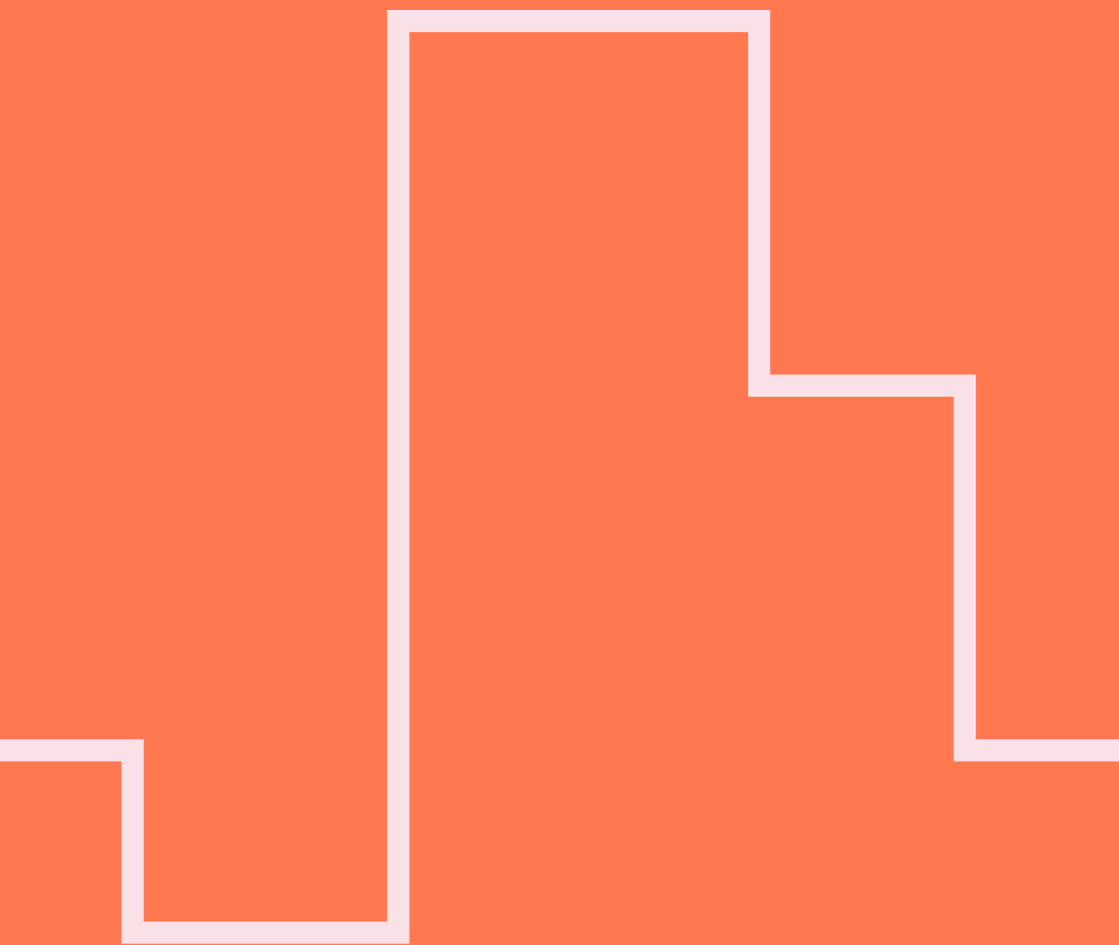


local action plan



homewards
sheffield

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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 Sheffield: 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 Sheffield, we have set out:

1. The initial groups of people that we 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 Sheffield – but signals a new approach, with prevention and collaboration at its heart. The number of people experiencing homelessness in Sheffield 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 unrepeatable.

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

Sheffield has a population of around half a million, and estimates suggest that one in four people in the city live in poverty. Levels of poverty are getting worse, and this means that people are struggling to meet their basic needs. This is having a wider impact – including on people's health and wellbeing – and therefore putting them at greater risk of homelessness. The city has an extensive network of community-led organisations, providers, and public services working hard to reduce homelessness, but organisations are facing increasing demand for support. Groups the Coalition has identified as most in need of support include families and young people.

