

Greater Manchester – A Sub-Regional Approach to Homelessness and the Homelessness Reduction Act

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GMCA

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

23 March 2018...What's happening today?

- 2 weeks to go – and we're all ready!?
- Not going to talk about the detail of the Act
- But something about implementation through our Trailblazer
- And something about homelessness in GM
- And some System-building

Greater Manchester

- Advanced devolution agenda and agreement
- Long history of engagement, partnership, collaboration and joint working
- Existing and emerging governance and infrastructure in GM Combined Authority
- Major programme of Public Service Reform and system-change
 - i.e. Place-based integration; Life Chances Programme
- Elected Mayor with new powers and a mandate
- Supportive of the HRA, but with serious concerns over resourcing and pressure on accommodation

Homelessness - The GM

Context

- 09/10 to 16/17 - A story of growth?

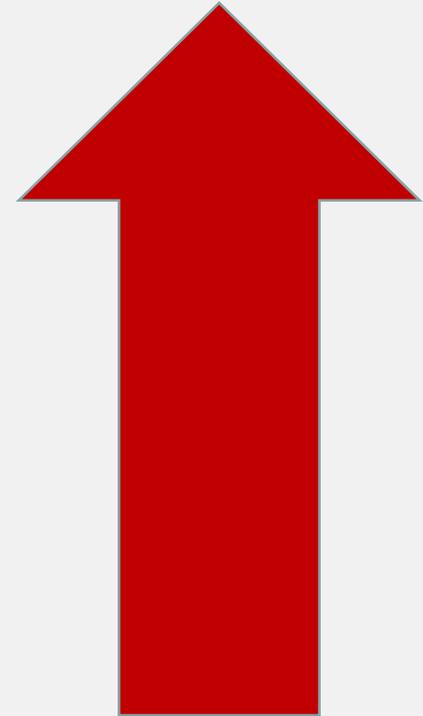
Homelessness decisions 79%

Homelessness acceptances 69%

Homelessness preventions 129%

Temporary accommodation 236%

Rough sleeping 568%



Now a major political priority

Approach to Homelessness in Greater Manchester

- Organic
- History of practical collaboration and joint-working outside of devolution. Deepening and growing.
- Focus on local circumstances fitting into GM Agenda
- Not always “All 10 at once”
- Practitioner-based governance group of Lead Officers – GM Housing Needs Group
- Acceptance of some movement across the sub-region
- Increasingly about system-building

Practical Sub-regional Activity:

- Recognition that we share stuff, and we need each other
- Some shared services and some joint commissioning
 - i.e. emergency accommodation framework
- Shared information and intelligence – early warning
- Convergence on rough sleeping
 - Count dates, shared information,
 - Cold Weather provision

Practical Sub-regional Activity:

- Joint funding bids, increasingly how we do business (and not just on homelessness)
- Joint consultation responses
- Joint Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer
- Joint training
- Joint ICT systems

The GM Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer

- Part of GM response to the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Nearly getting hold of our cash.....
- 7 thematic areas:
 - Data and Systems
 - Hub provision
 - Social Lettings Agency approach
 - Homelessness Action Network
 - Housing First
 - Pathways
 - Health and Homelessness co-ordination

Homelessness Prevention

Trailblazer Outline

- Develop a common outcomes-focussed response to Homelessness Reduction Act
- Commonality but not 'once size fits all' – i.e. prevention, practice, paperwork
- 'Localise and personalise'
- Single data system across GM
- Commitment to co-design and independent evaluation
- Same quality of service offer across GM (level-up)
- System-building and links to Public Service Reform and Place-Based Integration

Some Aims of the Programme:

- The Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer fund expects the following outcomes:
 - Reduction in homelessness acceptances of 40%
 - Increase in homelessness prevention of 50%
 - Reduction in statutory temporary accommodation of 50%
 - Reduction in repeat homelessness within 12 months
 - Reduction in evictions across all tenures of 20%
 - Zero discharge from hospital, prison or offending unit to street homelessness
 - Reduction in co-morbidity for rough sleepers
 - 80% 12 month tenancy sustainment rate for service users assisted through statutory and commissioned services
 - Year on year reductions in the average pupil absence rate in schools for children of homeless households in GM towards the overall absence rate (currently 4.6%)

