

Young and Homeless



London Funders Network
28 July 2015

www.homeless.org.uk

Let's end homelessness together

The current picture



- Facts & Figures
- What support is available
 - Prevention
 - Support in services
 - Moving on
- What works?
- Future trends and challenges

Homeless Link

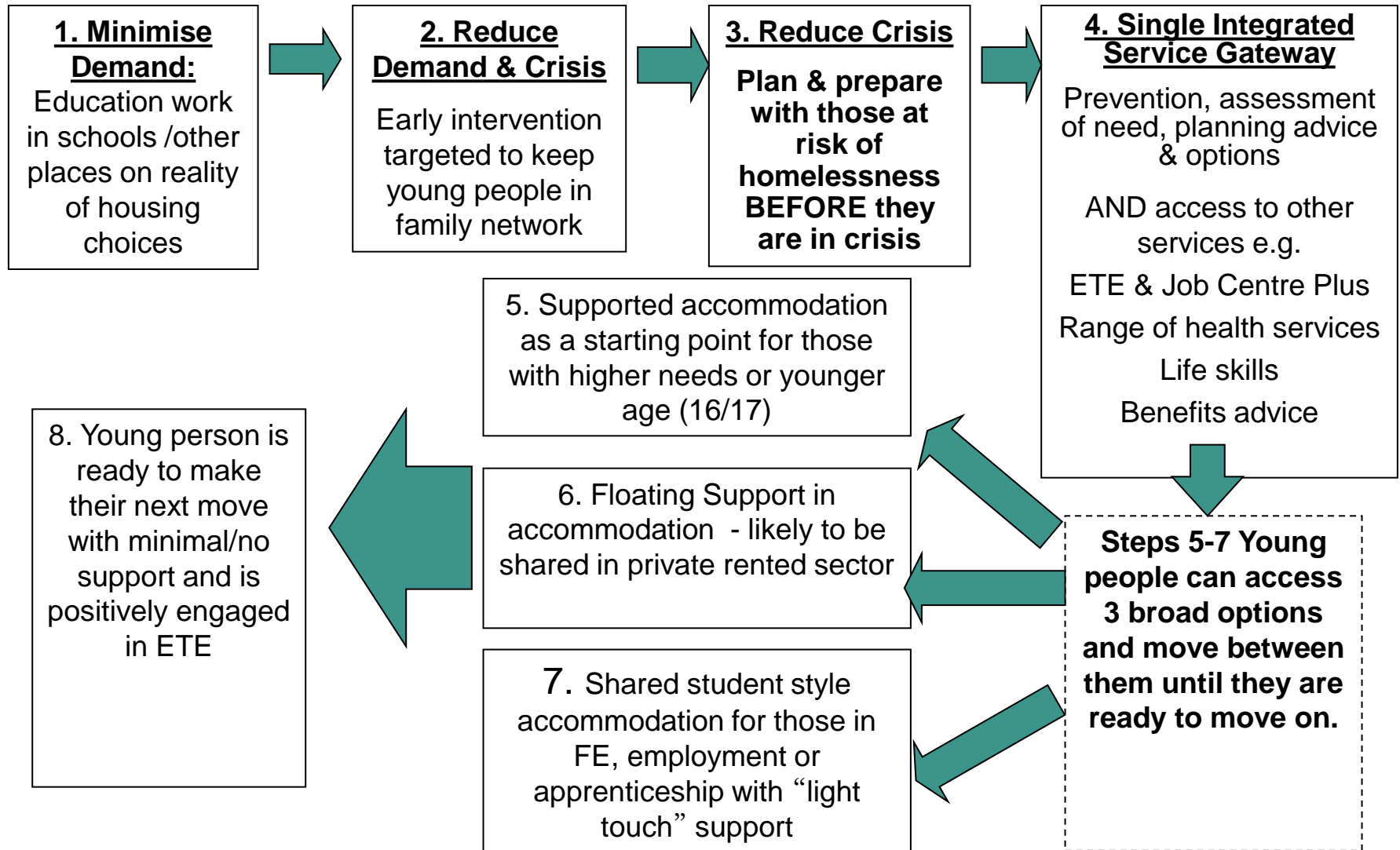
Who we are

The national membership charity for organisations working with people who experience homelessness in England.

