

# Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

## SJR(2)-11-06(p.1) Annex 1

### National Homelessness Strategy - Action Plan Up-date - June 2006

#### Section 1: Prevention

Action	Target Date	Progress
<p>Local Authority Housing Options and Advice</p> <p>1 Disseminate the Tarkitechnology report, and encourage authorities to review their services in the light of its recommendations.</p> <p>2. Revise the statutory guidance to local authorities to reflect a stronger housing options and advice approach.</p> <p>Independent Housing Advice</p> <p>3. Explore with the LSC the performance monitoring and review arrangements for independent advice services, in order to secure improved analysis of outcomes.</p> <p>Local Implementation of the Homelessness Duty</p> <p>4. Revise our statutory guidance on the application of homelessness legislation.</p> <p>5. Foster access to training in homelessness legislation, particularly in changes to law, and to case law updates.</p>	<p>June 2006</p> <p>June 2006</p> <p>June 2006</p> <p>June 2006</p>	<p>Issued to all authorities. All authorities are being questioned on how they are addressing recommendations during progress visits.</p> <p>Guidance being redrafted for consultation</p> <p>Initial discussions have taken place, but are on hold due to reorganisation at LSC. Discussions will proceed with individual services and at Housing Advice Forum Cymru.</p> <p>Guidance being redrafted for consultation</p>

Legislation	June 2006	Free websites to be circulated. Projects in GP programme will raise awareness of current law.
6. Ensure that any proposals to amend legislation are subject to full consultation in Wales.		
Housing Benefit		
7. Support an event to exchange good practice on working with the HB system and private rented sector.	Dec 2007	No prospect of legislation in the near future.
8. Seek to influence the development of the Local Housing Allowance in Wales in discussions with the DWP.	Dec	
Repossessions and Evictions		
9. Work with advice agencies and local authorities to promote the tackling of illegal evictions in the private sector.	2006	An event is being planned for September, through Shelter Cymru.
10. Will consider with the Council of Mortgage Lenders what other measures are required to promote sustainable home ownership.	Dec 2006	The Minister has made representation to the DWP in order to ensure access to affordable accommodation is maintained.
Children and Young People		
11. Introduce legislation to provide better protection for children in homeless families.	Dec 2006	Discussion has taken place with Shelter Cymru on this. To be raised at National Housing Advice Forum and with LSC.
12. Require YPPs to work with housing colleagues to identify the particular housing needs of young people.	Dec	
13. Explore the development of a training package for youth workers on dealing with housing issues.	2006	This point has been referred to the CML, and we are awaiting a response.
14. Establish a consultation mechanism on the National		

Homelessness Strategy to involve young people in its development.	June	The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order was passed on 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2006.
15. Introduce the National Service Framework for Children to promote joint working to support successful transitions for families affected by homelessness.	2006	This requirement has been set for YPPs, to be completed by March 2008.
Education	Dec	Discussions are underway with Shelter Cymru and Youth sector on developing a training pack for youth workers.
16. Ensure that good practice in education young people on homelessness prevention is disseminated across Wales.	2007	This is being taken forward with Funky Dragon and other youth networks-awaiting their views on this.
17. Take account of the role that education on housing within the PSE can play in preventing homelessness, and ensure that continuing opportunities to teach this issue are promoted.	Dec	This is about to be published.
Mediation	2006	June
18. Encourage all local authorities and their partners to establish mediation schemes in their areas with the aim of preventing homelessness.	2006	Reviewed with Shelter Cymru in June 06. Mapping of local action has begun.
19. Promote awareness of good practice in mediation for young people.	Dec	This will be taken into account within the curriculum review, and also through Shelter Cymru 'Homeworks' project.
20. Explore with Relate the possibilities for widening the scope of relationship counselling to address homelessness.	2006	2007
Rural Homelessness	Dec	21. Publicise the research report into rural homelessness, and consider how findings should influence policy and

practice.

Dec  
2006  
This will be taken forward through Llamau project and Code of Guidance (CoG).

Dec  
2007  
Presentation to local authority network February 06. To be promoted through Llamau good practice toolkit project and other good practice on website.

To be taken forward with Relate Cymru.

Dec  
2006

Final report awaited from Cardiff University . To be followed up with good practice event with CIH in July 06.

