COVID-19 and Homelessness

Resource list
Last updated 16 September 2020

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Let’s end homelessness together
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Introduction

This document contains links to a range of resources relating to COVID-19 that you may find useful. The list is now only updated occasionally, so please be aware that things may have become outdated. Bear in mind that any information or practice may need to be adapted to your local context.

Homeless Link Resources

This link includes our FAQs document, previous webinars and a number of good practice resources collected during lockdown – note that these resources are no longer frequently updated:

www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness

Training and events (both free and low cost) for homelessness and related sectors:

www.homeless.org.uk/events

General Guidance and Toolkits

Health guidance for homelessness services

PHE have published guidance for commissioners, managers and staff of hostels which provide services for single adults experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping:


PHE guidance for managers, care and support workers of supported living services (i.e. supporting people in their homes):


Groundswell Listen Up

Planning tool based on research with people with lived experience:

https://groundswell.org.uk/listen-up/

Centre for Homelessness Impact Homelessness Index

The tool combines data on COVID-19 cases by upper tier LA areas and numbers of individuals living in temporary accommodation:

www.homelessnessimpact.org/post/covidindex

LGA information and guidance related to housing and homelessness


The Charity Commission guidance for the charity sector


Crisis, Groundswell, and Pathway criteria for a comprehensive local response to COVID-19

Resources for Local Authorities
Crisis open access toolkit for Local Authorities:

Care Act Easements (a guide for Local Authorities):

NHS England triage and cohort accommodation plan
Slides: www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness

Pathway COVID-19 Homeless Sector Plan
Pathway’s protocol set out a triage-based approach, mobilising healthcare agencies in order to move people homeless on the streets or in unsuitable accommodation such as night shelters into appropriate housing with support – including clinical support – to manage risk of Covid-19 infection:

LGA good practice case studies around COVID-19:

LGA live case tracker report for upper tier LA areas:

Voices of Stoke have written about aspects of decision making when an LA is considering ending a duty to accommodate during the pandemic due to challenging behaviour:

MHCLG and PHE published guidance on moves, both in private and social housing sectors:

Centre for Homelessness Impact Housing Costs Calculator tool to help local leaders weigh up the cost of various accommodation options, taking into account the support needs of individuals:
www.homelessnessimpact.org/housing-costs-calculator

LGA guidance on next steps/recovery planning for Local Authorities, which emphasises the importance of health in decision making:

Bromley Community Options toolkit for both tenants and landlords to support individuals in to longer-term accommodation: www.tenantandlandlordtoolkit.co.uk/
Resources for hotels and hostels
Downloadable posters to aid social distancing and infection control to be put up around hotels and hostels: [http://homelesshealthnetwork.net/other-resources/](http://homelesshealthnetwork.net/other-resources/)  The London Network of Nurses and Midwives (LNNM) are also happy to share other resources. They can be contacted via email: lnnmhomeless@gmail.com


Resources for Staff

Day Services

Kings College London have put together a document on helping day centres to ‘unlock lockdown’, including some of the practicalities of re-opening: [www.kcl.ac.uk/scwru/res/ARC-SL/unlock-lockdown](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/scwru/res/ARC-SL/unlock-lockdown)

Staff Wellbeing and Support


Mind have also written about maintaining your wellbeing as a keyworker: [www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coping-as-a-key-worker](http://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coping-as-a-key-worker)

Good Thinking have a number of useful resources to support your well-being: [www.good-thinking.uk/coronavirus/](http://www.good-thinking.uk/coronavirus/)

Mental Health Foundation have published information on looking after your mental health, while working, during COVID-19: [www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak/while-working](http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak/while-working)

MHFA have produced a selection of guidance to protect your mental health while working remotely: [https://mhfaengland.org/remote-working-resources/](https://mhfaengland.org/remote-working-resources/)
For Managers
NCVO information on protecting and supporting individuals working in the organisation:

NAVCA information supporting staff and volunteers during traumatic situations:

MHFA resources including a line managers’ resource for best practice advice on how to support an employee experiencing a mental health issue:
https://mhfaengland.org/mhfa-centre/resources/for-workplaces/

Online Discussion Forums
Future NHS Homelessness and Inclusion Health workspace – includes members across health, homelessness and related sectors sharing practice and solving local problems. To join:
1. Register on www.future.nhs.uk (it’s free and easy)
2. Once registered request access to the workspace by emailing: HomelessHealthCOVID19-manager@future.nhs.uk. Check your emails (including your junk folder) for the confirmation email and confirm that you want to join.

