

Summary Report

THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DATABANK 2023-2024



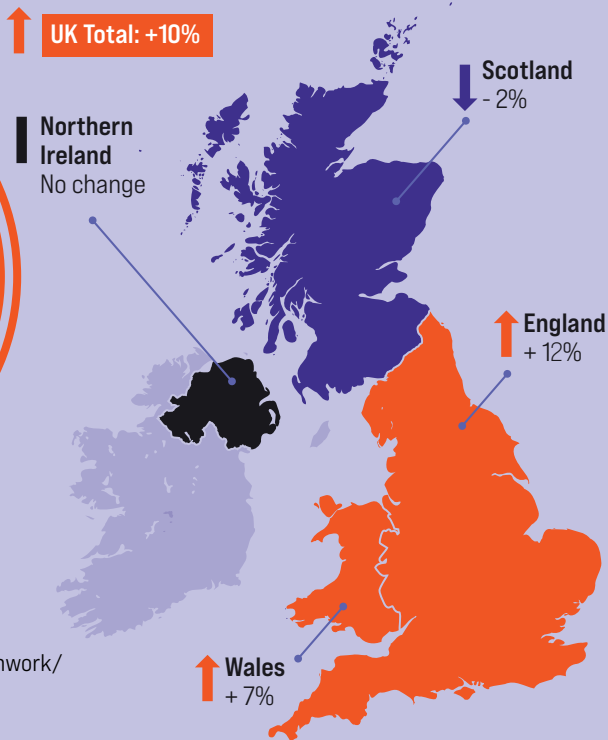
Registered Charity No. 292411

**CENTRE
POINT**

**ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

An estimated **118,134** young people approached their local authorities because they were at risk of homelessness in the UK in 2023-2024.

1 in 62 young people in the UK were estimated to be facing homelessness in 2023-2024¹.



1 Office for National Statistics. [2024] 16-24 year old population: All persons. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/timeseries/jn5r/lms>

One young person faced homelessness approximately every 4 minutes in the UK in 2023-2024.

Nation	Young people presenting as homeless in 2022/23	Young people presenting as homeless in 2023/24	Percentage change from 2022/23 to 2023/24
England	90,620	101,460	12% increase
Scotland	7,500	7,358	2% decrease
Wales	6,000	6,420	7% increase
Northern Ireland	2,900	2,896	No change
UK	107,020	118,134	10% increase

Outcomes for young people presenting to their local authority in 2023-2024.

- **67,714** of these were assessed for prevention or relief duty. **This means 67% of young people who presented to their local authority for homelessness support were assessed.**
- **25,946** were issued a prevention duty.
- **34,393** were issued a relief duty.
- **12,516** had their prevention duty ended after securing accommodation.
- **11,844** had their relief duty ended after securing accommodation.
- **16,984** were assessed for a statutory main housing duty under Part 7 of the Housing Act.
- **12,233** were accepted as statutorily homeless and were owed a statutory housing duty under Part 6 of the Housing Act.



“Effectively, the guidance is shaped so that you've got to think they're homeless, take a really minimal evidence-based approach to meet that threshold, and then do all your investigations while that person is safely housed. But instead, it's been used to gatekeep quite a lot.”

- Centrepoint Helpline staff member

Reasons for youth homelessness²



1. Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate **29,960 (50%)**



2. Domestic abuse **6,210 (10%)**



3. End of assured shorthold tenancy **4,710 (8%)**



4. Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support **3,360 (6%)**

5. Evicted from supported housing **2,960 (5%)**

“I think that maybe what we're seeing is an after effect of the cost-of-living crisis, we've got a lot of like young people being asked to leave by family who can't afford to keep them.”

- Local authority staff member from a West Midlands authority

² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of the United Kingdom (via Freedom of Information request)

Recommendations

- 1. Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government should** increase oversight and monitoring of local authority implementation and practices related to the implementation of the HRA when tackling youth homelessness. Improved Government scrutiny over how local authorities provide homelessness assessments and services would improve adherence to best practices, maintain consistent standards, and address any gaps in service provision to tackle youth homelessness.
- 2. Government should** create a youth chapter in their upcoming cross-government strategy to end youth homelessness. This outcomes-focused chapter should tackle root causes, provide youth-specific emergency housing, and foster collaboration across housing, employment, education, and welfare services. It should align with the Government's Mission Boards to ensure youth homelessness is integrated into broader strategic objectives.
- 3. Government should** provide ring-fenced funding for local authorities to tackle youth homelessness. This funding should be dedicated to supporting local authorities in implementing the HRA and assessing and supporting all young people who are facing homelessness. Ensuring this funding is ring-fenced will guarantee that it is used solely for youth homelessness initiatives.
- 4.** To ensure that all young people who are facing homelessness get the support they need from local authorities, **the Homelessness Code of Guidance should** be amended to clarify the obligations of local authorities at the presentation, initial interview, and assessment stage to ensure that all local authorities are aware of what is and is not acceptable practice. In doing this, they should delineate a) the factors a local authority must take into account and b) what constitutes a realistic burden of proof when the Homelessness Code of Guidance states that a local authority must only have "reason to believe" a person is homeless or at risk to get an assessment. This should cover what forms of evidence or burden of proof is acceptable to require at this early stage of the HRA.
- 5. The government must** commit to building 90,000 social rented homes annually, including 40,000 one-bedroom social rented homes. Increasing the supply of affordable, youth-appropriate housing is crucial in tackling homelessness and providing secure, long-term accommodation for vulnerable young people. The government must incentivise developers and local authorities to prioritise one-bedroom social rented homes to address the specific housing needs of young people, who very often approach their council for homelessness support as a single applicant, having lost any family support. This is evidenced by the fact that family breakdowns remain the leading cause of youth homelessness.

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