



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Homelessness Trailblazer Voluntary sector briefing note

Briefing note #2 published October 2018

What is the homelessness trailblazer project?

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's homelessness prevention trailblazer project has been funded by the government for two years and £736,000 to look at new and creative ways to reduce homelessness in our area.

This note sets out the ways the trailblazer project is working at the end of its first year, along with some case studies to give some "real life" examples and quotes from partners.

It aims to help voluntary sector partners get involved in the project.

The Trailblazer is a team of seven people, who work with council housing options teams, helping them connect with other public sector professionals and with housing landlords.

The districts covered are

- Cambridge
- East Cambridgeshire
- Huntingdonshire
- South Cambridgeshire
- Peterborough; and
- Fenland who leads the project.

We would love partners across all sectors to get involved, to make homelessness the unacceptable outcome - working together to prevent homelessness wherever we can.



Are we all doing enough to reduce homelessness?

Do you think your organisation could do more?

In 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act changed the way statutory services work with people who are at risk of homelessness.

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough a partnership of local district councils were awarded funding to respond to this change in new and innovative ways. The front facing element of this is the trailblazer team. Organisations have been referring in people who are at risk of homelessness for additional support.

The team also works hard to build and strengthen the connections between teams, where they might not previously have worked together. *See page 2 for more...*

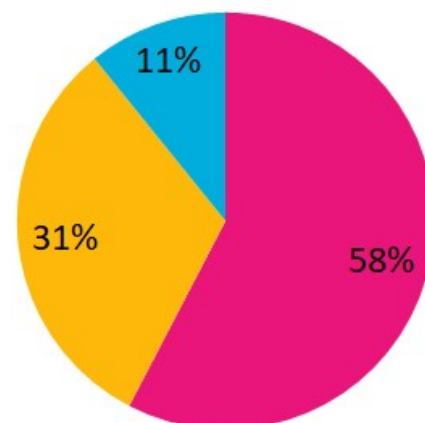
The Trailblazer project aims to make homelessness the unacceptable outcome across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Year 1: referrals

From June 2017 to July 2018 the Trailblazer team had **697** referrals in total. The chart shows how much warning each case had, prior to the households becoming homeless...

- 400 had more than 56 days warning of homelessness (these are the Trailblazer team's key target) (58%).
- 219 had less than 56 days' warning (31%).
- 75 were already homeless (i.e. no time to prevent homelessness at point of referral) (11%).






(3 cases were referred but fell out of contact with any team.)







Homelessness Trailblazer: voluntary sector note

Becoming part of the trailblazer

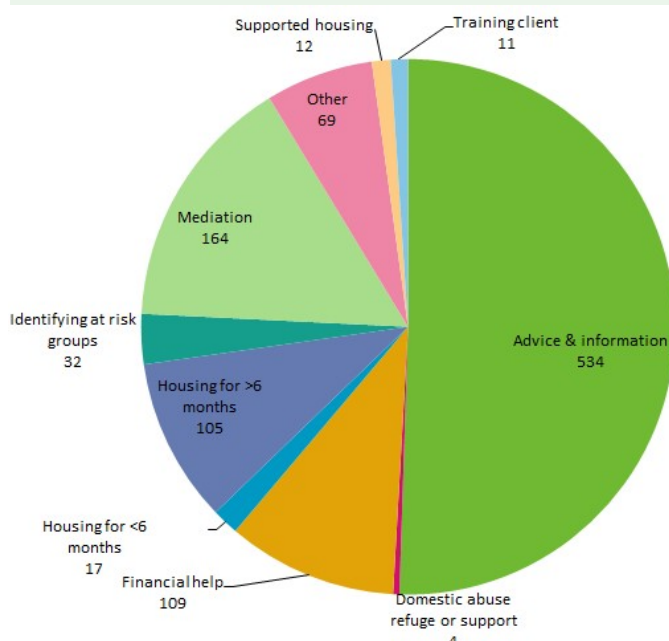
The trailblazer team is helping organisations by...

-  Running a number of training events for front line staff
-  Updating the housing pages on the Making Money Count website at www.makingmoneycount.org.uk
-  Producing a **statement of intent** for third sector organisations to sign to show their commitment to tackling homelessness. You can find the statement here <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/statement-of-intent.pdf> and become a signatory by emailing Lynne at [<Lynne.McAulay@chsgroup.org.uk>](mailto:Lynne.McAulay@chsgroup.org.uk)
-  Producing a **memorandum of understanding** which some of the biggest public sector agencies across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have adopted. You can find the memo at <https://cambridgeshire.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Trailblazer-MoU-with-jargonbuster.pdf>
-  Building the network of agencies and helping each identify how they can help spot the early signs of homelessness. Some examples of the teams involved are listed below.

Agencies involved so far include...

-  Police & crime commissioner and criminal justice
-  County council Early Help (EHH) and multi agency safeguarding hubs (MASH), children and adult services
-  Local hospital trusts
-  Fire and Rescue services

Year 1 : help given



Do you know someone at risk of homelessness?

Rent arrears
Benefit concerns
Landlord and tenant relationship breakdown
Debt problems
Anti-Social Behaviour concerns
Poor condition of property
Threatened eviction notice
Warning letters from landlord



Want to make a referral?

- Want to refer someone to the trailblazer team?
- Want to get more involved?
- Want to find out more?
- Know someone else who needs the Trailblazer's help?

Then please do get in touch...



trailblazer@fenland.gov.uk



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www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/trailblazer

Thank you!

