

It's time to end rough sleeping — for good.

Homelessness is not inevitable. This General Election, every party must pledge to end rough sleeping in our country.

The number of people sleeping rough in England has more than doubled since more robust rough sleeping measures were introduced in 2010 - in 2016, more than 4,000 people slept rough on any one night (DCLG).

Rough sleeping on this scale is a national scandal. But as leading homelessness charities, we know that change is possible.

Lessons from the UK and around the world show that we can reverse the recent rise in rough sleeping. With political commitment and leadership, we can end rough sleeping for good.

We call on every political party to make a clear manifesto commitment to an ambitious new national initiative to end rough sleeping.

Effective action on rough sleeping needs strong leadership, and coordinated work across government, communities, health, welfare, police and housing agencies.

A new rough sleepers initiative must act to end homelessness by:

- **Preventing people sleeping rough in the first place** by using the new Homelessness Reduction Act, embedding homelessness prevention priorities across key government departments to guarantee that early intervention work - including family mediation - is undertaken and scaling up No First Night Out to ensure that no one arrives onto the streets.
- **Providing a robust response to get people off the streets** by making sure emergency accommodation is available to support people away from the streets quickly. The new initiative must tackle chronic rough sleeping by protecting and building rough sleeper outreach services, with additional investment to tackle the mental health crisis keeping people stuck on our streets.
- **Ensuring that people do not return to rough sleeping** by protecting funding for homeless hostels providing a vital route off the streets, and exploring ways to develop affordable, permanent homes for people sleeping rough, including Housing First and the Clearing House scheme reserving homes for former rough sleepers. Housing solutions should be accompanied by a personalised package of support - and adequate support with housing costs through the benefits system - to ensure people do not return to the streets.

We are calling on every political party to pledge an end to rough sleeping. Please support our call using the joint hashtag #endroughsleeping.

For more information, please contact:

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