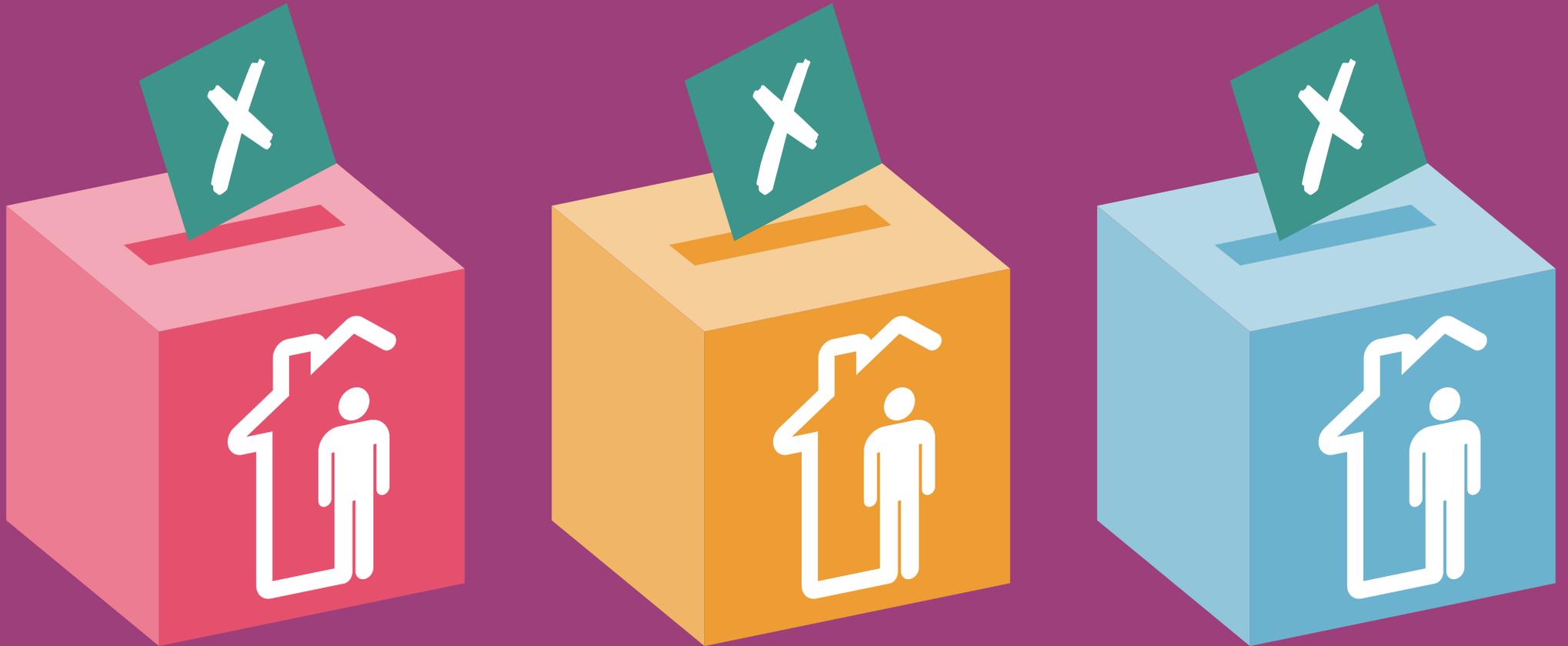




#EveryoneInForGood



Everyone in for good

Local election manifesto 2021

In May 2021 every corner of England will go to the polls to elect local councils, mayors and police and crime commissioners. All of these authorities have responsibility for housing and homelessness. Homeless Link, and our 800 members across the country are calling on all local government candidates to sign the Everyone In for Good pledge.

The pledge calls for the efforts from the pandemic to **bring everyone in**, to be built upon to create a long term and sustained end to homelessness in England.

The 2021 local elections take place in an extraordinary context. In March 2020 as Covid-19 took hold, the government required that everyone sleeping rough be brought into emergency accommodation for their own safety. Of the 30,000 brought in, two thirds were moved on to longer term accommodation. But as we enter this election period we know that many thousands of people are left in temporary accommodation. And the inevitable economic hardship that will follow the pandemic threatens the homes of thousands more people.

Homeless Link and its members want this election to mark a turning point for people without homes. Building on the unprecedented partnership working in March last year we want to speed up the process to end rough sleeping and homelessness for ever.



