

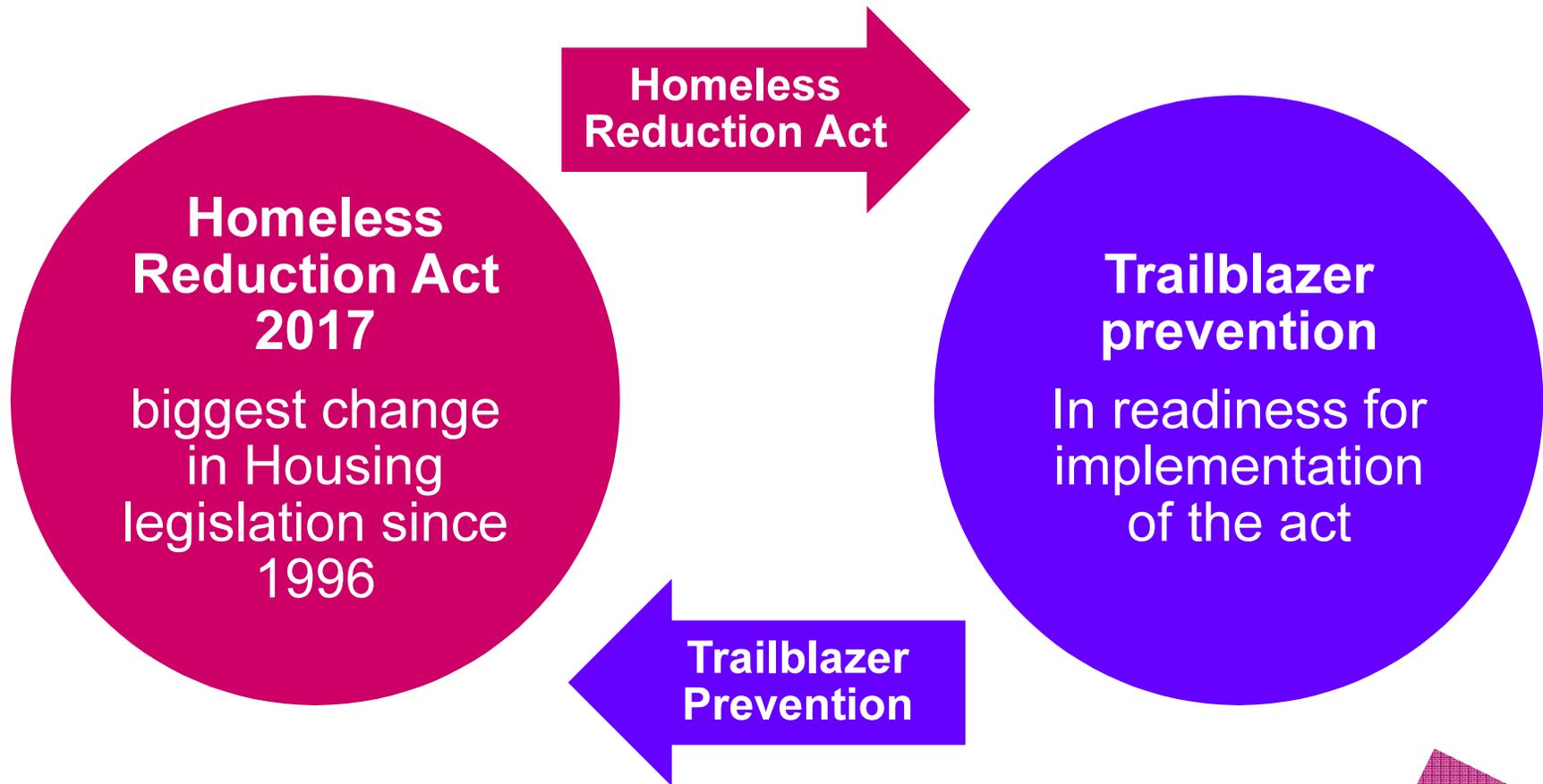
Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and Trailblazer Prevention

15th November 2017



Brighton & Hove
City Council

Background



Current Legislation

- Under current legislation our duties to homeless households are limited to the following:

Provision of
Housing
Advice

Assessment
of homeless
duty 28 days
before
homelessness

Duty to provide
accommodation
to households
owed a
statutory duty



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Homeless Reduction Act 2017

New duties extend to a much wider group of people, *including those who are rough sleeping-working with commissioning team etc*

Prevention duty triggered 56 days before homelessness

Prevention

Duty to agree a Personal Housing Plan

Duty to ensure household is able to retain suitable accommodation

Duty to keep PHP under review

Take reasonable steps to prevent homelessness

Relief

56 Relief duty where prevention is unsuccessful

Duty to take reasonable steps to help secure accommodation

Note

Duty to provide accommodation is still only owed to some people

Failure to engage with prevention or relief assistance can end these duties

Trailblazer Prevention/Early Intervention Service

- Early intervention
- Building Resilience
- Working with a wider group of people-not just those owed the main housing duty



Trailblazer funding

- Schools and Community worker
- Homebased intervention
- Mediation
- Extension of Benefit Cap partnership
- Tenancy Access Planning
- Enhanced NightStop-to include over 25s
- Trailblazer Coordinators
- Substance misuse reduction
- ASC Social Worker
- Children's Social Worker



Trailblazer Spending & Outcomes

TRAILBLAZER SPEND OVER TWO YEARS

- £1.3 Million award over 2 years
- £160K to partners (Adult Social Care & Childrens Services) over 2 years
- £614K to funded services (Mediation; Nightstop; Equinox; SCYMCA) over 2 years (£153K spend to date)
- £415K for BHCC based Trailblazer posts (visiting officers, coordinators & implementation manager) over 2 years (£88K spend to date)
- Service spend of £25K to date to enhance DHP provision 162 tenancy starts for prevention and move on

OUTCOMES Q1&2 to end Sept

- Trailblazer Project Early Intervention cases 110 with 59 sustained and 39 ongoing (potential saving of £150K if homeless; potential saving of £120K if in TA)
- 279 homelessness preventions (target 402)
- 605 homeless applications (target 750)
- 218 homeless accepts (target 210)
- >40 school workshops / >1,500 pupils signed up for next round of workshops
- PRS drop ins in place



Moving forward

- Homeless Reduction Act comes into effect beg April 2018 – accompanying Code of Guidance out for consultation with closing date of 1st Dec. Additional burdens funding announced (£500,623 paid as follows (17/18 £173,570; 18/19 £158,990 and 19/20 £168,063).
- Building on the successes of the Trailblazer – mainstream
- Training our workforce (New legislation and IT)
- Reconfiguring the service – focus on self serve and digital where possible
- Communication of changes and on-going co-ordination with partners and organisations across the city
- Preparing for legal reviews/challenges
- New IT software to record and collate information for DCLG



Opportunities:

- Make a real difference - early intervention and Personal Housing Action Plan
- High profile work - National recognition.
- Reduce use of Temporary Accommodation (better outcome)
- Reduce homelessness including rough sleeping

Risks:

- High cost Housing market – Affordability
- Universal Credit
- Increase in Demand - need to ensure adequately resourced and staff supported (London councils reporting a doubling of homeless approaches and difficulty recruiting staff).
- TA doesn't reduce as much as intended and so savings can't be realised, rent collection in Emergency and Temporary Accommodation.



