

HOMELESSNESS: POLICY OVERVIEW, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

FACULTY OF HOMELESS HEALTH CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 2013



ABOUT HOMELESS LINK

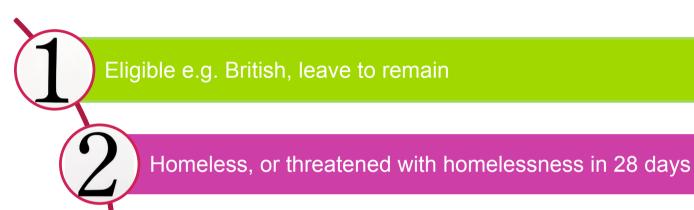
- National membership organisation for agencies working with homeless people in England
- Over 500 members

Aims to:

- Influence the development of policy, strategy and investment at all levels of government
- Raise standards in the services that support homeless people and tackle homelessness



STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS



Priority need e.g. family with dependent children, vulnerable as a result of leaving army, care or prison, domestic violence

Local connection



Not made yourself intentionally homeless



NON-STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS

Our members tend to work with single homeless or 'non-statutory' homeless people

- Most rough sleepers, those in hostels and temporary accommodation will be non-statutory homeless
- 39, 638 bedspaces in England for these clients (Nov 2012)
- Approx 200 day centres

2001

Government target to reduce rough sleeping by 2/3 by 2002 achieved



Homelessness Act duty: all LAs to have a homelessness strategy and extends 'priority need' categories.



Supporting People programme £1.6bn

2004

Target on B&B use for homeless families achieved.
EU accession

s link



2008

Government & Boris commit to end rough sleeping by 2012; 'No One Left Out ' launched



£70m
Places of
Change
Programme

2006

Call for the Government to commit to end rough sleeping in 2012.

A8 homelessness rises

2005

£90m Hostels Capital Improvement Programme



2009

London Delivery Board

95% sector providing lifeskills

2010

Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness

SP Ringfence comes off

2011

22% average cut (June)

Welfare Reform NSNO

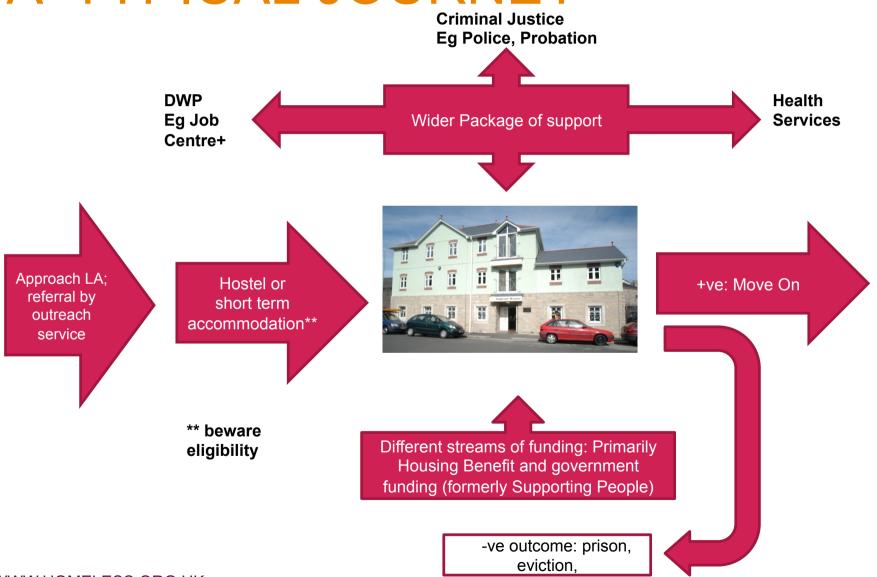
2012

Welfare Reform
Health & Social
Care Act
Street Link





A 'TYPICAL JOURNEY'



WWW.HOMELESS.ORG.UK



SOME RECENT POLICY CHANGES

- Fixed term social tenancies for new occupants
- People accepted as statutorily homeless have to accept suitable accommodation in the private rented sector
- Social housing rents will be allowed to rise to 80% of market rents (short term 'affordable rents')
- Local authorities set their own priorities to allocate social housing



A TIME OF CHANGE...

