

Brent Resettlement Panels

How do Probation support People on Probation who are homeless

The Pre-Release panel is a multi-agency meeting which discusses people in prison returning to that particular local authority regardless of where they are held in custody. Further groups of people in prison or on probation may also be included.

The aim of the panel is to identify the most appropriate accommodation pathway for the individuals based on the options available locally, with a focus on settled accommodation, increasing the number of prison leavers (and/or people on probation) in accommodation. Feedback from SHS, HPTs and other stakeholders, as well as the evidence from existing panels, demonstrates that this is viewed as an efficient use of resources and has resulted in better engagement from local partners.

Aims and Objectives

There are a number of general aims and objectives of pre-release panels, these are considered to be:

- earlier identification of homelessness
- increasing local authority access to people in prison/on probation
- promoting a collaborative approach to achieving positive accommodation outcomes
- establishing and developing professional relationships between partners
- increasing the number of prison leavers who are accommodated on the first night of release
- encouraging planning for move on and longer term accommodation ahead of release

Agreement of further aims and objectives should be done locally between HPTs and SHS and be agreed with all partners.

Attendees and their roles and responsibilities

Homeless Prevention Team – HPT attendance supports understanding of how effective local pathways are and helps anticipate upcoming demand on CAS3 provision. Involvement in discussion ensures CAS3 placements are appropriate and that the resource is used efficiently. Attendance provides an overview of practices and offers the opportunity to provide feedback,

Single Homeless Service –The attendee represents the entire SHS network, acting as a single point of contact for that particular local authority pre-release panel. Attending SHS should feedback to other SHS for example, if the local authority is experiencing challenges with accessing prison leavers and support in removing these barriers.

Local Authority – The attendee should be able to confirm receipt of the Duty to Refer and advise as to what actions have been taken following receipt. These actions include but are not limited to the allocation of a worker, completion of an assessment or any decisions made as to the duties owed. Should actions be outstanding, the local authority representative will need to have the ability to instigate completion and provide an update at the following meeting.

Probation Delivery Unit – Regardless of their role, it is expected that the representative collates information from colleagues in their PDU about the prison leavers being discussed and provide feedback from the panels. Feedback could include outstanding actions such as providing further information to the local authority, completion of a referral to CRS or CAS3, confirming duties owed by a local authority or details of an agreed placement.

Commissioned Rehabilitative Service – the representative from the CRS provider should provide information as to the level of CRS involvement. This includes but is not limited to confirming receipt of a referral, confirming allocated worker and providing updates as to what case work has been completed. The attendee should provide feedback to their colleagues as to outstanding and suggested actions.

Community Accommodation Service (CAS)

- CAS3 provides an opportunity to enable prison leavers who would otherwise be homeless to escape the vicious cycle of crime by providing up to 84 nights on release from prison, or when moving on from CAS1 (Approved Premises) and CAS2 (HDC or Bail Accommodation) provisions. This includes support to maintain and move on to settled accommodation. This transitional accommodation acts as an enabler to wider strategic outcomes by giving people on probation greater stability as they engage in treatment, seek employment and fulfil their wider licence conditions.

The Community Accommodation Service (CAS) is structured as follows:

- **Tier 1** – Approved Premises provision with a public protection focus and intensive partnership working (CAS1).
- **Tier 2** – provision for low or medium risk of serious harm individuals', consisting mostly of people released from custody on Home Detention Curfew but can also include those on bail (CAS2);
- **Tier 3** –temporary accommodation for released prisoners, and those moving on from Tiers 1 & 2, who are at risk of homelessness and supporting transition into settled accommodation (CAS3);

Eligibility

- **Who is eligible for CAS3?**

- The scheme is open to adult prison leavers of all genders, aged 18 or over, who are managed by probation services within regions where CAS3 is operating; and who are:
 - At risk of being released as homeless from prison following a custodial sentence to be supervised by the Probation Service; or
 - moving-on as homeless from an Approved Premises (AP-CAS1); or
 - moving on as homeless following a period at a CAS2 residence.
- And who have;
 - given consent to be referred into the service; and
 - signed an Accommodation Compact

- **CAS3 is not available to;**

- Prison leavers not released into and supervised by a probation region
- Persons on probation subject to a Community Order or Suspended Sentence Order only.
- Prison leavers where consent has been refused and/or there is a refusal to sign an Accommodation Compact.
- Persons who are released after a period on remand, not under the supervision of the probation service as HMPPS have no statutory responsibility
- Prison leavers who after their release, later become homeless.
- Prison leavers at the point of release on Home Detention Curfew (HDC).
- Persons released from custody at Sentence Expiry date (SED).
- Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) who are not eligible for publicly funded benefits (colloquially known as 'no recourse to public funds' (NRPFs))

What are my Options if I am homeless on release?

For People on Probation who do experience homelessness on release which may be for a multitude of reasons i.e. if the Local Authority has not accepted a duty to house them, or they have exhausted their housing options due to repeat Anti-Social behaviour or repeat offending (Arson) which affects accommodation, Probation offer backpacks for prison leavers which contains emergency toiletries, sleeping bag, hat scarves and basic essentials.

Signpost to charities if they are unable to obtain emergency accommodation

Provide Foodbank Vouchers

Information Sharing

Information can be shared between partner agencies if an Information Sharing agreement is in place.

The type of information that can be shared is as follows:

Personal Contact Information

Offending History and License Conditions

Risk Assessment

We cannot send Previous Convictions and or other Police owned information

We cannot share MAPPA information – if this is required the MAPPA Administrator will need to take the lead, agree the request and handle on a case by case basis with formal agreement.