

ENSURING EVERY YOUNG PERSON IS SUPPORTED

Estimating the local authority
funding needs to address youth
homelessness

Centrepont 2026



CONTENTS

Glossary	3
Summary	4
Introduction	5
Methodology	6
Policy Context	7
Local Authority Funding Need	10
Costs associated with the HRA	15
Recommendations	18
Technical Appendix	19
Endnotes	20

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Authors: Anna Young and analysis by WPI Economics

Centrepoint 2026

GLOSSARY

Initial assessment: An initial assessment under the HRA 2017 to determine if the young person is owed a prevention or relief duty.

Main Duty: This is provided to people who are experiencing homelessness, have a local connection and priority need status. This award provides recipients with greater priority for temporary accommodation.

Relief duty: Owed to any young person assessed as homeless. This duty lasts at least 56 days, in which time the council must help them to secure alternative accommodation for at least 6 months.

Prevention duty: Owed to any young person assessed as being at risk of homelessness within at least 56 days. The council must take steps to help them maintain their current accommodation or secure alternative accommodation.

Gatekeeping: When a local authority unlawfully denies or obstructs access to homelessness support, such as accepting a homeless application or providing temporary accommodation, despite having a legal duty to do so. Practices include wrongly refusing applications, making it difficult to contact council staff, or creating excessive administrative barriers, often to reduce the number of accepted homelessness cases or minimise costs.

Homelessness Prevention Grant: A dedicated grant provided by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to support local authorities to deliver homelessness prevention and support services.

SUMMARY

Every young person in England who presents to their local authority for support because they are homeless or at risk of homelessness is entitled to an assessment under the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) 2017. However our most recent Youth Homelessness Databank showed that in the financial year 2024-2025, over a third of young people who presented to their local authority for support did not receive one.

Financial year 2024-2025 is the third year that Centrepont has commissioned WPI Economics to calculate the additional funding that local authorities would need to meet their obligations to all young people who present for housing and homelessness support under the HRA. This includes a homelessness assessment and, if eligible, a prevention, relief, or main housing duty.

In FY 2024-2025 there was a slight increase in the estimated number of unassessed cases, from 40,797 to 40,971. This figure is a 5 per cent increase in unassessed cases from FY 2022-2023, where 39,183 young people went unassessed.¹ The latest Youth Homelessness Databank found that only 65% of young people who reached out for housing and homelessness support received an assessment in FY 2024-2025.¹

As a result, many young people who were homeless or a risk of homelessness have been denied the assessments they were legally entitled to and consequently missed out on the support they may have required. We know that local authorities continue to face challenges with adequate funding to provide young people with the HRA duties they require.



£325 MILLION

In additional funding was needed by local authorities in FY 2023-2024 to meet their HRA obligations



OVER 1/3

Young people who approached their local authority for support, did not receive it.

The latest WPI analysis show that in FY 2024-2025, local authorities experienced a combined shortfall in funding of £325 million, compared to what they would have needed to deliver homelessness support to every young person who reached out to them. This is a decrease from [the previous year's figure](#) of £415 million in FY 2023-2024, although the estimated number of unassessed cases continues to rise.²

¹ Kang, H (2025). Youth Homelessness Databank. Centrepont. Available at: <https://centrepont.org.uk/research-reports/youth-homelessness-databank-2024-2025>.

² Kerridge, T. (2024). No young person left out: Estimating the local authority funding needs to support young people experiencing homelessness. Centrepont. Available at: <https://centrepont.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-08/WPI%20report%20-%20FINAL%20%281%29.pdf>.

INTRODUCTION

Under the current HRA, and Homelessness Code of Guidance, housing services within local authorities 'have a duty to carry out an assessment in all cases where an eligible applicant is homeless or threatened with homelessness.'³ If someone is found to be eligible for support, housing authorities should develop a personalised housing plan to prevent or relieve homelessness. Where this prevention or relief is not possible, those who are priority need are owed main housing duty and suitable accommodation should be made available to them.

