

A Home for Everyone

Our manifesto to end homelessness together



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manifesto

There is no reason why anyone should be homeless in England. Having a safe place to live, and support when you need it should be the foundation of any healthy society. But homelessness is rising, with hundreds of thousands of people in the UK forced to live with its insecurity and trauma, deeply impacting both their health and wellbeing, their families and relationships and that of local communities.

It doesn't have to be this way.

For too long the root causes of homelessness have been ignored. For too long homelessness services have seen their funding fall while homelessness rises. For too long fragmented government departments working in silos have created policies which widen the cracks people can fall through.

The next government can and must act to change this.

At Homeless Link, we have a unique view of homelessness in this country. As the membership body for over 800 homelessness organisations across England, we hear first-hand about the devastating circumstances faced by people experiencing homelessness and the services designed to support them.

Our members know better than anyone the true nature and scale of the challenge, and that by working hand in hand with the next government we can achieve our vision of a country free from homelessness.

Our ambitions for the next government

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Everyone has a safe, secure, suitable home in which to thrive

Safe and suitable housing is essential to ensure everyone can live happy, healthy, stable lives. Ensuring people on low incomes have access to truly affordable housing is the single biggest step we can take to prevent homelessness, both now and in the future.

The next Government should commit funding to build 90,000 social homes per year for the next 10 years and immediately unfreeze Local Housing Allowance, restoring it to a level that will cover the lowest 30th percentile of market rents.

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Every arm of government working together and playing their part

Preventing and ending homelessness cannot be the responsibility of just one government department. A joint approach across government, which draws on the strength of teams, is the only way we can do this.

The next Government should adopt a cross-government strategy to end homelessness, led by a new task force directed by the Cabinet Office, with representatives from across government ensuring that all departments' policies and programmes work consistently and holistically to end homelessness.

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A homelessness system that works for all

Solutions to homelessness are never one-size-fits-all. We must ensure services are as diverse as the people they support. We know that if personalised, trauma-informed care is embedded as standard, we can find the solutions to ensure no one is left behind.

The next Government must ensure there is a diverse network of services available, and that sustainable housing options are accessible for every person who experiences homelessness. As a minimum standard, these services should embed person-centred, trauma-informed care.

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Sustained investment preventing and ending homelessness – for good

Morally and financially, ending homelessness makes sense. Sustainable investment now will prevent people from losing their homes and ensure services have the resources they need to provide effective, efficient support that works.

The next Government should commit to reviewing all spending across government linked to homelessness, and replacing the existing piecemeal and short-term funding structures with a long-term, ring-fenced homelessness support fund, designed to flexibly adapt to local and individual needs.