

Appendix A

Impact of Homeless Reduction Act

Previous Duties: Housing Act 1996 (as amended by Homelessness Act 2002)	New duties: Homeless Reduction Act 2017
A duty to help someone who is homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days	A duty to help someone who is homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days
A duty to prevent homelessness for people considered to be in priority need	A new duty to prevent or relieve homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness, regardless of priority need.
No current duty on public services to notify a local authority about housing circumstances.	A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
Duty to secure that advice and information about homelessness and prevention of homelessness is available free of charge to any person in the district	Duty to provide or secure the provision of a service, available free of charge to any person in the authority's district. Duty to provide information and advice on preventing homelessness, the rights of persons who are homeless or threatened with homelessness and the duties of the authority, and details of what help is available in the district.
Duty to provide advice and assistance to those threatened with homelessness within 28 days, or those who are homeless.	Duty to assess every eligible applicant's case and agree a plan for those who are threatened with homelessness or who are homeless. This would include any steps the applicant is required to take in order to secure or retain accommodation plus what steps the council will take to secure or retain accommodation. This plan must be kept under review until the council has decided a duty is no longer owed.
Duty to provide interim accommodation where a person is eligible, homeless and in priority need	The duty to provide accommodation remains for those in a priority need. The authority must take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure that suitable accommodation becomes available for them for at least six months.