

1. What framework of policies, approaches and plans is needed to end homelessness in Wales? (What does ending homelessness actually look like?)

Starter for ten

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

# What does ending homelessness look like ('Everybody In' + Mackie)

Rare, brief & non-recurrent	Homelessness ended	Homelessness prevented
Rare	All those where individual risk factors are associated with significant probability of homelessness get the help they need to prevent this, and structural factors that contribute to homelessness are addressed	Universal Prevention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No one homeless as a result of leaving a state institution</li> <li>- All at likely risk of homelessness get the help needed to prevent it</li> </ul>	Targeted Prevention
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All at immediate risk of homelessness get the help needed to prevent it</li> </ul>	Crisis Prevention
Brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No one in emergency accommodation without a plan for rapid rehousing</li> <li>- No one forced to live in transient/dangerous accommodation</li> <li>- No one sleeping rough</li> </ul>	Emergency Prevention
Non-recurrent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>No one experiences homelessness more than once</b></li> </ul>	Recovery Prevention

Do we want to have a go at defining universal prevention in terms of homelessness ended? Here's an attempt.

Is 'no-one' returns a separate area, or does it overlay everything else?

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# Universal prevention

- National commitment to the fundamental principle that everyone should have a human right underpinned by law to access adequate housing
- Social housing supply sustained at right level and plans based on homelessness risk and projections
- Link to strategies on poverty, human rights, future generations, communities, education and skills
- Make case on welfare to UK government (LHA, benefits cap, UC design). Consider Welsh tax/welfare potential
- Link to wider “outcomes framework” for Welsh Government
- Ongoing programme of engagement with people with lived experience of homelessness to feed into ongoing policy development and implementation

# All at likely risk of homelessness get the help needed to prevent it

- We need to check evidence for 'at risk' cohorts and evidence to prevent (e.g. domestic abuse)
- Cross-public service strategy on Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Early intervention approach for children at risk of homelessness
- Trauma informed workforce development for all front line workers engaged with people experiencing homelessness
- Clear pathways / multidisciplinary approach of tenancy sustainment / housing stability for people at risk through vulnerability or affordability – e.g. domestic abuse, rent arrears, and other circumstances backed by evidence to be predictors of homelessness
- Homelessness as a public health priority
- Local joined-up planning of health, housing (including supply), social care, homelessness services, employment, employability
- No-fault evictions abolished, following on from extension of notice to 6 months
- Public services 'duty to refer' where someone is at 'likely risk' of homelessness (and deploy multidisciplinary team as they do in Newcastle)

# All at immediate risk of homelessness get the help needed to prevent it

- Clear, ring-fenced and guaranteed long-term funding for services to prevent and relieve homelessness (and address those who are at 'likely risk of homelessness')
- Allocation of funding for homelessness prevention and relief should be set out on a long-term local basis, and available for agencies involved in prevention (in addition to the local authority)
- Extend prevention and relief duty - place a duty on all relevant public bodies to prevent homelessness and to cooperate with local housing authorities in relieving homelessness. Create a 'no wrong door' approach to identifying immediate risk of homelessness
- Clear plan for non-UK nationals at immediate risk of homelessness
  - Properly supported, voluntary reconnection service
  - EEA nationals with right to reside eligible for statutory homelessness assistance
  - Short-term emergency accommodation and independent immigration advice provided for migrants who are homeless, or at imminent risk of becoming homeless
  - Guidance for local authorities clearly setting out the duties they owe to migrant households with no recourse to public funds.
  - Consider how best to grant access to the statutory homelessness system for all migrants

# Homelessness prevented for all leaving a state institution / the care of the state

- Critical Time Interventions form a key part of national strategies to prevent and end homelessness for groups most at risk, and that sufficient funding is made available to take this to scale (nb. this is in theory covered by duty to prevent homelessness)
- Preventative pathways for all in the care or supervision of the state – armed forces, prison, health, mental health, care system, asylum system etc (e.g. SHORE standards for prisons in Scotland)
- No evictions (into homelessness) from social housing, and increased access to social housing for people who have, are, or are at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Lowering barriers to accessing social housing

# No one in emergency accommodation without a plan for rapid rehousing

- Strict time limits on the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation of no more than seven days. This should apply to all homeless households.
- Duty for the publication and review of homelessness strategies, including:
  - key performance targets for delivering affordable permanent housing linked to the numbers of people experiencing homelessness – annual reports against these targets
  - support required to help people maintain their tenancy and address support needs
  - **should be covered by duty in Part 2 of the Housing Act (Wales) 2014 for LAs to publish homelessness strategies by end of 2018.**
- Make Rapid Rehousing the default approach with all Local Authorities producing system-wide rapid rehousing transition plans. Within this scale-up Housing First to the required level as the default for people with more complex support needs. Recognise that there will be a small group requiring more specialist settings but this is the exception.
- Commission systems based on the rapid rehousing default with a minimal level of emergency accommodation and TA

