



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Help for Single Homeless

Bidding prospectus

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Ministerial foreword

This government is committed to tackling homelessness and rough sleeping. That's why we have invested £470 million this spending period to tackle these issues. This funding helps to ensure that local authorities and the voluntary sector are able to provide the support people need to get off the streets – through schemes such as No Second Night Out and StreetLink.

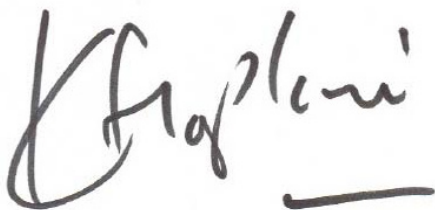
However too many people are still facing the reality of having no home to call their own. On any given day there are over 2,000 people sleeping rough in England and up to 40,000 in the hostel system. For many, having nowhere to live is not their only problem. Many are in poor physical or mental health, have a drug or alcohol issue or a criminal history.

All too often vulnerable people fall through the net and end up on the streets because opportunities are missed to prevent treatable problems (such as addiction, a mental health problem or offending) from escalating into homelessness. It is unacceptable that so many people find themselves in this situation and it places a great burden on our public services.

We know that with the right support at the right time, people can end their homelessness, or it can be prevented from happening in the first place – but only if we work together.

I want to build on the ambition set in the 2012 Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness report, *Making Every Contact Count*¹. The funding which we are offering to local authorities is designed to support them to work with local voluntary sector services as well as Jobcentre Plus, health and probation services to help those at risk of homelessness get back on their feet.

I know that many authorities have already made great progress in this area. I hope this funding encourages you to find further ways to join up services locally. I look forward to seeing some innovative bids.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Hopkins', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kris Hopkins MP
Minister for Housing

¹ Department for Communities and Local Government, *Making Every Contact Count*, 2012

Policy context

1. The majority of single people at risk of homelessness resolve their housing need independently. However some, particularly those with greater support needs (such as poor physical and mental health, a history of offending or addiction problems) and more limited support networks, struggle to do so. It is this group that are at greatest risk of rough sleeping. Adequate and timely support to help people get back on their feet is the key to preventing them from becoming homeless.
2. In 2013, 20,870 households were found by local housing authorities to be homeless but not in priority need². Many more people must have faced similar problems but did not approach their authority for help. It is likely that a sizeable minority are hidden – sofa surfing, squatting or staying in unstable, short term accommodation.
3. Intervening to prevent someone from sleeping rough will reduce risks to their general health and to personal safety, and can avoid further deterioration in underlying issues such as substance misuse or poor physical and mental health. Early action can also avoid the need for difficult and expensive interventions at a later stage. The cost to the public purse (mainly through unplanned use of Accident and Emergency Services and criminal justice costs) of an average rough sleeper is reported to be £20,000 per year³.
4. The government is looking to support local authorities to improve services for single people at risk of homelessness. In particular, we wish to promote better service coordination across local authority and service boundaries to improve services for single homeless people and prevent them from rough sleeping.
5. Effective local partnerships who design services around individuals, not organisations can achieve better outcomes for people. The government intends to offer funding to encourage authorities to work with other local partners (such as health and probation services) to design and deliver sustainable services to prevent single homelessness rather than react to its consequences. Public health responsibilities have recently been devolved to the local level and, as part of the Transforming Rehabilitation reforms, from June 1st 2014 probation services will be delivered by the National Probation Service and 21 Community Rehabilitation Companies (the latter of which are currently being awarded through a national competition). These changes will provide an opportunity for Local Authorities to build stronger links with health services, Jobcentre Plus and probation services locally.

² The priority need groups include (among others) families with dependant children, households that include a pregnant woman, applicants aged 16 or 17, 18-20 year olds formerly in care, and people who are vulnerable.

³ Social Finance and the Young Foundation, *Social Impact Bond for Rough Sleepers feasibility study*, unpublished, 2012

6. Through this funding, we are encouraging groups of local authorities to work with each other across geographical boundaries and other local partners to develop proactive and strategic homelessness prevention services. Poor health, addiction and criminal activity are common issues for single homeless people. The funding will help authorities to join up services at a local level and tackle these problems in the round. Local authorities are encouraged to build local links so that those at risk of homelessness are able to access support to gain the health, independence and stability they need to sustain a home of their own. When making a bid, groups of Local Authorities should put this integrated approach at the centre of their application, demonstrate how they will ensure every contact with those at risk of homelessness counts.

