

Improvement Project Title: Housing First ('Rapid Rehousing') for prison leavers

Executive Sponsor (Chair of Outcome Improvement Group): Angela Scott

Project Lead: Alana Nabulsi, Support Services Manager

Aim statement (What are we trying to accomplish? Over what time? Numerical target for improvement?)

Increase by 5% the number of prisoners owed a statutory homelessness duty that are suitably rehoused (whether in private sector or social rented sector accommodation) within 6 weeks of release, by May 2018.

Link to Local Outcome Improvement Plan:

The primary Community Justice driver in the CPA LOIP is: "Effectively managing and supporting people in the Criminal Justice System to reduce the likelihood of their reoffending and improve outcomes for these individuals, their families and communities". Housing First, or "Rapid Rehousing" will help to reduce the likelihood of reoffending by providing an individual with a firm foundation and reduce the anxiety and insecurity associated with being homeless upon release from prison.

This proposal also links to the CPA LOIP objectives to reduce repeat homelessness and increase tenancy sustainment as part of the wider objective to ensure that people are protected from harm.

Business case (Benefit to clients/ stakeholders/ residents? Are costs reduced now or in the future by addressing this issue?)

A summary of the collected evidence from a Housing First model can be found at <https://www.york.ac.uk/media/chp/documents/2015/Housing%20First%20England%20Report%20February%202015.pdf>. The approach has been proven to improve outcomes around tenancy sustainment, as well as key improvements around health, substance misuse, inclusion and integration, ASB and Criminal Behaviour. Self-evaluation from Housing First recipients also reflects these same findings.

There is an estimated annual 'churn' cost of £21,800 per person for people with the most complex needs. That is, the cost to continually provide services, interventions and benefits to people that don't result in sustainable and positive housing and health outcomes. A test for change that is able to successfully work with 20 customers therefore has the potential to avoid costs of up to £436,000.

There is potential for substantial savings to be made from fully implementing a Housing First approach – this is backed up by data from Crisis and Turning Point; as well as our own local data from evaluation of the first 6 months of the Priority Families project. Previous cost profiling of homeless journeys demonstrated instances where costs for just one customer were in excess of £96,000.

Measures: (How will we know if a change is an improvement?)

Short term measure:

- Increase in number of individuals accessing secure accommodation within 6 weeks

of release of prison

- Decrease in length of homeless journey (Average length of journey in weeks for statutory homeless cases (Unintentional & Intentional) closed in the year is 22.9 weeks)
- Decrease of time spent in temporary accommodation (Average of 103 days currently - average length of time in days spent across all types of temporary accommodation for those households leaving temp in the year)
- Increase in donations of furnishings and assistance from the community (Baseline 0)
- Increase in customer satisfaction recorded in questionnaires (Baseline 0 – to be captured at start of pilot and towards the end))
- Increase in evaluation score from partners and stakeholders involved (Baseline 0 – to be captured at start of pilot and towards end)
- Reduction in individual's offending following rapid rehousing

Long term measure:

- Increase in tenancy sustainment (89.63% of new homeless tenancies sustained for more than a year)
- Decrease in repeat homelessness (Currently 7% of cases reassessed as being homeless or potentially homeless within 12 months of a previous case being closed)

Change ideas (What can we do that will result in improvement?)

- Assign Support Worker from prison, prior to release, to work with the prisoner.
- Facilitate day release to view and sign up for property
- Ask RSLs to sponsor pilot and provide properties
- Advertise for properties from private landlords
- Contact current landlords on the PSL scheme to establish whether they would be willing to provide a property for the pilot
- Convert temporary accommodation into mainstream tenancies
- Set up a Housing First Steering Group and meet weekly to review progress.

Potential Barriers

- Availability of suitable accommodation
- Willingness of prisoners to engage
- Costs of furnishing and converting properties may be prohibitive

Project Team:

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