

LAUNCH HOUSING CAPITAL CITIES
HOMELESSNESS INDEX 2023

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APPENDIX: CITY PROFILE LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM



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Despite a raft of dedicated policies and funding for homelessness and affordable housing, a lack of affordable housing is a major issue in Greater London. While Greater London has a substantial amount of social housing (24% of dwellings), it also has the highest average private rents in England overall and one of the highest rates of housing stress in the OECD. A quarter of a million households (250,992 applicants) are on the wait list for housing with local authorities.

Research by Heriot-Watt University indicates a need to provide at least 90,000 additional social housing dwellings across England.¹ There are 8.5 million people in England who are experiencing some form of unmet housing need, including households at risk of or experiencing homelessness. For around half of these people, social rented housing is their only option.²

Over a 12-month period, 11,018 people were seen visibly rough sleeping in London, though on a given night there were 842 people – giving a rate of 9.4 people sleeping rough per 100,000 people. Close to 27,800 people were provided with homelessness assistance by local authorities over the course of a year (12 months to March 2021), and a further 23,990 people were at-risk of homelessness.

Family and Domestic Violence is the leading reason that women and children experience homelessness. Despite recent changes prioritising women and children escaping violence for assistance, the refuge system is already unable to meet demand.³

London's homelessness response to the COVID-19 pandemic saw around 7,000 people in temporary accommodation in January 2021. To date, some 40,240 people have been provided with long-term housing or were being supported to find long-term housing.

Over the past decade, and especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are signs that homelessness is attracting increasing attention as a social policy issue. Following the COVID-19 emergency response, programs were developed which aimed to provide ongoing housing for people placed in emergency accommodation. Dedicated policies on homelessness and affordable housing exist at the Greater London level as well as nationally and enhanced data collection on homelessness through CHAIN (the Combined Homelessness and Information Network) will help to improve understanding of rough sleeping in Greater London.

Geographical area

Greater London is the largest city in the UK covering 1572.1 square kilometres with an estimated population of 9,002,488 in 2020. Greater London is made up of 33 boroughs (local government areas) including the city of London which includes the historic centre and central business and finance district of London.

Greater London is overseen by the Greater London Authority (GLA) which includes a Mayor and a 25-member assembly – all of whom are elected by residents of Greater London. The Greater London Authority coordinates local governance across the 33 boroughs and the Mayor of London administers capital funding for affordable housing and also makes policies on homelessness.

In the main, data presented in this report are based on the geographical area of Greater London. Sometimes, however, data are included for England where data for Greater London was unavailable.

1 <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8963/>

2 People in housing need: the scale and shape of housing need in England, December 2021, available at: <https://www.housing.org.uk/globalassets/files/people-in-housing-need/people-in-housing-need-2021.pdf>

3 <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-56440646>

Definition of rough sleeping and homelessness

As in Australia, rough sleeping is understood as a form of homelessness and is the most visible form of homelessness in the UK. The CHAIN reports include people sleeping/bedded down on the street, or in other open spaces or locations not designed for habitation, such as doorways, stairwells, parks or derelict buildings⁴.

The UK also has a legal definition of homelessness which is used to determine when local authorities have a duty to assist a person experiencing homelessness; also referred to as *statutory homelessness*.

A person is legally defined as homeless (and owed a relief duty) if:

- they have no accommodation available in the UK or abroad
- they have no legal right to occupy the accommodation
- they have a split household and accommodation is not available for whole household
- it is unreasonable to continue to occupy their accommodation
- they are at risk of violence from any person
- they are unable to secure entry to their accommodation
- they live in a moveable structure but have no place to put it⁵

A person is considered threatened with homelessness if it is likely that they will become homeless within 56 days or if *“they have been given a valid section 21 notice [notice to vacate or an eviction notice] in respect of their only accommodation, and the notice is due to expire within 56 days”*. A person threatened with homelessness is owed a prevention duty by a local authority.

