The rise in street homelessness in recent years is due to factors that include welfare reform, insecure and expensive private renting, and widespread cuts to housing, mental health and social care services. This is a vicious cycle, because it takes more than a roof to end homelessness: many people remain on the streets because of the lack of other support services to help them with the wider issues they face, such as mental health or substance abuse problems.

In Oxford the high price of housing (with the average house price 16 times the average annual salary) and high reliance on the private rented sector means the problem is even more acute than the national picture. Those on low incomes face very severe difficulties.

Street Counts and Intelligence Based Estimates of Rough Sleepers

![Graph showing street counts and intelligence-based estimates of rough sleepers in Oxford over a period of years.]

“\textquote{It’s time we all said, ‘enough is enough’. It will take a whole city effort if we are to have a serious go at preventing anybody from having to sleep rough on our streets. Oxford Homeless Movement is an exciting step in the right direction. Getting this far has required huge progress in co-operation and trust and now we need you – individuals and Oxford based businesses and organisations – to come on board and get involved. Join the Movement by signing the charter, raising your awareness and understanding of homelessness and commit to volunteering. You can also make a donation at oxfordhomelessmovement.org.uk/donate. We all have a role to play.”}
What will it take to reduce homelessness?

The way we approach our strategic programmes is based on a proven methodology, using processes and expertise to deliver change:

- **Working smarter**: A willingness to change and adopt new strategies supported by sound evidence, and to drop old strategies that are not effective.
- **Working on the whole system**: Prevention and the supply of long-term accommodation, as well as interventions, support and emergency help for those currently rough sleeping.
- **Co-operation**: Better working relationships between the City Council and voluntary organisations, and deeper collaboration across the county involving the County and District councils.

Making it happen

A strategy covering prevention, support for those already homeless and provision for longer-term housing is being developed and implemented by Oxford Homeless Movement, of which Oxfordshire Community Foundation is a founding partner. A new centre for early engagement and assessment at Floyds Row in central Oxford is a core element of the strategy. Based on the principles of prevention and early intervention, the centre has been inspired by successful initiatives in London.

A lived experience advisory forum made up of people who have experienced rough sleeping and who are either now working for or being supported by local charities will take a leadership role in Oxford Homeless Movement. This inclusive approach is key to the success of the partnership.

There is a collective fundraising effort under the Oxford Homeless Movement banner, which includes a new Impact Fund designed to close the critical gaps in Oxford’s response to reduce rough sleeping. This fund is managed by Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

Our partners

- ACT
- Aspire
- Asylum Welcome
- Big Issue Foundation
- Centre for Homelessness Impact
- Crisis
- Connection Support
- Edge Housing
- Elmore Community Services
- Emmaus
- Greater Change
- Homes4All
- Homeless Oxfordshire
- Luther Street Medical Centre
- Mayday Trust
- Mind
- Nuffield College
- Oxford City Council (including councillors)
- Oxfordshire Community & Voluntary Action
- Oxfordshire County Council
- Oxford Homeless Project
- Oxford Winter Night Shelter
- OXPAT
- Response
- Sanctuary Housing
- Shelter
- St Mungo’s
- Thames Valley Police
- The Gatehouse
- The Porch
- Transition by Design
- Turl Street Homeless Action
- Turning Point
- University College
- University of Oxford
- University of Oxford Student Union
- Women's Hope Forum

Measuring success

Success will be shown by the reduction of people sleeping rough on our streets, which at the last count in September 2019 was 51. This was a 24% increase from the previous count in July.

How can you help?

Our immediate priority is to provide stability to our partners as well as enable them to plan more effectively and proactively for the future. This will require significant financial investment and ongoing support to identify long-term solutions to rough sleeping. Do get in touch or visit: oxfordhomelessmovement.org.uk/donate.