



Briefing: Impact on homelessness services WY-FI Project

August 2019

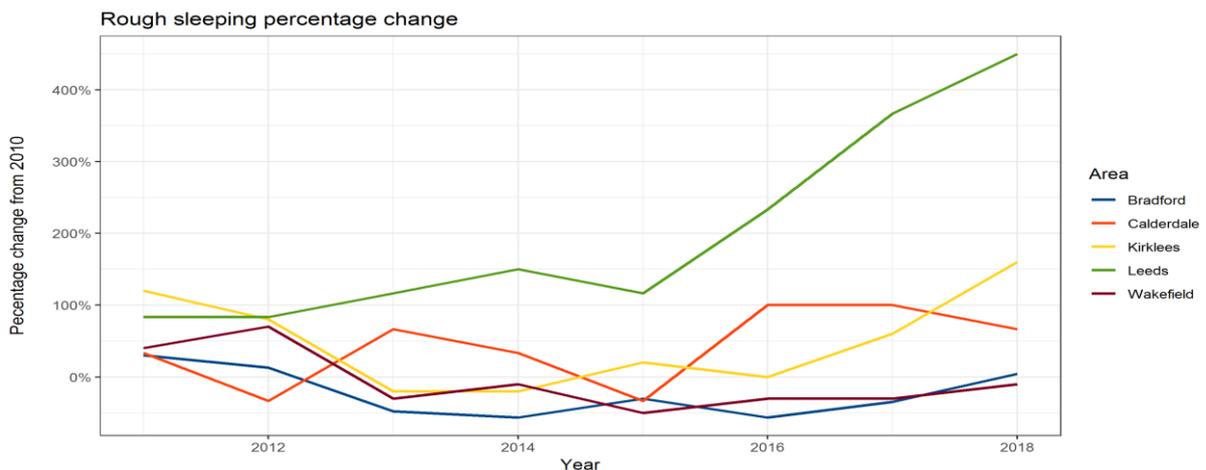


Consequences of the lack of support

There is a significant impact on services and communities as a result of the lack of effective engagement with people experiencing multiple needs and exclusion, whose pre-existing needs and chaotic circumstances have not been addressed. WY-FI research shows that services are often being used at the point of crisis. This means effective care cannot be planned and delivered to people experiencing multiple needs but also puts added pressure on services in ways which consequently affects the other service users and communities.

Homelessness in England and West Yorkshire

- 4,677 people were rough sleeping in England on the night of the autumn 2018 rough sleeping count. This represents a 165% increase on the level reported in 2010¹.
- These estimates underestimate the true figure of homelessness. Once estimates of 'hidden' homelessness have been included, as many as 160,000 people could now fall within the definition of 'core homelessness'. 'Core homelessness' includes insecure accommodation, e.g. sofa-surfing².
- 'Core homelessness' is on the rise. The overall level of core homelessness in England has risen from 120,000 in 2010 to 153,000 in 2017, which represents a 28% increase over the period³.
- There has been a 400% increase in the number of rough sleepers in Leeds from 2010 - 2018. Calderdale and Kirklees also appear to have a big increase. Wakefield and Bradford appear to have hardly changed from the 2010 level.



