



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

2016/20

Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers

Bidding Prospectus

Archived



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Department for Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF  
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Objectives of the Fund</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Applications</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Process and timetable for bids</b>	<b>12</b>

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# Introduction

1. The Government is committed to helping the most vulnerable in our society. That is why over the next four years we will invest £139 million in central programmes to prevent and reduce homelessness in England. We have also protected and maintained homelessness prevention funding for councils, reaching £315 million by 2019/20, to ensure they can provide advice to all those who approach them for help.
2. However, we know that some people do not always receive the help they need, and in the worst case may face the grim reality of having to sleep rough. One person without a home is one too many.
3. We are embarking on an ambitious programme, working with local areas and across government, to fundamentally reform the response to homelessness. We want to put prevention at the heart of this approach to reduce the number of people who face a homelessness crisis in the first place.
4. We want to improve the end-to-end support available for people who face a homelessness crisis, to help them get back on their feet quickly and prevent them from living on the streets.
5. As part of meeting this ambition, the government is making available £40m to prevent and tackle homelessness and rough sleeping. This will be available across two programmes and three separate funds:
  - A prevention programme including a £20m Trailblazer fund running in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 to establish a network of ambitious areas across England to work with **all eligible households**, whether in priority need or not to prevent them becoming homeless as early as possible;
  - And a rough sleeping programme including a £10 million rough sleeping fund, running in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19, to help **new rough sleepers, or people at imminent risk of sleeping rough**, get the rapid support they need to recover and move-on from their homelessness; and
  - £10 million of outcomes funding for Social Impact Bonds, running in 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21, to support the **most entrenched rough sleepers**.
6. Local authorities are invited to bid in for all funds, either singly or working with other authorities. Preference will be given to multi-agency partnership bids from across the wider public sector (for example with health and wellbeing, criminal justice or employment services) or, where appropriate, across local authority geographical boundaries. In such cases, one local authority will be required to act as the lead local authority for the purposes of funding allocation.

This prospectus is for the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers fund.

# Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers

1. Preventing homelessness is better for the people affected and better for the public purse. England has led the way in developing new approaches to prevention and since 2010 homelessness prevention activity has helped over 1 million households avoid a homelessness crisis. But there is more to do to address rising homelessness and help vulnerable people back on their feet.

- Homelessness teams across the country are facing new challenges and we want to support the development of new responses.
- DCLG wants to establish a network of ambitious homelessness prevention Trailblazer areas across England who want to go further and faster with reform and develop innovative new approaches to preventing homelessness.

2. These areas will carry out prevention activity earlier and with a wider group of people – not just those who are owed the statutory duty. We will do this through a:

- £20m Trailblazer fund running in 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 to establish a network of ambitious areas across England to work with **all eligible households** whether in priority need or not to prevent them becoming homeless as early as possible

3. They will work with us to build an evidence base on 'what works' to prevent homelessness, and work with other areas to share best practice.

# Objectives of the Fund

4. Homelessness services are triggered at the point of crisis; where there is reason to believe that a household will become homeless within 28 days. We know that for many people that is too small a window to find a solution and some will end up becoming homeless, sometimes being placed in costly temporary accommodation or the worst possible outcome, sleeping on the streets.
5. DCLG wants to establish a network of ambitious Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer areas across England who want to go further and faster with reform and develop innovative new approaches to preventing homelessness. These areas will go over and above what they are funded to do through their Homelessness Prevention Funding and develop new approaches to carry out prevention activity earlier and work with a wider group of people – not just those who are owed the main homelessness duty. We will do this:

**Through a £20 million Trailblazer fund to give authorities the resources to ramp up prevention and take new approaches to reduce homelessness. Key to this will be:**

- Testing new, innovative approaches to preventing homelessness as early upstream as possible and offering help to a wider group of people, not just those owed the main homelessness duty.
- Leading across partnerships and services to prevent and reduce homelessness, recognising that it can be the result of a number of factors and that it affects a wide range of outcomes, including health and wellbeing, community safety, education and work .
- Collaborating with other services and/ or using data to identify at-risk households and target interventions well before they are threatened with the loss of their home.
- Recognising that households will have assets and strengths as well as risk factors, and taking approaches that build on these (for example, support networks of friends and family; having goals to work towards) as they can play an important role in prevention for some groups of people.
- Helping us overhaul how data is collected and analysed and build our evidence base on what works, and test the effects of these approaches in different areas to inform a sustainable approach to homelessness prevention.

6. We believe that this programme will give local authorities the opportunity to get upstream of problems in their local area and work with more people to prevent their homelessness at an earlier stage. Alongside the funding aimed specifically at tackling rough sleeping, we believe that this programme will allow local areas to take a systems, outcomes and person-centred approach to reducing homelessness.

