



**Birmingham**  
City Council

# Trailblazer & Preparing for the Homeless Reduction Bill

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# Birmingham Context

- Approx 6,000 homeless applications p.a.
- Approx 3,400 acceptances p.a.
- On target to deliver 8,000 preventions – down from 10,700 in 13/14
- TA levels at historical levels– over 1,600 households
- Ending of AST biggest reason for homelessness
- Average time in TA now over 9 months – but some families considerably longer
- Big landlord – approx 63,000 properties – though lettings decreasing
- 55 rough sleepers – highest number since the 90's

# DCLG Homeless Trailblazer

- £20 million DCLG funding stream to prevent homelessness and prepare for the Bill
- Birmingham = £1.7 million
- 28 day Prevention ingrained in most Councils for statutory homeless
- Early intervention – even before 56 days
- Targeting partners/members/council staff – key messages on pressures/managing expectations whilst importance of early intervention

# Birmingham's Trailblazer - includes

- Services for all client groups – Priority blind
- Early identification of at risk groups
- Web chat/Skype advice for anybody at any time (over 56 days)
- Advice for all groups threatened with-in 56 days including Personalised Housing Plans
- PRS Dispute & Resolution Service
- Single non-priority advice team – build on existing funded services
- Building on the Youth Pathway – PIE
- PRS supply development
- Prevention Fund

# Preparing for the Bill

- We will use trailblazer to provide us with a solid foundation to prepare – but not everyone has that opportunity
- Awaiting the allocation of new burdens funding - £61 million – is it enough? How will it be split?
- Identifying increased demand due to the Bill– not easy is it?
- Significant % of Wales’ funding spent on prevention initiatives and a smaller amount on staff costs
- Engaging with partners to identify those at risk and ensure we have early intervention
- Updating Cabinet Member & senior officers to ensure corporate sign-up

## Preparing for the Bill (2)

- Familiarising yourself with the legislation – what do we have to do?
- Who should do it?- Commission/provide or both?
- Is the front line fit for purpose?
- Prevention tools in place or require further work
- Appropriate procedures//systems in place
- Cultural change for everyone