

Media Statement



Date: 17 June 2008

MEDIA STATEMENT REGARDING SUCCESSES IN TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IN LEEDS

Councillor Les Carter, executive board member responsible for housing said:

“Over the last two years, Leeds has seen the number of households in temporary accommodation reduce from 548 (2006/7) to 425 (2007/8).

“This is a particularly pleasing achievement given the national trend towards increased numbers of people in housing need. Social housing waiting lists in England have increased since from 1,021,664 in 1997 to 1,674,421 in 2007.

“This has been the result of a lot of hard work to meet the target of a 50% reduction in homelessness by 2010.

“The main factors in our success have been an improved focus on stopping people becoming homeless in the first place.

“We provide mediation services to prevent the breakdown of relationships between young people and their families, to prevent homelessness, or to allow leaving home to be done in a planned way, rather than in a crisis.

“We have also continued to develop the Sanctuary scheme for households experiencing domestic violence.

“For people who do become homeless, we have been working with housing associations to increase the number of households they can support, and developing partnerships with private landlords to provide more assured shorthold tenancies, as an alternative to temporary accommodation.”

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Note:

Number of households in temporary accommodation:

2006/7	548
2007/9	425

Number of private sector lettings secured to help people in need:

2006/7	205
2007/8	614

Number of people becoming homeless after being evicted by parents:

2006/7	254
2007/8	106

Number of people being registered as urgent homeless cases:

2006/7	1722
2007/8	1142

Numbers of households experiencing domestic violence helped by the Sanctuary scheme:

2006/7	174
2007/8	290

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