We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.



Positive Pathway model [St Basils – currently being updated]



Young and Homeless



How many young people are homeless?

Half of people using homelessness services are under 25.

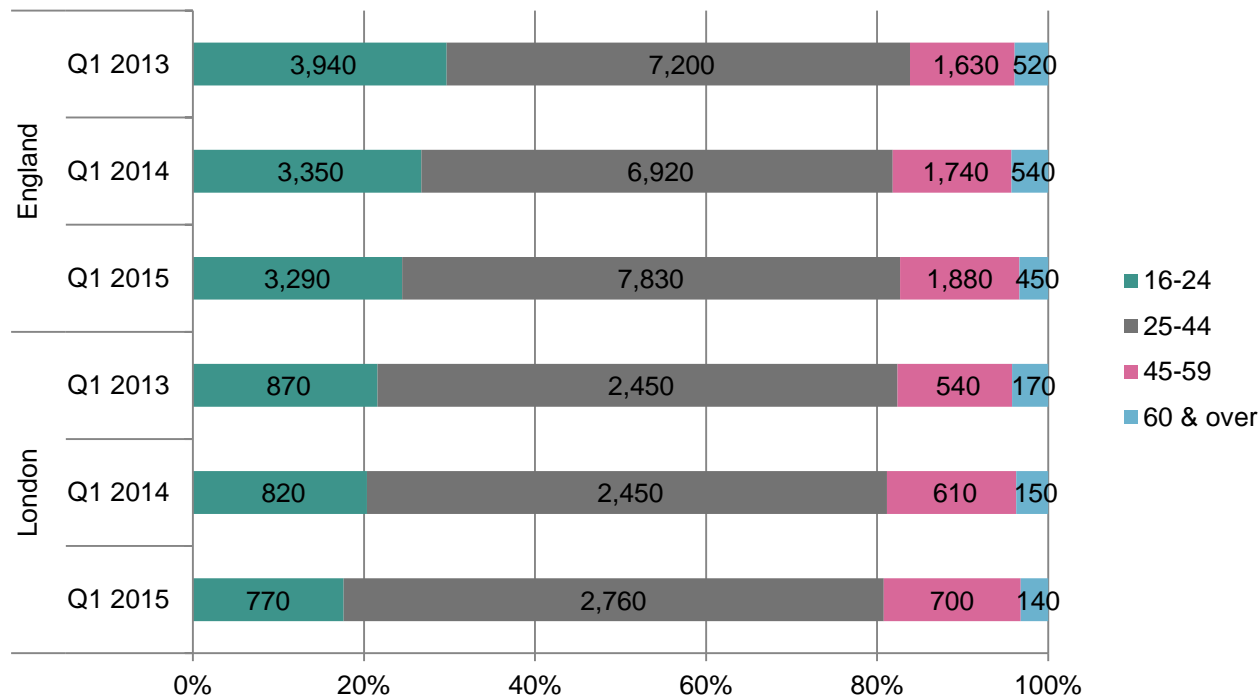
Of these, 60% are male, and 40% are female

Statutory homelessness among young people is **decreasing** but frontline charities say young people approaching homelessness services is **increasing**

Research suggests **46, 265** people under 25 relied on support from councils and charities in 13/14 (**17, 711** in London) [Centrepoin]

Statutory homelessness acceptances

- The number and proportion of homeless acceptances for households aged 16-24 decreased in recent years.
- Proportion of homeless acceptances for households aged 16-24 is lower in London compared to the national figure (18% in Q1 2015, compared to 24% nationally).