Through a collaborative and preventative approach that focuses on ensuring people get the right support at the right time, Homewards Sheffield aims to make a real difference to the lives of young people and families – and to lay the groundwork to support other groups at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness in the area.

Actions to be taken over the next 12 months and beyond

The Sheffield Homelessness Prevention Forum is already doing a lot of work in the local area.

Homewards is focused on adding value around this existing activity. The Homewards Sheffield 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 have a wider impact across Sheffield.

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

1. Supporting families at risk of homelessness
2. Supporting young people (under the age of 25), and those with care experience
3. Putting equality, diversity, and inclusion at the heart of our work
4. 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 Sheffield 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, or on the brink 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 Sheffield, so that they can help more people (specifically other groups who are at a higher risk of, or on the brink of, homelessness)

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



1.

Supporting families at risk of homelessness




Local context

In Sheffield, family homelessness is on the rise. In recent years, the number of families living in temporary accommodation has increased – which can be disruptive for children, and for their education, as they are often not settled in one place. The accommodation may not have adequate furniture (for example, enough beds for each family member) or the facilities (such as kitchens) needed for a stable family life.

‘Families become homeless for lots of different reasons. It is important to understand those reasons, and help those families to work through those issues, and then deliver them into a home, [hopefully] stopping the cycle of homelessness.’

**Nilam Buchanan,
Regional Managing Director,
Places for People**



There are many organisations in Sheffield that help families who are experiencing, at risk of, or on the brink of homelessness, from statutory bodies to community services.

Homewards Sheffield's Coalition believes there is more that can be done to support these organisations to work better together – and so to make sure that families get the right support, at the right time, in the right way. This, ideally, would prevent families from being pushed into homelessness in the first place.

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

1.1 Reviewing prevention activity in communities

Homewards Sheffield will commission new research on local community organisations to develop a better understanding of the homelessness prevention work they are delivering. From this, a report will be delivered on what resources and investment are needed, so that they can work better with housing services – and scale some of their prevention projects which are already having an impact.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Sheffield

1.2 Identifying resource gaps in local communities

Homewards Sheffield will complete a review of the current delivery of statutory services (Housing, Department for Work and Pensions, Social Care) in community hubs in Sheffield. The results of this review will highlight skills and resource gaps that need to be addressed, so that services can help families before they are pushed into homelessness. Homewards Sheffield will then aim to help fill these resource gaps by bringing in new partners and investment.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Sheffield

1.3 Scaling early years support

Meadows Nursery has a successful early years family support model, where they build trusted relationships with (and support) parents of children that attend the nursery.

Homewards Sheffield will work with Meadows Nursery to explore how this model can be expanded to help more families, with an increased focus on housing intervention and prevention, to prevent families from being pushed into homelessness.

Who is leading this work? Sheffield Hallam University and Save the Children

Key partners

- Citizens Advice Sheffield
- Fir Vale Community Hub
- ISRAAC
- Reach up Youth
- SACMHA
- SADACCA
- Save the Children
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Hallam University
- Shelter
- SOAR
- University of Sheffield
- Voluntary Action Sheffield
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

1.1 Reviewing prevention activity in communities

New ways of working between community organisations and statutory services established to prevent homelessness in Sheffield.

1.2 Identifying resource gaps in local communities

New resources, services and investment are secured for community organisations to increase homelessness prevention work.

1.3 Scaling early years support

Projects to prevent families from becoming homeless, or reduce time spent experiencing homelessness, tested in Sheffield. For successful projects, Homewards identifies what is needed to roll them out further.



2.

Supporting young people (under the age of 25), and those with care experience

Local context

800

Sheffield

young people being supported
because they are homeless, or
at risk of homelessness



Sheffield is a popular destination for young people compared to the rest of England, in part due to the city's two successful and world-renowned universities. In 2023/24 the council supported 800 young people (aged 16-24) with advice and support to secure accommodation because they were homeless, or at risk of homelessness.

Officially, around 70 young people aged 18-24 were staying in temporary accommodation in March 2024.

However, this is only a snapshot of a period of time – and only counts the person who made the application, not all people living with them (for example, their partners). It is believed that the number of young people experiencing homelessness is higher than this, and that there are young people who are suffering in silence, experiencing ‘hidden homelessness’, such as sofa surfing or temporary stays with family. There are several reasons why young people may experience homelessness, including poverty, family breakdown, experiencing abuse, and not doing well in school, college, or university.

