

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

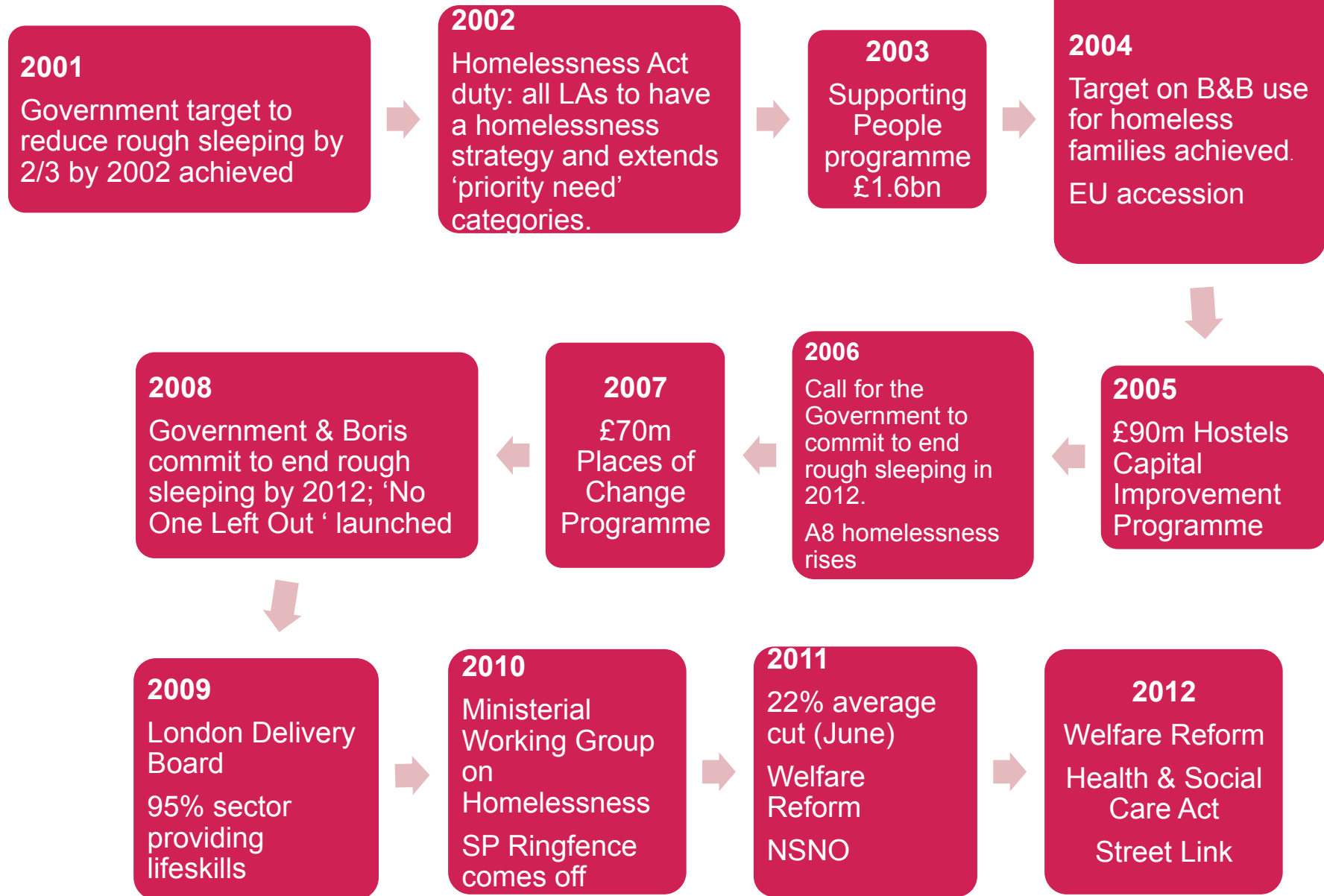
STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS

