

18 September 2018 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks



Housing & Health Advisory Committee

At the above stated meeting the attached presentation was given

	Pages	Contact
6. Challenges of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 - PRESENTATION	(Pages 1 - 18)	Hayley Brooks Tel: 01732 227272

If you wish to obtain further factual information on any of the agenda items listed above, please contact the named officer prior to the day of the meeting.

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Challenges of Homelessness Reduction Act

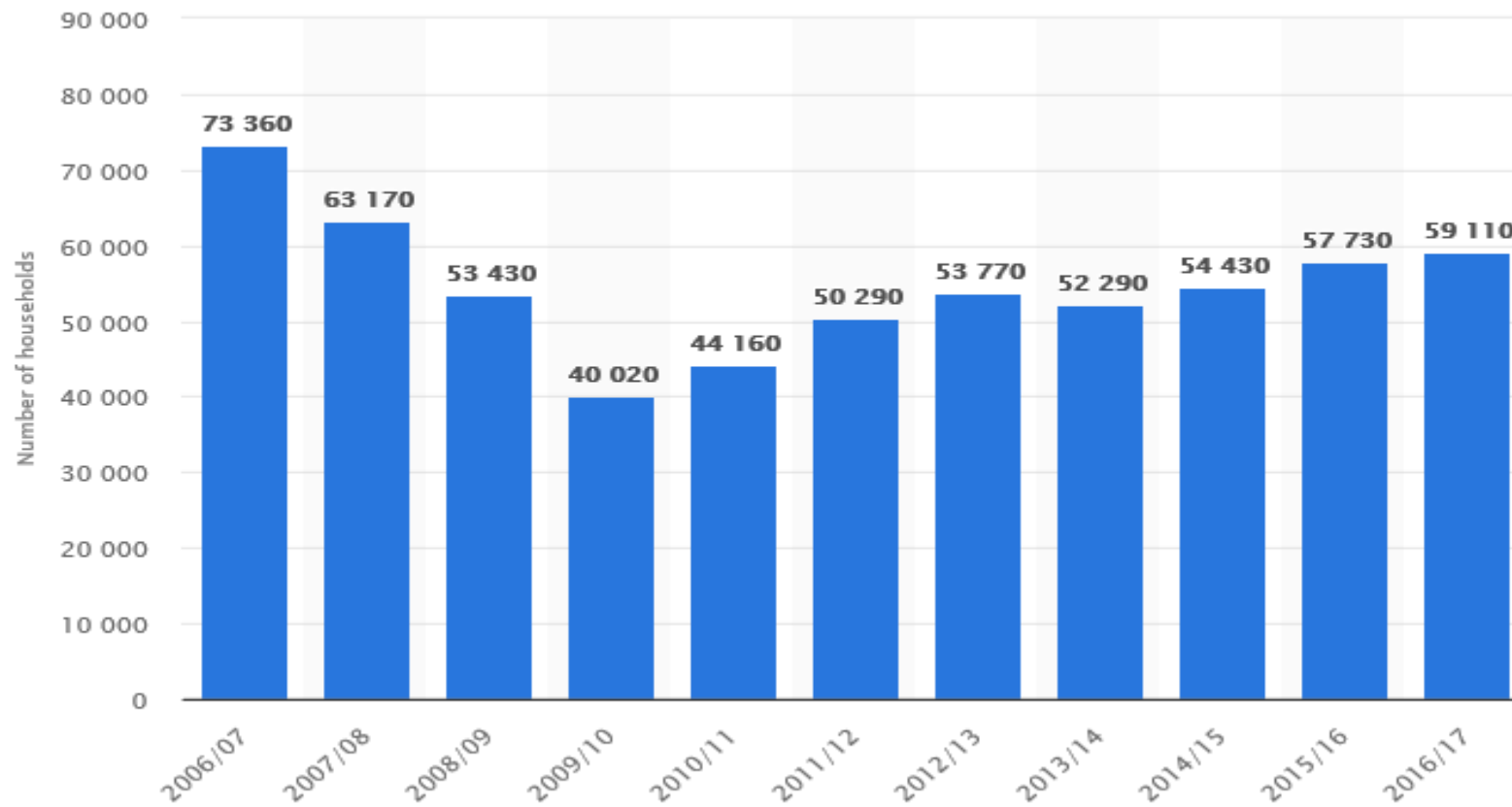
Housing and Health Advisory Committee

