

Challenges of Homelessness Reduction Act

Housing and Health Advisory Committee

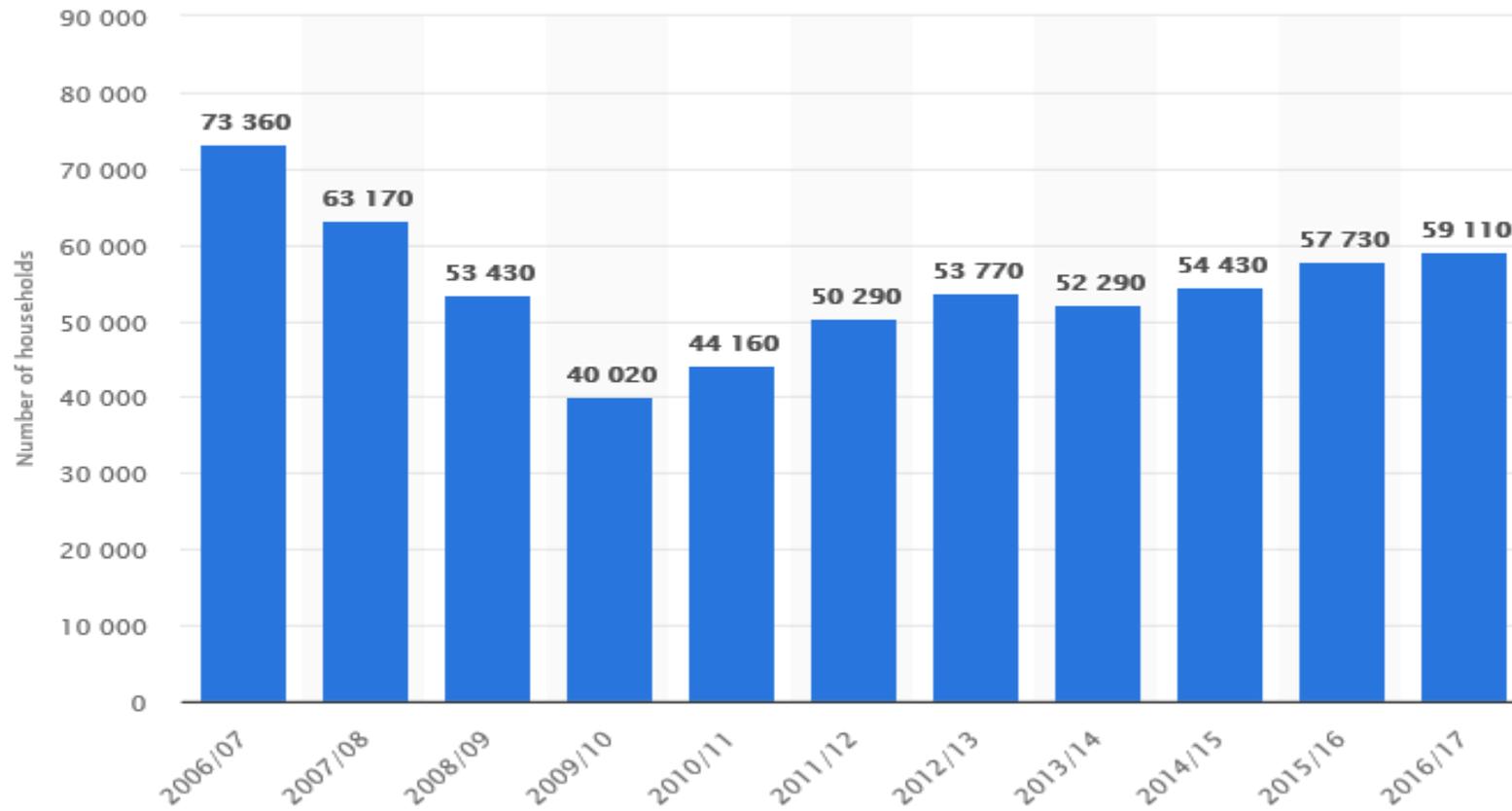
Hayley Brooks - Head of Housing and Health

