



In-depth Briefings

Homelessness Action Group Report:

Summary of key recommendations

March 2020

- Agree an 'ending homelessness outcomes framework' to help co-operation between all Welsh public services, housing providers, and support providers.
- Reporting of current and planned spending in all five areas of homelessness prevention by Welsh Government to the National Assembly for Wales.
- The Welsh Government, local authorities and their service delivery partners should agree a plan to ensure the workforce is effectively supported to implement this framework.
- Welsh public services should provide support to enable all those working to tackle and end homelessness to take a psychologically informed approach in every aspect of their work.
- Achieve a psychologically informed approach using the five elements (i.e. psychological framework; relationships; physical and social environment; staff training and support; and evidence and learning) on a whole organisation basis.
- The Welsh Government, public services, housing providers and support providers should ensure that people with lived experience of homelessness have opportunities to influence decisions and the delivery and evaluation of services to end homelessness.
- Work towards incorporating a human right to adequate housing in Welsh law.
- Increase the supply of social housing (delivering 4,000 new houses per year over 15 years) by increasing the capital funding available for building social homes.



- The grant framework should be informed by housing need, reflect the additional costs of building certain types of housing and support collaboration between housing associations and local authorities.
- Ensure supply of all types of tenure is sustained at the right level, based on regular projections for homelessness and housing need for people at risk of homelessness and/or on low incomes.
- Increase the Housing Support Grant and homelessness prevention budget to help deliver support to people in all tenures and adequately fund the grant to deliver ending homelessness outcomes for people in all tenures of housing, as recommended by the Assembly's Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee.
- Local authorities must ensure provision of tenancy sustainment support for people in all tenures who may be at risk of homelessness.
- Welsh Government, housing associations and stock-holding local authorities should agree and monitor delivery to cease all evictions into homelessness from social housing.
- Enact the Renting Homes Act 2016 (and proposed amendments to the Act) and also commit to replacing the grounds for 'no-fault eviction' with new grounds that improve security for tenants.
- Ensure there are local private rented sector access and tenancy sustainment schemes to support landlords and tenants.
- The Welsh Government must make the case to the UK Government for:
 - Local Housing Allowance rates at the 30th percentile of local markets, to make sure that payments cover the cost of private renting
 - Removal of the benefit cap and the 'bedroom tax'
 - Removal of the restricted rate for under-35s in the private rented sector
 - Measures to ensure Universal Credit is fully accessible and provides support for people when they need it, including an end to the five-week waiting period from application point to receiving Universal Credit.
 - Specialist homelessness support provision in all Job Centres Plus.
- Pending any change in housing and welfare policy by the UK Government, the Welsh Government must use its existing powers to come up with a strategic approach to the 'Welsh benefits system', making best use of the range of funds available to advance the Welsh Government's policy objectives and relieve pressures on households and individuals.
- Identify and maximise any opportunities to prevent homelessness in the case of early life experiences and trauma (children and young adults).



- Increase understanding and reduce stigma around homelessness through a Welsh Government funded public awareness campaign.
- Welsh Government and partners should lead a change in public services to ensure homelessness is prevented before crisis stage.
- Welsh Government and partners should agree and implement clear prevention and rapid rehousing pathways of tailored support for people in identified risk groups.
- Ensure everyone discharged from a public institution has a suitable sustainable housing solution in place, and implement prevention and rapid rehousing pathways agreed to support people's housing needs.
- Where people are identified as being at risk of homelessness, and ultimately rough sleeping, there needs to be a 'no wrong door' approach to action and referral to housing support as a minimum.
- The Welsh Government should advance the application of an evidence-based harm reduction approach to the management and policing of substance use, including finding a solution to enable the implementation of Enhanced Harm Reduction Facilities. This will require working with the UK Government to make the case for allowing these approaches in the England and Wales legal jurisdiction.
- Welsh Government should help prevent and end homelessness specifically for people who have migrated to Wales from outside the UK.