Hayley Brooks - Head of Housing and Health

NATIONAL CONTEXT

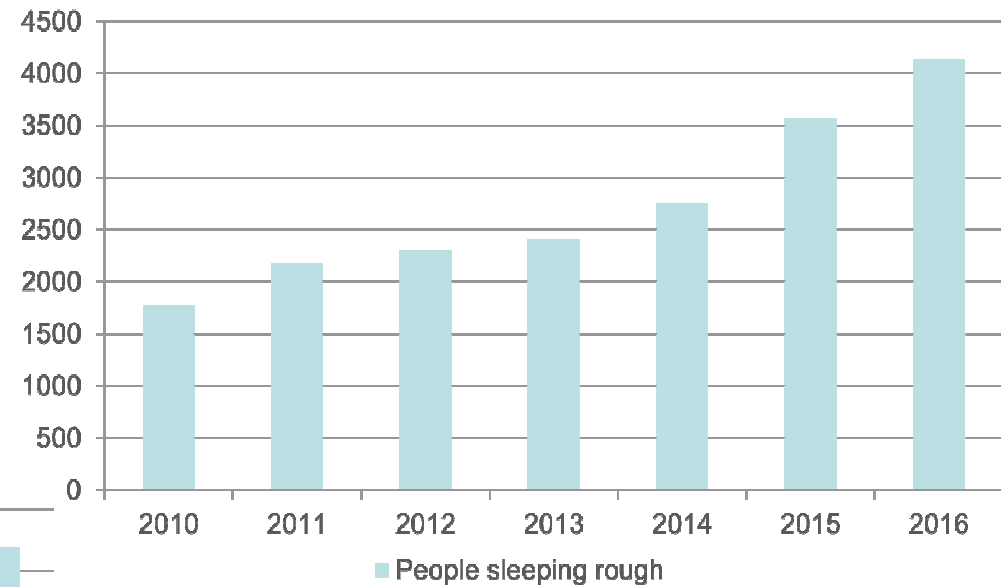
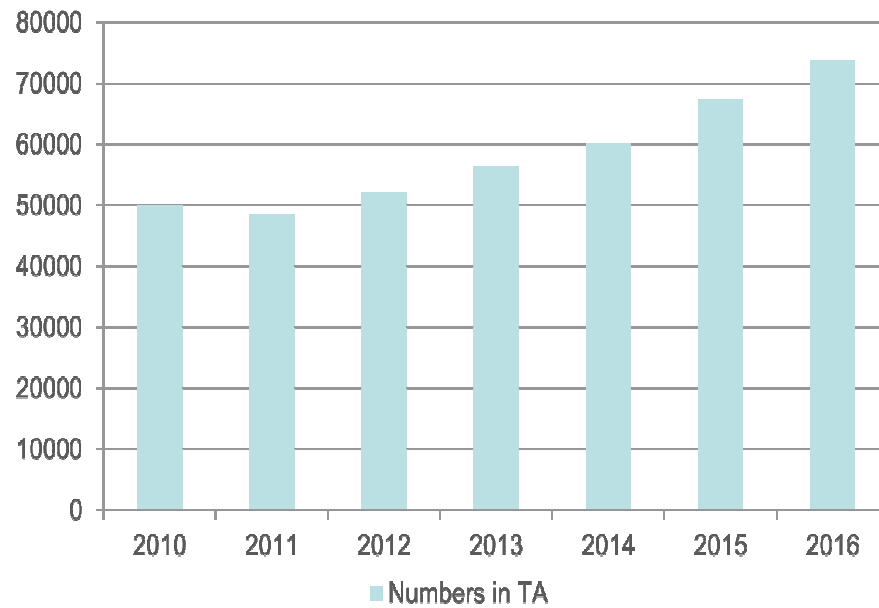
Homeless Households in England

Households 'unintentionally homeless and in priority need'



Source: Statista 2018

Numbers in TA and Sleeping Rough



A homeless person is someone who:

- Lacks a fixed, regular and/or adequate night time residence and;
- Primarily residents in a temporary, emergency or transitional shelter;
- Stays in a public or private place, not designed for, or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Is living in an overcrowded situation;



Where do the homeless call home?

