Homeless Link submission to the Autumn Budget 2026

September 2026

Introduction

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services in England. Representing over 750 organisations, we work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and we campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

We have been thrilled to see the recent announcements from the new Prime Minister regarding his ambition to end rough sleeping and offer everyone a route off the streets by Christmas. We are also pleased to see that these promises have been backed with new funding. This represents the biggest investment in our sector since Everyone In. As we and our members are instrumental to the delivery of this ambition, we look forward to working with the Government to ensure it helps as many people as possible to secure a stable and suitable long-term home.

While we welcome this new funding and new political leadership, in order for us to achieve the Prime Minister's commitment to end rough sleeping, we must ensure that the homelessness sector is supported and funded adequately to deliver these vitally important services. We cannot add new funding and new emergency provision on top of a foundation of homelessness services which are struggling – and sometimes unable – to keep their existing services running. We must also keep a keen focus on prevention, so that people being supported off the streets this winter are not simply replaced by more people newly sleeping rough next year.

As will be explored in more detail throughout this submission, in order to achieve the Prime Minister's commitment to end rough sleeping, we need:

- The new emergency accommodation delivered through the Rough Sleeping Programme to be short-term, ideally provided as self-contained accommodation as the best model, and for sufficient move-on options to be available
- Homelessness organisations to have adequate funding to run effective services, including having qualified and trained staff who are retained for the long-term, and sufficient staff numbers to enable lower caseloads so that staff can deliver meaningful and effective support
- Increased investment in a diversity of services including a national Housing First programme, as well as an increased supply of supported housing and floating support for tenancy sustainment
- The homelessness funding system to be reformed to enable this, resulting in longer-term funding, and more funding specifically for support
- Additional financial support for homelessness services to meet the cost of new regulations and standards, such as the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act
- Homelessness to be prevented wherever possible through increased supply of social housing, changes to social security, and investment in other areas (such as prisons, hospitals, asylum accommodation, and the care system) to stop people leaving these institutions into homelessness
- In the longer term we need to transition to a housing-led homelessness system, where people are housed in suitable long-term accommodation at the earliest stage and receive open-ended support for as long as they need it. This would be much more effective at preventing and ending homelessness, saving money for the Government and protecting hundreds of thousands of people from experiencing the harms of homelessness.

We hope that HM Treasury will use the Autumn budget and its Value for Money review of homelessness spending to address these issues, so that we can work together to achieve the Prime Minister's commitment to end rough sleeping and homelessness more widely.

The current context for homelessness services

For years, homelessness services have existed in a long-term crisis of inadequate funding. Contracts across the sector have fallen well behind the cost of delivery following years of funding suppression and rapidly rising costs.[1] Inflationary pressures have merely exacerbated the systemic underfunding that has already pushed providers out of the market.[2]

Every year Homeless Link surveys homelessness services in England to hear about the services they provide and the challenges they face. Our June 2026 report detailing the 2025 findings for the sector found that services continue to face significant threats to their financial and operational sustainability.[3]

41% of accommodation providers and 46% of day centres reported that they risk service closures as a result of increased financial pressures, and 35% of accommodation providers stated that they have already reduced their provision. There has also been a 41% decrease in the number of bedspaces available for people experiencing homelessness since 2008.

With all forms of homelessness at or near record levels, support services are needed now more than ever. As the supply of bed spaces reduces, providers across the country are already turning people away. We cannot afford to lose more beds because services cannot afford to stay open.

Since core budgets were set, providers have seen a wide range of cost increases across essential spending, including building and maintenance costs, utility costs and staffing costs. For many providers, the only way to meet these sustainably is either an increase in contract values or cuts to service delivery.

Recent cost increases also include increases to the National Living Wage and employers' National Insurance contributions, both of which have been met without an associated increase in contract value. Changes to National Insurance contributions introduced in the Autumn budget in 2024 are estimated to have removed between £50-60m from the delivery of frontline services in the homelessness sector in the following year.[4]

This has a twofold impact, placing the service at higher financial risk and reducing the resources available for fair staff renumeration. Low contract values have already led to wages being supressed across the sector. Many frontline posts are now paid at or only slightly above the minimum wage, despite the skilled and challenging work involved. 2025 research from the Frontline Network found that 36% of frontline workers in the sector took on extra work to make ends meet, while only 34% described their pay as meeting their living