NATIONAL CONTEXT

Homeless Households in England

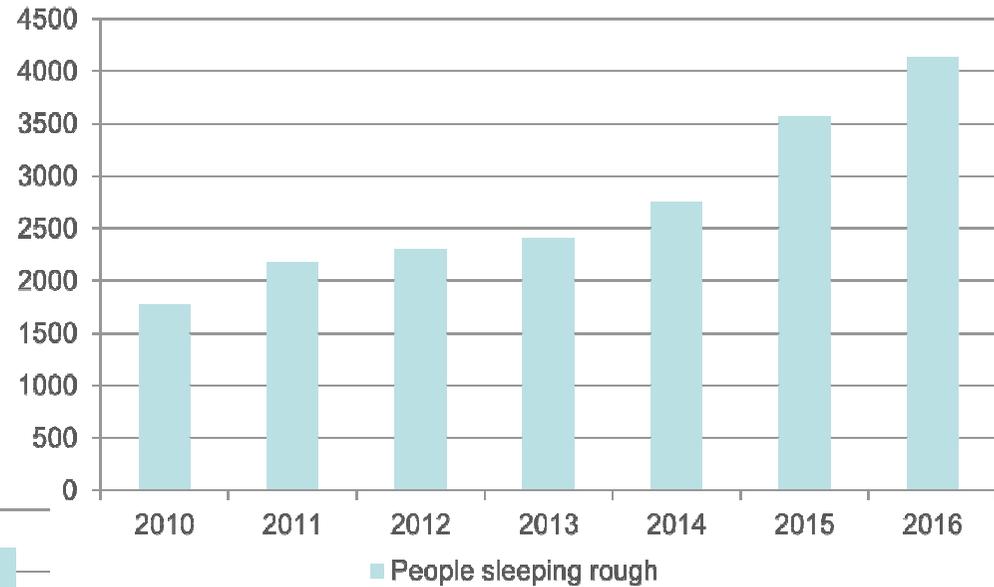
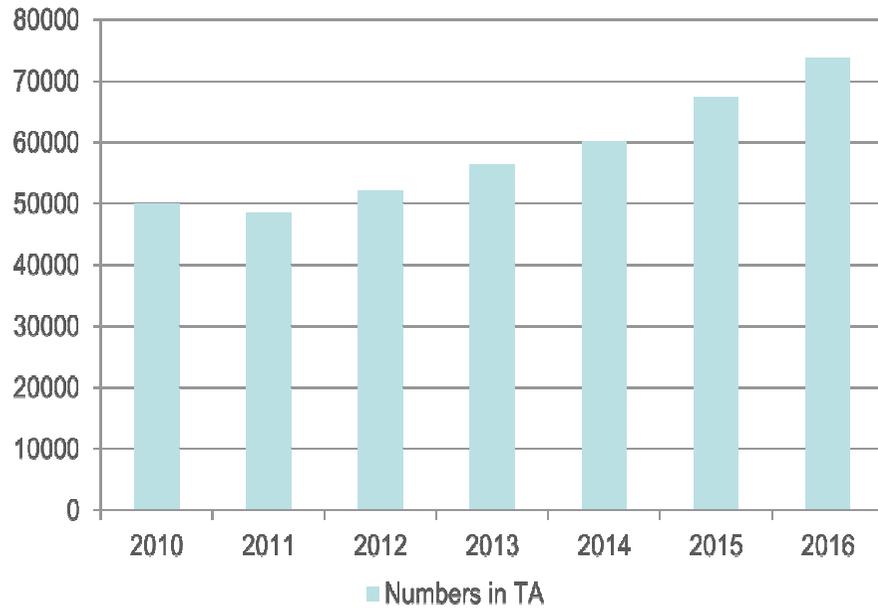


Households ‘unintentionally homeless and in priority need’



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)