7. Local authorities do not have to be 'high performing' to apply. We are interested in creating a mix of those who are struggling with pressures and challenges but have a willingness to be part of a programme to transform their services to tackle these, and those who are already ahead of the curve but could go further and share their learning with others. Strategy and implementation support will be available when they are in place.
8. We are interested in bids that propose system changes to increase the quality of intervention and support, so that everyone who needs it – including single people – is provided with help to prevent homelessness, both upstream and to prevent crisis. We would also be interested in proposals that show how services would ensure people have a safe place to stay while they work with them on longer term solutions, in particular for those for whom there is currently no provision.
9. Local authorities are invited to also bid for funding from the Rough Sleeping Programme, if they wish to specifically address rough sleeping issues alongside wider prevention work.
10. We encourage local authorities to bring all partners to the table, to determine how a more strategic and integrated approach could be taken to preventing homelessness across a local area. This includes local homelessness voluntary sector partners, as well as local system and service partners, and people with lived experience of homelessness.
11. Preference will be given to proposals which feature strong multi-agency partnerships to recognise the importance of the role local services and systems play in helping people improve their resilience to homelessness. This includes physical and mental health (including alcohol and drugs); Jobcentreplus and/or other education, training and work support; the police, prisons, Community Rehabilitation Companies and National Probation Service.
12. We are also keen to see proposals from across geographical local authority boundaries, recognising that better solutions can be found for households when adjoining authorities collaborate. This could include bids from upper tier authorities / regional strategic authorities. We are also open to collaborations between authorities with a common interest, for example coastal or rural areas, or bids across other service footprints that make sense from the perspective of enabling homelessness prevention to be integrated into the commissioning of other connected outcomes (e.g. health and wellbeing, work or criminal justice).
13. We have worked alongside Cabinet Office's Policy Lab with people who have experienced homelessness, local authorities and homelessness charities to generate fresh evidence and ideas about how local services can predict and prevent homelessness. We will make the outputs of that work available to areas to consider and trial as part of this programme.

14. Successful Trailblazer areas will work with us to improve our evidence base and data on what works to prevent homelessness. To facilitate this we will expect successful bidders to commit to working with our analysts on data collection and evaluation. We will also expect successful areas to commit to sharing their learning with central government and other areas.

## Applications

15. Local authorities are invited to bid, either singularly or in collaboration. Bids must be put forward by a lead local authority, who can be the accountable body on behalf of the partnership. Preference will be given to bids across groups of local authorities, with the support of other local systems and services, and / or homelessness service providers. We recommend that authorities work in partnership wherever possible.
16. If a local area chooses to apply for more than one of the Rough Sleeping Programme funds or the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazer fund, they will need to complete separate application forms and explain how the bids are complementary and contribute to taking an end-to-end approach to tackling homelessness.

## Funding

17. We are making available up to £20 million to local authorities over 24 months starting in January 2017. We will be publishing a list of grant awards to successful Trailblazer areas.
18. Proposals must set out the total amount of funding sought and indicate how this breaks down by each financial year. We will prefer front loaded bids with a declining profile as the service moves towards becoming financially sustainable. Bidders are also required to include details of the amount and source of any local funding contribution.
19. Value for money calculations must be included on the template provided. The value for money must exceed 1:1 and we will prefer bids with higher cost benefit ratios.
20. Local authorities that successfully bid for funding will be offered a grant to deliver their proposal. Grants will be paid under section 31 of the Local Government Act. We intend to make three payments to successful applicants, one in quarter 4 of 2016/17, and two further tranches in 2017/18 and 2018/19.
21. As well as collaborating with the Department on data and meeting with officials frequently, successful bidders will be expected to provide a short annual progress report at the end of each financial year, and meet with the Department to discuss this. Payment of tranches 2 and 3 will be subject to successful bidders demonstrating satisfactory progress against their original proposal.



## Data and Evidence

22. We are also keen to work with successful bidders on how they can help improve our understanding of the scale and nature of homelessness and the evidence base of 'what works' to predict and prevent homelessness and achieve other related outcomes.
23. Successful bidders will be expected to work with us to collect data and develop a comparable and robust method of evidencing the impact of their proposals in practice, and should be willing to share their findings both locally and nationally. We will also expect successful bidders to work with us to improve the information we collect nationally about homelessness.

## Bidding Criteria

24. This section presents the six criteria against which all bids into the £20 million Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers fund will be assessed. Bids must be submitted using the application form. Prospective commissioners will be required to demonstrate they:
- Can set out the **scale and nature of homelessness that they intend to prevent in their local areas and the impact** they hope to achieve;
  - Can demonstrate how they will **deliver value for money** taking into account the preference for bids with higher costs benefit ratios;
  - Can describe the **innovative and/or evidence-based approach** the area will be adopting, and why and how it will be different from current provision;
  - Can evidence how they will meet the **expectation of delivery through partnership working** including the fit with relevant local strategies and public service transformation work;
  - Can set out the **timeframe** for mobilisation and give evidence of **deliverability** including longer term plans for **sustainability**; and
  - Can outline how they will **use data to target** their new service, and commit to working closely with DCLG and other government departments to share this.
25. Criteria will be marked against the following scoring system:
- **5 points:** proposals meet all aspects of the criteria, supported by good evidence.
  - **3 points:** proposals that meet most aspects of the criteria supported by good or mixed evidence.
  - **1 point:** proposals that only meet limited aspects of the criteria supported by good or mixed evidence.
  - **0 points:** does not meet criteria.