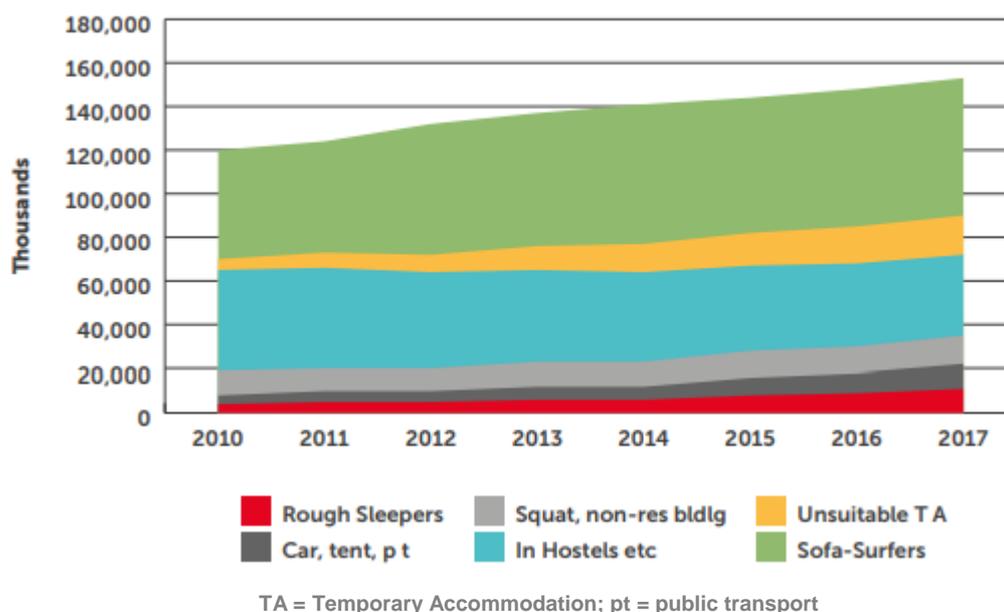
Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
Rough Sleeping in England (Autumn 2010 - 2018).

¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. (2019). Rough Sleeping Statistics Autumn 2018, England.

² Bramley, G. (2017). Homelessness projections: Core homelessness in Great Britain Summary Report. Crisis

³ Fitzpatrick, S. et al. (2019). The homelessness monitor: England 2019. Crisis. I-SPHERE, the Urban Institute and Heriot-Watt University.

Core Homelessness in England by category, 2010-17⁴



- Funding cuts have hit homelessness spending in Yorkshire and the Humber, a 56% reduction in spending from 2008/9 to 2017/18. In England, total council spending on homelessness is down £5bn since 2009⁵.
- The average age of someone that dies while homeless is just 47⁶. Nationally, an estimated 584 homeless people died in 2017, which represents a 27% increase from 2013.

Policy context

Although a statutory duty for local government, tackling the consequences of homelessness is now a major policy area for national government:

- The government aims to reduce rough sleeping by half by 2022, and eradicate it by 2027.
- The government's new rough sleeping strategy places significant focus on co-occurring substance misuse, mental health and physical needs of rough sleepers. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have funded a number of housing navigator posts as part of the rapid access to re-housing strand of the strategy.
- Housing First pilots continue to be implemented through local authorities.
- The Ministry of Justice has made HMP Leeds a pilot for the housing of offenders who would otherwise be discharged from prison with no fixed abode.
- The long term aims of the NHS acknowledge the importance of the focus on mental health and the general health and wellbeing of those with complex lives.

WY-FI beneficiaries

- At the end of May 2019 (5 years of WY-FI) 813 people have become beneficiaries of the WY-FI Project. 610 (75%) WY-FI beneficiaries have been identified as having a homelessness need.
- Of the 610 beneficiaries with a homelessness need:
 - 97% have an addiction need.

⁴ Fitzpatrick, S. et al. (2019). The homelessness monitor: England 2019. Crisis. I-SPHERE, the Urban Institute and Heriot-Watt University.

⁵ Thunder, J. and Rose, C. (2019). Local authority spending on homelessness. St Mungo's & Homeless link. WPI Economics.

⁶ Thomas, B. (2012) Homelessness Kills. Crisis. Available here: https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/236798/crisis_homelessness_kills2012.pdf

- 79% have a reoffending need.
- 96% have a mental ill health need.
- WY-FI beneficiaries with a homelessness need have varied accommodation. In their first three months with the project⁷:
 - 28% report sleeping rough.
 - Only 18% have their own social housing tenancy; 13% had a private tenancy.
 - 34% stayed with friends and family, many of which would be classed as 'sofa surfing'.
 - 13% get evicted.
 - 20% stayed in temporary accommodation.
 - 25% stayed in supported accommodation.
- As almost all of those with a homelessness need also have a mental health need, it is important for them to access appropriate support. In their first three month with the project:
 - Only 5% obtained counselling or psychotherapy.
 - Only 16% had contact with the community mental health team.
 - Only 7% attended a mental health outpatient appointment.
- Only 45% of beneficiaries with a mental health need gained access to mental health in-patient care, mental health out-patient care, support from a community mental health team, psychotherapy, cognitive behavioural therapy or counselling in their completed journey with WY-FI.
- Almost all of those with a homelessness need also have an addiction need, which does not help get people into more stable accommodation. In their first three months with the project:
 - Only 60% had contact with drug and alcohol services.
 - Only 2% had access to detox services.
 - Only 1% spent some time in residential rehabilitation.
- These beneficiaries are also putting themselves at risk:
 - 21% admit to gaining money from an illegal source.
 - 6% admit to undertaking sex work.