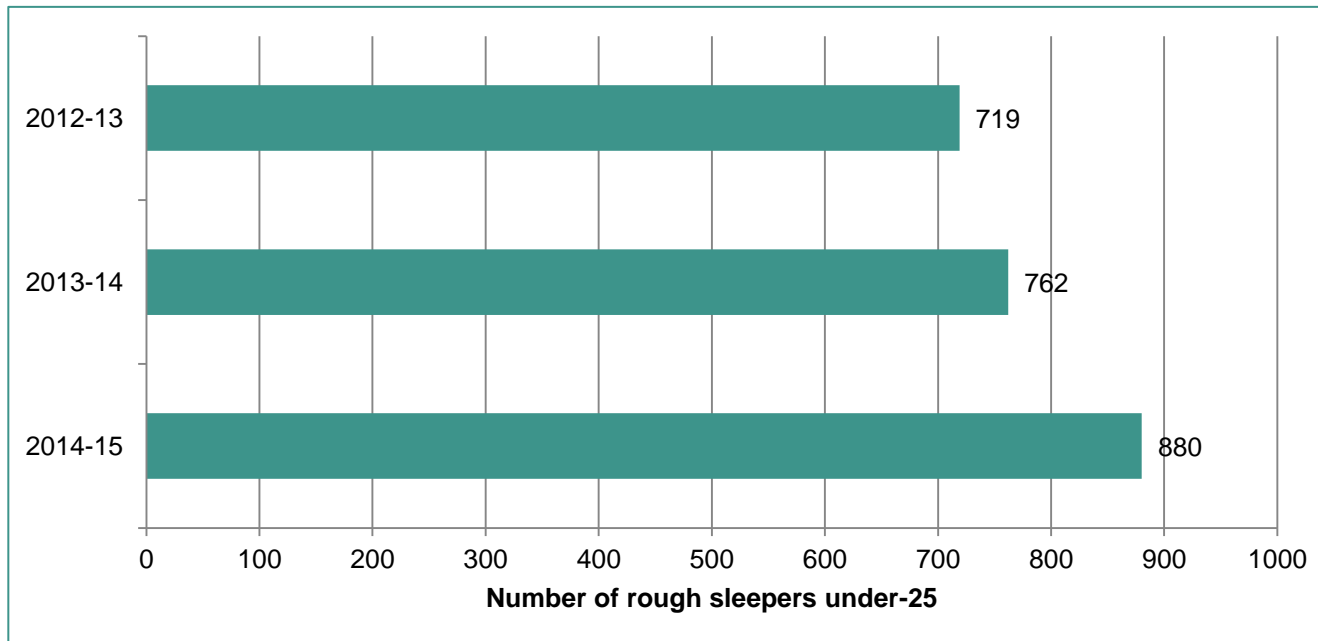


Source: DCLG

Rough sleeping in London

Rough sleeping (CHAIN)

- 12% of rough sleepers were under-25 in 2014/15
- 6% increase in numbers (13/14) compared to a national increase of 1%
- Westminster has highest **number** of rough sleepers under-25 (322, 13%)
- Brent has the highest **proportion** of rough sleepers under-25 (16%)



Source: CHAIN
(St Mungos
Broadway)

Education and early intervention are key, but the picture is mixed:

