



COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW A REVIEW OF THE IMPACT OF SUBMISSIONS ON HOMELESSNESS

The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) was published on the 20th October. This detailed the cuts to government departmental spending over the lifetime of this parliament. Our briefing in response to the spending review is available here. <http://www.homeless.org.uk/spending-review-response>

The impacts of the CSR will be serious. However, we wanted our members to know that some of the specific asks we made in our submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review appear to have made an impact. The evidence we presented included evidence and examples of the transformative work of the sector, as well as the positive impact of Supporting People funding. In particular, while Supporting People funding will face some cuts, the Homelessness Grant remains relatively unchanged, and a new (though smaller) Places of Change scheme has been announced. Member input has significantly contributed to making the case for the protection of homelessness funding.

While we are deeply concerned about the overall impact of the cuts on homelessness and services, we wish to say thank you again to those agencies and individuals who contributed to our submissions. The document can be downloaded here: www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/SR_HomelessLinkSubmission_Aug2010_1.pdf.

The table below shows the main asks we made of government and the response within the review. Some of the major impacts were contained in the Emergency Budget in June. Homeless Link is working with a number of other organisations to raise awareness of how these are likely to increase levels of homelessness, and look at what impact this might have on the savings made.

Homeless Link - Asks of government	Results in Comprehensive Spending Review
1. Maintain investment in Supporting People at current levels.	Supporting People (SP) faces a 12% cut over four years (with 2.7% in 2011-12). Although this is a significant cut, it is far less than many feared, and is significantly lower when compared to the overall cut to the CLG budget. It does indicate a recognition of the arguments we put that housing related support is a vital service for some of the most vulnerable in our society and delivers savings to other services.
2. Continue to use an element of the National Affordable Housing Programme to develop new supported housing stock and remodel existing stock.	Total investment in new affordable housing 2011-2015 is £4.5bn, to build up to 150,000 new affordable homes over the next 4 years. This represents a cut of 60%, down from £8.8bn over the previous three year period to £4.4b over the next four years.

<p>3. Continue capital and revenue investment to change services into Places for Change to enable services for homeless and vulnerable people to deliver improved outcomes and better value for money, as evidenced by the earlier programme.</p>	<p>Homeless Link are very pleased that capital funding totalling £37.5m has been secured to launch a second round of the Places of Change hostels improvement programme starting in April 2012. This is a lower amount than previously but does mean that the excellent work carried out through Places of Change can continue.</p>
<p>4. Maintain the level of the Homelessness Grant to ensure continuing capacity to prevent and tackle homelessness in the face of intense upward pressures.</p>	<p>Funding over the next four years will exceed £400 million, averaging £108m annually. This remains relatively unchanged over the Spending Review period 2011-2015. Homelessness Grant will be paid as part of the Area Based Grant, so is not ring-fenced. This will mean it will be important to ensure that local authorities continue to spend this money on preventing homelessness, in the context of the 7.1% decrease in council funding annually.</p>
<p>5. Continue to drive towards the goal of ending rough sleeping by the end of 2012 and to retain and develop services to ensure the goal is achieved.</p>	<p>The goal of ending rough sleeping does not get a specific mention in the CSR. Our specific concern is that many of the cuts announced in housing benefit will lead to an increase in homelessness and could feed into the rough sleeping population.</p>
<p>6. Recognise adults facing multiple needs and exclusions as a key issue. Make a clear statement on the importance of cooperation between local services in achieving coordinated, cost effective delivery for this group and support this, where appropriate, with cross-departmental coordination and cross-government funds.</p>	<p>There is no specific recognition of adults facing multiple needs and exclusions in the CSR.</p>
<p>7. Flag individuals receiving housing-related support as vulnerable and requiring attention and support within welfare reform and the Work Programme so that they do not risk losing their accommodation as a result of changes and ill considered application of conditionality. No further measures to reduce the amount of Housing Benefit available to vulnerable people should be put in place until full consideration has been given to any potential unintended consequences on vulnerable people and their access to housing.</p>	<p>Homeless Link along with other organisations is still working to mitigate the potential negative effects of the welfare reform proposals. The CSR announced an extra £7bn from the means-tested part of the welfare budget. These cuts come on top of the £11bn of cuts already announced in the Emergency Budget, including cuts to Housing Benefit (HB). We are concerned a number of these will potentially increase homelessness, such as the 10% reduction in HB for those on JSA for over a year. More information on HB changes can be found on our website here: http://www.homeless.org.uk/closed-consultations ,</p>

<p>8. Take steps to protect providers of supported accommodation from loss of income if they accommodate vulnerable and chaotic residents who are most at risk of benefit reductions or suspension. Take steps to protect providers of supported accommodation from loss of income if they accommodate vulnerable and chaotic residents who are most at risk of benefit reductions or suspension.</p>	<p>Supported housing and rough sleeping will be impacted by the changes outlined above because move on from the supported sector is likely to become increasingly limited. The changes may also lead to some councils having to refocus on the priority homeless cases, as they will have decreased capacity and decreased funding. This may be to the detriment of non-priority single homeless people which will include many rough sleepers.</p> <p>However, the limited cut to the SP budget and the announcement of an additional £40 million for discretionary housing payment to local authorities will mean that providers can make the case for limiting the detrimental impact on provision for the most vulnerable.</p>
<p>9. Ensure housing, health and social care work together more effectively to maximise the value of public investment, meeting the needs of older and vulnerable people, and jointly investing in prevention/early intervention and support.</p>	<p>The framework for social care and for public health has not yet been published. It is not yet clear how the needs of homeless people will be recognised within this renewed emphasis on joint working. One welcome aspect of the announcement is the extra £2bn for social care which includes £1bn to support joint working between the NHS and social care - specifically to break down the long-standing barriers between health and social care. Effective joint working is specifically important to people with complex needs so we hope this small budget will be able to address some of those issues.</p>
<p>10. Maintain public health funding in real terms during the period 2011-2015 and take into account the local vulnerable and homeless population in supported accommodation in the allocation for public health.</p>	<p>Public health is one of the few ring fenced budgets. The framework for public health is due to be published this Autumn and we have yet to see how much the interface between poor housing, homelessness and poor health is recognised.</p>