

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

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The Homelessness Reduction Act?

- What changed?
- What happened before?
- What happens now?
- What this means in practice
- What's this done to demand?
- Other parts of the Act

What's Changed?

- The Act transforms the way that local housing authorities help homeless households.
- Many people who were previously not entitled to help under the previous system may now receive advice and practical help from local housing authorities.
- The emphasis is now on preventing homelessness at an early stage rather than dealing with homelessness at the point of crisis.

What happened before?

Eligibility?

Homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days?

Priority Need?

Temporary accommodation provision

Intentionality

Local Connection

Full Housing Duty

What happens now?

Eligibility?

Homeless or threatened with homelessness within **56** days?

Prevention duty – duty to try and keep you in your home or find an alternative before you become homeless – up to 56 days

Priority Need?

Relief duty – Practical advice and assistance to secure alternative accommodation – 56 days

Temporary accommodation provision



What happens now? - continued

Temporary Accommodation Duty

Intentionality

Local Connection

Full Housing Duty

What this means in practice

Prevention duty - Where eligible households are threatened with homelessness, councils must take reasonable steps to prevent them becoming homeless. (Period extended from 28 days to 56 days) -

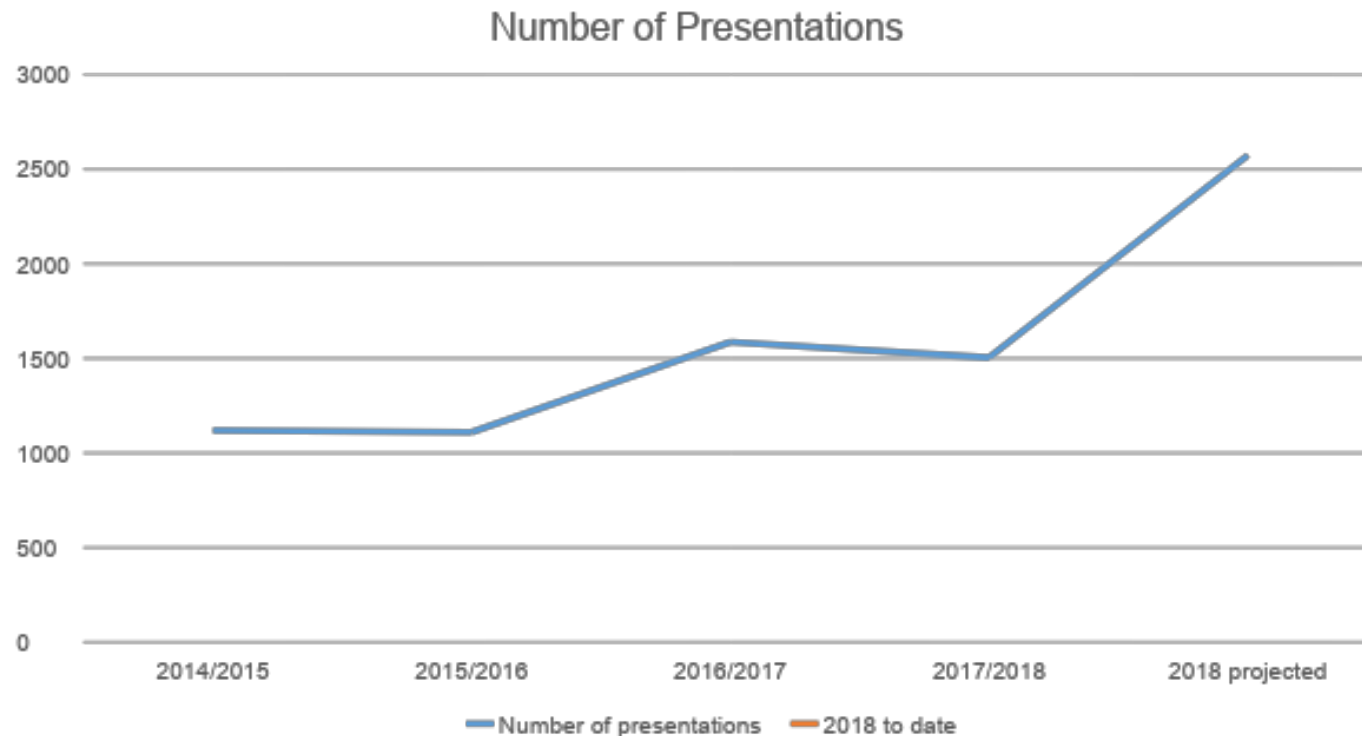
Relief duty – Where households are homeless, councils must take reasonable steps to secure accommodation for them for at least 6 months (Duty lasts for 56 days)

