

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Homeless Prevention Trailblazer

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“Making homelessness the unacceptable
outcome”

19th January 2018



Cambridgeshire
County Council



100%
people
driven



Homeless Prevention Trailblazer

- What's the project about and why now?
- Who is involved?
- What we hope to achieve?
- Who's involved and how are we preventing homelessness with partners
- Joined up work with Registered Providers
- Approach so far and impact including a case study
- How to refer in to the project
- Questions



What is the Homelessness Trailblazer?

- Government funded approach to tackling homelessness at an earlier stage
- New homeless legislation April 18 - Homeless Reduction Act
- Successful joint bid between all of the combined authority areas in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough – Housing teams are leads - 2 year project
- Different approaches – partners
- Reducing homelessness together
- Making homelessness the unacceptable outcome
- Learning from what works and sharing our experience



What's our approach?

- Prevention team – Spotting the early warning signs of homelessness, ensure people know how to get support, case work, multi agency working, providing advice on housing to other public sector professionals, linking professionals together.....
- Landlord/Rent solutions (part of the prevention team)– Helping landlords resolve problems and avoid evictions (e.g. help with universal credit issue), mediation, debt advice....
- New Business Development – working with lettings partners and extending coverage, marketing to attract private landlords.....



Who is currently involved?

Homelessness partners and providers, Public Service Board, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health, Building Better Opportunities (4 projects), Integrated Offender Management, Police & Crime Commissioner, Probation Service, Prison Service, St Giles Trust, 6, District housing authorities, 2 x unitary authorities, Housing Associations, voluntary, community & charitable network (inc CAB), Department of Work & Pensions (Job Centre +) MASH (Multi agency Safeguarding Hub) Early help Team, Social Care, See and Solve Group more to follow.....



How are we preventing homelessness with partners?

- Homelessness Prevention MOU – high level commitment via Public Service Board
- Widespread training for homelessness awareness and partnership working
- Part of the MASH, EHH and AEH
- Creating Web resources for staff and customers (Building Better Opportunities project)
- Web resources to share stories, success & data
- Staff be on hand to provide advice, support and guidance



Training of public sector professionals

- Linking in with all Social Housing Providers
- Offering free training to Officers on Think Family approach (CCC) and EHA's. Will be offering this in the PCC area
- Educating about when to do Safeguarding referrals and how
- Offering mediation where relationship broken down between Landlord and Tenant
- Enforcing the message that homelessness is the unacceptable outcome
- Be the link for them to other public sector agencies



Case Study

- Referred by Adult Early Help, Cambridgeshire (AEH)
- Tenant hoarding behaviour 3 years – Housing Association tenancy (HA)
- Relationship breakdown between tenant and landlord
- HA considering applying to court for possession of the property
- Trailblazer team mediated between landlord & tenant with AEH team
- Support offered via Trailblazer team to assist with small cost of removals of belongings in to a garage rented by the tenant
- AEH team engaged with tenant around ongoing mental health issues
- Court action suspended



Case study

- Referral made by private landlord to Landlord Rents and Solutions Service
- Landlord considering serving Section 21 as £100 arrears and Rent always paid late. Relationship broken down with Landlord and Tenant
- Tenant having financial difficulties. Assisted to apply for DHP for top up of the rent and also to change the rent payment date for when HB received and set up a direct debit
- £100 cleared by Prevention fund.
- Homelessness prevented and Landlord satisfied with the resolution