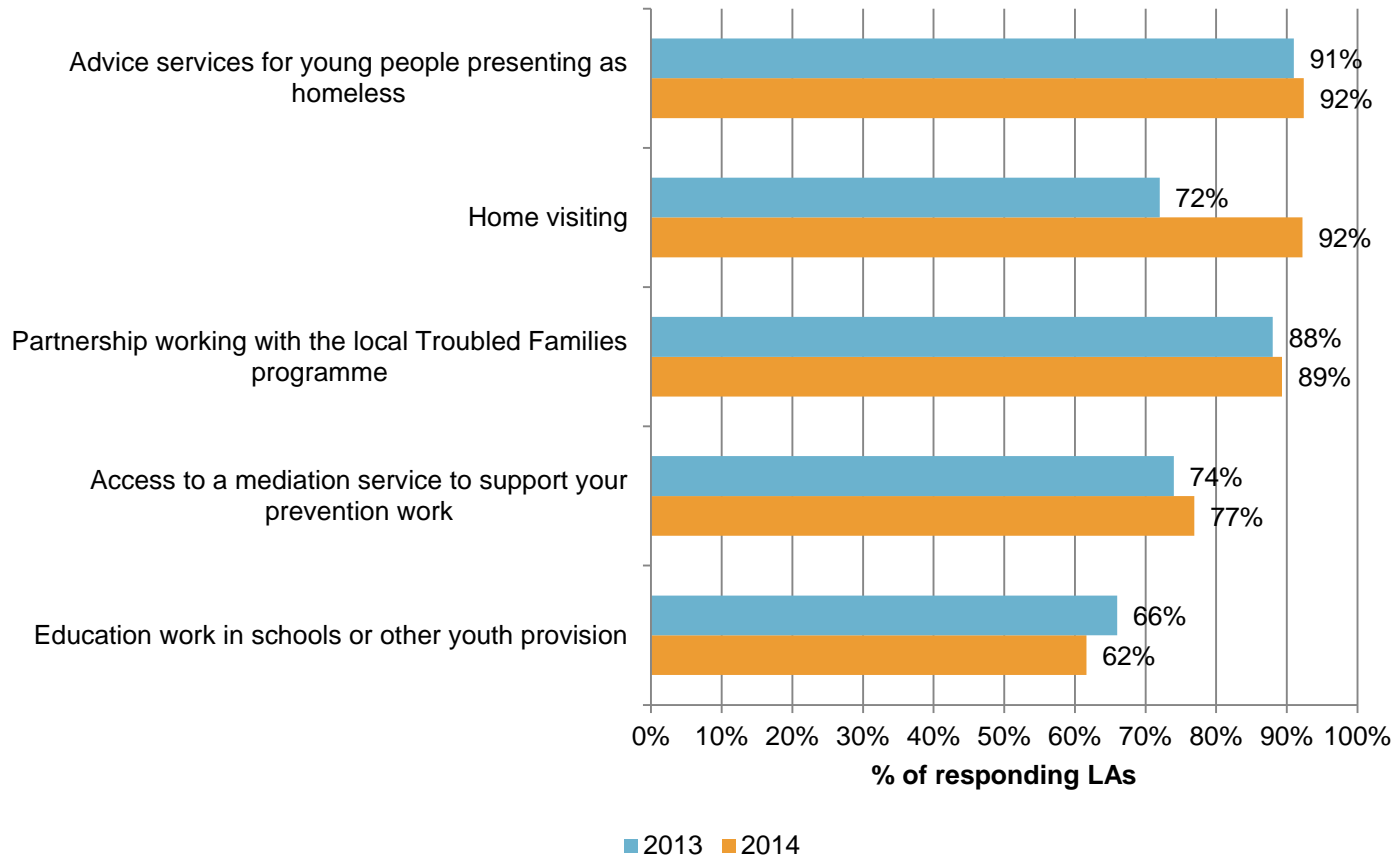
- There is a **positive pathway model** or approach in half of areas.
- Only 1 in 5 young people approaching local authorities have their homelessness **prevented or relieved**.
- Yet **40%** of local authorities feel they do not have adequate prevention tools to meet demand in their area.
- Education work in schools has **decreased**.



[all data from Young & Homeless 2014]

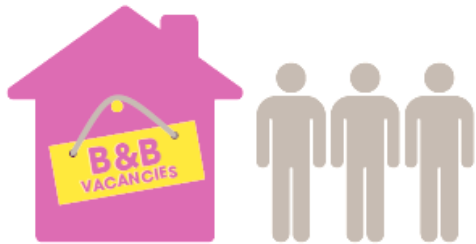
Prevention

Availability of prevention activities (Young & Homeless 2014)



Support Services

What is available for young people if they reach crisis point?



Councils:

B&B continues to be used by local authorities to accommodate young people in emergencies: 52% of local authorities report using it often or occasionally.



Homelessness organisations:

More than 7 in 10 providers have had to turn young people away, mainly because the client's needs were too high or the service lacked capacity.