[1] Thunder, J. and Bovill Rose, C., 'Local Authority Spending on Homelessness: Understanding recent trends and their impact. WPI Economics, St Mungo's and Homeless Link.' (February 2020)

[2] Homeless Link, 'Support for single homeless people in England, Annual Review 2022.' (August 2023)

[3] Homeless Link, 'Support to End Homelessness 2025: A review of services addressing single homelessness in England' (June 2026)

[4] Inside Housing, '*Charities warn homelessness services will close if National Insurance hike goes ahead*.' (December 2024)

costs.[5] Too often, this leads to skilled staff leaving the sector for better pay elsewhere, which reduces support capacity and drives up reliance on expensive, non-specialised agency staff.

Key problems with the current funding system

The funding system is the primary factor that determines the structure of the homelessness system, what kinds of services get delivered, how they work, and how effective they are. Our current funding system has created a model of service delivery that cannot meet the objectives of preventing and ending rough sleeping and homelessness. This is because it is organised around emergency and temporary, time-limited accommodation (usually for a maximum of two years), and conditional support which is usually only available while someone is living in homelessness accommodation. This model is not effective for many people in enabling them to move on from homelessness.

The issues detailed in the previous section are in large part a result of the structure of the funding system since 2010, particularly the loss of ringfenced Supporting People funding from 2008 onwards, which has led to 56% of homelessness services now relying on Housing Benefit as their primary funding source, a steep increase from just 13% in 2012. The number of services primarily funded through local authority commissioned contracts has dropped 59% during this period.

Housing Benefit cannot legally be used to fund the support element of supported housing. Alongside the decrease in commissioned contracts, this means that providers are left struggling to find other sources of funding for support services, and because of this the level and quality of support available is lower. One result of this is that 77% of accommodation providers reported having to turn someone away from their service in the last year because their needs were too high or ‘complex’.

The strain on support services means that people are more likely to become trapped in lengthy or repeat cycles of homelessness, as they cannot access the right type of accommodation or the support they need to recover. People’s health, wellbeing and support needs often worsen over time while they don’t receive the support they need, making it more difficult for them to recover.

The consequences for the homelessness workforce of consistent underfunding are that wages are low, caseloads are high, and the severity of needs within services are increasing. These factors mean that burnout and retention are significant issues. High caseloads and high turnover of staff make it more difficult to deliver quality support to people experiencing homelessness. Effective support usually requires building up long-term relationships of trust between staff and people experiencing homelessness, which is difficult or impossible to achieve if staff turnover is high.

Short-term funding cycles have previously been a key issue for service providers. The Government’s new approach of providing one consolidated settlement for homelessness funding for local authorities has the potential to improve this, but a three-year settlement is still not sufficiently long-term: we are advocating for at least 10-year funding settlements to enable effective planning and resourcing. In addition, streamlining funding into one pot could be beneficial for enabling local authorities to commission the right services for their local area, but the lack of statutory guidance on how this money should be spent is a significant concern.

Housing Benefit refusal

In recent years we have seen multiple instances of local authorities, under pressure from the Department for Work and Pensions to spend less on Housing Benefit, refusing payment of

[5] St Martin in the Fields Frontline Network, ‘Frontline Worker Survey 2025.’ (September 2025)

Enhanced Housing Benefit (EHB) to high-quality supported housing services which rely on EHB to remain financially viable. This appears to have increased in frequency in the last two years. The phenomenon is causing stress and uncertainty for supported housing residents, and chaos for services, risking and reducing service provision. In some cases, the consequence is a significant loss of bedspaces, as in the example of NAASH in West Northamptonshire.[6] The inevitable outcome of this is sadly a further increase in rough sleeping.

This is happening now, and the Government must intervene urgently to ensure clarity, and call for collaboration and proportionality. **Treasury must not impel DWP to reduce spend on Housing Benefit regardless of the level of need or legitimacy of claims.** This is a false economy and will just drive costs elsewhere in the system. The only way to sustainably reduce DWP's Housing Benefit spend on supported accommodation is to reform its funding model and develop an improved, support-focused revenue funding system alongside investment in meaningful upstream prevention activity. Until that point, denying Housing Benefit payments to residents being supported by legitimate providers will drive homelessness services into further crisis and harm vulnerable people.

