

Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Service

Liverpool City Region

14th May 2024



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Local Authority Housing Options

Therese Sanders



METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION



Knowsley Council



ST HELENS
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AFEO-funded Housing Options Posts

Criminal Justice specific Advisors were introduced to support suitable referrals to the commissioned AFEO support service provider, Crisis.

Introduced in 2022 in Halton & Knowsley, working with those in custody, AP, CAS-2 and CAS-3, attending all CJS meetings and being the SPOC for the LAs.

With positive impact and learning, expanded into Sefton & St Helens (2023, AFEO phase 2), co-locating to provide face to face custody-based support.

Although both work pre- and post-release, the models differ slightly: Halton / Knowsley are community based; Sefton / St. Helens are prison based.

Impact of the Provision

Homeless decisions made at the earliest opportunity to inform pathway on release. Priority need evidence collected from prison internal services where possible.

Prison leavers placed onto the correct pathway prior to release, with continuous support from Housing Options officer post release.

Referrals for tenancy ready service users made to Crisis, the commissioned AFEO support provider.

Successes

Specific Criminal Justice staff reduces barriers for customers

Upskills Probation staff through joint working

Appropriate accommodation pathway sourced prior to release

Tenancy sustainment

Holistic offer with access to other services in custody

Embedding Housing Options as part of the release plan

Accommodation in place on release (TA, CAS-3, etc.)

Improved and appropriate referrals for AFEO provider

Reduces anxiety for prisoners being supported whilst in custody

Challenges

Out of area prisons

Inappropriate or last minute DTRs

Recruitment (specialist role) and retention (contract length)

Getting approved accommodation options for high-risk clients

MOJ changes of legislation

Short sentences

Access to risk information

Barriers conducting assessments for community-based staff

Not all Merseyside Local Authorities have this offer in place

Case Study 1: Housing Options

Male, aged 28.

Due to be released from custody and will be homeless.

Estranged from family and lacks positive friendships.

Has made 7 previous homeless applications.

Concerns with reoffending, drug and alcohol issues and mental health diagnosis.