St Martin’s Frontline Network COVID-19 Frontline Worker Support Forum is a space dedicated to sharing frontline worker information, guidance and solutions relating to the COVID-19 outbreak:

Practice resources
Work and Benefits
Information from the DWP:
www.understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk/employment-and-benefits-support/

DWP have published guidance on making a new claim:

Changes to circumstances:

Individuals who are unable to work for more than seven days due to COVID-19 can obtain an isolation note:

Turn2us have published financial advice for individuals:
www.turn2us.org.uk/get-support/Benefits-and-Coronavirus
Drug and Alcohol Use


PHE operational advice for alcohol, drugs and nicotine in emergency accommodation for people experiencing rough sleeping: [www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/PHE%20Alcohol%20drugs%20and%20nicotine%20in%20emergency%20accommodation.pdf](http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/PHE%20Alcohol%20drugs%20and%20nicotine%20in%20emergency%20accommodation.pdf)

Change Grow Live have outlined what is happening to medication-assisted treatment prescriptions in their services during the COVID-19 pandemic: [www.changegrowlive.org/advice-info/coronavirus/methadone-buprenorphine-prescriptions](http://www.changegrowlive.org/advice-info/coronavirus/methadone-buprenorphine-prescriptions)

Their website includes accessible harm reduction advice for people using drugs and alcohol: [www.changegrowlive.org/advice-info/coronavirus](http://www.changegrowlive.org/advice-info/coronavirus)

More detailed CGL guidance on Harm reduction strategies for alcohol dependence is shared here: [www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness](http://www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness)

Release have produced printable resources for service users who need to go out to get medication/injecting equipment, in case they are stopped by police: [www.release.org.uk/coronavirus-covid19-resources](http://www.release.org.uk/coronavirus-covid19-resources)


Alcoholics Anonymous provide a tool for finding online AA meetings/groups: [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/members/regional-&-local-websites/Not-in-a-Region/Online-Groups/Meetings](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/members/regional-&-local-websites/Not-in-a-Region/Online-Groups/Meetings)

NHS SMPA published a harm reduction guide for self-reducing alcohol intake at home during the pandemic: [https://nhssmpa.org/blog/alcohol-harm-reduction-advice-for-service-users](https://nhssmpa.org/blog/alcohol-harm-reduction-advice-for-service-users)

King’s College London have co-designed and developed a free app with people using substances. It includes features of substance use, naloxone, sleep, artwork etc: [www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/depts/addictions/research/measures/sureapp/index](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/depts/addictions/research/measures/sureapp/index)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence has produced guidance for drug and alcohol residential rehab and detox services, including testing and social distancing: [www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19/drugs-alcohol-rehab-detox](http://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19/drugs-alcohol-rehab-detox)

Young People
The Mix: online support for people aged 13-25. They connect people to experts and peers who provide information, support and tools to the on whatever challenges they are facing: [www.themix.org.uk/](http://www.themix.org.uk/)
They have set up a dedicated user-forum for people who want to talk about COVID-19: https://community.themix.org.uk/categories/coronavirus-covid-19

Young Minds: a series of blogs related to coronavirus focused on topics of mental health and wellbeing, including looking after your mental health while self-isolating, what to do if you are anxious about COVID-19, and coping with an eating disorder during the pandemic: https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/

Kooth: An online counselling and emotional well-being platform for children and young people, accessible through mobile, tablet, desktop, and free at the point of use. Open: Monday - Friday 12pm - 10pm, Saturday - Sunday 6pm - 10pm: www.kooth.com

Young Scot have produced information for young people: https://young.scot/campaigns/national/coronavirus

RUSI have noted the impact of COVID-19 on County Lines and patterns of drug supply: https://shoc.rusi.org/informer/part-2-how-covid-19-affecting-county-lines

