

# 2023 Rough Sleeping Initiative Overview

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**



**Somerset**  
Council

The background features a solid teal top section and a white bottom section. On the right side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent white shapes that resemble stylized, rounded rectangles or abstract architectural forms, creating a layered effect.

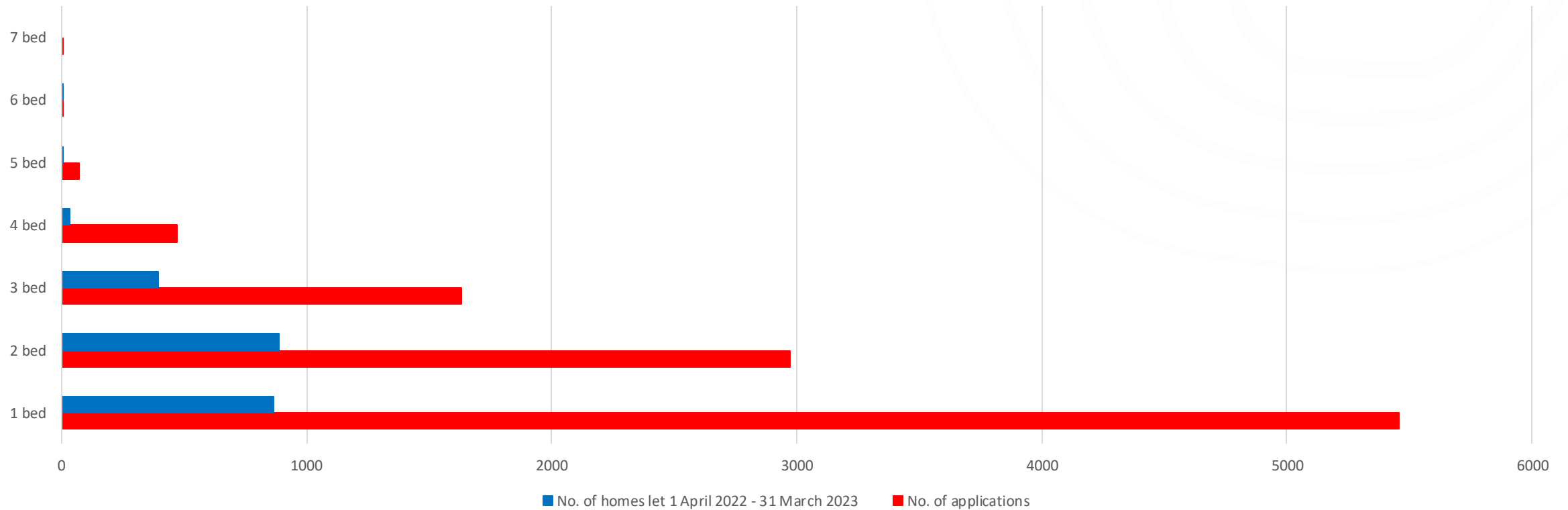
# **Housing Crisis and Demand for Affordable Housing**

- 11,000 households seeking affordable housing through Homefinder
- Over demand in the Private Rented Sector
- 243 in Temporary Accommodation or B&B 27/11/2023
- 57 households sleeping rough
- Annual reduction of social housing through the Right to Buy
- Challenges with building new homes and challenges in ability for the council and partners to build homes at pace
- Shortage of homes which reflect the size and needs of Somerset households
- £9m annual budget inc £5.5m grants (HPG/RSI/other)

# Profile of households registered on Homefinder Somerset (29 November 2023)

	Number of bedrooms needed							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Emergency	12	1	2	3				18
Gold	429	219	135	85	41	6	1	916
Silver	1,822	1,244	1,014	322	17	3		4,422
Bronze	3,343	1,508	488	50	4			5,393
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,606</b>	<b>2,972</b>	<b>1,639</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10,749</b>

# Comparison between demand & supply



# Housing Options Service

# The Service:

- Provides 4 front doors (Bridgwater, Taunton, Yeovil, Shepton Mallet)
- Web and telephone access & home visits for vulnerable customers
- Prevention advice
- Relief as required under the homeless Reduction Act
- **Main Duty as defined by Statute** (Temporary Accommodation/B&B/discharge of duty through offer of Social or Private rented accommodation)
- P2i (18-25 year olds) – New Service for Housing April 2024
- Rough Sleeper Initiatives (RSI)
- Reviews
- All service interwoven with Mental Health, Domestic Abuse, Financial Exclusion Support

# National & Somerset demand trends for Temporary Accommodation

	Somerset	Change on 2019 figure	National	Change on 2019 figure
<b>31/03/2019</b>	120		85040	
<b>31/03/2020</b>	108	-10%	92190	8%
<b>31/03/2021</b>	181	51%	95290	12%
<b>31/03/2022</b>	196	63%	95000	12%
<b>31/03/2023</b>	232	93%	104510	23%
<b>Today</b>	243	103%	Stats not out yet	



The background features a teal header bar at the top. Below it, the main area is white with faint, light teal abstract shapes that resemble concentric, rounded rectangles or stylized waves on the right side.