Factors contributing to homelessness

- **62%** because relatives or friends are no longer able or willing to accommodate them.
- **11%** drug or alcohol problems
- **11%** unemployment
- **9%** mental health problems
- **9%** financial problems caused by benefit reductions

[Young & Homeless 2014]

Contributing factors [continued]

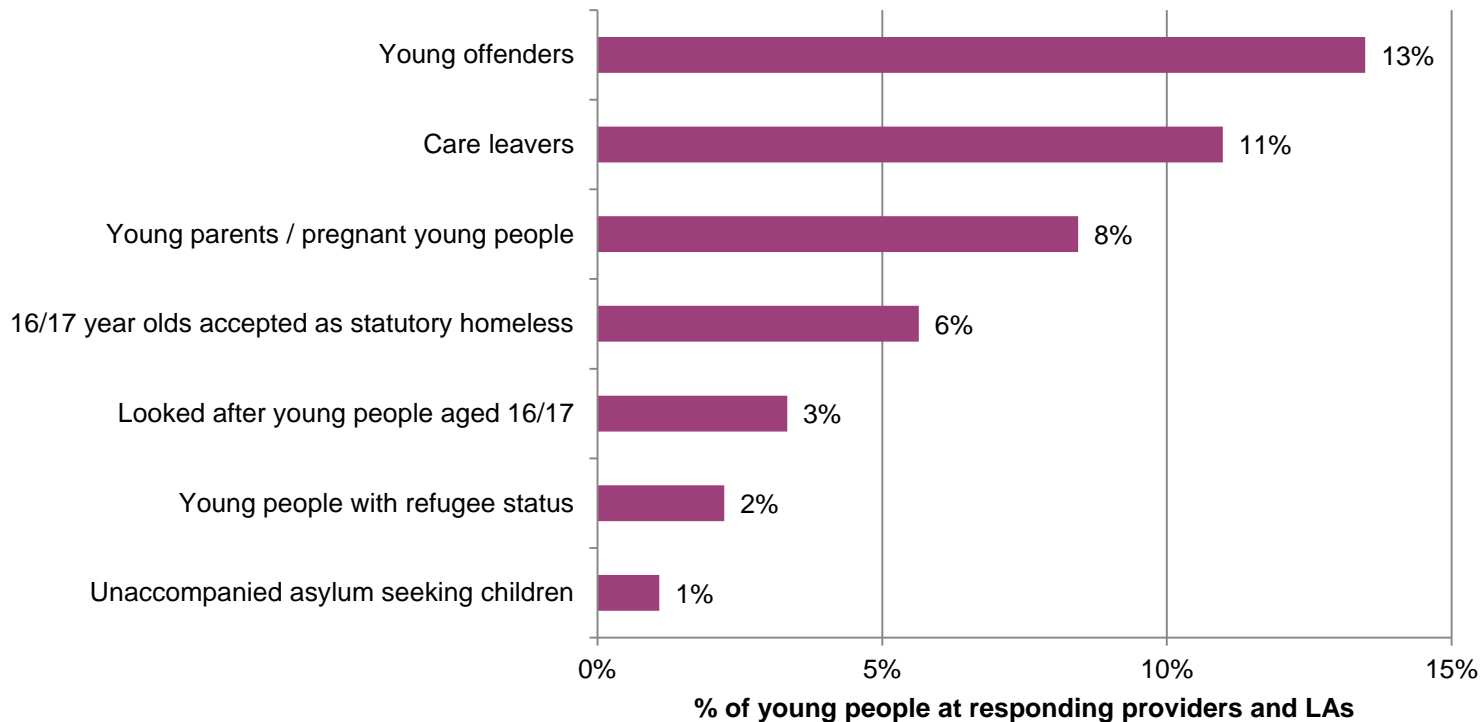
Hard Edges: Mapping severe and multiple disadvantage, Fitzpatrick & Bramley, (LankellyChase Foundation 2015)

Background Experiences	SMD1	SMD2	SMD3
Childhood			
In care	6.5%	17.4%	17.8%
Homeless family	3.7%	9.7%	13.7%
Left home < 16	4.5%	12.9%	16.3%
Left home > 16-17	18.6%	28.2%	30.7%
Ran away	10.3%	28.3%	41.9%
Starved	12.7%	9.5%	17.3%
Abused	9.5%	22.4%	24.3%
Neglected	4.8%	15.1%	17.9%
Parent(s) violent	13.1%	27.9%	29.3%
Parent(s) drug/alcohol	9.1%	19.9%	29.0%
Parent mentally ill	5.0%	16.6%	16.9%
Not get on with family	19.4%	31.7%	29.5%
None of the above	43.3%	24.4%	15.2%

Table: Background experience by SMD (severe and multiple disadvantage) category in MEH (multiple exclusion homelessness) sample.