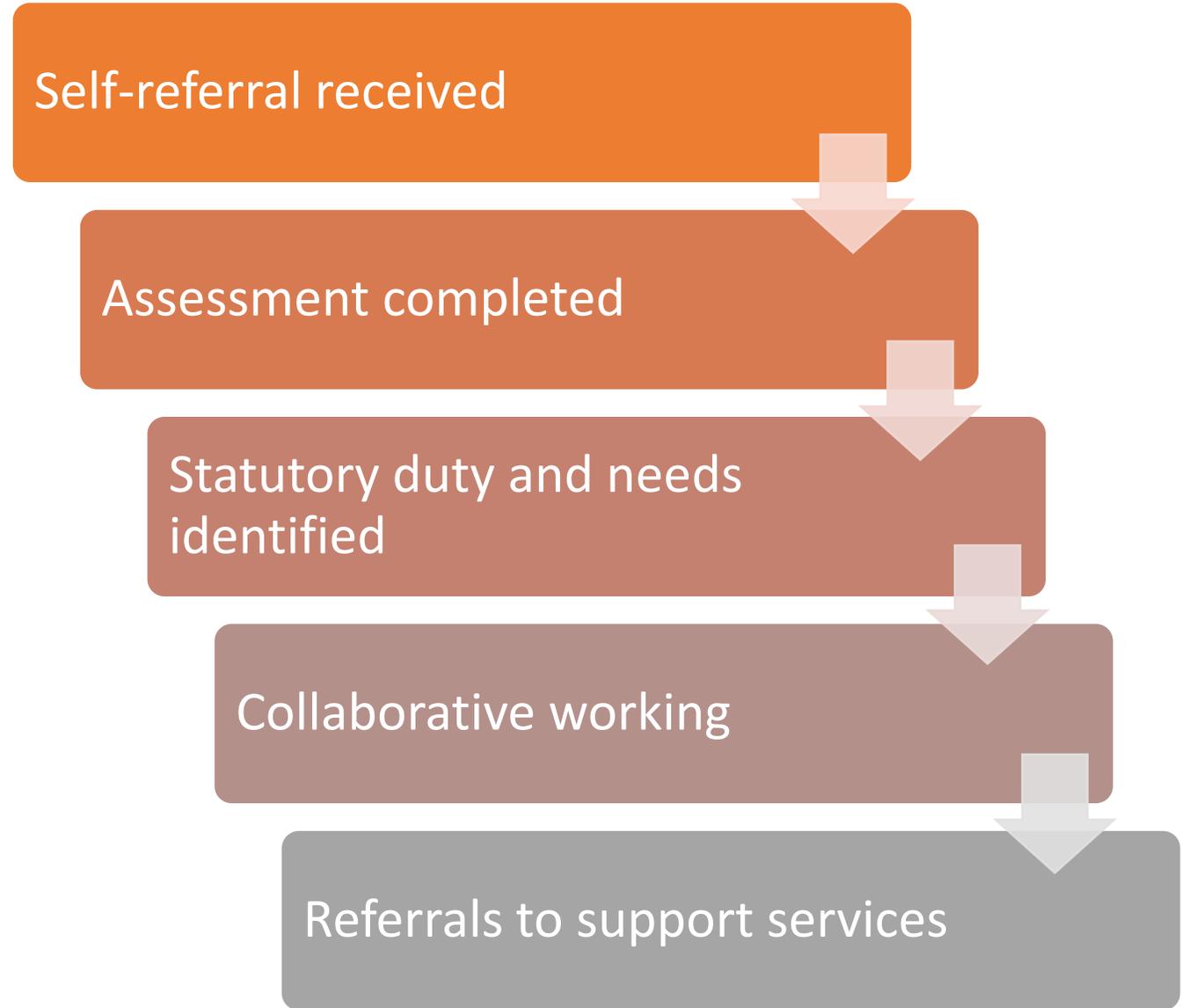
Self-referral received

Assessment completed

Statutory duty and needs identified

Collaborative working

Referrals to support services



Case Study 2: Housing Options

Male, aged 51.

Convicted sex offender

Under probation in the
community.

Client released from custody into CAS3
accommodation.

Assessed by Housing Options as priority
need.

LA referred to Crisis, who sourced a 1-bed
flat w/ 6-month tenancy.

Crisis supported with bond / deposit; LA
provided 6-month shortfall through
Homeless Prevention fund.

Housing Options also provided support
with completing clients ELAS application.
Client is still in accommodation.

CAS3

Arlene Pilkington



HM Prison &
Probation Service



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CAS3: Community Accommodation Service Tier 3

A service which provides a pathway for tackling homelessness for prison leavers subject to Probation supervision on release who have no access to other accommodation – non-priority need and no suitable family accommodation

- CAS1 (Approved Premises) and CAS2 (Bail Accommodation Service) homeless leavers are also eligible
- CAS3 Provides temporary accommodation and basic support for up to 84 nights, together with assistance to move into settled accommodation.
- Can provide up to 228 beds in the region, as per the contract specification. A mix of single occupancy placements in self-contained units, and shared placements with a maximum of 4 bed spaces per property – always single gender
- Fully furnished accommodation with a welcome pack of food and toiletries on move in day
- Weekly contact with a minimum of fortnightly home visits.
- There is no requirement to pay rent as this scheme is fully funded by MOJ
- It is a temporary placement, not a tenancy, and residence is part of supervision and licence

Mears Group are currently contracted to provide all CAS3 accommodation in the North West Probation Region



North West

Probation Delivery Unit Map

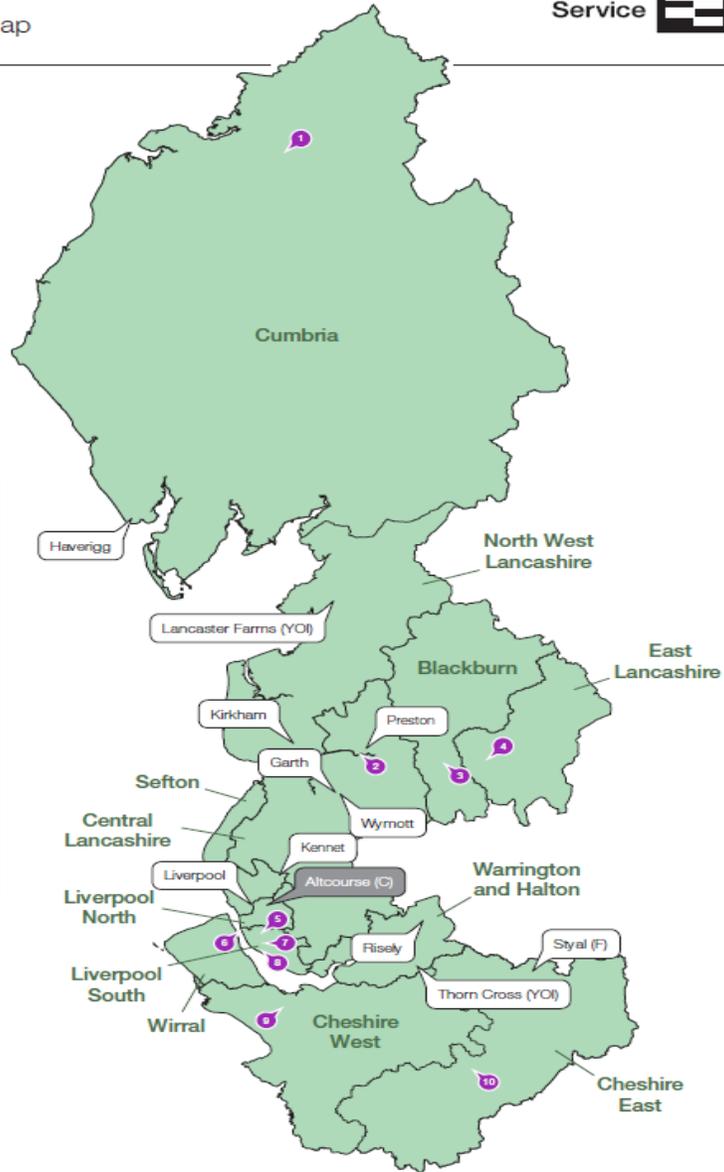


Key

- Approved Premises
- Independent Approved Premises
- Divisional Support Hub
- Durham Probation Delivery Unit
- Prison
- Contracted Prison
- High Security Prison
- Juvenile
- Female
- Young Offender Institution
- Immigration Removal Centre
- Foreign National Prison

