



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Homelessness/ Rough Sleeping

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Rob Owen
Housing Policy Division
Welsh Government
Robert.Owen5@wales.gov.wales

What is homelessness?



Legal definition of Homelessness

A person is homeless if there is no accommodation available for the person's occupation, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, which the person—

(a) is entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in it or by virtue of an order of a court,

(b) has an express or implied licence to occupy, or

(c) occupies as a residence by virtue of any enactment or rule of law giving the person the right to remain in occupation or restricting the right of another person to recover possession.

(2) A person is also homeless if the person has accommodation but—

(a) cannot secure entry to it, or

(b) it consists of a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no place where the person is entitled or permitted both to place it and to reside in it.

(3) A person is not to be treated as having accommodation unless it is accommodation which it would be reasonable for the person to continue to occupy.

(4) A person is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that the person will become homeless within 56 days.

What help is available for people threatened with homelessness and those who are homeless?

- In 2015 new laws came into effect in Wales.
- The approach to homelessness changed
- Local councils now had to provide everyone with a level of service to help them out of their situation.
- Councils must take “reasonable steps” to help people remain in accommodation or move to another.
- Prevention, Prevention, Prevention.

Main reasons for homelessness in Wales 2016/2017

- Ending of private rented accommodation (Main reason for threatened 33%)
- Breakdown of a relationship with a partner
- Parents or other relative not willing to accommodate (Main reason for homelessness 29%)

How successful are WE at tackling homelessness?

Homelessness Prevention

- 9,210 households threatened with homelessness came through council homelessness services in 2016-17
- 62 % achieved a successful outcome.

Homelessness

- 10,884 households came through as homeless
- 41% had their homelessness resolved within 56 days.
- Many more people receive help from local services and may not be included in these numbers.

Rough Sleeping



- Annual count takes place every autumn to monitor the scale of rough sleeping in Wales.
- 2017's count results
- Local authorities estimated that 345 persons were sleeping rough across Wales in the 2 weeks between 16th and 29th October 2017. This is an increase of 10 per cent (32 persons) compared with the exercise carried out in October 2016.
- Local authorities reported 188 individuals observed sleeping rough across Wales between 10pm on the 9th and 5am on 10th November 2017. This was an increase of a third (47 persons) on the previous year.

Why is Rough Sleeping Increasing?

- High cost of accommodation
- Long waiting times for permanent accommodation
- Not approaching services until crisis point. Prevention is better than a cure.

Do Council's have to provide emergency accommodation to everyone?

- The short answer is NO.
- Local councils will provide emergency housing to people who may have a priority need.
- Charities also provide accommodation to people who the council do not have a duty to provide for.
- All councils should have a cold weather plan, which may involve providing extra short term beds.

What is a priority need?

Pregnant woman

Person with dependant children

Vulnerable for a special reason

Emergency; fire or flood

Domestic Abuse

16 and 17 year old

18-21 year old at risk of sexual or financial exploitation

18-21 year old who was previously LAC

Homeless on leaving the armed forces

Vulnerable as a result of custody or remand

How can you help?

