

Update on HCC Consultation on Future Services: Potential Impacts to Fareham Housing

Appendix B

Proposal to withdraw all funding for services that support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness from April 2025:

Impacts 2 key areas affected Fareham:

- Withdrawal of crisis homelessness accommodation in Fareham (101 Gosport Rd). This hostel provides 24/7 on site staff support to the most vulnerable and complex homelessness cases in Fareham.
- Withdrawal of homelessness support services for people living in the community, for those at risk of homelessness and have additional needs that make it harder for them to manage their housing situation without support.

Rough sleeping – the National picture



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2023

The snapshot provides a way of estimating the number of people sleeping rough across England on a single night.

3,898

People sleeping rough on a single
night in autumn 2023



27%

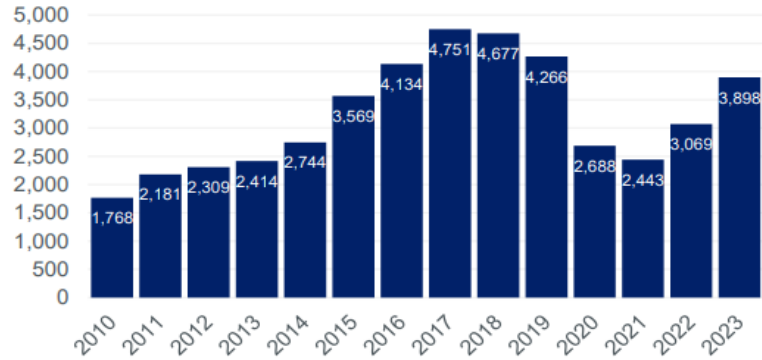
increase since last year

120%

increase since 2010



The number of people sleeping rough on a single night, 2010 - 2023



Impact on individuals

- Those most vulnerable to homelessness will fall through the net, and be more exposed to criminality, re-offending, substance misuse and rough sleeping.
- Emergency housing placements, where made, will be increasingly out of Borough, displacing individuals from local support network.
- Ability to access and engage with health services and support agencies hindered due to out of Borough emergency housing placements.
- Declining picture of how the public sector supports vulnerable individuals.



Impact to Fareham Borough Council

- The duty for dealing with homelessness will rest with Fareham BC exclusively;
- Emergency housing placements into B&Bs will continue to rise, and anyone owed a main duty will struggle to be placed into TA due to the shortage of accommodation already unable to meet levels of demand.
- HB subsidy (based on 2011 LHA) will only recoup marginal spend on B&B placements – majority of the cost will be borne by District Council's General Fund.
- There will be even more demand on the housing register for affordable housing placements, where levels of affordable housing are already in short supply.
- Retention of specialist homelessness staff.

Impact to the Community

- Increase in safeguarding referrals and care act assessments.
- More A&E pressures/impact on public health/pressures on other services.
- Mental health levels will deteriorate and put additional pressures onto Community Mental Health Teams;
- Impact on the Housing Revenue Account: - Individuals with more complex needs and without support will be placed into Council owned accommodation.
- Levelling up funds from Central Government will be skewed towards homeless rather than regenerating communities and town centres infrastructure.

Next steps

- Raising awareness;
- Joint working with Gosport Borough Council and DLUHC's Rough Sleepers Initiative;
- Opportunities for partnership working;
- Streamline processes;
- 2025/6 service planning