Scheme objectives

7. The scheme objectives are deliberately broad to give authority groupings the space to innovate and tackle local needs. This approach will encourage a wide range of responses to address localised problems. Successful bids should work towards achieving the following objectives:
 - Break the route into rough sleeping by improving coordination for single homeless clients across local authority boundaries, agencies (such as health and probation services) and the voluntary sector; and
 - Spread good practice to improve the quality and consistency of the service for single homeless people.
8. The government is making available up to £8 million of resource funding in 2014-16 to enable groups of local authorities to continue to improve the advice and support offered locally to single homeless people. Groups of local authorities are invited to work with other local partners to bid for services which prevent single homelessness and improve service coordination.

General information about funding scheme

9. Up to £3 million is available this year (2014/15) to assist local authorities to strengthen their single homelessness offer and up to a further £5 million next year (2015/16). There will be one bidding round to provide this funding. We are inviting bids from groups of three or more local authorities for funding over the two year period. There is no prescriptive structure; local authorities are free to form their own groupings according to local need.
10. In order to encourage service sustainability and demonstrate local commitment bidders are encouraged to provide a local contribution to deliver their bid. Local contributions can come from any source including local authorities, the voluntary sector, private sector or from other local partners (such as Jobcentre Plus, health or

probation services) and can be financial or in kind (such as the re-prioritisation of existing staff resources). Bidders should clearly set out how they intend to maintain services post funding (scheme funding ends on 31 March 2016).

11. In addition to the funding described in this prospectus, the Mayor of London is also making available up to £80,000 to London boroughs over the same period, for a 'No First Night Out' pilot project. This funding will be allocated to partnership projects that have the primary purpose of preventing rough sleeping. London boroughs may consider seeking the Mayor's funding for use as a local contribution to any funding awarded by DCLG. Further information on the Greater London Authority funding can be found at www.london.gov.uk/rough-sleeping. Please indicate on the application form if you are seeking funding from the Mayor.
12. Successful bids will be announced in autumn 2014. Grant payments will be made in two halves, the first in autumn 2014 and the second - contingent on progress (to be demonstrated through a light-touch process led by Homeless Link), in spring 2015.
13. Single homelessness is a shorthand term which, in context of this funding exercise, is used to describe those people who are homeless but not owed the full homelessness duty⁴ by their local housing authority. Those people affected are most likely to be single, though the description could also include couples or even families where grown-up, non-dependent children still live at home. Within this group there are a variety of different client groups that are defined by the level of support needed (e.g. addiction or poor mental health) and by other characteristics (such as a history of offending). We would expect individual bids to focus on a cohort who regularly place an undue burden on a range of services yet continue to fail to receive the services they need. When putting a bid together a local authority grouping should specify the cohort or needs level on which they have chosen to focus their efforts. We will expect to see a spread of client groups represented across the successful bids. Local authorities making a bid must demonstrate that the new service proposed is additional to existing services and will lead to system change in the long term.

Evidence of need

14. In order to ensure that funding is targeted on local areas with the greatest need, bidders are asked to provide evidence of the scale and nature of single homelessness in the area covered by their grouping. Whilst there is no nationally comparable single homelessness data set, there is a range of locally available data sources which authorities could draw on to provide evidence of the scale of need in their area. These sources include:

⁴ A person or household who is homeless through no fault of their own, eligible and in priority need.

- Changes in footfall to housing options or housing advice services
- New rough sleepers or long term rough sleeping populations
- Referrals to StreetLink or other local help lines
- Statutory homeless statistics, with a focus on the numbers not assessed as in priority need
- Applications to Local Welfare Assistance schemes
- Data from Police on contact with rough sleepers or those engaged in street behaviour
- Data on attendance rates at any local housing advice services or day centres
- Data from local homelessness services on their capacity or the number of referrals being declined due to projects being full or unable to meet demand
- Access data or requests for support from private rented sector schemes or applications for rent in advance (particularly any evidence where local authorities are unable to meet demand to show level of need)
- Any evidence from local Health Needs Audits or Assessments including demand on Accident and Emergency departments
- Homeless Link may also have worked with authorities or providers locally to undertake a Move on Plan Protocol or use the Prevention Opportunities Mapping Tool. These will also provide insight into the needs in the local area.

