



# Homelessness in context

Building lives: homelessness &  
housing in the West Midlands

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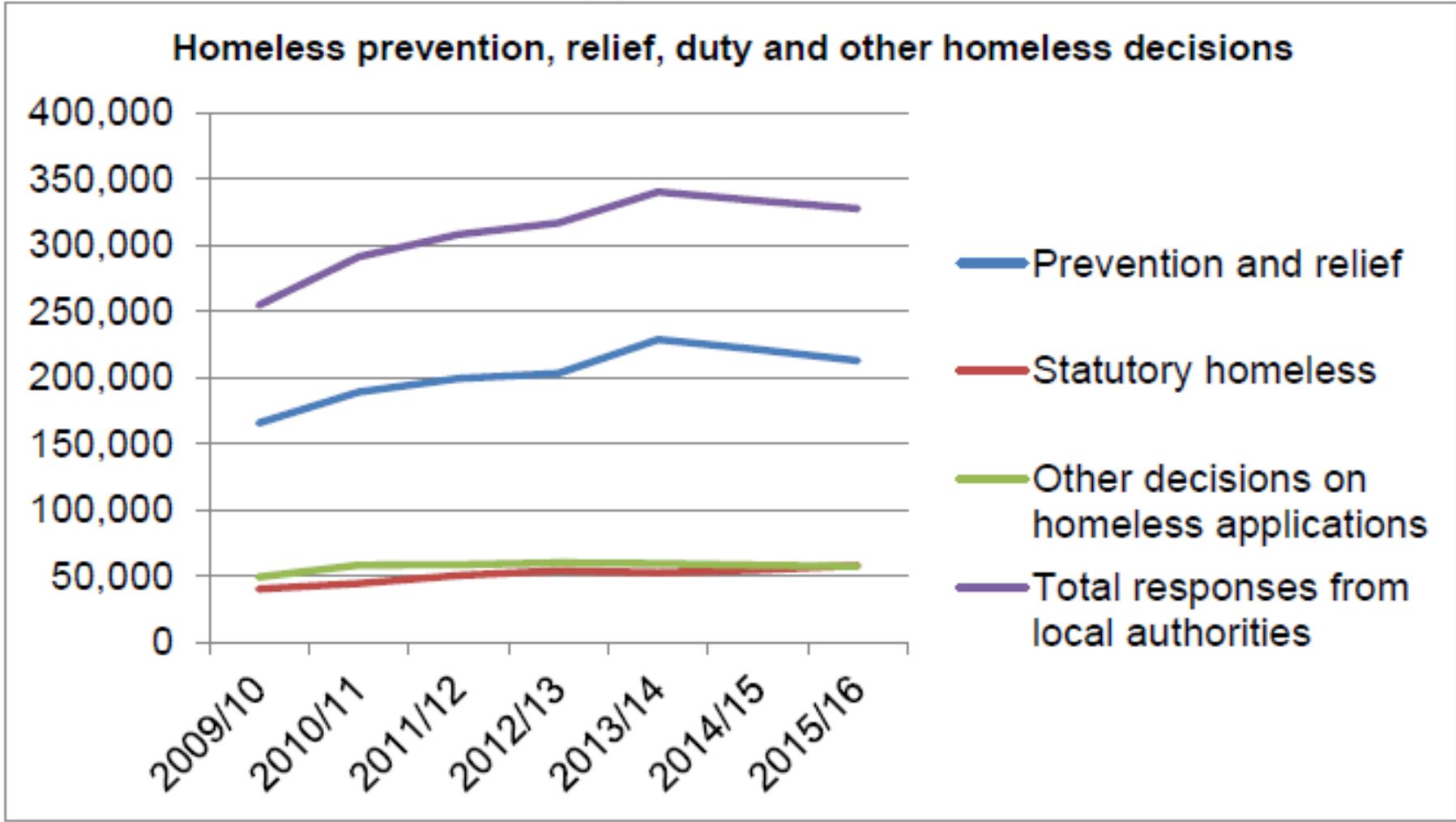


