



# Executive Partnership Board

## Report

**Title:** Prevention Partnership Board Update  
**Date:** Nov 2012  
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The Housing, Housing Support & Prevention Partnership Board has identified the priority areas for focus in the coming few months:

- Benefit Change Impact
- Prevention Matters
- Housing & Housing Support
- Homelessness

### **Benefits**

Benefits are of significant attention as there is considerable change occurring affecting service users and individuals across all boards remit.

The following changes have been announced:

Bedroom tax April 2013

Benefit cap April 2013

Council tax changes April 2013

HB direct to tenants October 2013

DLA changing to PIP April 2013

Social fund administration moving to Bucks CC April 2013

The group has heard update from DWP and Housing Providers re impact of changes and recognises that amongst others it is the more vulnerable people who do not engage that are going to be most at risk.

### **Question**

The group would like to understand what EPB and partners have done/planned to do and what additional things that can be done to support customers, frontline staff and service organisations?

### **Recommendation**

The group would like to recommend that a coordinated action plan with resources be developed to cover Buckinghamshire, so that mitigation can be best managed to support vulnerable people and avoid duplication between agencies.

Organisations that need to be involved include:

Social landlords

Private landlords forum

Support providers

Welfare advice services - cab etc

District councils

Voluntary sector

Health

Education/schools

### **Prevention Matters**

The group has had update presentation re Prevention Matters. They are keen to keep updated re activity taking place and wish to coordinate and support activity where possible.

### **Housing & Housing Support**

The group are aware of pressures of funding as they relate to Supporting People Services. Many of members receiving funding currently from Supporting People Grant. They are keen to hear what future plans are regarding services in this area.

### **Homelessness**

The group has received update on BOSH. Wycombe DC has been asked by the DCLG to act as the lead authority for administering the £455k funding allocated to Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire local authorities to ensure front line provision prevents single homelessness and rough sleeping.

Housing providers are aware of activities they need to consider. Direct Access, Severe Weather Emergency Provision, "Wet" services.

In addition the issue of move on accommodation is regarded as significant area of concern, the benefit changes and a shortage of accommodation exasperating the situation.

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