



Health and the Homelessness Reduction Act

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Crisis

Homelessness ends here

High quality services that enable housing stability, financial security, improved wellbeing and the development of positive relationships

Leading source of knowledge on causes, effects and solutions for single homelessness.

Influencing opinion and public policy so that ending the homelessness crisis really matters to people



The Problem

Homelessness in the news



Windsor council leader calls for removal of homeless before royal wedding

Simon Dudley, a Conservative, is demanding police use legal powers to clear the area of homeless people by 19 May



News > UK

Outcry as homeless man found dead 'on Parliament's doorstep' at Westminster Tube station

The rough sleeper was found unresponsive in an underpass of Westminster Tube Station

SEAN MORRISON | 5 days ago



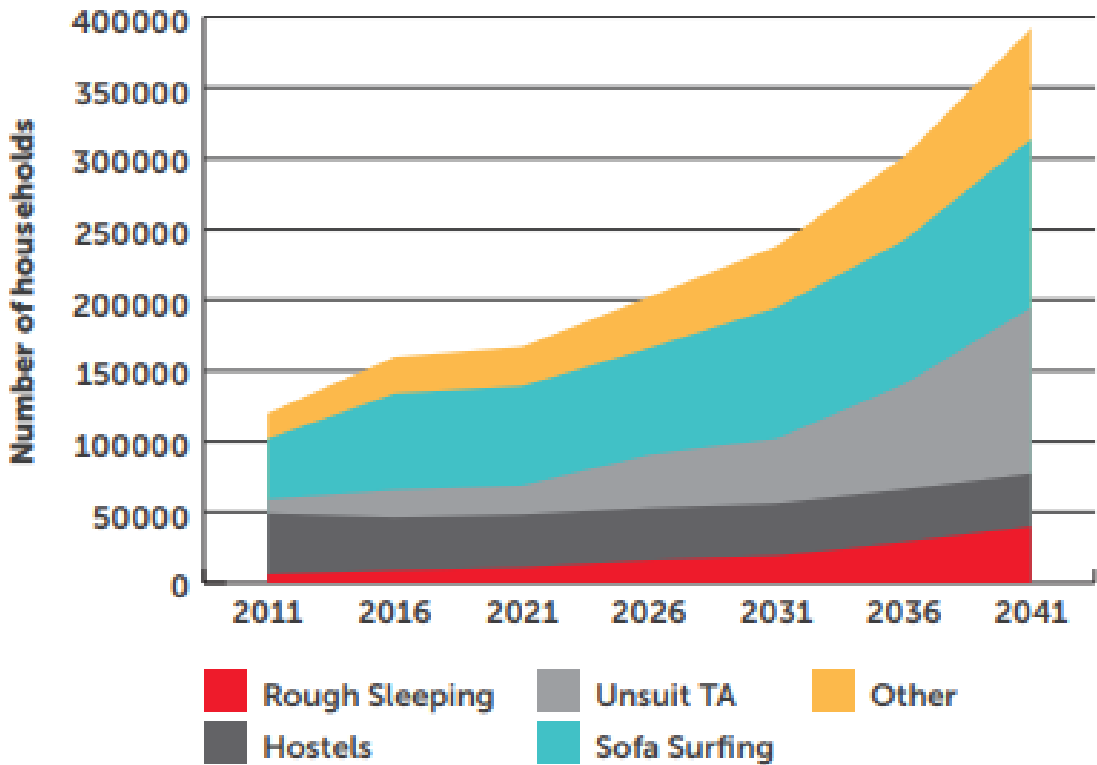
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Projections

- Overall GB levels are predicted to rise
- Slight levelling off in the short term due to housing market corrections (i.e. house prices and rents stabilising) and stable labour market
- Rise driven by unsuitable TA levels

Figure 1: Baseline Forecasts of Core Homelessness Main Component, Great Britain, 2011-41