This requires urgent and concerted efforts to **help people who are already sleeping rough**. We know that to achieve this requires a partnership approach across support services – including housing, health services and employment services.



We also need to **prevent people from becoming homeless**. This means intervening early to support vulnerable people and families. To ensure they are getting the help they need from welfare services and others who can prevent homelessness.



Finally we need to make sure that there is an adequate supply of appropriate and affordable housing.

Local government has a critical role to play across all three areas. And we hope that every local politician elected on 6 May 2021 will **sign our pledge** to make this a priority in their work. This way, by working together we can end homelessness for ever.

Our pledges are based on our years of experience, and the experience of our members on the frontline of delivering services. Details of our supporting research and policy positions can be found on our website.

About Homeless Link

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for services working directly with people experiencing homelessness, or living with housing with health, care and support needs. Representing more than 800 members across England, we work to improve services through research, training and guidance, and to promote policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

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020 7840 4430 www.homeless.org.uk [@Homelesslink](https://www.facebook.com/homelesslink) [@homelesslink](https://www.instagram.com/homelesslink)

Homeless Link is a charity no. 1089173 and a company no. 04313826



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If elected I will not treat homelessness as inevitable and will work to end homelessness throughout my area.

WHY?

Homelessness is not inevitable. With the right support people can be helped off the streets and into long term accommodation. Further homelessness can be prevented.



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Specifically, I will ensure that **rough sleeping is ended** in my area by 2024 in line with the government commitment. I will ensure that homelessness services are fully funded and fit for the future.

WHY?

Local authorities have the statutory duty to find homes for people who are at risk of losing their homes. Elected Mayors and Police Commissioners also have leadership roles to set the agenda for how homelessness is treated. Making sure that local homelessness services have adequate funding is a key element of this to ensure that people's problems are dealt with promptly and appropriately. Our experience tells us that cutting corners and finding temporary solutions is usually not cost-effective in the long term.



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I will encourage and facilitate joint working between health sectors, housing sectors, local government and not for profits to end homelessness, and provide support services so that vulnerable people can keep their homes.

WHY?

The reason why people lose their homes is often complex. To unpick these problems can require a multi-pronged approach – from health services, employment services, mental health, the police and criminal justice system. Some great programmes such as Housing First have shown what can be achieved when all services work together. Local leaders have a critical role to play in convening these services.



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I will work to ensure that anyone in my area at risk of becoming homeless receives urgent and holistic support to find sustainable long-term housing. I will ensure that this help should be available to all regardless of their circumstances.

WHY?

One of the reasons that people struggle to hold on to their housing can be around lack of access to welfare benefits. The local authority has a crucial role to play in helping people in difficult circumstances. There are particular challenges for people from outside the UK, who are not allowed to use public funds. The local authority should support such people to clarify their legal situation and then help them to develop a plan towards stability.



Everyone in for good



That in any housing and planning discussions I will prioritise the need to create sufficient appropriate and affordable housing to prevent homelessness. Ensure more homes and stronger rights for tenants.

WHY?

Making sure that there is a supply of housing, that is affordable and appropriate is critical to help people avoid homelessness. The situation is very different in different parts of the country and you will know your local situation. All local authorities have a critical role to play in planning housing provision. Thinking about how many low-cost houses are built and homes created is a central role that you can have influence over.



Everyone in for good

Local election manifesto 2021



I the undersigned candidate pledge that...

Please tick



PLEDGE

If elected I will not treat homelessness as inevitable and will work to end homelessness throughout my area.

PLEDGE

Specifically, I will ensure that **rough sleeping is ended** in my area by 2024 in line with the government commitment. I will ensure that homelessness services are fully funded and fit for the future.

PLEDGE

I will encourage and facilitate joint working between health sectors, housing sectors, local government and not for profits to end homelessness, and provide support services so that vulnerable people can keep their homes.

PLEDGE

I will work to ensure that anyone in my area at risk of becoming homeless receives urgent and holistic support to find sustainable long-term housing. I will ensure that this help should be available to all regardless of their circumstances.

PLEDGE

That in any housing and planning discussions I will prioritise the need to create sufficient appropriate and affordable housing to prevent homelessness. Ensure more homes and stronger rights for tenants.

Name

Position standing for (including local authority name)

Political party

Signed



#EveryoneInForGood

I have signed the Everyone in for good pledge

Homelessness is not inevitable.
I pledge to work to end homelessness in:

Signed



#EveryoneInForGood