- 16% increase in households accepted as homeless by councils in England – Jan-March 2012 compared Jan-March 2011
- 5,678 rough sleepers in London in 2011/12, 43% increase from previous year CHAIN
- Rough sleeping rising a 23% increase from 2010 to 2011, further 6% increase 2011-12 – Rough Sleeping Counts & Estimates



BED SPACES - ENGLAND

39,763 on Homeless UK in May 2012

4% (1,686) fewer than in November 2011 7.5% (3,230) fewer than in November 2010

More beds lost in the last 6 months than in the 12 months to November 2011



IMPACT OF CUTS ON CLIENTS SNAP 2012

44%:

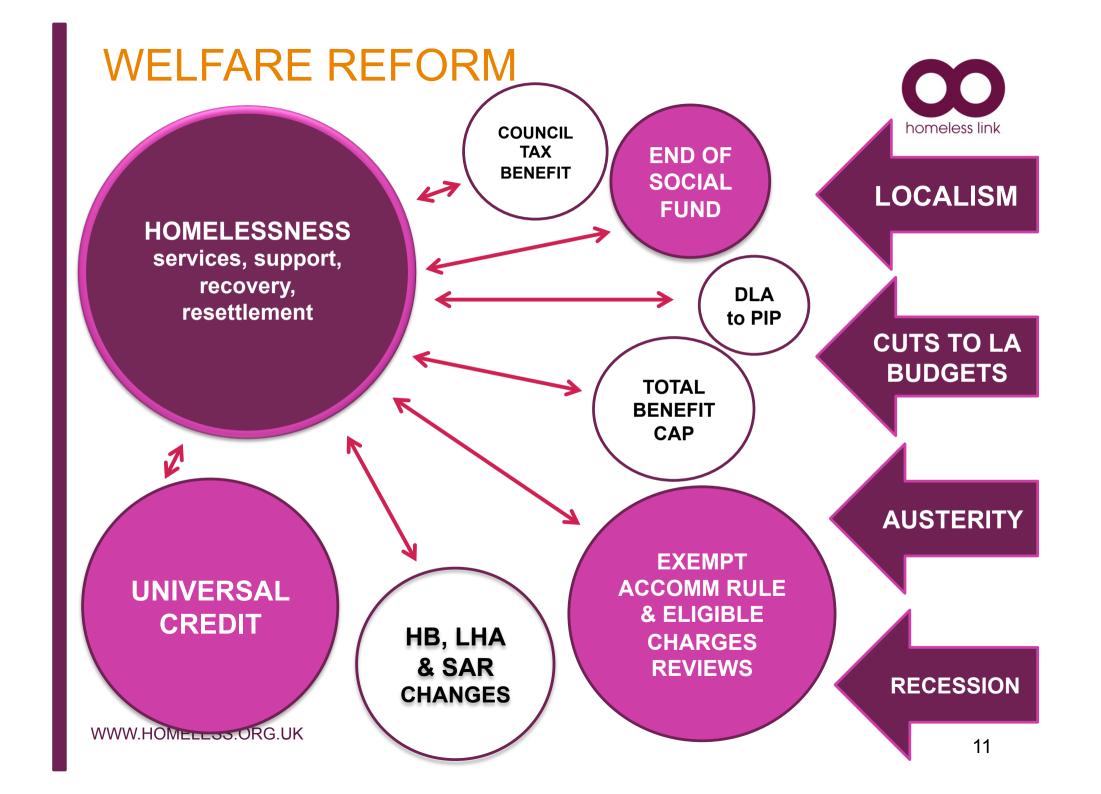
Fewer clients moving into jobs

38%:

Fewer clients moving into accommodation

52%:More rough sleeping

48%:
More anti-social behaviour







OCTOBER 2012

New sanctions regime for JSA: rules get stricter

DECEMBER 2012

New sanctions regime for ESA: rules get stricter

APRIL 2013

Discretionary Social Fund ends (Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants), local welfare assistance starts

Total Benefit Cap £350 per week for single people with no dependents; exempted: DLA claimant, ESA full support group and others

DLA phased out, Personal Independence Payments (PIP) starts

Universal Credit Pathfinders: start in a few to test the system

OCTOBER 2013

Universal Credit commences: slowly, slowly



ANY QUESTIONS?



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH?

- Wider pressures and increasing demand
- Every Contact Counts health as prevention
- New commissioning landscape
- Rising trends in the homeless population...migrants, young people, complex needs