Hidden homelessness is also acknowledged and includes those who are not eligible for assistance from local authorities/do not meet the legal definition of homelessness. It includes people staying with friends and family, couch surfing (sometimes called concealed homelessness), or living in squats or other forms of inappropriate housing, or severely overcrowded housing.⁶

Population and ratio of rough sleeping and homelessness

The number of people seen sleeping rough in London has increased every year for the past 10 years (except between 2017-18).

As shown in [Table 1](#), over the 12 months to April 2021, 11,018 people were visibly sleeping rough in Greater London. This was an increase from the previous year of 3% (10,726 people), but an increase of 21% from the 2018-19 financial year.⁷ *More than two-thirds (68%) of people were sleeping rough for the first time.*

- On a single night in December 2020, 1,078 people were sleeping rough in Greater London. About a month later, in January 2021, it was 842 people, giving a rate of 12 people sleeping rough per 100,000 residents (2020) and 9 per 100,000 residents (2021) respectively.⁸
- These figures show that rough sleeping numbers are variable and can change markedly within a relatively short period. It illustrates the importance of having regular counts of rough sleeping.
- And point-in-time counts can underestimate the scale of rough sleeping.

Estimates for London (and the UK generally) on rough sleeping vary and are influenced, in part, by methodologies: <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN02007/SN02007.pdf>

4 CHAIN (2021) Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) annual report, Greater London full report, 2020/21, page 1. Available at: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>

5 https://england.shelter.org.uk/professional_resources/legal/homelessness_applications/homelessness_and_threatened_homelessness/legal_definition_of_homelessness_and_threatened_homelessness

6 Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Wood, J., Watts, B., Stephens, M. & Blenkinsopp, J. (2019) The Homelessness Monitor: England 2019. London: Crisis. Available at: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/240419/the_homelessness_monitor_england_2019.pdf; and <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/types-of-homelessness/>

7 CHAIN (2021) Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) annual report, Greater London full report, 2020/21, available at: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>

8 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, (2021) Support for people sleeping rough in England 2021 Tables, Table 3: Total number of people who are sleeping rough on a single night by local authority district, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2021/annex-a-support-for-people-sleeping-rough-in-england-2021-not-official-statistics#live-tables>

Table 1. Rough sleeping

Greater London	
Number of people visibly sleeping rough in 12 months to April 2021	11,018
Number of people sleeping rough on a given night (PIT) (2021)	842 people
Rate of rough sleeping on a given night per 100,000 residents (2021)	9.4 people

Sources:

CHAIN(2021) Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) annual report, Greater London full report, 2020/21, available at: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>.

Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, (2021) Support for people sleeping rough in England 2021 Tables, Table 3: Total number of people who are sleeping rough on a single night by local authority district, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2021/annex-a-support-for-people-sleeping-rough-in-england-2021-not-official-statistics#live-tables>.

Estimated total population of Greater London as at June 2020: 9,002,488, <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/londons-population>.

Overall homelessness

Homelessness has been a persistent problem in Greater London for many years and is an extreme sign of a serious housing crisis.

[Table 2](#) below shows the number of people experiencing different forms of homelessness in Greater London.

- Over a 12-month period (2020-21), almost 121,900 people were either experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in Greater London, giving an annual rate of 1,354 people homeless per 100,000 residents.

⁹ <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/about-homelessness/>

¹⁰ Nomis: official labour market statistics, London Region, Local Area Report. <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E12000007>

¹¹ Live Table 600: Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists^{1,3}, by district: England, 31 March 2 1997-2020, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-rents-lettings-and-tenancies>

¹² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088486/EHS_20-21_PRS_Report.pdf

- The majority were defined as statutory homeless, meaning the local authority had to act to prevent homelessness, for people at risk, or where it had occurred, to provide some form of temporary accommodation.
- In fact, 50% of people had been placed in temporary accommodation by local authorities in Greater London in the previous 12 months, some of them due to COVID-19.
- The official figures, however, do not include the 'hidden homeless', the many people who were not entitled to assistance from the local authority, or did not seek assistance (for example, people in hostels, squats, in overcrowded dwellings, or staying with family or friends) and as such are a likely undercount.⁹

Table 2. Type of homelessness

Greater London	
Statutory homelessness (12 months to March 2021)	51,760 (42%)
Number of people sleeping rough (12 months to April 2021)	11,018 (9%)
Number of people in temporary accommodation (December 2021)	59,100 (49%)*
Total homelessness	121,878 (100%)
Rate of total homelessness per 100,000 people	1,354 people

Sources:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021, Statutory Homelessness Annual Report, 2020-21, England, Official Statistics Release, Detailed local authority level tables: financial year 2020-21, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-financial-year-2020-21>.

