

Local Challenge 10: “To not place any families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation unless in an emergency and for no longer than 6 weeks”

Area of Assessment	Key Elements	Areas to Consider
<p>We do not place any families in B&B accommodation unless in an emergency and then for no longer than 6 weeks</p>	<p>A. No families with children and/or pregnant households are being placed into B&B accommodation unless in an emergency and for no longer than 6 weeks.</p>	<p>1. The recent performance on B&B placements for families and/or pregnant households demonstrates that B&B placements are only made in emergency circumstances and for no longer than 6 weeks.</p>
	<p>B. Strategic approach to ensure B&B use is only ever in an emergency for families with children and/or pregnant households</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear strategic commitment, with political and senior officer backing to limit the use of B&B for families with children and or pregnant households, including links to ‘spend to save’ arguments which support resourcing the local prevention model 2. Records kept of the cost of B&B use and cost benefit analysis carried out for developing alternatives to B&B 3. B&B is used only to fulfil statutory homeless duties or discretionary powers and is not used as a ‘prevention’ option (as this is unlawful) 4. Current and future demand for temporary accommodation is linked to the Homelessness Strategy and temporary accommodation policy 5. Local authority, registered providers and other relevant partners actively involved in developing additional accommodation options, including alternative temporary accommodation, as part of a planned reduction in the use of B&B 6. Appropriate levels of support to people in temporary accommodation, including access to food parcels / starter packs, white goods, basic furnishings to ensure B&B placements are not made unnecessarily 7. There is a clear and prompt approach to accessing temporary accommodation including out of hours access to ensure that B&B placements are not made unnecessarily
	<p>C. Prevention focus supports reduction in use of B&B</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Customer assessment focuses on seeking to sustain existing accommodation in every presenting case (where appropriate) and preventing homelessness wherever possible 2. Agreed pathways and support available to people in temporary accommodation to ensure prompt and supported move-on 3. Monitoring of lets of social housing via allocations policy to maximise homelessness prevention opportunities and ensure appropriate preference and support given to those in temporary accommodation 4. Prompt decisions regarding duty owed to ensure time spent in temporary accommodation is kept to a minimum

	<p>D. When B&B is used in an emergency, it is with ongoing support</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All placements are made with regard to the requirements set out in s208 Housing Act 1996 (as amended), the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation Order) (England) 2012 and Supplementary Homelessness Code of Guidance 2012 2. Processes are in place to ensure appropriate statutory and health care services are notified of households with children placed in temporary accommodation
--	--	--