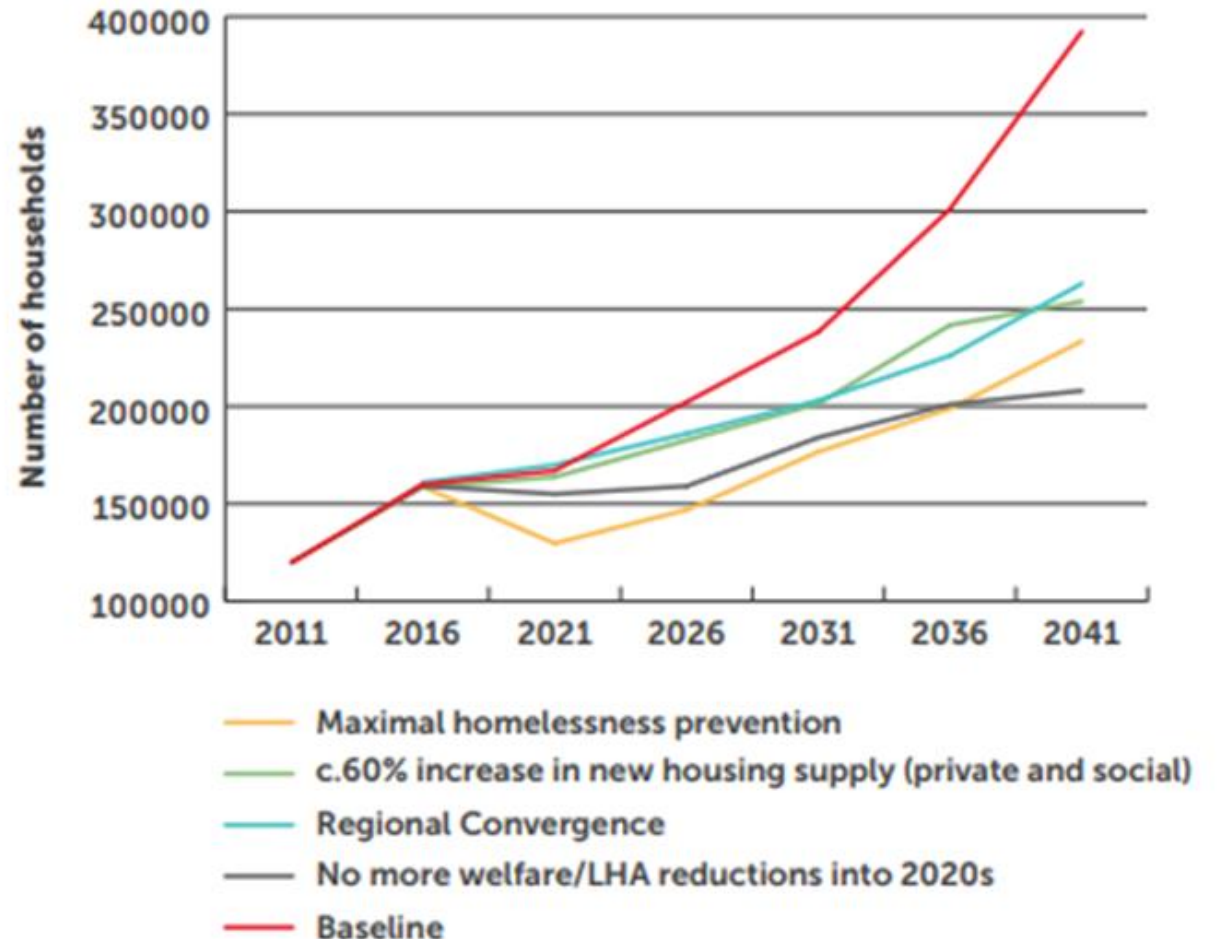


Category	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	2041
Rough Sleeping	6,100	9,100	11,000	16,000	19,100	28,900	40,100
Hostels	42,900	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200	37,200
Unsuitable temporary accommodation	10,100	19,300	20,700	37,300	45,700	74,300	117,500
Sofa Surfing	42,900	68,300	70,200	75,600	92,700	101,700	119,100
Other	17,900	26,000	27,900	36,100	43,400	59,200	78,500
Total	119,900	159,900	167,000	202,200	238,100	301,300	392,400

What policies would make a difference?