In addition to the above, **we recommend that the Government now ends the supported accommodation subsidy loss for local authorities when claiming back from the DWP for Housing Benefit paid to non-Registered Provider (RP) accommodation services.** Once all providers are subject to the National Supported Housing Standards and the licensing regime, it becomes impossible to argue that non-RP providers should be treated any differently as they will be subject to a similar level of scrutiny to RPs. Addressing this discrepancy would help end the unfair disincentive for local authorities to work with non-RP providers due to the financial loss.

Local authority funding cuts

At the same time as new money is being introduced into the system via the Rough Sleeping Programme, local areas continue to be at risk of losing their existing homelessness service provision because of long-term funding constraints. Examples in recent years include 90% cuts to floating support services in East Sussex,[7] 43% cuts to homelessness accommodation in Norfolk,[8] and the wholesale decommissioning of adult services in Kent.[9]

Funding cuts described by our members have largely involved county councils cutting funding or decommissioning local services in two-tier local authorities. While councils are not statutorily obliged to fund single homelessness support services, most fund some form of provision. These services are essential lifelines to the thousands of people who face homelessness each year but do not fall into narrow 'priority need' categories. This includes the majority of non-family homelessness, and spans from individuals who require very light-touch support through to those with complex and intersecting support needs.

While the councils in question are making cuts to fill significant budget shortfalls, evidence shows that cuts to non-statutory homelessness services act as a false economy.[10] Homelessness support plays an essential role in promoting health and reducing demand on other services. Good quality supported housing has a significant positive impact on

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[6] BBC News, '"Homeless charity closes following funding dispute"' (August 2025)

[7] BHT Sussex, '*"Proposed cuts to our East Sussex Floating Support Service to be debated by Council".*' (April 2025)

[8] BBC News, '*"Concerns over plan to cut homeless services by £2m".*' (February 2025)

[9] The Guardian, '*"Planned cuts to shelters in England will cost lives, say homeless people".*' (March 2024)

[10] PwC, 'Assessing the costs and benefits of the Crisis plan to end homelessness' (June 2018). University of York, 'At What Cost? An estimation of the financial costs of single homelessness in the UK' (July 2015). DLUHC, 'Monetising the social benefits of reducing rough sleeping' (January 2024)

residents' health, wellbeing and sense of social connection,[11] all of which play a crucial role in relieving pressures on the Department of Health and Social Care, the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and MHCLG. If services are forced to close, the increased pressure on public services will negate any savings made, with costs simply pushed further downstream as people go unsupported.[12]

How this threatens the mission to end rough sleeping

The impact of the problems with the current funding system, as well as a wider context of long-term underfunding and the ongoing risk of funding cuts, is that homelessness organisations are being prevented from delivering effective services to prevent and end rough sleeping.

Short-term funding cycles, contracts which offer limited or no funding for the support element of services, and insufficient funding levels all lead to minimum staffing levels and low pay, which then negatively impacts on recruitment and retention. These challenges contribute to a reduced availability or quality of support and a narrower range of service types, all of which make services less effective at supporting people to move on from rough sleeping. The Treasury must enable government departments to invest in prevent rough sleeping and adequately funding homelessness services, as well as reforming the funding system, in order to end rough sleeping and homelessness.

What homelessness services need in order to end rough sleeping and homelessness

Funding reform

As detailed throughout this submission, significant reform to the homelessness funding system is needed in order to fulfil the Prime Minister's commitment to end rough sleeping. The funding system must underpin the transformation we need to shift from an ineffective, expensive, crisis-driven system to one that is rooted in prevention, long-term housing, and open-ended support.

Homelessness services need long-term funding, with a minimum of 10-year funding settlements, to allow them to plan, recruit and retain staff, and deliver the right services for local needs. They also need sufficient funding for support, as the level and quality of support delivered in homelessness services is inextricable from the goal of successfully ending rough sleeping.

This long-term funding must include annual inflationary uplifts, and must be set at a level that matches the actual cost of delivery, rather than homelessness services subsidising or making a loss on contracts. Funding levels must allow services to recruit the right staff, retain them long-term partly by increasing pay, increase staffing levels in order to reduce caseloads, and enable staff to provide effective support that actually ends homelessness.

