



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**“Reciprocity reduces Recidivism.”
Coming together to assist those leaving the
secure estate.**

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Background

- Homes for Wales, A White Paper for Better Lives and Communities 2012
- Bill published November 2013
- Committee and plenary stages
- Becomes Housing (Wales) Act 2014 -17th September 2014
- Secondary legislation
- Statutory Code of Guidance
- Implemented- 27th April 2015

Housing Wales Act 2014 Key Themes / Vision

- Help for everyone at risk or homeless
- Early intervention to prevent crises
- Less emphasis on priority need
- Making best use of all resources which includes private rented sector
- Working with people to help them find the best housing solution
- Partnership working across organisations and services to achieve sustainable solutions

How is it different to Part VII Housing Act 1996?

- A new duty to help anyone threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days;
- A duty to provide help to any homeless person to help them secure a home;
- A power rather than a duty to apply the intentionality test;
- New powers for local authorities to discharge their homelessness duties using accommodation in the private rented sector;
- Stronger duties on Housing Associations and other public bodies to support local authorities in carrying out their homelessness duties
- Priority need will apply to prisoners where they meet the vulnerability test if other categories do not apply.

Applying the Act to those leaving the Secure Estate.

- Amendment of prison leavers in the Priority Need categories.
- Concern raised during committee sessions
- Minister committed to ensuring services would be accessible
- Prisoner Accommodation Resettlement Working Group formed.
- The Resettlement Journey
- Development of the National Pathway

The Pathway

- Pathway, aimed at ensuring a consistent service to people due to leave custody
- Ensure no gaps or overlap in services between LAs and CRCs
- Formal consultation commenced May 15
- Code of guidance enhanced to cover transitional period
- Implemented December 2015

The Pathway (Reception)

- BCST 1&2 identify issues with housing
- Referral to Prison Link Cymru to help to prevent homelessness.
- Solution fed back to CRC in preparation for resettlement plan.

The Pathway (Resettlement)

- If housing issues identified during resettlement interview:
- CRC to work with service user to help to find a housing solution
- Approx. 66 days prior to release if no solution found CRC to make referral to LA (triggering the assessment duty section 62 HWA 2014)
- Offender Manager to provide risk assessment to accompany referral

Dovetail with SSWB Act 2014



- The Duty to assess provisions are very similar
- Prevention and Support (Broader sense)
- Consistent guidance
- Citizen at the centre of service delivery

Remember this is not about Housing, or Social Services. It's a Corporate Responsibility.

Future Challenges



- Ensuring join up between Social Services and Housing Departments. Scope for joint assessments as Section 19/21 SSWB and Section 62 HWA cover similar ground.
- Information sharing, assessment of risk and need to include specific information not only OM report.
- Supply of appropriate accommodation in a challenging environment.
- Working across Sectors