

HOME FOR ALL

Introduction

Since the coronavirus outbreak began, we've never had a better understanding of the value of home and the many reasons why it should be available to all. Together, we have supported people who are homeless throughout the outbreak, but our work is not over. Unless we do something now and enact long-term as well as short term solutions, our progress risks being undone.

The end of homelessness feels within reach, but only if we work together to make it happen.

The challenge

Housing has proven to be the first line of defence against coronavirus, and we know that a safe, stable and permanent home gives us the foundation we all need to be able to thrive.

Before the pandemic, an estimated 170,000 people were experiencing some form of homelessness in Great Britain. **People experiencing homelessness, and particularly those rough sleeping, are among the most exposed to the risks of contracting, and dying from, coronavirus because they do not have a safe home to self-isolate in.** The pandemic has magnified the problems that already existed for thousands with nowhere to call home, and many more people are sitting at the brink of being pushed into homelessness.

We have seen individuals, government, and industry work together to achieve the extraordinary - like finding temporary housing for thousands in the span of a few weeks. However, hotels are not a sustainable solution to homelessness, and no social housing has been built during the pandemic. The clock is ticking: once the pandemic is under control, these forms of accommodation will no longer be available, and while **evictions of tenants from private housing have been temporarily banned during lockdown, this will soon come to an end. It leaves thousands at risk of homelessness. This simply cannot happen.**

If left unchecked, coronavirus could lead to the largest spike in homelessness in history. Over half of frontline services (53%) have seen a rise in homelessness as people across Great Britain struggle in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Mounting pressures such as bereavement, illness or eviction can suddenly push people into homelessness, and for many people the sudden loss of income from being made redundant or furloughed will have broken the dam of support that keeps them from becoming homeless. We have

to stand up for those facing the terrifying prospect of homelessness for the first time, as well as for those leaving emergency accommodation.

"I really want to get back to work but I'm worried as barely any businesses are hiring so it's hard to predict what the future will hold, but for now I'm just trying to stay positive." – Ellesse, Crisis South Yorkshire member

The actions taken by the governments of England, Scotland and Wales have proven that our leaders can act decisively and find resources to protect people who are exposed to the greatest risk. It is vital that the progress made to support people in the past few months becomes the start of a movement to finally make homelessness a thing of the past for everyone. Everyone in Great Britain today can and must have somewhere safe and stable to live. We cannot sit back and wait to make this happen.

The solution

For the 15,000 people staying in emergency accommodation, and the thousands of people living in shelters, B&Bs and sofa-surfing with friends and family, lockdown must be the beginning of the end of their homelessness. The solutions to homelessness are not owned by any one organisation, and as the past few months have shown, when we all work towards the same goal we can achieve incredible things. We must work together as a charity, as a nationwide homelessness sector, and with local and national governments, to transform the system into one which prevents homelessness from happening in the first place. In the rare instances it does occur, **the new system must present people with immediate help to find and keep a stable home, for good.**

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What Crisis is doing

Crisis is now focused on adapting our services to meet the urgent needs of people leaving temporary accommodation, and those people made newly homeless as a result of coronavirus.

Housing is not always the reason why people become homeless, but it is always a part of the solution to their homelessness. We are embedding 'housing-led' approaches at our Skylight centres to reduce the amount of time people spend in temporary accommodation, such as hostels, B&B's and shelters. The skills of all of our lead workers will be focused on helping members into stable housing as soon as possible, following one of the three support pathways:

- **Housing First:** intensive support for people with multiple complex needs
- **Critical Time Intervention (CTI):** support aimed at people leaving state institutions
- **'Floating' or resettlement support:** bespoke support from a lead worker



New roles

We are recruiting a Housing First team to support the moves from the temporary hotels, and are also recruiting four case managers who will offer intensive support to people moving into stable accommodation. In Merseyside, we are recruiting a CTI team for people leaving the hotels after many months and years of rough sleeping and homelessness. Once public health restrictions permit external visitor entry into prisons, this team will refocus its work to reach into prisons. We are also recruiting new Resettlement Workers in Coventry, Edinburgh, Oxford, Brent and Croydon to support the exit from the hotels.

New responsibilities

Staff across our 11 Skylight centres will receive support to adapt to a housing-focused style of working. Staff will work with our new benefits specialists and homelessness and housing law experts to help them with more complex cases. These changes will help us provide the most effective support to those leaving emergency hotels and people risk of becoming homeless for the first time.



2 What we're supporting communities to do

Together with local councils and the homelessness sector, we must work as a community to rebuild a society without homelessness.

Building a movement for ending homelessness

In areas that we do not have a Skylight centre, we will support local homelessness organisations and build a movement to end homelessness through:

- Grants to help homelessness organisations become 'housing-led'
- A Crisis innovation fund
- Local partnerships with 10 charities to build a strong evidence base for the effectiveness of housing-led approaches in ending homelessness sustainably.



