

COVID-19 and homelessness services



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3rd June 2020

Policy update



Luke Hall letter, 28 May

- **Deadline of 11 June (4 June in some LAs) for initial joint housing, health and care plans.**
- **Welcome emphasis on “clinical health-led response to the ongoing risk of Covid-19 during the next phase”.**
- **Work with health partners to plan for continuity of care as people move on, including substance misuse and mental health.**

Policy update



Luke Hall letter, 28 May

- **For move-on, explore possibility of acquisitions, repair and refurbishment or long-term leasing arrangements with HAs. Provide short-term accommodation to buy time for long-term solutions.**

Policy update



Luke Hall letter, 28 May

- **NRPF – Local authorities must “use their judgment” based on individual circumstances & risk to life – comparable to extreme weather measures.**

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New policy briefing



Youth Homelessness and COVID-19

- **Concerns about absence of youth focus in government response and transition planning**
- **Doubling of call numbers to national helplines**

Young people must not be left behind: Preventing youth homelessness after COVID-19

Jennie Corbett

Friday, 29 May 2020 - 9:30am

The youth homelessness crisis in England is nothing new. However, the fall-out of COVID-19 has made the disadvantages faced by young people even more severe.



New policy briefing



Youth Homelessness and COVID-19

Our key recommendations:

- 1. Government must urgently develop a cross-departmental strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness.**
- 2. MHCLG must provide long-term capital and revenue investment to address the severe shortage of suitable supported and move-on options for young people.**
- 3. The Taskforce should work with partners to develop youth specific plans and actions to prevent and end rough sleeping**

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Transition planning resources



New and updated

- **COVID-19 & Homelessness Transition FAQs**
- **Guidance for local transition planning**
- **Resource list v9**
- **Engaging with health services during COVID-19**
- **Structure of the NHS in England**

All available to download from

www.homeless.org.uk/covid19-homelessness

Transition to Housing First

- ✓ A service option for people exp. **severe and multiple disadvantage** (not just rough sleepers)
- ✓ Provide people with a tenancy and a **permanent** offer of support
- ✓ Small caseloads to enable flexible and persistent support
- ✓ Services must adhere to **key principles** (and 'non-negotiables')

Housing First is a **recommended solution** in our #EveryoneInForGood campaign.

To transition, expand or develop Housing First see the recommendations in our **transition guidance for LAs**.

Transition to Housing First **webinar**: 2nd July

Visit **www.hfe.homeless.org.uk**

Traditional support



Housing First



Can night shelters re-open?

Assessment of options in progress

- Working group of Housing Justice, Homeless Link, Greater London Authority, MHCLG and Public Health England
- Aiming for an initial document next week
- Complex combination of health, housing and the variables of local context and options

What we know so far:

- The rotating night shelter model is not safe and can no longer be delivered
- The group is working to clarify the position for other shelter models
- Local authorities and charities/faith and community groups are encouraged to explore alternative options to shelters



Rough Sleeping Conference 2020 Online

8th and 9th July 2020, 10am-4pm



Early bird rate of £25 available for
Homeless Link members until 10 June

Webinar: Supporting LGBTQ+ young people during lockdown and beyond

Thursday, 11 June 2020
Online | 2.30pm-3.45pm | Free

This webinar will consider the experiences of some LGBTQ+ young people during lockdown, such as those living in a hostile environment, and provide guidance on how organisations can best support homeless LGBTQ+ young people during lockdown and beyond.

With speakers from [akt](#)



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What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.



Homeless Link

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