Women
The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) have detailed a list of resources for housing providers on responding to Domestic Abuse during the COVID-19 outbreak: www.dahalliance.org.uk/resources/information-on-covid-19/

Women’s Aid have published COVID-19 Advice for Domestic Abuse Survivors, this is also useful for frontline services so they know what women are being advised and how they can offer some of this support: www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-safety-advice-for-survivors/

Women’s Aid have published joint-sector survivor and community safety and support resources: www.womensaid.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-safety-and-support-resources/
This includes an online, confidential chat function: https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/


Refuge have detailed safety tips for survivors to stay safe during isolation: www.refuge.org.uk/covid19-survivor-tips/

Rights of Women have published guidance on child contact arrangements during COVID-19: https://rightsofwomen.org.uk/get-information/family-law/coronavirus-and-child-contact-arrangements/

Surviving Economic Abuse have produced guidance on economic abuse while self-isolating: https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/resources/

Chayn have information on how victim survivors can secure their devices: https://chayn.co/safety/


**LGBTQ+**

The Outside Project have created a virtual community centre: https://lgbtiqoutside.org/

AKT have compiled a list of resources to support young LGBTQ+ people: www.akt.org.uk/covid-19

London Friend have produced resources around substance misuse and chemsex during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://londonfriend.org.uk/antidote-home-care/

**Sexual Health**

The British Association of Sexual Health and HIV have posted guidance on sex, social distancing and COVID-19 including advice for individuals with HIV and advice for individuals who have been raped or sexually attacked: https://members.bashh.org/Documents/COVID-19/Sex%20Social%20Distancing%20COVID19%20BASHH%20FAQs%20-%2020260320.pdf


**NRPF, migration, and refugees**

NRPF Network have produced a factsheet for supporting those with NRPF: www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/Documents/coronavirus-factsheet.pdf

ASAP (Asylum Support Appeals Project) have produced a Factsheet (number 20) that cover the changes in eligibility for asylum support as a result of COVID-19: www.asaproject.org/resources

The Mayor of London website has detailed information for non-UK nationals most of which is relevant to people wherever in the country they are based: www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/eu-londoners-hub/information-covid-19-non-uk-nationals

Public Health England have produced guidance stating that there can be no charge made to migrants for the treatment of COVID-19: www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide

NRPF Network have published information that explores rights to social services assessment (and potential subsequent support with care and accommodation) for individuals who are NRPF: http://guidance.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/reader/practice-guidance-adults/eligibility-for-care-and-support/

Chartered Institute of Housing have produced a factsheet to help those working with individuals with different kinds of immigration status: www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/CV19_Working_with_migrants.pdf

Garden Court North Chambers have a directory of information and sources of support for immigrants, asylum-seekers and their representatives during COVID-19: https://gcnchambers.co.uk/publication/immigration/


**Modern Day Slavery**


ATLEU have drafted a letter template you can use if a survivor is denied housing due to concerns of COVID-19 related symptoms, although they have a legal entitlement to accommodation under the National Referral Mechanism: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bCnhd4mVHaPuf1n7pGibm0_16L4nifW0J8NuDLrrok/edit

Stop the Traffik have developed a training video specifically to support staff and volunteers working in the hotels and other emergency homelessness accommodation to spot the signs of modern slavery: https://future.nhs.uk/connect.ti/HomelessHealthCOVID19/view?objectId=20298032

NHS document outlining ways that COVID-19 may increase risk of modern slavery and exploitation: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599abfb4e6f2e19ff048494f/t/5ea06a80fae144382bd4ace2/1587571328625/COVID-19+Modern+Slavery+and+Human+Trafficking+RR%5B2%5D.pdf

**Gypsy and Traveller Communities**


Pavee Point have developed resources for Irish Travellers and Roma: www.paveepoint.ie/covid-19-information-resources/

Chartered Institute of Housing have produced a factsheet for assisting gypsies and travellers during the COVID-19 pandemic: www.cih.org/resources/PDF/Policy%20free%20download%20pdfs/CV19%20Assisting%20Gypsies%20and%20Travellers.pdf

Police and Enforcement
Liberty have published advice and information on what the police are able to do during the COVID-19 pandemic, covering the latest laws, regulations, and guidance:

