

HELP MORE PEOPLE
LEAVE HOMELESSNESS BEHIND



 PAY IT...
FORWARD  



Dear Councillor

Last year, over 40,000 people who were homeless got housing-related support so they could get back on their feet.

Individuals just like Sarah, who at 17 had to leave home when the relationship with her mum broke down. Put in touch with Depaul UK's Reconnect Family Mediation Service, she got accommodation while they worked with Sarah and her family to resolve the issues.

Luckily for Sarah she was able to return home. For others who can't, housing and support services are there to help them move forwards.

Every one of us should have a place to call home so that we can have stability, achieve our aspirations, build relationships, and belong to our communities.

Over the past decade charities have made many positive changes to the way support is provided to those experiencing homelessness. But this progress could be at risk as investment in essential services falls while homeless numbers rise.

As your council makes decisions about future funding, we urge you to ensure that the support is in place for those, like Sarah, at whatever point they need. It is an investment that pays and is backed by your community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'RH', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Rick Henderson
Chief Executive

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN: www.homeless.org.uk/PIF



A GROWING ISSUE

Nearly a third of us has been homeless or knows someone who has and demand for help is growing.

There is no single reason why someone becomes homeless. Its root causes may lie in life events, such as bereavement, traumatic experiences during childhood, or health problems. It can be triggered by relationship breakdown, or losing a job.

Wider factors also play their part. A shortage of affordable homes, poverty, unemployment and rising housing costs are all adding to the issue.

Nine in ten of the public believe that people can become homeless through no fault of their own because these are issues we can all identify with.

SINCE 2010...



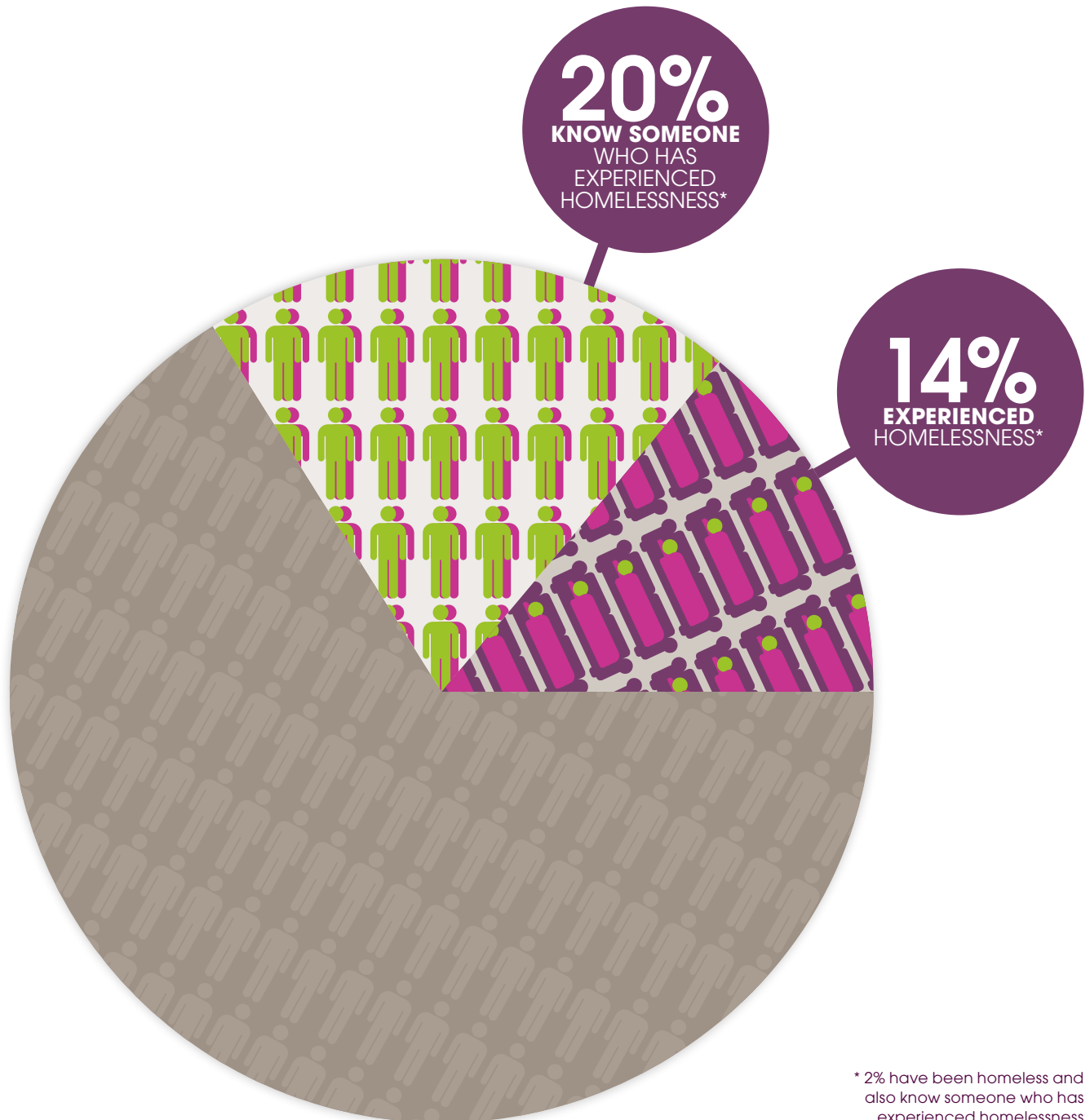
HOUSEHOLDS SEEKING HELP WITH HOMELESSNESS