## Content

- Overall trends and drivers
- Impact of homelessness
- What should be in place



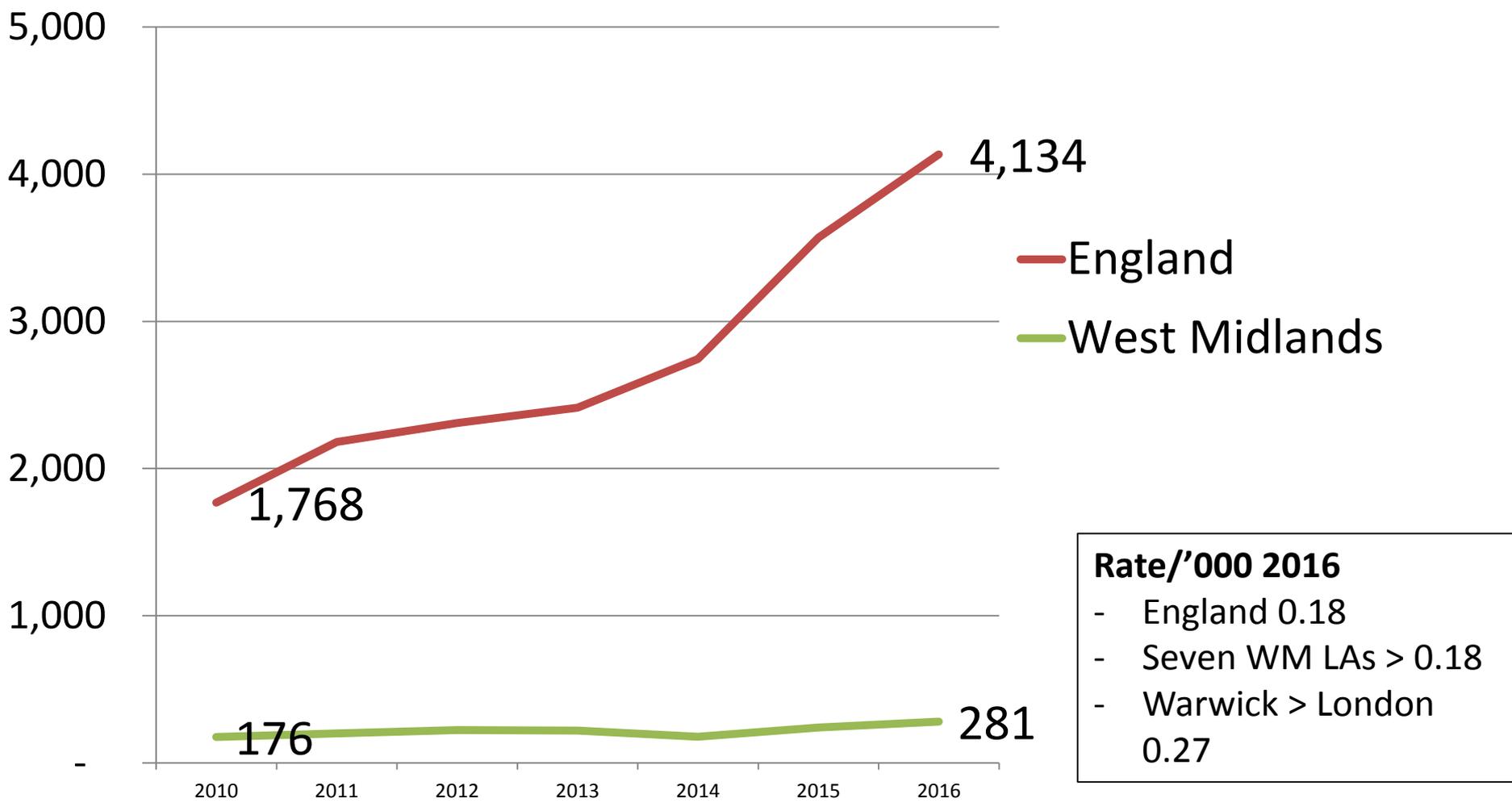
# Trends: approaches to local authorities - England