Outcomes are cross-cutting, through broad areas of public service

Data, Systems and Information

- Commitment from LA's to utilise a common system for case management and performance management
- Baseline position to establish impact of activities – and of the new duties
- Common Personal Housing Plan
- Common toolkit and documentation
- Common advice standard and approach
- Joint training and development
- Consideration of joining-up Allocations as future Phase

Development of Local Hubs

- Alignment with GM agenda of Place-Based Integration and neighbourhood public service reform
- Not a 'one-size fits all' approach – local discretion and leadership on what is needed
- Aim to utilise as homelessness/rough sleeping prevention tool
- Assessment centres with night-time facilities (city centre)
- Co-design group in Manchester
- First Hub developed in Manchester, with tri-borough agreement

GM Social Lettings Agency Approach

- Aim to tackle supply-side, including shared housing offer
- Partnership with housing providers and vol sector
- Develop existing infrastructure
- Commissioning approach to be agreed
- Different approaches required in different boroughs due to local housing markets
- Proposal being developed by Housing Providers, to 'make an offer' of a GM-wide system
- To target over 1000+ properties brought into use
- Align to other GM initiatives

GM Homelessness Action Network

- Forum for engagement with stakeholders, providers, 3rd sector agencies and local businesses
- 2 major network events held – 150+ attendees
- Now developing Business and Faith Networks
- Common web portal in design
- Develop infrastructure across GM in all boroughs
- Improve information-sharing, best practice, support and communication, sharing (and managing expectations)
- 3-year Strategy to end the need for rough sleeping – 4 x ‘R’s’

Roll-out of Housing First

- Now a whole separate ball-game!
- 3 national pilots announced in the November Budget
- Share of £28m
- Faithful to the HF Model
- Needs analysis completed
- Commissioning approaches under consideration
- Awaiting final design
- Awaiting final £ settlement

Developing Common Pathways

- Focus on key groups who are over-represented in services – criminal justice, health, care leavers, LGBTQ
- Critical for local-connection blind aspects of Homelessness Reduction Act
- Joint working with Criminal Justice and ‘Through the Gate’
- Hospital Discharge event and protocol re-write
- Linked with GM Life Readiness approach

Co-ordination/ integration of health and homelessness

- Major engagement with Health - critical issue of health impact
- Awareness of rough sleeping but less so of health and wellbeing of households in temp accom
- Pump-prime bespoke initiatives and test-beds
 - i.e. Spice, TB/Hep B screening
- Focus in Year 1 on mental health
- Developing the evidence base to inform future commissioning

What Else is Happening?

- Preparation for the HRA at local level
- Major focus on rough sleeping and its elements
- Complementary Programmes - Social Impact Bond and Housing First Programme
- New strategies on rough sleeping and homelessness 2020
- Developing improved Cold Weather approach
- Emerging issue of out-of-borough placements
- Review of Allocations and Lettings approaches
- Duty to Refer.....+

Beyond Trailblazer – Drop the Pilots

- Buckle-up for Year 1!
- Development of the GM Network as a vehicle for delivery
- Capture the learning – and use it in ‘the system’
- Potential integration opportunities within PSR and joint commissioning across public service
- What are the parts of the system that contribute to homelessness? What parts can help to ease it?

The Future

- Start now to build the evidence base and impact assessment of Homelessness Reduction Act (including perverse incentives) and New Burdens, TAMF funding
- Reviewing the issue of Reviews?
- Develop the Duty to Refer?
- Partnerships - development of the GM Network as a vehicle for delivery and a source of resource
- Partnerships - major effort to build relationship with Health and housing providers

To Finish:

“We have to deal with Welfare Reform, a Minister who doesn’t know why rough sleeping is rising, new duties that we can’t fund and can’t meet, unaffordable accommodation and reducing budgets.

But isn’t it exciting to work in homelessness right now! I’m loving it!!”