

# Homelessness projects to share Future Ready funding

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Six homelessness projects across England have been awarded grants of up to £25,000 by the Future Ready Fund.

A total of £120,875 has been awarded by the funding programme, which aims to help strengthen essential services for homeless people and ensure their sustainability for the coming years.



The six successful applicants demonstrated how the funding will help them to become stronger and better resourced organisations to continue delivering innovative and effective support to vulnerable individuals in the face of significant challenges for the sector.

Two London-based projects are amongst those awarded grants. Anchor House has received £25,000 to fund a post that will explore partnership and expansion opportunities, helping the organisation remain the main single homelessness provider in the borough of Newham.

Lewisham's Bench Outreach has been awarded £14,740 for an information systems upgrade for the benefit of its various projects, such as the upcoming Housing First scheme, which will significantly speed up homeless clients' journeys from the streets to accommodation.

Freedom Social Projects will put its £25,000 grant towards strengthening links with other organisations across Devon to capitalise on commissioning opportunities and ensure its sustainability for the future. Working effectively with others towards common goals will improve the help available to individuals with complex needs and reduce rough sleeping and homelessness in the region.

Hope Community Services, based in Bassetlaw in North Nottinghamshire, will use the £25,000 to employ a development manager for 12 months who will identify alternative revenue options and ensure long-term sustainability in the face of rising demand for help and public sector financial pressure. This will allow the charity to meet this demand and work with more homeless people and offer wider support to help them turn their lives around.

North Somerset's WDGB has received £19,385 to secure the future of the organisation which helps homeless people into accommodation through the offer of a deposit guarantee bond. This is a vital service and is the only option left for many individuals who do not qualify for statutory housing.

The final grant has gone to Wintercomfort for the Homeless in Cambridge to employ a consultant who will develop a three-year strategy to fundraise amongst local supporters of the charity.

This extra income stream will allow the charity to meet the needs of an increasing number of homeless people in the area, as demand for help currently outstrips available provision.

Commenting on the successful applicants, Samantha Rennie, director of the homelessness transition fund, said: "In the current financial climate it is vital that homelessness organisations think creatively about how to ensure their service can continue supporting the needs of their clients. The Future Ready Fund exists to help with this process and these 6 projects have been rewarded because they propose effective responses to the changing demands of the sector.

"Other organisations with similar aims can be supported to secure their long-term sustainability with a grant of between £5K and £25K and should apply for the next round of grants."

The Future Ready Fund has a total budget of £500K in 2013/14 which comes from the £20m Homelessness Transition Fund, an independent fund administered by umbrella organisation Homeless Link and funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

To date the Future Ready Fund has made 49 grants worth over £977K to support projects towards preparing services for the future.

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