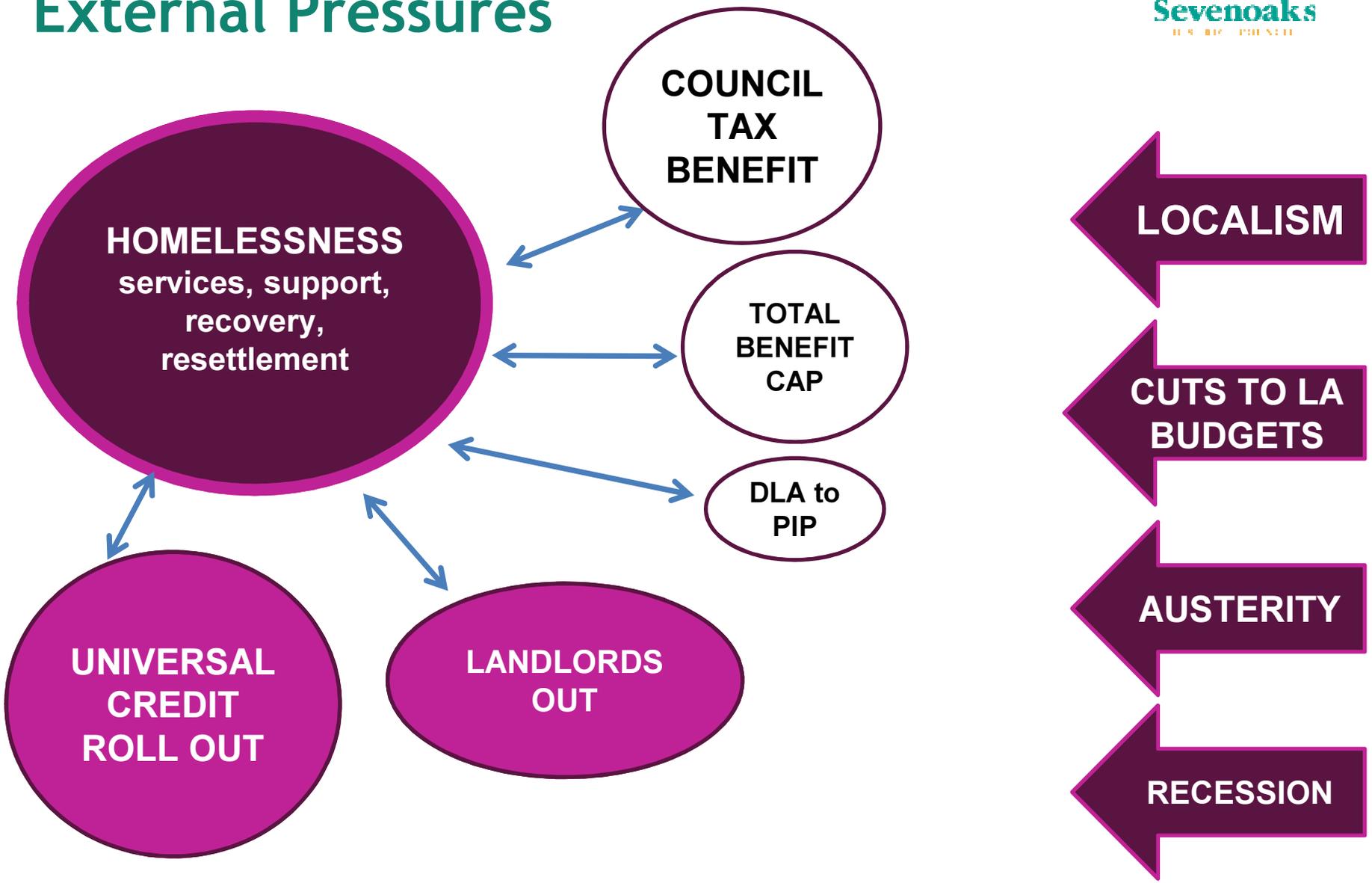


Family/friend sofas

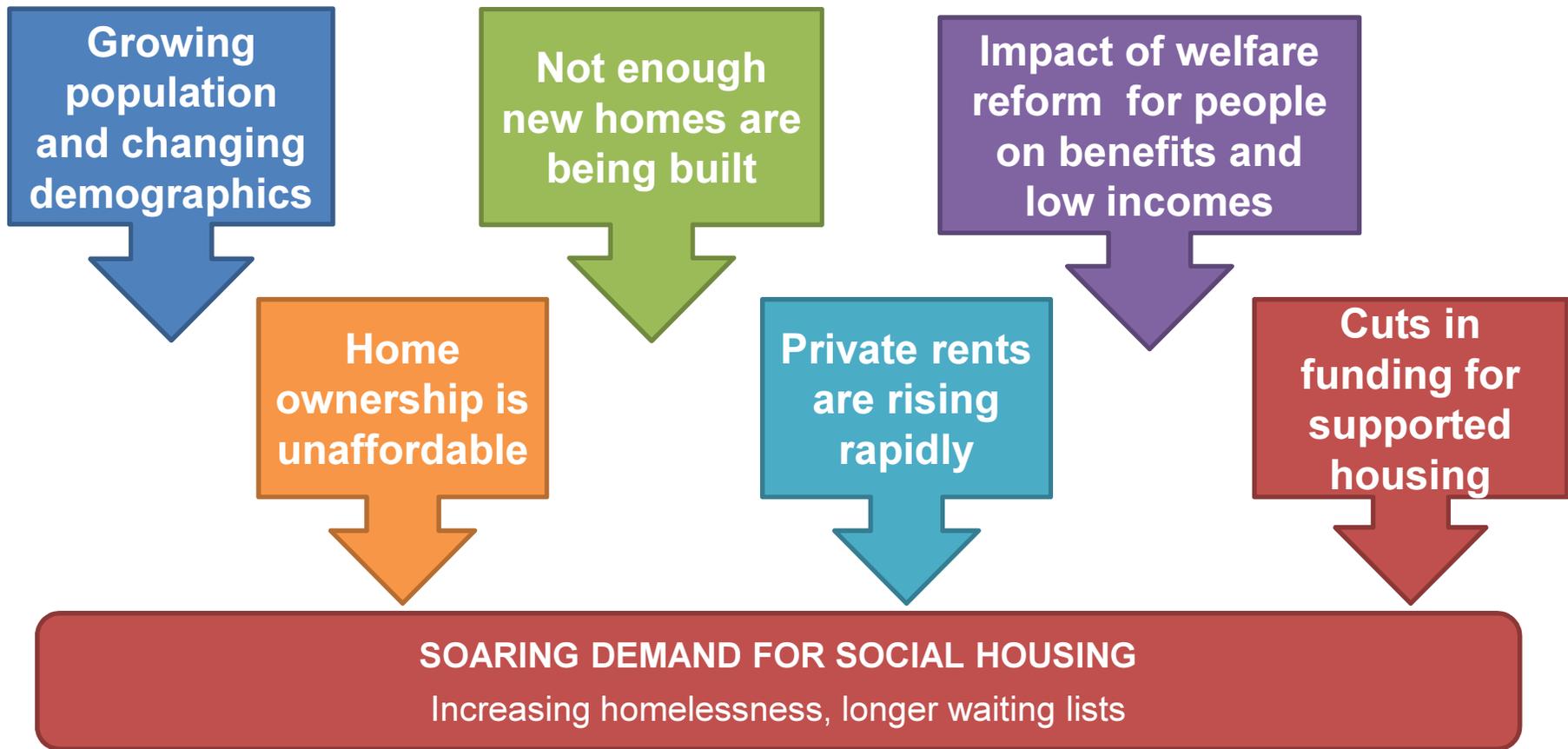


- Cars/vans;
- Camp in wooded area
- Vacant buildings

External Pressures



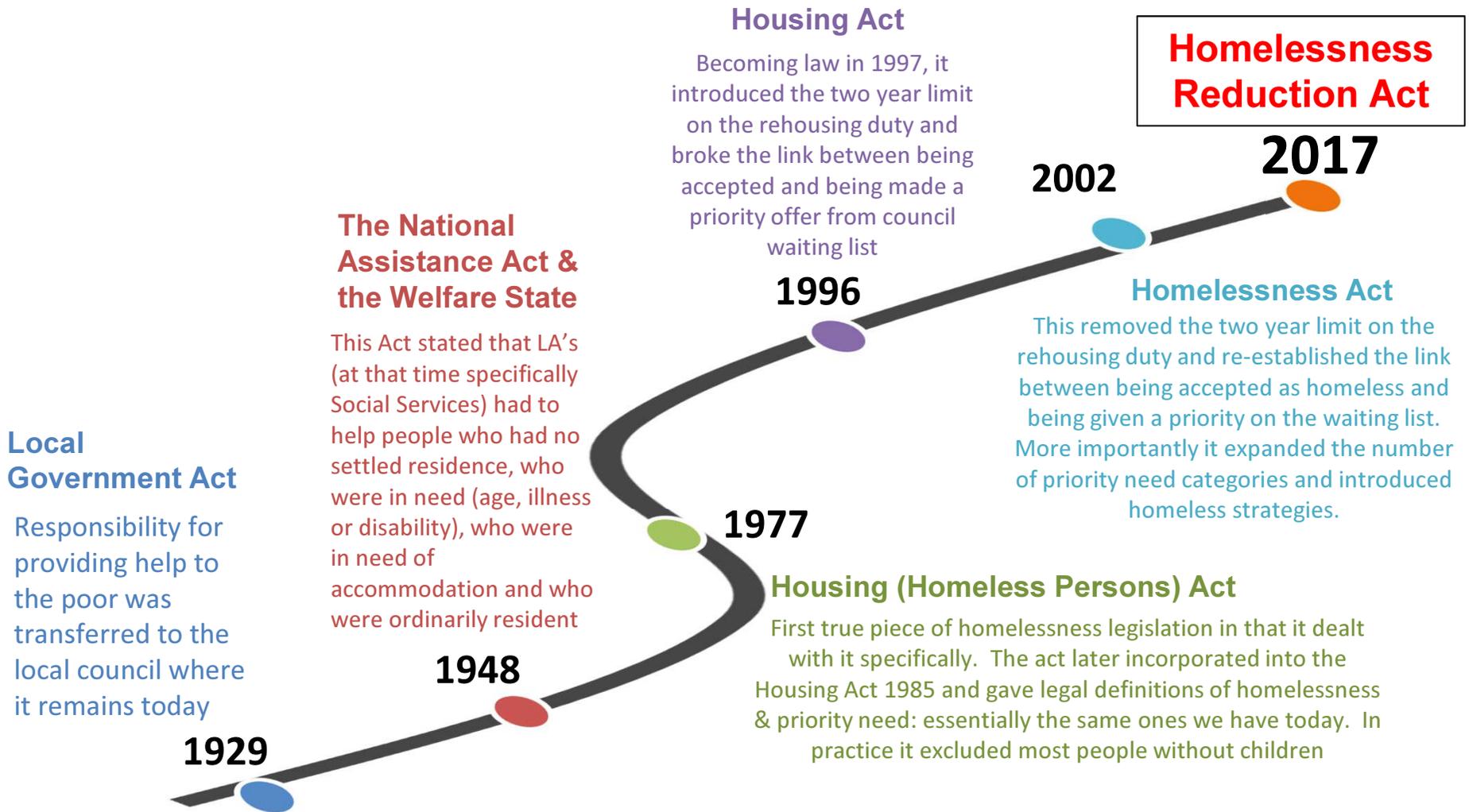