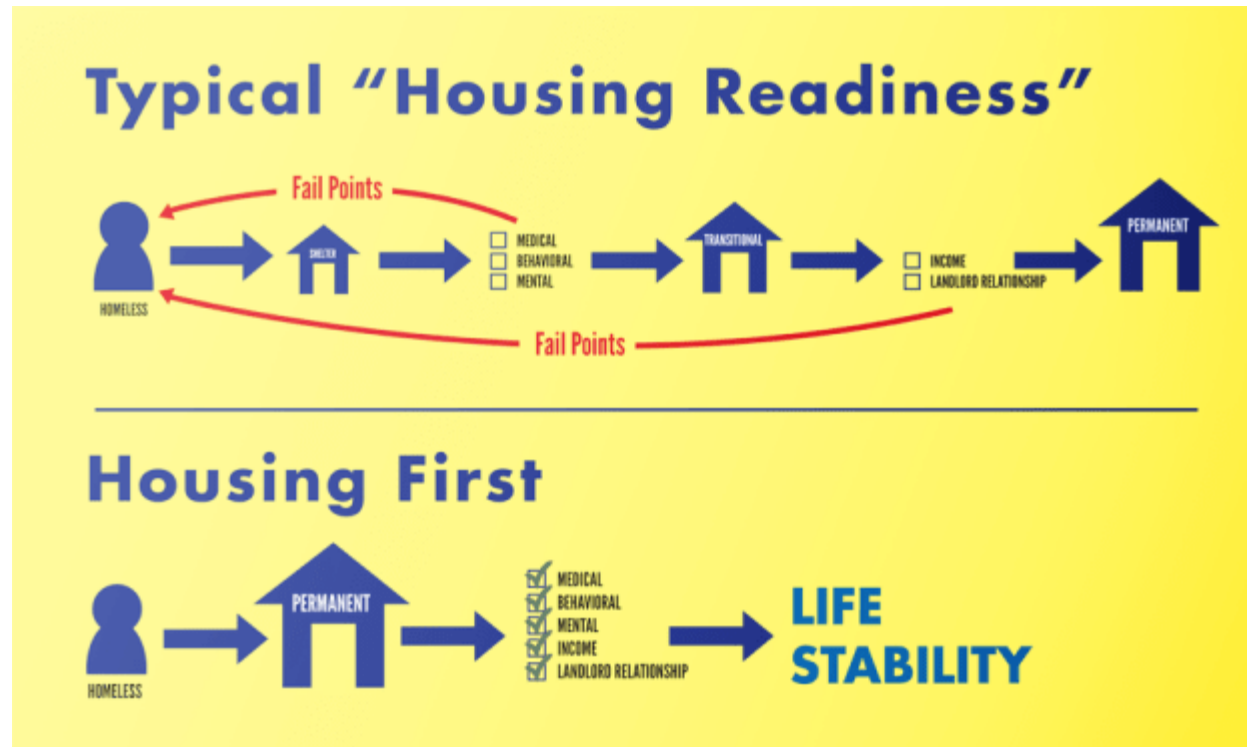


Connecting rough sleepers to local services

Street
Link | **0300 500 0914**
www.streetlink.org.uk

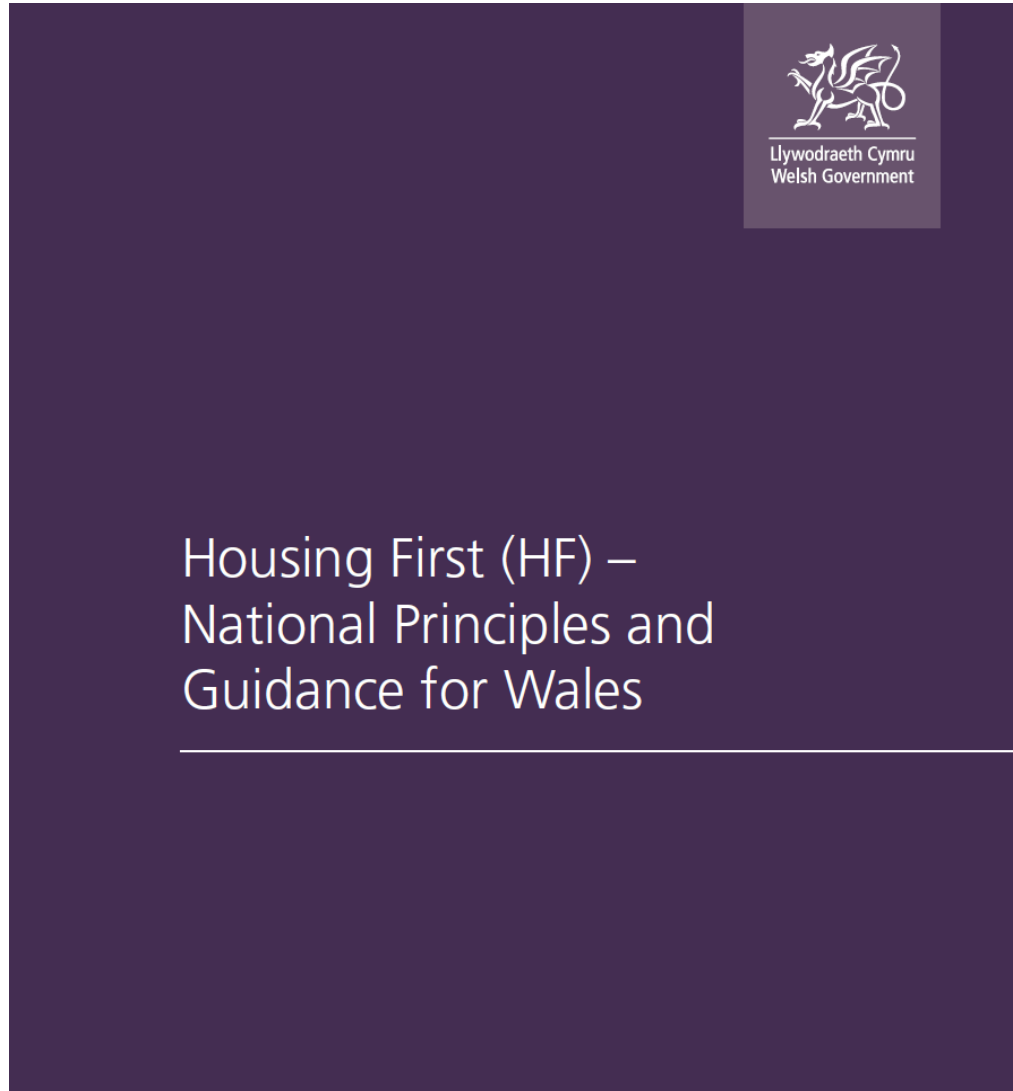
Housing First

'Housing First' is a recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that centres on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing and then providing additional support and services as needed.



- Principles and Guidance Feb 2017

Developed following policy workshops held at Cardiff University





The Welsh Government endorses the following principles

- Housing is a human right
- Service users should have choice and control
- Housing not conditional on support or treatment
- The approach is recovery oriented
- The approach is one of harm reduction
- There is active engagement without coercion
- Planning is person-centred
- Flexible support is available as long as required



The advantages HF can offer for Wales include:

- A direct way of reducing rough sleeping
- Enabling and incentivising people who may not be suited or willing to live in a hostel environment to move into a more settled, 'normal' environment where their support needs may be more effectively addressed
- Encouraging the individual to take control of their lives individual budgets can support this
- Providing better stability from which employment and other goals can be more easily progressed
- Reduced pressures on health and other services

Where are we now?

- Pilots
- Feasibility studies
- Engagement between Ministers and RSL partners

What's next?

- Evaluation
- Reflection
- Plan

We do not learn from
experience... we learn
from reflecting on
experience.

- John Dewey

The Rough Sleeping Action Plan



- Published February 2018
- High Level Document
- Developed with Stakeholders
- Sets out activity for the next 2 years
- Actions will be reviewed
- Officials will be developing an Operational Plan to accompany ownership of Actions and Transparency

Equalities, Communities and Local Government Committee(ECLG)



- Inquiry into Rough Sleeping in Wales
- Report published April 20th 2018
- 29 recommendations – currently being considered by the Welsh Government

Thank you for your interest!

**Any Questions...
Just Ask!**



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