



Support for
single homeless
people in England
Annual Review 2016

In brief...

Homelessness can happen to anyone at any time. In fact, with one in ten people in England saying they have personally experienced homelessness¹, the need for effective support is clear. When it happens, the causes, as well as the help people subsequently need, and for which they are eligible, vary widely.

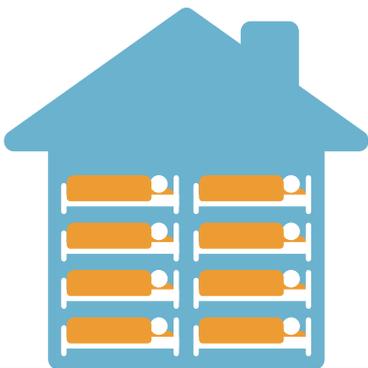
The assistance someone can get depends on their circumstances, and some people find it difficult to access the help they need. This particularly applies to people who become single homeless – people without dependants who are, generally, unless they are found to be 'vulnerable', not eligible for the main duty of statutory support under homelessness legislation but there is a duty to provide advice and assistance. Many of these people rely on services and projects in the homelessness sector to provide them with accommodation and help them address the issues that led to, or maintain, their homelessness. However, the nature, extent and demand for these services are changing rapidly, as is the environment in which they operate.

This executive summary sets out the main findings of our report, **Support for single homeless people in England 2016**. It offers essential evidence for services, commissioners, policy-makers and others planning for the needs of people who become homeless in England. It shows how demand and funding fluctuate, and how services respond to these changes, as well as to shifting expectations about their role.

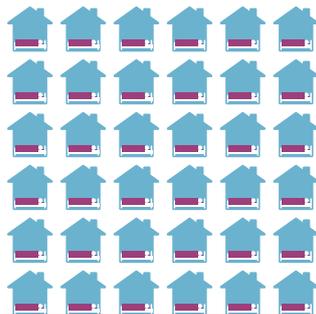


Ray Douglas of Homeless Link's Expert Advisory Panel speaking at a special London Mayoral Election hustings.

Availability of homelessness services



There are currently
35,727
bed spaces available in
homelessness accommodation
projects.

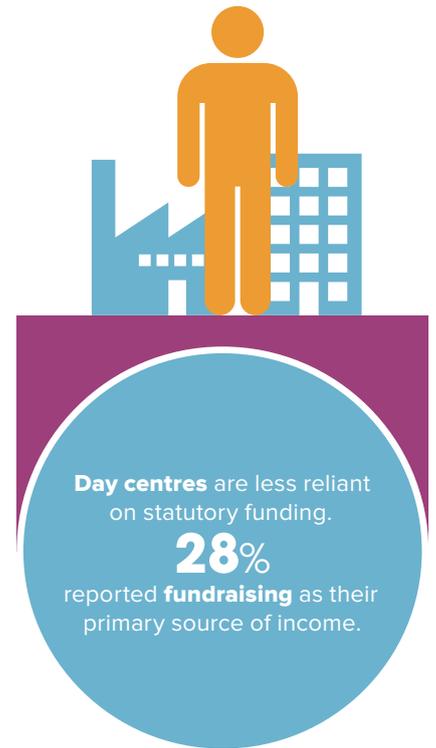


There are
1,185
accommodation projects.

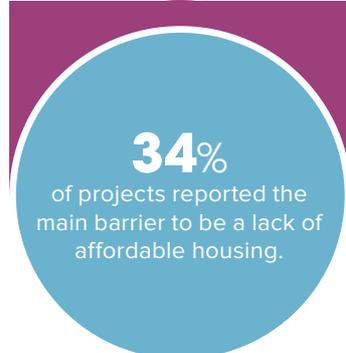


There are
214
homelessness day centres.

Resources for homelessness services



Accessing move on accommodation

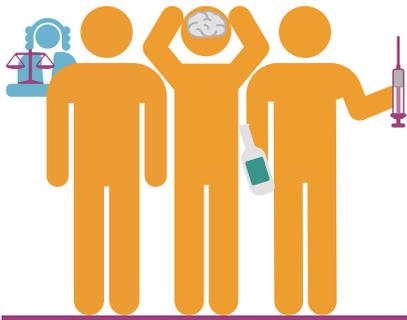


What our survey respondents said...

Projects report problems with **landlords unwilling to accept housing benefit tenants**.



People often have a range of support needs



33% of people in accommodation projects have **complex needs and need additional support**. **Mental health problems** affect **32%** of clients, **drug issues** affect **31%** and **alcohol issues** affect **23%**.



Some people need support to help get their lives back on track

40% of people in accommodation projects are **jobseekers**, and **23%** have an **offending history**.



If people's needs are too great, they may be denied access to services

73% of accommodation projects have had to **turn people away** because their needs were too high.

Support goes further than just providing a roof



93% of services help people with **life skills**, such as budgeting and cooking.



70% of accommodation projects provide **prevention services** to help prevent homelessness happening in the first place.



49% of projects use **shared accommodation** schemes.



50% use **rent deposit/bond** schemes.

Download the **full report**

www.homeless.org.uk/state-of-the-sector

Homeless Link has tracked provision for single people in the homelessness sector since 2008, looking at changing needs and changes in the support available.

Support for Single Homeless People in England 2016 is based on two surveys, carried out with 394² homelessness accommodation providers and 53³ day centres, analysis of our Homeless England database,⁴ our member base,⁵ analysis of secondary data sources, and case studies collated through telephone interviews with staff working in homeless services.⁶

Notes

1. Experience of homelessness – from omnibus survey by Populus for Homeless Link, 11-12 September 2013.
2. A response rate of 33%.
3. A response rate of 25%.
4. The Homeless England database holds information about accommodation projects. Whilst not a comprehensive coverage it is the most accurate source of homelessness services in England.
5. Homeless Link has over 550 members that work directly with people who experience homelessness in England.
6. A more detailed methodology can be found in chapter 1 of the full report.



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Let's **end**
homelessness
together

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