

A VOTE TO END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Centrepunkt Manifesto for the next General Election

**A chance for the
next Government
to support young
people to overcome
the challenges
created by
homelessness
and achieve their
full potential.**



Summary Report

Registered Charity No. 292411

**CENTRE
POINT**

**ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

Introduction



This summary of Centrepoin't's manifesto for the next Government of the United Kingdom highlights a series of evidenced based approaches to stemming and ultimately reversing the rising tide of youth homelessness. While these approaches do not encompass everything that is needed to achieve this goal, they comprise of three main asks that we believe will have a significant, long-term impact. These asks are aimed at the next Government of the United Kingdom, and recommend that they:

- ! **Increase Local Authority funding** so that they can deal with youth homelessness;
- ! **Address the housing crisis by developing more homes** that young people can access;
- ! **Improve employment accessibility** for young people facing homelessness.



The next general election represents a chance for the next Government to support young people to overcome the challenges created by homelessness and achieve their full potential. If the next Government does not act, we are not only going to keep losing billions of pounds every year, but we will continue to waste the huge potential of the young people who represent the future of our society. It is now time to act, it is time to end youth homelessness.



Read Centrepoin't's full manifesto online at:
centrepoin't.org.uk/GE-2024-report

Local government

Our policy asks for the next Government

LOCAL GOVERNMENT must be better equipped to deal with youth homelessness

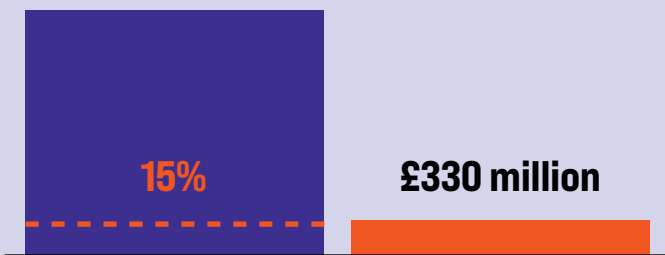


- A** Provide Local Authorities with **£330 million** a year to assess and support young people facing homelessness.
- B** Work with young people and the youth homelessness sector to **add a youth-specific chapter** in the Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities.
- C** Increase investment in **youth specific** supported accommodation.

Young people facing homelessness often have to deal with the consequences of homelessness alone because Local Authorities and services are severely underfunded and understaffed. Therefore, the next Government must act to enable Local Authorities to support young people who present to them in need of homelessness support.



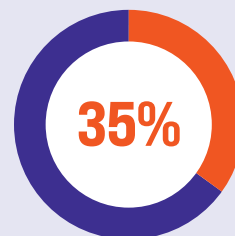
£2.2 billion



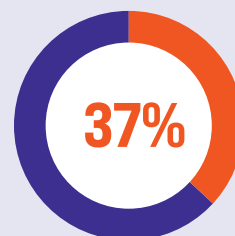
Current spending on homelessness support services for all age groups

Additional funds needed by councils to support homeless young people

- Newham requires **over £32 million a year**
- Liverpool requires **over £15 million a year**
- Cornwall requires **over £11 million a year**



35% of young people did not receive an assessment when approaching their council when homeless or at risk in 2022/2023.



Four-in-ten (37%) of Local Authorities would need less than £100,000 a year in additional funding.

Housing

Our policy asks for the next Government

Addressing the HOUSING CRISIS for young people



A Build at least **90,000 social homes a year** over the next Parliament, including **40,000 one-bedroom social homes**.

B Permanently **fix the LHA rate to the 30th percentile**, uprating the rates in line with rents at least annually.

C Target **capital funding grants** at enabling organisations to buy/rent land which can be developed into Stepping Stone Accommodation.

Skyrocketing private rents, a record low number of social homes built in the last decade and a four-year cash freeze in Local Housing Allowance have caused a housing crisis that has pushed more young people into homelessness. Accordingly, the next Government must ensure that young people can access affordable housing, either in the social or private rented sectors, and that organisations are empowered to develop innovative housing products that meet local needs such as Stepping Stone Accommodation.

+21%
increase in
median private
rents since last
general election

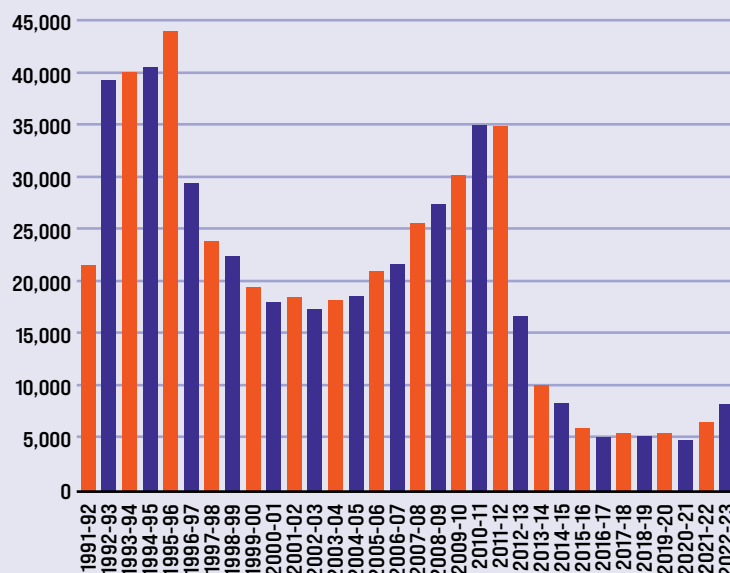
4-year
cash freeze in
Local Housing
Allowance

Social homes building has reached an all-time low
New social homes built per year (Source: DLUHC)

New social lettings to lead tenants aged 16 to 24 have fallen from **25 per cent to 17 per cent** in the decade prior to 2021/22.