Source: DCLG Homelessness Statistics, live tables 770 and 778



# Trends – rough sleeping count/estimate





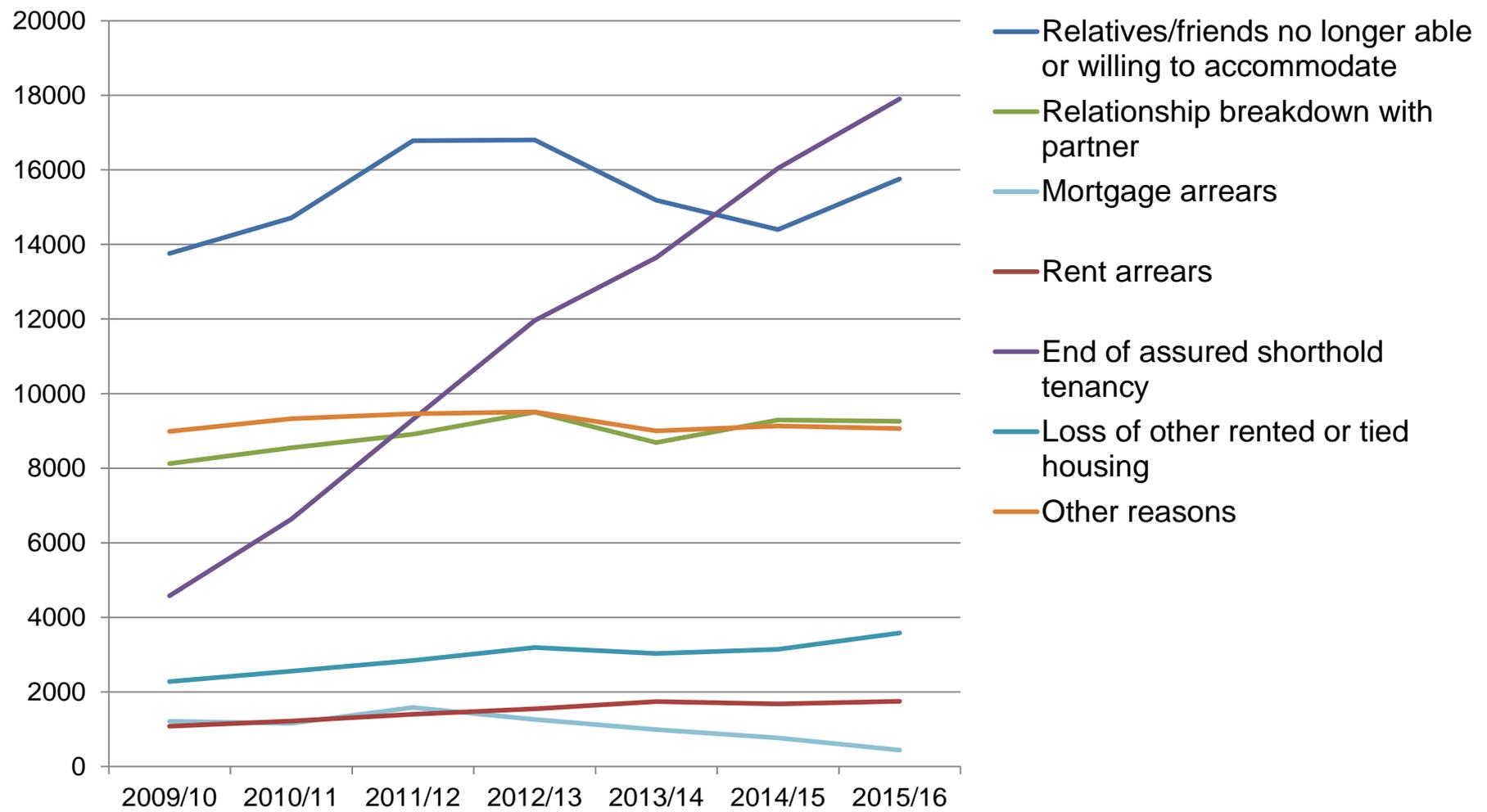
## Drivers

- Structural factors
  - Poverty, inequality, housing supply and affordability, unemployment & insecure employment, social security
- Individual factors
  - Poor physical or mental health, alcohol and drugs issues, bereavement, violence and abuse, experience of care and/or prison
- Inter-related eg, unemployment may affect relationships, may lead to breakdown & homelessness
- Addressing all factors necessary to prevent & move people on from homelessness
- House alone unlikely to be solution for many
- **Local government can't enable solutions on own**



# Trends – reasons for homelessness (England)

Reason for loss of last settled home - statutory homeless households



Source: DCLG homelessness statistics live table 774



## Impact?

- Affects everyone in the household, families & communities
- Mental health
  - Isolation, lack of control, fear of unknown = stress and anxiety
- Physical health
  - Eating & sleeping properly, able to access amenities & services
- Moving on from ill-health, trauma, criminal justice system....
  - Homelessness identified as a risk factor
- ‘Wealth’
  - Relationships – families and communities
  - 100% at school and work
  - Spend on homelessness and not in local economy & communities
- Affects people for a long time
  - Life chances of children and young people
  - Future generation of people with multiple needs?



## At what cost?

- Statistics present the tip of the iceberg
- In 2012, £24,000 to £30,000 per person p.a.
  - Up to £1bn per annum to government
- In 2010, single homeless people cost
  - £85.6m per annum to health care
- Since 2012/13 LA net spend all services 3% down
  - **£ homelessness services increased by almost 5%**
  - Not only homelessness – social care, support, VCS...
- Preventing homelessness
  - Could save between £3k & £18k per person



## What could we expect to see going forward?

Homelessness is evidence of wider inequalities - tackling it will improve all our lives

1. Systems leadership at all levels
2. All commissioning contributes (outcomes)
3. All analysis of needs & evaluation of interventions recognise inter-relatedness of drivers & impact
4. Workforce equipped to recognise & respond
5. Assets and strength based models
6. Voice of people with experience of homelessness is central in commissioning & delivery
7. Communities understand & are supportive

**Ending homelessness only if shared ambition**