

# Home for All Campaign Briefing

## Why EU Citizens are more likely to experience homelessness – and why it matters



The Government pledged to end rough sleeping by 2024, but we can't do this without addressing homelessness for everyone.

Crisis believes that no-one should be homeless as a result of their immigration status, yet non-UK nationals experiencing homelessness face all the dangers that people from the UK face and more.

That is why we are calling on the Government to invest in a bespoke package of specialist housing and employment support for EU citizens who face barriers to accessing support, in order to address the additional barriers that this group face to leaving homelessness behind for good.

Without this action, the Government cannot meet its target of ending rough sleeping by 2024, because ending homelessness in the UK is only possible if we tackle it for everyone.

### What's the problem?

Research commissioned by Crisis from IPPR and Herriot-Watt University looked at homelessness amongst EU nationals who living in Britain and found that;

EU citizens living in Britain are almost twice as likely to experience homelessness and almost three times more likely to experience rough sleeping as the general adult population

9% of people experiencing the worst forms of homelessness across Britain are originally from EU countries

Job loss was one of the main contributing factors pushing EU citizens into homelessness in Britain

The same factors which push people born in the UK into homelessness are the main drivers for EU citizens living in the UK becoming homeless - job loss, low paid and insecure work, and lack of sufficient income. Family conflict and relationship breakdowns, bereavement, and poor physical and mental health are also key drivers of homelessness for people from Europe, as they are for many others.

But while many of the causes of homelessness for EU nationals mirror those experienced by the wider population, some EU citizens struggle to access the mainstream support available to them due to language and cultural barriers, whilst for others, their homelessness is compounded by additional restrictions that impact on the support they can access. This means that when people find themselves struggling, they are left without a proper safety net and this pushes people into homelessness.

## What needs to happen?

By investing in a bespoke package of housing and employment support for EU citizens who are sleeping rough and struggling to access mainstream support, we can enable people to find secure, properly paid employment that will allow them to move out of homelessness for good.

With its renewed focus on levelling up our communities, the Westminster Government has an opportunity to make a substantive impact on its goal to end rough sleeping by 2024 by funding a tailored employment and housing support package in England, which includes:

Provision of emergency accommodation so people have a stable and safe place to stay while engaging with employment support.

A lead worker for every individual being supported through this programme to provide consistent, holistic support throughout a person's journey from rough sleeping into stable employment and a long-term home.

Support to find and sustain stable, consistent and properly paid employment. Depending on each person's needs this may include the provision of training, help to overcome language barriers, and support to access health services and specialist alcohol and substance misuse services.

Specialist welfare and immigration advice and advocacy to ensure people can access the support services they are entitled to.

Help to move into and sustain long-term housing. For most people, this is likely to mean support to find an affordable tenancy in the private rented sector.

Funding for interpreters so language is not a barrier to accessing support.

Crisis estimate that it would cost a total of approximately £32 million to provide this support to all EU nationals who are currently sleeping rough and need support.

### Case Study: MEAS, Croydon Council and Crisis Skylight Croydon

The Migrant Employment and Accommodation Service (MEAS) is a partnership between Croydon Council and Crisis Skylight Croydon to provide accommodation and intensive support for EU citizens rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping, in the borough. The project began in October 2018 as a six-month pilot, which has since been extended. Croydon Council provided funding for 12 weeks in temporary accommodation while Crisis provided intensive support to help clients to secure employment and move-on accommodation in the private rented sector, though the project found that for most of the client group, 16-18 weeks in temporary accommodation was needed.

Crisis Skylight Croydon developed a bespoke partnership with a local employer, Veolia, and this has been key to the project's success. Veolia helped Crisis develop an ESOL course to provide the language skills necessary for people to pass their induction, creating a pathway directly into employment.

To help people sustain their tenancy and employment, staff members worked in an extremely flexible and responsive way, often seeing clients every day for a period to help overcome any issues, such as gambling, addictions, substance misuse, or being a victim of exploitation. Prior to the pandemic, approximately 80% of people supported by the project secured employment and moved into longer-term housing.

## What can I do?

Support this campaign by visiting <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/home-for-all/support-for-eu-citizens>, where you can:

- Read our report on the issue and also a blog from our Experts by Experience panel
- Explore the issue by taking part in an interactive journey tool
- Sign the petition to call on the Government to fund a specialist employment and housing support package

You can also share our campaign on your social media. Here are some suggested tweets:



*No one should be homeless because of their immigration status. I support @crisis\_UK's #HomeForAll campaign for the @GovUK to ensure that people from Europe whose lives are in the UK get the support they need to rebuild a life away from homelessness: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/home-for-all/support-for-eu-citizens>*



*To end rough sleeping by 2024 we need employment and housing support available to all, so people can rebuild out of homelessness. Join @Crisis\_UK's #HomeForAll campaign calling on @GovUK to fund support for people from Europe whose lives are in the UK. <https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/home-for-all/support-for-eu-citizens>*

**If you have any questions about this briefing, please get in touch with us at [campaigns@crisis.org.uk](mailto:campaigns@crisis.org.uk)**