Progress of WY-FI beneficiaries

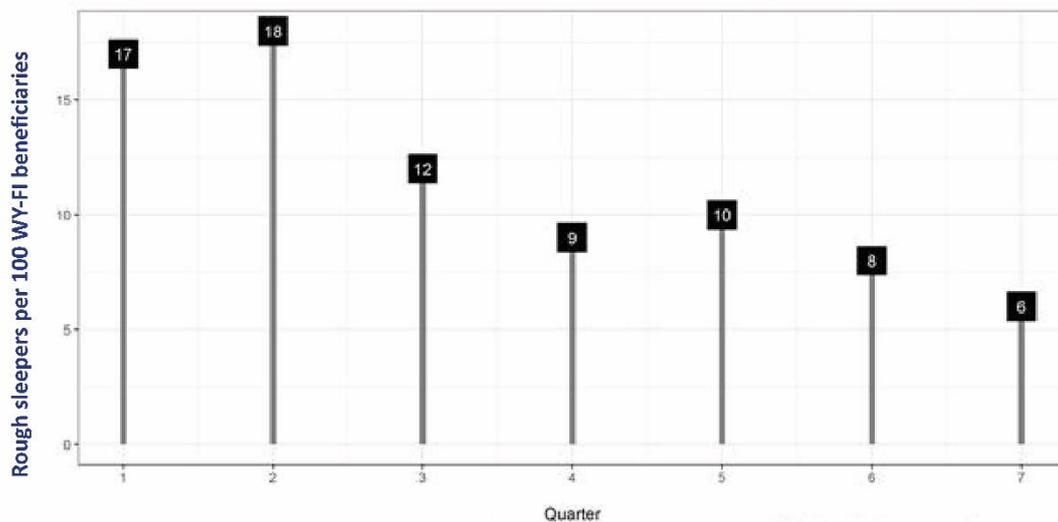
- Of the 813 beneficiaries on the project, 633 have exited.
 - 54% have had planned exits (i.e. successful)
 - 13 of whom subsequently relapsed and needed further support.
 - Only 6 people were excluded for aggressive or inappropriate behaviour.
- Of the 610 people who have a homelessness need:
 - 54% have shown an improvement in their ability to manage their tenancy and accommodation.
 - 49% have shown an improvement in spending their time more meaningfully.
 - 53% have improved their emotional and mental health.
 - 43% improved their relationship with alcohol and drugs.
 - 45% improved their stress and anxiety levels.
 - 52% improved their unintentional self-harm score.
 - 64% improved their overall Chaos Index score⁸.

⁷ All calculations referring to the first three months are calculated as an average of beneficiaries with the homelessness need and recorded data in the first quarter of their journey.

⁸ For ongoing beneficiary assessment WY-FI navigators use the New Directions Team Assessment (NDTA or Chaos Index see <http://www.meam.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/NDT-Assessment-process-summary-April-2008.pdf>) and Homelessness Outcomes Star (see <http://www.outcomesstar.org.uk/using-the-star/see-the-stars/homelessness-star/>) data is gathered continuously throughout the beneficiary journey and used to measure the impact of interventions.

- 54% improved their overall Homelessness Outcomes Star score.
- One of the central government’s key aims is to reduce rough sleeping. The following graph helps to show that, on average, rough sleeping declines as WY-FI beneficiaries stay with the project. In quarter 1 there are 17 rough sleepers per 100 WY-FI beneficiaries. This figure reduces to 6 rough sleepers per 100 beneficiaries in quarter 7.

