



**2009 Homelessness Conference:
Enhanced Housing Options – making it work for all**

Tuesday 27th October 2009, York Racecourse



The Enhanced Housing Options approach has now been adopted by a raft of authorities across the country. This is a good time to hear from organisations in the first wave of the Trailblazers about their successes, and from organisations in the second wave about how they are planning to build on those experiences, and integrating activities aimed at reducing the scale of rough sleeping.

This one day event will provide an opportunity to learn about the range of work being carried out to prevent homelessness for all groups, including rough sleepers, and other socially excluded groups. It will focus on the many practical tools being developed to make contact with people at an earlier stage, to promote joint working so as to intervene successfully in more cases, and to increase access to settled homes. It will also enable delegates to consider how the links between homelessness and unemployment, health and community involvement are being addressed and help to identify the role for housing agencies in contributing to meeting PSA 16.

In particular, the event will seek to explore:

- The successes of Enhanced Housing Options and Overcrowding Trailblazers
- How Housing Associations are lending their weight to widen housing options for all
- Increasing the range of housing options services to help people in rural areas, and across the stock of large housing organisations
- How service user involvement can add to the success of housing options work, and develop skills and expertise for people who have been homeless
- Working across the sectors to address overcrowding, difficulties in accessing the private rented sector, and other factors that can lead to homelessness
- Successful approaches to ending rough sleeping by 2012
- Learning from the implementation of protocols with other agencies
- Messages coming from a study of repeat homelessness in one of the Trailblazer authorities

Who should attend?

- Homelessness / housing advice / homelessness prevention staff, housing options service staff from local authorities, Housing Associations, ALMOs and the voluntary sector
- Housing strategy teams and social inclusion teams
- Housing Association housing management and policy teams
- Partners in health, probation, and substance misuse services
- Supported housing providers
- Elected members



10.00 Registration & Refreshments

10.30 Chair's Welcome

Mark Thompson, Calderdale MBC

Brief reference to how Calderdale's Enhanced Housing Options programme of work, and how this has been taken on board at corporate level, and by partners.

10.35 Enhanced Housing Options – making a difference

Linda McGowan, Homelessness Specialist Advisor, Communities and Local Government

In this opening session Linda will provide an overview of the Enhanced Housing Options agenda – where it has come so far, and its direction for the future. This big picture backdrop will provide food for thought for the day for delegates to consider the wider impact of this agenda on the delivery of high quality services to fulfil the needs of service users.

11.10 A real sense of partnership – how Housing Associations can help to widen housing options for all

Ehjaz Gull, Accent Regeneration and Community Partnerships

Housing Associations are making a significant contribution to tackling and preventing homelessness. Their role as partners is also key to widening housing options for all groups of customers seeking help with housing, and links into employment and training. This session will describe the approach adopted by a large RSL, including its work with partner local authorities in helping to support the actions of its partner local authorities to tackle and prevent homelessness, and its involvement in tackling worklessness and financial exclusion.

11.45 Professional Practice Sessions

1

Learning from the Enhanced Housing Options trailblazers - Providing better housing options - across a county and across a large housing organisation

Andrew Burnip, Durham County Council

Julie Griffin, Harvest Housing Group

Andrew is leading the Enhanced Housing Options programme across the new unitary authority of Durham County Council. Andrew will describe their programme of work which includes worklessness initiatives, and developing a housing solutions service to address the needs of all groups across a large and varied county.

Julie works with both partner local authorities and Harvest's own housing services to develop services and approaches aimed at providing a range of workable housing options for customers across a number of local authorities.

2

Service users doing it for themselves

Tamzin Taylor-Rosser and members of the National Youth Reference Group, National Youth Homeless Scheme

The National Youth Reference Group has been developed as part of the Government's Youth Homelessness Strategy to give a voice to young homeless people to influence policy and practice across national, regional and local agencies. The group will describe the wide range of work they are doing, and will provide an insight into the many ways in which current and former service users can be involved, as well as identifying how this can help to, for example, prevent homelessness amongst young people. The session will be interactive, so delegates will leave with new insights into how they can involve service users more effectively in their own areas.