Who is currently using services?

Some young people are more at risk of homelessness than others:



Support services

Meeting young people's support needs is challenging in the current economic climate:

Nearly **6 in 10** young people have complex needs and young people's needs are becoming **more complex**.

Homelessness organisations are doing more – **1/3** of providers reported they had increased the amount of support available.

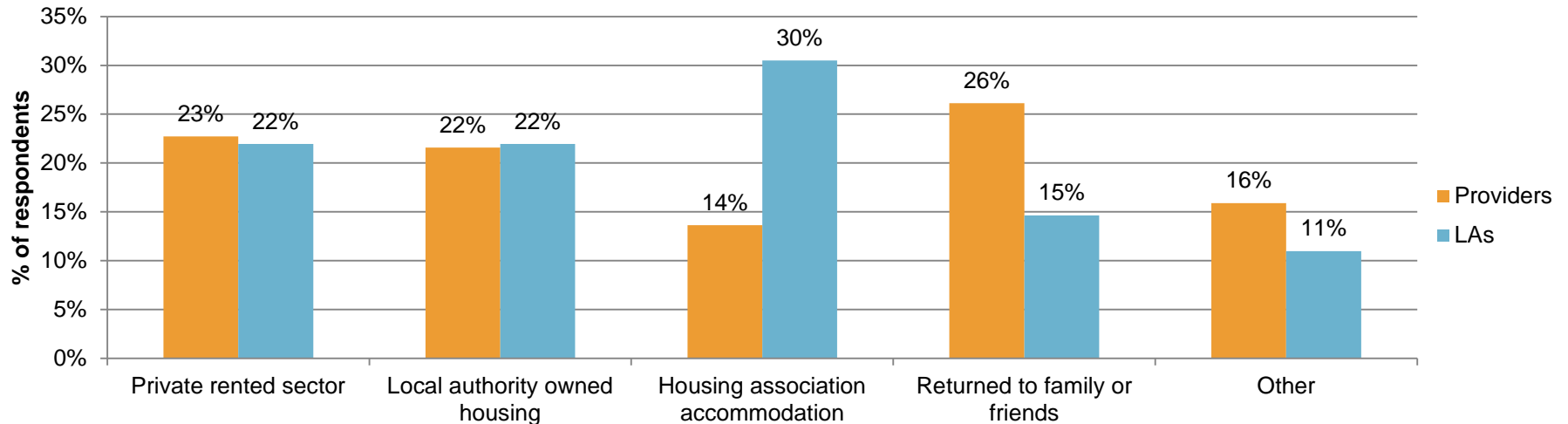
But the availability of external youth services has mainly **decreased** (57%).



Moving to independence

Where next?

