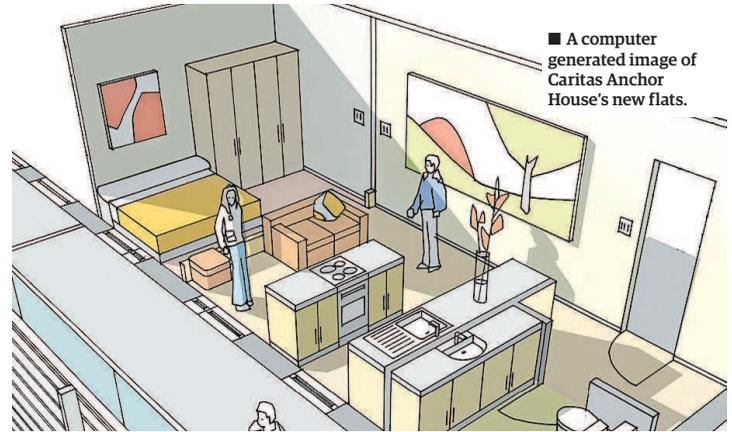




■ Bedding used by the homeless outside Memorial Church, Plaistow.

FUNDING



■ A computer generated image of Caritas Anchor House's new flats.

Red tape 'madness' for charity

A housing charity has urged the Greater London Authority to fulfil a promise to pay it thousands of pounds.

Caritas Anchor House in Canning Town received £450,000 towards the costs of 25 flats for residents to return to independent living, but has been told it will not receive the rest of a £600k GLA grant, until it becomes a housing association.

Caritas put in its application nine months ago. For it to succeed it must

show the Homes and Communities Agency, the government regulator, it has adequate funds.

Chief executive Keith Fernet said: "We're entitled to the money. We have enough problems getting money as it is. It's a piece of bureaucratic madness."

A Mayor of London spokesman said: "It is a legal condition of this funding that all landlords register with the regulator. This was made clear in the bidding process."

Rough sleepers helped by government grant

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Newham Council has been awarded nearly £400,000 of government funding to provide help for its rough sleepers.

The successful bid forms part of prime minister Theresa May's £50 million pledge to tackle homelessness and will support newly rough sleepers or those at "imminent risk" of becoming so.

With one in 27 people in the borough currently having nowhere to live, the council welcomed the grant in order to tackle its "increasing issue with rough sleeping".

A council spokeswoman said: "This funding will enable us to further develop our work with a wide range of partners helping those currently sleeping rough to get off the streets and rebuild their lives, including support to find jobs."

"It will also help enhance our work with vulnerable people at risk of becoming homeless

“ It will enable us to further develop our work with our partners helping those currently sleeping rough to get off the streets

Newham Council spokeswoman

including through issues with their tenancy, the breakdown of a relationship, substance misuse or mental illness."

The announcement, made on Wednesday, came two days before housing charity Crisis said 80 per cent of homeless people have been attacked or a victim of abuse this year.

Additional funds will help long-term rough sleepers with the most complex needs, awarded on a payment-by-results system to various London councils including Newham.

The Greater London

Authority, which will administer the money, was one of eight areas to benefit from £10m Social Impact Bonds funding.

It will enable councils to trial a US-pioneered "Housing First" model, in which permanent accommodation is given to rough sleepers before providing other kinds of help.

A separate £50m to help homeless people across the capital through the provision of move-on accommodation was announced by London Mayor Sadiq Khan in Monday last week.

Meanwhile, in an unrelated academic study, Newham Council was praised for being one of the few London councils to prioritise members of the armed forces when it comes to housing people in need.

A council spokeswoman said: "We are committed to doing all we can to support servicemen and women and it is pleasing that our efforts have been recognised."

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