



## Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer: *Working Together*

20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### DCLG Prospectus: Key Elements

- "Testing **new, innovative approaches** to preventing homelessness as early upstream as possible and offering help to a wider group of people"
- "**Leading across partnerships and services** to prevent and reduce homelessness, recognising that it can be the result of a number of factors"
- "...It affects a wide range of **outcomes, including health and wellbeing, community safety, education and work.**"
- "**Collaborating with other services and/or using data to identify at-risk households** and target interventions well before they are threatened with the loss of their home."
- "**Recognising that households will have assets and strengths** as well as risk factors, and taking approaches that build on these"
- "We are **interested in bids that propose system changes** to increase the quality of intervention and support."
- "We encourage local authorities to **bring all partners to the table...**"
- "**Value for money calculations must be included** on the template provided. The value for money must exceed 1:1"



## A Brave New World: Trailblazer & the Homelessness Reduction Act

CHANGE

### Homelessness Reduction Act

- Will commence on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018** – we're ahead of the game
- Homelessness **prevention for all eligible households**
- **Advice and assistance duty** to be more specific
- "Threatened with homelessness" now **56 days (rather than within 28 days)**
- **Reduces scope for Councils to tell people to stay** after expiry of a valid notice to quit
- **Assessments of applicant's needs, including requirement to set out steps agreed** with the applicant
- **Agreements must be recorded**, including where there is no agreement
- Until the Council considers it doesn't owe a duty – **it must keep the assessment under review**
- **Written notification** where the Council no longer thinks the steps agreed are appropriate

## Homelessness Reduction Act – HRA17

- New duty – to “**relieve**” homelessness for **56 days** (anyone homeless and eligible for assistance)
- **Accommodation secured must be suitable and available** for applicant’s occupation
- Actions taken by the Council **must have regard to agreed plans**
- Duty can be ended in **specified circumstances**
- The Act specifies that **local agencies are under a duty to refer those who are either homeless or threatened with homelessness to local housing authority teams**
- Provision made for certain **care leavers to make it easier for them to demonstrate local connection** (both area of local authority responsible and area they lived in while in care)

## Section 10 of the Homelessness Reduction Act:

### **10 Duty of public authority to refer cases to local housing authority**

After section 213A of the Housing Act 1996, but before the heading after that section (general provisions), insert—

#### **“213BDuty of public authority to refer cases in England to local housing authority**

(1) This section applies if a specified public authority considers that a person in England in relation to whom the authority exercises functions is or may be homeless or threatened with homelessness.

(2) The specified public authority must ask the person to agree to the authority notifying a local housing authority in England of—

- (a) the opinion mentioned in subsection (1), and
- (b) how the person may be contacted by the local housing authority.

(3) If the person—

- (a) agrees to the specified public authority making the notification, and
- (b) identifies a local housing authority in England to which the person would like the notification to be made,

the specified public authority must notify that local housing authority of the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a) and (b).

(4) In this section “specified public authority” means a public authority specified, or of a description specified, in regulations made by the Secretary of State.

(5) In subsection (4) “public authority” means a person (other than a local housing authority) who has functions of a public nature.”



## The Trailblazer: Key Elements

- Develop an **“Engagement & Support” model**, including **bespoke “Enabling Agreements”** between the Council and customer
- Introduce new assessments, **moving away from traditional “deficit” assessments**
- Facilitate interventions at the earliest indication someone may be homeless or threatened with homelessness, and **work with communities to raise awareness** of where and when to seek help
- Develop **place-based solutions** and engage participants from a diverse range of sectors in **collaborative working**
- **Gather data** from across partners to **profile local cohorts**
- **Work hand-in-hand with landlords** across social, supported and private sectors
- Introduce generic **“task and targeting” (MATT)** to bring agencies together **to unblock obstacles preventing hard to reach households from securing positive outcomes**
- **Generate opportunities and build confidence** for vulnerable people
- **Consult a range of service users**, to learn from their experiences and **involve them in service design**
- **Develop a good practice platform** that can be adopted in other areas to support system reform.

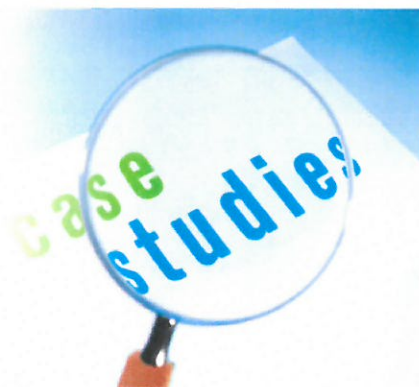
## The Trailblazer project team

- **Brian Bridger** – Transition and Partnerships Manager, **Tanith Perridge, Amy Allen and Marcela Roshan** – Health and Wellbeing Officers
- With a focus on three key areas:
  - **Developing partnerships by building links, and networking**
  - **Working within and alongside** the Housing teams at HDC and RBC
  - Providing **specialised, dedicated support** to individuals or families

## The journey of change so far...

- **Supporting** the design and redefinition of assessments and personal plans
- **Assisting** colleagues with the changes that HRA17 require
- **Developing** partnerships and networks
- **Supporting people where they need the support** through case work
- **Using local knowledge** and wider data to identify groups and individuals at risk of homelessness
- Exploring **placed based solutions** to increase early intervention
- **Engaging the wider system** to work differently
- Improving the **end to end support available** for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless

## Early Feedback:



## Meet MATT – Multi-Agency Task and Targeting Fund

- **A fund to support and enable positive change** to prevent homelessness or avoid eviction – *could it break the cycle of homelessness?*
- Grants to **individuals or households** – *will it remove barriers?*
- **Simple Terms of Reference and referral process**
- Encouraging **collaborative working with client buy-in**
- **Thinking outside-the-box**

## Next Steps For You...

- **Become a Trailblazer champion** - represent your organisation and attend Trailblazer partnership meetings to share good practice and ideas – **sign up today!**
- **Refer in** to the Housing teams – use the **Homelessness Prevention Referral** form
- **Be the ears and eyes:** be observant, identify early risk factors, don't let people slip between the gaps in services
- Contribute to a “**No Wrong Door**” network across Hart and Rushmoor
- **Consider the MATT fund** to assist in breaking the cycle of complex behaviour and to remove obstacles in the way of people thriving
- Help us to **create multi-agency and partnership working opportunities** where appropriate
- **Consider co-location and placed-based service opportunities** for individuals and groups
- **Help us to change the way the system works** – bringing partners together into a more coherent and end to end service for vulnerable people

## Contact details:

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**???Questions???**





## **THANK YOU**

***Lets work in partnership and  
prevent homelessness together***