Despite these legal obligations, Centrepoin's annual Youth Homelessness Databank research has found that in FY 2024-2025 only 65 per cent, or 70,184 out of the 107,585 total of young people who approached their local authority in England for a housing assessment received one.¹ This is a 2 per cent decrease from the year prior, with 67 per cent being assessed in FY 2023-2024.¹ Notably, it is also a 14 per cent decrease from pre-pandemic levels in FY 2018-2019 where 79 per cent of young people received an assessment.⁴

This is a concerning trend where young people are increasingly being gatekept from accessing housing support before being assessed to determine their eligibility for HRA duties.

37,401 YOUNG PEOPLE DID NOT RECEIVE ASSESSMENTS IN 2024-2025

Since FY 2022-2023, Centrepoin has commissioned WPI Economics to calculate the annual additional funding that is needed to ensure local authorities can provide all young people who present to them with an assessment, and the required HRA duties if eligible. Last year's research, No Young Person Left Out, looked at the funding need in 2023-24 and this year's findings provide an update to this analysis.²



³ UK Government (2018). Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>.

⁴ Williams -Fletcher, E. & Wairumbi, S. (2020). Caught by the Act: the scale of youth homelessness in the UK. Centrepoin. Available at: <https://centrepoin.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-06/1-caught-by-the-act-the-scale-of-youth-homelessness-in-the-uk.pdf>.

METHODOLOGY

In FY 2022-2023, FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025, Centrepoint has commissioned WPI Economics to estimate the funding shortfall local authorities face during the financial year to meet their legal obligations towards young people under the Homelessness Reduction Act. To do this, WPI carried out two research streams:

A) Qualitative Stream: Interviews with local authority homelessness support service leads were carried out in FY 2022-2023 to explore service leads' thoughts on why some young people seeking an assessment and HRA duty do not receive the required support.

B) Quantitative Stream: Cost and scenario modelling has been carried out each year since FY 2022-2023 to estimate the additional funding needed by local authorities to fulfil their obligations under the HRA.

AGE BREAKDOWN

To produce the age splits between 16-17 and 18–24 year olds the analysis process was run both as a combined total and in separate age groups. For this, data from Centrepoint's most recent annual Youth Homelessness Databank to produce shortfall estimates.¹

Ratios from these age specific estimates were then taken and applied to the totals from the combined total analysis.

COST AND SCENARIO MODELLING

The cost and scenario modelling was conducted in two phases:

Estimating unit costs: To estimate the average cost of providing the different duties under the HRA, data from the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government's (MHCLG) Statutory Homelessness live tables and Local Authority Revenue Outturn for housing services were used. This data was combined to model the duty cost per case, to account for each of the pathways through the HRA and associated homelessness support.

Creating scenarios for young people's pathways through homelessness services: Utilising data from the FY 2024-2025 Centrepoint Youth Homelessness Databank, the proportion of assessed cases that complete each HRA pathway was estimated. The baseline shortfall scenario was created, where unassessed cases would move through the HRA pathways the same as assessed cases. The optimistic and pessimistic shortfalls were then created to account for scenarios where prevention and relief duties are more or less likely to be successful than in the baseline scenario.

Where data needed for the shortfall analysis is missing, imputed estimates have been used by WPI, based on the [MHCLG Statutory homelessness in England FY 2024/25](#) and the latest [ONS Mid-year population estimates \(2024\)](#).

POLICY CONTEXT

GATEKEEPING

Many young people who reach out to their local authority for homelessness and housing support experience gatekeeping. Gatekeeping is defined in this report as the unlawful denial or obstructed access to an assessment and/or homelessness support by a local authority, despite an individual's legal entitlement to this support.

Centrepoin't's [recent gatekeeping report](#) showed that our Helpline recorded 449 instances of gatekeeping between August 2024 and July 2025, across 44 per cent of local authorities mentioned by young people contacting the helpline. This is a 2 per cent increase from the same period the year prior and amounts to 1 in 10 calls involving local authority gatekeeping.⁵

Gatekeeping cases were prevalent among young people affected by the main drivers of youth homelessness, including those affected by family breakdowns, domestic abuse, and evictions. In this period between August 2024 and July 2025, the most common reason for young people to be gatekept from support was being 'refused assessment as not seen to be in priority need', accounting for 31 per cent of gatekeeping cases.⁵ This was followed by 'young person hasn't heard back from council after initial contact' and 'young person unable to make initial contact with council.'⁵

'PRIORITY NEED'

A young person can be considered priority need if they are pregnant, domestic abuse experienced, or a care leaver (for those under 21).³ However it is important to note that all eligible young people who present as homeless or at risk of homelessness may be vulnerable and should be considered in need by housing services.



