

Until there's a home for everyone

From Margins to Mainstream – 5th March 2015

Carolyn Howell – Shelter policy update

Shelter

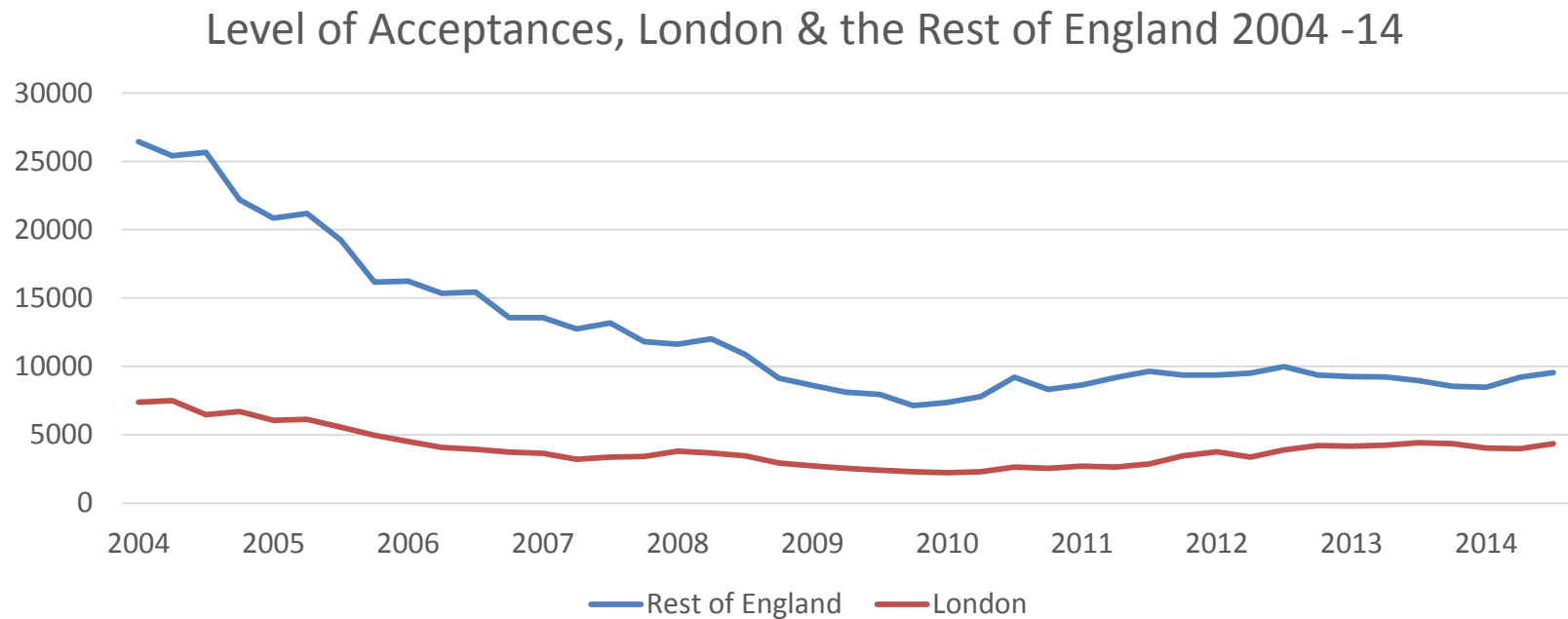
What is homelessness?

Housing Act 1996: Section 175

A person is defined as homeless under the law if s/he:

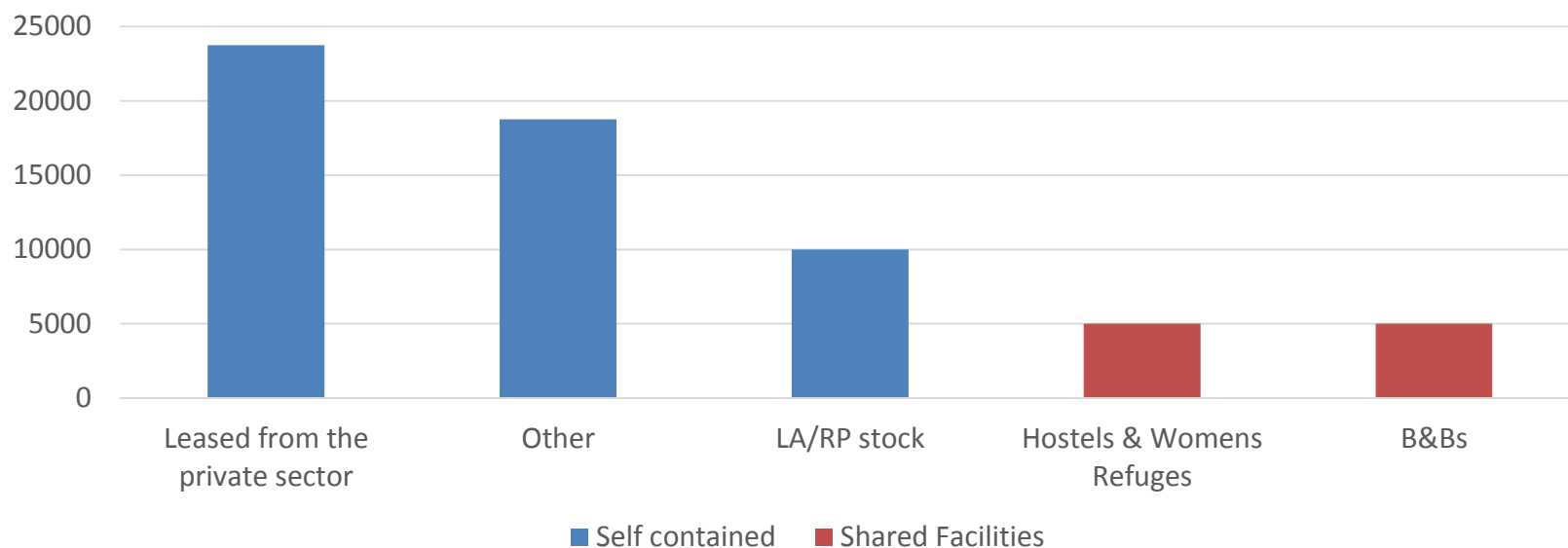
- 1. Has no accommodation available for legal occupation.**
- 2. Has accommodation but can't secure entry to it, or (if a moveable structure) has nowhere to place it or reside in it (e.g. travellers sites).**
- 3. Has accommodation which it would not be reasonable to continue to occupy ("homeless at home", e.g. overcrowding, poor conditions).**
- 4. Is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that s/he will become homeless within 28 days (retaliatory eviction).**

