

Housing Support Programme Strategy – Interim Action Plan 2026–2027

This Action Plan reflects the updated priorities and actions for the 2026–2027 interim year, incorporating the introduction of a new Priority Six, alongside specific amendments and additions across existing priorities.

Priority One: Identify Those at Risk of Homelessness Earlier and Provide Timely Interventions

Actions

- **1.1** Continue work to increase early access to homelessness prevention services, shifting from crisis response to proactive intervention.
- **1.2** Maintain ongoing review and refinement of homelessness information to ensure clarity, accessibility, and improved public understanding.
- **1.3** Continue preparation for legislative changes relating to young people and care leavers, with a refreshed protocol to follow once the new legislation is introduced.
- **1.4** Continue engagement with the Tackling Poverty Network to promote awareness of housing services.
- **1.5** Continue investment in upstream youth homelessness prevention within education settings.
- **1.6** Ongoing review of social housing exclusion practices. **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Reassess the operation of the *three-step test* when considering suspensions from the Housing Register.
- **1.7** Continue identifying resources to support households considered high- risk.
- **1.8** Continue improvements in data capture and analysis, including the use of LIFT and monitoring trends.
- **1.9** Continue to enhance use of technology and data sharing to support planning and improved service delivery.
- **1.10** Support co-location of teams at new MCC sites to improve case outcomes and encourage multi-disciplinary working.
- **1.11** Continue embedding a Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) within homelessness services.

- **1.12** Deliver ongoing improvements to youth homelessness services, aligned with upcoming legislative changes.

New Action for 2026–2027

- **1.A** Assess the viability of restructuring the Prevention Team to accept referrals from households *already receiving support*, aiming to increase early intervention outcomes and streamline prevention pathways.
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Priority Two: Provide Timely and Effective Support for Vulnerable Residents, Particularly Those with High and Complex Needs

Actions

- **2.1** Continue engagement with Welsh Government and partners to identify resources to increase capacity within the Housing Support Programme.
- **2.2** Continue expanding Housing First and strengthening partnerships to support accommodation supply.
- **2.3 – 2.4** Continue improvements to Young Persons' accommodation and floating support services.
- **2.5 – 2.6** Continue to explore accommodation solutions for those with complex needs, including neurodiverse individuals.
- **2.7 – 2.12** Continue implementation of the full HSG recommissioning process.
- **2.13** Continue assessment of dedicated provision for young people.

New Actions for 2026–2027

- **2.A** Deliver full service recommissioning in line with the Housing Support Grant recommissioning timeline for 2026–2027, ensuring services align with identified needs and strategic priorities.
 - **2.B** Work closely with the Affordable Housing Strategy Officer to explore options for a complex needs support accommodation provision.
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Priority Three: Increase Access to Affordable and Suitable Temporary and Permanent Housing Solutions

Actions

- **3.1** Continue to reduce reliance on B&B and improve standards of temporary accommodation.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Reassess whether the current temporary accommodation portfolio aligns with homeless presentation trends and continue phasing out low- quality units.
 - **3.2** Continue co- ordination of the Strategic Housing Forum to maximise affordable housing development.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Review and update the Forum's Terms of Reference to ensure alignment with council priorities.
 - **3.3** Continue collaboration with Homesearch partners to maximise move- on opportunities into permanent housing.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** Explore reasons for the decline in general- needs social housing allocations to homeless households; review whether high support needs remain a barrier to allocation.
 - **3.4** Continue promoting best use of social housing stock to facilitate move- on from temporary accommodation.
 - **3.5 – 3.16** Continue work on modular housing, utilisation of council assets, acquisitions, PSL schemes, and strategic alignment of funding and housing solutions.
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Priority Four: To maintain the Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan

Actions

- **4.1** There is a need to implement Welsh Government policy direction and establish and implement a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan.
 - **Additional 2026–27 Action:** To continue to follow MCC's RRHTP and embed the principles in operational work.
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Priority Five: Maximise Financial, Staffing and Collaborative Resources to Address Homelessness

Actions

- **6.1** Continue reviewing staff structures to ensure capacity and flexibility.
 - **6.2** Continue improving partnership procedures including information sharing and referral mechanisms.
 - **6.3** Continue identifying funding for unallocated priorities.
 - **6.4** Continue transitioning from short- term arrangements adopted during Covid- 19 toward sustainable long- term models.
 - **6.5** Continue collaborative working internally and externally to maximise homelessness prevention and accommodation outcomes.
 - **6.6** Continue development of the Housing Support & Homelessness Forum.
 - **6.7** Evaluate the effectiveness of data analytics for homelessness prevention.
 - **6.8** Deliver training needs assessments relating to substance misuse, VAWDASV, and other specialist areas.
 - **6.9 – 6.14** Continue strategic alignment with health, social care, Welsh Government, and wider priorities including regeneration and decarbonisation.
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Priority Six: Prepare for Implementation of the Homelessness & Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Bill

New Priority – Introduced for 2026–2027

Actions

- **5.1** Recruit and appoint two fixed- term legislation officers to support implementation and organisational readiness.
- **5.2** Work closely with Welsh Government to shape guidance and support implementation planning.
- **5.3** Establish working relationships with secure premises in Monmouthshire to facilitate improved access to housing advice and guidance for prisoners.

- **5.4** Engage partner agencies and internal teams to ensure comprehensive understanding of legislative changes and their operational impacts.
 - **5.5** Undertake detailed analysis of legislative changes to identify strategic, operational, and procedural implications, ensuring MCC is fully prepared for transition.
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Completion Statement

This clean Action Plan incorporates all required updates for the interim year 2026–2027, ensuring alignment with legislative change, service requirements, and Monmouthshire’s strategic approach to homelessness prevention, support, and accommodation.