

## **DATA SHARING FOR EVALUATION OF HOMELESS SERVICES**

The government department for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) wants to know how well services to help people at risk of homelessness are working.

Cambridge City Council may share your information with researchers at the MHCLG for this reason. If you have had contact with our Housing Advice Service, or a partner service, your information may be shared with MHCLG.

Any information shared will **not** include your personal details (name, date of birth, address or gender).

### **What are these services?**

MHCLG has provided money to pay for many different services around the country to help people at risk of homelessness.

The services may work with people who are sleeping rough, or have approached the Housing Advice Service and need specialist help. They may work with people leaving prison or young people at risk of homelessness.

This does not cover the whole range of services being provided but are examples.

### **What information is being shared and why?**

If you have recently been in contact with Cambridge City Council Housing Advice Service, or a project working to prevent homelessness, you will have provided information about your household's circumstances.

Cambridge City Council will share this information with MHCLG, but we will not include any of your personal details. No one working for MHCLG will know whose information they are looking at.

The use of your information will not have any effect on your access to **any** services. The information sharing will help DCLG researchers to see how well services are working, and make decisions about what services are available in the future.

### **Why does Cambridge City Council have information about me?**

Local Authorities regularly record information about all the people they work with, even if their contact with someone is very limited. They need this information to understand the type of service that is most appropriate for you.

### **Why are MHCLG doing this work?**

MHCLG has responsibility in central Government for making sure that homeless people get the right support, and that fewer people become homeless in the first place. The information being shared by the Local Authority will help DCLG to

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understand how well services are working to support people at risk of homelessness or already homeless. MHCLG want to make sure that services for people at risk of homelessness work as well as they can.

### **How will it improve homelessness services?**

The use of your information will not have an impact on homelessness services immediately but it will help MHCLG make decisions about what types of services should be provided. It will help the government understand whether the new services are working well and if similar services should be available in future.

### **Can I refuse?**

If you feel very strongly that you don't want researchers to use your information, you can opt out. Opting out will not have any impact on you, but if a large number of people opt out, the study won't be able to say whether the services have worked or not.

You will need to tell someone at Cambridge City Council Housing Advice Service that you want to opt out.

### **Can I get access to my data?**

If you want to see the information about you that is being collected for this research, you have the right to request it. To do so, speak to one of the Housing Advice Service team and tell them that you want to see your data.