Resources for partnership working, homelessness forums and homelessness & rough sleeping strategies – a quick guide

Compiled in August 2021
This document provides a quick guide about existing resources to support local partnership approaches to homelessness and rough sleeping, as well as those looking to develop effective local strategies.

Homeless Link resources

We have a number of resources focused on improving partnership working in homelessness. These can be found here: https://homeless.org.uk/partnerships-and-systems-change-resources. Of particular note are:

Working Strategically with Local Authorities
This guidance (published July 2020) includes useful advice and good practice examples around joint working. It is intended mainly for smaller voluntary sector, community and faith groups but would also be useful for LA's and anyone interested in developing more strategic relationships to end homelessness. It defines six key elements for effective joint working and was produced in partnership with the Local Government Association. View this guidance.

Effective Multi-agency Meetings
This practical guidance (published in September 2020) is intended to support organisations to understand and implement different types of strategic and operational meetings with partner agencies locally. It includes tips and advice on roles, agendas, meetings and minute taking. View this guidance.

Other related resources
Other Homeless Link resources to support partnership working include NHS Health Structures, Engaging with Health Services during Covid, Local systems Change, Working Together with Job Centre Plus and a case study of Manchester Homelessness Partnership. A new resource, 'Data sharing in Multi-Agency Meetings' is due to be published later in 2021. On the Housing First England website there is also a resource on engaging partners for Housing First.

Local Government Association (LGA) resources

The Local Government Association (LGA) is the national membership body for local authorities. They work on behalf of councils to support, promote and improve local government. The following guidance can be found on their website:

Making Homelessness Strategies Happen
https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/housing-and-planning/making-homelessness-strategies-happen

This guidance was published in December 2019 for local authorities, but may be useful for others considering strategic working. It sets out the legal duties for how councils must produce and publish their local homelessness strategy, including engagement with different stakeholders.

The guide sets out examples of different 'structures' for drawing up, agreeing and overseeing delivery of the strategy including a Strategy Steering Groups or Homeless Reduction Boards. The guidance concludes with five recommendations for LA's and there are some very helpful appendices including a LA self-assessment checklist for producing and delivering an effective strategy, a template for a Homelessness Strategy Action Plan and example Terms of Reference for a Homelessness Strategy Steering Group.

Sefton Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is included as a good practice example https://www.sefton.gov.uk/housing/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy/

MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter)

The MEAM approach is a non-prescriptive framework used by local partnerships across England to develop a coordinated approach to tackling multiple disadvantage in their local area. The framework can be found here.

MHCLG resources

The Government's Code of Guidance for local authorities, which supplements the Homelessness Reduction Act, has a specific chapter (Chapter 2) guiding LA's on their duties in relation to Homelessness Strategies. This may be a useful starting point for organisations not familiar with legal duties around Homelessness Strategies.

Further support

Should you require further support to develop local partnership approaches and strategies please get in touch with our Partnership Team and/or Consultancy Service.