



**Homeless
Oxfordshire**

An open door
when it is needed most

Strategy 2024-2027

About this strategy



The positive impact of the work we do at Homeless Oxfordshire is felt by individuals countywide. As we move into a new and exciting time for the charity, it is an opportune moment to both take stock and to look ahead.

This strategy sets out the context of Homeless Oxfordshire's work and our vision for the future; outlining the three main strands of our work where we have identified priority areas we intend to measure and develop:



Specialist housing and support



Homes and property



Resilience and sustainability

Our dedicated team, many of whom have lived experience of homelessness, are **compassionate, determined** and **bold**. Together, we strive to support people who have experienced trauma, disadvantage, discrimination and social exclusion, helping them to rebuild their lives. Everyone's experiences and route into homelessness is unique, and every day we see first-hand the effect of kindness, compassion and acceptance when it's needed most.

These values run through the core of our strategy for 2024-2027. Our plans demonstrate that, just as we are adapting to a changing landscape of legislation, public funding and welfare provision, we are also moving to put a person-centred and trauma-informed approach at the heart of everything we do.

We are proud of the plans we have created for the future of Homeless Oxfordshire and we are redoubled in our purpose to offer people an open door when they need it most.

Simon Hewett-Avison
CEO - Homeless Oxfordshire

We believe...



...there is always the potential for things to be different. We take risks and challenge stigma, systems and discrimination.



...everyone deserves a chance. We don't give up on people and always respond to their needs.



...we can make a difference. We use kindness and compassion when it is needed most.

About our work

Homeless Oxfordshire is the county's largest not-for-profit provider of supported accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

We also provide a wide range of specialist support services beyond bricks and mortar.

Our residents are mothers, brothers, aunties, cousins. They are artists, cooks, teachers, veterans.

Their lives have been shaped by trauma and disadvantage, and we offer an open door when they need it most.

Our support helps people rebuild their lives.

Oxfordshire Homelessness Alliance

Together with Aspire, A2Dominion, Connection Support, Elmore and St Mungo's, Homeless Oxfordshire is proud to be part of the Oxfordshire Homelessness Alliance. Each of the Alliance's homelessness and housing service providers offer unique services that support a wide range of needs and are collaborating on a ground-breaking programme of work to prevent and resolve homelessness in Oxfordshire.





We cover three areas of the county and can house over 170 people at any one time. We even take in our residents' dogs.

Our locations

Cherwell

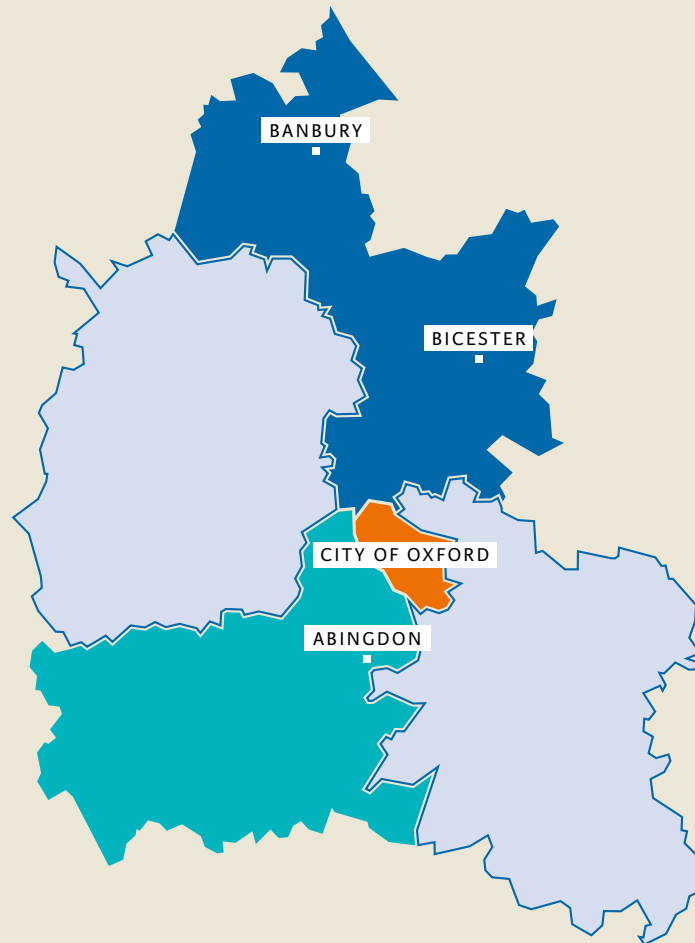
Step-down Service
Oxford House
Banbury Hive

