



Dorset
Council

Supported Housing Strategy

& the Supported Housing
(Regulatory Oversight) Act
2023



Introduction

The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 (SHROA) introduces regulation and licencing regime for Supported Housing in England

The first activity required of Local Authorities is to produce a Supported Housing Strategy, which must be published by 31 March 2027

MHCLG expect the Licensing and Standards regime to come into force in Spring/Summer 2027, but this is subject to further consultation.

Dorset Council have commissioned the Housing Learning Improvement Network to produce our Needs Assessment and first draft Strategy.

Purpose of the Strategy

The Strategy must:

- Set out a clear vision, priorities, and delivery plan to meet local needs for supported housing.
- Ensure supported housing enables independence, supports recovery, and prevents homelessness.
- Improve the overall evidence base through better local and national data to support better planning, resource allocation, and commissioning decisions.

Statutory Requirements

Local authorities are required to:

- **Assess supported housing need**, including unmet need and projected demand.
- **Map current supply** and evaluate adequacy over the next five years.
- **Collaborate with partners** (e.g., social care, health, providers, residents).
- **Publish a five-year Supported Housing Strategy by 31 March 2027**, with updates at least every five years.
- **Ensure alignment** with wider strategies (homelessness, social care, planning).

Statutory Requirements

Local Supported Housing Strategies must include:

- **a. Supported Exempt Accommodation**

Local authorities must include exempt accommodation within the scope of their assessment and strategic planning.

- **b. Other Supported Housing Relevant to Identified Needs**

The guidance requires councils to consider supported housing for a wide range of groups, which in turn covers a variety of accommodation types commonly used in the sector. Strategies therefore must account for the accommodation models associated with these cohorts.

Accommodation Types

Accommodation Type	Description / Purpose	Relevant Cohorts / Needs (as identified in guidance)
Supported Exempt Accommodation	Housing where additional support is provided and exempt from standard Housing Benefit rules. Must be included in local strategies.	Various vulnerable groups requiring supported housing, including those at risk of homelessness.
Sheltered / Retirement Housing	Age-related housing offering low-level support or warden presence to help older adults live independently.	Older adults – identified as a key group in supported housing needs assessments.
Extra Care Housing	Age-related housing offering onsite care and support to support older adults live independently and prevent care needs from escalating. Some schemes also offer accommodation and support to working age adults.	Older adults , people with learning disabilities or physical disabilities .
Supported Living (Learning / Physical Disabilities)	Independent or shared housing with on-site or floating support to help people live in the community. Includes Supported Lodgings,	People with learning disabilities or physical disabilities . People with Autism
Mental Health Supported Accommodation	Housing with specialist mental health support, varying from high-intensity to community-based models.	People with mental health conditions , people with Autism
Shared Lives	Living as part of a supportive household in a family home environment	Older adults, people with learning disabilities , people with physical disabilities , people with mental health conditions .
Domestic Abuse Refuges / Relevant Safe Accommodation	Secure, confidential accommodation for people fleeing domestic abuse, often with specialist support.	People fleeing domestic abuse .
Homeless Hostels / Emergency Supported Accommodation	Short-term accommodation offering support with stabilisation, assessment, and transition.	People experiencing or at risk of homelessness .
Move-On Accommodation	Lower-intensity supported housing that helps residents transition from higher-support settings to independent living.	Individuals moving on from refuges, hostels, justice pathways, supported housing, or care.
Substance Misuse Recovery Housing	Specialist accommodation that includes structured support for recovery from substance misuse.	People recovering from substance misuse .
Justice Pathways / Offender Rehabilitation Housing	Supported accommodation for people leaving custody or serving community sentences, often linked to resettlement services.	People transitioning from the justice system .
Care Leavers' Supported Housing	Transitional supported accommodation designed to help young people leaving care move toward independence.	Young people leaving care .
Staying Put	Arrangements in which a young person can continue living in their former foster home after turning 18 years old	Young people leaving care .
Housing First	Permanent housing as a first step, with intensive, flexible and open-ended support	People experiencing or at risk of homelessness . People recovering from substance misuse .

Core Components of the Strategy

a. Needs Assessment

A robust, data-driven assessment that maps supply, identifies current and future cohorts who require supported housing, and estimates net additional need.

b. Partnership Working

The need for collaboration and partnership arrangements with ICBs, social care and health partners, providers, benefits teams, and residents families and carers.

c. Governance & Oversight

Councils are expected to establish strong governance and oversight arrangements, put in place systems for data-sharing, monitoring, and performance measurement, and prepare for annual reporting to MHCLG.

d. Delivery Planning

Strategies must contain a clear and actionable delivery plan for meeting identified need, market-shaping activity and move-on pathways, and approaches for referral management, void management, and quality assurance.

