



Ending homelessness in Great Britain

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Crisis

What we do

Frontline - High quality services that enable housing stability, financial security, improved wellbeing and the development of positive relationships

Research - Leading source of knowledge on causes, effects and solutions for homelessness.

Campaigning - Influencing opinion and public policy so that ending the homelessness crisis really matters to people



The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA)

- Crisis campaign
- Mystery Shopping – no one turned away
- Expert panel proposals taken forward in Bob Blackman MP's Homelessness Reduction Bill
- Passed May 2017
- Implementation in April 2018



In a nutshell: what will the Homelessness Reduction Act do?

1. Improve advice and information available about homelessness and the prevention of homelessness
2. Extend the period 'threatened with homelessness' from 28 days to 56 days
3. Introduce new duties to prevent and relieve homelessness for all eligible people, regardless of priority need, intentionality and local connection
4. Introduce assessments and personalised housing plans, setting out the actions housing authorities and individuals will take to secure accommodation
5. Encourage public bodies to work together to prevent and relieve homelessness through a 'duty to refer'

HRA came into effect 3 April 2018 & Duty to Refer in October 2018

Oak Foundation Funding

Our work didn't stop once the Act went through: Crisis secured funding for 3 years from the Oak Foundation to support and monitor the successful implementation of HRA; this involves:

- Working alongside 5 Local Authorities to support them to implement the HRA: Lewisham; Oxford; Middlesbrough; Durham; and Sheffield
- Working more broadly with LAs and stakeholders to share our learnings and expertise
- Challenging cases where legal duties are being flouted or wilfully misinterpreted
- Researching and monitoring the impact of the HRA on 6 LAs

Research update

Establishes a baseline from which the impact of the HRA can be assessed: from the perspective of service users and staff.

- 526 surveys completed across 6 areas in the first year
- 60 In depth follow up interviews currently taking place
- Staff interviews
- Undertaking analysis now so only have very preliminary findings
- Two more years of research to be undertaken
- No report based on baseline findings but there will be an interim and final report

What has gone well

More meaningful support to those that would have missed out previously

Positive experiences of new assessment process

Customers involved in creation of PHPs and some taking ownership of actions within them

Increased value and emphasis placed on staff's softer skills – motivational interviewing, reflective practice, strength-based practice etc.

Partnership working

- Local DWP projects – Newcastle and Merseyside examples
- Housing Associations going further than a commitment to refer
- Where it has been seen as a council wide responsibility

Efforts to review and improve services and update local strategies

What has gone less well

Challenge of **legacy ways of working** – gatekeeping, local connection, suitability

Increased **bureaucracy and administration** – impacts time spent on meaningful casework and customer outcomes

Staff pressure, morale and workloads

Tendency towards standard and **limited set of 'reasonable steps'** within PHPs and limited monitoring and review with customers

Culture change for **everyone** – overall awareness and expectations

Still seen as only a housing options responsibility – internally and externally

The opportunity for change

Progress from Governments

The Westminster Government

- The Homelessness Reduction Act (2017)
- Commitment to half rough sleeping by 2022 and end it altogether by 2027
- Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel and cross- departmental Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Implementation Taskforce
- £28 million to pilot Housing First/ £30 million for a new rough sleeping initiative

The Scottish Government

- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group
- £50 million Ending Homelessness Together Fund (over 5 years)
- Abolished priority need giving entitlement to settled accommodation for all unintentionally homeless households
- Commitment to build at least 50,000 affordable homes by 2021 (including 35,000 social homes)

The Welsh Government

- The Housing (Wales) Act (2014)
- Funding to test ten Housing First pilots across Wales
- Commitment to ending youth homelessness by committed to ending youth homelessness by 2027
- Commitment to build 20,000 new affordable homes by 2021

With the right political choices,
we can end homelessness. That means:



No-one sleeping rough



No one forced to live in transient or dangerous accommodation such as tents, squats and non residential buildings



No one living in emergency accommodation such as shelters and hostels without a plan for rapid rehousing into affordable, secure and decent accommodation



No one homeless as a result of leaving a state institution such as prison or the care system



