

Feedback from Consultation

Homelessness Strategy Stakeholders Forum 23 Jan 08

Purpose of consultation:	<p>The Homelessness Strategy aims to work with local residents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent them becoming homeless wherever possible • Support them into secure, high quality accommodation if they do become homeless • Treat them with fairness and respect <p>The strategy details the actions we will take to address the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promote a partnership approach to tackling homelessness • Invest in early intervention and effective homelessness prevention • Increase the supply of affordable homes • Provide choice and encourage independence • Halve, by 2010 the number of residents in temporary accommodation • Improve the quality and suitability of temporary accommodation • Improve customer service, involvement and satisfaction • Ensure that our policies are fair, transparent and widely understood • Work proactively to safeguard children and vulnerable adults <p>As we must work in partnership with stakeholders, service providers and other organisations to deliver these priorities, an event was held with a number of stakeholders for their feedback on the priorities.</p>
Methodology:	<p>A conference was held on 23 Jan 08, where housing associations, voluntary sector and community groups representing BME and faith communities and range support organisations for sufferers of drug and alcohol problems and domestic abuse were invited to attend.</p> <p>More than 30 stakeholders attended.</p>
Findings:	<p>The main issues from the consultation were the need for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - greater partnership working, to increase the impact of activities to reduce the number of homeless households by working together with the range of support organisations already active in Haringey. - a more integrated approach to the support of vulnerable clients, involving pathways and crisis floating support services

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a stronger message about the private rented sector being the most realistic housing option - capitalise on opportunities to increase available housing. This includes compulsory purchase orders, cash incentives to landlords, converting properties to increase the size, improving links with other boroughs to encourage people to consider living in different areas.
What does this mean for us?	<p>An action plan has been produced to support the aspirations and objectives of the homelessness strategy. Amongst other activities, the following actions will be carried out to address the feedback from stakeholders:</p> <p>Greater partnership working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Produce a directory of homelessness services - Develop protocols for referrals, joint working and information sharing - Review the roles and remits of local forums - Support sub-regional initiatives and working <p>A more integrated approach to the support of vulnerable clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop new ways of working to identify and work with people as soon as there is a risk they might lose their home - Improve procedures for dealing with hospital discharge, prison leavers and care leavers - Develop a range of services and interventions for young people, including mediation, supported lodgings and mentoring - Explore merits and feasibility of introducing the Pathways approach to supported housing - Undertake holistic needs assessments and tailor support packages to the specific needs of families and vulnerable adults <p>A stronger message about the private rented sector being the most realistic housing option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend the lettings policy to ensure it assists the prevention and reduced use of TA - Publicise average waiting times and locations of social housing to better manage expectations <p>Identify and act on opportunities to increase available housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work proactively with landlords and tenants to facilitate the set up of a new AST contract - Work with RSLs to convert temporary homes into settled accommodation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Issue secure tenancies, where appropriate, to homeless households living in suitable council homes
How were results communicated ?	<p>The Homelessness Review and Strategy 2008-11 will be publicised widely. It will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ published on the Haringey website▪ receive coverage in local media▪ summarised in a newsletter to everyone in TA and all stakeholders. <p>In addition, a thank you letter will be sent to those that attended the conference, advising them of how their feedback has been acted upon in the strategy.</p>
For further information, please contact:	Patricia McDonnell at pat.mcdonnell@haringey.gov.uk
Dates of consultation:	23 January 2008
Ward affected?	All