainable and affordable homes, and more opportunities for homes.

‘When businesses, charities, faith groups and others work alongside local government and commissioned services, each bringing their own distinctive assets to the table, change, real systemic change on housing, becomes not only possible, but inevitable.’

Andrew Lightbown, Chaplain,
Newport Cathedral

What are we going to do over the next 12 months?

6.1 Innovative housing project

Each location is developing an innovative housing project, which will test new ways to make more homes available at scale, demonstrating what is possible when we come together to end homelessness. Aligned with the Local Action Plan, Homewards Newport's innovative housing project will house and support families who have been living in temporary accommodation. We are working with families with lived experience of homelessness, and partners with expertise in family homelessness, to design and develop a housing project that will suit their needs.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

6.2 Identifying sites for new homes

Homewards Newport will access the knowledge of real estate experts Knight Frank, who have created a bespoke and interactive database and web portal to support local strategies and help identify sites – including existing buildings and land for new development – that could be developed into homes that people can afford.

Who is leading this work? Homewards Activator Knight Frank & Creating8Places

6.3 Funding for homes

Using the convening power of The Royal Foundation, Homewards Newport will bring together a range of local and national funders and investors who may be interested in funding the delivery of more homes in Newport.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

6.4 Delivering new homes

Using the convening power of The Royal Foundation, Homewards Newport will bring together building and development experts with the aim of creating new partnerships that will deliver more homes in Newport.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

6.5 Rental rights and tenancy training

Homewards Newport, partners, and people with lived experience of homelessness have designed – and will deliver – new training on rental rights and tenancy. It is intended for people in minority communities, to improve tenancy sustainment and prevent homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Shelter and Tai Pawb

6.6 Impact research

Homewards Newport will use research to better understand and evidence the scale and impact of homelessness housing interventions already being delivered in Newport. This will help organisations better

understand what works, and where Homewards Newport should increase capacity and resources.

Who is leading this work? Shelter and Tai Pawb

6.7 Empty properties

Homewards Newport will make better use of empty spaces in Newport (including empty homes, void properties, publicly owned non-residential properties and commercial spaces) to increase the supply of affordable homes.

Who is leading this work? Newport City Council, Pobl, and Newport City Homes

6.8 Landlords' forum

Homewards Newport will increase the number of landlords involved in the local Landlords' Forum, which focuses on increasing the availability of private rental properties for people who are at risk of, or who are experiencing, homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Housing Supply Working Group

Key partners

- Creating8Places
- Freshfields
- Knight Frank
- Newport City Homes
- Pobl
- Tai Pawb
- The Construction Liveries Group
- Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

6.1 Innovative housing project
More homes for families living in temporary accommodation.

6.2 Identifying sites for new homes

6.3 Funding for homes

6.4 Delivering new homes

6.6 Impact research

6.7 Empty properties

6.8 Landlord's forum

New partnerships unlock funding, housing, and land for more homes in Newport.

6.5 Rental rights and tenancy training
Projects to improve tenancy sustainment for people in minority communities tested in Newport. For successful projects, Homewards identifies what is needed to roll them out further.



Get in touch

If you are a business or organisation that wants to find out more about working with Homewards, please contact homewards@royalfoundation.com and one of the team will be in touch.

For more information on homelessness across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, please visit the following link: homewards.org.uk/help-resources/

Source list

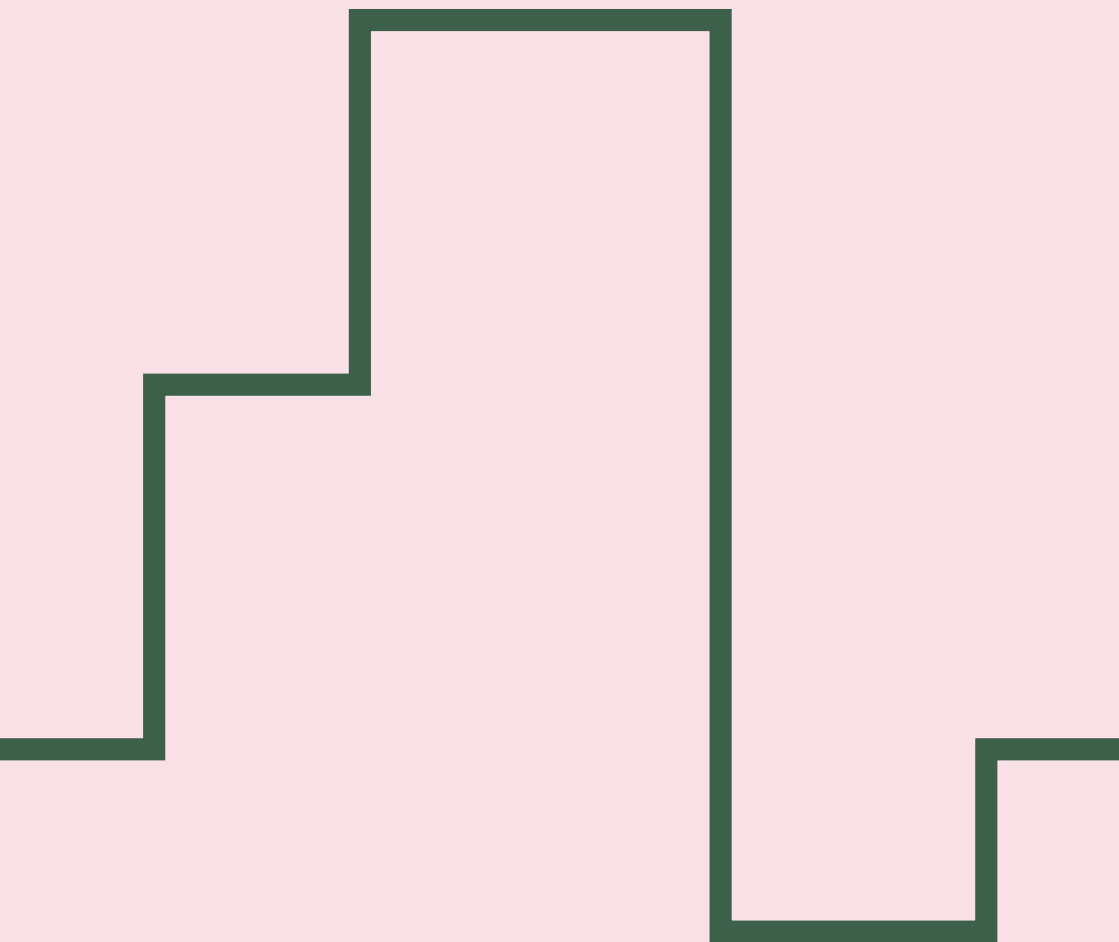
Information in this Action Plan is based on data collected by Newport City Council about people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as well as the following sources:

Welsh Government Households for which assistance have been provided by outcome and household type, 2024
<https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Homelessness/householdsforwhichassistancehasbeenprovided-by-outcome-householdtype>

Office for National Statistics, Census 2021, June 2022
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censuspopulationchange/W06000022/>

Office for National Statistics, Employment, Unemployment and Economic Inactivity in Newport, May 2024
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/labourmarketlocal/W06000022/>

Office for National Statistics, Housing Prices in Newport, October 2024
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/housingpriceslocal/W06000022/>



ROYAL FOUNDATION

OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS
OF WALES