Emergency shelters



Nightly paid emergency accommodation



Temporary Accommodation (shared facilities)

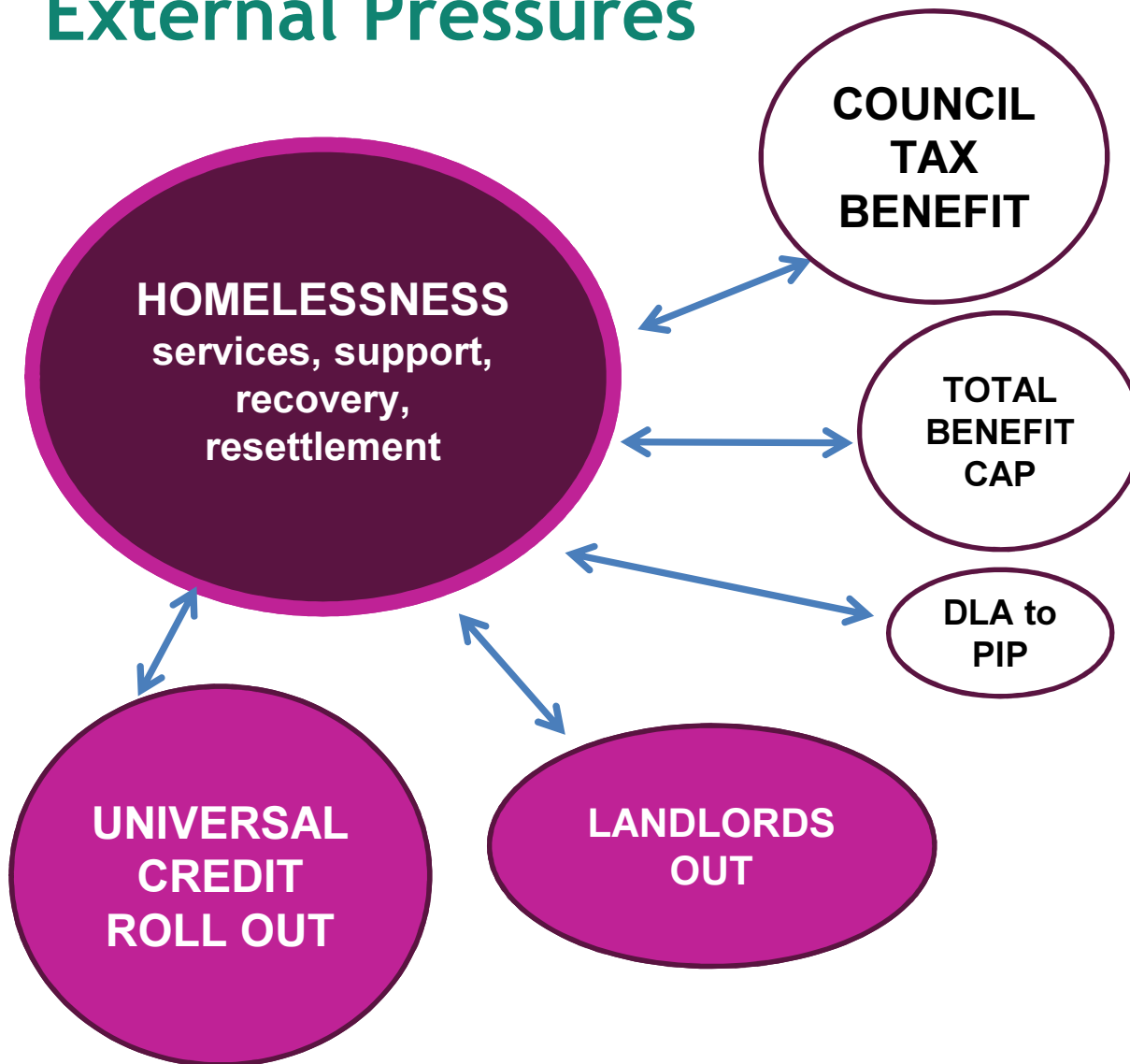


Family/friend sofas

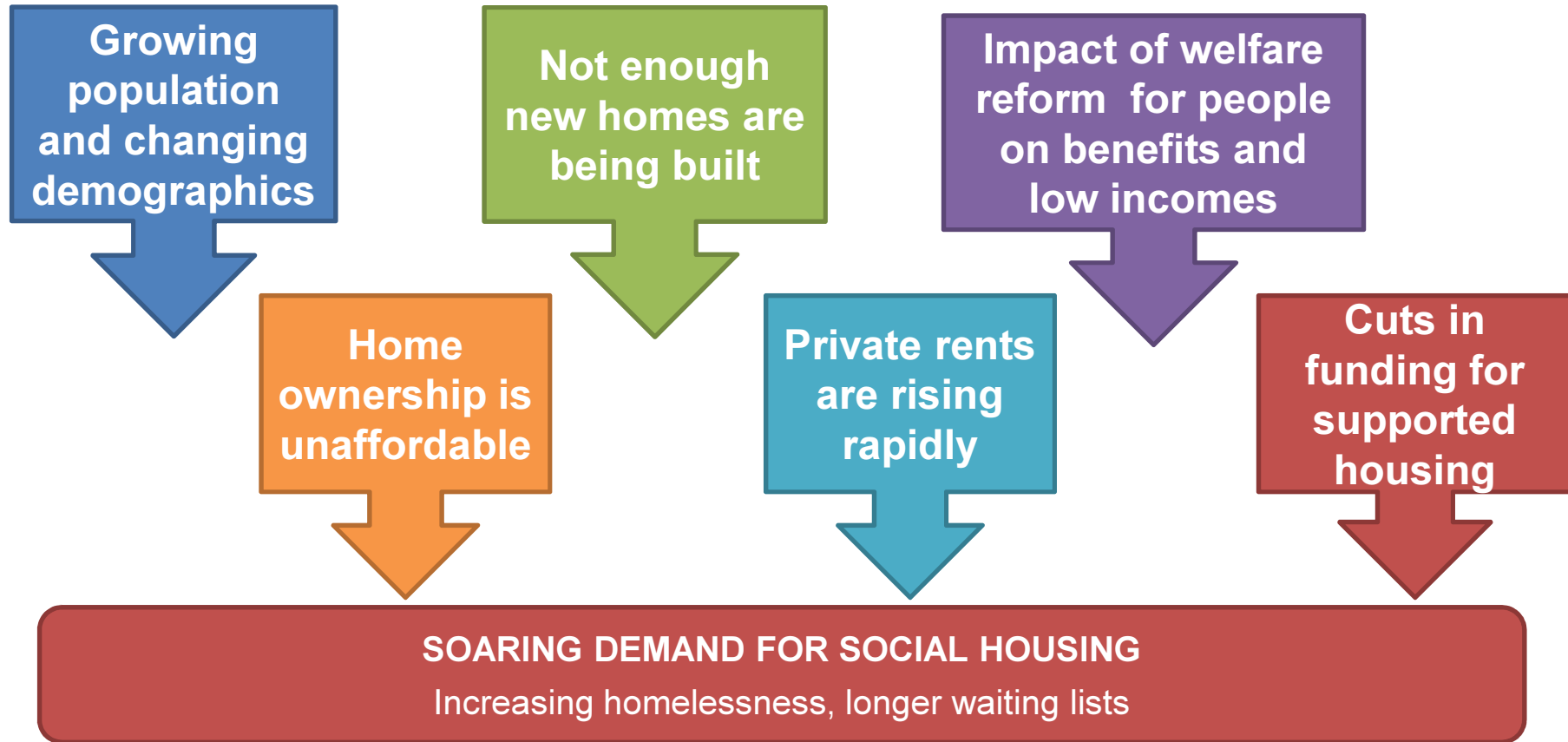


- Cars/vans;
- Camp in wooded area
- Vacant buildings

External Pressures



Unaffordable Housing Market



HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT 2017

Homeless Legislation

A Brief History



Local Government Act

Responsibility for providing help to the poor was transferred to the local council where it remains today

1929

The National Assistance Act & the Welfare State

This Act stated that LA's (at that time specifically Social Services) had to help people who had no settled residence, who were in need (age, illness or disability), who were in need of accommodation and who were ordinarily resident

1948

Housing Act

Becoming law in 1997, it introduced the two year limit on the rehousing duty and broke the link between being accepted and being made a priority offer from council waiting list

1996

1977

Housing (Homeless Persons) Act

First true piece of homelessness legislation in that it dealt with it specifically. The act later incorporated into the Housing Act 1985 and gave legal definitions of homelessness & priority need: essentially the same ones we have today. In practice it excluded most people without children

2002

Homelessness Act

This removed the two year limit on the rehousing duty and re-established the link between being accepted as homeless and being given a priority on the waiting list. More importantly it expanded the number of priority need categories and introduced homeless strategies.