How to apply

15. Applicants are required to submit bids no later than 5pm, 8 August 2014 to singlehomelessness@communities.gsi.gov.uk
16. Bids should be submitted using the application form published alongside this prospectus. An officer should be nominated for contact purposes. Please provide a telephone number and email address.
17. Funding is not conditional on the local contribution but bidders that are able to provide this will score higher on the sustainability criterion below. Please include full details of your local contribution including source, year and funding level.
18. Please provide a full cost breakdown, including details and sources of any local funding contribution. This funding is resource only, capital expenditure is not eligible. Bidders are also asked to provide details of the numbers of clients the service will help and an indication of needs levels, according to the categorisation below. This categorisation has been drawn up to help assess value for money of each bid and, whilst not comprehensive, it is intended as a general guide. We are interested in funding services for a mixture of client groups.
 - **Group one:** Sofa surfers or newly single homeless people with no obvious support need (such as poor mental or physical health, a criminal history or drug

/ alcohol addiction) but who lack resources to access alternative accommodation independently

- **Group two:** One or more support need, resident in the hostel system, new rough sleeper
- **Group three:** Multiple support needs, a history of rough sleeping or current rough sleeper

19. Local authorities considering submitting a bid should contact their local Homeless Link manager if they have any queries about the bidding process and for support to put together a bid.

Homeless Link local managers		
Name	Area	Contact details
Gary Messenger	London and South East	gary.messenger@homelesslink.org.uk
Lindsay Henderson	North East and Cumbria	Lindsay.henderson@homelesslink.org.uk
Paul Connery	North West	paul.connery@homelesslink.org.uk
Helen Dudzinska	Yorkshire and Humber	helen.dudzinska@homelesslink.org.uk
Neelam Sunder	West Midlands	neelam.sunder@homelesslink.org.uk
Mohammed Sabeel	East Midlands	mohammed.sabeel@homelesslink.org.uk
Christine Spooner	East of England	christine.spooner@homelesslink.org.uk
Lindsay Megson	South West	lindsay.megson@homelesslink.org.uk
Sarah Gorton	South East	sarah.gorton@homelesslink.org.uk
Caitriona Carney	London	caitriona.carney@homelesslink.org.uk
Beth Coyne	London	beth.coyne@homelesslink.org.uk

20. In addition the National Practitioner Support Service delivers a range of support and training for local authorities to improve their housing options service through the Gold Standard scheme⁵.

Assessment of applications

21. Bids will be assessed and shortlisted by departmental officials. Those seeking funding from the Mayor of London will also be shared with the Greater London Authority. The Gold Standard Advisory Committee will provide an expert view on the shortlisted bids to aide the decision making process. Ministers will take the final decisions on funding allocations.

Criteria

22. The bids will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Demonstrating need (score 1-5) (x 1.2)** Evidence of the scale of single homelessness in geographical area covered by the bid.
- **Outputs Level (score 1-5)** Costs and targets (in terms of numbers of people helped) must be clearly identified. These should show the relationship between the costs of the proposed action against the delivery of targeted outcomes.
- **Innovation and service transformation (score 1-5) (x 1.2)** New ways or approaches in service design, co-commissioning and working across agencies, service areas or local authority boundaries. Please include details of how you would work with the customer and map the customer journey.
- **Sustainability (score 1-5)** Demonstrate local commitment by sourcing a local partnership contribution (financial or resources) from alternative sources (please identify the source). A clear plan for sustainment of services post 2015/16.

23. In addition to the above criteria local authority groupings must adhere to following conditions:

- All authorities receiving funding are expected to work towards the Homelessness Gold Standard scheme and the single homelessness local challenges; and

⁵ <http://home.practitionersupport.org/>. Email: generalenquiries@practitionersupport.org.uk

- The proposed course of action must be additional to action that would have been taken without funding. This funding may not be used to fund any activity being carried out to fulfil the main homelessness duty.

24. Bidders must demonstrate that they have the support of their authority (for example, by showing director-level endorsement), and, where relevant, the commitment of partner providers. Each partner authority must demonstrate support for the bid.
25. Support will be provided by local Homeless Link managers who can advise bidders on forming their grouping and can answer queries on the scope of this funding round. We strongly encourage bidders to use this resource.

Costs and funding arrangements

26. The department would expect to provide, per grouping, a minimum of £100,000 and a maximum of £250,000 over two years. Proposals must set out the total amount of funding sought and indicate how this breaks down. Bidders are also required to include details of the amount and source of any local funding contribution.
27. Funding will be split over two years with a 3 to 5 ratio. For example for a £100,000 bid you would receive in the region of £37,500 in the first year and £62,500 in the second year. You should reflect this split when defining how the money will be spent. The amount you receive is subject to resources and therefore may differ from the amount applied for. You will need to spend to the financial profile set out in your bid.
28. Bids must include timescales and give an indication of the costs involved in the proposals, specifying:
 - Level of contribution sought from the department; and
 - Level of contribution to be made by the authority and / or its partners.
29. Bids must stay within the application form and the word limits set for each question.
30. Bids must designate the lead local authority to which payment is to be made.
31. Funding will be issued as un-ringfenced resource grant under s.31 of the Local Government Act 2003. However, in order to learn from the approach, we have asked Homeless Link to undertake a brief survey of the programme at the end of year one and two.