

Assessment Centre Homelessness Strategy 2009-12

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Assessment Centre

- ◆ Plans for a 20 bed Assessment Centre are at the heart of the Council's Homelessness Strategy
- ◆ Involves the transformation of existing emergency provision, which is a night shelter with dormitory provision (Jimmy's)



Assessment Centre (AC)

The changes involve:

- 1) Significant upgrade to the building
- 2) Enhanced Service
- 3) Greater opportunities for peripatetic services to be offered to service users



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AC – building upgrade

- ◆ Change from 31 dormitory bed spaces to 20 self-contained en-suite rooms
- ◆ New facilities for assessment of service users
- ◆ More open welcoming environment with more light, space and enhanced facilities for engagement with staff



AC – building upgrade

- ◆ Open and welcoming reception area, training kitchen and more space available on the ground and basement floor for other services to operate within the Assessment Centre
- ◆ Vastly improved office space for staff
- ◆ £3m funding coming from CLG Places of Change programme and £500,000 from

CCC



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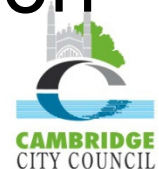


AC - Enhanced Service

- ◆ Transition from a night service to 24 hour provision
- ◆ Comprehensive needs, skills and risk assessments to be completed for all service users
- ◆ Targeted 28 day stay
- ◆ Focused resettlement – reconnections service for those with no local connection



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AC - Enhanced Service

- ◆ Minimum of 10 bed spaces ring-fenced for rough sleepers



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AC – Opportunities for peripatetic services

The Cambridge Access Surgery, Street Outreach and Mental Health Services, Addaction, the Learning and Development Service, alcohol services and many others could offer an enhanced service from the new Assessment Centre



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AC – Strategic importance

- ◆ Cambridge has a significant rough sleeping problem
- ◆ Two thirds of those presenting at the night shelter do not have a local connection to Cambridge
- ◆ Increased levels of daytime engagement could contribute to a reduction in street-based anti social behaviour



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AC – Strategic importance

- ◆ Increased hours of operation will allow the service to devote more time to assessment and resettlement and should help to reduce repeat presentations
- ◆ More sustainable placements may also help to reduce homelessness presentations in the City and surrounding districts



AC – Strategic importance

- ◆ More opportunities for partnership working and efficiencies between agencies who share service users
- ◆ Skills assessments may give greater opportunities to further embed learning and development within homelessness services





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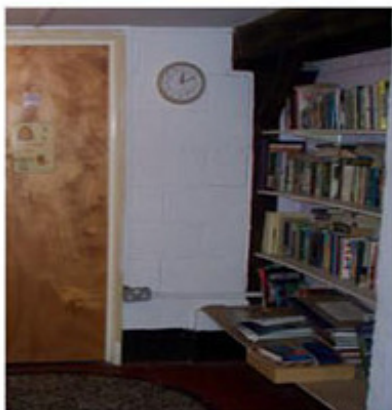




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Building a future (above, left to right): Jimmy's old quiet room; the walls come tumbling...; men at work; on to the next wall.



How Jimmy's might look in 2012: above, first & second left, Endell Street hostel, London (Photo by Morley von Sternberg); first & second right Compass Homeless Centre, Bristol (architects Grazebrook Design).

Statistics – direction of travel

- 2009/10 – 17% increase in positive move on from 07/08 baseline
- 34% reduction in exclusions and abandonment in equivalent periods



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