

## Response ID ANON-HSWX-1JCQ-S

Submitted to Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy 2024 - 2029

Submitted on 2024-03-08 16:28:07

### Details

1 Please select which of the following apply to you (select all that apply):

Other (Please specify)

Other please state:

Local Healthwatch

2 If you are happy to share your email address, please enter it here. We will use it to let you know more about the outcomes of the consultation.

Email Address:

sarahw@healthwatchbirmingham.co.uk

3 If you are responding to this survey as a professional, what is your organisation?

Question 3:

Healthwatch Birmingham

### Values and Principles

4 Do you agree that these are the right values and principles for our strategy?

Strongly Agree

5 Tell us a bit more about why you think this

Question 5:

The focus on prevention, rapid rehousing, and ensuring that experiences of homelessness are not recurring resonates with the objectives outlined in various UK government initiatives and local authority strategies aimed at tackling homelessness.

For instance, the emphasis on prevention reflects the priority placed on early intervention and prevention programs by local councils and government bodies such as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

The aim to make experiences of homelessness brief and non-recurring echoes the objectives outlined in national strategies like "Everybody In" and "Ending Rough Sleeping: A Housing First Approach," which seek to address not only the immediate housing needs but also the underlying factors contributing to homelessness, such as mental health issues, substance abuse, and lack of affordable housing.

6 Are there any gaps?

Question 6:

Healthwatch Birmingham feel that there is not enough detail about supportive health schemes for those at risk of homelessness, or those homeless due to health related issues. Whilst priority 3 outlines a joined up approach with other services, we feel there is scope for the council to include a leadership role in the values and principles, ensuring people receive a joined up approach from services they need, especially with regards to health.

### Strategic Priorities

7 Do you think that these are the correct 5 priorities for Birmingham?

Strongly Agree

8 Tell us a bit more about why

Question 8:

Healthwatch Birmingham agree these priorities provide a comprehensive framework for addressing homelessness in Birmingham, focusing on collaboration, data-driven decision-making, service integration, community engagement, and strategic governance.

9 Are there any gaps?

Question 9:

Whilst we agree with the state priorities, we feel there are a few potential gaps:

- **Health and Social care Services:** Many individuals experiencing homelessness face complex health issues, including mental health challenges and substance abuse disorders. Integrating and leading co-ordination of healthcare services, mental health services, and substance abuse services is a key area to address.
- **Affordable Housing:** While prevention and support services are crucial, addressing the root causes of homelessness, such as the lack of affordable housing, is key.
- **Employment and Income Support:** Economic instability and unemployment can contribute significantly to homelessness. Integrating strategies to support employment opportunities, vocational training, and access to stable income sources for individuals experiencing homelessness could enhance the effectiveness of the overall approach.
- **Long-Term Support:** Ensuring that individuals exiting homelessness have access to ongoing support services and resources to maintain housing stability is crucial. Including a focus on long-term support and follow-up care could help prevent recurrences of homelessness as per the stated aim.

## Priority 1

10 Do you agree with this focus?

Strongly Agree

11 If not, what do you think the focus should be?

Question 11:

## Priority 2

12 Do you agree with this focus?

Strongly Agree

13 If not, what do you think the focus should be?

Question 13:

## Priority 3

14 Do you agree with this focus?

Strongly Agree

15 If not, what do you think the focus should be?

Question 15:

## Priority 4

16 Do you agree with this focus?

Strongly Agree

17 If not, what do you think the focus should be?

Question 17:

## Priority 5

18 Do you agree with this focus?

Strongly Agree

19 If not, what do you think the focus should be?

Question 19:

## Overall

20 Do you think the summary draft strategy is clear and easy to understand?

Strongly Agree

21 Is there anything missing that you think should be included?

Question 21:

As stated in our previous answers, we feel a stronger focus on health, and the role of the local authority to co-ordinate health services for people at risk of homelessness, or recently housed following homelessness, is key.

22 Is there anything else you would like to say about the draft strategy?

Question 22:

Whilst the presentation provided helps to breakdown the strategy's values, principles and priorities, we feel that the aims of the council could still be communicated in a much clearer and simple way, which will aid people in Birmingham understand the council's goals.

## Equalities

23 What is your postcode of your main residence?

First section e.g. B1, B14:

First number of 2nd section e.g 23, 5:

Do not wish to answer

24 Please select the age group that reflects your age:

Not Answered

Do not wish to answer

25 What is your gender?

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

26 Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

27 Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?

Do not wish to answer

28 If yes, now we are going to ask you some questions about your ability to do different activities on a regular basis. Tick those that apply.

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

29 Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day to day activities?

Do not wish to answer

30 Please can you indicate which of the options below is closest to your personal situation, please tick all that apply

Do not wish to answer

31 What is your country/countries of heritage? e.g. Nigeria, Poland.

Country of Heritage:

Do not wish to answer

32 Are you currently pregnant?

Do not wish to answer

33 What is your ethnic group? If you have mixed ethnicity, please select which combination of ethnicities describes you best:

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

34 What is your religion?

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

35 Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

36 What is your legal marital or registered civil partnership status?

Do not wish to answer

37 Who is (was) your legal marriage or registered civil partnership to?

Does not apply

38 In the last seven days were you doing any of the following?

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

39 Do you look after, or give any help or support to anyone because they have a long-term physical or mental health condition or illness, or problems related to old age? (exclude anything you are paid for as employment)

Do not wish to answer

40 Are you the primary carer for any children, if you care for more than one child then please tick all the age groups that apply?

Do not wish to answer

41 Which of the following have you personally experienced? Please select any that apply.

Do not wish to answer

Other please state:

42 Do you currently live?

Do not wish to answer