Everyone at immediate risk of homelessness gets the help they need to prevent it happening

Everybody In: how to end homelessness in Great Britain

- A comprehensive action plan for national governments outlining the policies needed to end homelessness once and for all.
- Key policy areas addressed include: rough sleeping, housing supply, welfare, private rented sector reform, homelessness legislation and migrant homelessness
- Drawn from the knowledge of a wide range of homelessness experts
- The voice of lived experience at its heart



The current picture of core homelessness

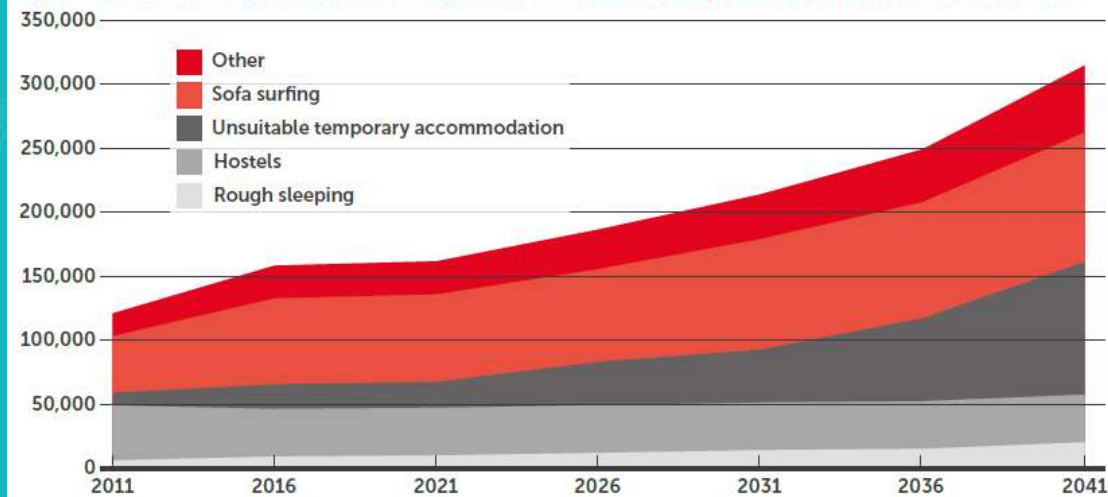
Core homelessness	England		Wales		Scotland		Great Britain	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Rough sleepers	5,000	8,000	200	300	900	800	6,100	9,100
Tents, cars, and public transport	5,000	8,000	200	300	700	800	5,900	9,100
Squatting and non-residential accommodation	6,800	11,500	300	300	800	400	7,900	12,200
Hostels, refuges and night/winter shelters	44,200	38,500	900	900	2,000	2,300	47,100	41,700
Unsuitable temporary accommodation	7,000	17,000	400	200	2,700	2,100	10,100	19,300
Sofa surfers	35,000	59,000	2,900	3,400	6,000	4,600	43,900	67,000
Total	103,000	142,000	4,900	5,400	13,100	11,000	121,000	158,400

(figures are rounded to nearest thousand)

- Baseline data to project levels going forward
- The central or 'medium' figure has been used as the best and evidenced estimate for each category
- At any one time across Britain in 2016, almost 160,000 households were experiencing the worst forms of homelessness (stock figures)
- Nearly all forms of core homelessness have increased between 2011 and 2016
- Variation across GB:
 - Nearly 50% rise in England and Wales
 - Stability in Scotland
 - Large increase in unsuitable TA in England

GB Homelessness Projections

Figure 5.1: Baseline forecast of core homelessness main component, Great Britain 2011 – 41