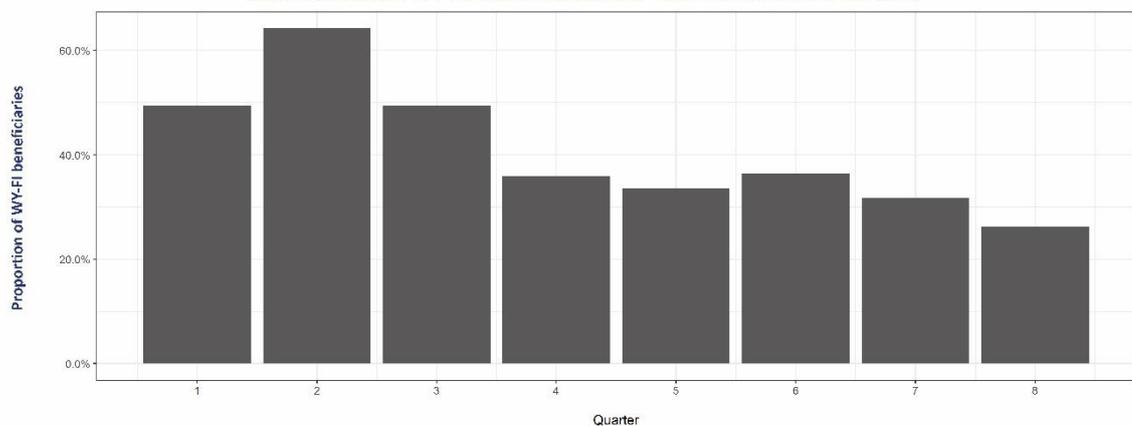
Rough sleepers per 100 WY-FI beneficiaries in each quarter of their journey



Notes: Only goes up to Quarter 7 of a beneficiary’s journey as less than 100 people have a record after Quarter 7. Only includes those with a homelessness need.

Statutory homelessness statistics inadequately reflect the experience of the homelessness issue, in particular the single homeless population⁹. The concept of ‘Core Homelessness’ broadens the definition of homelessness to include people that may be sofa surfing, staying in hostels, refuges, shelters, unsuitable temporary accommodation etc. The following graph looks at the proportion of WY-FI beneficiaries that meet this expanded definition in each quarter of their journey. The chart shows a decreasing trend over time, indicating that the WY-FI Project is managing to move people out of the ‘Core Homelessness’ category and sustain them in more appropriate accommodation.

The proportion of WY-FI beneficiaries in the ‘Core Homelessness’ category



Notes: Only goes up to Quarter 7 of a beneficiary’s journey as less than 100 people have a record after Quarter 7. Only includes those with a homelessness need.

connecting people, services and commissioners

⁹ Bramley, G. (2017) Homelessness Projections: Core homelessness in Great Britain. Summary Report. London: Crisis. https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/237582/crisis_homelessness_projections_2017.pdf

Useful notes and definitions

Demonstrating impact

The WY-FI Project follows the national Fulfilling Lives methodology when demonstrating local impact. Much of the information in this briefing is based on the data captured in the first three months of a beneficiary's journey. This information is treated as a baseline. Data gathered after this three month period can then be compared to the individual or group's baseline to clearly show the impact of the WY-FI Project.

Homelessness Outcomes Star

Homelessness Outcomes Star Score is a self-assessment tool for beneficiaries to measure their distance travelled.

New Directions Team Assessment (NDTA) or Chaos Index Score

Chaos Index Score (also known as NDTA score) is an assessment undertaken by a Navigator to establish whether an individual will benefit from WY-FI support against a series of need criteria. This is repeated regularly to measure progress.

Dual diagnosis

When a person is experiencing mental ill health and addiction.

Tri-morbidity

When a person is experiencing homelessness, mental and/or physical ill health and addiction.

Other briefings in this series

- WY-FI evidence and outcomes
- Impact on addiction services
- Impact on re-offending services
- Impact on mental health services
- Impact on emergency service use
- Future demand for multiple disadvantage services

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The WY-FI Project is part of [Fulfilling Lives](#), a programme set up by The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest funder of community activity in the UK. Fulfilling Lives works with people who have first-hand experience of substance misuse, homelessness, offending, and mental ill-health to make services and support better connected, easier to access and tailored to the needs of individuals. It is one of five major programmes set up by The National Lottery Community Fund to test and learn from new approaches to designing services which aim to make people's lives healthier and happier.

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