26. Please note, there will be an element of discretion in how the funds are awarded as we want to achieve a geographical spread and include at least one smaller and/or rural authority.
27. In some instances we may contact Local Authorities for further information or to clarify details, and this may be included in the scoring of applications.
28. The guidance below should be used to complete the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers Application Form.

<b>A: Need and impact</b>	<p>We would like areas to set out the scale and nature of homelessness, including rough sleeping, in their local area and the outcomes they hope to achieve.</p> <p>Preference will be given to those areas who can clearly describe their populations at risk of homelessness, the triggers of homelessness for these populations, and the impact of being at risk or becoming homeless on their quality of life and wider local outcomes.</p> <p>We will take scale and nature, including level of need, into account, but will be looking to target a range of populations and areas, for example a rural area, and coastal area, as well as urban centres.</p> <p>Please describe the expected impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the availability, timeliness, and quality of information, advice and support for both those owed the homelessness duty and those not;</li> <li>• effective preventions for both those owed the homelessness duty and those not;</li> <li>• homelessness acceptances; and</li> <li>• use of temporary accommodation.</li> </ul>
<b>B: Value for Money</b>	<p>Government is required to ensure provision it funds is value for money. Areas must outline their value for money case including how the new provision will go above and beyond existing provision and how much they expect to save by 2020. The value for money case must exceed 1:1 and we will prefer bids with higher costs benefit ratios. Savings to other parts of the public purse are expected.</p> <p>The value for money case should reflect the expected impact of interventions listed in section A.</p>
<b>C: Innovation</b>	<p>Bids will be expected to describe the approach the area will be adopting, how and why it will be different from current provision – giving particular consideration to the populations described in A and the evidence is that this approach is needed and is likely to work, for example it may build on innovative or successful existing practice in the area or further afield.</p> <p>This could also include interventions that build on a household's strengths and assets (for example, skills; support networks; having goals to work towards) that we know can play an important role in prevention for some groups of people.</p>

	<p>Bids are expected to outline how they will develop new services with a good understanding of user needs, and if possible, co-design, test and iterate them with users through the process.</p> <p>If we want to develop preventative services for a group of people wider than those owed the statutory duty, we need to create cultural change as well as specific ideas for new services. This requires leadership – to give permission to frontline staff to be innovative and flexible in how they engage with users, and to create a culture that empowers frontline staff and values their feedback in strategic planning. We would be interested in bids that outline how they will engender this cultural change necessary to make the ideas sustainable.</p>
<b>D: Partnership Working</b>	<p>Bids will be expected to describe how they will commission for and deliver the intervention/s across local authority boundaries, local partner agencies and/or the voluntary sector, including frontline homelessness organisations, including the fit with relevant local strategies and public service transformation work.</p> <p>This could include partners working to; improve physical and mental health (including reducing drug and alcohol use); reduce offending and re-offending and improve community safety e.g., the police, prisons, Community Rehabilitation Companies and National Probation Service; partners working to increase participation and outcomes from education, training and work including Jobcentre Plus.</p> <p>Bids describing the involvement of people with lived experience in commissioning and/or service delivery will be preferred.</p>
<b>E: Mobilisation and Deliverability</b>	<p>Bids will be expected to set out the timeframe for mobilisation and give evidence of deliverability. Faster mobilisation will be preferred.</p> <p>They should set out longer term plans for sustainability of the revised system and interventions once funding ends. This may include demonstrating local commitment through different ways of working, by sourcing a contribution (financial or resources) from alternative sources and/or delivery of savings through increased prevention reducing need for and cost of crisis intervention.</p>
<b>G: Data and Evidence</b>	<p>Areas should briefly describe their local data systems and outline how they will use data to target their new service. In particular, we are interested in where local areas can link data to build up a richer understanding of those at risk of homelessness, potentially including data on households' strengths and assets. Successful areas will need to commit to working closely with DCLG and other government departments to collect data and evaluate the effectiveness of their prevention activities. We also expect areas to commit to sharing their findings across their local partnerships, with other authorities and nationally.</p>

# Process and timetable for bids

## How to apply

We recognise there are many pressures on local authorities and so we have sought to make the application process as simple as possible, while ensuring decisions on applications will be fair and transparent.

To apply, please complete the form that accompanies this prospectus. Bidders are encouraged to limit their application to 3 sides of A4. We do not wish to receive any additional information beyond what is asked for in the form, although letters of support may be annexed.

Applicants are required to submit bids no later than 5pm 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 to [h&senquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:h&senquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

An officer should be nominated for contact purposes. Please provide a telephone number and e-mail address.

If local authorities have any queries about the bidding process they should contact [h&senquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:h&senquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

## Timetable

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Funding open for applications
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November: Deadline for applications
- December 2016: Successful bids announced

## Funding Workshops

As part of the bidding process DCLG will be running a series of workshops and events. If you would like to be kept updated on these events please email [roughsleeping@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:roughsleeping@communities.gsi.gov.uk).

## Assessment of applications

Bids will be assessed by DCLG officials, and Ministers will take the final decision on which bids to support.