



Support for
single homeless
people in England
Annual Review 2015

In brief...

Homelessness can happen to anyone at any time. In fact, with one in ten people in England saying they have personally experienced homelessness¹, the need for effective support is clear. When it happens, the causes, as well as the help people subsequently need, and for which they are eligible, vary widely.

The assistance someone can get depends on their circumstances, and some people find it difficult to access the help they need. This particularly applies to people who become single homeless – people without dependants who are not eligible for statutory support under homelessness legislation.

Many of these people rely on services and projects in the homelessness sector to provide them with accommodation and help them address the issues that led to, or maintain, their homelessness. However, the nature, extent and demand for these services are changing rapidly, as is the environment in which they operate. Our research shows that nearly half (49%) of people using accommodation projects are aged 16 to 24, three in ten are women and 38% have multiple or complex needs.

This executive summary sets out the main findings of our report, **The state of homelessness support for single people in England 2015**. It offers essential evidence for services, commissioners,

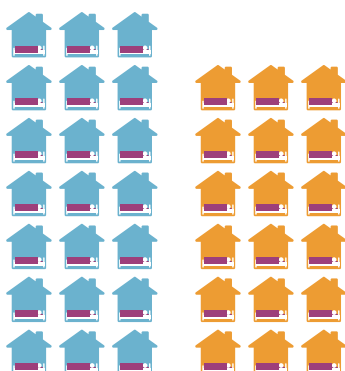


policy-makers and others planning for the needs of people who become homeless in England. It shows how demand and funding fluctuates, and how services respond to those changes, as well as to shifting expectations about their role.

Availability of homelessness services



There are currently **36,540** bed spaces available in homelessness accommodation projects. Bed space numbers have **fallen 16% since 2010** (from 43,655) and **5% since 2013**.

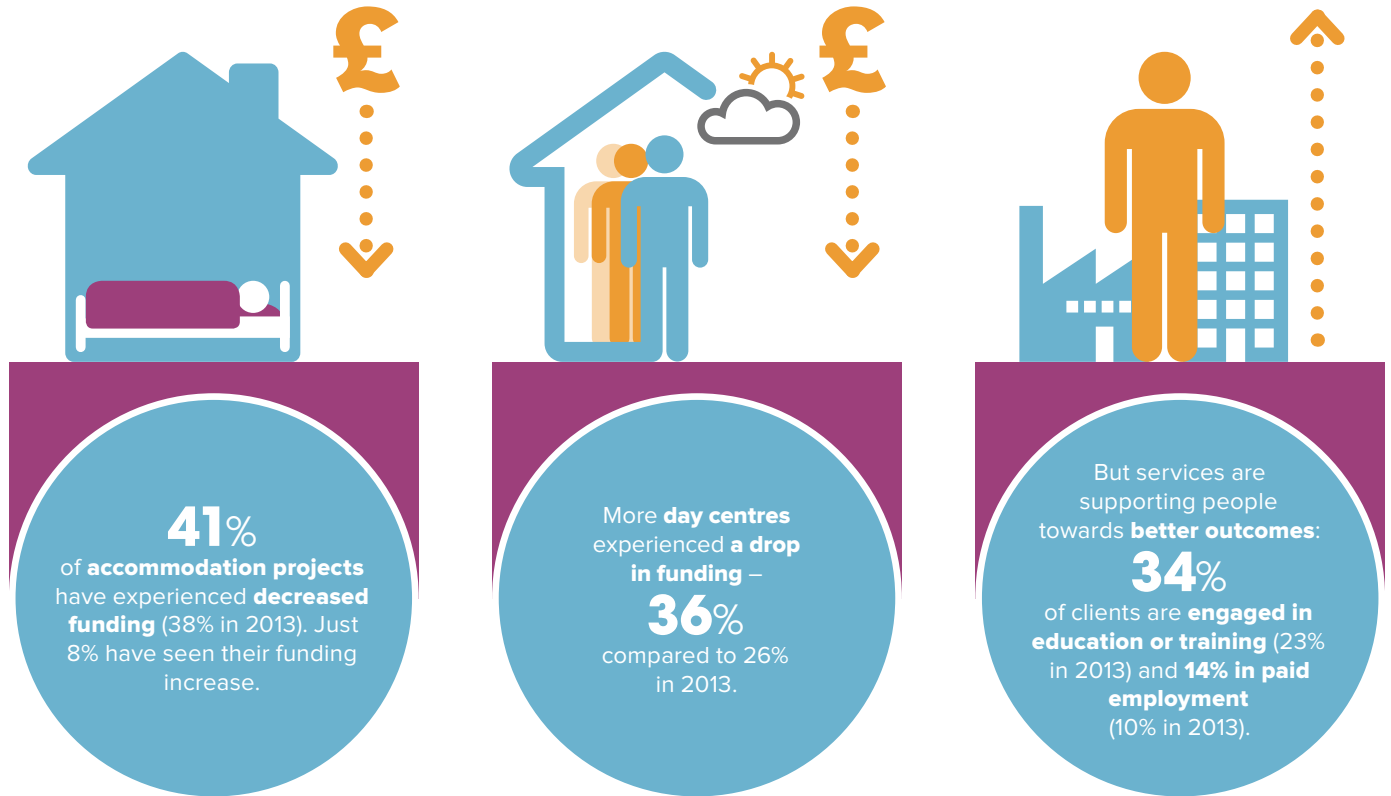


There are **1,253** accommodation projects – a reduction of 1% since 2013 and 14% since 2010.