# **Supporting those at risk of Rough Sleeping**

# Timeline

- **2017** – Crisis peak
- **2018** - Central government release their Rough Sleeping Strategy
- **2018** – Initial funding made available
- **2019** – Decrease in numbers sleeping rough
- **2020** – Covid-19 pandemic
- **2022** – Rough Sleeping Strategy updated
- **2025** – An end to rough sleeping



# The Four Pillars



Prevention

Intervention

Recovery

Transparent and joint  
approach

# Impact of rough sleeping

- Rough sleeping is the most extreme form of homelessness
- An individual who spends just 3 nights on the streets is 15 times more likely to experience mental health issues.
- Those who experience rough sleeping are more vulnerable to crime, substance misuse and illness
- People who sleep rough regularly over a long period of time are more likely to die young than the general population
- Wider community



# Somerset RSI

- ✓ £1.8m for 23/24 and £1.5m for 24/25
- ✓ Partnership working and holistic approach
- ✓ Highly Skilled teams
- ✓ Person centred support and trauma informed approach
- ✓ Targeted interventions
- ✓ Dedicated bed spaces available across somerset
- ✓ Solution focused and customer led



# SWEP

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- Severe weather emergency protocol
- Purpose
- Shared procedure for Somerset Council
- Common sense approach
- Increased Opportunity for engagement
- Difference between life and death
- Process



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# **Somerset Housing Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy**



- **Statutory requirement for making homelessness case decisions**
- **Prescribed - Homelessness Code of Guidance – systems approach**
- **Project Team – overseen by Homeless Reduction Board (HRB)**
- **Links to other strategies & work programmes e.g. MEAM /Better Futures, some TTC projects**
- **Stakeholder engagement – people with lived experience – agencies, RPs, VS organisations**
- **2 development phases**

**Homeless Needs Assessment (every 5 years)**

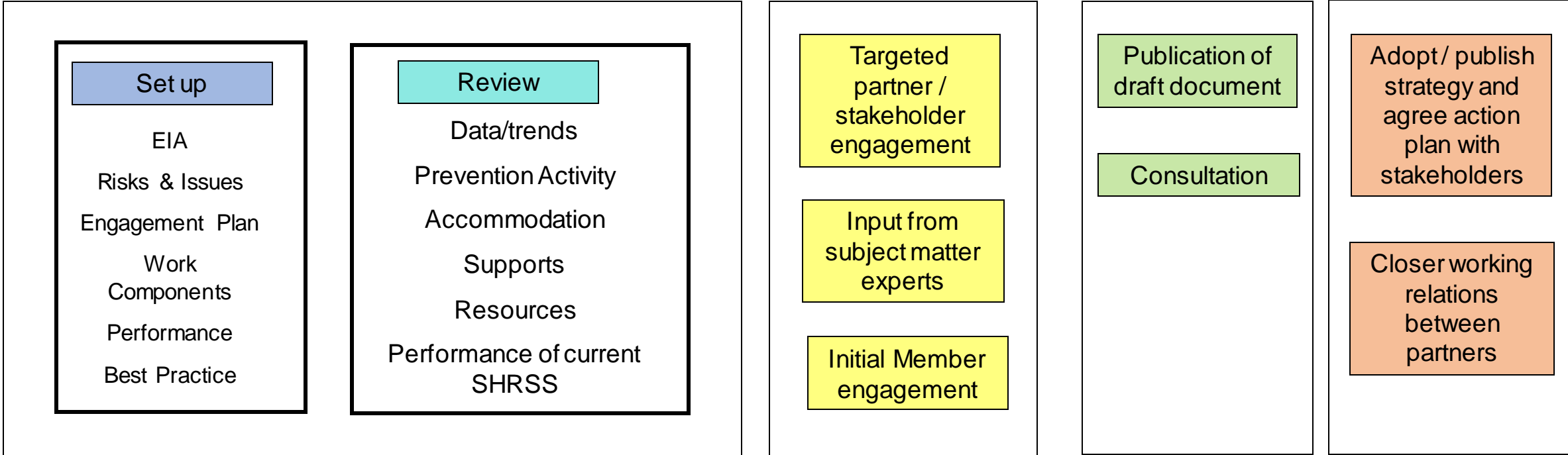
**Demand and need - based on latest stats, intel and feedback**  
**Service mapping**  
**Gap & issue analysis**

**Strategy and action plan**

- **Potential to combine with Housing Strategy (non statutory)**



# Process / Timeline



A. Commencement

B. Identify the Issues

C. Engagement

D. Draft Priorities

E. Agreeing a way forward

**Prevention - Reduction – Recovery – Health – Independence - Accommodation**  
**Co-production – Collaboration - Innovation – Creative Solutions & Systems**

# Work Components (Phase 1, Stages A & B)

## Stage A: Project management

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1. PID
2. Project Plan/Timeline/Performance/Alignment with Somerset Housing Strategy (SHS)
3. Equality Impact Assessment
4. Risks and Issues (currently capacity, timeline and finance)
5. Consultation and Engagement Plan
6. Research into Best Practice/statutory requirements

## Stage B: Review needs/identify issues:

6. Current and Future Levels of Homelessness
7. Prevention Activity
8. Accommodation
9. Supports
10. Resources
11. Review of existing strategy

**How do Scrutiny want to be involved in SHRSS development?**

