WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH HOMELESSNESS?

RECENT CHANGES & TRENDS

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Strategy & Partnership Manager
Homeless Link is the only national umbrella organisation for frontline homelessness charities and agencies working to end homelessness in England.

The 500 organisations that make up the Homeless Link network support the 70,000 homeless people who access their services on a daily basis.
WHO IS HOMELESS
The people our members work with

- $\frac{3}{4}$ are male
- 1 in 3 are young people
- 1 in 5 are prison leavers
- 30% have mental health issues
- 31% have alcohol problems
- 28% have drug problems

Source: Survey of Needs and Provision, 2013
SERVICE PRESSURES
INCREASED DEMAND, FEWER SERVICES

DEMAND
Rough Sleeping up

SERVICES
Fewer accommodation projects

Source: Survey of Needs and Provision, 2013
FINDINGS

• **2,414** people were counted or estimated to be sleeping rough on any one night in the 2013 count
  • up 5% from 2012
• Around **38,000 bedspaces** in emergency and supported accommodation for single homeless people in England
  • 9% less than in 2010
• [http://homeless.org.uk/snap2013](http://homeless.org.uk/snap2013)

Source: Survey of Needs and Provision, 2013
STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS IN 2013 Q4

28,020 households approached Local Authorities for help
Acceptances (12,890) are down by 5% compared to Q4 2012
Use of temporary accommodation has increased 7%
Households placed in other LA areas has increased 23%

[Source: DCLG statutory homelessness figures]
ACCEPTANCES AND APPLICATIONS Q4 2009-13

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<td>Acceptances</td>
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NUMBERS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION Q4 2009-13
KEY WELFARE CHANGES

1. LHA rates

2. Shared Accommodation Rate
   - 5.5% homes affordable (should be 30%)

3. End of Social Fund – Welfare Assistance Schemes
   - Government will end welfare assistance funding in April 2015

4. Introduction of Universal Credit
   - Rugby

5. Conditionality and Sanctions
SANCTIONS
EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

Homeless Link’s *A High Cost to Pay* indicates that individuals who have experienced homelessness are being disproportionately affected by benefit sanctions.

In the 3 months to July 2013:
• **One third** of homeless people claiming JSA were sanctioned;
• **1 in 5** claiming ESA were sanctioned.

Of the services surveyed
• **98%** reported homeless people falling into rent arrears
• **86%** reported homeless people getting into debt

Impacts
• Sanctions leading to accommodation problems such as rent arrears or service charge arrears and eviction
• Clients’ existing problems are getting worse as a result of sanctions, with only a minority being motivated by sanctions to find employment

www.homeless.org.uk/sanctions
FUNDING UPDATES

• Fair Chance Fund £15m
• £40m capital £ for homelessness services to improve people’s health
  • Platform for Life
• Sub Regional / Cross Authority Funding £8m
Thank you

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