Homewards Sheffield’s Coalition believes that there is a real opportunity to help local young people – and spot those who are at risk of homelessness sooner. By working with schools, colleges, universities, and other educational settings, Homewards can bring services together so that young people are not missing job and career opportunities and get the right support so that they can stay in their homes.

Insights captured by the Sheffield City Council Voice and Influence team (a team of care-experienced council employees who use their lived experience to improve services for children and young people who have care experience) also noted that young people with care experience experienced loneliness and low well-being because of their housing situation and felt unsafe and unsettled.

‘These young people are at a critical juncture in their lives, and without the right support, they risk becoming part of a long-term cycle of homelessness.’

Ben Keegan,
CEO, Roundabout

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

2.1 Supporting young people in temporary accommodation

Homewards Sheffield will deliver a pilot that will work with young people to find ways to improve their living conditions, whilst reducing local authority spending on temporary accommodation. This will focus on exploring different housing options and support, including family mediation, that could help young people return to their family home where appropriate.

Who is leading this work? Roundabout, a South Yorkshire homelessness charity focused on ending youth homelessness

2.2 Removing barriers to starting work

Homewards Sheffield will develop a new pilot that will help young people living in supported accommodation to start work, without ending up in debt due to the relatively high rent costs. This will help young people to make a planned move into their own homes.

Who is leading this work? The Guinness Partnership, a national housing association

2.3 Listening to the voice of care experience to develop new solutions

Homewards Sheffield will work with the Sheffield City Council Voice and Influence team to explore housing models for care-experienced young people, based on listening and responding to the key concerns of those who have personal experience of the care system. This will help to develop specific housing models for this group of people, which we will then pilot.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Sheffield

2.4 Early intervention in schools

Homewards Sheffield will support the roll out of Upstream, a preventative approach that starts with a survey that is carried out in schools, to identify young people who are at greater risk of homelessness and get them the support they and their families need. The aim is to roll this out to at least three secondary schools across the location.

Who is leading this work? Roundabout, a South Yorkshire homelessness charity focused on ending youth homelessness

2.5 New classroom resources for schools

Working with Sheffield City Councils Education Services to identify schools, Homewards Sheffield will deliver a new pilot project that provides resources to school staff which uses stories and lessons from the world's highest performers, famous faces, and role models to build young people's resilience, confidence, and wellbeing. The modules are specifically designed to teach pupils employability skills, and the overall aim is to ensure that pupils are better equipped to manage the transition out of school.

Who is leading this work? High Performance Foundation, an organisation that empowers young people worldwide to write their own stories and provides essential tools and skills to help them thrive.

2.6 Homelessness awareness sessions

Homewards Sheffield will help further roll out existing homelessness awareness-raising sessions and training in schools, delivered by young people with lived experience of homelessness. This will ensure that young people know what help is available to them, so they can access support at an earlier point.

Who is leading this work? Guinness Partnership, a national housing association

What are we going to do over the next 4 years?

2.7 Employment opportunities

Homewards Sheffield will engage local employers to understand what skills and resource gaps they have and bring them together with existing support organisations who help young people to find employment, with the aim of supporting these young people to get a job with those employers.

Who is leading this work? Sheffield City Council and The Royal Foundation's Homewards Local Delivery Lead for Sheffield

Key partners

- Citizens Advice Sheffield
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Guinness Partnership
- High Performance Foundation
- Roundabout
- Sheffield City Council Voice and Influence Team
- Sheffield Futures
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- University of Sheffield
- NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

-
- 2.1 Supporting young people in temporary accommodation
 - 2.2 Removing barriers to starting work
 - 2.3 Listening to the voice of care experience to develop new solutions
 - 2.4 Early intervention in schools
 - 2.5 New classroom resources for schools
 - 2.6 Homelessness awareness sessions

Projects to prevent young people from becoming homeless, or to reduce time spent homeless, tested in Sheffield. For successful projects, Homewards identifies what is needed to roll out further.

