



Rushanara Ali MP
Minister for Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, MHCLG
(by email)

17 February 2025

Dear Rushanara,

I am writing to you today in relation to the Government's inter-ministerial homelessness strategy to show my support for the #Planforthe136k collective's calls for a youth chapter to be included.

Research by the homelessness charity CentrepoinT shows that every year over 100,000 young people aged 16–24 in the UK seek help from their local authority last year because they were homeless or at risk of becoming so. These figures are a stark reminder of the vulnerability of this demographic and highlights the need for targeted interventions to help young people reach their full potential.

Young adults often face distinct barriers compared to older adults when it comes to maintaining stable housing, including:

- Limited access to affordable housing.
- A higher likelihood of experiencing hidden homelessness, such as sofa surfing.
- Challenges navigating the welfare system due to their age and inexperience including a lower level of Universal Credit and lower wages.
- Disproportionate impact of family breakdown, mental health challenges, and unemployment.

With the Government's own data showing that 54% of older, more entrenched rough sleepers have experienced homelessness by the age of 25, a failure to address the specific challenges related to young people risks perpetuating cycles of instability and homelessness costing the taxpayer more money as a result. CentrepoinT's research also shows that the youth homelessness crisis is costing the government £8.5 billion a year, showing the economic as well as moral case for decisive government action to tackle this issue.

With the strategy currently in its critical stages of development, I strongly urge you to ensure that the unique challenges faced by young adults are explicitly recognised and addressed within this strategy by including a youth chapter. My concern at this stage in the strategy's progression is that young adults may be overlooked and our opportunity to tackle the issues of youth homelessness missed.

Thank you for your attention on this matter and I look forward to receiving a response.

Yours Sincerely,

Ellie Chowns MP