Homelessness services also need additional funding to help them meet the significant cost of implementing new regulations and standards, such as requirements connected to the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act, the Decent Homes Standard, and others. Many decent, well-meaning providers will need to make significant investment in order to ensure that all the schemes they are responsible for can comply with the new regulations,

[11] National Housing Federation, 'The benefits of supported housing.' (April 2025)
[12] Ibid.

and that they have the necessary staff, buildings and reporting systems to demonstrate compliance.

So far, this Government has not outlined any plans to resource the sector to be able to meet the new standards and requirements. Without funding, the licensing regime could simply cause more providers to have to close services or leave the sector entirely, resulting in a reduction of the overall supply of good quality supported accommodation, which would increase rates of homelessness.

The Government's emphasis on regulation cannot only be about rooting out substandard providers. It must also be about sustaining and encouraging good ones, and enabling the growth of more good quality supported accommodation. **The Government must provide both revenue and capital funding for the supported accommodation sector to meet the costs associated with new regulations.**

The Value for Money review of homelessness spending

The Treasury's Value for Money review is a highly important opportunity to achieve the necessary transformational change to the homelessness system so that it becomes a truly effective, housing-led system.

In the context of spending on single homelessness services, value for money means that spending leads to positive outcomes for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness. That means preventing homelessness wherever possible; relieving homelessness swiftly when it happens, and preventing people from rough sleeping; providing good quality accommodation with the appropriate support to meet people's needs; enabling people to move on to a home of their own when they wish to; and preventing circumstances which lead people to cycle repeatedly in and out of homelessness.

Value for money does not necessarily mean changes to the overall cost of homelessness spending across government. Currently the impact of restricted budgets and inefficient spending means that services cannot always effectively support people out of homelessness, and underfunded local authorities are often gatekeeping access to housing or support which people need in order to avoid or recover from homelessness. The incentive to drive down costs in the short term acts as a false economy, as higher levels of long-term homelessness lead to higher costs overall. It is essential that this review **is not used as a cost-cutting exercise, but instead is grounded in evidence of what works to end homelessness**.

Currently, there is no verifiable total of what is spent on homelessness, a fundamental starting point for understanding if it constitutes value for money. In 2024, the National Audit Office mapped the costs associated with the sector in their report, 'The Effectiveness of Government in Tackling Homelessness'. It focused on the funding challenges surrounding local authority temporary accommodation, and concluded that this represented extremely poor value for money.[13]

Despite the NAO's efforts to map funding across the sector, their analysis missed key areas of spending on VCSF homelessness services as outlined in Homeless Link's 2024 'Breaking the Cycle' report.[14] Enhanced Housing Benefit (EHB) forms one of the primary sources of income for supported accommodation. It is currently unknown how much is spent on this. **It is important that the review establishes the full cost of EHB spending.**

[13] National Audit Office, 'The effectiveness of government in tackling homelessness' (July 2024)

[14] Homeless Link, 'Breaking the cycle: Delivering a homelessness funding system that works for all' (September 2024)

The review should also audit how the historic loss of Supporting People funding and the shift to reliance on Housing Benefit to fund supported accommodation services have changed the supported accommodation landscape.

Investment in effective services: a national Housing First programme

Since being established in England in 2010, Housing First has enabled excellent outcomes across tenancy sustainment, health and well-being, and offending behaviour for the people it supports. This is because it provides both vitally important long-term housing stability and flexible, person-centred, open-ended support.

We need more Housing First provision to meet demand, but in recent years we have been losing Housing First provision rather than growing it. This is because Housing First services are competing with other kinds of homelessness provision for funding, and the upfront costs of Housing First services can be higher than other service types.

In 2017, the Government made a ground-breaking £28 million investment[15] to establish three scaled regional Housing First pilots in Liverpool, the West Midlands and Greater Manchester. Outcomes from these pilots show their effectiveness in ending homelessness for people with high support needs. DLUHC's third pilot evaluation report shows a 78% tenancy sustainment rate[16] – far surpassing the sustainment rates of other support models and proving the effectiveness of Housing First.

Access to Housing First can act as a significant step in treatment for those experiencing long-term social exclusion. Housing First targets support to those stuck in repeating cycles of homelessness, often spanning years or decades. These individuals often require an intensive level of support for a variety of needs that traditional homelessness services do not meet. Growing evidence both across England and internationally shows that people from this cohort who are supported through Housing First are significantly more likely to stabilise and improve outcomes across health, offending and substance use than those without the support of the programme. Housing First should therefore be seen as a critical tenet of a cross-departmental approach to not only ending rough sleeping and homelessness, but tackling health and social care needs. This means financial and strategic investment from across Government that reflects the varied benefits it delivers.

