



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Homelessness

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Department for
Communities and
Local Government

WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness falls broadly into three main types, each with different drivers and characteristics

Statutory Homelessness

- Owed a statutory duty from local authority to secure accommodation
- Families with dependents, pregnant women, and very limited categories of vulnerable single people or couples
- Last year nearly 60,000 households were accepted as statutorily homeless, compared to 40,000 in 2010
- Many have support needs but increasingly driven by affordability

Single Homelessness

- Those not in priority need, but owed 'advice and assistance' from authority
- Living in hostels / supported accommodation or 'hidden' homeless
- 36,540 bed spaces in hostel system
- Likely to be many more in fragile housing situations (e.g. overcrowding / sofa surfing)
- Recent study on complex need suggested up to 500,000 single people facing homelessness in any year

Rough Sleeping

- Most visible and extreme type of homelessness
- Mixture of new to streets, migrants (mainly from CEE countries) and entrenched.
- Primarily male aged 18-55
- Rough sleeping has doubled since 2010, to 4,100 according to our single night snapshot.



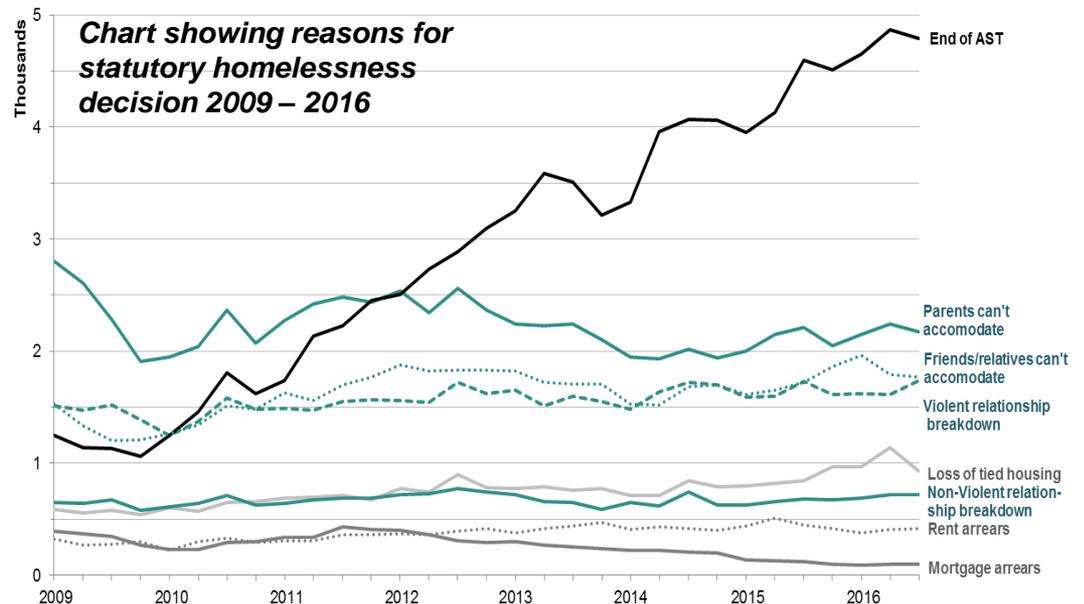
People are finding it increasingly hard to maintain PRS tenancies

End of assured shorthold tenancies is now leading cause of statutory homelessness

- Last year nearly 60,000 households were accepted as statutorily homeless, compared to 40,000 in 2010. Three quarters of them are families with children.
- The end of an assured shorthold tenancy has now overtaken family breakdown as the leading trigger for statutory homelessness. This has accounted for 68% of the growth in statutory homelessness acceptances since 2009/10.

There are increasing numbers of people in temporary accommodation

- If local authorities cannot find long term accommodation for statutory homeless households immediately, they must put them in temporary accommodation.
- Use of temporary accommodation is growing, up by 52% since 2010.
- There are now nearly 75,000 households in temporary accommodation. Nearly 60,000 are families, including over 117,000 children





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Government response

We are working with local and central government and the third sector to drive a further shift towards prevention

Prevent more people from becoming homeless in the first place by identifying people at risk and intervening earlier with solutions we know work

- Bring prevention further upstream and increase co-ordination through, through **£20m Trailblazer programme**
- Support LA service development, starting with a **best practice website** ('Prevention Hub') and a **network of advisors**
- Make it easier for local areas to spot those at risk of homelessness by **improving data collection** and analysis

Rapidly intervene if a homelessness crisis occurs, so it is brief and non-recurrent

- **Homelessness Reduction Bill** – enhanced duties pre-crisis and at crisis point.
- Help new rough sleepers, or people at imminent risk of sleeping rough, get support needed quickly through more joined up services and a better understanding of what works, starting with **£10 million rough sleeping fund**

Help more people recover from - and exit -homelessness by getting them back on their feet.