There are **208** homelessness day centres, 4% fewer than in 2013. However, this number has **increased by 11% since 2010** from 187.

Resources for homelessness services and their outcomes



Accessing move on accommodation



Supporting those with the most complex needs



38%
of people in accommodation projects **need additional support** with at least one other issue: **32%** have **mental health** problems; **32%** have **drug** problems; **23%** have **alcohol** problems.



76%
of accommodation projects had **refused access** due to the client **needs being too high: 55%** because client's needs were **too complex**.



24%
of projects said they **do not have sufficient staff resources** to deal with clients who have **complex needs**.

Impact of welfare reform



90%
of **accommodation services** reported that their clients had been **affected by sanctions**, up from 68% in 2013.

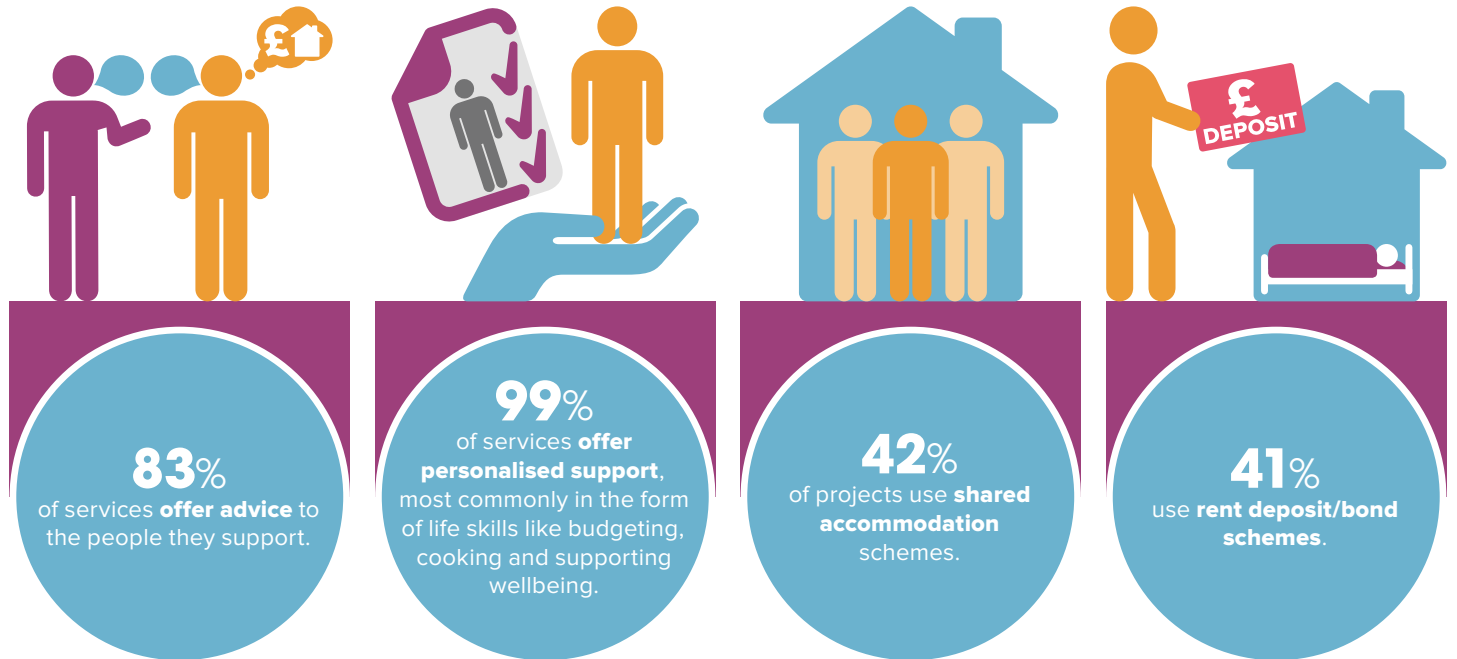


61%
of **services** reported that the proportion of **clients being sanctioned has increased** since 2013.



60%
of **day centres** said clients are having **problems understanding the benefits system: 63%** reported clients having **claims suspended without a clear reason why**.

Support goes further than just providing a roof



Download the full report:

www.homeless.org.uk/state-of-the-sector

Homeless Link has tracked provision for single people in the homelessness sector since 2008, looking at changing needs and changes in the support available.

Homelessness Support for Single People in England (2015) is based on two surveys, carried out with 357² homelessness

accommodation providers and 104³ day centres, a self-completed data return from 250⁴ homelessness accommodation providers, analysis of Homeless UK⁵ and UK Advice Finder databases, our member base,⁶ analysis of secondary data sources, and case studies collated through telephone interviews with staff working in homeless services.⁷

Notes

1. Experience of homelessness – from omnibus survey by Populus for Homeless Link, 11-12 September 2013
2. A response rate of 28%
3. A response rate of 50%
4. A response rate of 20%
5. The Homeless UK database holds information about accommodation projects, whilst not a comprehensive coverage it is the most accurate source of homelessness services in England
6. Homeless Link has over 550 members who work directly with people who experience homelessness in England
7. A more detailed methodology can be found in the appendix and chapter 1 of the full report



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Let's **end**
homelessness
together

Homeless Link
Gateway House
Milverton Street
London SE11 4AP
020 7840 4430

www.homeless.org.uk

[@Homelesslink](https://twitter.com/Homelesslink)

www.facebook.com/homelesslink