HOUSEHOLDS ACCEPTED FOR HELP BY COUNCILS WITH HOMELESSNESS



NUMBER OF PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH ON ANY ONE NIGHT IN ENGLAND



* 2% have been homeless and also know someone who has experienced homelessness

PREVENTION AND SUPPORT PAYS

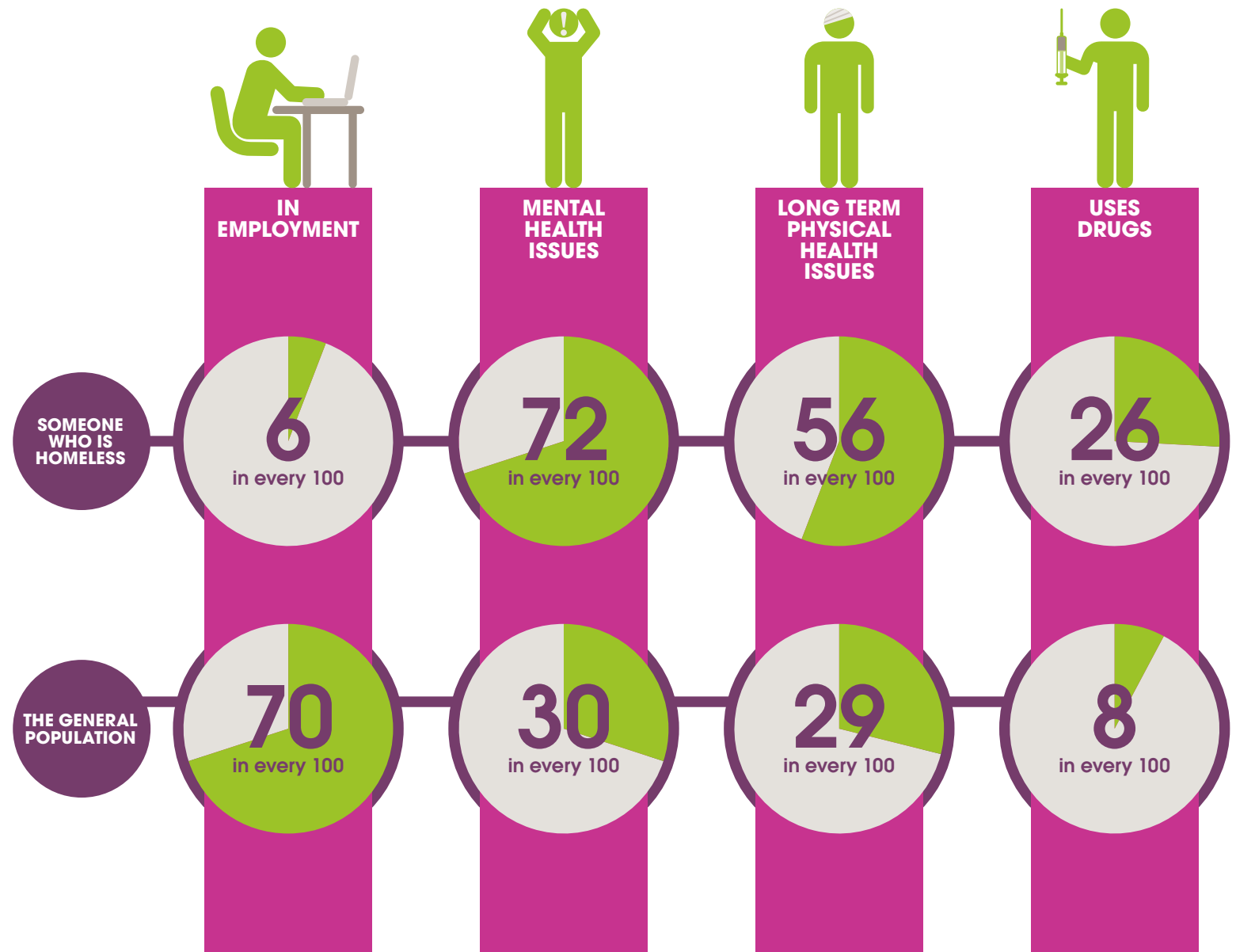
Whatever the cause, the result is often the same: being homeless makes it harder for you to find a job, stay healthy and maintain relationships.