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>.

Estimated total population of Greater London as at June 2020: 9,002,488, <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/londons-population>.

Structural factors affecting homelessness

Social and affordable housing

In general, rental housing, both social and private, is very scarce in Greater London. Even though Greater London has a comparatively high proportion of social housing rented dwellings (24%)¹⁰, compared with 7% average for OECD, in 2020, there were almost 251,000 households on the waitlist for housing with local authorities in Greater London.¹¹

As shown in [Table 3](#):

- There were absolutely no private rental properties available in Greater London that were affordable for lower-income households.
- And it is also extremely expensive: among households in the lowest income brackets in private rental in Greater London, **nearly all** were in rental stress, paying more than 30% of their income on rent (for England, it was 71%); in other words, 230,000 households were at risk of losing their housing and becoming homeless.¹²

Table 3. Social and affordable housing measure

	Greater London
Number of social housing rented dwellings (% of households)	785,993 households (24.1%)
Number of new private rental lettings affordable for households on lower-income (2020)	0*
% of low-income households in rental stress (bottom 40% of income distribution paying more than 30% of disposable income on private rent) (2020-21)	95.1%** (230,000 households)

Sources:

Nomis: official labour market statistics, London Region, Local Area Report. <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/localarea?compare=E12000007>.

* <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/private-rentalaffordabilityengland/2012to2020#regional-private-rental-affordability> (Table 1).

** https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088486/EHS_20-21_PRS_Report.pdf (Total low-income households in private rental: 242,000, Table AT2_1, English Housing Survey, 2020-21, Chapter 2_Annex_Tables), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-housing-survey-2020-to-2021-private-rented-sector>.

Level of income and poverty

Research from the UK shows that poverty, especially childhood poverty, increases the risk of homelessness¹³. Both poverty and homelessness can be transmitted across generations, with those experiencing either homelessness or poverty as children more likely to experience it again as adults¹⁴.

Importantly, without adequate levels of income, access to housing is extremely difficult for low-income and vulnerable households. Greater London has the highest average private rent in England and has increased by 43% since 2005.¹⁵ As shown in [Table 4](#):

- Poverty in Greater London was relatively more widespread among households with children compared to households overall.¹⁶
- However, once housing costs are considered, poverty rates increased markedly for households in Greater London (27%), especially for children (38%)¹⁷, indicating the extent to which the cost of housing drives poverty¹⁸, and exposing many households to increased risk of homelessness.
- Overall, private rental housing in Greater London is expensive costing around an estimated \$600 per week, almost 60% of median income, which has the most impact on low-income households. With an average income of less than \$400 per week, the typical rental was completely unaffordable for low-income households.

Table 4. Income and poverty measures

	Greater London
Median weekly rent (2019-20)	\$589.00*
Median weekly equivalised disposable household income (2019-20)	\$1,009.00**
Mean weekly equivalised disposable household income – bottom 20% income distribution (2019-20)	\$366.00***
Poverty rate overall (3-year average, before housing cost) (2017/18 to 2019/20)	16%+
Poverty rate children (under 16 years) (3-year average, before housing cost) (2017/18 to 2019/20)	21%+

Sources:

* Private rental market summary statistics in England: October 2019 to September 2020, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/private-rental-market-summary-statistics-in-england>. Based on £1,435 per month, converted to AUD, exchange rate 1 GBP = 1.63961 AUD as at 25 August 2022, <https://www.commbank.com.au/international/foreign-exchange-calculator.html>.