Supporting local and national governments

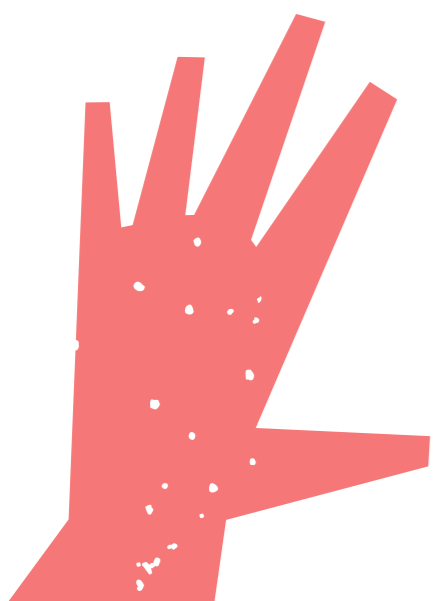
Crisis is well placed to offer the practical tools needed to help local councils homelessness services. We must work together to prevent people leaving emergency accommodation from returning to streets, hostels and shelters.

- Crisis will work with local councils to find suitable housing and provide the right support for people leaving temporary accommodation as the lockdown ends.
- A Crisis toolkit is available for all local councils to use when moving people out of emergency accommodation and into stable housing following the end of the pandemic.
- We have launched a new volunteering hub to connect volunteers with homelessness charities across Great Britain that need help.
- We are developing a paid-for consultancy to help councils prevent and end homelessness.

The need for collective action is stronger now than ever before and we are committed to working with our partners to make this moment the beginning of the end to homelessness.

Working with communities

Crisis is partnering with three local councils – Southwark, Oxford and Newcastle – to help them end homelessness. Evidence from these partnerships will be used to demonstrate that achieving an end to homelessness for all is possible through cross-sector collaboration in local areas. This is in addition to the local influencing that already takes place in our 11 Skylight locations.



3 What we're asking our Government to do

Extraordinary action taken across Great Britain to get everyone into safe accommodation during the pandemic has shown that it is possible to end homelessness. Now is the time to do what's right and ensure that no-one is forced to return to our streets or inappropriate temporary accommodation.

The UK Government must have a plan to end homelessness for all. We're calling on the UK Government to commit to these four essential steps:

1. Roll-out Housing First across England

We're asking the government to roll out Housing First, with a commitment to providing the long-term tailored support to deliver it. Research suggests that 16,500 people in England would benefit from a Housing First approach, which is particularly needed for people with complex needs.

2. Ensure no one across Britain is left without a safe place to stay because of their immigration status

We believe the UK Government must instruct local authorities to continue providing emergency accommodation to everyone who does not have confirmed status in the UK. This also means the UK Government must lift 'no recourse to public funds' restrictions for at least 12 months, so people across Britain can access Universal Credit and homelessness assistance.



3. Prevent people from becoming homeless by ensuring everyone can afford a home

We need to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. This requires action to ensure that homes are affordable, now and in the long-term. Crisis is calling on the UK Government to commit to permanently investing in housing benefit so that it covers the cost of renting, to build more homes at social rent levels, and to suspend evictions for another 12 months after the 'evictions ban' is lifted in mid-June.

4. Ensure everyone with nowhere safe to stay has access to emergency accommodation

We want the UK Government to introduce a new duty for local authorities in England to provide immediate emergency accommodation over the next 12 months to people with nowhere safe to stay, regardless of whether they meet the current legal tests for homelessness support. This will ensure that everyone has somewhere to self-isolate and shield as needed. These measures must be backed by a dedicated funding stream.

Policy changes at government level are how we ensure that we end homelessness sustainably. Every individual and organisation in Great Britain can play a part in ending homelessness, but urgent and permanent policy changes are needed to lead us through the problems that lie ahead and build a better future for all.

The impact

Coronavirus has shown just how connected housing and wellbeing are. Having a home gives people the safety and stability they need so that they can address other issues and rebuild their lives.

The importance of community has come to the fore again and again during the pandemic. We have never been more aware of how much we need each other, and the joy that we experience when others thrive. The thousands of people who currently have nowhere to call home are diverse, skilled, creative and rich in the potential their lives can bring, and this potential is wasted every day that they are trapped in overcrowded temporary accommodation or in life-threatening situations on the streets. We must provide all homeless people with a safe place to unlock this potential and make their lives, and the whole of society, better.

The policy changes government must make will affect not only those who are currently homeless, but everyone facing the prospect of becoming homeless in the coming months and years.

Actions to prevent people from being pushed into losing their homes in the first place will make homelessness a rare occurrence, if not a thing of the past.