City of Oxford

O'Hanlon House
Project 41
Women's Project
Housing First
Pre-recovery Project
Sapling
Step-up Service

Vale of the White Horse

Vineyard



Homelessness is on the rise in Oxfordshire

⤴ **59%**

increase of Oxfordshire households estimated to be homeless

⤴ **53%**

increase in Oxfordshire households threatened with homelessness

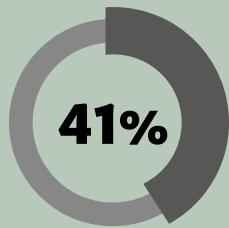
⤴ **13%**

increase in rough sleeping in the City of Oxford alone

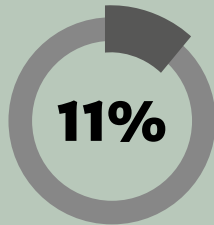
(June 2021-June 2023)

A snapshot of homelessness in Oxfordshire

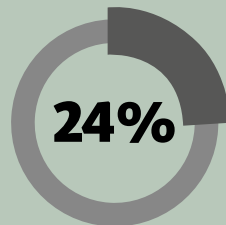
People experience homelessness due to:



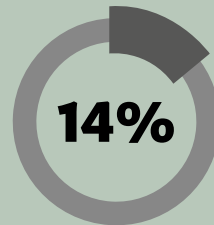
Eviction



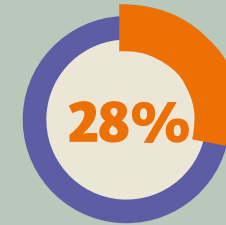
Relationship breakdown



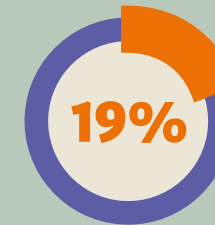
No support network



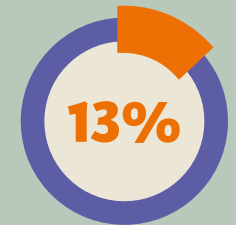
Abuse/violence



Mental health issues



Physical health issues



Addiction



For people rough sleeping



For people about to be evicted



For people needing food, a shower and clothing



For people experiencing entrenched homelessness



OXFORDSHIRE HOMELESSNESS ALLIANCE PARTNERS AND OTHER LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Assess the situation
Help rough sleepers find accommodation

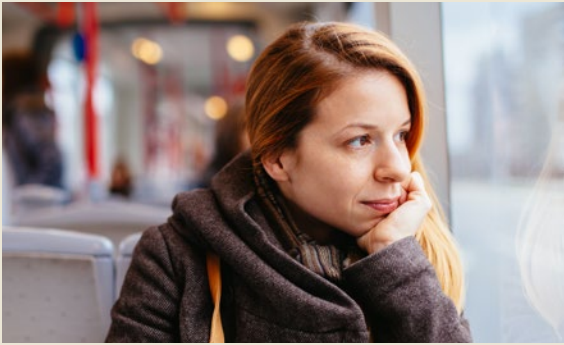
Provide immediate advice
Take measures to prevent and relieve homelessness

Provide free/cheap food
Provide washing facilities
Provide clothing



Provide safe accommodation
Provide individualised support to address challenges to complex needs
Provide support to enable people to rebuild their life, helping them overcome past trauma and disadvantage





I have learnt to trust people and build positive relationships with my family and solid, positive friendships.

Homeless Oxfordshire resident

Homeless Oxfordshire residents **often have complex needs...**



51%

have mental health issues



55%

have physical health issues



83%

are dealing with addiction

With our support in 2022 and 2023...