June  
2006

## Section 2: Access to Housing

Action	Target Date	Progress

Supply	June 2006	Revised guidance and toolkit issued May 06.
22. Issue revised guidance and associated documents to facilitate the planning of affordable housing supply.		
23. Implement new arrangements for procurements of social housing to enable longer term programming to meet needs.	June 2006	Phased implementation of new partnership arrangements from 2005/6 to 2007/8.
Access to Social Housing		
24. Publish guidance on how social landlords should ensure that their housing is accessible to, and meets the needs of homeless people.	June 2006	To be addressed in CoG and new guidance for RSLs.
25. Promote choice for homeless people setting out in statutory guidance how local authorities should take account of individual needs and preferences.	June 2006	
Bond, Deposit and Rent in Advance Schemes		
26. Support the further development of bond schemes across Wales, taking account of gaps in current provision, the review of the Cardiff Custodial Bond Scheme, and the need for more generic inclusive services which include more private landlords.	Dec 2006	This will be taken forward with 'CRISIS' good practice project, and working group on access to private rented housing.
27. Review our policy and practice guide for bond schemes in Wales.		
Exclusions		
28. Issue regulatory guidance for housing associations on suspensions which mirrors the Homelessness Act provisions due to unacceptable		

behaviour contained in the Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness.	Dec	
29. Monitor social landlord compliance with guidance on restricting access to social housing through audit and regulation.	2007	To be reviewed, linked to above working group.
30. Promote multi-agency arrangements which review the circumstances of excluded people and provide support to enable them to be reconsidered for social housing.	Dec	
Temporary Accommodation	2006	Draft guidance with Legal Services
31. Introduce legislation to place new requirements on local authorities from April 2006 to consider social and personal factors when finding temporary accommodation for homeless people.	Dec	
32. Introduce legislation setting new standards for the use of temporary accommodation.	2007	WAG currently undertaking review of local authority allocation policies. To be discussed with WAO.
33. Monitor the progress authorities are making on their temporary accommodation targets through the Policy Agreements.	Dec	
Bed and Breakfast	2007	Research project on this to be undertaken by WAG during 06/7.
34. Legislate to bring into effect new restrictions on the use of B & B by local authorities.	April 2006	
35. Monitor the progress local		The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order was passed on

authorities are making in reducing the use of B & B by reference to the Policy Agreements.	April	8 <sup>th</sup> March 2006. This requirement came into effect on 3.4.06
36. Continue to provide support to local authorities to deliver improvements in temporary accommodation responses through support for spend to save initiatives.	2006 Dec	As above. The new standards came into effect from April 07.
Private Rented Sector	2006	Monitoring and performance issues taken up through local authority visits and other bi-lateral contacts.
37. Introduce a national mandatory licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation, which aims to provide safe, acceptable living accommodation.	April	
38. Establish a task and finish group to identify good practice in engaging the private sector in tackling homelessness.	2006	
Move-on		The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (Wales) Order was passed on 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2006. This requirement came into effect from April 07.
39. Promote local joint working to secure adequate provision of move-on accommodation.	June	
Partnership with Housing Associations	2006	As above. Performance improving in most areas of Wales. New performance information on Policy Agreements due for review summer 06.
40. Examine how current strategic partnership arrangements are working and how these can best be organised to deliver effective joint working in the field of homelessness, including research into the role Community Housing Agreements can play.	June	
	2006	Being taken forward through Prevention and Temporary Accommodation grant programme, and discussions with individual authorities through visits etc.
41. Discuss with WFHA and WLGA ways to improve dialogue and joint strategic positions on partnership working to tackle homelessness.	Dec	Mandatory licensing scheme to be introduced from end of June 06.

2006

Proposals for group being drawn up.

June

2006

Taken forward with local authorities through progress visits.

Dec

2006  
Planning for move-on good practice event winter 2006/7.

Dec

Research into partnership arrangements underway, led by Simon Inkson Associates

2006

June

Discussions have taken place with both parties, and proposal for joint conference approved for Good Practice Grant funding.

2006



### Section 3: Resettlement and Support

Action	Target Date	Progress
<p>Rough Sleeping</p>		
<p>42. Require local authorities through their local homelessness strategy to specify how they will provide accommodation for rough sleepers.</p>	<p>June 2006</p>	<p>This has been incorporated in guidance on local housing strategies.</p>
<p>43. Set a target to reduce rough sleeping once a statistical baseline has been established.</p>	<p>Dec 2007</p>	<p>Rough sleeping counts to be carried out March 07. Guidance for counts out for consultation. Support for counts to be provided by REACH.</p>
<p>44. Support services which work with rough sleepers to offer them resettlement pathways.</p>	<p>June 2006</p>	<p>Homelessness grant and Supporting People programmes continue to support a range of resettlement services. Performance indicators to be developed for grant-funded projects.</p> <p>This is being taken forward on a case-by-case basis.</p>
<p>Supporting People</p>		
<p>45. Support changes to objectives or specifications in Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG) projects where they are compatible with tackling homelessness.</p>	<p>Dec 2006</p>	<p>Joint working relationship between SPIN and homelessness network being developed, and planning for joint conference.</p>
<p>46. Promote the use of Supporting People services as part of the homelessness prevention and repeat homelessness agenda.</p>	<p>Dec</p>	
<p>47. Review the impact of proposed legislation on tenure on the Supporting People policy context and criteria.</p>	<p>2006</p>	<p>Rented Homes Bill published May 06. Minister has met Law Commissioners June 06.</p>