Approved Premises

1. Bowling Green
2. Edith Rigby House
3. Haworth House
4. Highfield House
5. Merseybank
6. Adelaide House
7. Stafford House
8. Southwood
9. Bunbury House
10. Linden Bank



Count of AfEO Phase 2 by Local Authority and AfEO Phase 2

AfEO Phase 2 ● N ● Y



[Open in Power BI](#)

2023-06-21 Map of AfEO LAs

Data as of 04/07/23, 14:29

Filtered by **Probation Region** (is North West)

HPT & Joint Working with AfEO Providers

- The HPT in the NW region works collaboratively with the CAS3 accommodation supplier to place and manage offenders in CAS3 properties.
- Work collaboratively with Local Authorities and AfEO providers to explore pre-release accommodation needs for those due for release on licence via Prison Leavers Meetings.
- Joint working with Local Authorities and AfEO providers to achieve successful outcomes for those moving on from CAS3 via CAS3 move on meetings.
- Work with Strategic Housing Specialists in prison to implement and embed accommodation pathways in custody so that pre-release work at a minimum 56 days prior to release is taking place.
- Work with our Probation Delivery Unit colleagues to embed these approaches and support practitioners to navigate complex accommodation needs.
- AfEO housing workers work closely with practitioners in Merseyside PDUs and custody by co-locating in offices and attending Merseyside prisons.

Case Study 3: CAS3

CAS3 to AfEO Success Story

19/01/24 | CAS3 resident referred to Crisis. Crisis, HPT, Mears and the Practitioner discussed housing needs and actions via the CAS3 Move On meeting.

01/02/24 | Liaison continued between Crisis and the Practitioner to discuss and assess for suitability. Crisis met the CAS3 resident, explained the support they can offer, and an induction was completed. The search for a suitable property begins.

06/02/24 | Probation appointment takes place. Ongoing communication between Practitioner, CAS3 resident and Crisis. Confirmation of an upcoming viewing for a flat, with Crisis confirming they will support with a deposit.

15/02/24 | The flat in mind was let to another individual, so continuing looking for other properties.

29/02/24 | Probation supervision appointment takes place with several viewings booked for the upcoming week. Continued communication between the Practitioner, CAS3 resident and Crisis worker to confirm ongoing actions being taken.

14/03/24 | A property is viewed and secured.

04/04/24 | The CAS3 resident successfully left their CAS3 placement and moved into the property.

Top 3 Priorities for AfEO Success

- Communication between Probation colleagues and AfEO partners is key to support a person to move on from CAS3 accommodation successfully.
- Co-located AfEO workers in the Probation Offices and Prisons does evidence positive accommodation outcomes, allows for face-to-face contact with the person on Probation for housing assessments and effective information sharing with the practitioner.
- Importance of having effective prison accommodation pathways. Strategic Housing Specialists work with HPTs and Pre-Release teams in prison to ensure these are in place and running smoothly. Requesting a DTR assessment in a timely manner, positively supports the planning and arranging of suitable accommodation before release on licence



Crisis – CTI Connect

Karen Culbert



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CTI: Critical Time Intervention

“CTI was designed to break the vicious cycle between institutionalisation and homelessness, and to promote stable community living by providing people with mental illness with emotional and practical support and strengthening their long-term ties to the community during transitions from institutional to community living”



**Gyda'n gilydd
byddwn yn
rhoi terfyn ar
ddigartrefedd
Together
we will end
homelessness**

Key Principles of CTI Connect

Designed around a transition

Community-based

Linking to long term support

Harm reduction / recovery orientated

Limited focus

No early discharge / minimise

Small caseloads

Decreasing intensity / phased approach

Frequent case reviews

Team based supervision

Housed into PRS tenancies / sustainment of PRS tenancies (Connect)

Must be in stable temp accommodation / CAS3 for pre-CTI engagement phase (Connect)

Learning

34% of referrals made are suitable for CTI

Rebuilding links / relationships with family

Housed in housing association tenancies

Time scales to maximise income on release

The reality of release – affordability

Gaps in provision

Impact of Prison Leaver Housing Options officers



Case Study 4: CTI

- Several convictions resulting from a relationship breakdown, mental ill health, and cocaine use
- Supported to secure employment and accommodation, furnish and decorate their property.
- Connected with other services, employment, education & training, GP and children's services.
- Now have completed construction course & qualifications, full time employed, with access to their children every weekend.
- Feel that without CTI Connect could not have moved forward with their life.



Reflections on the service

Matt Ashworth



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