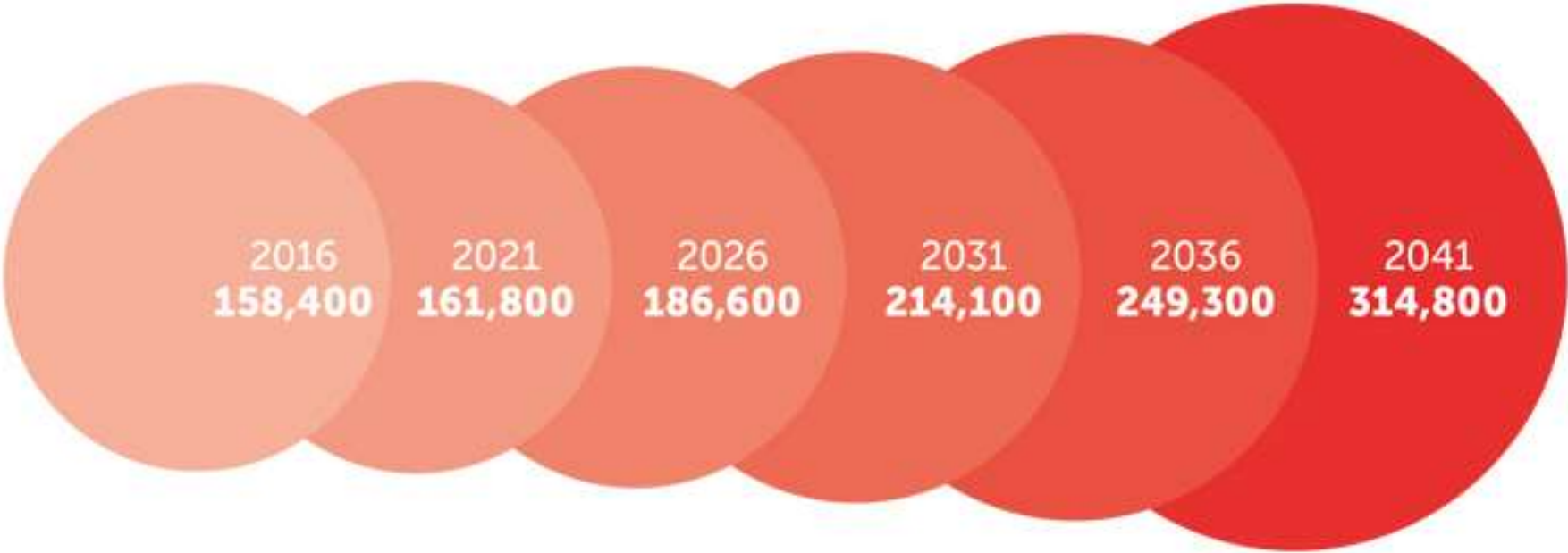


Source: Bramley 2017

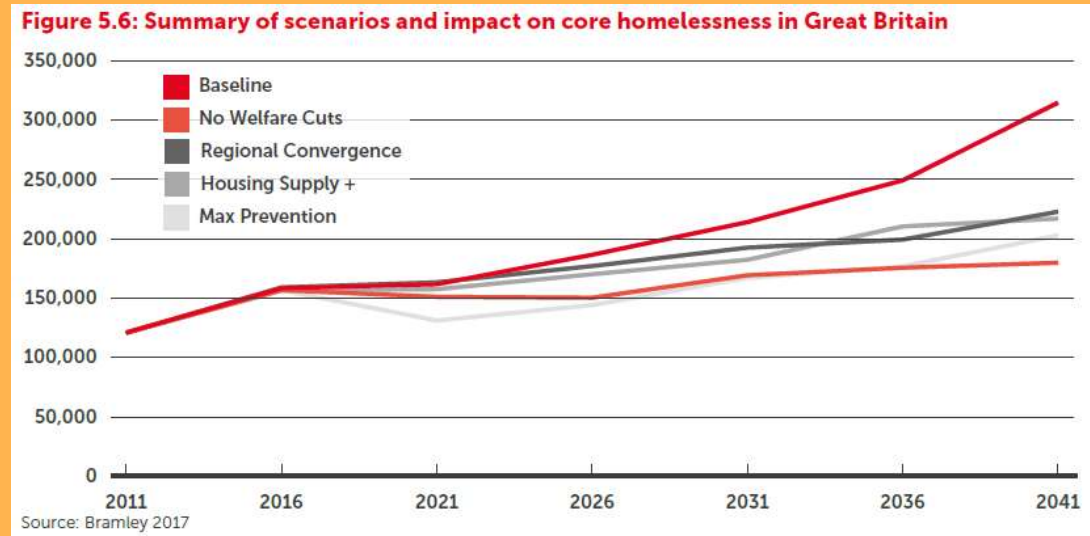
Category	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Rough sleeping	6,100	9,100	10,000	12,000	14,100	15,100	20,300
Hostels	42,900	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200
Unsuitable temporary accommodation	10,100	19,300	20,400	34,000	41,500	64,900	103,800
Sofa surfing	43,900	67,000	68,100	72,300	86,100	90,600	100,900
Other ¹²	18,000	25,800	26,100	31,100	35,200	41,500	52,600
Total	121,000	158,400	161,800	186,600	214,100	249,300	314,800