** Based on £615 per week, 2019-20 <https://www.statista.com/statistics/380018/household-income-bhc-uk-by-region/>, converted to AUD, exchange rate 1 GBP = 1.63961 AUD as at 25 August 2022, <https://www.commbank.com.au/international/foreign-exchange-calculator.html>.

*** Based on £223 per week, 2019-20 <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/income-inequality>, converted to AUD, exchange rate 1 GBP = 1.63961 AUD as at 25 August 2022, <https://www.commbank.com.au/international/foreign-exchange-calculator.html>.

+ Poverty in the UK, Statistics, 2022, available at: <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07096/SN07096.pdf>.

13 Bramley, G. and Fitzpatrick, S. (2017) 'Homelessness in the UK: Who is Most at Risk?', *Housing Studies*, vol. 33, no. 1: 96-116, 10.1080/02673037.2017.1344957

14 Flatau, P., Conroy, E., Spooner, C., Edwards, R., Eardley, T. and Forbes, C. (2013) *Lifetime and Intergenerational Experiences of Homelessness in Australia*, AHURI Final Report 200, Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, Melbourne.; Wagmiller, R. J. and Adelman, R. (2009) *Childhood and Intergenerational Poverty: The Long-Term Consequences of Growing Up Poor*, National Center for Children in Poverty, New York.; Cobb-Clark, D. A. (2019) *Intergenerational Transmission of Disadvantage in Australia!* Life Course Centre Working Paper Series, 2019, Institute for Social Science Research, The University of Queensland, Queensland.

15 Georgie Cosh and James Gleeson, 2020, *Housing in London 2020: The evidence base for the London Housing Strategy*, GLA Housing and Land, London. Available at: <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/housing-london>

16 Department for Work and Pensions, 2021, *Households Below Average Income, 2019/20*, Whole population (Time Series - Populations), Table 3.17ts: Percentage of individuals living in households with less than 60 per cent of contemporary median household income, by region or country, United Kingdom, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/households-below-average-income-for-financial-years-ending-1995-to-2020>

17 Poverty in the UK, Statistics, 2022, <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN07096/SN07096.pdf>

18 https://trustforlondon.fra1.cdn.digitaloceanspaces.com/media/documents/Londons_Poverty_Profile_2020.pdf

Family violence

Family violence is a leading cause of homelessness for women and children. In the UK research has shown that most women who experience homelessness have also experienced intimate partner violence.¹⁹ The recent introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) will ensure that women escaping family violence will automatically be considered a priority for assistance from local authorities.²⁰ However, women's refuges across England are at capacity and do not have the resources to meet demand.²¹ Consequently, homelessness will likely increase for women (and children) fleeing violence.

There were 845,734 domestic abuse-related crimes²² recorded by police and reported between reported April 2020-March 2021 for all of England and Wales. This represents 18% of all crimes reported by police in this period.

As shown in [Table 5](#), in Greater London, there were around 94,500 family violence-related crimes reported between April 2020 and March 2021.

- This represents 13% of all crimes recorded by police and a rate of 1,050.0 domestic abuse-related crimes per 100,000 people.²³ These statistics apply to those aged 16 years and over.

Table 5. Family violence measure

	Greater London
Number of family violence-related crimes (2020-21)	94,457
Reported family violence crimes per 100,000 population	1,050.0

Source:

ONS, 2021, Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics, England and Wales: November 2021, Table 2: Number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by the police, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2021. And Table 1: Number of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police and percentage of offenses that were domestic abuse-related, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2021, and Table 5: Rate of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2021, available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixables>;

19 Bimpson,E, Green, H and Reeve,K, 2021, Women, homelessness and violence: what works? Centre for Homelessness Impact. https://assets-global.website-files.com/59f07e67422cdf0001904c14/61017dbd205aeb5f3bdd366b_CFHI_WOMEN_REPORT_V03.pdf

20 Bimpson,E, Green, H and Reeve,K, 2021, Women, homelessness and violence: what works? Centre for Homelessness Impact. https://assets-global.website-files.com/59f07e67422cdf0001904c14/61017dbd205aeb5f3bdd366b_CFHI_WOMEN_REPORT_V03.pdf

21 Women's Aid. (2022) The Domestic Abuse Report 2022: The Annual Audit, Bristol: Women's Aid. <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/evidence-hub/research-and-publications/the-domestic-abuse-report/>

22 : ONS, 2021, Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics, England and Wales: November 2021, Table 2: Number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by the police, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2021. "Domestic abuse related offences are defined as any incidence of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults, aged 16 and over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."

