



# Homelessness: Government ambitions and activity

Homelessness Policy and Local Delivery Team

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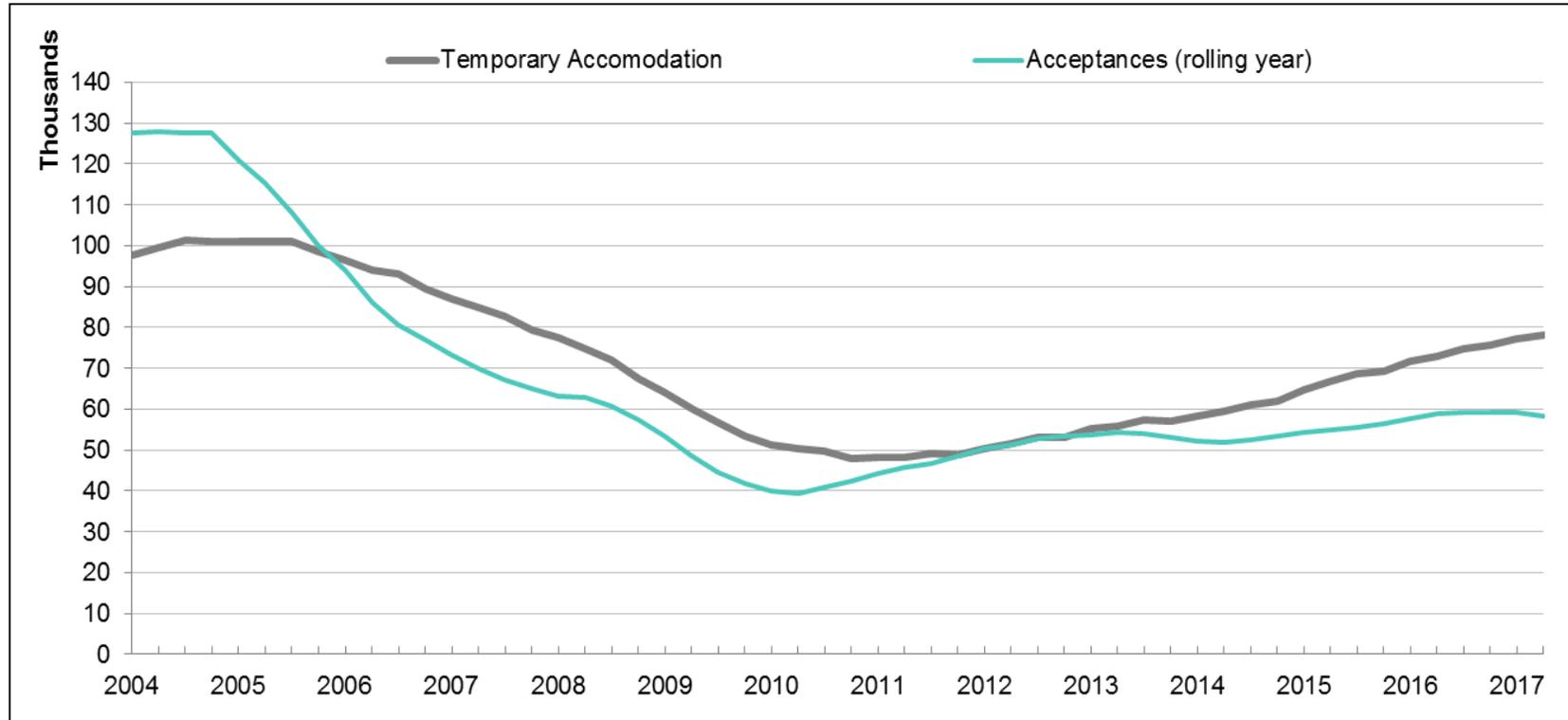


- Homelessness and rough sleeping trends in England
- The Homelessness Reduction Act
- Homelessness Prevention Programme
- Temporary accommodation
- Key challenges and opportunities
- MHCLG Support to Local Authorities



# Homelessness –national trends

## Acceptances and households in temporary accommodation



Statutory homelessness and numbers in temporary accommodation are rising. The number of households in TA is up 65% on the lowest point in 2010