3 Making better use of the stock we have – getting access to the private rented sector, and reducing overcrowding

Nick Sedgwick, Homeless Action Team, TSA

Andrew Bebbington, Bradford MBC

Nicola White, Telford & the Wrekin

This session will provide an insight into the way that Housing Associations and local authorities have been working together on making better use of the social and private rented housing stock through co-ordination on allocations, tackling overcrowding and under-occupation, and improving access to and management of the private rented stock.

4 Enhanced housing options and approaches to meeting PSA 16 for rough sleepers and other socially excluded groups

Neil Munslow, Newcastle City Council

Gemma Shiel, Newcastle City Council

Newcastle's approach to tackling rough sleeping has been developed on the back of a broader programme of work aiming to tackle social exclusion. The session will provide an opportunity to hear about the case management system which has brought agencies together to tackle the housing needs of drug and alcohol users and offenders, as well as broader activities which will help to achieve positive outcomes for indicators under the Public Service Agreement 16.

5 Protocols for homelessness prevention – getting them to work

Sarah Gorton, Homeless Link

Sheila Spencer, Housing Consultant

This session will explore the learning about how to develop and implement homelessness prevention protocols from a series of case studies about hospital discharge protocols developed by Homeless Link for the Housing Learning Improvement Network as well as a number of protocols developed for prison leavers, young people, and others at local and regional levels.

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Professional Practice Sessions 1-4 (repeated) Session 5 replaced with:

5 Tackling and preventing repeat homelessness – lessons from research in Bradford

Sarah Possingham, City of Bradford MDC

Sheila Spencer, Housing Consultant

Bradford City Council commissioned Housing Quality Network to undertake a research study of repeat homelessness earlier in 2009, the first time that a study of this issue has been carried out in England. This session will provide an opportunity to hear the key learning points from the research and to discuss what actions might be applied in Bradford and elsewhere to reduce the chances of people from all groups being homeless more than once.

15.20 Rough sleeping – can we really bring an end to it by 2012?

Jenny Edwards, Homeless Link

This session will discuss how likely we are to achieve the Government's goal of ending rough sleeping by 2012, and will explore the contribution of that could be made by agencies at national, regional and local levels to making this a reality.

4.00pm Close of Conference

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Contact Name:

Organisation Name:

Organisation Address:

Tel: Fax: Email:

Title	Delegate Name	Job Title	Email Address	PP Session AM 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5	PP Session PM 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5
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Dietary needs (including vegetarians) or special requirements (please indicate which delegate this relates to):

Delegate Fees: £299 + vat £249 + vat for NHC Members

**BOOK 3 PLACES ONLY PAY FOR 2!
BOOK BEFORE 8TH SEPTEMBER 2009 AND RECEIVE A £30 DISCOUNT OFF THE DELEGATE FEE**

Confirmation of booking and invoice will be sent within 7 days of the completed booking form to the contact person named below.

a) Please find enclosed a cheque for £ made payable to NHC

b) Please send invoice for the attention of: (Please note payment of the invoice is required prior to the event date)

c) Pay by credit/debit card (please note an additional charge of 1.5% per transaction for credit card & £ 0.20 per transaction for debit card)

Card Holder Name:

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Tyne & Wear SR4 6DJ



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On-line at:
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Last Minute Bookings

All bookings made within two weeks of the event date must be paid in full at the time of booking.

Please note any telephone reservations are made on a provisional basis and must be confirmed in writing within 2 working days.

Delegate fees include all refreshments and conference notes.

Pre-event information can be downloaded from the events page of our website approx 4 weeks prior to event. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Events Team on 0191 566 1000.

Cancellation Policy

I understand that the above reservation[s] is/are made on the condition that a full refund will be given less a £35 administration fee if more than 28 days notice is given. 50% of the course fee will be charged for any cancellation[s] which is/are given 28 days or less prior to the event date. Any cancellation[s] made 14 days or less before the event date will be liable for the full course fee. All cancellations must be confirmed in writing and acknowledged by the NHC. Substitutions are allowed at any time at no extra charge. NOTE: Organisations taking advantage of the 'Book two get third place free' option will be charged a 'no show fee' of £75.00 + vat if the third delegate

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