- Support the most entrenched rough sleepers through local personalised support, starting with **£10 million Social Impact Bond**
- Enable former rough sleepers to move out of hostels through **£100m investment in new 2,000 units of accommodation**
- Enable local authorities to respond more flexibly to homelessness issues by **devolving the TA management fee as a flexible grant**

DWP

- Getting people into **employment** through working with DWP and Job Centre Plus

DH

- Improve services for rough sleepers with **mental health issues**
- Make sure **people leaving hospitals** have accommodation to go to.

DfE

- Ensure **care leavers** are supported to find sustainable accommodation
- Build young people's **personal resilience** and **financial literacy**

HO

- Immigration Enforcement Teams are resourced to tackle **migrant rough sleeping**
- **Drugs** and **Safeguarding** work

MoJ

- Ensure people **released from prison** have accommodation to go to
- Build offenders personal resilience and financial literacy **whilst in prison**



Homelessness Reduction Bill

Legislative reform

The Government is supporting Bob Blackman's Private Members' Bill – the Homelessness Reduction Bill. The Bill will improve homelessness service provision across the country.

- Free information and advice, tailored to specific groups
- New prevention duty - threatened with homelessness extended from 28 days to 56 days.
- New relief duty – 56 day duty to help to secure accommodation, regardless of priority need.

Assessment of progress

- The Bill has completed its passage through the Commons.
- Next step is Lords Committee on 10 March.
- £61m of new burdens funding for local government



Next steps

- Establishment of an LA working group to develop the methodology to distribute the £61m according to need.
- Implementation Steering Group to oversee and advise on work strands to be complete ahead of the Bill going live, including refreshing the Code of Guidance.



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Flexible Homelessness Support Grant

Flexible upfront funding for homelessness to replace DWP's Temporary Accommodation Management Fee

The Government is replacing DWP's Temporary Accommodation Management Fee with a new DCLG grant.

- From April 2017 the Temporary Accommodation Management Fee paid by DWP to local authorities for each placement in some types of Temporary Accommodation will be replaced by a new DCLG grant – with increased overall funding – which will give local authorities greater flexibility in managing homelessness pressures
- The housing cost element will continue to be paid by DWP. This will move to standard Local Housing Allowance rates as Universal Credit rolls out.
- We engaged with local authorities and other stakeholders on the design of the grant last year, and we will announce allocations very shortly.

The new grant

- The current DWP fee is a reactive payment tightly ringfenced to a narrow range of crisis intervention
- The new grant is an upfront flexible payment which can be used by local authorities for the full range of homelessness measures. It sits alongside our other homelessness prevention funding and our support for Bob Blackman's Homelessness Reduction Bill.
- The funding has been allocated according to a formula which reflects relative homeless pressures, while at the same time ensuring that high pressure local authorities are protected





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Youth Homelessness Pathway

Background

- DCLG funded St Basil's, a youth homelessness agency working across the West Midlands, to develop and support the implementation of the Young People's Positive Pathway.
- The pathway is a national framework designed to help local authorities and their partners more effectively prevent homelessness among 16 – 25 year olds and promote better outcomes for young people.