Liberty have produced an advice postcard to help individuals experiencing homelessness to stay safe and defend their rights during COVID-19:
https://twitter.com/libertyhq/status/1260097232721805312

Criminal Justice System
Clinks web page to give sector specific information and to collate essential updates:

NHS England have published guidance on how to support individuals, released from custody, to access medicines and pharmacy services:

Government guidance on how to apply for a domestic abuse injunction for unrepresented applicants:

PHE and Ministry of Justice guidance on preventing and controlling outbreaks of COVID-19 in prisons and places of detention:

Supporting individuals who won’t self-isolate
Interim guidance produced by Camden & Islington and Lewisham Public Health Teams:
www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness

MEAM (Making Every Adult Matter) have written a blog on providing safe accommodation for people experiencing multiple disadvantage during COVID-19:
http://meam.org.uk/2020/04/09/providing-accommodation-for-those-experiencing-multiple-disadvantage/

Slide set with tips from Homeless Link based on member feedback:
www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness

Riverside have produced a guide on helping individuals to self-isolate during COVID-19:

Llywodraeth Cymru Welsh Government have published guidance for dealing with individuals who are unwilling or unable to self-isolate or follow lockdown instructions:

COVID-19 Resource list – last updated 16 September 2020

The Local Government Association, together with the Association of Directors of Public Health, have produced guidance on loneliness and social isolation issues arising from the pandemic: www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Loneliness%20social%20isolation%20and%20COVID-19%20WEB.pdf

**Suicide Prevention**

Homeless Link have published guidance for homelessness services to develop their approach to suicide prevention, including information for individuals who are feeling suicidal: www.homeless.org.uk/suicide-prevention

National Suicide Prevention Alliance have listed a number of resources related to suicide prevention: www.nspa.org.uk/resources/

National Suicide Prevention Alliance are also hosting online discussion/support groups for organisations. Subjects include: staff and volunteer well-being, changes to service delivery, and bereavement support. For more information please email: info@nspa.org.uk

**Trauma Informed Care**

Homeless Link have published guidance for frontline teams to use trauma and psychologically informed approaches: https://homeless.org.uk/trauma-informed-care-and-psychologically-informed-environments


Aneemo have a free course related to providing COVID-19 training and support for frontline staff: https://academy.aneemo.com/p/covid-19-support

**Housing First**

Advice for Housing First services on how to offer support remotely while observing social distancing rules during the COVID-19 pandemic: https://hfe.homeless.org.uk/resource/covid-19

**Mental Health**

The Psychological Therapies Unit are offering free 15 minute online or telephone solution-focused therapy sessions to those who are experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable individuals: https://workingconversationsgroup.org/lets-keep-talking/

Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership have produced translated booklets for people containing breathing techniques: www.awp.nhs.uk/news-publications/publications/patient-information/translated/

The Helen Bamber Foundation have produced a page around support for those struggling with their mental health during COVID-19: www.helenbamber.org/coronavirus-resources/coronavirus-support/

**Health**

Healthy London Partnership have published a number of resources related to health and the homelessness sector:


Cabinet Office have published a page related to face coverings - when to wear one and how to make one. The page also allows individuals to fill out a template to show they are exempt from wearing a mask in the form of a badge or a card: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own)

**Hospital Discharge**

NHS England have produced advice for primary care and community health services as they work with people who have been discharged from hospital for COVID-19:  

Testing
Eligible staff working with individuals who are homeless are included in the groups for priority testing for COVID-19:  

Department of Health and Social Care have published guidance how employers can play their part in the NHS test and trace programme:  
www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-workplace-guidance

Department of Health and Social Care have published guidance that gives an overview of the NHS test and trace service:  
www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works

Death and Bereavement
Compassion in Dying have produced information on how to make your wishes known if you are diagnosed with COVID-19:  
https://coronavirus.compassionindying.org.uk/making-decisions-about-treatment/
PHE have published guidance that should be followed when the death of an individual is related to COVID-19:  

Housing LIN have a number of resources for the housing sector on end of life care:  

The Royal College of General Practitioners and the Association for Palliative Medicine produced a guide to end of life care symptom control when an individual is dying from COVID-19:  

Pathway have produced a toolkit that provides information and resources to support frontline staff when someone is identified as approaching the end of life:  
www.homelesspalliativecare.com/