# ROUGH SLEEPING – TRENDS & CONTEXT

## The Geographical Picture

### 24% of rough sleepers are in London...<sup>1</sup>

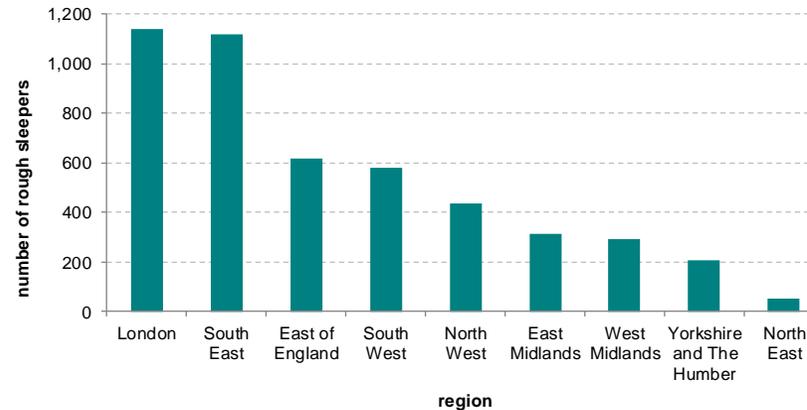
- London's CHAIN database recorded 8,108 people were sleeping rough in 2016/17. *Not comparable with MHCLG statistics.*<sup>2</sup>
- Rough sleepers in London have lower support needs than those in the rest of England.<sup>3</sup>
- But limited housing options for low income or vulnerable single people put them at risk of rough sleeping – particularly in London where there is less suitable accommodation available at Local Housing Allowance (housing benefit) rates.

### London LAs with highest rough sleeping on a single night, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Local Authority	2016	2017
Westminster	260	217
Camden	17	127
Newham	41	76
Redbridge	60	65
Ealing	27	62
Southwark	32	44
Waltham Forest	47	44
Haringey	29	43
City of London	50	36
Hillingdon	28	36

### ...but it's not just a London problem. <sup>1</sup>

#### Rough sleeping on a single night by region, 2017<sup>1</sup>



#### Non-London LAs with highest rough sleeping on a single night, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Local Authority	2016	2017
Brighton and Hove	144	178
Manchester	78	94
Luton	76	87
Bristol, City of	74	86
Bedford	59	76
Southend-on-Sea	44	72
Cornwall	99	68
Oxford	33	61
Birmingham	55	57
Salford	26	49

1. MHCLG Rough Sleeping Statistics 2017, England single night snapshot [https://www.gov.uk/government/Rough\\_Sleeping\\_Autumn\\_2017\\_Statistical\\_Release.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/Rough_Sleeping_Autumn_2017_Statistical_Release.pdf)

2. GLA CHAIN Database for London 2016/17 <https://files.datapress.com/london/dataset/chain-reports/2017-06-30T09:03:07.84/Greater%20London%20full%202016-17.pdf>

3. Peter MacKie, Nations Apart [https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/20608/crisis\\_nations\\_apart\\_2014.pdf](https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/20608/crisis_nations_apart_2014.pdf)



## Government has been clear that driving down rough sleeping is an immediate priority

### MANIFESTO COMMITMENT

Our aim is to halve rough sleeping over the course of the Parliament and eliminate it altogether by 2027. To achieve this we will set up a Taskforce that will focus on prevention and affordable housing, and we will pilot a Housing First approach to tackle rough sleeping.

### CABINET AND ROUGH SLEEPING AND HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION TASKFORCE MEETINGS

At February Cabinet meeting and first meeting of the Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce widespread agreement that rough sleeping is visible issue that concerns the general public and that all of Government needs to tackle.

### ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY & INITIATIVE

- Rough Sleeping Strategy published by July
- Rough Sleeping Initiative, launched end of March. A cross-disciplinary team made up of experts from OGDs and homelessness sector.



# Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

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

- Homelessness Reduction Act - **prevention duty** and support LAs with service development
- Bring prevention further upstream increase co-ordination, learning through **£20m Trailblazers**
- Make it easier for local areas to spot those at risk of homelessness by **improving data**
- Enable LAs to redirect costs from TA to prevention through **£617 million ringfenced Flexible Homelessness Support Grant**

Intervene rapidly if a homelessness crisis occurs, so it is brief and non-recurrent

- Homelessness Reduction Act – **relief duty** for all eligible homeless households
- 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 **£20 million rough sleeping fund**
- Helping to open access to the private Rented Sector with **£20 million fund towards deposit schemes**