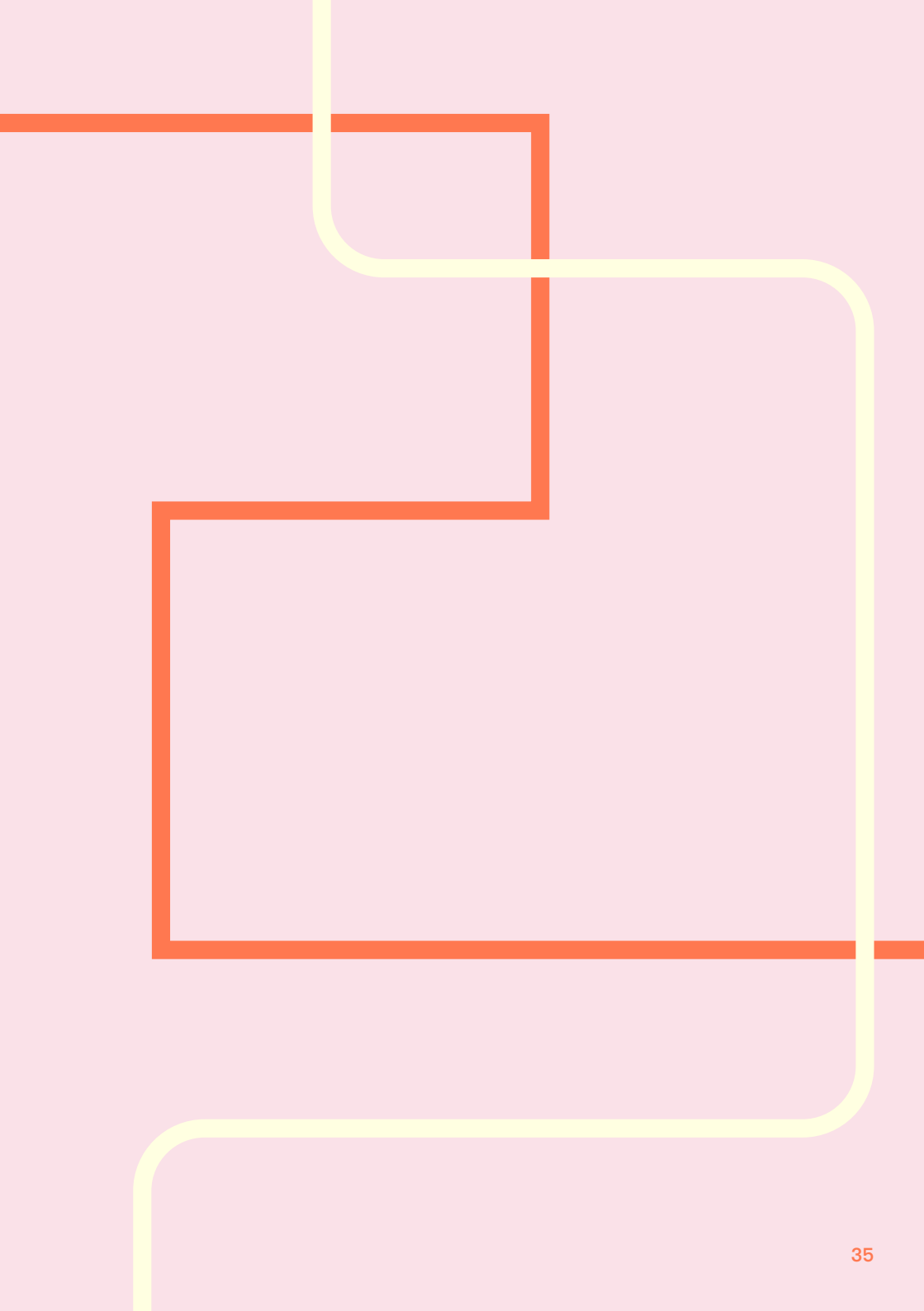
-
- 2.7 Employment opportunities
- More job opportunities for young people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness





3.

**Putting equality,
diversity, and
inclusion at the
heart of our work**



Local context

Homelessness does not impact everyone equally. In Sheffield, there are a number of groups who experience homelessness more than others including (1) single adults who face different challenges, including mental health and substance abuse; (2) those fleeing domestic abuse; and (3) those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.