- 1 Eligible e.g. British, leave to remain
- 2 Homeless, or threatened with homelessness in 28 days
- 3 Priority need e.g. family with dependent children, vulnerable as a result of leaving army, care or prison, domestic violence
- 4 Local connection
- 5 Not made yourself intentionally homeless

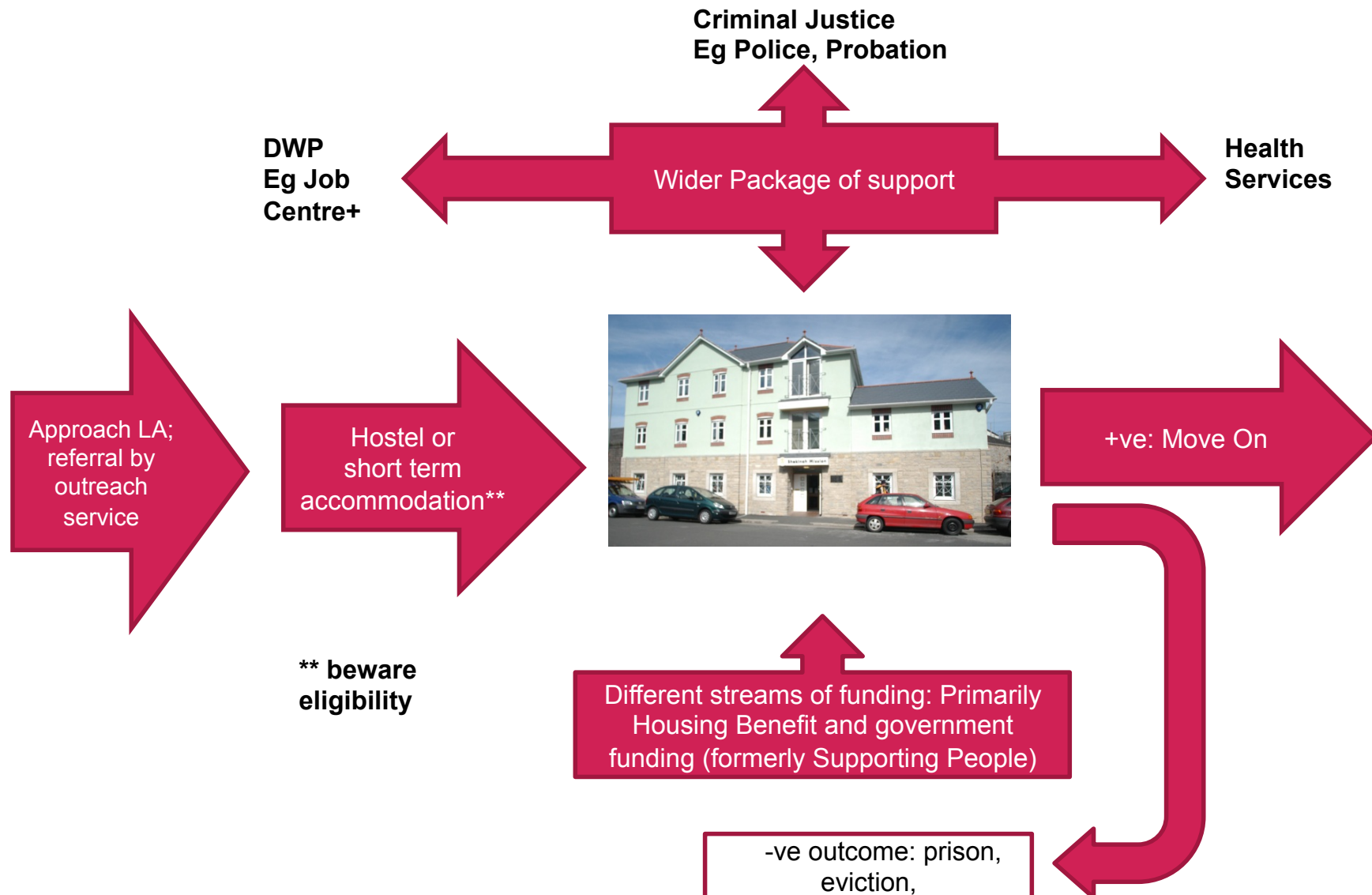
NON-STATUTORY HOMELESSNESS

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**



A 'TYPICAL JOURNEY'



