



Reference: RFI 1801016

Request:

I am seeking information about your council's preparation for new duties when the Homelessness Reduction Act comes into operation in April 2018.

Could you please send me the following information:

1) Details of extra funding provided to your authority by government to support new HRA duties.

- How will your council allocate that funding? For example: will the council engage new staff for extended HRA services?

- To enable the Councils to transition towards the new duties set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act. The Government have made limited additional funds available to all Local Authorities, including North Tyneside Council. This funding will be allocated over a two year period.
- The allocated funding will be used for the following activity:
 - Establishing a prevention fund for one off payments to cover payments towards rent arrears or for other housing related debts on an exceptional basis to prevent homelessness.
 - Funding of a landlord incentive scheme for a two year period to secure additional units of privately rented accommodation.
 - Funding of new ICT systems capable of monitor and managing new caseloads and producing reports for Government returns.
 - Allocation of funding to support low income households to access suitable private sector housing.
 - Providing bespoke care and support packages for the most vulnerable clients, enabling a smooth transition to settled and sustainable accommodation following a chaotic period.
 - Funding of two fixed term posts to prevent homelessness. One will be dedicated to the support of single homeless applicants and their support and/or resettlement. The other will be dedicated to enhancing partnerships with private landlords to secure sustainable tenancies for those at risk of homelessness.

- How many extra staff does your council plan to engage for these purposes in 2018?

- 2

2) What assistance will your council offer homeless households to fulfill extended duties to help secure accommodation?

- As above
- Establishment of prevention fund for exceptional circumstances only and will be offset with other action required of clients in their personal housing plan to ensure they seek assistance to manage their housing costs moving forward.
- Development of online self-help tools and packs

3) Will the council outsource such services, or work in partnership with other partners?

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- We are currently engaging with partners to develop and enhance partnerships and raise awareness of the legislation and their duties
- There are no plans to outsource services.

4) Please send an example/template of a personalised housing plan if you have one available.

- We are currently developing our personalised housing plans.

5) Will your council enhance or create deposit and rent support schemes to help people at risk of homelessness secure tenancies (NOT counting help available through DHPs).

- Additional funding for landlord incentive payments for a two year period to secure additional units of privately rented accommodation.

6) Does your council plan to acquire extra housing stock/extend arrangements with existing social or private housing providers to increase the number of temporary and permanent properties available to homeless households which are owed new or extended duties?

- No

7) How does the council plan to extend homelessness prevention advisory services to meet new and extended advisory duties in the act?

- As above
- Reviewing the structure of the service to be more accessible; ensuring Homeless Officers are trained in the prevention of homelessness in line with the new duties and ways of working.
- Developing and enhancing new and existing partnerships to raise awareness of the legislation and the duties required of our partners.
- Undertake a review of the support services offered to those placed in Temporary Accommodation.
- Developing a new Housing Options Toolkit to enable staff to provide comprehensive advice and guidance to those at risk of homelessness.

8) Protection of property

Does the council have the financial resources to protect the property of all eligible homeless households as per the act and what form would this protection take (paying for storage facilities, etc)

- Yes. Paying for storage of furniture

9) Is your homelessness service/function contracted out in full or in part to another organisation. If Yes, please give details.

- No



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10) Please send examples of staff Homelessness Reduction Act staff training documents if they are available.

- Not available at this time. A full review of staff training needs is currently taking place and the relevant training will be provided where necessary.

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