# Prevent anyone living in transient/dangerous accommodation, or sleeping rough

- Duty to provide immediate emergency accommodation to all those with nowhere safe to stay (until priority need is abolished). Introduce the No First Night Out approach across Wales to prevent people rough sleeping
- Scale up an assertive outreach model across Wales to deliver a more robust and personalised support
- Provide personal budgets for rough sleepers that require high levels of support, to support assertive outreach workers in building trust
- Broaden use of StreetLink and use learnings from its recent evaluation to promote better use of the service.
- Introduce a national reconnections framework and collect and publish data on long term outcomes.
- Abolish local connection criteria for rough sleepers and ensure it no longer presents a barrier to assistance
- Where a person has died whilst homeless and living on the streets, ensure a full safeguarding review
- Ensure that an assertive outreach model with an emphasis on access to legal, benefits and employment support is delivered to meet the needs of rough sleeping EEA nationals
- Effective support to people engaged in street begging
- Press the UK government for interventions that prevent migrant rough sleeping (incl NRPF)
- Broader range of crisis accommodation (e.g. nightstop, community hosting etc)



No-one experiences homelessness more than once

- To be considered by the group:
- Is this just an emphasis on sustainable solutions for prevention, relief and moving on from homelessness?
- Or is this a particular strand of the framework?

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# Underpinning legal/regulatory framework

- Duty on local authorities to provide the housing support that has been identified as needed via a personalised housing plan
- Housing associations give 'reasonable preference' to homeless households in their allocation policies
- Abolish intentionality in its current form and introduce a new test focusing on deliberate manipulation of the homelessness system
- Continue and improve the professional support and training programme for frontline homelessness officers
- Abolish the priority need criteria
- Robust but proportionate regulation, monitoring and inspection of how local authorities, public bodies and social housing providers discharge their homelessness duties
- An open system of individual reviews and appeals, and access to free or means tested legal advice
- Appropriate provisions for households who remain homeless after exhausting their entitlements under the homelessness statutory framework.

# Underpinning housing supply and allocation

- Grow investment in social rented housing to deliver 4,000 social homes a year, over a 15-year period
- Rent setting framework for social housing delivers rents that are affordable to those on low earnings and benefits
- Annual target for the minimum proportion of social lettings to homeless nominees
- Social housing providers fulfil their responsibilities to co-operate with local authorities in meeting their homelessness duties and are encouraged to adopt best practice in supporting homeless people into social housing
- Welsh Government's regulatory objectives to include safeguarding and promoting the interests of homeless people
- Statutory duty on local authorities to provide a tenancy relations / sustainment service
- Standard private rented tenancy with no fixed term period where the landlord could only give notice by using specified grounds, and with limits on annual rent increases linked to an inflationary measure.
- National scheme for supporting access to the Private Rented Sector, including national rent deposit guarantee scheme
- Planning guidance to ensure it expressly addresses the need for new housing provision for single homeless adults, taking account of the availability of shared and one-bedroom supply in the existing housing stock.
- Local Housing Market Assessments to map existing provision for low income single adults and address the needs of single adults across the spectrum of support needs. Local Authorities to ensure that the permanent mainstream housing needs of homeless people are taken into account through Local Housing Market Assessments.

# Data, monitoring, measuring

- Statutory homelessness data collection so that it follows individuals through their journey within the homelessness system
- CHAIN-style system for recording rough sleeping that allows data sharing between the agencies working with people who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping – **a review of the statutory homelessness data collection system is soon to be published - this can feed into our recommendations - it addresses data linkage point below too. Also need to consider Wallich review of SHIN**
- Data linkage systems that include data sets across health, homelessness, housing, criminal justice, substance misuse, welfare benefits, immigration and employment services.
- Identify gaps in evidence on homelessness prevention, as well as solutions for certain homelessness groups – and how to fill those gaps
- Adopt a homelessness outcomes framework

# Workforce

- Do we need a workforce strategy for all involved at the front line of tackling and preventing homelessness
  - recruitment of the right people
  - training people in PIE and trauma informed approaches, and in the duties and inter-relationships with other services
  - supporting people through reflection and psychology input
  - recognition of the professional competencies of front-line workers and determine pay structure accordingly (like NHS – ‘national homelessness prevention service’)