While Housing First has been delivered primarily within the homelessness sector in England, its origins are as a health and social care intervention.[17] Its benefits as a healthcare intervention are significant: the programme is targeted at those whose health is severely compromised by long histories of multiple disadvantage, and support often results in improved engagement with routine healthcare, improvements to mental health and stabilisation and reduction of substance use.[18] Research from Homeless Link shows 39% of residents report improved physical health after three years, as well as significantly reduced A&E use and hospital admission.[19] The same study found 55% of residents showed improved mental health after working with Housing First for three years and a 40% drop in offending behaviour.

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[15] HM Treasury, 'Autumn Budget 2017' (November 2017)

[16] DLUHC, 'Evaluation of the Housing First Pilots: Third Process Report' (September 2022)

[17] FEANTSA, 'Housing First Guide Europe' (2016)

[18] Bretherton, J. and Pleace, N. (2015). *Housing First in England: An Evaluation of Nine Services.* University of York; Baxter, A., Tweed, E., Katikireddi, S.V. and Thomson, H. (2019). *Effects of Housing First Approaches on Health and Wellbeing of Adults who are Homeless or at Risk of Homelessness: Systemic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomised Control Trials.* Journal of Epidemiol Community Health.

[19] Homeless Link, 'More Than a Roof: Exploring the holistic outcomes of Housing First' (January 2024)

As evidenced, the benefits of Housing First are spread across Government departments, and the Centre for Social Justice estimate that every £1 invested in Housing First delivers £1.56 in savings across health, criminal justice and the homelessness system.[20] Cross-departmental commissioning would strengthen and share the financial benefits of Housing First, recognising the significant role it can play in reducing pressure on public services by providing sustained support to those experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Housing First works: both as an effective approach to reducing homelessness and improving health and social care outcomes but also as a cost-effective intervention to reduce pressures on housing, health, social care, and criminal justice services. **The Government should implement a national rollout of a high-fidelity Housing First programme as an important step on the journey to ending rough sleeping.**

Prevention: cross-departmental action

Ending rough sleeping and homelessness is a cross-government responsibility, and every government department should contribute to this mission. However, some government departments are actively driving up levels of rough sleeping and homelessness as a result of their policy decisions.

For example, the early prisoner release scheme is a necessary measure, but without additional resources it carries an outsize risk of causing homelessness. Data released by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) in July 2026 showed that over the last four years we have seen a rise of 294% in the number of people leaving prison into homelessness, now up to near record highs of over 1,000 people every month.[21] There is a clear need for more short- and long-term accommodation for prison leavers, and for more housing officers within prisons to improve pre-release planning. **The Treasury should provide additional funding to the Ministry of Justice to resource this.**

A Freedom of Information Request to hospital trusts in England in early 2024 showed that at least 4,200 people were discharged from hospital to into homelessness from 2022-23.[22] Discharge to the street can mean people managing serious illnesses or recovering from surgery in very unsafe conditions, without access to hygiene facilities or medication storage. Standard homelessness services are neither designed nor equipped to respond to medical needs and inappropriate discharge inevitably means frequent readmissions to hospital and the deterioration of health conditions. **The Treasury should support the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) to immediately end the practice of street discharge and commit funds to upscale specialist step-down care for people experiencing homelessness.** Such services are a sound long-term investment, with every pound spent resulting in £1.20 saved to the NHS.[23]

Recent Home Office actions to more quickly clear the backlog of asylum claims without providing sufficient time and support for the move-on process from asylum accommodation also risk driving homelessness. The Government previously piloted having a 56-day move-on period from asylum accommodation, which was introduced to bring cessation of asylum support in line with other homelessness prevention provisions, and because of the overwhelming evidence that move-on from asylum accommodation had become a significant factor in homelessness and rough sleeping. LSE analysis estimates that a 56-day move on

[20] Centre for Social Justice, 'Close to Home: Delivering a National Housing First Programme in England' (February 2021)

[21] Ministry of Justice, 'Offender accommodation outcomes, update to March 2026.' (July 2026)