Since 2015/2016, **more than 45%** of all households on social housing waiting lists in England have required a one-bedroom property, since they are single applicants and cannot access larger properties.

Young people facing homelessness are likely to be single applicants for housing support – and therefore require one bedroom properties, with **54%** of those who presented to their Local Authorities in 2022/2023 doing so because of family breakdowns.



Employment

Our policy asks for the next Government

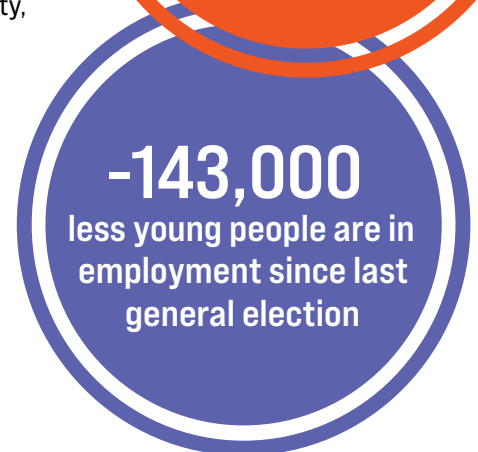
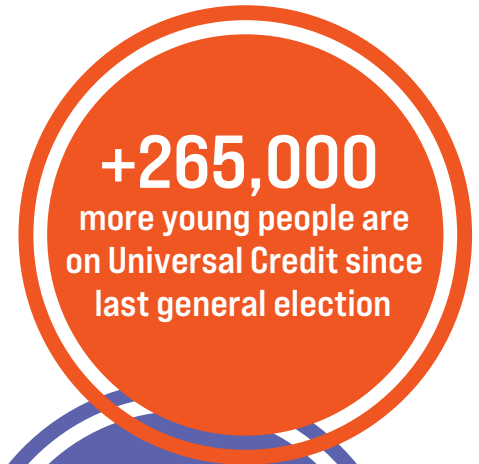
Improving access to EMPLOYMENT for young people in supported accommodation



A Reduce the **Housing Benefit taper rate** from **65%** to **55%** to bring it in line with Universal Credit.

B Increase the **applicable amount** to **£531.11** a month.

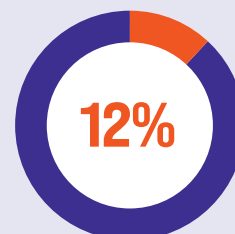
Young people are bearing the consequences of the economic challenges of the last few years, with high rates of unemployment and economic inactivity, a record number relying on benefits to make ends meet and extreme challenges in accessing employment opportunities. These challenges have been particularly acute for young people living in supported housing who, as a result of the benefits system, are dissuaded from accessing employment, developing their work experience and building their earned income. As such, the next Government must address the systemic inequality in the nation's benefits system, and ensure that all young people living in supported accommodation can access employment.



£132.78 per week, roughly equivalent to 13 hours of work at the minimum wage for a 21-22-year-old, is all that young people living in supported housing can earn before their benefits are reduced, leaving them at risk of being unable to pay their rent.

Housing Benefit is tapered at a high rate of **65%**, compared to 55% for Universal Credit, meaning that young people living in supported housing lose their benefit award at a faster rate than their peers living in social housing or the private rented sector.

Centrepoint has estimated that the Government will save **£8 million per year** by reducing the Housing Benefit taper rate and increasing young people's applicable amount so that young people can work more hours and transition into stable employment.



12% of young people are not in education, employment or training (NEET)



£6bn annual loss for our society caused by homeless young people not in employment

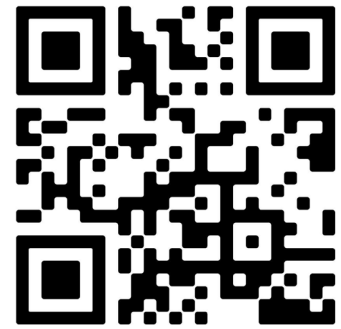
Join the movement to end youth homelessness

Centrepoint is calling for an end to youth homelessness by 2037, and our incredible supporters are doing everything they can to make this a reality.

But if we want to make change happen and reach this goal, we'll need a lot more people fighting the corner of homeless young people. **Will you join thousands of others in becoming an online campaigner for Centrepoint?**

We'll keep you up to date with our latest campaigns and let you know how you can get involved and take part in exciting campaigning actions.

Sign up now



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