⁵ Taylor, F. (2025). Local Authority Gatekeeping Centrepoin't. Available at: <https://centrepoin't.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-10/Gatekeeping%202025.pdf>.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance establishes that for an individual to access an initial assessment, the local authority must simply have 'reason to believe' they are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and after this assessment priority need and eligibility for HRA duties is determined.³ However our Helpline has reported increasingly high thresholds for 'reasons to believe' to access these initial assessments even in the cases of young people who would be classed as priority need due to pregnancy or domestic abuse.

For example, one young person who had experienced domestic abuse was told police involvement was needed for them to qualify as priority need contrary to the Homelessness Code of Guidance.⁵ Similarly, a pregnant young person was left without an assessment for months despite rough sleeping and being able to provide proof of pregnancy.⁶



These findings highlight that young people are often being gatekept from support before even being assessed for eligibility or priority need. This contradicts their legal entitlement to an assessment under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.³ The high number of young people being turned away from assessments evidences that local authorities are not meeting their obligations under the HRA. This may partly be due to a lack of understanding of the drivers of youth homelessness such as family breakdowns, resulting in young people's concerns and calls for support being dismissed or overlooked.



⁶ Kerridge, T. (2024). Youth homelessness and local authority gatekeeping. Centrepoin. Available at: <https://centrepoin.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-10/Local%20authority%20gatekeeping%20briefing%20-%202024.pdf>

FUNDING FOR THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT

There is also an ongoing strain on resources within local authorities' housing services due to underfunding which means they often struggle to meet their obligations to provide HRA duties to young people. We are seeing a continual rise in overspend of funds such as Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG) on temporary accommodation costs, with local authorities spending around £2.8 billion on temporary accommodation in FY 2024-2025, reflecting a crisis approach that directs limited funding away from earlier stages in the HRA pathway.^{7,8}

The Government's 2025 National Plan to End Homelessness has acknowledged the challenges that local authorities experience to meet HRA obligations, laying out the plan for a £3.5 billion investment into homelessness support.⁹ The strategy also highlights the financial pressures on supplying prevention and relief duties created by an overspend on temporary accommodation (TA). As a result it commits to several significant structural funding changes, including a 49 per cent ringfence of the Homelessness Prevention Grant to prevention and relief activities and moves funding for TA to non-ringfenced Revenue Support Grant (RSG).⁹



These future changes are positive steps forward to ensuring young people can access early intervention and prevention support.

However, as our research demonstrates a rising number of young people being denied assessments and housing support, it remains necessary to look at local authorities' costs and spend across England to highlight the nature and severity of the funding shortfall and frequency at which young people are gatekept due to this.

⁷ Local Government Association (2025). Westminster Hall Debate: Progress on ending homelessness 21 October 2025 | Local Government Association. Available at: <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/westminster-hall-debate-progress-ending-homelessness-21-october#:~:text=Homelessness%20and%20temporary%20accommodation%20pressures&text=In%202024/25%2C%20councils%20spent,cuts%20to%20other%20essential%20services>.

⁸ MHCLG (2025). Local authority revenue expenditure and financing England: 2024 to 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing-england-2024-to-2025-first-release>.

⁹ MHCLG (2025). A National Plan to End Homelessness. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-national-plan-to-end-homelessness/a-national-plan-to-end-homelessness>.

LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING NEED

This year's findings show a slight decrease from the previous year in the additional funding required by local authorities to be able to assess and provide the relevant duty under HRA to all young people who present to them needing support. The FY 2024-2025 baseline estimate if unassessed cases were to proceed in the same manner as completed ones is £325 million. This is a decrease from £415 million in FY 2023-2024. However, this baseline is not guaranteed, and our analysis suggests a worst-case scenario could see additional funding needed for local authorities still being as high as £385 million.