Homelessness Reduction Act

2017

HRA Challenges

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Background

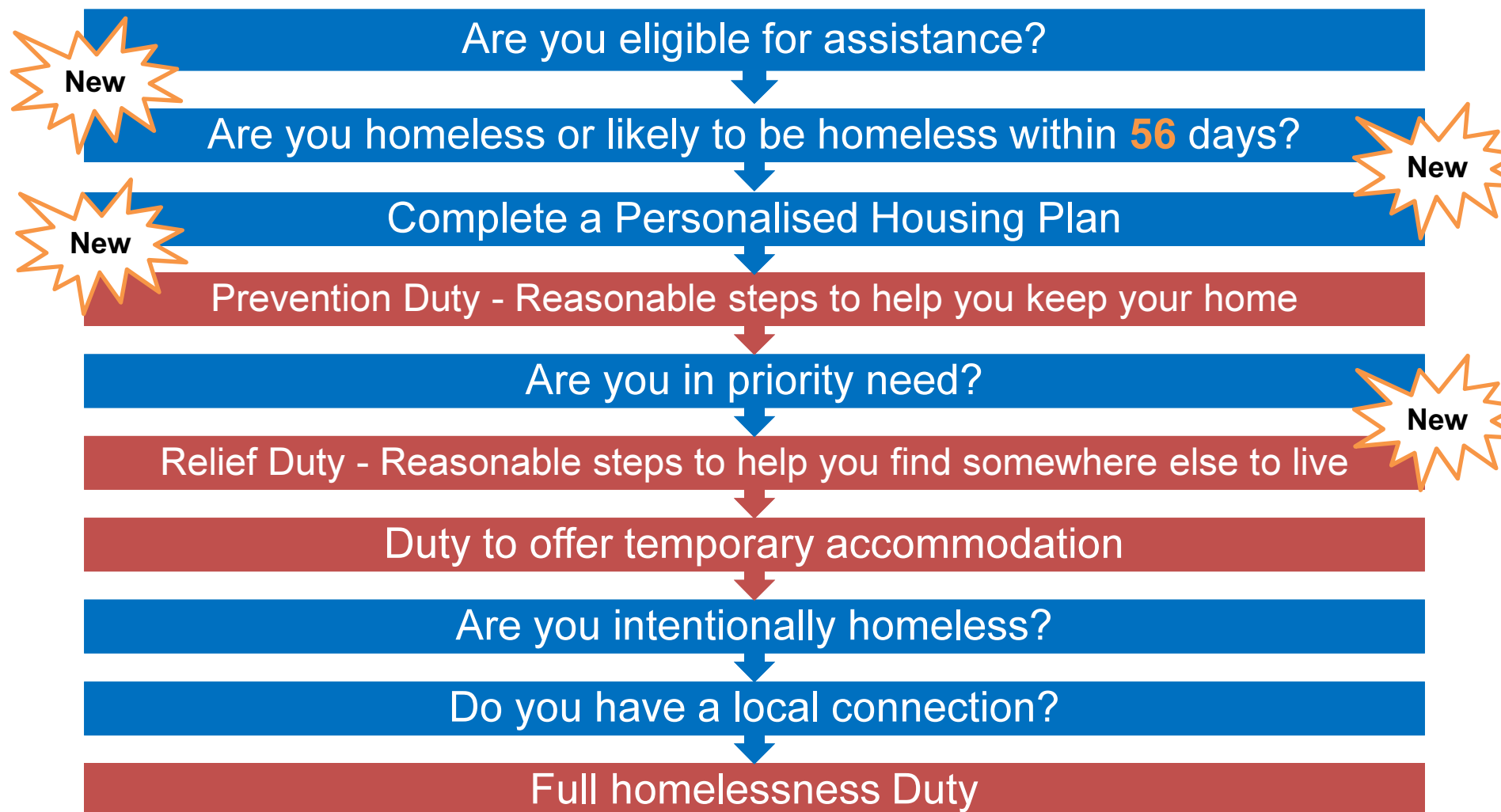


- In 2015, Wales - new homeless legislation + prevention
- Homeless charity Crisis carried out a mystery shopping to understand rising homeless numbers in England:
 - Showed that the quality of housing advice available to homeless households was generally poor;
 - ...and sometimes unlawful;
 - Found the treatment of homeless people by councils to be unacceptable
- Conservative backbench MP, Bob Blackman presented this as a Private Member's Bill to Parliament
- Received strong cross-party support
- Received Royal Assent on the 27 April 2017, law 3 April 2018

The Old System (pre-HRA)