Graph: Where young people go to when they leave services



Moving to independence

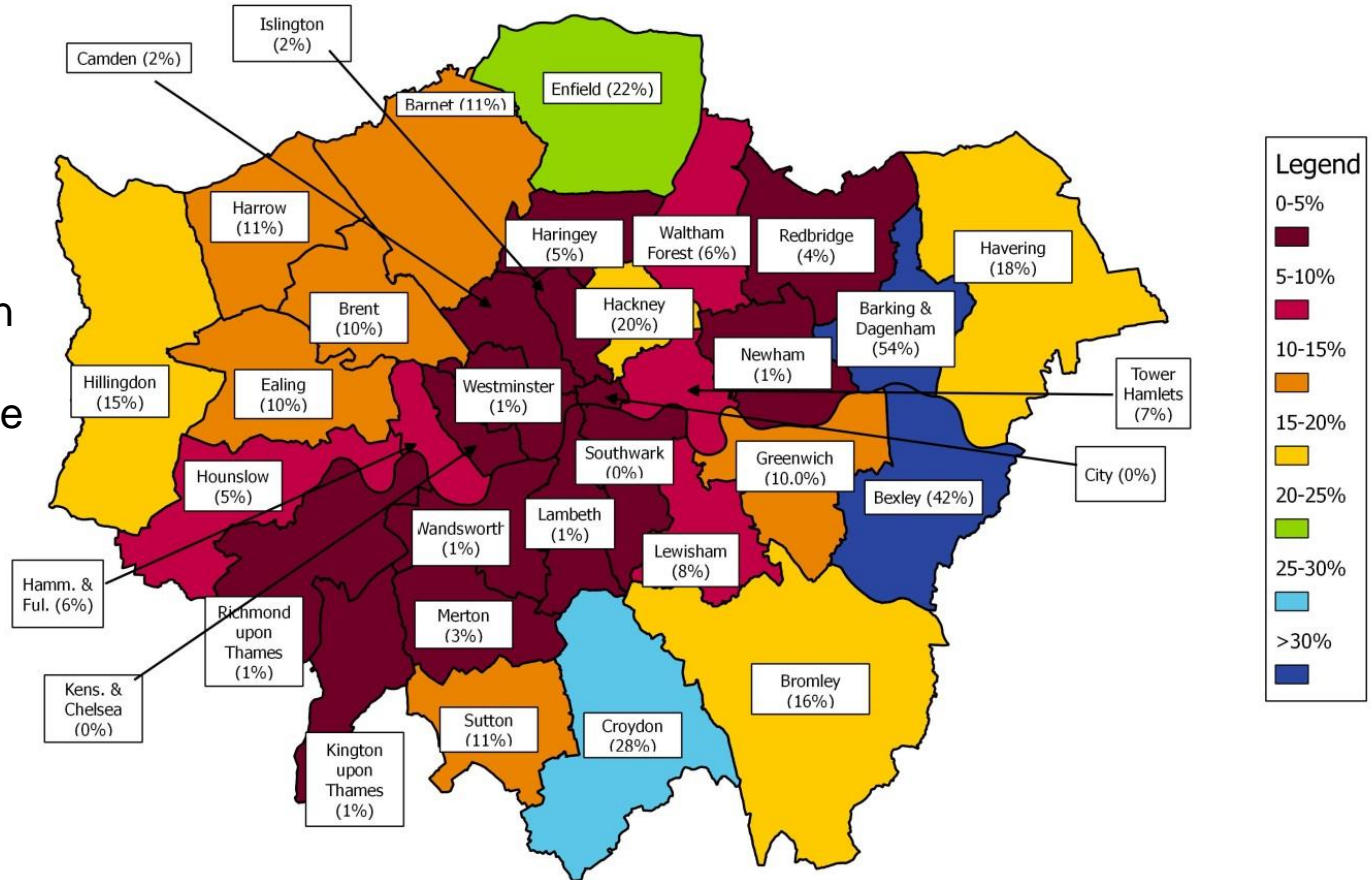
Challenges with sustaining a life away from homelessness

- **Welfare reform** is making access to housing difficult - especially changes to the Shared Accommodation Rate and local welfare assistance.
- Benefit conditionality - young people more likely to be **sanctioned**
- Fewer options can mean lower standards in the **private rented sector**, with landlords reluctant to rent to young people.
- **Repeat homelessness** is a risk (*Rebuilding Lives, Crane et al, Kings College, 2015*)
 - Young people under 24 more likely to become homeless within 5 years compared to other age groups
 - Debt - 33% had debts when resettled and this rose to 86% by 60 months
 - lack of ongoing support – after 5 years 29% expressed wish for support around tenancy and financial issues



Affordability under SAR

Share of affordable properties in London under the Shared Accommodation Rate



Wider policy changes



- Removal of the automatic entitlement to housing benefit for 18-21s
- Youth Allowance – greater work related conditionality ‘from day one’ with placement/training after 6 months
- Lowering of housing benefit levels (Local Housing Allowance)
- Zero/irregular hours
- Impact of the ‘vulnerability’ ruling?

Young and Homeless



What works?

- Learning from the Homeless Transition Fund
- Examples where the 'Positive Pathway' works in practice





Please get in touch

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www.homeless.org.uk/facts/our-research