The Sheffield Race Equality Commission Report 2022 highlighted both national and local racial disparities in access to housing and is referenced in the city's Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The Homewards Sheffield Coalition intends to work together to ensure everybody gets the support they need – especially for those groups who face additional barriers to getting the help they require. To do this, Homewards Sheffield Coalition will focus on collecting data to understand the challenges that these people face and will work directly with them to find ways to help.

‘It’s really important to involve those who have lived experience, because we can get to the solution a lot quicker.’

Safiya Saeed, Founder,
Reach up Youth

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

3.1 Improved data collection

Homewards Sheffield will bring in experts to advise on how to improve data collection to ensure that it is reflective of the diverse communities in the city, and that it captures the different forms of “hidden homelessness.” This data will then be used to create or expand services, including pilot interventions specifically supporting groups that face inequalities when accessing housing and support (such as women, people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, refugees granted indefinite leave to remain, and the LGBTQ+ community).

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

3.2 Culturally informed services

Homewards Sheffield will develop a new forum that will bring together community-led organisations to share insight and best practice on culturally informed working. This forum will use these shared learnings to understand the barriers that are preventing specific groups from accessing support and to expand culturally informed services tailored to local communities’ needs. Culturally informed services recognise and respect different cultures’ values, beliefs, customs, and inherent strengths, using them as essential components in how they offer and deliver support. Improving these services will encourage more people to seek support that meets their needs at an earlier point.

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

3.3 Representation of lived experience

Homewards Sheffield will ensure that people with lived experience of homelessness are represented across all strands of the Coalition’s work. This includes ensuring that representation is reflective of the local community and includes families, young people, and community-based organisations.

Who is leading this work? South Yorkshire Housing Association

Key partners

- Fir Vale Community Hub
- Framework Housing Association
- ISRAAC
- Places for People
- Reach up Youth
- SACHMA
- SADACCA
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield College
- South Yorkshire Housing Association
- Target Housing
- The Archer Project
- The Guinness Partnership
- University of Sheffield
- Voluntary Action Sheffield
- City of Sanctuary Sheffield/ Sheffield Project for Refugee Integration and Growth

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

3.1 Improved data collection

3.2 Culturally informed services

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

3.3 Representation of lived experience

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



4.

Making
more
affordable
homes
available

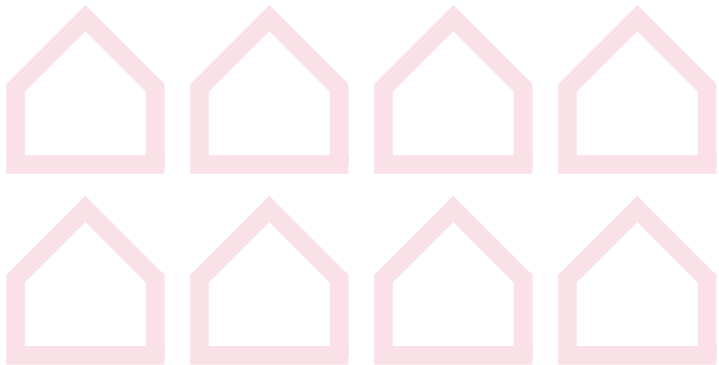
Local context


Sheffield is England's fourth largest city and growing at pace. The latest data shows that Sheffield needs around 2,000 new homes per year to keep in line with a growing population.

Sheffield

new homes needed per annum

2,000





The ending of a private rented sector tenancy is the second most common reason for homelessness in Sheffield.

There are strong foundations of collaborative working in the city, including ongoing partnerships with Homes England and the Sheffield Together Partnership.

Homewards Sheffield wants to build on this work to make more homes available within the city, with a focus on increasing the number of private landlords, exploring new development opportunities and utilising empty homes.



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

4.1 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. Homewards Sheffield's innovative housing project is focused on supporting low-income families in the North and East of the city to access properties in the private rented sector and to connect to community-based support.

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

4.2 Funding for homes

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

Who is leading this work? The Royal Foundation

4.3 Delivering new homes

Homewards Sheffield will bring together building and development experts to create new partnerships that will deliver more homes in Sheffield.