Cost of extending homelessness support services to all unassessed cases (£ million, FY 2024-2025 prices)

Scenario	Definition	FY 2023-2024 ¹⁰		FY 2024-2025	
		(£ million per annum)	(% of existing spend on all homelessness support services)	(£ million per annum)	(% of existing spend on all homelessness support services)
Optimistic Scenario C	Unassessed cases are more easily prevented (by 25%) and relieved (by 25%).	355	12%	275	7%
Optimistic Scenario R	Unassessed cases are more easily relieved (by 25%).	375	13%	290	8%
Optimistic Scenario P	Unassessed cases are more easily prevented (by 25%).	390	13%	310	8%
Baseline	Unassessed cases proceed in the same way as completed cases	415	14%	325	9%

¹⁰ Price-level conversions to 2024-2025 prices have been applied to previously reported 2023-2024 figures.

Pessimistic Scenario P	Unassessed cases are less easily prevented (by 25%)	445	15%	340	9%
Pessimistic Scenario R	Unassessed cases are less easily relieved (by 25%)	455	16%	360	10%
Pessimistic Scenario C	Unassessed cases are less easily prevented (by 25%) and relieved (by 25%)	490	17%	385	10%

Figure 1. Scenarios of increase in spending required to extend assessment to all young people presenting to homelessness services for England FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025. Source: WPI Economics

AGE BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING NEED

The overwhelming majority of the additional funding required is to support young people aged 18-24. The further funding needed to support this age group accounts for 95 per cent of the baseline estimate of £325 million and could be as high as £365 million under the most pessimistic scenario. Meanwhile, the estimated additional funding needed to support 16-17 year olds is £15 million, which is only 5 per cent of the total.

Cost of extending homelessness support services to all unassessed cases (£ million, FY 2024-2025 prices) by age

Scenario	16-17	18-24
Optimistic Scenario C	15	265
Optimistic Scenario R	15	275
Optimistic Scenario P	15	295
Baseline	15	310
Pessimistic Scenario P	20	325
Pessimistic Scenario R	20	345
Pessimistic Scenario C	20	365

Figure 2. Cost of extending homelessness support services to all unassessed cases (£ million, FY 2024-2025 prices) for 16-17 and 18-24, for England, FY 2024/25. Source: WPI Economics.

This difference is partly due to the high number of 18–24 year olds presenting to their local authorities for support. Additionally, 16-17 year olds should usually be classed as ‘children in need’ and eligible for support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989, meaning social services should typically hold responsibility for providing them accommodation and routes out of homelessness separate to HRA duties through voluntary accommodation if they cannot be with their parent/carer under Section 20 of the Children’s Act as a ‘looked-after’ child.¹¹ We would therefore expect lower HRA duty costs for this age group, although in some cases local authorities incorrectly delay support until a young person is eighteen to reduce their costs and responsibilities.^{12,13}

Failing to provide 16–17 year olds with the correct support under the Children Act 1989 is another example of gatekeeping young people experience as a result of funding and capacity restraints local authorities face.



Although the estimated total shortfall has fallen slightly from FY 2023-2024, it is important to note this is not because of a fall in the average cost per case or young people requiring homelessness support. Instead, our analysis suggests this is because of the geographic distribution of young people in need being in areas with lower-cost HRA duties, and more young people being provided with no duty or a less expensive duty.



¹¹ Ofsted (2025). Supporting children aged 16 and 17 who need help when they are homeless. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/good-decisions-supporting-children-aged-16-and-17-who-need-help-when-they-are-homeless/supporting-children-aged-16-and-17-who-need-help-when-they-are-homeless>.

¹² Coram (2026). Section 20 accommodation. Available at: <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/information-pages/section-20-accomodation/>.

¹³ Just for Kids (20 22). Hitting Brick Walls: Barriers faced by homeless care leavers. Available at: https://www.justforkidslaw.org/sites/default/files/upload/04052022%20J4KL_Hitting%20brick%20walls_Final.pdf.