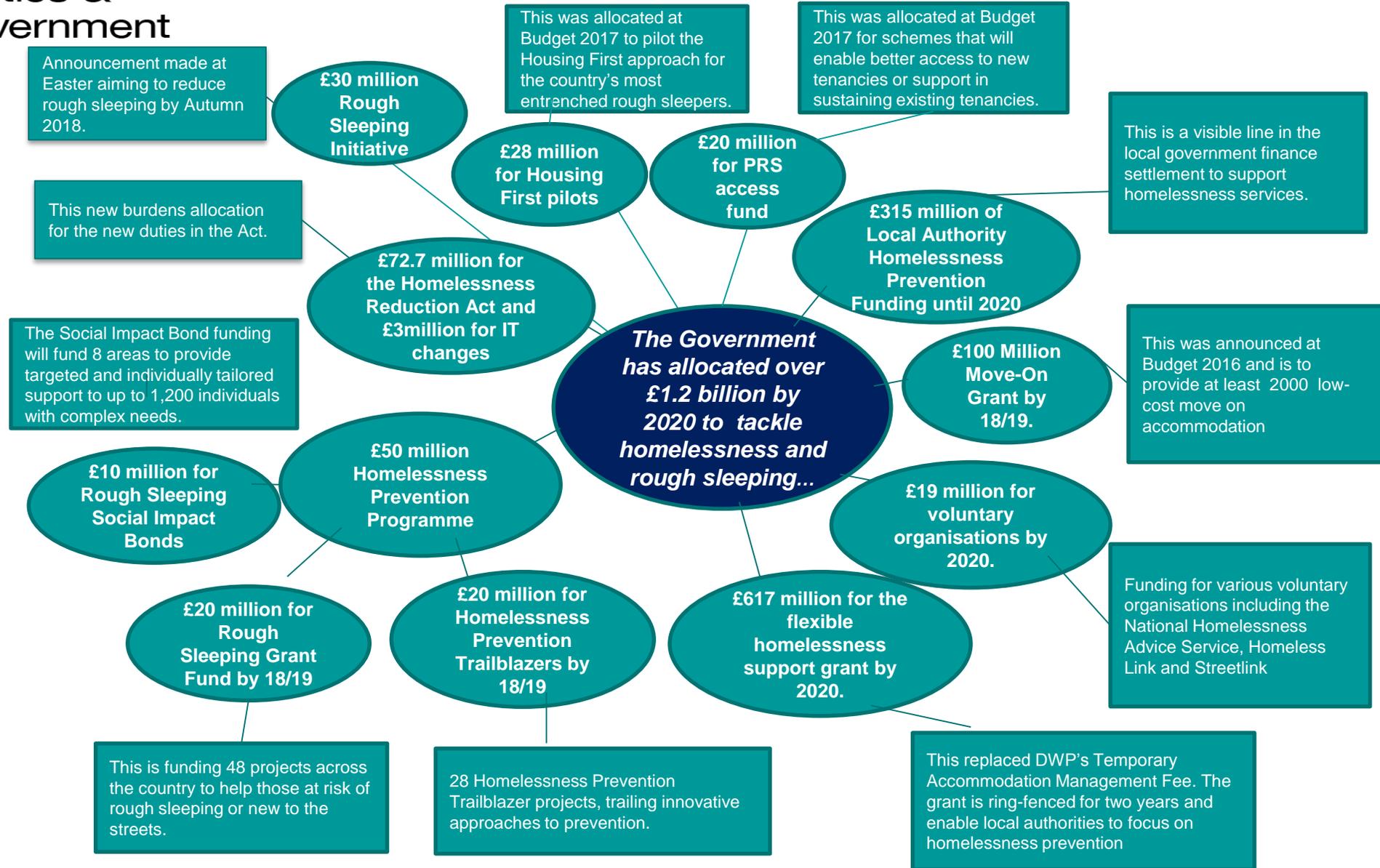
Help more people recover from - and exit -homelessness by getting them back on their feet

- Support the most entrenched rough sleepers through local personalised support, starting with **£10 million Social Impact Bond**
- Enable former single homeless people to move out of hostels through **£100m investment in 2,000 units of new accommodation**
- Investigating whether Housing First can work at scale **with £28 million for Housing First pilots in Manchester, Liverpool and West Midlands areas**



# Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

## The focus of Government on homelessness: over £1.2 billion by 2020 to achieve these aims





- **Expanded advice and information duty** to all residents AND advice designed with vulnerable groups in mind: care leavers, former armed forces personnel, people leaving custody, victims of domestic abuse, people leaving hospital and people with mental health issues
- **All applicants who may be homeless or threatened with homelessness must have assessments of housing needs, circumstances and support needs**
- **Prevention duty** owed to all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness in the next 56 days irrespective of 'local connection' 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'. Includes tenants served with valid S21 notice which expires within 56 days
- **Relief duty** owed to people who are actually homeless, irrespective of 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'; the local authority MAY refer to another LA if the applicant has no local connection to their authority and has a safe local connection elsewhere



