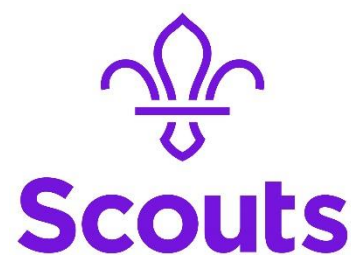


Ending homelessness: key information



About Crisis

- Crisis is the national charity for homeless people. It knows that homelessness is not inevitable. Crisis works directly with thousands of homeless people each year, providing vital help so that people can rebuild their lives and are supported out of homelessness. Crisis campaign for the changes needed to end homelessness for good, together with homeless people and Crisis supporters.
- In 2018, Crisis published the plan to end homelessness. This included the evidence and practical solutions that decision-makers need to make change happen. People will always lose their homes, but the 2018 plan ensures that fast, reliable support services will be in place to make sure everyone can find somewhere to live.
- The charity now needs the support of the general public as it seeks to remove the stigma and myths surrounding homelessness and end it for good.

About the Simon Community

- Simon Community NI is Northern Ireland's leading homelessness charity. With 300 staff and 50 volunteers, they help over 3000 people every year.
- Their aim is to support everyone and anyone who is already homeless and those who are at risk. Services offered include accommodation, health & wellbeing checks and support for young people.

Why support ending homelessness?

- Hundreds of thousands of people in the UK are homeless. They are forced to sleep on the sofas or floors of family and friends, in crowded residences like hostels and in buses or cars.
- Some have no choice but to sleep out on the streets. This isn't fair, as everyone should be entitled to decent housing.

Homelessness statistics

- More than 170,000 families and individuals are currently experiencing the worst kinds of homelessness which includes sleeping on the streets, sofa surfing with strangers, living in hostels and stuck in other dangerous situations.
- At least 38,000 under-25s are currently homeless. Around half of these sleep on the sofa or floor of a friend. At least 4,200 over-65s are also currently homeless.
- Over 20,000 households in England and Scotland are stuck in temporary accommodation, such as hotels. This has more than doubled since 2012.
- In England, rough sleeping has increased by 165% since 2010. In August 2018, figures show that an estimated 4,677 people slept rough on one particular night.

- Scotland and Wales have more stable rough-sleeping figures, but there has been little improvement, with many homeless people stuck in temporary accommodation.

Causes of homelessness

- Many people lose their homes due to high rents and low incomes. Losing government support, getting hurt, falling ill or losing a job are common causes of homelessness.
- In many areas, housing benefits are not enough to cover rising private rents, leaving tenants with less money and at risk of losing their homes.
- Cuts to other benefits, the rising cost of living and the lack of affordable homes have left people struggling to cope across the UK.

Solutions to homelessness

- Find sufficient, stable housing for all homeless people, whatever their background.
- Bring benefits into line to reflect the cost of housing.
- Help councils to rehome local people.
- Support people at risk of homelessness to stay in their homes.
- Give more security to tenants who are renting privately.
- Making sure people leaving prison, care, hospital or the armed forces are able to move into safe and secure housing.

Other resources

The generation to end homelessness: This can be the generation to end homelessness. In spring 2018, we published a plan showing the solutions that will end homelessness for good. But we aren't doing it alone and we need Everybody In to make it happen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5gv8sTD8UY>

Interactive plan to end homelessness: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/endhomelessness>

Sharon's story: Sharon became homeless after being threatened with eviction by her landlord. Over time, Jeanne-Marie, a coach at Crisis, helped her rebuild her confidence and find somewhere to live. Today Sharon has a home and is studying at college, working towards a job in health and social care. She is full of hope for what lies ahead. Jeanne-Marie and Sharon still see each other on a regular basis, to check everything's ok and help Sharon plan for the future:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ1jsw3imtU>