Unaffordable Housing Market



HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT 2017

Homeless Legislation

A Brief History



Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Background

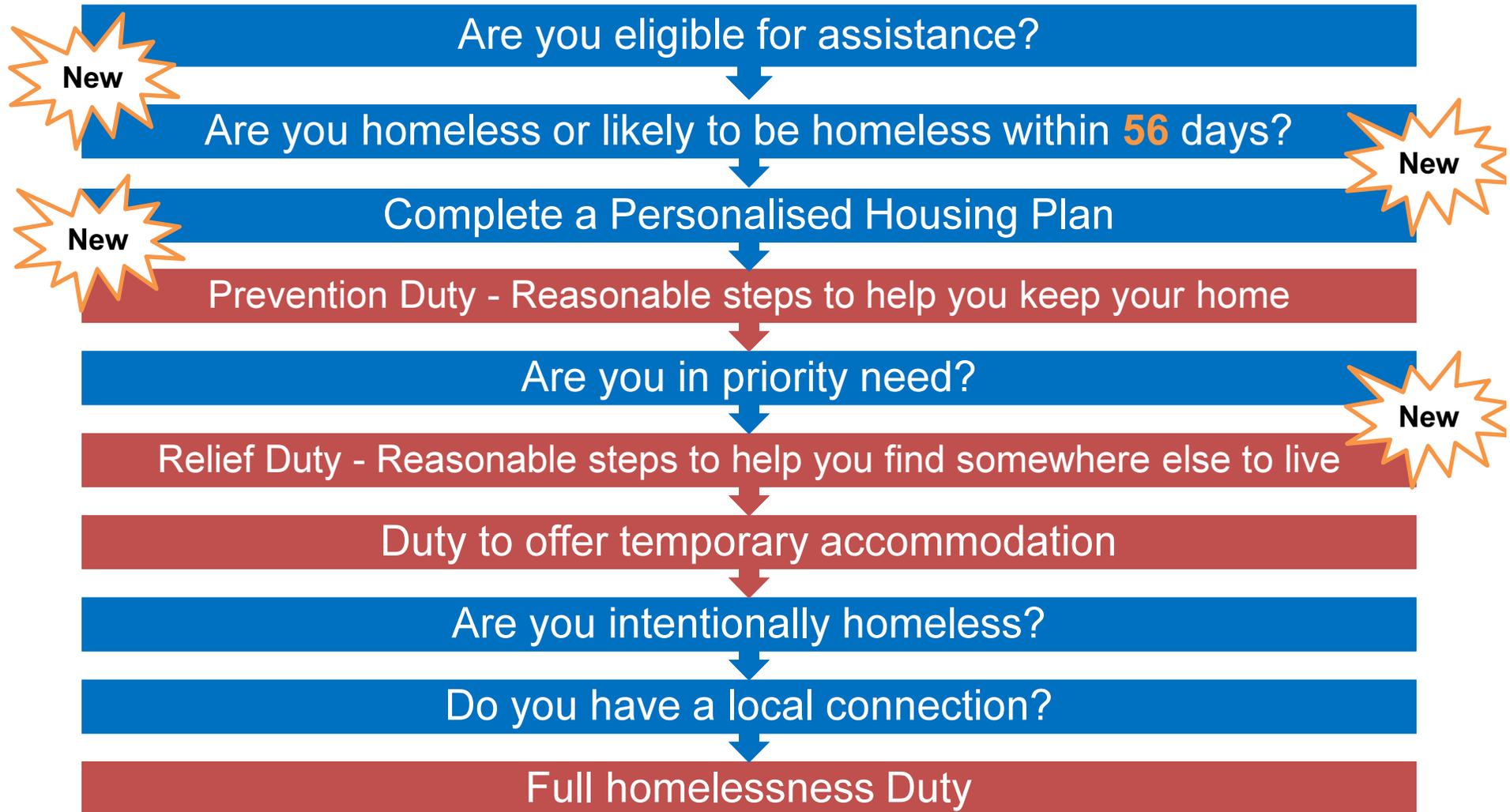


- In 2015, Wales - new homeless legislation + prevention
- Homeless charity Crisis carried out a mystery shopping to understand rising homeless numbers in England:
 - Showed that the quality of housing advice available to homeless households was generally poor;
 - ...and sometimes unlawful;
 - Found 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)