55%

moved on to independent or supported housing



40%

completed rehab or met their recovery goal and maintained abstinence



146

substance use groups were facilitated at our recovery projects



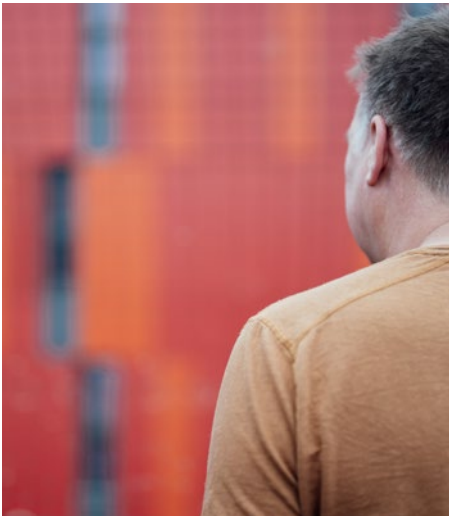
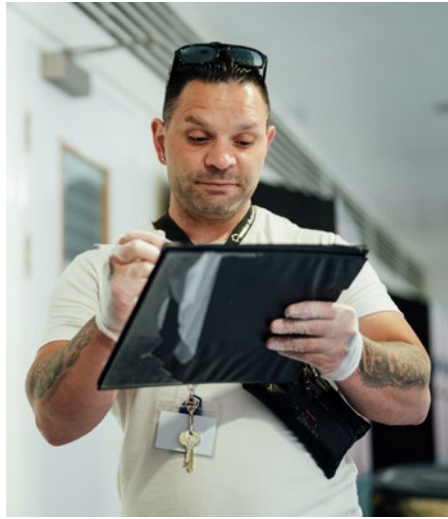
“

**I feel eternally grateful
for the care and support
that I received.**

Homeless Oxfordshire resident

Looking ahead

In collaboration with residents, colleagues and partners, we have outlined three main strands of our work where we have identified priority areas we intend to measure and develop between 2024 and 2027:



Specialist housing and support



Homes and property



Resilience and sustainability



Specialist housing and support

Putting lived experience at the heart of all we do, we will be the experts in delivering high quality trauma-informed support for people facing multiple disadvantage across Oxfordshire.

Over the next three years we will...

Champion lived experience

Increase the opportunities for people with lived experience to influence and shape our work.

Develop our teams

Ensure our teams have the right skills and knowledge to build relationships, use interventions and nurture independence in a trauma-informed way.

Become psychologically informed

Work to become psychologically-informed, embedding a trauma-informed approach across the whole organisation.

Work together

Work as part of the Oxfordshire Homelessness Alliance and with other partners to transform our services, providing focused and tailored support.

Understand our impact

Understand and measure our success, with a focus on how our residents' holistic wellbeing and contribution to society is improved.



“

**My whole attitude
to life has changed.**

Homeless Oxfordshire resident



“

One of the most helpful aspects is having a nice homely environment, especially after coming from treatment centres and rehabilitation units.

Homeless Oxfordshire resident



Homes and property

In collaboration with local authorities, registered providers and private landlords we will give people the opportunity to live in a place they feel safe and secure, and which provides the stability they need to take their next steps.

Over the next three years we will...

Develop psychologically informed environments

Work towards all our environments being psychologically-informed, providing spaces of opportunity for people to meet, engage with support, and feel part of a community.

Develop our property portfolio

Work with social investment and other funding mechanisms to unlock opportunities to purchase or develop our property portfolio and increase our financial sustainability.

Meet and maintain compliance

Ensure we meet all regulatory and compliance requirements across all our accommodation taking into account future legislative change.

Develop O'Hanlon House

Work with residents and partners to determine the best way of moving from large congregate settings to smaller housing-led solutions.

Strengthen our approach

Develop our housing first and housing-led approaches to support the transformation of the Oxfordshire Homelessness Alliance and the Countywide Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.



Resilience and **sustainability**

We will build a brilliant organisation with strong leadership and governance. We will grow and diversify our income whilst managing our costs and minimising our impact on the environment.

Over the next three years we will...

Improve staff engagement

We will do this year on year and invest more in the development of our people.

Be more inclusive

Increase our focus on equity, diversity and inclusion, and improve our support for staff with lived experience.

Grow and diversify income

Grow and diversify our income so that by 2027 our voluntary income is approaching our longer term five-year goal of £750,000 per year.

Build brand awareness

Increase our brand awareness and progress towards Homeless Oxfordshire becoming one of the most recognised local charity brands in Oxfordshire.

Reduce our environmental impact

Develop measures to monitor and reduce our impact on the environment.

Review expenditure

Complete an expenditure review programme with a focus on embedding procurement and financial controls.

Expand our volunteering

Increase the number of volunteers and the range of volunteer roles that support our objectives.



“

Volunteering with Homeless Oxfordshire is highly rewarding; it is great to be able to support my local community.

Homeless Oxfordshire volunteer



Find out more and **connect**


We are a charity and rely on donations, support and funding from the general public, charitable trusts and businesses in order to continue delivering our vital services.

To get involved, please visit
homelessoxfordshire.uk




info@homelessoxfordshire.uk

01865 304600

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**Homeless
Oxfordshire**

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