Level of Homelessness

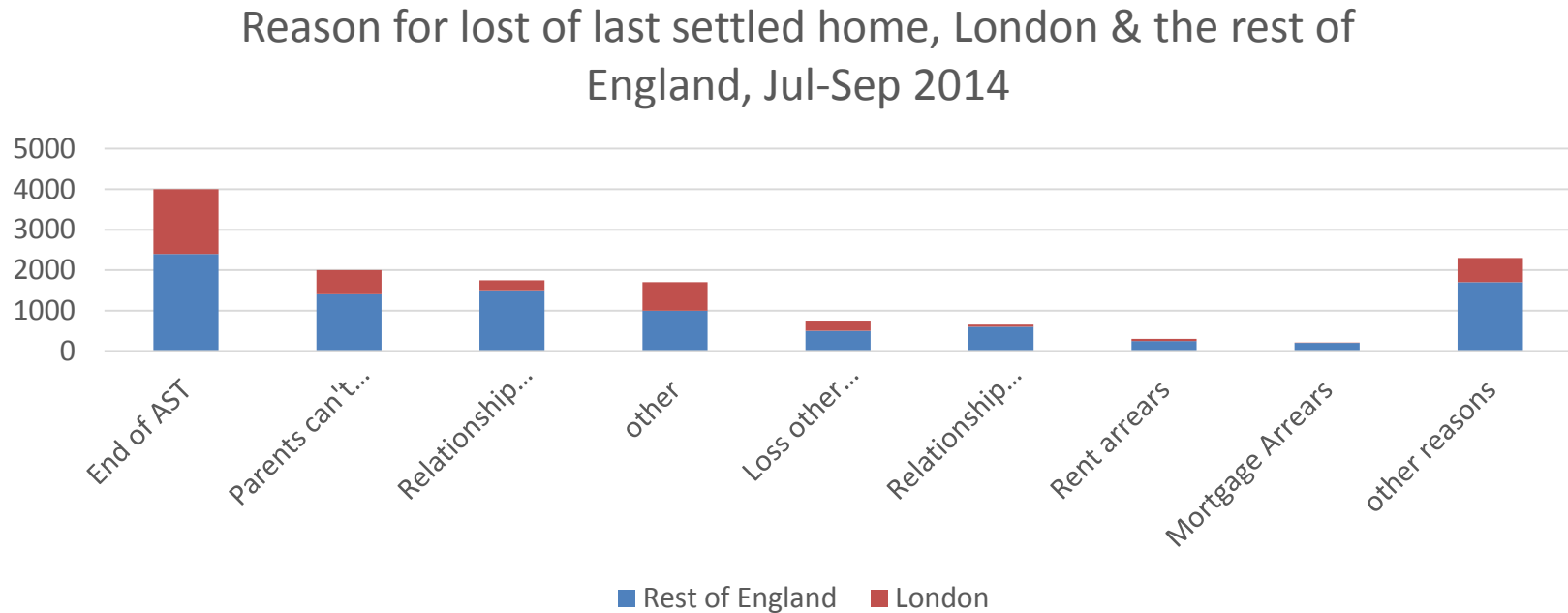


Temporary Accommodation

Households in Temporary Accommodation



Reason for loss of last accommodation



Legislation

- Housing Act 1996 & [Code of guidance]
- Localism Act 2011
- Welfare Reform Act 2012
- Immigration Act 2014
- Care Act 2014
- Mental Health Act 1983

Preventing local homelessness

Homelessness Act 2002: Section 3

Local housing authorities should publish homelessness strategies aimed at:

- (a) preventing homelessness in their district;**
- (b) securing that sufficient accommodation is and will be available for people in their district who are or may become homeless;**
- (c) securing the satisfactory provision of support for people in their district.**

This can include provisions for any public body which can contribute to ending homelessness

Welfare Reform Act 2012

- **Local Welfare assistance**
- **Under-occupation deduction in the social rented sector [aka Bedroom Tax]**
- **Universal Credit**
- **Universal Support**
- **Benefit cap**

Until there's a home for everyone

Thank you

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