Learning and Employment	Dec	To be taken forward with EIWa and Cymorth.
48. Review the pilot programme to assess its value in aiding the process of resettlement of people at risk of homelessness.	2007	
49. Encourage the development of skills and employment assessments for homeless people, and referral arrangements to maximise their career and income opportunities.	Dec	To be addressed in revised Code of Guidance, and Homelessness Grant programme including Solas project.
Positive Lifestyles	2007	
50. Promote positive lifestyles as part of the resettlement process through disseminating examples of successful practice.	Dec	
51. Support the bid for the Homeless Football World Cup to be held in Wales.	2006	Good practice to be promoted through evaluation of Homelessness Grant programme, particularly Pilot Project in Newport.
		Awaiting proposal from Cyrenians.
	Dec	
	2006	
	Dec	
	2007	

Action	Target Date	Progress
Former Prisoners & Prevention of Re-Offending		
52. Progress our commitments under the AWYOS by working with YOTs and the Youth Justice Board to identify and meet the housing needs of young offenders and those at risk of offending in each area	June 2006	Working group established to set new targets for 2006/7 under AWYOS. Drafting objectives for 06/7.
53. Monitor and advise on the development of SPOPs and Local Homelessness Strategies to ensure they reflect joint working with criminal justice agencies to prevent homelessness.	Dec 2006	Completed assessment of SPOPs for 06/7, and feedback provided.
54. Review the implementation of the PLC scheme to ensure it is working effectively to support the prevention of homelessness.	Dec 2006	Joint review meeting January 06. Project meeting performance targets.
55. Explore with criminal justice agencies the scope for joint working and commissioning in preventing homelessness amongst ex-offenders.	June 2006	Ongoing through All Wales Offender Housing Task Group, and discussions with NOMs.
Social Services		
56. Consider how we can strengthen the assessment of how Social Services Departments (SSDs) meet their statutory responsibilities within the (Social Services Inspectorate (SSIW) inspection programme.	Dec 2006	Following discussions with SSIW/Social Care officials, a proposal has been put forward for consideration by SSIW.
57. Foster development and dissemination of good practice and joint working between housing and social services.	Dec 2006	
Health		

58. Consider the recommendations emerging from the Health and Homelessness conference in May 2005.	Dec	Initial discussions have taken place with SSIW. WHQ to produce good practice note in 2007/8.
59. Publish the health policy guidance which the Selected Minority Group will produce in 2006.	2006	
Domestic Abuse	June	Joint audit work on 6 areas completed, together with survey report from Homeless Link Cymru. Health and SJR officials now in discussion taking forward recommendations. Health Minister to meet Homeless Link Cymru July 06.
60. Expand our grant programme for domestic abuse services to improve support for women to remain in their homes and reduce the likelihood of homelessness.	2006	Guidance now being finalised.
61. Evaluate the outcome of the pilot project and disseminate its findings.	Dec	
Substance Misuse	2006	The Grant programme for 2006/7 is supporting the work of DA co-ordinators in all local authority areas.
62. Consult on the framework for the needs of homeless people or others in housing need.	Dec	
63. Continue providing capital funding to increase the availability of access to housing for people with substance misuse problems.	2006	The project co-ordinator gave a presentation to WAG in May 06.
Care Leavers	June	Discussions continuing with WAIMON to secure successful completion of project.
64. Review the survey information to identify and address barriers to the provision of suitable accommodation for care leavers, and address any	2007	The SM service framework for homeless people is under development, and should be completed for consultation by autumn 06.

issues raised.

65. Promote joint working between housing and social services in the re-housing aspect of the resettlement process, through monitoring of local homelessness strategies and leaving care services.

Armed Service Veterans

66. Examine the outcome of the current research project and explore its recommendations with partners.

67. Promote with the Veterans Agency and partners better joint working between statutory and voluntary agencies to prevent homelessness amongst veterans.

Dec

2006

April

2006

June

2006

Dec

2006

June

A further £3m has been made available for capital projects for 2006/7

This work is being undertaken by Social Care and Housing officials. Main issues identified and discussed at conference.

This issue has been a theme of an all Wales conference in May 2006, and officials will discuss action to follow up its findings.

This has been discussed with veterans' organisations in January 06. Further research to be undertaken by MoD.

This will be taken forward through a conference to be arranged for the autumn 06.

