

Challenges of Homelessness Reduction Act

Housing and Health Advisory Committee

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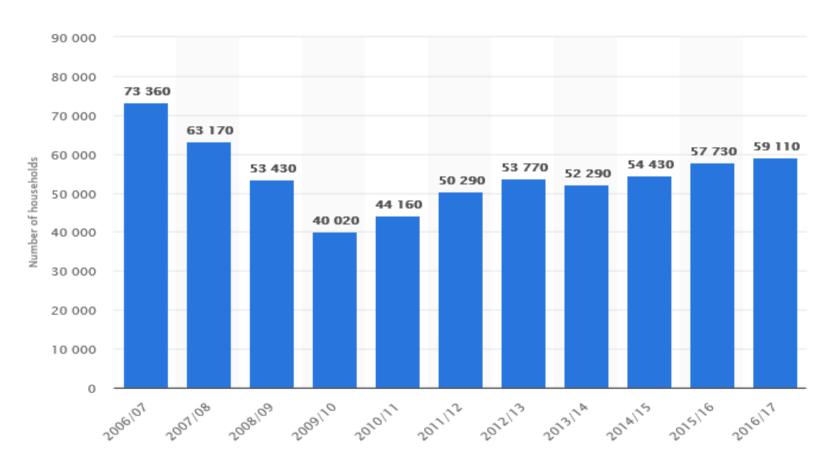


NATIONAL CONTEXT

Homeless Households in England



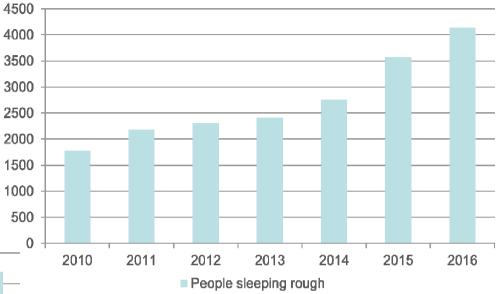
Households 'unintentionally homeless and in priority need'

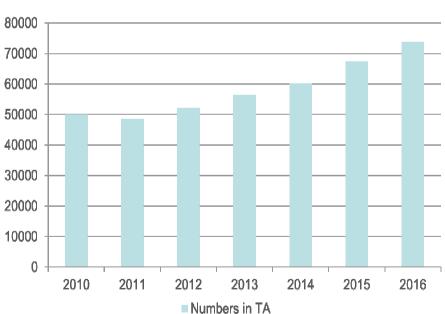


Source: Statista 2018

Numbers in TA and Sleeping Rough











- 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



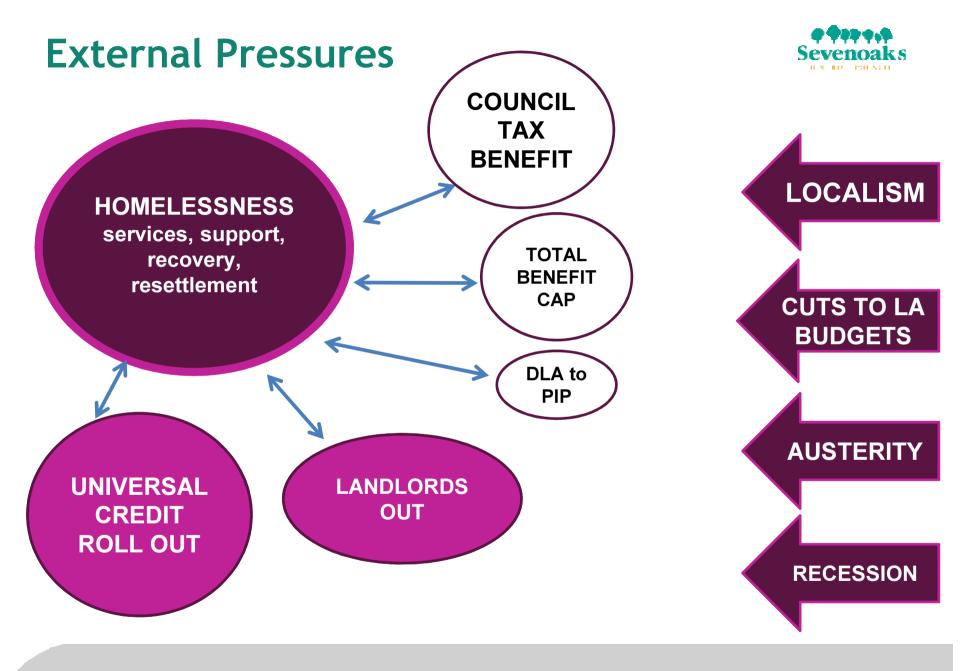
Temporary Accommodation (shared facilities)