REGIONAL COMPOSITION OF CASES

The cost of cases varies across different regions in England. This means if there are fewer cases in higher cost areas, the total costs for local authorities needed across England will be lower. In FY 2024-2025, we have seen a reduction in the number of unassessed cases in high-cost areas such as London and the South East where duties are more expensive. On the other hand, there has been an increase of cases in lower cost areas. In particular, there has been a rise in unassessed cases in Yorkshire and the North East and a significant increase in the North West.

Therefore, whilst this year's shortfall is lower, this does not signal a significant decline in required support for young people at risk of homelessness. Instead, it draws attention to the shifting geographic picture of need and support provision across England. Specifically, it highlights regional areas such as the North West, where government funding is not adequate for the numbers of young people presenting for support.

The increasing figures in a handful of local authorities are of particular concern as they constitute the majority of the shortfall. Whilst they do not have the highest duty costs per case, the top ten local authorities with the highest shortfall, seen in Figure 5, account for almost 50 per cent (£162 million) of the total shortfall.

Manchester has the largest shortfall, at £93 million. This is over **seven times higher** than Haringey, which has the next highest figure of £11 million and three times higher than the other local authorities with the highest funding shortfalls. This is compared with Manchester's shortfall in FY 2024-2025 of around £16 million.²

The large shortfall reflects a significant rise in unassessed cases in Manchester to 3,571. This is **over three times** the figure of the local authorities with the next highest unassessed cases, Cornwall (1,048) and Birmingham, (1,009).



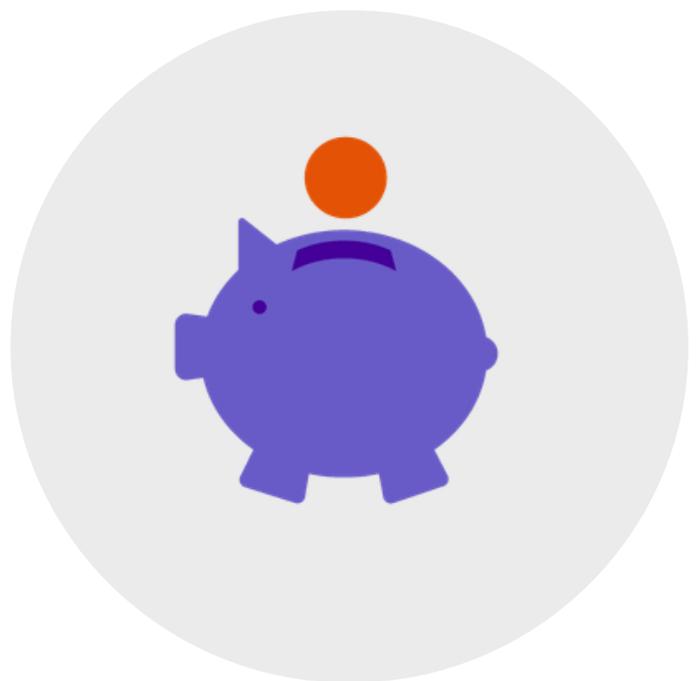
**Additional funding required for local authorities with the largest shortfall
£ million (FY 2024-2025)**

Local Authority	Funding Shortfall	Unassessed Cases
Manchester	93	3,571
Haringey	11	345
Liverpool	10	598
Birmingham	9	1,009
Cornwall	9	1,048
Tameside	7	794
Nottingham	7	661
Hillingdon	6	297
Lambeth	5	343
Plymouth	5	603

Figure 3. Additional funding required for local authorities with the highest unassessed cases (FY 2024-2025) across England, FY 2024-25. Source: WPI Economics.

Additionally, although its duty costs are not the highest, around half of completed cases in Manchester see a main duty provided, the most expensive of the HRA duties. This is different to the broader picture in England, where less young people in FY 2024-2025 have been provided main duty. This provision of main duty increases Manchester’s unit cost per case to £25,000 which is as high as some London boroughs.

The increased shortfall estimated for Manchester this year is therefore a combined result of the scale of unassessed cases, and the number of assessed cases that are not relieved or prevented earlier in the HRA pathway.



