

Covid-19 and homelessness services; one year on



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www.homeless.org.uk

Let's end homelessness together



A year on: reflecting on homelessness through the pandemic

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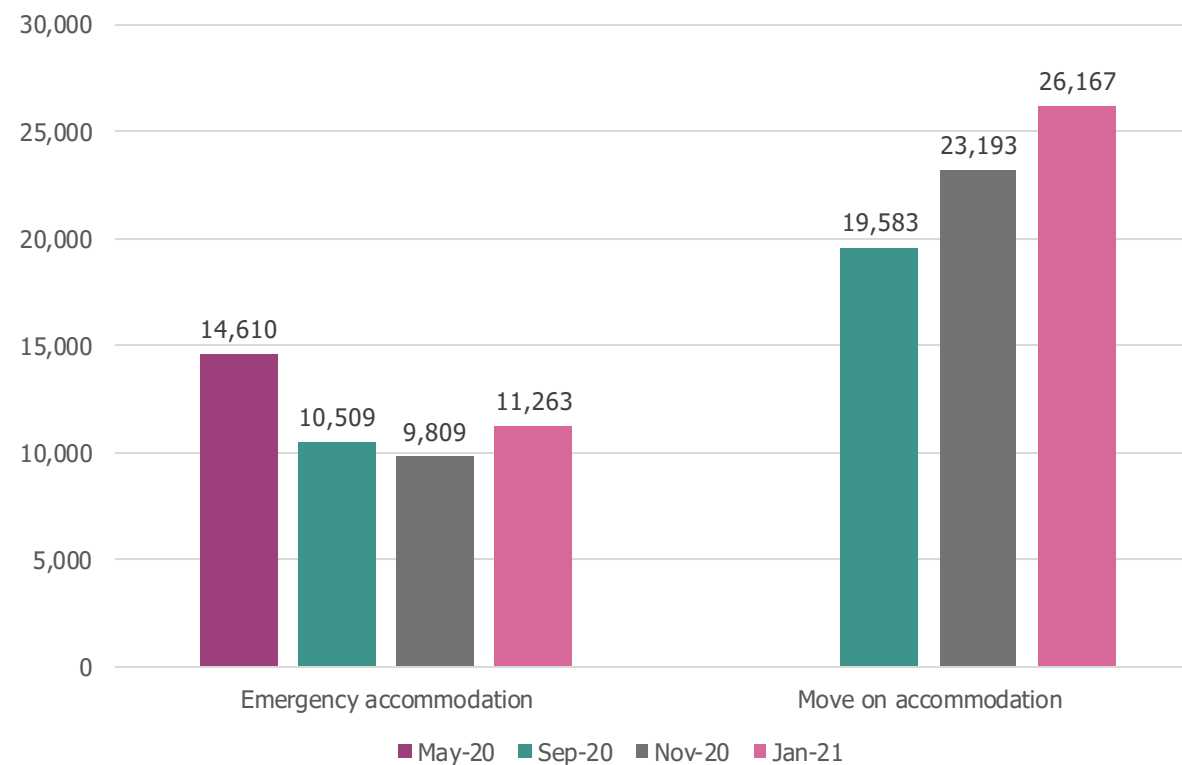
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Homelessness through the pandemic



The numbers...



Homelessness through the pandemic



Everyone In saved lives

- ONS data reported that of the 26th June 2020, 16 people had died of coronavirus whilst homeless in England, and there had been zero coronavirus deaths in Wales
- A study in the Lancet estimated that the interventions carried out had prevented hundreds of additional deaths from COVID-19
- In contrast an estimated 40 per cent of the population experiencing homelessness in Paris has had COVID-19
- In New York the age adjusted mortality rates for people experiencing homelessness and living in shelters was 321 deaths per 100,000 people, compared with a citywide average of 200 deaths per 100,000.

Homelessness through the pandemic



The numbers beyond Everyone In

- Between April – September **57,700** households were owed a prevention duty and **75,970** households were owed a relief duty
- At the end of September, **93,410** households were in temporary accommodation, a 7% increase driven by single households with a drop in households with children.
- Between October and December 2020, **3,307** people rough slept across London, a 17% drop on the previous quarter.
- This is positive news after the impact of the first national lockdown which saw a surge (**2,680**) in people newly rough sleeping.
- But as time has gone on we are starting to see people falling through the cracks. Between July and September there were **336** people living on the streets, between October to December this crept up further to **412** people

Homelessness through the pandemic



Changing profile

- Initial surge from people already experiencing homelessness including more hidden forms such as sofa surfing
- Shows the scale of how many people were already living in precarious situations
- Interventions from government such as pausing evictions and changes to welfare support have helped to lower the number of people at risk of homelessness
- But as time progressed seen a changing profile: increase in those fleeing domestic abuse and relationship breakdown under pressure of lockdown
- The emerging economic impact has started to become more evident as growing rent arrears show the financial strain on households

How have services adapted?



Changing offer

- Over the last year have seen a transformational and incredibly adaptive approach to providing support
- In the early stages many services pivoted overnight to meet new needs: emergency food provision, hygiene essentials, digital exclusion etc.
- Finding ways of bringing support to people: hubs in hotels, remote support, wellbeing packs.
- Move on pathways
- Through to today and supporting the vaccine rollout

How have services adapted?



Power of partnerships

- We've seen the growth and strengthening of incredible local partnership working between statutory and VCS
- Not just in the homelessness sector either but bringing in wider statutory provision including health and social care
- Acknowledgement that much of what has been achieved would not have been possible without working together
- Crisis research found 91% of providers thought these relationships would endure beyond the pandemic
- Potential to be one of the strongest, positive legacies of the past year

The current picture



Where are we now?

- Although over 26,000 people moved on from Everyone In, as of January there were still 11,263 people in emergency accommodation
- Establishing secure, sustainable and appropriate move-on accommodation for all is challenging:
 - Blockages in the supported housing pathways
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - No Recourse to Public Funds
- Despite significant funding investment from government much of this is short term and doesn't meet the long term needs of the sector to truly maintain and progress the success of the last year

Looking beyond the pandemic



- We saw in March 2020 what can be achieved with government support and committed funding
- Harness the learning from the last 12 months to drive towards the RSI goal of ending rough sleeping by 2024
- But we've learned that foundations matter: challenges going in were reflected back. So too were successes. We need to address and build on these.
- We need to better understand the accommodation, wider support needs and the long term funding need to tell the story of what is truly needed to end homelessness
- Renewed focus on prevention: we must address the flow of people being pushed into homelessness

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Questions and answers



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National Day of Reflection

