

# What works in reducing rough sleeping?



**Helen Mathie**  
**Head of Policy & Communications**

[www.homeless.org.uk](http://www.homeless.org.uk)

Let's end homelessness together

# What works in reducing rough sleeping?

## Homeless Link's perspective

750+ member organisations across England

Delivering Streetlink in partnership with St Mungos

Part of Government's Rough Sleeping Advisory Group

Verifiers of national Counts & Estimates since 2014



# What works: four key elements to reducing rough sleeping

## 1. No One Arrives to the Streets

No First Night Out Principles rolled out

Increased investment and focus on risk/transition points, including

- Prisons
- Discharge from hospital
- Young people

Provision of effective mental health and substance misuse services

Tackling structural drivers – nationally and locally



# What works: four key elements to reducing rough sleeping

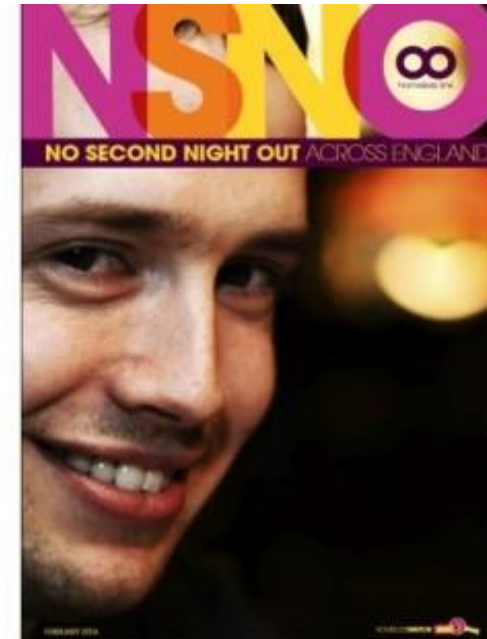
## 2. No one new to the streets spends a second night out

Multi-disciplinary outreach services

No Second Night Out based on updated set of standards

Emergency accommodation response in every area - with strong focus on moving people to more appropriate accommodation as soon as possible

Legal advice and emergency accommodation for non-UK migrants



# What works: four key elements to reducing rough sleeping

## 3. No One Lives on the Streets

Good quality, effective short term accommodation – increased and sustainable investment for LAs

Co-ordinated multi agency response in every area for people with most complex needs

Housing First for those who can benefit from it

Increased involvement from Public Health & NHS locally to ensure rough sleepers and those in accommodation access support services



# What works: four key elements to reducing rough sleeping

## 4. No One Returns to the Streets

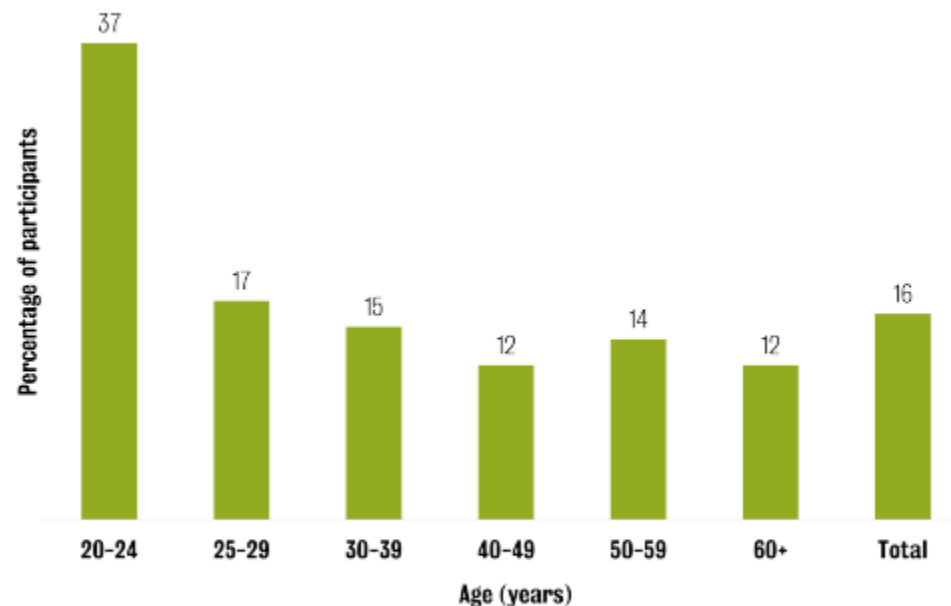
Appropriate and affordable  
'move-on'

Package of resettlement support  
for every former rough sleeper

Boost supply of HA housing for  
former rough sleepers –  
expanding Clearing House model

Better collection and use of data  
on repeat rough sleeping –  
including via HRA

**Figure 3.2:** Experience of homelessness since resettlement by age (years) at 60 months: Rebuilding Lives participants



**Notes**

Information available about 252 Rebuilding Lives participants. It excludes people who died and those who were in prison at 60 months.

Source: *Rebuilding Lives* (2016) Kings College London

# What works: key principles



## Key principles

Accountability – local homelessness strategies must involve local partners

Commitment to meaningful co-production

Improving data and evidence base

Leadership must drive multi-agency focus and approach

Any enforcement must have an associated offer of accommodation & support

A healthier and more equitable culture of commissioning of rough sleeping services



# Further Information



Evaluation & Learning from Homelessness  
Transition Fund

<https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/national-projects/homelessness-transition-fund/evaluation-and-case-studies>

Housing First England [www.hfe.homeless.org.uk](http://www.hfe.homeless.org.uk)

Toolkits & Guidance on working with rough  
sleepers (including MH, migrants, reducing  
evictions & abandonments)

<https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources>

Future rough sleeping strategy

<https://www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2018/apr/12/rough-sleeping-strategy-principles-and-essential-elements>