- Overall GB levels are predicted to rise
- Slight levelling off in the short term due to housing market corrections (i.e. house prices and rents stabilising) and stable labour market
- Rise driven by unsuitable TA levels

Homelessness projections



What policies would make a difference?

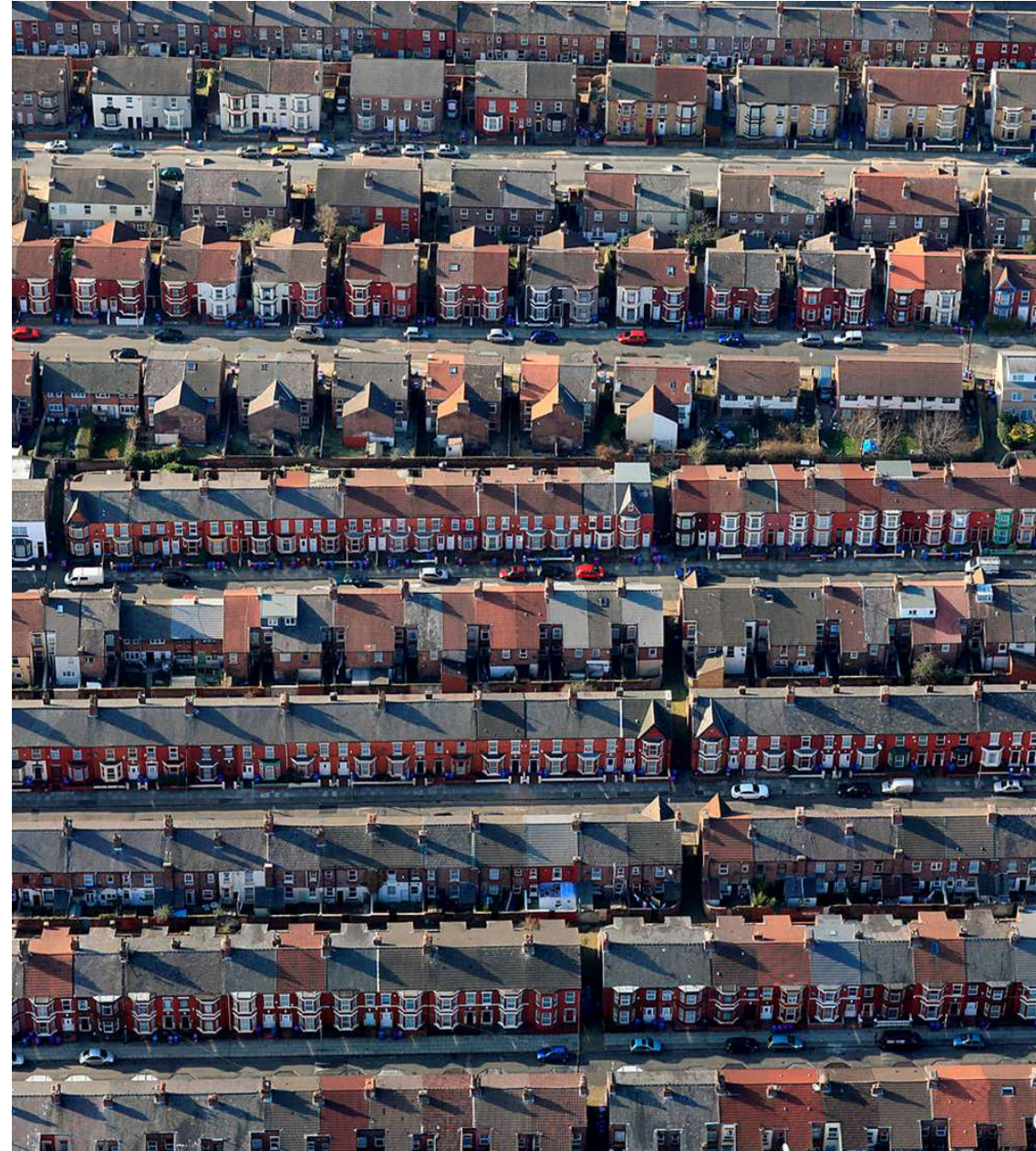


- Static poverty – cessation of further welfare cuts planned in 2015 for the period 2016-21 up to 47% difference by 2041
- 60% increase in private and social housing supply skewed towards south of England – 35% difference
- Maximum prevention - all local authorities matching the practices currently implemented by those with the most extensive homelessness prevention activity – up to 40% by 2041
- Regional convergence - combination of measures; fiscal, infrastructural, industrial, and educational – government is able to rebalance the economy across the regions, without greatly reducing the growth rate of the leading regions

Rapid Rehousing

- Housing First
- Look to Scotland
- Allocations policies and eligibility criteria need to support better access to social housing for homeless people
- Sharing in social housing
- Help to Rent Projects / Social Lettings Agencies
- Homes for Cathy Group

Housing Induction



Prevention

- Working with 5 Local Authorities to help implement the Homeless Reduction Act
- Learning from Wales
- How can we get to no evictions into homelessness?
- How can we involve other public bodies?



We also need to make sure no-one leaves a state institution without a safe, stable place to live



36%

of homeless people discharged from hospital in England have nowhere to go



33%

of people leaving prison said they had nowhere to stay



24%

of single homeless people have been in local authority care



Migrants often leave Home Office accommodation with nowhere to go

Welfare

- Universal Credit system which works
- Homelessness Specialists within Job Centre Plus
- Role of employers
- Local Housing Allowance covering the cost



Migrant Homelessness

- Campaigning for change
- Role of employment
- Shared housing
- Leaving Asylum accommodation



Costs and Benefits

By 2041 the most targeted policies in the plan would cost **£19.3bn** ...



... and will deliver benefits of **£53.9bn**

Our Current Campaigns

Homes for Cathy

- Established in 2016
- A national alliance of Housing Associations
- 80 + members
- 9 shared commitments to end homelessness
- Sharing Best Practice and providing a platform for lobbying
- Partnership with Crisis since 2018



Cover the Cost

What needs to change?

