

Prevention of Homelessness A New Agenda

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Setting the scene

- Prevention – what is it?
- At what stage can work be truly described as prevention?
- Clear definition required

Shelter in England's definition (1)

- Shelter defines homelessness prevention as that which prevents situations of urgent housing need from arising in the first place. In general this refers both to far-reaching structural provisions (e.g. which increase the supply of social rented housing or which increase security of tenure) ...

Shelter in England's definition (2)

... as well as other interventions into individual circumstances which make it considerably less likely that an occupant would lose their home during difficult economic or personal times (e.g. tenancy sustainment services or defending possession proceedings). ...

Shelter in England's definition (3)

... Schemes which enable people to find alternative or better housing before urgent situations arise also play an important role in helping to prevent homelessness.

- How do we monitor and evaluate?

Prevention Work (1)

- Adequate and appropriate bricks and mortar
- Early identification of those getting into housing difficulties
- Availability of Advice and Information
- Effective care management and review processes
- Sensitive arrears management and antisocial behaviour policies of landlords

Prevention Work (2)

- Easily accessible local support services
- Outreach services for the most vulnerable groups
- Social support networks
- Additional work?

Glasgow's work



Advice & Information

- Resource Directory
- Housing Options Guide
- Streets Ahead Guide
- Area Team Information
- Refugee Support
- Homepoint Training
- Service User Leaflets
- Development of local information services

Prevention

- Local Homelessness forums
- DART & Acute Hospital Liaison
- Furniture Grant Scheme
- Rent Deposit Scheme
- Housing Information & Advice Strategy
 - Youth Information & Advice Strategy
- Access to Housing Support
- Tenancy Sustainment Research

Work In Progress (1)

- Domestic Abuse Response Pilot
- RSLs – reviewing and improving working practices in the Homelessness Duty Protocols
- Shared Assessment
- Improving access to education, training and employment
- Developing Homecare and Personal Care Services specifically for prevention

Work In Progress (2)

- Statements of Best Practice in GHA and their extension to other RSLs
- Improving access to local services eg Addiction Services
- Increased diversion options from hostels
- Increased resettlement options
- Development of new-build and existing properties with RSLs

What else?

- Community Health & Social Care Partnerships
- Phased implementation of the Homelessness Etc Act 2003
- 2012 and the abolition of priority need
- Evaluation of prevention work
- Innovation Fund

Some questions

- Should prevention be seen as additional work or just work that should happen anyway?
- How important is a standard definition of what it should be?
- How do we monitor and evaluate prevention?
- What are key components to effective prevention programme?