23 ONS, 2021, Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics, England and Wales: November 2021, Table 2: Number of domestic abuse-related incidents recorded by the police, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2021. And Table 1: Number of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police and percentage of offenses that were domestic abuse-related, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2016 to year ending March 2021, and Table 5: Rate of domestic abuse-related crimes recorded by the police, by police force area, England and Wales, year ending March 2021, available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/domesticabuseprevalenceandvictimcharacteristicsappendixables>

POLICY CONTEXT



Rough sleeping and homelessness

Greater London and England more generally have a range of policies to address homelessness and rough sleeping

In 2018, the legislative and data collection framework used by local authorities changed due to the introduction of *The Homeless Reduction Act (2017)*.²⁴ This act introduced a “universal homelessness ‘prevention’ duty for all eligible households threatened with homelessness within 56 days, as well as a ‘relief’ duty to take ‘reasonable steps’ to help to secure accommodation for eligible homeless applicants.”²⁵

The Rough Sleeping Strategy (RSS) was also released in 2018 with a dedicated focus on ending rough sleeping in England by 2027.²⁶ This strategy included a significant increase in funding for rough sleepers and associated services, including, for example, £28 million for three Housing First pilots, and £17 million for “Somewhere Safe to Stay” pilots, which will rapidly assess the needs of people who are sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping.²⁷

The RSS also included a review of homelessness legislation, additional funding for new homes for people exiting rough sleeping, and set out four main interventions as part of a rapid rehousing pathways: “Somewhere Safe to Stay” hubs, “Supported Lettings”, “Navigators” and “Local Lettings Agencies”.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) has several homelessness initiatives which are linked via its Rough Sleeping Plan of Action²⁸ and Homes for Londoners²⁹ policy documents. The majority of the work of the GLA on homelessness is focussed on addressing and ending rough sleeping.

The success of these policies and initiatives, and in practice, the ability of local authorities to assist people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness is dependent upon local supplies of affordable housing, and there have been reports that local authorities sometimes struggle to accommodate people with complex needs.³⁰

24 Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Wood, J., Watts, B., Stephens, M. & Blenkinsopp, J. (2021) *The Homelessness Monitor: England 2021*. London: Crisis. available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/homelessness-monitor/england/the-homelessness-monitor-england-2021/>

25 Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Wood, J., Watts, B., Stephens, M. & Blenkinsopp, J. (2021) *The Homelessness Monitor: England 2021*. London: Crisis. available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/homelessness-monitor/england/the-homelessness-monitor-england-2021/> p.31.

26 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/733421/Rough-Sleeping-Strategy_WEB.pdf

27 Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Wood, J., Watts, B., Stephens, M. & Blenkinsopp, J. (2019) *The Homelessness Monitor: England 2019*. London: Crisis. Available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/homelessness-monitor/england/the-homelessness-monitor-england-2019/>

28 <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/homelessness/rough-sleeping-plan-action>

29 <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/homes-londoners-affordable-homes-programmes>

30 Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Wood, J., Watts, B., Stephens, M. & Blenkinsopp, J. (2021) *The Homelessness Monitor: England 2021*. London: Crisis. available at: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/homelessness-monitor/england/the-homelessness-monitor-england-2021/>

Investment in social and affordable housing

In England, affordable housing is defined in the national planning policy framework as “*Housing for sale or rent, for those whose needs are not met by the market (including housing that provides a subsidised route to home ownership and/or is for essential local workers)*”.³¹

