

St Mungo's manifesto

St Mungo's is one of England's largest charities for homeless people, working in London and the South.

Our services run day and night, every day of the year to help homeless people change their lives for good.

We run **emergency** services - including street outreach teams and emergency shelters for rough sleepers.

We support homeless people in their **recovery** - opening the door to safe housing, specialist drug and alcohol support and physical and mental health care. We provide more help for homeless people in gaining life skills than any other charity - from employment support to independent living skills in our 'semi-independent' houses.

Prevention of homelessness is very important to us. Our 'complex needs' housing provides safe and supportive homes for vulnerable people. Our community support teams work with hundreds of people at risk - including former rough sleepers.

By opening our doors, and by opening the doors to services within St Mungo's and in the broader community, we are able to help thousands of homeless and vulnerable people change their lives for good every year.



40 ST MUNGO'S
1969-2009

St Mungo's 
Opening doors for homeless people

Our work on the frontline of street homelessness informs our policy and campaigning work. We would like to see all political parties champion the needs of one of the most vulnerable and excluded groups in our society. We call upon the party to:

Introduce a legal right to shelter

- Commit to a legal human right to shelter: no-one in modern Britain should be forced to sleep on the streets
- Extend the homelessness safety net, removing restrictive criteria for priority need and intentionality that often leaves single homeless adults with no alternative but the streets

Provide more supported housing options for people recovering from homelessness

- Set a time-limited target for moving people off the streets. No-one should live in a hostel for longer than nine months before moving on and into supported housing appropriate to their needs
- Set targets for supported housing investment based on a calculation of demand in each area

Ensure an integrated approach to homelessness across Government and services

- Recognise that street homelessness is more than just a housing problem. We would like to see official responsibility for homelessness with a lead Minister in the Department of Health and the Department for Work and Pensions, and alongside the Minister at Communities and Local Government
- Commissioners and policymakers need to recognise that people recovering from homelessness have to rebuild a life. Services must be multidimensional, providing housing-related, health and employment support together

Tackle the health needs of rough sleepers first

- Recognise rough sleepers as a priority group within health and inequalities strategies
- Provide health checks to a common standard for all rough sleepers in hostels and day centres, to make primary care more accessible for homeless people
- Set a target that nobody with a mental illness should sleep on the streets
- Tackle mental health problems and drug or alcohol dependency at the same time – nobody should be excluded from psychiatric treatment because they use drugs or alcohol

Recognise and support the role of work and meaningful occupation as part of recovery from homelessness

- Implement a client group approach to adult skills and training, with a stronger emphasis on first steps learning provision that rewards progression towards employment
- Enable more access to meaningful activity that develops soft skills alongside the acquisition of vocational qualifications
- Ensure intensive help in preparing for, finding and keeping work for excluded adults with an awareness of additional needs such as health and housing
- Reform the benefits system to provide more flexibility with regard to part time work, work placements and volunteering as valuable pre-employment activity for those who are long term unemployed

For more information visit www.mungos.org. You can also join our Facebook group by searching for St Mungo's, or follow us on [Twitter@StMungos](https://twitter.com/StMungos).

Hear stories and experiences of homelessness directly from our clients and staff from our podcast at www.mungos.org/podcast or search the iTunes store for "St Mungo's".