It can increase your chances of taking drugs or experiencing physical or mental health problems.

Homelessness damages people's lives and is costly for our communities.

The good news is that with the right support and services in place, those experiencing homelessness can be supported to get back on track.

Every day homeless services help people move out of homelessness and into long-term independence, for the benefit of both the individuals and society as a whole.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE: SARAH'S STORY

DEPAUL UK'S RECONNECT FAMILY MEDIATION SERVICE

Depaul UK's Reconnect Family Mediation Service prevents young people from becoming homeless. It uses mediation and other support to respond quickly and creatively to prevent immediate homelessness or ensure that homelessness is a much less likely outcome in the future.

Run by youth homelessness charity Depaul UK, the services helps under 25s who are experiencing family difficulties and who want help to resolve this.

Working in partnership with other services, Reconnect provides accommodation if a young person can't return home, making sure there is somewhere safe to stay while a solution is found.

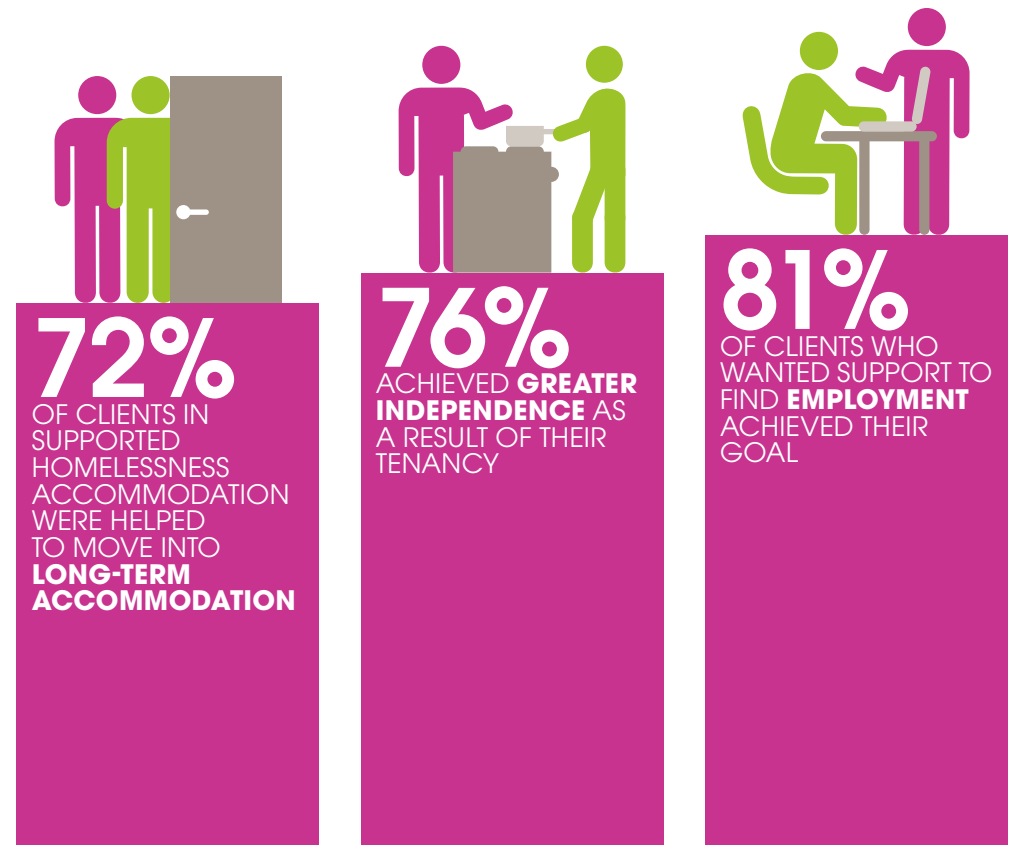
Sarah left home after her relationship with her mum broke down. She stayed with friends for over two months before presenting as homeless to Social Services who referred her to Reconnect. Sarah was given somewhere safe and secure to stay and a neutral location for mediation to take place. Staff worked with Sarah and her mum to begin to resolve their issues and improve communication. This was challenging for them both, but they eventually came up with a solution which worked for both Sarah and the wider family and she was able to return home.

