


Homeless Reduction Act 2017

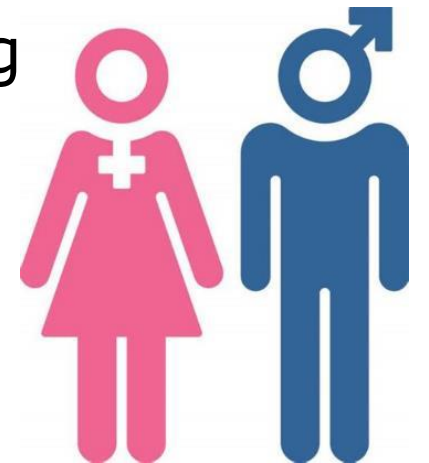
Working together to end homelessness

Overview

- The national statistical picture
 - What is homelessness?
 - The legislation
 - What the local authorities will do?
 - What you can do?
 - Questions
- 


The national statistical picture

- 4700 people slept rough on any one night in 2017.
- 169 per cent increase since 2010 and rate is rising.
- 158 deaths in London 2010-2017.
- 1 death a week average in London 2010-2017
- 2 deaths a week average in London January–April 2018
- 10 times more likely to die prematurely if you sleep rough
- Average age of death for people sleeping rough,
Women 43yrs Men 47yrs



What is homelessness?

- Rough sleeping
 - Statutory homelessness
 - Hidden homelessness

 - Tenancies and relationships breakdown
 - People leave institutions
 - Lack of accommodation solutions
- 

Debt DOMESTIC ABUSE In fear from
Poor Housing person outside
Conditions FIRE FLOOD home
Loss of Evictions Poor Housing
HAZARDOUS
CONDITIONS tied FIRE Conditions
accommodation FIRE
SOFA SURFING Section 21 DEBT Exploitation
Squatting Family Eviction
FIRE Loss of tied accommodation
DEBT SOFA SURFING FIRE
Hazardous FLOOD Evictions Hoarding
conditions DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Suffolk picture

- 229% increase 2010-2018 in people sleeping rough, from 24 to 55
- 640 households recorded as statutorily homeless 2017-18
- Not including households in precarious housing situations (hidden homeless)

	No. rough sleepers (Autumn 2018)
Babergh	0
Forest Heath	2
Ipswich	11
Mid Suffolk	0
St Edmundsbury	20
Suffolk Coastal	8
Waveney	14
Total	55

Legal definition of homelessness

Homeless and threatened homeless - Housing Act 1996

- Homeless if person has no accommodation available to them to occupy in the UK or elsewhere in the world, that they have a right to occupy. Also if
- they cannot secure entry to the accommodation they have,
- accommodation is not considered reasonable for them to occupy,
- They have a boat or caravan but have nowhere to put it.

Legal Definition of Threatened with Homelessness

Housing Act 1996, Part 7, s175 (4)

- It is likely that they will become homeless in 56 days
- They have a valid Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 and it expires within 56 days

56

The Homeless Reduction Act 2017

- Local housing authorities are required to intervene at an earlier stage and take reasonable steps to:
 - Prevent homelessness for those threatened with homelessness
 - Relieve homelessness for those who are homeless
- The Act added the Duty of Public Authorities to refer cases to local housing authorities

Prevent

Relieve

Duty

Public Authorities with a Duty to Refer

- prisons
- young offender institutions
- secure training centres
- secure colleges
- youth offending teams
- probation services (including community rehabilitation companies)
- Jobcentres in England
- social service authorities (adult and children's)
- emergency departments
- urgent treatment centres
- hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care
- Secretary of State for Defence in relation to members of the regular armed forces

The Duty to Refer

- Triggered when a public authority considers that a person may be homeless or threatened with homelessness
- Before referring, consent must be sought – UNLESS a child or considered a vulnerable person
- The NHS guide includes a template form to email for staff to use
- The guide suggests that the referral is sent to the relevant authority.
- Standard email addresses are in place for each local authority
dutytorefer@insertlocalauthorityname.gov.uk

What the Local Authority will do?

- Respond to any referrals received. (Please provide contact details and reason for homelessness or threat of homelessness.)
- Establish what duty is owed to the person under the legislation
 - Prevention Duty?
 - Relief Duty?
- Provide the most appropriate level of advice and assistance to fulfil the duty owed.

What you can do?

- Recognise the problem:
debt? poor housing conditions? domestic abuse?
- Commit to the Duty to Refer principles,
- Refer early. Don't leave it until crisis point,
- Provide clear information,
- Use questions:
 1. Are you having problems with your accommodation?
 2. Would you like to be referred for some advice?



working together, we can help
to end homelessness

dutytorefer@insertlocalauthorityname.gov.uk

Thank you