Quaker Social Action have published advice on funeral planning during the COVID-19 pandemic:  
https://quakersocialaction.org.uk/we-can-help/helping-funerals/down-earth/coronavirus-organising-meaningful-funeral

Cruse Bereavement Care have compiled resources related to how bereavement and grief may be affected by the pandemic:  

Fulfilling Lives LSL guidance on managing the death of an individual during COVID-19:  

Fulfilling Lives LSL guidance on support during a period of bereavement:  
The Good Grief Trust website can help you find other services, such as help for those who have experienced the death of a child: https://www.thegoodgrieftrust.org/

Pets
Local Authorities or homelessness services can contact the Dogs Trust Hope Project for guidance and support for people with pets via: www.moretodogstrust.org.uk/contact-us/contact-us
PDSA addressed questions regarding pets: www.pdsa.org.uk/what-we-do/blog/vet-qa-can-pets-catch-coronavirus

Arts
Organisations including Choir With No Name, Accumulate and Streetwise Opera offer a weekly homelessness arts timetable that includes podcasting, singing, creativity, and chill out & chat: https://withonevoice.sharepoint.com/:w/g/EREWR9e6aFHIFZsTG-Xg_wBblqVwDxG_I5Rh31mlvIQ?rtime=qROKl01a2Eg

With One Voice host an International Arts and Homelessness Forum on the last Wednesday of every month, join at 10am or 5pm. Email david@with-one-voice.com for more info on how to Zoom in.

Digital Inclusion
Good Things Foundation free one-hour self-learning session on their Learn My Way platform covering online GP appointments and video calling: www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/using_the_internet_to_get_ready_for_coronavirus.pdf
www.goodthingsfoundation.org/learn-my-way

Good Things Foundation initiative “make it click” for individuals with very limited digital skills: https://makeitclick.learnmyway.com/directory


Transition Planning
MEAM working document to support local areas with transition planning: http://meam.org.uk/covid-19-resources/transition-planning/

Housing First England guidance for individuals being offered Housing First: https://hfe.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Guide%20for%20people%20offered%20Housing%20First.pdf

Homeless Link “Everyone in for good” plan and campaign document, and more detailed policy and practice papers: www.homeless.org.uk/connect/blogs/2020/may/18/everyoneinforgood%E2%80%93-ending-rough-sleeping-for-good-after-lockdown


Crisis transition planning toolkit: www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/resources-for-practitioners/covid-19-transition-planning/
Translating Resources
Doctors of the World have translated the Government’s COVID-19 information into 60 languages:
www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/coronavirus-information/

Resources for people who may have difficulties with reading or understanding language is available from the Aphasia Friendly group in English and other languages:
www.aphasiafriendly.co/covid-19-accessible-information.html

Groundswell have produced guidance on COVID-19 for individuals who live in Hostels or Temporary Accommodation:
https://groundswell.org.uk/coronavirus/


Groundswell have also produced advice on accessing and managing benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic:


PHE have published information for shielding and protecting people from COVID-19 in 12 different languages:

Poles in Need C.I.C have created a web page with a wide range of services in Polish:
www.pincic.org/pl/pomoc-covid-19/

Leeds City Council have produced a number of videos regarding COVID-19 information in different languages:
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLggQFjpTLgpIq0r7-nFO9mT6j8Yk2vKBt

An infographic about the NHS Test and Trace programme has been produced in different languages (English, Arabic, Polish, Urdu, French, Gujarati, Somali, Portuguese, Tamil, Sorani Kurdish, Spanish, and Italian):
https://threadderapp.com/thread/1277241568341241857.html
COVID-19 infographics, translated into 40 languages, including wearing a mask, self-care, and shop advice: [https://covid19graphics.info/](https://covid19graphics.info/)

NHS Walsall CCG have translated advice on accessing local health services – an important message

- **Polish**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3no-Pa-Ig0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3no-Pa-Ig0)
- **Arabic**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5t4U89lt0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5t4U89lt0k)
- **Romanian**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MN8SvMhWHc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MN8SvMhWHc)
- **Kurdish**: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXYL7kTqMDA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXYL7kTqMDA)