

# Midland Housing Solutions Best Practice Group

## ***A sector-led best practice network for housing options, homelessness and allocations for the Midlands region***

### **Midlands Housing Solutions Group**

At a time when managers need to innovate and respond quickly and efficiently to best practice, legal changes and policy developments – the national and sub-regional framework which provided advice and strategic support has been severely weakened.

Drawing on Shelter's quality review, legal and policy teams, and Acclaim's efficiency, benchmarking and best practice experience, the Midland Housing Solutions Group will draw in managers across the sector and lead in identifying both practical and strategic initiatives and best practice.

### **How will it work?**

The agenda and work programme of the group will be chaired and governed by a panel of managers from within the region. The Group will be formed around a cycle of regional meetings, supported by advisors within Shelter and Acclaim and will focus on innovation, best practice and responses to sector-wide policy and legal developments.

Group members will be provided with:

- A quarterly best practice forum to focus on best practice from within the region and elsewhere and enable input from sector experts and outside guests
- The latest policy and legal updates from sector experts and solicitors
- 'Frontline feeds' briefing from NHAS, providing an update on new and emerging topics/issues identified via their housing options consultancy line and advice on responding to these
- Best practice updates and briefings pushed out through a regional newsletter and website resource
- Research and development support (based on an annual 10 day programme) – which will be directed by the Group

The Group will focus on helping members to identify and practically assess efficiency and best practice solutions and to build the case for change and innovation.

### **How much will it cost?**

The annual subscription fee will be £1,750. This will enable member authorities to send staff to the Midlands Housing Solutions Group meetings.

As membership of the Group and the wider network grows, we will explore ways in which funding can be secured to provide additional services for group members.

### **Membership of the Group**

Membership is open to service managers and decision-makers within the Midlands region with responsibility for managing housing options, homelessness and allocations services.

### **Expressions of Interest**

We are keen to establish the Group's 2011/12 programme and form the Regional Panel which will shape the agenda for forthcoming Best Practice meetings.

**Expressions of interest or requests for further information should be forwarded to Harinder Biring (Shelter).**

**Expressions of Interests are requested by the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011.**

### ***Please note:***

The date for the first meeting of the Midlands Housing Solutions Best Practice Group has been provisionally arranged for Wed 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011

### **Find out more**

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