BALANCE BETWEEN DIFFERENT HRA DUTIES

The cost of providing a young person with support depends on which duty they are owed, with main housing duty being the most expensive because it requires an offer of suitable accommodation by a housing authority to those who are priority need if homelessness has not been prevented or relieved within 56 days.³ This year, the number of young people who have not received any duty after an assessment has continued to rise.

Our analysis shows the number of assessed young people found ineligible for an HRA duty has increased by 7 per cent, from 28 per cent in FY 2023-2024 to over a third (35 per cent) in FY 2024-2025. Meanwhile, the number whose cases have ended with an acceptance of the individual being initially homeless has decreased by 3 per cent between FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2024, from 14 per cent to 11 per cent.

This means fewer young people are receiving the more expensive HRA duties such as main duty, which guarantees accommodation meaning it is the most secure form of support for a young person. Therefore, the baseline shortfall of £325 million is influenced by the lower number of young people whose cases close without receiving any duty and the lower number progressing to main duty. However, as seen in our scenario analysis, this estimate worsens significantly if young people's cases are not prevented or relieved and more progress to main duty.

COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT

In addition to rising unassessed cases, our analysis demonstrates a rise in costs per case in real terms from last year's findings, across all the possible pathway. The average cost of providing an initial assessment has also risen by 8 per cent from FY 2023-2024 to £207 in FY 2024-2025.

As has been the case previously, the largest cost to local authorities is the provision of main housing duty, at an average of £32,600 per case. The cost of providing this has increased by 9 per cent since FY 2023-2024. Main duty occurs when homelessness is not successfully relieved or prevented by a local authority, meaning they must provide those who are eligible with suitable accommodation until the duty ends with a settled housing option.

However, affordable housing options are increasingly unavailable and there is ongoing overuse of expensive temporary accommodation (TA) options such as hotels or B&Bs. In FY 2024-2025 82,990 households with children in England were in TA, a rise of 11.4 per cent from the same period the year prior.¹⁴ This decline in affordable housing and subsequent rise in use of TA means the cost of providing main duty will be higher for local authorities.¹⁵

↑ 7%

Increase in the number of young people found ineligible for an HRA duty

¹⁴ MHCLG (2025). Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2024-25 - GOV.UK. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-financial-year-2024-25/statutory-homelessness-in-england-financial-year-2024-25#temporary-accommodation>.

¹⁵ House of Commons (2024). Affordable housing in England. Available at: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/affordable-housing-in-england/>.

Average Duty Cost under the HRA (£ per case)¹⁶

Duty	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
Stage 1: Initial Assessment	£200	£200
Stage 2: Prevention	£900	£900
Stage 3: Relief	£2,900	£3,000
Stage 4a: Main Duty	£29,900	£32,600
Stage 4b: Intentionally Homeless	£1,100	£1,200

Figure 5. Average duty cost in £ per case, for England in FY 2023-2024 and FY 2024-2025. Source: WPI Economics.

As highlighted, this year's shortfall is estimated to have fallen slightly from FY 2023-2024 partly due to the geographic distribution of cases. The cost of providing HRA duties vary regionally, with main duty per case costing on average of £76,3000 in London, which is over three times higher than the average in the South East, which is the next most expensive region.

This is partly due to the higher private renting costs and expensive temporary accommodation options. In contrast, regions such as the North East have significantly lower duty costs, with main duty being only £5,000.



¹⁶Estimated duty costs for FY 2024-2025 use a weighted average of unit costs across Local Authorities, to account for the differences in caseload across different size LAs. This has been applied to FY 2023-2024 duty costs.

Regional Average Duty Cost under the HRA (£ per case) in FY 2024-2025

	Assessment	Prevention Duty	Relief Duty	Main Duty	Intentionally Homeless
North East	£100	£1,000	£1,900	£5,000	£800
North West	£300	£1,200	£3,500	£10,400	£1,400
Yorkshire and The Humber	£100	£1,100	£4,000	£14,900	£1,600
East Midlands	£200	£1,300	£3,700	£14,200	£1,600
West Midlands	£200	£1,200	£2,400	£11,600	£1,000
East of England	£200	£1,200	£3,300	£16,900	£1,400
London	£400	£6,200	£6,000	£76,300	£2,500
South East	£300	£1,400	£4,000	£24,500	£1,600
South West	£200	£1,100	£3,000	£13,000	£1,200

Figure 5. Regional breakdown of average duty costs for London and Rest of England, FY 2024-2025. Source: WPI Economics.