Who is leading this work? Henry Boot and Sheffield Property Association

Key partners

- Arches
- Creating8Places
- Department for Work & Pensions
- Freshfields
- Henry Boot
- Keystone
- Knight Frank
- Letzmove
- My Landlord Cares
- Places for People
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Credit Union
- Sheffield Property Association
- The Construction Liveries Group
- Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects
- Target Housing
- Nomad

Signs of success

These activities will contribute to the following signs of success

4.1 Innovative housing project

More low-income families in the North and East of the city can access properties in the private rented sector.

4.2 Funding for homes

4.3 Delivering new homes

New partnerships unlock funding and land for more homes in Sheffield.

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 Local Action Plan is based on data collected by Sheffield City Council about people who are experiencing or on the brink of homelessness, as well as the following sources:

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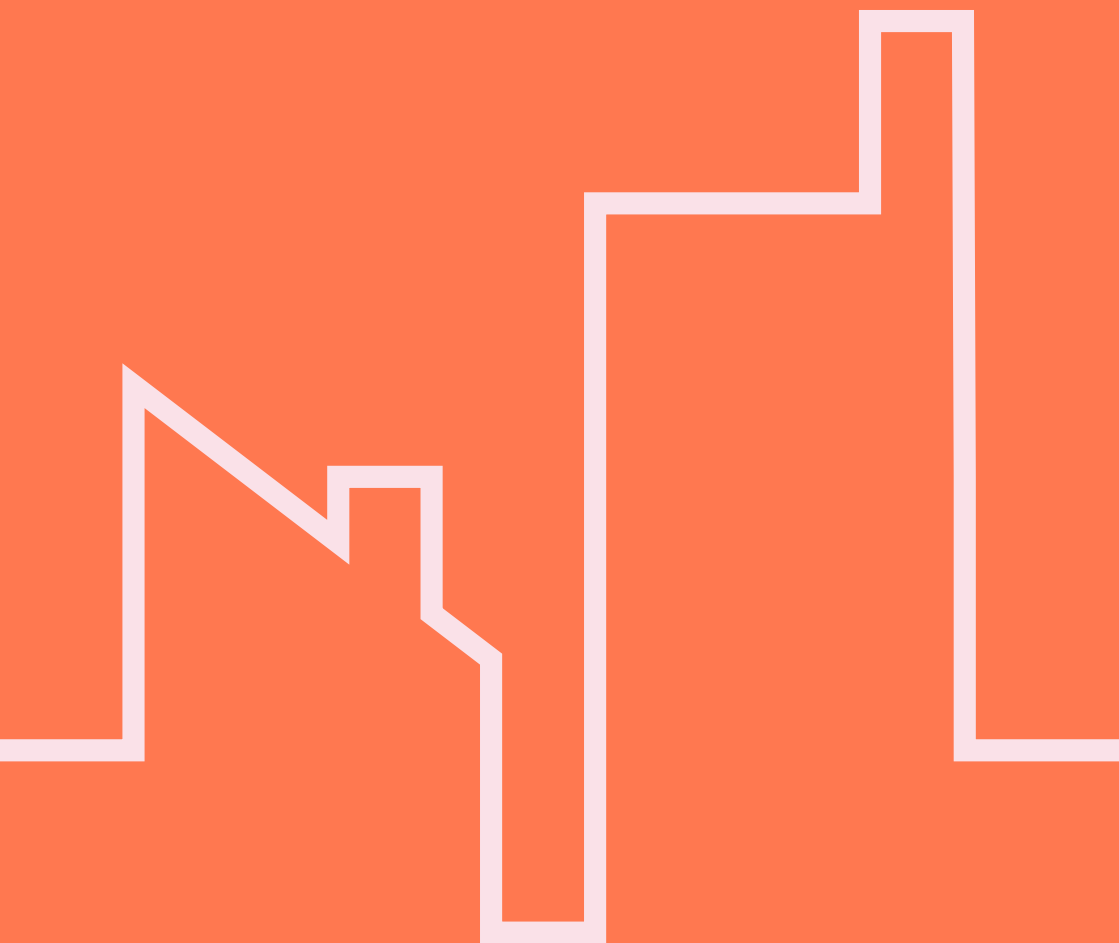
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**ROYAL
FOUNDATION**

OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS
OF WALES