Sarah says that the mediation has helped her feel more relaxed and able to communicate.

“Having someone speak to my parents was a good ice-breaker. I can talk now instead of shouting and they do the same.”

Reconnect will continue to offer support to ensure that the agreed solution will be successful or can be amended if there are any further issues.

IN 2012...



HOMELESSNESS SERVICES SUPPORT PEOPLE IN A WIDE RANGE OF OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, AND WITH IMPROVING THEIR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL SKILLS.

BUT IT TAKES TIME AND INVESTMENT

The longer someone is homeless, the more complex their problems are likely to become.

Investment in services that prevent homelessness or support individuals to overcome it delivers cost savings to tax payers by improving people's health, addressing personal issues and supporting them into education, training and employment.

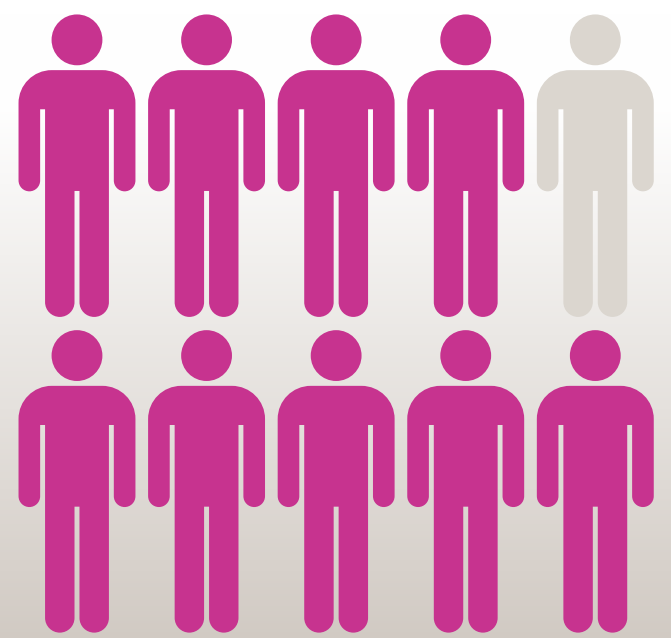
However, in the past few years, we have seen less investment in support for people struggling with homelessness as councils face tough financial decisions. Local spending on homelessness is diminishing in many areas.



THESE CUTS AND LOSS OF INVESTMENT ARE HAVING A CUMULATIVE EFFECT. SINCE 2010...



