



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Communities and Local Government
Select Committee
House of Commons
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Marcus Jones MP
Minister for Local Government

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Dear Clive,

Homelessness Reduction Act

I am writing to update you that the consultation on the revised statutory Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities has been published today and the Government are providing an additional £11.7 million in new burdens funding to local authorities taking the total amount of new burdens funding from £61 million to £72.7 million. The commitment to update to the Homelessness Code of Guidance was announced during the passage of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and includes guidance on the new duties for local authorities which were introduced by the Act.

The Government remains committed to implement the most ambitious homelessness legislative reform in decades. The Homelessness Reduction Act makes significant changes to the current homelessness legislation, placing duties on local authorities to intervene earlier and try to prevent homelessness for all households. The previous homelessness legislation provided an important safety net for the most vulnerable, but the way it has operated has meant not enough has been done to actively prevent crisis, rather than respond to it. The new duties will ensure that local authorities intervene earlier and will result in more households being prevented from becoming homeless in the first place.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance sets out the steps that local authorities should take into account when providing support to people who are homeless. The current Code was published in 2006 and is over 250 pages long. My officials have reviewed this existing statutory guidance with key stakeholders, to produce a more comprehensive and streamlined document which will be available on-line.

The consultation on the revised Code of Guidance is available at the following link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/homelessnesscode>

Today I have also updated the House on a commitment I made during the passage of the Act – the Member for Harrow East’s Private Members’ Bill – to fund the costs of the Act in line with the new burdens doctrine. Following further discussions with local authorities on the resources required to fund the additional duties within the Act the Government are providing an additional £11.7 million in new burdens funding to local authorities taking the total amount of new burdens funding from £61 million to £72.7 million. I am also pleased to inform you that we have today announced the local authority allocations for the new burdens funding.

The Homelessness Reduction Act forms part of the Government’s end to end approach to tackling homelessness, helping both those at risk of homelessness and those experiencing a crisis. The new burdens funding for the Act sits alongside other funding for homelessness, including the £315 million Homelessness Prevention funding, our £50 million homelessness prevention package and the £402 million Flexible Homelessness Support Grant.

I look forward to receiving your response to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and 'J'.

MARCUS JONES MP