

# Nacro

WE **CHANGE** LIVES

**Is the Government's rough  
sleeping target on track?**

**The criminal justice perspective:**

# About Nacro

- Charity working across England & Wales with over 50 years' experience of changing lives, building stronger communities, and reducing crime
- Services across each part of the Criminal Justice System
- A housing provider, delivering housing solutions for vulnerable groups, with a focus on young people and prison leavers
- Use our experience and what we know from our staff and people we support to create change #CellStreetRepeat



## Why the focus on prison leaver homelessness?

- **53% of rough sleepers** have been in contact with the criminal justice system
- Pre-Covid almost **1,000 people a month** were released homeless or rough sleeping
- Homelessness impacts people throughout the criminal justice system – **15% of the prison population had been homeless prior to entering custody**
- Stable, long-term accommodation reduces likelihood of reoffending by approximately 50%
- We had been campaigning on this for a number of years. **Covid-19 shone a spotlight on this**
- Everyone in campaign **BUT** between 23 March and 30 April 2020 around a **thousand people were released rough sleeping or homeless**

**Without tackling prison leaver homelessness, ending rough sleeping by 2024 will be unachievable**

# Process and reality on leaving prison

- If no accommodation, Probation will do HRA referral and refer to Dynamic Framework provider
- Good work happening BUT lots of challenges

## Barriers to LA housing

- Shortage of supported housing
- Shortage of housing
- Not being classified 'priority need'
- Delays in universal credit
- Lack of ID
- Intentionally homeless
- Local connection

## Barriers to PRS long-term housing

- Need for rent deposit
- Need for guarantor
- Bank account & ID
- Time to view the property
- Delays in universal credit
- Reference checks
- Unsuitable accommodation
- Stigma and landlords not renting to prison leavers
- **Need for support**

## The Covid Emergency Accommodation Scheme

- Ran from May 2020 – August 2020, and again from October 2020 – March 2021 (costing £11.5 million)
- Individuals at risk of homelessness were able to receive accommodation support for up to 56 nights at a nightly rate of up to £65.
- Creation of **7 regional Homeless Prevention Taskforces (HPTs)**, which sought suitable, temporary accommodation for up to 56 days
- Also supported individuals to find longer-term accommodation solutions

**January 2021:** Government announcement of new, tiered Community Accommodation Services (CAS) framework. CAS-3 builds on the emergency accommodation scheme for prison leavers implemented during the pandemic.

- 1. Community Accommodation Services-Tier 1:** currently Approved Premises, primarily for housing prison leavers considered as at the highest risk
- 2. Community Accommodation Services-Tier 2:** provides accommodation for people released on bail and for those released from custody under licence conditions who meet the necessary eligibility criteria
- 3. Community Accommodation Services-Tier 3:** is a new tier that has been added to HMPPS' existing accommodation structure for people in contact with the criminal justice system. This transitional accommodation scheme will house prison leavers at risk of homelessness for up to 12 weeks

## Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 - CAS-3

- Guarantee of temporary accommodation of up to 12 weeks for all prison leavers at risk of homelessness
- Five “early adopter” probation regions received funding for the scheme in July 2021
- Funding for all 12 probation regions will be rolled out in December 2022
- A significant and welcome development.
- **BUT**, this is not full solution. If we don't tackle the other barriers the risk is this simply delays homelessness by 12 weeks

## Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Scheme

- In July 2021, the Government announced allocations for the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders scheme, with £13 million allocated to 87 schemes across 145 local authorities to support prison leavers to access private rented sector accommodation

# Where are we now and what do we need to see

- Welcome recognition of the need to tackle homelessness for prison leavers
- **BUT** far more to do
- CAS-3 can't be seen as the only solution. Without tackling the wider problems which prevent people accessing accommodation risk it simply delays homelessness by 12 weeks.

## What do we need:

- Increase supported housing options for people coming out of prison
- Extend Accommodation for Ex Offenders Scheme
- Increased engagement with private landlords, incentivising & tackling stigma/discrimination
- Amending Priority Need
- End Intentionally Homeless
- Guarantor scheme
- Joined up approach



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*‘I’ve worked with Nacro for 30 years and I’ve never known anything like this. The housing situation for people coming out of prison is so unbelievably bad. Something major has to change’. – Nacro resettlement support worker*

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discuss further