

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Homeless Prevention Trailblazer

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A partnership approach to preventing
homelessness

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We will.....

“Empower all public facing staff to identify the risk of homelessness and work together to prevent it, we will make homelessness the 'unacceptable outcome'”.



What is the Homelessness Trailblazer?

- Government funded approach to tackling homelessness at an earlier stage
- New homeless legislation April 18 - Homeless Reduction Act
- Successful joint bid between all of the combined authority areas in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – Housing teams are leads - 2 year project
- Different approaches – partners
- Reducing homelessness together
- Making homelessness the unacceptable outcome
- Learning from what works and sharing our experience



What's our approach?

- Prevention team – Spotting the early warning signs of homelessness, ensure people know how to get support, case work, multi agency working, providing advice on housing to other public sector professionals, linking professionals together.....
- Landlord/Rent solutions (part of the prevention team)– Helping landlords resolve problems and avoid evictions (e.g. help with universal credit issue), mediation, debt advice....



Achievements

- Services joined together to create Prevention team
- Become part of partners and have created pathways
- Joined forces with County Council- Reinforce ‘Think Family’ approach
- Spreading the word
- Making it real- examples of homelessness that could have been avoided
- Challenge partners
- Homelessness is everybody’s business



Who is currently involved?

Homelessness partners and providers, Public Service Board, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, Building Better Opportunities (4 projects), Integrated Offender Management, Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation Service, Prison Service, St Giles Trust, 6, District housing authorities, 2 x unitary authorities, Housing Associations, voluntary, community & charitable network (inc CAB), Department of Work & Pensions (Job Centre +) MASH (Multi agency Safeguarding Hub) Early help Team, Social Care, See and Solve Group.....



How are we preventing homelessness with partners?

- Homelessness Prevention MOU – high level commitment via Public Service Board
- Widespread training for homelessness awareness and encouraging partnership working
- Part of the MASH, EHH and AEH
- Creating Web resources for staff on Making Money Count Website
- Fast track money and debt advice offered through trailblazer (CAB and CHS)
- Staff be on hand to provide advice, support and guidance



MASH, EHH and AEH

- Prevention team on duty rota- based at the MASH and EHH
- Housing Navigators in the MASH
- On hand for advice and guidance for staff on housing matters
- Reinforcing and advising that Officers should always consider the housing situation whatever they dealing with
- Advising of the early signs of homelessness
- Encouraging housing professionals to be part of Think family approach and complete approach of Early Help Assessments (EHA's)
- Receive referrals from staff when people are at risk of homelessness



Training of public sector professionals

- Linking in with all Social Housing Providers
- Offering free training to Officers on Think Family approach (CCC) and EHA's. Will be offering this in the PCC area
- Educating about when to do Safeguarding referrals and how
- Offering mediation where relationship broken down between Landlord and Tenant
- Enforcing the message that homelessness is the unacceptable outcome
- Be the link for them to other public sector agencies



Offender Pathways project

- Enabling relevant agencies to come together to review the existing pathways for offenders into housing, identify if there are any pathways that are not in place and to start building a comprehensive accommodation pathway for people with an offending history.
- Capture the perspectives of organisations supporting offenders and housing teams.
- Build a better understanding of the interlinkages and dependencies across agencies.
- Capture the pockets of innovation and good practice that exist in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough This also includes any recommendations or suggestions about how to make the best use of the supply of housing currently available (predominantly private rented).
- Identify issues which need to be pursued at a national level.

Motivational approach to facilitate change training

- County wide project
- To help prevent homelessness and support vulnerable people
- To make those difficult interactions easier
- Increase positive outcomes
- 11 trainers
- Dates in Dec and Jan
- More dates to be added.....

Case Study

- Referral received from Fenland Housing Options Team
- Couple expecting a baby been asked to leave parents home
- Unable to negotiate with family and couple only wanted certain area
- Built relationships with local landlords so secured a property in area required
- It was above LHA so used Homeless prevention fund to pay Deposit and 6 months difference between LHA and the rent
- Homelessness prevented



Case Study

- Referral received from Private Landlord. Tenant had high level of arrears
- Notice not yet served
- After a visit discovered-Tenant had lost job his father had passed away
- On JSA and had to travel several miles by bus to sign on
- He was depressed- Advised to visit GP and apply for ESA
- Application made for DHP to clear arrears and was partially successful
- Negotiation with Landlord and payment arrangement set up
- Tenant referred for ongoing Support
- Homelessness Prevented



Continue to..

- Continue the day to day partnership working and encouraging other agencies to prevent homelessness in a joined up way
- Help public bodies with the duty to refer- Commenced Oct 2018
- Continue to develop and build better relationships between agencies
- Focusing on Health, Mental Health and substance misuse
- Develop with partners a revised hoarding protocol and better working relationships
- Keep reinforcing the message that homelessness is everybody's business and we can all help to prevent it



Exercise

- Group discussion
- Scenarios
- Are they at risk of homelessness?
- What could have or can be done to prevent homelessness?
- List the agencies that might be involved?
- Feedback to the main group

Any questions?

- Referrals can be made via e mail to Trailblazer@fenland.gov.uk

