



# SAFEGUARDING

OUR BI-MONTHLY SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

MAY JUNE 2022 • HOMELESSNESS



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

In our latest issue we will be discussing homelessness, the types of homelessness, causes of homelessness and how to access help.

If you require further support please see the links on the last page of the document.

## INTRODUCTION

Despite the UK being one of the richest countries in the world the UK faces a high level of poverty & homelessness. Current homeless figures are 38% higher than they were 12 years ago according to one source, however the scale of homelessness is hard to quantify. Many statistics are based on rough sleepers, not including the 'hidden homeless' i.e. people trapped in temporary accommodation, hostels, shelters or sofa-surfing.

Between October and December 2021 67,480 households required their local councils to prevent or relieve homelessness.

### Types of homelessness;

- **Rough Sleeping**

Rough sleeping is the most visible and dangerous form of homelessness, and when most people think of a homeless person they tend to think of someone sleeping rough on the streets. The longer someone experiences rough sleeping the more likely they are to face challenges around trauma, mental health and drug misuse.

- **Statutory Homelessness**

A household is considered statutorily homeless if a local authority decides that they do not have a legal right to occupy accommodation that is accessible, physically available and which would be reasonable for the household to continue to live in. (*crisis.org*)





• **Hidden Homeless**

The majority of homeless people are hidden from statistics and services as they are dealing with their situation informally. This means staying with family and friends, sofa surfing, living in unsuitable housing such as squats or in 'beds in shed' situations (The Homelessness Monitor: England 2018) (*crisis.org*)

• **At risk of Homelessness**

Some people are more at risk of being pushed into homelessness than others. People in low paid jobs, living in poverty and poor quality or insecure housing are more likely to experience homelessness. (*crisis.org*)

## POSSIBLE CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

There are many different reasons as to why a person may become homeless. There are many social causes of homelessness, such as lack of affordable housing, poverty, unemployment and life events.

People are forced into homelessness when they leave institutions such as the army, care or prison. Many people, especially woman, are homeless due to fleeing an abusive/violent relationship.

Many people become homeless simply because they can no longer afford rent.

And for many, life events like a relationship breaking down, losing a job, mental or physical health problems, or substance misuse put people under considerable strain. Being homeless can, in turn, make many of these problems even harder to resolve. However, in nearly all cases homelessness **is** preventable and in every case it can be ended.

## LGBTQ+ HOMELESSNESS

LGBTQ+ people are over-represented within the homeless population. Research has shown that as many as 30% of homeless youths in the UK are LGBTQ+, despite only 3-6% of 16-24's, of the general population identifying as LGBT.

Could this be because LGBT people suffer disproportionately from discrimination and intolerance, two key drivers of homelessness?

## SHOCKING STATISTICS

- 69% of homeless LGBT young people had experienced violence, abuse or rejection from their family home. (*akt.org.uk*)
- 77% state that their LGBT identity was a factor of them becoming homeless (*akt.org.uk*)
- Stonewall research indicates that 1 in 5 LGBTQ+ people experience homelessness at some point in their lives.
- Homeless people are 9x more likely to take their own life compared to the general public (*crisis.org*)
- The average life expectancy for those experiencing homelessness is 46 for a man and 42 for a woman. (*crisis.org*)
- People sleeping on the street are 17x more likely to have been victims of violence (*crisis.org*)

For the last five years' core homelessness has been rising year on year in England, reaching a peak just before the pandemic when the numbers of homeless households jumped from 207,600 in 2018 to over 219,000 at the end of 2019. By the end of 2021, 227,000 households across Britain were experiencing the worst forms of homelessness.

## HOW TO ACCESS HELP

**if you're homeless or about to become homeless** contact your local council. In England, your council must help if you're legally homeless or will become homeless within the next 8 weeks. ([gov.uk](http://gov.uk)).

**If you're sleeping rough, have nowhere to stay, are worried about losing your home or are at risk of abuse at home** you can contact Shelter's Emergency Helpline on 0808 800 4444. Shelter also has a range of resources regarding Housing Advice.

**If you are a victim, or at risk of domestic abuse** you can contact the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247.

**If you are a victim, or at risk of honour based abuse or forced marriage** you can contact Karma Nirvana, a national Honour Based Abuse Helpline on 0800 5999 247.

**If you're LGBTQ+, aged 16-25 and living in a hostile or abusive environment, or struggling with your housing situation**, you can contact AKT.org.uk who can help you to:

- Stay safe
- Provide support and advocacy to find emergency accommodation
- Access specialist support
- Develop skills, identify and achieve life goals

For more charities and organisations visit [Homeless Link](#).

## FURTHER SUPPORT



**Homeless Link**

Homeless England is the most comprehensive database of Homelessness services. It is constantly updated and lists of 1500 projects up and down the country with contact details and service descriptions.

**Homeless Link**



**StreetLink**

If you are sleeping rough, or concerned about someone over the age of 18 that you have seen sleeping rough in England or Wales, you can use this website to send an alert to StreetLink. The details you provide are sent to the local authority or outreach service for the area in which you have seen the person, to help them find the individual and connect them to support.

### 9 PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Marriage & Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy & Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

### PREVENT DUTY

The Prevent Duty is part of the government strategy to reduce the risk of Extremism, Terrorism and Radicalisation.

#### **View our Prevent Leaflet**

Report possible terrorist activity online. If you are concerned about someone or see anything suspicious call the local police or the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.

### BRITISH VALUES

British Values are defined as;

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

## OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Contact Steadfast Training's Safeguarding team on 0845 223 2401 or email [safe-guarding@steadfasttraining.co.uk](mailto:safe-guarding@steadfasttraining.co.uk)

### Our Safeguarding Officers

**Robert Wright** - 07985338185  
**Alison Law** - 07720092609  
**Chloe Robinson** - 07985338116

**Report a Safeguarding Issue**



For more information on anything covered in the newsletter, feedback or ideas for the next issue, please contact us on [chloe.robinson@steadfasttraining.co.uk](mailto:chloe.robinson@steadfasttraining.co.uk).