[22] The Independent, '*Cancer and stroke NHS patients among thousands discharged with nowhere to live*.' (March 2024)

[23] Alma Economics, '*Intermediate care for people experiencing homelessness: Cost-benefit analysis.*' (December 2024)

period for all new refugees would lead to net financial benefits to the country of £4-7 million a year, across homelessness, rough sleeping, mental and physical health, wellbeing and employability.[24]

However, the Government ended the pilot in February 2026 and in March 2026 decided that the move-on period would be 42 days long, which is insufficient to prevent rough sleeping and homelessness. This puts increased costs on local authorities and homelessness services to support and find accommodation for the growing number of people becoming homeless after leaving asylum accommodation. Between the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years there was a 10.7% increase in the number of households being made homeless as a result of being required to leave asylum accommodation, amounting to 3,820 households.[25]

These issues must be addressed by the Government putting more ambition and stricter requirements on a number of departments through the National Plan to End Homelessness. **In addition, the Treasury must ensure that government departments have sufficient resources to enable them to put measures in place to prevent rough sleeping.**

Prevention: the social security system

Social housing is the answer to resolving homelessness at scale, and we are pleased to see the Government's commitment to investing in much-needed social housebuilding. The scale of investment shows genuine commitment to ensure that everyone has access to a permanent, settled home.

Social housebuilding is not, however, a quick fix, and the Government's homebuilding programme will take many years to complete. In the meantime, the Government must ensure that the private rental sector (PRS) is able to meet the needs of people on low incomes, ensuring that everyone is able to afford to maintain a tenancy and thereby reducing avoidable homelessness.

We are far from this state at current. For low earners, the PRS often represents the only available accommodation source, but costs can be unmanageable. Average rents have increased by 3.7% in the previous year,[26] but Universal Credit levels have failed to keep pace with this.

Local Housing Allowance (LHA), which sets the maximum amount of housing benefit that private renters can claim based on where they live, has previously been intended to cover the cheapest 30% of the PRS. However, after unfreezing and increasing LHA rates in 2024, the Government refroze LHA rates at this level. Last year, only 2.7% of new rental properties in the UK were affordable for those claiming LHA.[27]

Even where a property is sufficiently covered by LHA, many households are unable to access the benefit in full due to the household benefit cap. This is particularly the case for those in higher-cost areas, where higher average rents may quickly increase their financial proximity to the cap. This can ultimately negate the positive impact of increasing LHA rates, as was the case in 2024, as some households cannot get the benefit of the increased rate because it pushes them over the benefit cap.

For young renters, restrictions are even more severe. The Shared Accommodation Rate (SAR) of LHA means that most renters under 35 can only claim benefit for the cost of a room

[24] LSE, '*Extending the "move-on" period for newly granted refugees: Analysis of benefits and costs.*' (February 2020)
[25] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 'Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2024-25' (November 2025)
[26] Office for National Statistics, 'Private rent and house prices, UK: August 2026.' (August 2026)
[27] Crisis, 'Local housing allowance (LHA) rates freeze.' (2025)

in a shared house.[28] These rates often fall well below the actual cost of renting. While some who have been in care or hostel accommodation are exempt from these rates, exemptions are haphazard; care leavers only benefit from exemptions between the ages of 18-21, and hostel leavers must be 25 before they qualify for exemptions. This means that beds are blocked in young person's hostels as residents are forced to wait until 25 to qualify for the one-bedroom rate.[29]

The new Government's reforms to the PRS through the Renters' Rights Act, including ending no fault evictions and an ability to challenge rent increases, are very welcome. To ensure homelessness is prevented wherever possible, the Government must go further. The Government must **permanently unfreeze Local Housing Allowance and maintain it annually in line with the lowest 30% of market rents; abolish the Shared Accommodation Rate; and increase the household benefit cap.**

We would also like to see the Government **take steps to explore the implementation of Joseph Rowntree Foundation's proposed Essentials Guarantee,** setting levels of social security payments through an independent calculation process which links them to the cost of living. This should reduce poverty and financial insecurity, which currently contributes significantly to homelessness.

[28] House of Commons Library, Hobson, F., 'The Shared Accommodation Rate in Universal Credit and Housing Benefit.' (September 2022)
[29] Centrepoint, 'Exempting homeless young people and care leavers from the Shared Accommodation Rate.' (August 2023)

What We Do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

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