Lower-cost areas such as the North East and North West have seen an increase in the number of unassessed cases in FY 2024-2025, whereas in higher-cost areas such as London this has decreased. This decrease in unassessed cases in high-cost regions and a rising number in lower-cost ones has resulted in a smaller funding shortfall estimated for FY 2024-2025 but does not mean a lower total amount of unassessed cases in England.

Centrepoin't's most recent Youth Homelessness Databank demonstrates the national assessment rate has fallen again this year. There has been an annual decline in the national assessment rate whereby only 65 percent of young people are being assessed for housing duty by their local councils, with roughly 35 percent of young people not receiving housing assessment. This means a significant proportion of young people who approach their council are not being assessed at all, including some who may be legally entitled to support.¹

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Government should provide sufficient funding to local authorities in England to ensure that all young people who present to homelessness support services receive an assessment and support if required.

This year's analysis highlights areas like Yorkshire, the North East and North West where the number of unassessed cases has risen. The Government's commitment to boost spend on homelessness support to £3.5 billion is welcomed, as is its plan to protect prevention and relief activities through diverting temporary accommodation funding away from the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG).

Once the proposed funding structures have been implemented, the Government should seek to ensure sufficient resources are provided to local authorities across all regions based on reviews of need, including that of young people.

Additionally, the Government should review the 49 per cent ringfence introduced for the HPG on an annual basis based on local need and local authorities' expenditure returns on HPG spending. It should also request detail from local authorities on HPG spend across age groups. This can ensure the proposed ringfence is sufficient for local authorities to fulfil prevention and relief duties to all young people who require support.

2. As our research demonstrates a rising number of young people requiring homelessness assessments and housing support, the Government should undertake a formal review into youth homelessness assessment rates by councils in England. This review should look at how consistent, accurate and aligned local authorities' statutory interpretation of legal requirements is. It should also explore the operational, resource, and systemic barriers councils face in delivering the HRA in practice.

3. We welcome the Government's National Plan to End Homelessness commitment to including a dedicated youth chapter within the Homelessness Code of Guidance, as well as its plan to develop a national Youth Homelessness Prevention Toolkit. These are positive steps forward to support local authorities.⁹ This guidance should clearly outline the obligations local authorities have to undertake assessments and provide pathways out of homelessness for young people. Both the chapter and toolkit should take into account young people's lived experiences and utilise existing expertise and guidance within the youth homelessness sector to ensure the viewpoints of young people are represented.

Providing sufficient funding for assessments and HRA duties and providing clear guidance of how to carry them out can ensure that no young person is left out from support.



TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Methodology changes this year mean that the estimated per-case duty costs for both the regional and England-wide average use a weighted average of unit costs across local authorities, to account for the differences in caseload across different size LAs. This has also been retroactively applied to FY 2023-2024 duty costs.

Figures have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Additionally, price-level conversions to FY 2024-2025 prices were applied to the nominal FY 2023-2024 duty costs and scenario analysis previously reported by Centrepont last year. As a result, the FY 2023-2024 figures in this report differ from those in Centrepont's prior reporting to reflect this adjusted price-level.

ENDNOTES

1. Kang, H (2025). Youth Homelessness Databank. Centrepoin. Available at: <https://centrepoin.org.uk/research-reports/youth-homelessness-databank-2024-2025>.
2. Kerridge, T. (2024). No young person left out: Estimating the local authority funding needs to support young people experiencing homelessness. Centrepoin. Available at: <https://centrepoin.org.uk/sites/default/files/2025-08/WPI%20report%20-%20FINAL%20%281%29.pdf>.
3. UK Government (2018). Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities>.
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Centrepoint
The Rowe, 59-63
Whitechapel High St,
London, E1 7PF

Tel 0800 23 23 20
Fax 0845 466 3500
centrepoint.org.uk

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