THE PUBLIC SUPPORTS INVESTMENT IN TACKLING HOMELESSNESS



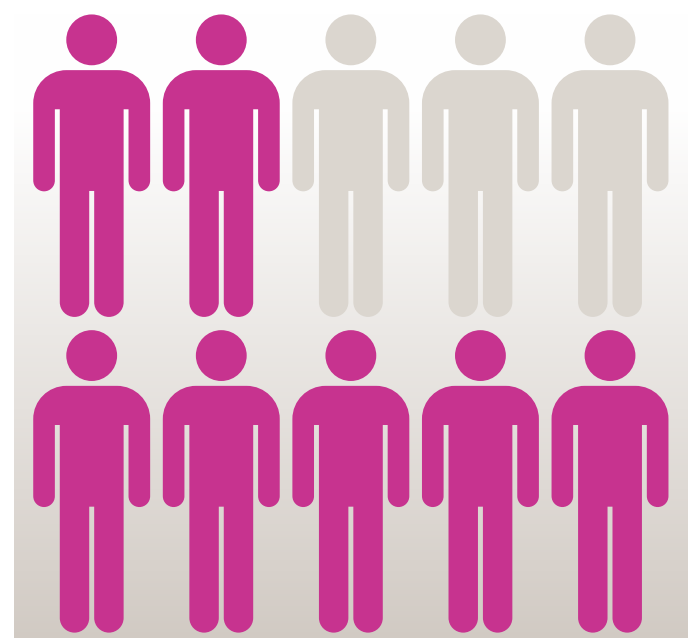
9/10 PEOPLE AGREE

“PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS SHOULD BE GIVEN HELP TO GET THEIR LIVES BACK ON TRACK.”



8/10 PEOPLE AGREE

“COUNCILS SHOULD DO MORE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR HOME.”



7/10 PEOPLE AGREE

“STOPPING PEOPLE BECOMING HOMELESS BENEFITS THEIR COMMUNITY.”

HELP MORE PEOPLE ACHIEVE **A BETTER FUTURE**

We all want more people like Sarah - individuals who now have a home and a better future. But to get there we need more people like you.

Join our campaign and support investment that will help someone who is homeless today, realise their potential tomorrow.

Councils face tough financial times but it's a decision that makes long-term sense for individuals affected by homelessness, their communities and is supported by most tax-payers.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

Are you proud of the investment your community has made in tackling homelessness? Do you want to know more about the results that investment in tackling homelessness in your community could bring?

www.homeless.org.uk/PIF

PAY IT
FORWARD ▶

“I’ve seen first-hand the important work projects do each and every day to help people take the steps towards escaping homelessness. It is inspiring to see these projects support individuals get back on track and move on with their lives in a positive way.

“Helping people to take these steps is beneficial to everyone and helps create stronger, more unified communities. That’s why I’m proud to back the Pay it Forward campaign and the future of homelessness projects.”

Gary Millar, Lord Mayor of Liverpool

REFERENCES

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- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) statutory homelessness data Q2 (April -June) 2010 and 2013
- Rough Sleepin Statistics: England, Department of Communities and Local Government (published February 2011 and February 2013)
- Experience of homelessness – from omnibus survey by Populus for Homeless Link, 11-12 September 2013

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- Critical mass: final research report, Homeless Link, March 2013
- Labour Market Survey April-June 2013 (September 2013)
- The Health and Wellbeing Needs of people who are homeless: evidence from a national audit, Homeless Link, 2011
- Goldberg, D. & Huxley, P, Common mental disorders a bio-social model, 1992
- The Health and Wellbeing Needs of people who are homeless: evidence from a national audit, Homeless Link, 2011
- Office National Statistics, General Lifestyle Survey, 2008.
- Critical mass: final research report, Homeless Link, March 2013
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, UK national report 2011 (December 2012), Table A.1

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- All the data is taken from Supporting People, Centre for Housing Research, University of St Andrews, 2012-13. Note that not all Local Authorities report to Supporting People. Many other agencies work with people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness who do not receive housing related support services (for example day centres). Therefore this figure underestimates the total number of individuals who are receiving support from homelessness services.

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- Survey of Needs and Provision, Homeless Link, 2011
- Survey of Needs and Provision, Homeless Link, 2012
- The figure of reported cuts is based on intelligence reported from Homeless Link members and published information, where it is available, from Local Authorities about funding decisions.
- Survey of Needs and Provision, Homeless Link 2010-2013
- Projects and beds report: analysis of data from Homeless UK, 2013
- Projects and beds report: analysis of data from Homeless UK, 2013

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- All figures are from omnibus survey by Populus for Homeless Link, 11-12 September 2013

WHAT WE DO

Homeless Link is the national, membership charity for organisations working directly with homeless people in England. With over 500 members, we work to make services for homeless people better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.



LET'S END HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

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Published by Homeless Link 2013.

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Homeless Link is a charity no. 1089173 and a company no. 04313826.