- Prevention and relief duty each last for up to **56 days** and delivered through a **personalised housing plan (PHP) agreed with the applicant**
- PHP sets out the '**reasonable steps**' that the LA and the applicant will take to prevent homelessness and/or help to secure accommodation and will be regularly reviewed
- If an applicant '**deliberately and unreasonably refuses to cooperate**' with their reasonable steps, the LA can serve notice bringing the duty to an end BUT only after issuing a warning
- New regulations require LAs to have **written procedures** for non-cooperation notices which will involve second officer sign off
- LAs must provide **temporary accommodation** for homeless applicants they have reason to believe MAY have priority need, during the relief stage



From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 certain public bodies will have a new **‘Duty to Refer’** with consent from their service users who are homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local authority of their choice

**Public Bodies with Duty to Refer from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 are:**

- (a) prisons;
- (b) youth offender institutions;
- (c) secure training centres;
- (d) secure colleges;
- (e) youth offending teams;
- (f) probation services (including community rehabilitation companies);
- (g) Jobcentre Plus;
- (h) social service authorities;
- (i) emergency departments;
- (j) urgent treatment centres; and,
- (k) hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care.
- (l) Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the armed forces

***Local authorities and partners are encouraged to build referral protocols and procedures with ALL service providers that can help identify and support people threatened with homelessness***



- £20 million funding for 28 projects across the country. The aim of the funding is to establish a network of ambitious projects across England that are developing and implementing innovative approaches to preventing homelessness.
- The successful projects include:
  - trialing new approaches in mainstream Housing Options teams to identify and work with single people who are at risk of becoming homeless
  - using smarter data to prevent people's homelessness and identify their wider problems
  - new projects specialising in work to prevent and tackle youth homelessness; and specialist mental health projects.



- £20 million of funding for 48 projects across the country 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. The funding was for a period of two years and the projects will run until March 2019.
- The projects have taken a range of innovative approaches to prevent and reduce rough sleeping, such as No First Night Out projects, identifying those at risk of rough sleeping and preventing them from ever having to spend a night on the streets, and multi-agency teams to give those at risk and new to rough sleeping the support they need for issues such as mental health and substance misuse.

### **Example – Cornwall - £292,000 Grant**

Established a new multi-agency team known as No Da Kernow “Good Night Cornwall” formed by Coastline Housing Limited, Cornwall Housing and St Petroc’s Society. Overall aim is to prevent street homelessness and the team work with individuals on an extended housing pathway focusing on maintained security in accommodation or securing alternative accommodation.

Prevented 151 individuals from rough sleeping and assisted 111 individuals with accommodation within the first year.



- £617 million over 3 years of Flexible Homelessness Support Grant (FHSG)
- FHSG has been used to:
  - Improve engagement with the PRS to source Temporary Accommodation (TA) and improve quality.
  - Source TA more strategically
  - Increase their staffing to support more homelessness prevention and reduce demand for TA.
- One of our priorities is to reduce the number of homeless households in Bed and Breakfast for over 6 weeks
- The Homelessness Advice and Support Team provided support to authorities struggling with this.



## MHCLG support for implementation

- **The Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST)** is offering advice and support to LAs in preparation for, and following commencement, of the Act
- **The statutory Code of Guidance and secondary legislation have been published** following a period of consultation
- **Funded Trailblazers** are trying out new approaches to prevention that others can learn from, including some ‘upstream’ interventions
- **LB Southwark** has been funded as an ‘early adopter’ and have implemented the Act early. LBS are hosting visits, sharing PHPS and all other tools to LAS on request
- **The National Homelessness Advice Service (NHAS)** has been funded to deliver training to frontline staff
- **New burdens funding** has been increased to £72.7 million following engagement with local authorities around the delivery of the Act.



## The Homelessness Advice and Support Team

- Supporting the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act; including having a particular focus on improving outcomes for single people and rough sleepers
- Supporting areas to develop their homelessness strategies and governance with a focus on preventing homelessness through collaboration across public services
- Providing targeted challenge and support to help struggling areas to improve their practice and performance
- Supporting the development and sharing of effective practice, working alongside our Trailblazer areas
- Providing intelligence from local areas to inform on- going policy development.



Ministry of Housing,  
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# ANY QUESTIONS?

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