- Stopping further welfare cuts – up to 47% decrease by 2041
- 60% increase in private and social housing – up to 35% decrease by 2041
- Maximum prevention activity - up to 40% decrease by 2041
- Rebalancing the economy across regions – up to 32% decrease by 2041

Figure 6: Summary of scenarios and impact on core homelessness in Great Britain



Health and homelessness

- The **average age of death** for people who die homeless is **47** (43 for women), compared to 77 for the general population
- **86%** of homeless people report having a mental health problem
- **73%** of homeless people report having physical health problems
- The Homeless Link health needs audit in 2015 found that **29%** of homeless people leaving hospital were not given a suitable discharge to address their housing and health needs
- Homeless people use around **four times** more acute hospital services than the general population, costing at least per year **£85 million**

The response from government

Commitments to end rough sleeping



Plan to halve rough sleeping over the course of the parliament, eliminating it altogether by 2027

End rough sleeping by making 8,000 affordable homes available for people with a history of rough sleeping



England

- Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Reduction Taskforce
- Rough Sleeping Advisory Panel
- Devolved city regions' commitments to end homelessness
- Funding for Help to Rent and Housing First in the 2017 Autumn Budget



Scotland

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group

- How can we reduce rough sleeping this winter?
- How can we end rough sleeping in Scotland?
- How can we transform the use of temporary accommodation?
- How can we end homelessness?



Wales

- Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2018-2020
- Increasing role of Housing First



A plan to end homelessness

- Legacy of our 50th anniversary
- Focus on:
 - prevention
 - rapid response for people with low level needs
 - sustained support for people with complex needs
- Developed in collaboration with people who have been homeless and frontline organisations contributing their expertise
- Targeted at politicians and decision makers
- Due to be published in June 2018

Homelessness Reduction Act

Turned Away

- 1977 Housing (Homeless Persons) Act was a landmark piece of legislation **but** it has made it harder to address single homelessness
- Crisis Turned Away research – in 50 out of 87 visits mystery shoppers received little or no help



The Act

- Panel of experts from charities, local authorities, law and academia reviewed law and Scottish and Welsh legislation
- Expert panel proposals taken forward in Bob Blackman MP's Homelessness Reduction Bill
- Received full backing of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and all parties
- Passed May 2017 with £61m funding (additional 11 million provided)
- Implementation in April 2018
- Updated Statutory Code of Guidance published February 2018



The new duties

- Advice and information
- **Prevention:** A new duty for local authorities to take action to **prevent** homelessness
- **Relief:** A new duty for local authorities to take steps to **relieve** the homelessness of anyone who is already homeless, or whose homelessness cannot be prevented
- **Measures to incentivise cooperation:** People being helped under the prevention and relief duties will be expected to take reasonable steps to resolve their own homelessness
- **Duty to refer:** A new duty on other public services to **refer people** to council homelessness teams if they are working with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness

Duty to refer

- Government have confirmed which health agencies will have a duty to refer:
 - A&E
 - Urgent treatment centres
 - Hospitals providing in-patient treatment
- Potential to develop a more integrated approach to health and homelessness
- Learning from the Homelessness Prevention Trailblazers

Next step – a duty to cooperate?

- A duty on health services to cooperate with local authorities to help prevent homelessness
- Key to preventing homelessness

Looking ahead

Looking ahead – key challenges

- Implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act
- Upstream homelessness prevention
- Affordability
- Supply of suitable housing
- Support for people with complex needs

Thank you



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