



Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2027-2032

Consultation and Engagement (Draft)

Methodology Statement

This Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy has been developed using a structured, evidence-based approach, combining qualitative and quantitative data to ensure a comprehensive understanding of local need, demand, and service provision. This has been supported by engagement with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders across statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sectors.

An external stakeholder workshop was held on 13 April 2026, bringing together partner organisations including public sector services (such as the NHS and prison and probation services), voluntary and community sector organisations, and housing providers. The session captured frontline expertise, current challenges, gaps in provision, and views on strategic priorities and partnership delivery.

A second workshop took place on 15 April 2026 with internal teams including Housing, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environmental Health, Domestic Abuse, SEND, Customer Services, and Asylum and Migration, alongside frontline practitioners and commissioners. This explored key challenges and opportunities, enabling collaborative discussion and the identification of practical, person-centred priorities for the strategy.

Surveys were distributed to internal and external stakeholders to complement the workshops and enable consistent and comparable feedback. In total, 41 responses were received from internal stakeholders and staff members and 11 from external partners, supporting the identification of key themes, trends, and areas of alignment, as well as outlining the services and resources available for key partners who support with frontline homelessness and rough sleeping across Buckinghamshire.

Further engagement was undertaken through established partnership forums, including the Registered Provider Forum (14 June 2026) and Development Forum (20 June 2026), alongside attendance at the Landlord Forum (4 June 2026). These sessions are all chaired by

Buckinghamshire Council and provided additional opportunities for partners and landlords to contribute views on partnership working, priorities, and improving outcomes.

Insights from all engagement activity were analysed alongside local data and the national policy context. Where required, follow-up discussions were held with services to clarify information and explore delivery approaches. This ensures the strategy is grounded in evidence, reflects local need, and sets out a coordinated, partnership-driven approach to preventing and reducing homelessness.

Lived Experience Engagement

To inform the development of this strategy, engagement has been undertaken with individuals who have experienced homelessness or rough sleeping, including those currently within the housing pathway and living in temporary accommodation.

This was carried out through voluntary and anonymous questionnaires distributed via third-sector organisations and within Council-owned temporary accommodation. Participation was open and non-targeted, allowing individuals to share their views freely and without any obligations.

Whilst the number of responses (20) is modest, the feedback provides credible insight into the realities of homelessness, including barriers to accessing support, service experiences, and areas for improvement.

This approach ensures that individuals with lived experience are not only heard but actively shape service design, delivery and review. Feedback highlighted generally positive experiences, particularly in relation to supportive staff, alongside areas for improvement such as communication, consistency and more personalised support. These insights have helped ensure the strategy reflects real-world experiences and prioritises meaningful, person-centred improvements.

The findings have directly informed the strategy, shaping priorities, identifying gaps, and influencing future service delivery. They will continue to guide strategic direction and improvement.

The Council recognises that individuals with lived experience are experts in their own circumstances and is committed to embedding these voices at the centre of decision-making. As part of this, a Lived Experience Advisory Panel will be established to provide a formal mechanism for ongoing involvement in reviewing services and shaping improvements on a regular basis.

Engagement will continue with individuals across related services, including Domestic Abuse, Adult Social Care and Children's services, ensuring a diverse range of experiences are

reflected. Particular emphasis will be placed on safely capturing the voices of children and young people who experience homelessness.

Embedding lived experience in this way strengthens accountability and trust in the Council, improves service quality, and ensures services remain responsive to need, leading to better outcomes for individuals and families. Collectively, this ensures the strategy is shaped alongside those it is designed to support, resulting in more effective and accessible services.

Consultation

A minimum six-week public consultation period will provide residents, stakeholders and partners with the opportunity to review and comment on the emerging strategy.

This will build on the engagement already undertaken, including lived experience input, ensuring feedback continues to inform and refine the final strategy prior to adoption.

A dedicated workshop will be facilitated for individuals with lived experience to ensure their views are fully represented and that the consultation process is accessible, supported by voluntary and community sector organisations.

Feedback from consultation will inform final revisions, ensuring the strategy is robust, inclusive and responsive to the needs of Buckinghamshire's communities.