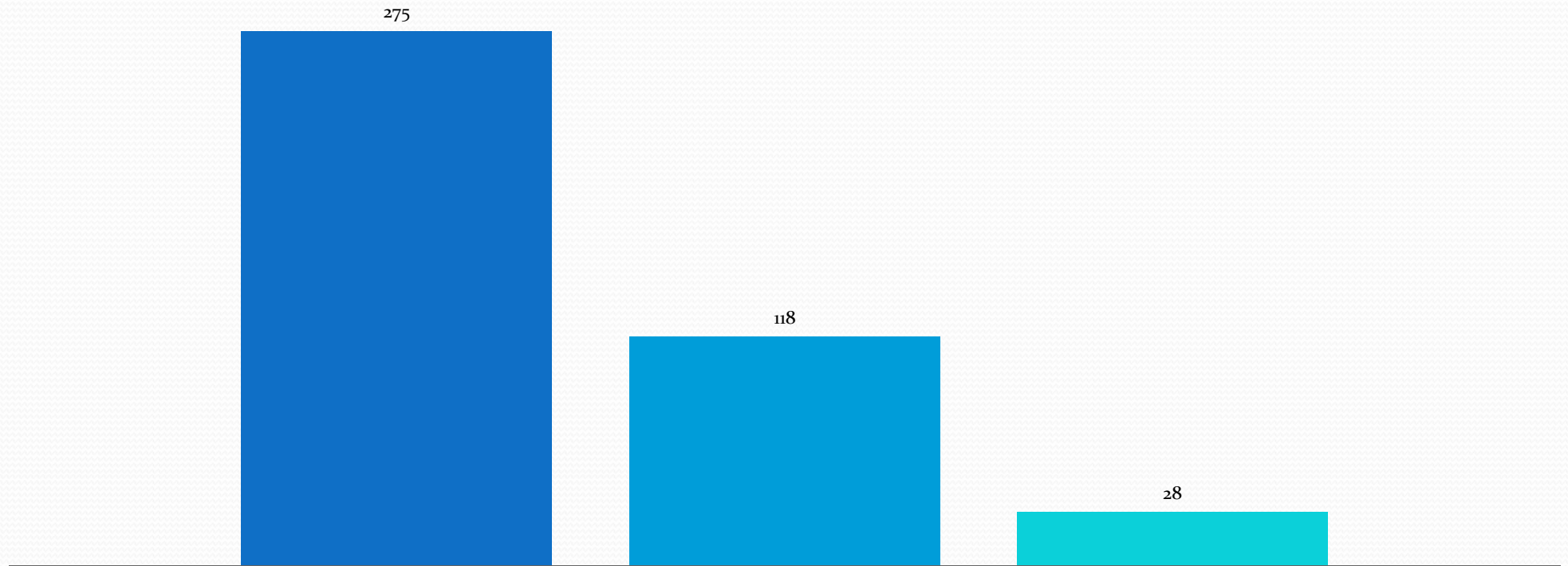
Case Study

- Referral received from Fenland Housing Options Team
- Couple expecting a baby been asked to leave parents home
- Unable to negotiate with family and couple only wanted certain area
- Built relationships with local landlords so secured a property in area required
- It was above LHA so used Homeless prevention fund to pay Deposit and 6 months difference between LHA and the rent
- Homelessness prevented



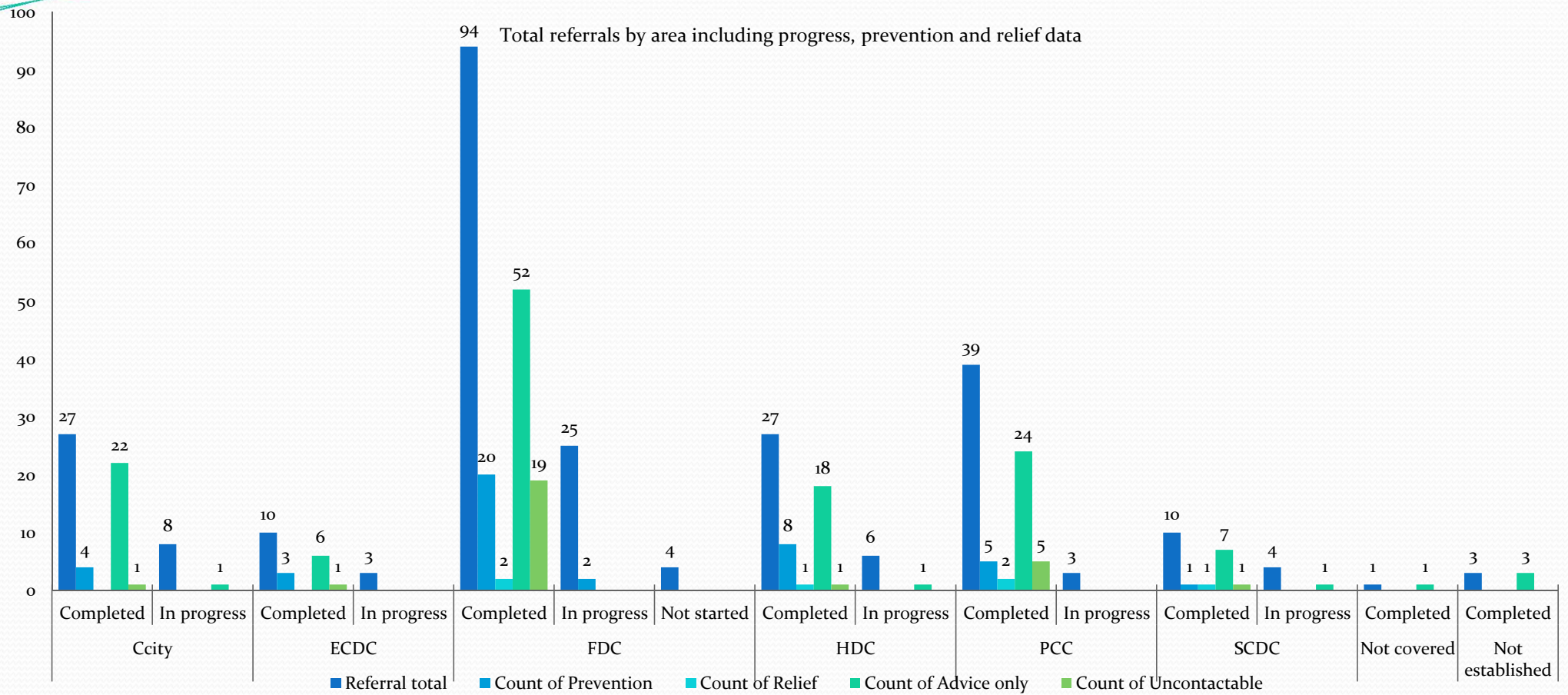
Total cases threatened with homelessness within 56 days

■ Total referrals ■ Count of Threatened with homelessness within 56 days (at point of referral) ■ Count of Already homeless (at point of referral)



Total





Next steps

- Work across the area to offer consistent incentives to Landlords
- Look at the management of the DHP funds
- Plan a campaign to encourage private landlords to join one of the schemes on offer and break down barriers and myths
- Develop the online tools to support the project
- Training on homelessness prevention and the HRA in February 2018 for 180 Non-Housing Professionals
- Continue the day to day partnership working and encouraging other agencies to prevent homelessness in a joined up way
- Keep spreading the word.....



Any questions?

- Referrals can be made via e mail to Trailblazer@fenland.gov.uk

