



Together
we will end
homelessness

HOME FOR ALL

Campaign briefing: Housing First

The pandemic has shown that the best foundation for health, wellbeing, and safety is your own home. During the last 18 months, over 37,000 people were helped off the streets and out of other precarious situations, like sofa surfing, into emergency accommodation to keep them safe. For the first time in years, some of our major cities like London and Manchester saw the numbers of people forced to sleep rough reduce dramatically.

But supporting people off the streets was just one piece of the puzzle. Though some people have been helped to find a secure home, many more remain trapped in temporary or interim accommodation or have gone back to the streets.

Crisis's Home for All campaign is calling for a new approach to ending homelessness. That means a renewed strategy that prioritises housing and giving people the support they need to keep a home, starting with the rollout of Housing First. Without this, we believe Government will not meet its manifesto commitment to end rough sleeping by 2024. Long-term, our goal is to end all forms of homelessness and, where possible, prevent it from arising in the first place.

What's the problem?

Right now, England's homelessness system relies heavily on a 'staircase model', which starts with emergency options like night shelters and hostels – rather than getting people back into a home of their own as quickly as possible. People struggle to access a home of their own until they're deemed "ready". But it can be almost impossible to prove you're "ready" for independent housing while living long-term in somewhere like a hostel or night shelter, or worse still – the streets – which can mean you don't have the privacy and space to recover from the trauma of homelessness. What people need is a stable home of their own if they are to move away from homelessness for good. Some people will also need support to keep a home long term, especially if you have a range of support needs. **That's where Housing First comes in.**

What needs to happen?

Housing First is one of the most important innovations in tackling homelessness of the last few decades. It is for people with a range of support needs, including mental health, substance or alcohol use, and who have a long history of homelessness. **It's proven to end homelessness for around 80% of people who it is targeted at.** It provides somewhere permanent to live and tailored, unconditional support, so people have a much stronger chance of keeping their home and rebuilding a life away from homelessness, especially rough sleeping.

Housing First helps end homelessness. But right now, there are not enough Housing First programmes in England to help people that we know need them.

We know around 16,450 Housing First places are needed in England, if we are to help everyone who needs it. But there are roughly only 2,000 Housing First places available at the moment.

After the progress made during the pandemic to help people sleeping rough come off our streets, we know there are still thousands of people stuck in the system who need Housing First to end their homelessness and stop them returning to where they once were – often for many years.

Because Housing First works, we also know in the long term it saves us money. By ending homelessness for those that are at highest risk of returning to rough sleeping, Housing First will mean people won't end up stuck in our homelessness system or in our emergency health services such as A&E because there's nowhere else for them to go. It means for every £1 invested in Housing First, the Government saves £1.24.

That's why we're calling on the Government to invest in rolling out Housing First provision across England in the upcoming Spending Review.





What can I do?

The Government pledged to end rough sleeping by 2024, but without funding for Housing First, thousands of people will be left without the support they need. The Chancellor Rishi Sunak is due to set out the Government's spending priorities in the autumn. We're calling on him and Robert Jenrick, the Housing Secretary, to make sure that they include scaling up Housing First across England in their spending priorities, so people get the support they need to rebuild a life away from homelessness.

You can help by being part of the campaign. Visit www.crisis.org.uk/HomeforAll where you can:

- **Add your name to a letter to the Chancellor and the Housing Secretary, calling for them to fund Housing First**
- **Email your MP, and asking them to make the case for the Government to ensure a home for all**
- **Read more about what's needed to end rough sleeping, and the importance of Housing First**
- **Share our campaign on social media.**



Suggested Tweets

No one should be forced to sleep rough. I'm supporting [@crisisuk](https://twitter.com/crisisuk)'s [#HomeForAll](https://twitter.com/hashtag/HomeForAll) campaign calling on [@UKGovernment](https://twitter.com/UKGovernment) to fund [#HousingFirst](https://twitter.com/hashtag/HousingFirst) so people get the support they need to rebuild a life away from homelessness: www.crisis.org.uk/HomeForAll

Let's call time on temporary measures. We need a new rough sleeping strategy that provides a [#HomeForAll](https://twitter.com/hashtag/HomeForAll), so people can rebuild a life away from homelessness. Join [@crisisuk](https://twitter.com/crisisuk)'s campaign: www.crisis.org.uk/HomeForAll

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