Family/friend sofas

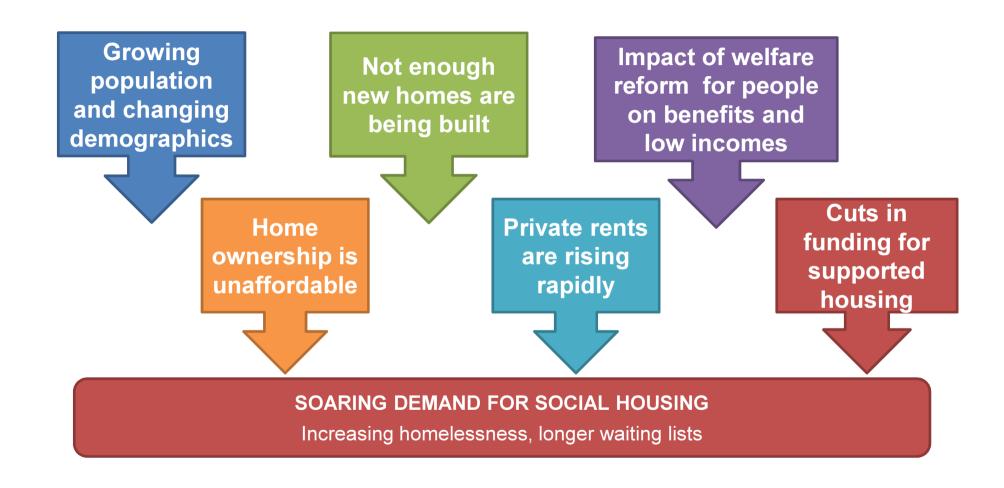


- Cars/vans;
- Camp in wooded area
- Vacant buildings



Unaffordable Housing Market







HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT 2017

Homeless Legislation

A Brief History



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 or disability), who were in need of were ordinarily resident

1948

The National **Assistance Act &**

were in need (age, illness accommodation and who

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

Homelessness **Reduction Act**

2002

2017

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.

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

1929

Local

Government Act

Responsibility for

providing help to

transferred to the

it remains today

local council where

the poor was

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 Background

e enoaks

- 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)



Are you eligible for assistance? Are you homeless or likely to be homeless within 28 days? Are you in priority need? Duty to offer temporary accommodation Are you intentionally homeless? Do you have a local connection? Full homelessness Duty

The HRA New System





Are you eligible for assistance?

Are you homeless or likely to be homeless within 56 days?



Complete a Personalised Housing Plan

Prevention Duty - Reasonable steps to help you keep your home

Are you in priority need?



Relief Duty - Reasonable steps to help you find somewhere else to live

Duty to offer temporary accommodation

Are you intentionally homeless?

Do you have a local connection?

Full homelessness Duty

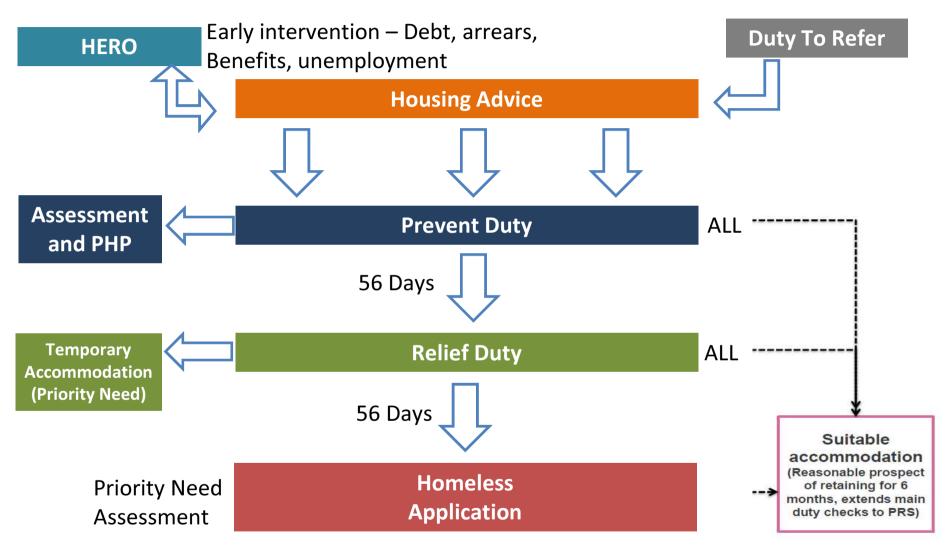


HRA Challenges

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

