Facts about Homelessness

**TYPES OF HOMELESSNESS**

**Statutory Homelessness**

Local authorities have a duty to find a home for people who approach them, who fit ‘priority need’ criteria. These people are usually put in temporary accommodation such as hotels or B&B’s. Priority needs households are include: families with dependent children, pregnant women, lost home through disaster (fire, flood etc), fleeing violence, 16 or 17 years of age, 18-20 year olds who are leaving care, and if they are significantly more vulnerable than an ordinary person and be likely to suffer greater harm, due to things like physical or mental health.

**Individuals Experiencing Homelessness**

These are people who do not meet local authorities priority need threshold, and therefore do not qualify for accommodation. Many of these are also housed in temporary accommodation such as hotels, by organisations such as homeless charities.

**Rough Sleepers**

The most visible form of homelessness, people who sleep on the streets, in parks or bushes, in cars, stairwells, train stations and the like.

**Hidden Homeless**

Those that sofa surf with friends, live in overcrowded accommodation, or sleep out of sight in places like squats, public transport or other insecure and unsuitable accommodation.

**STATISTICS**

* In 2022, rough sleeping increased in London from the previous year by 34%
* The average age of death for a rough sleeper is 45 for men, and 43 for women. General population is 79 for men and 83 for women.
* A rough sleeper in 9 times more likely to commit suicide than the general population
* 6 in 10 people say they have been assaulted while rough sleeping – 1 in 10 say they have been urinated on
* Homeless people are 17 times more likely to be the victim of violent crime than the general population, and 47 times more likely to be a victim of theft – 65% of rough sleepers report being the victim of crime in the last six months
* 82% of rough sleepers report having a current mental health need
* 83% of rough sleepers report having a current physical health need, with 53% reporting a long standing physical impairment or disability