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

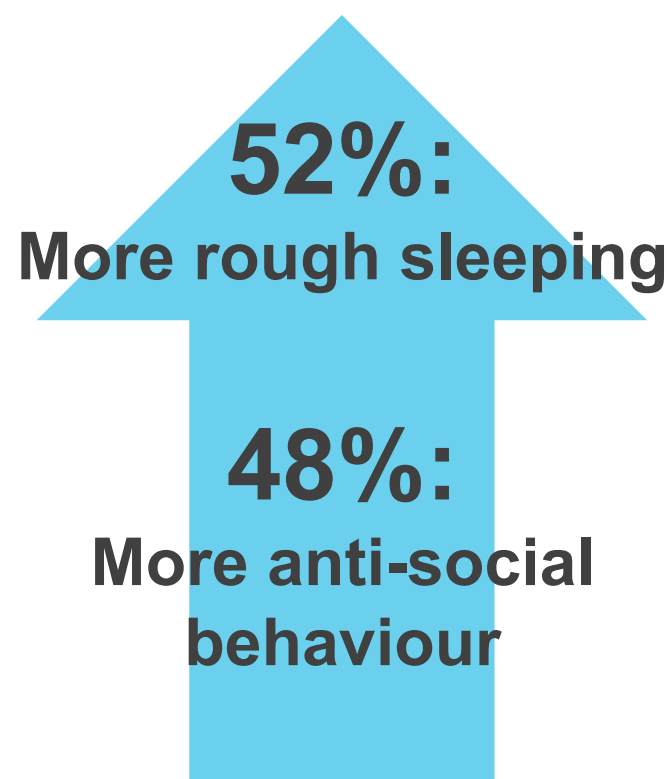
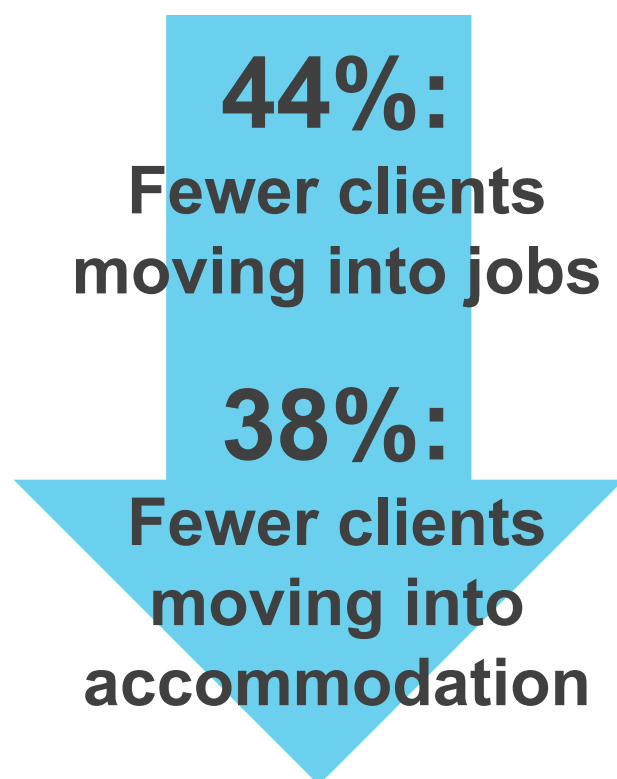
4% (1,686) fewer than in November 2011