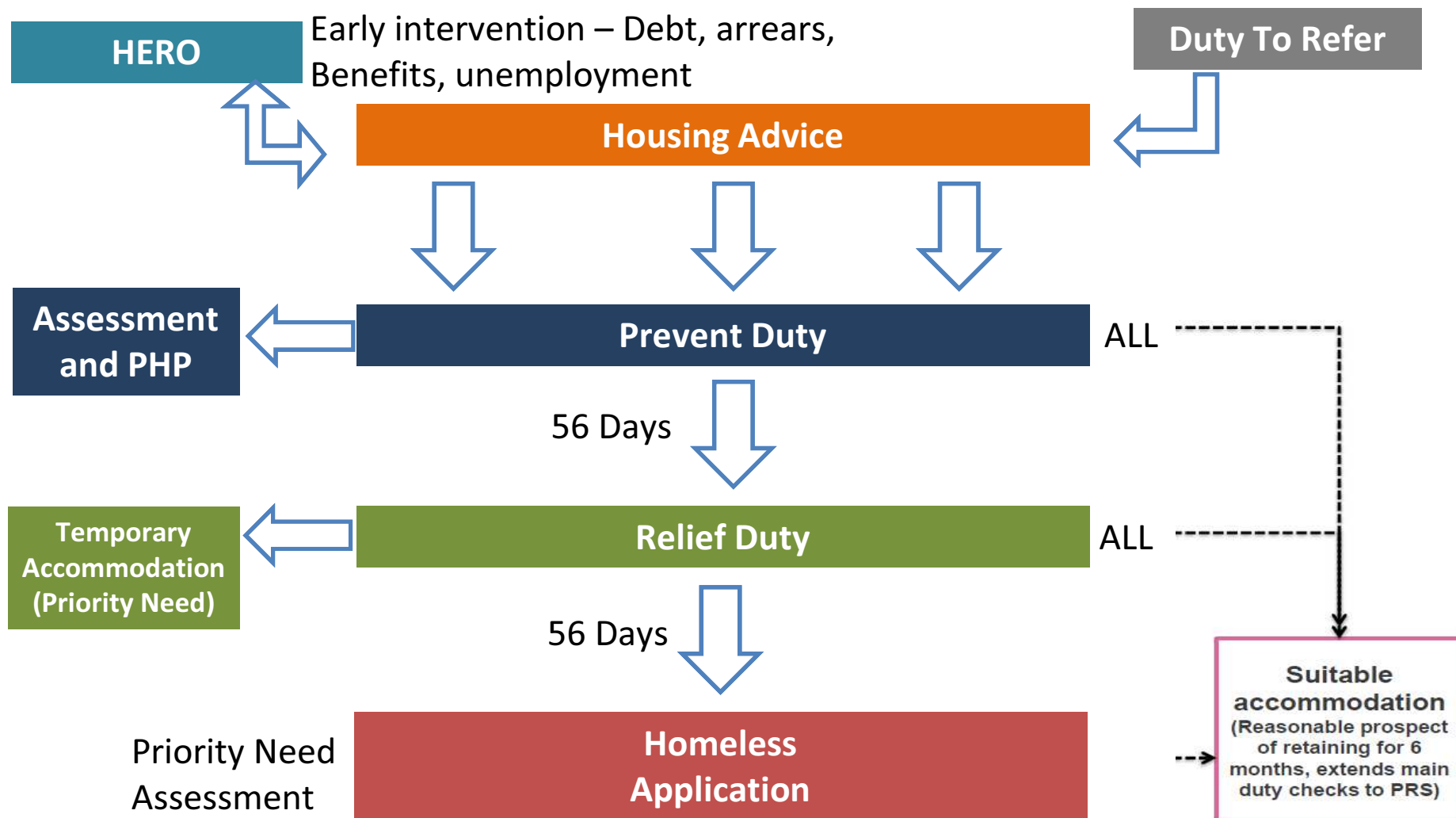
The HRA New System



HRA Challenges

Preventing and Relieving Homelessness

HRA Summary



Duty To Refer - October 2018



- Where a ‘**specified public authority**’ nationally considers that a person is homeless or threatened with homelessness, it must refer that person, if he or she consents, to a relevant local housing authority.
- The public bodies will be specified by Regulation will include:
 - (a) prisons;
 - (b) youth offender institutions;
 - (c) secure training centres and colleges;
 - (d) youth offending teams and probation services
 - (e) Jobcentre Plus;
 - (f) Social services;
 - (g) Hospitals and treatment centres.

Other Challenges

- Creative Housing Options
- Private sector lettings scheme redesign
- Incentive and financial support schemes
- Customer journey improvements
- External funding - Housing and Health
- Increased team resources
- Learning from best practice
- Links to Housing and Health - very early intervention
- Trailblazer and Government data monitoring - H-CLIC



Prevent, prevent, prevent

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