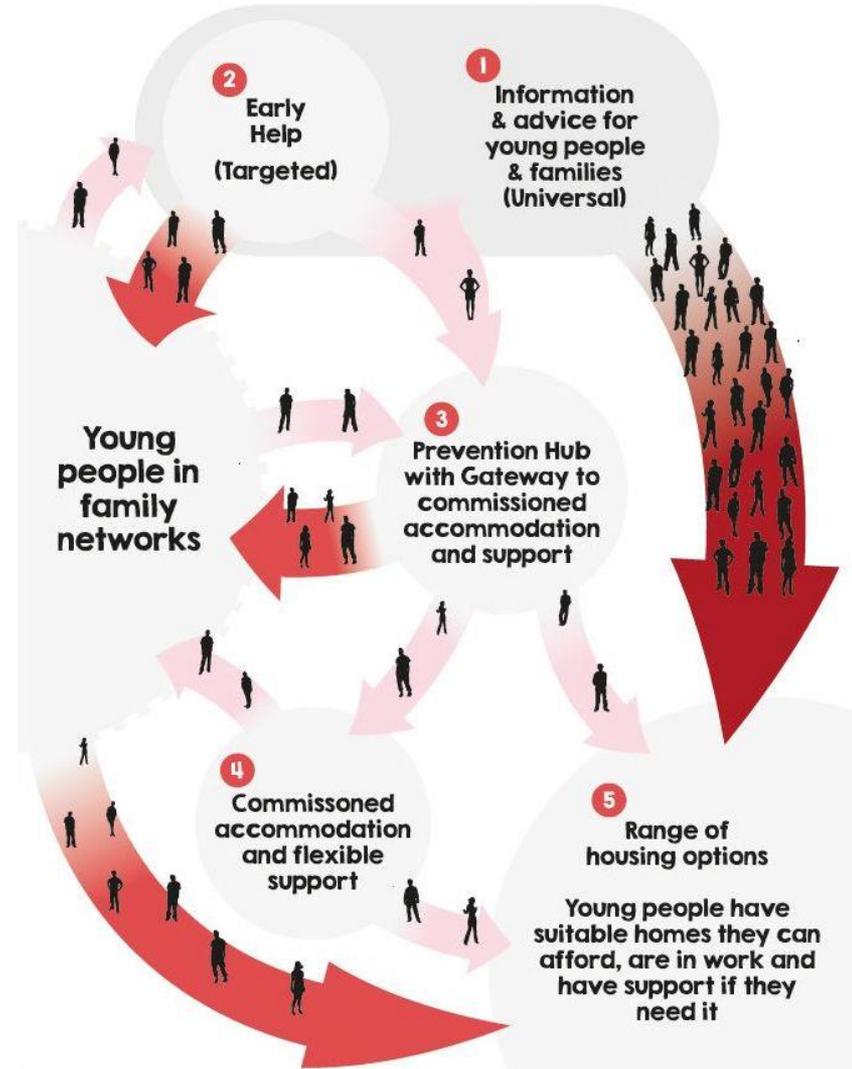
Impact

- DCLG also funds St Basils to provide an advisory service supporting local authorities to implement and use the framework effectively through bespoke guidance and training.
- Broad agreement in research and the sector that the pathway approach is an important driver for service improvement and helps partners work together to achieve their goals.

Next Steps

- Continue to support local authorities to implement the pathway and use it successfully.
- Formal evaluation on the impact of the youth homeless pathway and the adviser service.

Positive Pathway Model





Background

- Announced in October 2016, as part of the Homelessness Prevention Programme, there were 122 applications submitted to the Trailblazer fund.
- On December 21 the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State announced the successful areas at Thames Reach Employment Academy in London.
- We have awarded £20,310,521million to 28 projects, working in 86 local authorities in every region in England.



Purpose

- To establish a network of ambitious Trailblazer areas across England to develop innovative approaches to preventing homelessness to help us to go further and faster with homelessness reform.
- To give local authorities the opportunity to get upstream of problems in their local area and work with more people to prevent their homelessness at an earlier stage.
- To develop a new central repository for evidence based best practice which can then be shared nationally.
- We started working with the areas following the announcement and the funding will run for 24 months from January 2017.

Examples

- Through the fund a wide variety of innovative new approaches to preventing homelessness will be developed such as:
 - A multi-authority bid to deliver tailored support to over 1,000 PRS tenants at risk of homelessness;
 - The introduction of a specialist unit to work across statutory services, the community and businesses in to early identify, intervene and work with households at risk of homelessness; and
 - Joining up data across police and health services to better identify and help people who are at risk of homelessness.



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£20m Rough Sleeping Grant and £10m Social Impact Bonds

Background

- Announced in October 2016, as part of the Homelessness Prevention Programme, there were 89 applications to the Rough Sleeping Grant and 14 to the Social Impact Bond funding.
- On December 21 the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State announced the successful areas at Thames Reach Employment Academy in London.
- £18,007,577 was awarded across London and 97 local authorities in the rest of England. £11,388,492 of SIBs were awarded to 8 projects across England.



Purpose

- To help new rough sleepers, or people at imminent risk of sleeping rough, get the rapid support they need to recover and move on from a rough sleeping crisis.
- Successful bids will prevent or reduce rough sleeping in innovative ways, by strengthening or building partnerships with agencies who play a crucial role in helping those at risk of, or already, sleeping rough to exit homelessness.
- The Social Impact Bonds will provide targeted support for entrenched single homeless people. This will build on the success of the world's first homelessness Social Impact Bond, run by the Greater London Authority;

Examples

Across the funds there were a variety of approaches proposed including:

- Seconding in mental health and addiction services to provide specialist support.
- No First Night Out and Housing First model.
- Proactive work with Universal Credit Claimants
- Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM)