



GMHAN National Asks

In the run up to the December 12th General Election, as the Greater Manchester Homelessness Action Network and Manchester Homelessness Partnership, we are collating priority asks of national government for informing manifestos, for public awareness and consideration for hustings and other ways to influence.

There are already significant national campaigns we support, which cover the majority of policy changes needed nationwide to genuinely end homelessness, including policy changes around housing and the need for more social and affordable homes. The Ending Homelessness campaign can be found here: <https://endhomelessnessnow.org.uk/our-manifesto/>

We therefore submit the following specific priority asks from the groups we are working with in Greater Manchester who are coming across national barriers to exiting or preventing their homelessness.

Private Rented Sector

- Make the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate appropriate for local rent across the whole of Greater Manchester.
- Remove the cap on Local Housing Allowance rates for under 35s, ending age discrimination within the welfare system.
- Remove Section 21, ultimately putting an end to no fault evictions of tenants by landlords, without increasingly Section 8 (fault) evictions.
- End 'No DSS' discrimination for people who are receiving benefits.

Migration & Destitution (NRPF)

- Remove the policy of No Recourse to Public Funds.
- Increase notification period for discontinuation of asylum support from 28 to 56 days.
- Reinstate legal aid for all immigration matters.
- Provide people seeking asylum the right to work.

Families

- End placement of families in temporary B&B provision with single households.
- Children who are homeless to have the same rights within Local Authorities as Looked After Children.
- Access to social housing provision for families/social rent.

Welfare and Support

- Raise minimum wage to living wage.



- Improve the efficiency of welfare processes, so the DWP's work is focussed on finding people support rather than protecting the system.
- Universal Credit must be redesigned to end the 5 week wait people experience at the start of their claim, and prevent tenants falling into hardship and debt.
- GM has to make the case for job seekers / DWP contributions to be understood as the public resource it is and allow individuals and local government full influence over the policy that affects its management.
- Implementation of safe consumption spaces in partnership with the health sector and substance misuse organisations.

Additional Detail

Private Rented Sector

Ask	Scope (National / GM / LA)
<p>GMCA & GM property development consortium create a practical reserve fund (held by Charity Bank) to act as corporate guarantor to new tenancies created for those who are entering HRA personal plan / have experienced homelessness.</p> <p>Property owners have rental income for the lifetime of the tenancy guaranteed to be processed in regular timely manner, any damage which would lead to the property to be at risk of falling below 'minimum standards' would be met. Improvements match funded.</p> <p>We would have a literal passport to access this – both renters and property owners sit in mixed sessions on maintenance, legislation, ethics, values, community, environment. Scale of ambition – all of these, new funding from what was DCLGH / Welcome trust – health and environment – one or two of these covered already by current projects)</p>	GM/Fair Housing Futures
No DSS discrimination is a Shelter campaign, more info at: (https://england.shelter.org.uk/support_us/campaigns/dss)	National
Safe consumption spaces. Could be trialled on a small localised level within GM, funding and health-related support is available, but so far land has been hard to obtain to undertake the pilots.	National/GM/LA



Migration and destitution (NRPF)

Ask	Scope (National / GM / LA)
Increase the notification period to Local Authorities of granted refugees and discontinuation of asylum support from 28 to 56 days, in line with the homelessness Reduction Act 2017.	National
Reinstate legal aid for all immigration matters.	National
Give asylum seekers the right to work.	National
Support and clear arrangements for EEA nationals post Brexit to ensure people are not at risk of destitution when free movement ends and they are subject to UK immigration rules.	National
Do not impose the NRPF condition when leave to remain is granted on family or private life grounds for any new or subsequent grants.	National
Grant indefinite leave to remain to all individuals and families whose immigration status is outstanding.	National
End the hostile environment by reviewing measures in the immigration acts 2014 & 2016 that increase the risk of destitution and homelessness e.g. right to rent.	National

Families

Ask	Scope (National / GM / LA)
See: Shared Health's report 'Homeless Families. A Gold Standard: A Proposal' https://www.sharedhealthfoundation.org.uk/news-and-reports	National / GM / LA



Welfare and Support

Ask	Scope (National / GM / LA)
<p>GM has to make the case for job seekers / DWP contributions to be understood as the public resource it is and allow individuals and local gov full influence over the policy that affects its management.</p> <p>“We have to be able to use this as a tiny building block, now that it has collapsed as a ‘safety net’ and is strangling communities”</p>	National
<p>Universal Credit must be redesigned to end the 5 week wait people experience at the start of their claim, and prevent tenants falling into hardship and debt.</p> <p><u>Supporting info:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · over 40% of tenants had to rely on help from a foodbank as a direct result of claiming Universal Credit [Riverside UC Survey] · Trussell: End Hunger Now web / twitter #5weekstoolong web / twitter 	National
Safe Consumption Spaces	National / GM / LA