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PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS: BUILDING AN INVESTMENT CASE

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AGENDA

1. Context
2. Building an investment case for homelessness prevention
2. Local Partnerships and LGA's work with Cornwall and Leeds
3. Our findings and what works
4. Next steps



WHO WE ARE



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Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the Local Government Association, HM Treasury and the Welsh Government.

We work solely for the benefit of the public sector. We bring public and private sector experience that provides **confidence**, **capacity** and **capability**, helping councils achieve and maintain financial resilience.

Our experts provide trusted, professional support and advice over multiple disciplines, helping you make best use of limited resources as demand for services continues to rise.



CONTEXT

An estimated 282K single people, couples and families were homeless in 2020/21.



But we know that homelessness isn't inevitable, and can be prevented



BUILDING A CASE FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

- Crisis say:
- *‘If 40,000 people were prevented from becoming homeless for one year in England it would save the public purse £370 million.’*
- *‘Comparative research in the USA and Australia shows that the cost of preventing and solving homelessness is less than the cost of doing nothing at all.’*
- Working with the LGA, we wanted to understand the benefits to the public purse of councils’ work in preventing homelessness
- We looked at ‘system’ benefits, so savings to the total public purse across national and local agencies in a council area

OUR WORK WITH CORNWALL AND LEEDS

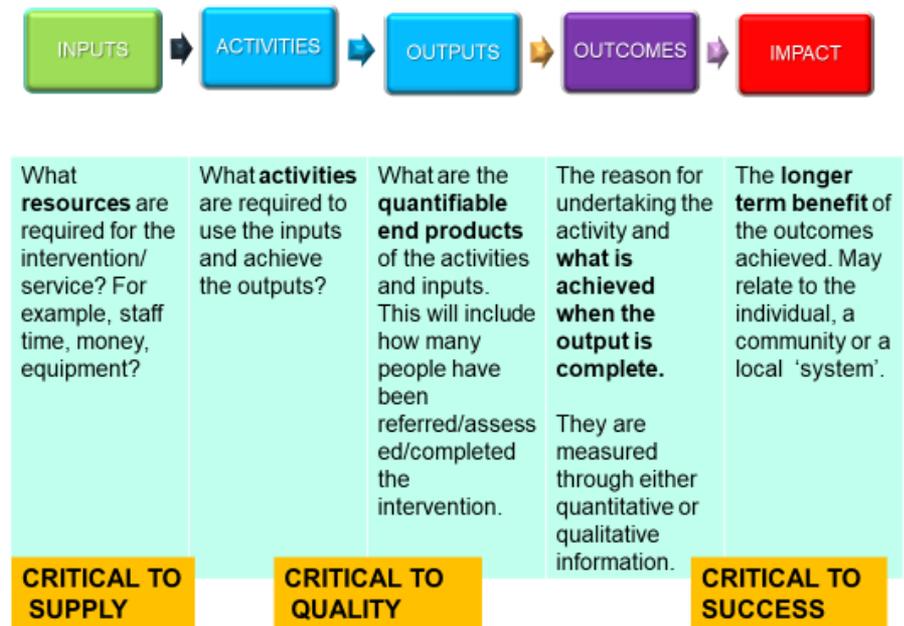
- Local Partnerships worked with Cornwall and Leeds to build local cases for homelessness prevention
- Both councils, while very different, are good at preventing homelessness
- We looked at services they commission and provide for different client groups and at different stages of the prevention process
- Some were funded by councils' general funds and some by specific grants



OUR METHOD

- We talked to the councils about their homelessness prevention work and examined national and local data
- We constructed a logic model relating to selected services
- We built financial models comparing cost with predicted outcomes across a range of measures, and using published data on benefits
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Logic Model for Cornwall Homelessness Prevention





OUR FINDINGS

For Cornwall

- *Prevention and engagement outreach* - a specialised county wide team engaging with people sleeping rough. The team work closely with other agencies to help rough sleepers move away from a life on the streets. This showed a cost to outcome savings ratio of £10.92 for every £1 spent
- *Accommodation for ex-offenders* - to support ex-offenders in finding short and long term housing solutions, and to work with partners to mitigate the risk of re-offending. This showed a cost to outcome savings ratio of £5.09 for every £1 spent
- *Nos Da Kernow* – an early prevention service working with people at risk of homelessness and in insecure living arrangements. This showed a cost to outcome savings ratio of £6.08 for every £1 spent



OUR FINDINGS

For Leeds

- *Engage Leeds* - a city-wide a city-wide housing support service delivering prevention, sustainment and community/social integration. This showed a cost to outcome savings ratio of £8.17 for every £1 spent
- *Our Way Leeds* – a support service for young people in Leeds. Services include homelessness prevention, wellbeing and counselling, employment support and advice, pre-tenancy support, accommodation, and resettlement. This showed a cost to outcome savings ratio of £2.17 for every £1 spent
- *Kirkstall Lodge* – service to provide move on accommodation and two emergency beds for men who are homeless, vulnerably housed or rough sleeping. This showed a cost to outcome savings ratio of £2.03 for every £1 spent



CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- We have only measured some quantifiable outcomes, not all, and all the projects also deliver many unquantifiable benefits for clients
- However, relatively small amounts of council investment can lead to significant savings for the public purse
- Intervention is effective, both in human terms, and for the public purse
- Projects offering wrap around services as well as housing support, and targeted at vulnerable groups (young people, ex-offenders) demonstrate good benefits
- Cornwall and Leeds are keen to develop the use of this tool over time to better understand what works and in support of bidding for future funds
- If you are interested in developing the tool for your council, then please get in touch Jenny.coombs@localpartnerships.gov.uk

THANK YOU



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