Duty to provide advisory services – bespoke information and advice on the prevention and relief of homelessness, and the rights of homeless people

What this means in practice

- Households will be supported to stay in their current accommodation for as long as possible while prevention options are explored
- Households who do become homeless and are owed the relief duty will not receive a decision on their application until the 56 day period has expired.
- An offer of private sector accommodation will end the duty (as long as the offer is reasonable)
- Households where prevention is not possible or no alternative accommodation can be found in the relief stage will be assessed to determine whether a full duty is owed.
- Households in priority will spend a longer period in temporary accommodation where this is the case.

What has this done to demand?



2018 to date

1661 presentations

What are the positives?

The Southwark Experience

- 29% increase in the number of customers accessing the service.
- 51% reduction in homelessness acceptances.
- 50% reduction in homelessness reviews.
- 5% reduction in the number of people in B&B.

In Peterborough.....

An actual increase of 56% in homeless applications since the Act

What are the positives?

The Duty To Refer and opportunities to work together

Under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 from 1 October 2018 certain public authorities are required to notify a housing authority of service users they consider may be homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. The Secretary of State for Defence is also subject to the duty to refer in relation to members of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marine, the regular Army and the Royal Air Force.

What are the positives?

The public authorities included in the duty are as follows:

Prisons;
Youth offender institutions;
Secure training centres;
Secure colleges;
Youth offending teams;
Probation services (including community rehabilitation companies);
Jobcentre plus;
Social service authorities;
Emergency departments;
Urgent treatment centres; and
Hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care;
The Secretary of State for Defence is also subject to the duty to refer in relation to members of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marine, the regular Army and the Royal Air Force.

Greatest Opportunities

Homelessness is an unacceptable outcome, it is not a housing option

- The Homelessness Reduction Act
- The duty to refer & the **ALERT** system - earlier notification and partner working
- Working together on early identification so we can prevent homelessness from happening in the first place

Duty To Refer - ALERT

<https://live.housingjigsaw.co.uk/alert/duty-to-refer>



Welcome to ALERT

Your free tool, simplifying the duty to refer

[Log in and refer](#)

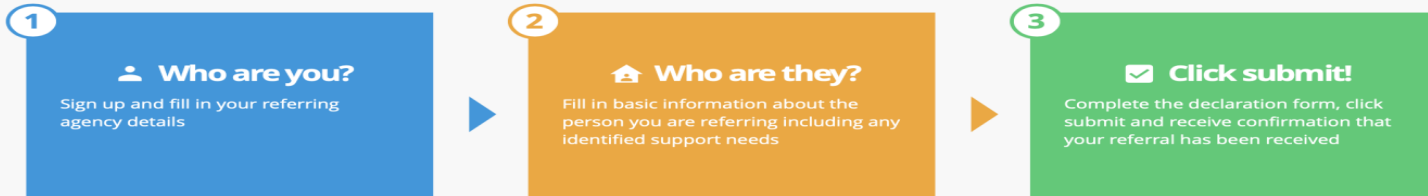
[Register](#)

What is ALERT?

ALERT is a free tool provided to all Local Authorities in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. It supports partnership working by providing a secure and easy to use platform for making referrals and notifications, including the new 213B duty placed on specified public bodies.

How does it work?

Using ALERT is easy. You can sign up in minutes and start making referrals immediately, following the steps below.



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