Getting our support services right will ensure that when homelessness does happen, it does not recur. Crisis' commitment to joint working with the sector, such as sharing staff, best practice guidance and toolkits, will enable local councils and charities alike to provide the best possible care for each and every person in need of support. The more we support our colleagues to thrive, the better their support will be for those in their care. **We must work as a community to stop people from becoming homeless in the first place, and where they do lose their home, quickly move them into sustainable and safe accommodation.**

It's time to pull together and create a movement for ending homelessness once and for all. **The position that government takes now could be the beginning of the end of the housing crisis in Great Britain.** Clear guidance from government that each and every homeless person must be housed, along with the immediate provision of a dedicated funding, will enable local councils across England and Wales to catch up with their Scottish colleagues and roll out their own rapid rehousing systems. If the government chooses to accept its responsibility for building affordable properties for people to live in, this will set a new standard for the housing sector as a whole, and recognise accommodation as a basic human right for the first time in the history of our society.

The cost

1 End it now – Transforming our services

Other costs	Total**
Digital Kits (national)	250,000
Client Housing Access	397,380
Client Homelessness Prevention	132,938
Salary costs	
Benefits Specialists x2	97,675
Case management workers x9	494,833
Critical Time Intervention (CTI) coaches x8	404,825
Homelessness Law Specialists x2	102,501
Housing Coaches x26	1,148,396
Housing First teams x29	1,944,335
Housing Procurement officers x7	358,503
Progression Managers x15	402,988
Renting Ready tutors x4	104,481
Resettlement/ rapid rehousing support workers x10	554,814
Grand Total	5,988,844

2 End it forever – Changing homelessness policy

Other costs	Total**
Best Practice – Grant Programme	1,000,000
Research – Homelessness Monitor	31,500
Place-based programmes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service investment and all other non salary costs 	472,500
Salary costs	
Best Practice	511,907
Place-based Programmes	542,409
Policy and Campaigns	892,350
Research and Evaluation	173,330
Grand Total	3,623,995

Other costs	Total**
End it now – Transforming our services	5,988,844
End it forever – Changing homelessness policy	3,623,995
Grand Total	9,612,839

*overheads included

**all salaries include NI and Pensions, available on request

Benefits to the funder

None of this will be possible without the support of people like you. All supporters of Home for All will have:

- The opportunity to develop your knowledge from sector experts
- Access to a network of like-minded individuals who are keen for change
- The support and information you need to discuss homelessness with friends, family and colleagues
- The chance to learn more about homelessness from those with a lived experience of it
- A programme of varied communications and events
- A role in the end of homelessness in Great Britain

The fundraising team will guide all supporters to engage in Crisis and our partners' work to end homelessness in meaningful, varied and challenging ways that suit their values and schedules. In addition, we will connect you with staff, clients and external partners, so that you can hear directly from the experts and those with lived experience of homelessness to further understand the impact of your giving.



Why Crisis?

Crisis is the national charity for homeless people in Great Britain. Since 1967 we have worked to end homelessness for everyone and for good, and over 50 years on from our inception, the urgency has never been greater.

From our experiences of directly working with over 10,000 homeless people each year on their journey out of homelessness, we know more than ever before about the causes of homelessness and how we can end it. Where we are unable to reach homeless people directly, we support organisations that can, sharing resources, knowledge and funding.

We are almost entirely funded by income from individuals, trusts and corporate partners. Because we are not commissioned, **we can implement innovative solutions to ending homelessness, and our independence enables us to adapt roles and responsibilities of our staff to meet the needs of members**, such as the rapid shift to focusing on housing-led support following the end of lockdown.

We work with governments using the best research available to prove that ending homelessness is possible. We also hold governments to account for delivering the best support available for homeless people. Our Chief Executive Jon Sparkes chairs the Welsh Homelessness Action group and is also the chair of the Scottish Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG), which in 2019 created a national plan for ending homelessness in

Scotland. All local councils in Scotland have now produced rapid rehousing transition plans, setting out how they will move from providing temporary accommodation to securing affordable homes for homeless people. This will be a framework for all councils to follow and create their own plans.

Crisis is well-known and we work in partnership with colleagues from homelessness charities nationwide. In 2020, we worked together with Refuge, Hestia, Shelter, St Mungo's and provided the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ending Homelessness to campaign for a safe home to be provided for all fleeing domestic abuse. On 03 May the Domestic Abuse Bill was amended to give survivors of domestic abuse, who flee their abuser and risk becoming homeless, automatic priority status for housing in England, as a direct result of the campaigning efforts of Crisis and our partner organisations.

The end of the pandemic presents Crisis and anyone who cares about homelessness with a unique moment to pause and reflect on the world that we want to build. Coronavirus has reminded us of just how interconnected we all are, and that when hard times strike, people can pull together and create life-changing solutions to even the hardest of problems. Together with our supporters, now is our time to create a new standard of living in Great Britain, hold our leaders to account for the next actions they choose to take and ultimately fulfil the most basic human right for all – a safe and stable home.