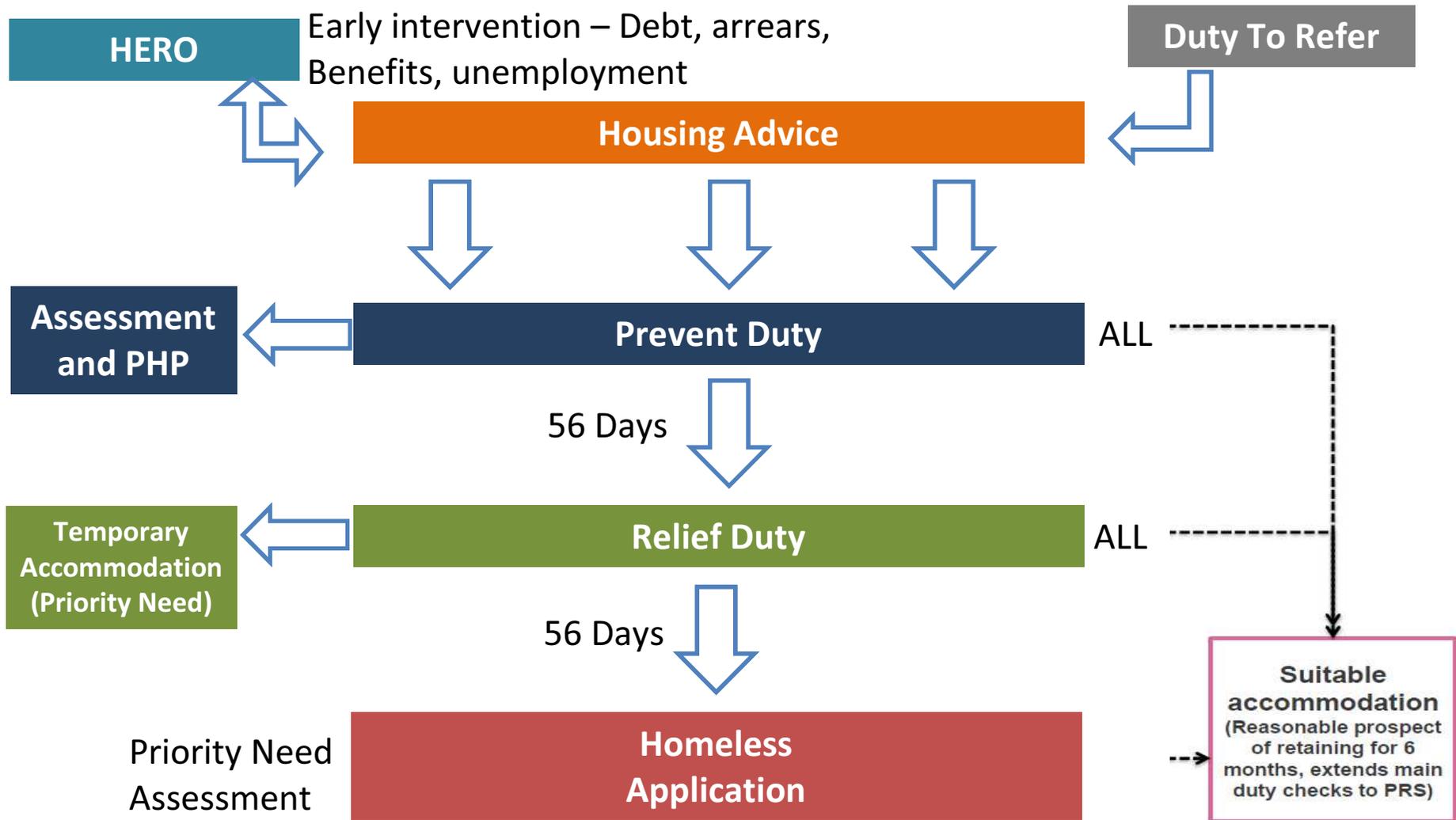
The HRA New System



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