7.5% (3,230) fewer than in November 2010

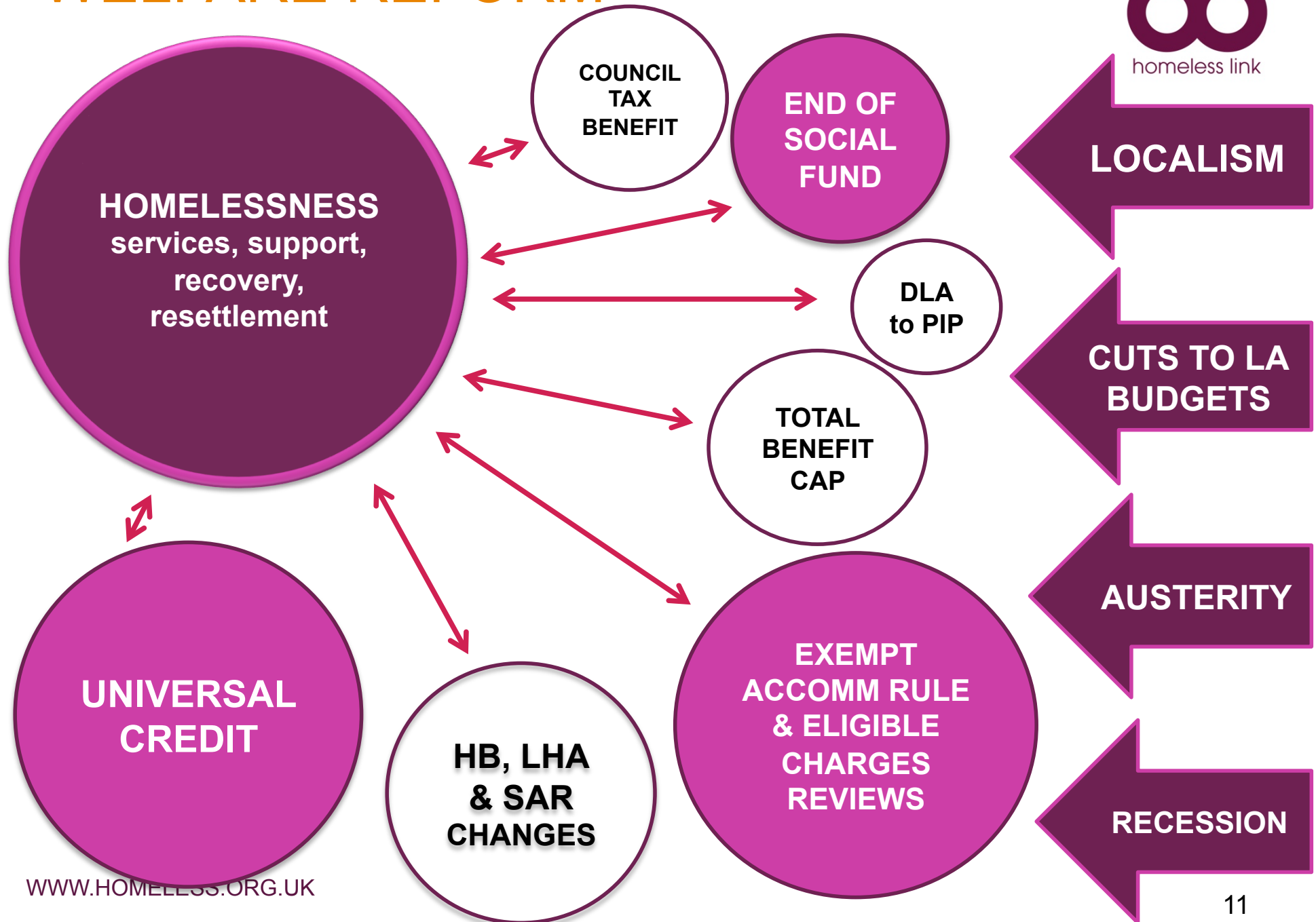
**More beds lost in the last 6 months than in the
12 months to November 2011**

IMPACT OF CUTS ON CLIENTS

SNAP 2012



WELFARE REFORM





DIARY DATES



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