	2006	
	June	
	2006	

Section 5 Equality of Access

Action	Target Date	Progress
Refugees		
68. Review the effectiveness of the Well-Housing project to ensure it works effectively in reducing homelessness amongst refugees.	June 2006	Review meeting held in December 05. WRC to provide further monitoring information in due course.
69. Publish and implement the Action Plan on Asylum Seekers and Refugees.		Responses to consultation being considered.
Black and other Minority Ethnic Groups (BME)	June 2006	
70. Review how local authorities and their partners are addressing the needs of BME homeless people through their local strategies		This is being addressed through local progress visits. Also agreed that further investigation would take place in selected areas.
71. Commission/undertake research into homelessness in Wales amongst BME groups.	Dec 2006	This was discussed at BME Housing Group on 20.3.06. It will be considered again at next meeting.
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual People (LGB)		
72. Review the findings of the	Dec	

research into the housing needs for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual people.	2006	
73. Monitor how local authorities consider the specific needs of lesbians, gay and bisexual people in their Local Homelessness Strategy.	June 2006	The research findings are being considered with EPU.
People with Disabilities	Dec 2006	This will be taken forward with Las through progress monitoring, supported by Stonewall training project.
74. Evaluate the effectiveness of the specialist advice service in South Wales in preventing homelessness.		
75. Review with partners how specialist advice can best be delivered across Wales.		
Women		
76. Review the provision of local authority homeless services to ensure they are appropriate for women as well as men.	Dec 2007	To be undertaken during 2007.
Older Homeless People	Dec 2007	This review will be linked to above evaluation.
77. Work with local services and the UK Coalition on Older Homelessness to address the specific needs of older homeless people.		
Gypsies and Travellers		To be taken forward through progress monitoring, including rough sleeping returns.
78. Review the housing needs and service provision for gypsies and travellers in Wales	Dec 2006	

	Dec 2006	<p>Contacts with Coalition made, with advice to be considered.</p> <p>Meeting later 2006.</p>
	Dec 2006	<p>The consultants' report was published in April 06. WAG officials are considering its recommendations.</p>

## Section 6: Delivering and Implementing the Strategy

	Target Date	Progress
<p>Local Homelessness Strategies</p> <p>79. Meet annually with every authority to review progress.</p> <p>80. Revise our guidance on local homelessness strategies taking account of experiences so far, and how the duty should be met under the Plan Rationalisation proposals.</p> <p>Joint Working and Planning</p> <p>81. Strengthen the statutory Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness in regard to joint</p>	<p>Dec 2006 June 2006</p>	<p>Progress visits underway-4 completed.</p> <p>This will be reflected in revised CoG and Housing Strategy guidance.</p>



working.		Revision of CoG in progress.
82. Promote and support good practice and joint working.	June	
Good Practice	2006	
83. Review our homelessness grants programme to ensure that the evidence of effective practice is widely circulated.	June	This is being promoted through progress review visits and other strands of action within this Strategy, including Good Practice Grant programme.
	2006	
84. Redesign our website to provide more effective links to highlight good practice and other websites.		The review of the grants programme is in progress- action plan to be developed and implemented by April 2007
85. Work with local authorities to promote a more effective network for homelessness staff.	Dec	
	2007	
86. Use our resources to promote continuing innovation and improvement in homelessness practice.		Plans for revised website underway. Good practice section to be set up June 06
	Dec	The Network is preparing development proposals for a grant bid to develop its infrastructure.
	2006	
87. Promote information sharing on effective practice in joint working, including joint working between housing, health and social services.	June	The initial Good Practice in Homelessness grant programme 2006/7 has been approved and further bids due in by end of June. Twenty six new projects are beginning which will promote excellence and innovation in areas ranging from mediation to working with the private rented sector.
	2006	
Measuring and Analysing Homelessness	June	
	2006	
88. Provide advice to each authority on the proper interpretation of national data requirements.		To be developed with WLGA, Network, and other policy areas.
		Learning exchange event has been held in April, with report to be produced from this event.
89. Take action to address any significant delay in receipt of statutory homelessness returns.	Dec	
	2006	

90. Discuss statistical trends at least annually with each authority.		The LGDU have made a presentation to Network in February 06, and further advice to follow.
91. Publish an annual report on homelessness trends as well as quarterly bulletins.	Dec	Recent performance has improved. No current cause for concern.
Monitoring and Review	2006	Trends are reviewed through progress visits and other contacts.
92. Provide annual reports to the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee on progress. This will include updated revisions to the Action Plan.	Dec	Bilateral discussions include focus on Policy Agreement performance.
93. Carry out a full review of the Strategy.	2006	The bulletin for 2005/6 will be published in autumn 06, with improved presentation of data.
94. Review with partners the need to set further specific target dates, beyond the dates for performance targets already included in the main report.	Dec	A progress report will be presented in summer 06, and a full report in spring 07.
	2006	To follow above.
	April	This will be reviewed through HSWG.
	2007	
	April	
	2008	
	April 2007	