Expected Challenges

The guidance acknowledges several challenges:

- Complex cross-departmental coordination across housing, social care, health, planning, and commissioning.
- Fragmented and inconsistent data across providers and systems.
- Capacity pressures and the complexity of local supported housing markets.

The Housing LIN

The Housing Learning Improvement Network (Housing LIN) are a housing, health, and social care knowledge-sharing network and consultancy.

The Housing LIN have a long track record of undertaking supported housing needs assessments, and have completed numerous assessments for local authorities and other commissioners over the last 5 years, including Essex, Cornwall, Gateshead, Dudley, Stockton-on-Tees, Bury, Kirklees, and LB of Kingston.

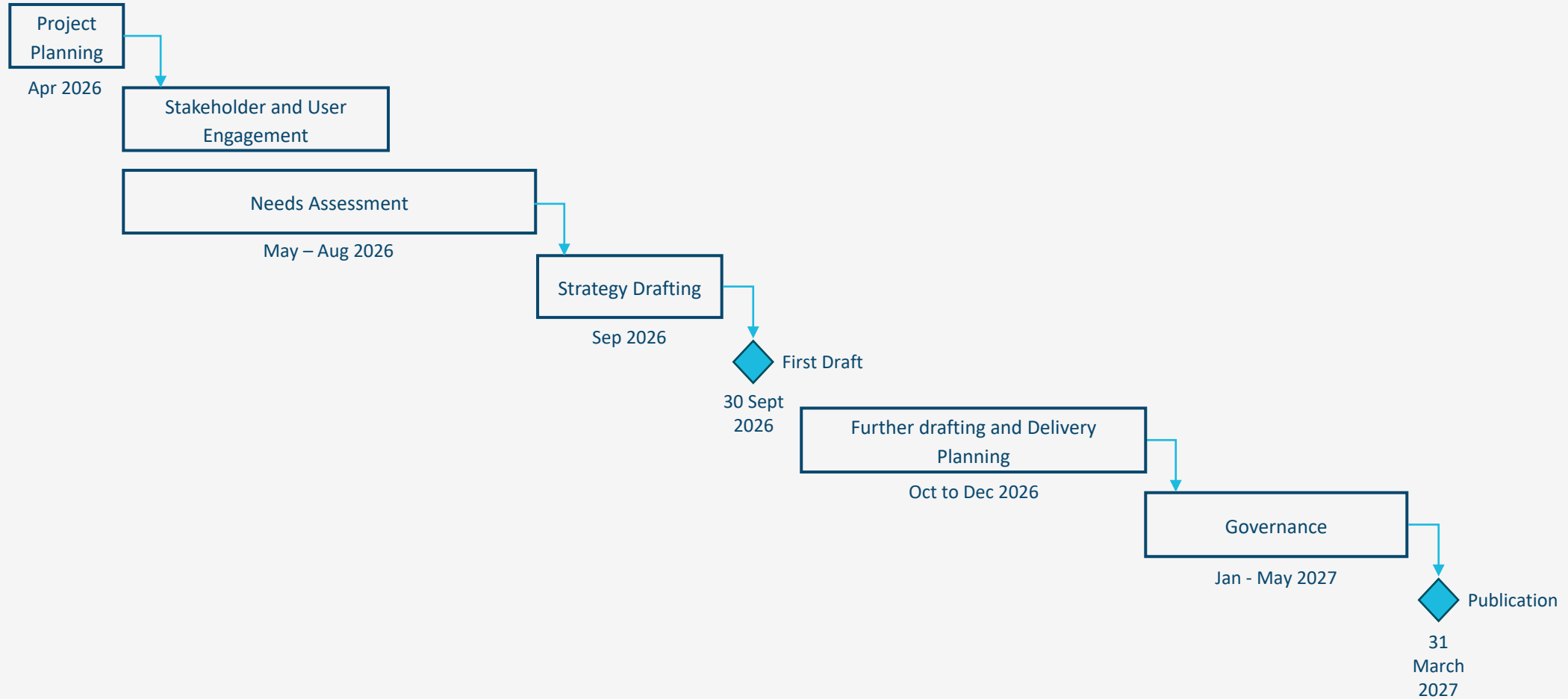
The Housing LIN were privately consulted by MHCLG during the production of the Local Supported Housing Strategies Statutory Guidance, and contributed to the development of the guidance. The statutory guidance has used one of the recent Housing LIN Needs Assessments as an example of good practice (for Cornwall Council).

Engagement Approach

Housing LIN will lead internal and external stakeholder engagement, covering:

- 1) Social care commissioners, social care operations, housing strategy, housing options, public health, revenues & benefits, and planning policy
- 2) ICB commissioners, NHS provider services, probation, drug & alcohol services
- 3) Providers of supported housing, registered providers of housing, support providers
- 4) Voluntary and Community organisations, via focus groups or existing meetings
- 5) People with lived experience, via existing engagement pathways, group discussions, or 1:1 interviews

Timeline





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