



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

To: All Local Authority Leaders in England
CC: Chief Executives,
Homelessness and rough sleeping sector
stakeholders

Eddie Hughes MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary for
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**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
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Dear Colleague,

ANNUAL ROUGH SLEEPING SNAPSHOT STATISTICS 2021 AND OUR VISION TO END ROUGH SLEEPING

Last Thursday the annual rough sleeping statistics for 2021 were published. I wanted to set out what they show and our vision for how we build on this to end rough sleeping for good. It was great to see so many of you and your officials at the event the Secretary of State and I hosted on Tuesday.

Snapshot and management information

I am delighted to say that the snapshot showed that the number of people sleeping rough has fallen to an 8-year low and almost halved since 2017, with a reduction of 49%. The numbers have fallen by 9% since last year and reductions in rough sleeping were reflected across all regions in England. This is a great achievement and thanks to the collective work of central Government, local Government, the voluntary and faith sector, and other local partners.

Alongside the official snapshot statistics, we have published further monthly management information from February 2021 – December 2021. The number of people in emergency and short-term accommodation has fallen by 67% from its peak in May 2020, during the first lockdown. As at the end of December 2021, 40,240 individuals have been supported into long-term accommodation since we started collecting this data at the start of the pandemic. This is a significant achievement and the result of a huge collective effort, empowering individuals to move into safe, secure accommodation, which is appropriate to their needs, and to rebuild their lives off the streets. The annual rough sleeping statistics and additional management information can be found [here](#).

Vision for ending rough sleeping

As the Secretary of State and I set out at the event, we want to build on this to end rough sleeping for good. Our vision is that rough sleeping should be prevented wherever possible and, when it does happen, rough sleeping should be rare, brief and non-recurring. I know similar approaches are already being adopted in other parts of the UK.

We must also ensure there is a clear way of tracking progress to delivering this vision that works for different places. The snapshot provides a valuable point in time metric but we must also look at a wider set of data to understand the experience of rough sleeping in a place. Building on the engagement between the Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI) and places to date, we will be working with the CHI and five areas which will act as “early adopters” and are ready to road-test our approach - Greater Manchester, Greater London, Newcastle, West Midlands, and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. We want the approach to work in all places and welcome interest from other areas who would like to be involved in helping us shape this thinking.

To deliver our vision we will bring forward a bold, new strategy to end rough sleeping. We have already pledged £2 billion to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the next three years. As we agree that the Vagrancy Act is antiquated and no longer fit for purpose, we have also committed to repeal and replace this outdated Act.

Thank you once again for all your dedicated work to reduce rough sleeping. Every person brought off the street represents a life that has been turned around. I look forward to continuing to work with you all as we end rough sleeping for good.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "E. Hughes".

EDDIE HUGHES MP