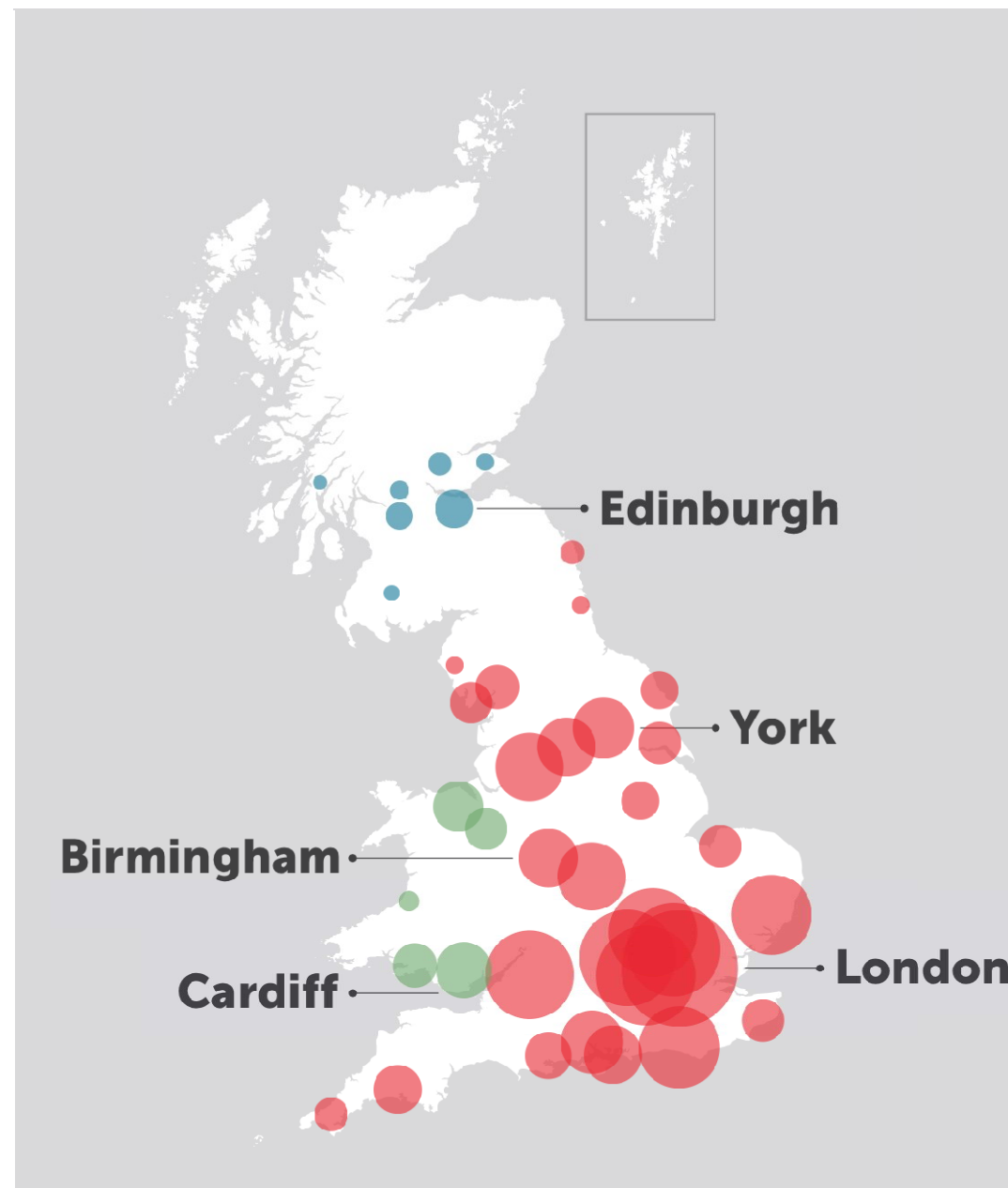
Local Housing Allowance rates in Universal Credit should cover the cost of rent.

Why are we campaigning now?

The Spending Review, scheduled for Autumn 2019, is an opportunity for the Government to invest in Local Housing Allowance.

Timings and actions for supporters

We launched the campaign on 9th May with a report explaining the problem, when we'll be asking supporters to join the campaign. In early July, we'll be launching a second report outlining the solution, with a campaign action for supporters to email their MPs.



SCRAP THE VAGRANCY ACT

Homelessness is not a crime.

What needs to change?

No-one should be criminalised for being homeless or destitute. But the Vagrancy Act 1824 makes it a crime to sleep rough or beg in England and Wales.

Why are we campaigning now?

The UK Government is soon to review the Vagrancy Act – so now is the time to make the case for its repeal.

Timing

We officially launched the campaign in June.

A Safe Home for Every Survivor

What needs to change?

Right now, people fleeing domestic abuse in England aren't automatically considered in priority need – so have no guarantee of a safe home.

Why are we campaigning now?

The draft Domestic Abuse Bill is currently being considered by the UK Government.

Timings and actions for supporters

A new campaign report will launch on Wednesday 5th June with a parliamentary reception and England media & social media.



Everybody In
We're calling for
politicians of all
persuasions, across
Great Britain, to
commit to getting
everybody into a
safe, stable place to
live.
#EndHomelessness

