

Guidance for homelessness accommodation services working with alcohol and drug use

Consultancy specification – January 2019

About this work

Homeless Link is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to produce good practice resources that help services to respond to, and prevent, homelessness. Our aim is to develop the capacity of the sector to deliver high quality services that help to end people's homelessness and prevent homelessness in future.

We are commissioning new resources about the role of accommodation services in providing effective housing and support to people who are dependent on alcohol and/or drugs.

The aim of these resources is to provide good practice guidance for commissioners, housing providers and service managers so that they can design and deliver accommodation services without excluding people who are homeless and dependent on alcohol and/or drugs.

Outputs

We welcome proposals for one or more outputs:

Part A – Alcohol use in homelessness accommodation services

A good practice guidance document showing how different housing projects are working effectively with people who are alcohol dependent, likely to include:

- Brief overview of key issues/recent developments around alcohol use and homelessness
- Addressing reluctance to house drinkers – highlighting common barriers and how to overcome them
- Guidance on designing a service e.g. health and safety, mobility, neighbourhood management
- Guidance on engagement and support e.g. team skills, partnerships, health, and support for people who become abstinent while in services where other residents are drinking
- Approx 5 case studies covering a range of regions and accommodation types (including night shelters and hostels). Case studies should include: different levels of tolerance, specialist and generic service provision, examples of partnership working, examples of access to treatment and move on, examples of a harm reduction approach. Homeless Link will contribute some of the case studies.
- Section on treatment pathways, including funding for detox/rehab
- Links to further information

We may also ask for a blog of approx. 600 words to help promote the guidance.

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Part B – Drug use in homelessness accommodation services

A good practice guidance document showing how different housing projects are working effectively with people who use illegal drugs. This will be a companion piece to Homeless Link's template drug policies, written by Kevin Flemen – link below.

The guidance is likely to include:

- Brief overview of key issues/recent developments around drug use and homelessness
- Addressing reluctance to work with active drug use – highlighting common barriers and how to overcome them
- Guidance on managing a medium-high tolerance service e.g. health and safety, sharps disposal, role of staff team, keeping a drugs log, tackling cannabis use, working with police, overdose prevention
- Guidance on engagement and support e.g. team skills, partnerships, health
- Approx 5 case studies covering a range of regions and accommodation types (including night shelters and hostels). Case studies should include: different levels of tolerance, specialist and generic service provision, examples of partnership working, examples of access to treatment and move on, examples of a harm reduction approach. Homeless Link will contribute some of the case studies.
- Section on treatment pathways, including funding for detox/rehab, and support for people who become abstinent while in services where other residents are using drugs
- Links to further information

We may also ask for a blog of approx. 600 words to help promote the guidance.

Part C – perspectives of lived experience

We invite proposals for a resource – either standalone or integrated into Part A and/or Part B – that shares the perspectives of people who have lived experience of accessing (or trying to access) homelessness accommodation services while dependent on drugs and/or alcohol. For example, this could be film, document or audio.

What to include in your proposal

- Proposals can be for one or more outputs – please specify which output(s) you propose to deliver.
- For Parts A and B please set out a draft structure (which might differ from the examples above) with brief details of content for each section.
- For Part C please describe the format and/or your co-production process.
- Note that this is not a policy document, so policy context should only be included where it is relevant to practical responses.
- Please outline your expertise to complete this work and, if possible, link to a relevant example.
- Bids should include day rates, number of days allocated against activities, and estimated expenses.

Process

Once the contract is awarded, Homeless Link will agree with the consultant(s) the scope of their outputs and confirm milestones for submission of drafts. We will coordinate work if more than one consultant/organisation is successful in bidding for the outputs. Homeless Link will help to source relevant case studies and will do some of the case study visits and writing.

Schedule / milestones

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Deadline for proposals	4pm on 24 th January
Contract/scope confirmed	30 th January
Initial drafts	18 th Feb*
Full drafts	4 th March*
Final drafts	18 th March*
Publication	25 th March*
	<i>*tbc</i>

Budget

- Indicative budget of £5,000 in total.
- Please include a breakdown of day rates and expenses for each output and detail the associated activities.
- Homeless Link will decide whether to commission Part A, Part B, Part C or all three.
- We may decide to commission different consultants for each output.

Notes on outputs

- Homeless Link will have final approval and editing of documents, which will be branded in our house style. The consultant will be acknowledged on the inside cover.
- The primary audience is homelessness accommodation staff and managers, with secondary audiences of commissioners and housing providers.
- Documents should be in plain English, written and proofed to a high standard, and following Homeless Link's house style (see references).
- Homeless Link will provide a Word template.
- Documents should be concise and easy to navigate.

Contact

Please email your proposal to Tasmin Maitland, Head of Innovation and Good Practice:

tasmin.maitland@homelesslink.org.uk

Feel free to contact Tasmin if you need any further information, either by email or call 020 7840 4451.

References

Homeless Link's resource pages: www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources

Supporting people who use drugs – drugs policy guidance and template policies:

www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/supporting-drug-users

Examples of the type of guidance document described in this specification:

www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/practical-guidance-on-working-with-refugees

www.homeless.org.uk/brain-injury-and-homelessness



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless or live with multiple and complex support needs. We work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Let's end homelessness together

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