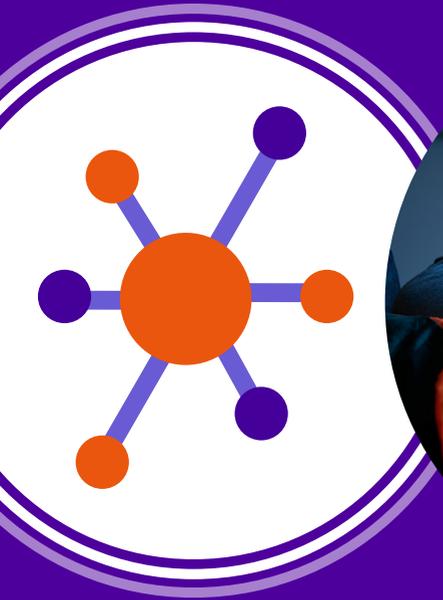


Summary Report

THE YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DATABANK 2024-2025



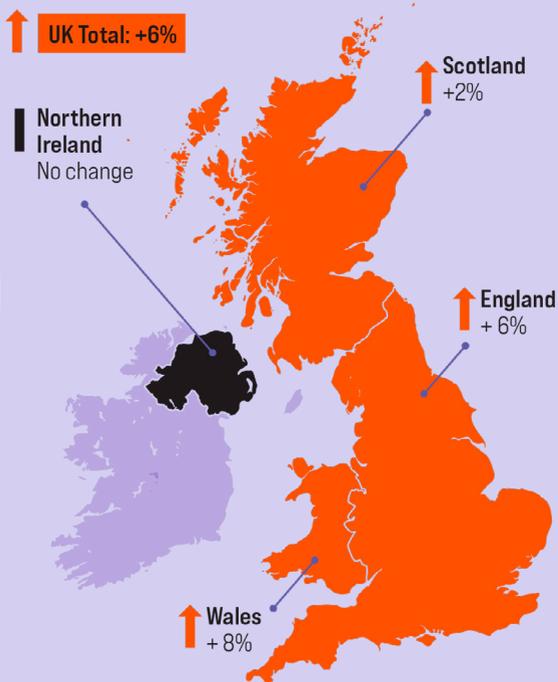
Registered Charity No. 292411

**CENTRE
POINT**

**ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

An estimated **123,934** young people approached their local authorities because they were homeless or at risk of homelessness in the UK between 2024-25, a 6 percent increase from last year's Youth Homelessness Databank.

1 in 60 young people in the UK were estimated to be facing homelessness in 2024-25.



*Note: Northern Ireland figures represent young people aged 16 to 25, as opposed to 16 to 24 in the rest of the devolved nations

Nation	Number of young people homeless or at risk of homelessness in 2023/24	Number of young people homeless or at risk of homelessness in 2024/25	Yearly change [%]
England	101,184	107,585	6% increase
Scotland	7,434	7,604	2% increase
Wales	5,433	5,856	8% increase
Northern Ireland*	2,896	2,889	No change
UK	116,947	123,934	6% increase

This equates to a young person facing homelessness every four minutes in the UK in 2024-25.

Outcomes for young people in England presenting to their local authority in 2024-25

In 2024-25, an estimated **107,585 young people in England faced or were at risk of homelessness** and approached their local authorities for housing assistance. Of those who approached their local authorities, **only 70,184 (65%) were provided a housing assessment by their local authority**—a necessary step to receiving homelessness assistance.

Of the **70,184** provided a housing assessment by their local authority:

- **Relief duty: 40,323** young people were issued a relief duty. **12,231** relief duties ended in accommodation secured.

- **Prevention duty: 23,933** young people were issued a prevention duty. **11,703** prevention duties ended in accommodation secured.
- **Main duty: 15,769** were assessed for a statutory main housing duty under Part 7 of the Housing Act.
- **Statutorily homeless and owed main duty: 10,218** were accepted as statutorily homeless and were owed a statutory housing duty under Part 6 of the Housing Act.

Reasons for youth homelessness

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the primary causes for youth homelessness in the UK were the following as reported by MHCLG:¹

-  **1. Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (29,830, 51%)**
-  **2. Domestic abuse (6,420, 11%)**
-  **3. Evicted from supported housing (4,300, 7%)**
-  **4. End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy (3,950, 7%)**
-  **5. Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support (3,570, 6%)**

“We still hear regularly young people being asked to leave because the family feel that they can’t afford to keep them, so they can’t afford to feed them. They can’t afford to look after them, and that just exacerbates a lot of the sort of arguments and disagreements that can fuel family breakdowns.”

- Housing service provider

1 Statutory homelessness ad hoc analyses - GOV.UK

Recommendations

- 1. Improve data availability and quality on youth homelessness.** Current statistical releases by the MHCLG do not provide data on the number of young people who present to their local authorities as homeless. In order to provide a complete picture of youth homelessness, MHCLG should provide presentations data broken down by age group. This would enable greater scrutiny of the implementation of the HRA and report on how youth assessment rates compare to the general population.
- 2.** As more young people are presenting as homeless, **the Government should undertake a formal review into youth homelessness assessment rates by councils in England**, examining their consistency, accuracy, and alignment of statutory interpretation with legal requirements as well as the operational, resource, and systemic barriers councils face in delivering the HRA in practice.
- 3.** The commitment to develop a national **Youth Homelessness Prevention Toolkit** and **dedicated chapter of the Homelessness Code of Guidance on young people** in the *Government's National Plan to End Homelessness* is very welcome. It is essential that these clarify what local authorities need to consider when young people present to their services and what constitutes a realistic burden of proof for this group. This chapter should be grounded in the lived experiences of young people and draw on the expertise of the youth homelessness sector.
- 4. The Government should provide sufficient funding to local authorities in England** to ensure that all young people who report to homelessness support services receive an assessment and support if required.

The commitment in the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness to increase funding to local authorities and shift emphasis to prevention is welcome, but the Government should also ensure there is no shortfall in funding allocations at a local level, so no young person is turned away because of councils' concerns about resources.

- 5. Increase the supply of social housing that is suitable for young people.** This should include a commitment to prioritising the development of one-bedroom social homes within its wider housing development planning. Family or friends no longer being willing or able to accommodate remains the leading cause of youth homelessness and young people very often approach their council for homelessness support as a single applicant, having lost any family support. It is vital that there are appropriate affordable housing options available for them.
- 6. Local authority housing staff should receive mandatory training on domestic abuse risk assessment.** The reality of young people who have experienced domestic abuse is not reflecting their priority need entitlements under the HRA. Training on risk assessment should be made mandatory to support staff and managers to ensure housing authorities adhere to legislation when dealing with people who have experienced domestic abuse and educating them on all forms of abuse.
- 7. The Government should permanently extend the move-on period for newly recognised refugees from 28 days to 56 days**, in line with the recent Home Office trial. The short time from notice to eviction does not give refugees sufficient time to secure alternative housing and does not align with the 56-day period for prevention duty in the HRA.