



## Challenge Brief

### **Ensure people who are at risk of homelessness from drops in income, high rents or changes in circumstances are not pushed into homelessness**

#### **Background**

We know that poverty is one of the biggest drivers of homelessness. Drops in income due to job loss, high rents, insecure housing and changes in circumstances can lead to homelessness and there is a real risk of this becoming the reality for more people as a result of coronavirus. How might we work with organisations, services and community groups who come into contact with people at risk of homelessness to stop it happening in the first place?

#### **What's the challenge?**

In a crisis it is easy to revert to managing the problem rather than preventing it from happening in the first place. By ensuring prevention is considered during the pandemic we could stop many people from becoming homeless as a result of coronavirus. How do we communicate with and identify those we don't even know yet are at risk of homelessness? How do we ensure people can access vital information before they know they need it or on the brink of being pushed into homelessness? Crisis' own research shows there are some groups more at risk of homelessness than others – people on low incomes, recently unemployed and people leaving institutions such as hospitals, the care system and prisons. In nearly all cases homelessness can be prevented and as well as being cost effective is morally the right thing to do.

#### **Useful expertise**

We would welcome a wide skillset supporting us to address the challenge above, we know that the following skills & expertise may be particularly useful in helping us innovate in this area including:

- Service design
- Co-location of services
- Communications
- Data analytics
- Prevention expertise
- International development
- Public health
- Early childhood development
- Debt and financial management
- Expertise in relevant public sector bodies including criminal justice, primary health care and DWP

## Resources

Please find below a range of resources to build your understanding of the challenge and to help you in the development of innovative solutions:

- **Crisis, A foot in the door: Experiences of the Homeless Reduction Act** (March 2020), [https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/241741/a\\_foot\\_in\\_the\\_door\\_2020\\_es.pdf](https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/241741/a_foot_in_the_door_2020_es.pdf)
- **Centre for Homeless Impact, Intervention Tool** (May 2018), <https://www.homelessnessimpact.org/intervention-tool>
- **Homeless Link, Evaluation of the Homeless Hospital Discharge Fund** (January 2015), <https://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/site-attachments/Evaluation%20of%20the%20Homeless%20Hospital%20Discharge%20Fund%20FINAL.pdf>
- **Centrepoin, Preventing youth homelessness: What works?** (2016) [https://centrepoin.org.uk/media/1700/prevention-what-works\\_summary.pdf](https://centrepoin.org.uk/media/1700/prevention-what-works_summary.pdf)
- **Crisis, Plan to end homelessness** (2018) - <https://www.crisis.org.uk/ending-homelessness/plan-to-end-homelessness/>
- **Crisis, Framing homelessness during coronavirus** (April 2020), [https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/241985/framing\\_homelessness\\_during\\_coronavirus\\_april\\_2020\\_pdf.pdf](https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/241985/framing_homelessness_during_coronavirus_april_2020_pdf.pdf)
- **Homeless Hub, Canadian perspective might be helpful for slightly different context?** <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention>
- **European Observatory on Homelessness, An overview of the first year of the Welsh prevention legislation**, (May 2017) <https://www.feantsaresearch.org/download/article-4592410342917616893.pdf>