Greater London has a comparatively substantial amount of social housing (24% of dwellings); in fact, it is more than three times higher than the OECD average of 7%.³² Similar to other western countries, policy decisions over the last two-to-three decades have resulted in the decline of social housing stock. As a consequence, in 2017-18, for example, around 18,000 fewer social dwellings were available for households experiencing homelessness than in 2007-08.³³

In addition to this, Greater London also has the highest average private rents in England overall, and one of the highest rates of housing stress in the OECD. Further, a quarter of a million households (250,992 people) are on the wait list for housing with local authorities.³⁴

England's *Affordable Homes Programme* (AHP) (2021 to 2026) provides capital funding to build new affordable housing for rent and sale across the country.³⁵ The AHP covers the Greater London region and includes all 33

boroughs contained therein. The program provides capital funding for affordable rental homes, a living rent scheme, and a shared ownership scheme.³⁶

Almost £10 billion in additional funding for the AHP was announced in the March 2020 Budget and is expected to deliver 32,000 social housing dwellings. But based on research by Heriot-Watt, the figure falls short of a need to provide at least 90,000 additional social rent dwellings across England.³⁷ There are 8.5 million people in England who are experiencing some form of unmet housing need, including households at risk of or experiencing homelessness. For around half of these people, social rented housing is their only option.³⁸

Responding to homelessness and the COVID-19 pandemic

As in other parts of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in extraordinary action by the UK government to provide safe accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.

In late March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the *Everyone In* initiative was launched by the UK government. Significantly, the initiative asked local authorities in England to provide emergency accommodation for people

rough sleeping, people at risk of rough sleeping, and those in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements.³⁹

Additional measures included longer notice periods to take possession of a property (evictions), initially extended to 3 months but later to 6 months, as well as a 6-month moratorium on enforcement of possessions (evictions) by bailiffs. As a result of these initiatives, there was a decrease in the number of people who were assessed as being owed a homelessness prevention duty (119,400 households) in 2020-21 compared with the previous financial year.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) was substantially involved in the *Everyone In* initiative and despite not being a local authority, played an active role in arranging temporary accommodation and providing support to people sleeping rough and those in homeless shelters with shared sleeping arrangements.

Management information provides a snapshot of the number of people sleeping rough or at-risk of sleeping rough and assisted into temporary accommodation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the end of January 2021, a total of 7,018 people were placed in temporary accommodation in Greater London.⁴⁰ In England at the end of December 2021, an estimated 40,240 people had moved into stable accommodation or a supported housing pathway since the pandemic began, a 63% increase from the previous year.⁴¹

31 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework/annex-2-glossary>

32 <https://www.oecd.org/els/family/PH4-2-Social-rental-housing-stock.pdf>

33 Fitzpatrick, S., Pawson, H., Bramley, G., Wood, J., Watts, B., Stephens, M. & Blenkinsopp, J. (2019) *The Homelessness Monitor: England 2019*. London: Crisis. Available at: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/240419/the_homelessness_monitor_england_2019.pdf (p.26).

34 Live Table 600: Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists 1,3, by district: England, 31 March 2 1997-2020, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-rents-lettings-and-tenancies>

35 <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-affordable-housing-funding#about>

36 Greater London Authority (2016) *Homes for Londoners: Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 funding guidance*. Greater London Authority, London. Available at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/file/11941201>

37 <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8963/>

38 *People in housing need: the scale and shape of housing need in England*, December 2021, available at: <https://www.housing.org.uk/globalassets/files/people-in-housing-need/people-in-housing-need-2021.pdf>

39 <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/homelessness-knowledge-hub/services-and-interventions/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-people-facing-homelessness-and-service-provision-across-great-britain-2020/>

40 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, (2021) *Support for people sleeping rough in England 2021 Tables*, Table 1: Total number of people sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough who are currently being provided emergency accommodation in response to Covid-19 pandemic, by local authority district, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2021/annex-a-support-for-people-sleeping-rough-in-england-2021-not-official-statistics#live-tables>

41 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2021/annex-a-support-for-people-sleeping-rough-in-england-2021-not-official-statistics#live-tables>