

Sharing Lessons

Tackling homelessness in England

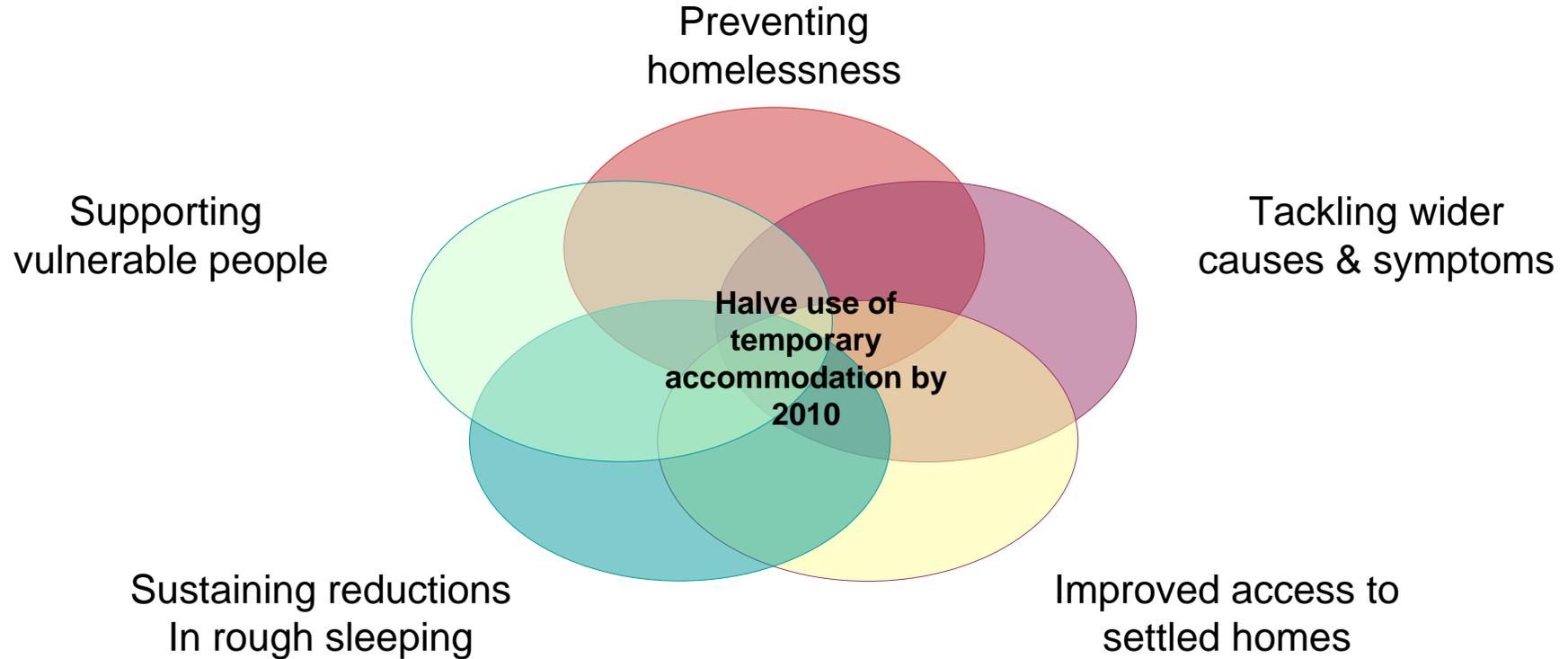
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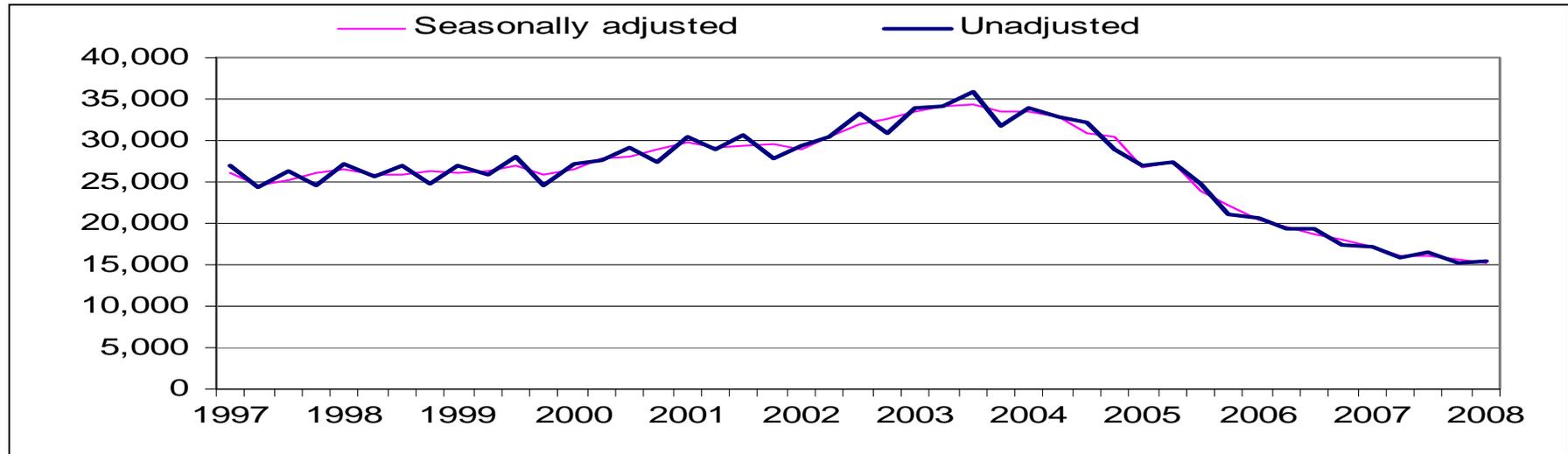
Communities and Local Government

What will be covered

- England's Five Year Strategy to Reduce Homelessness
- Performance in England
- How change is being delivered
- How homelessness is being prevented
- Our focus in the coming years
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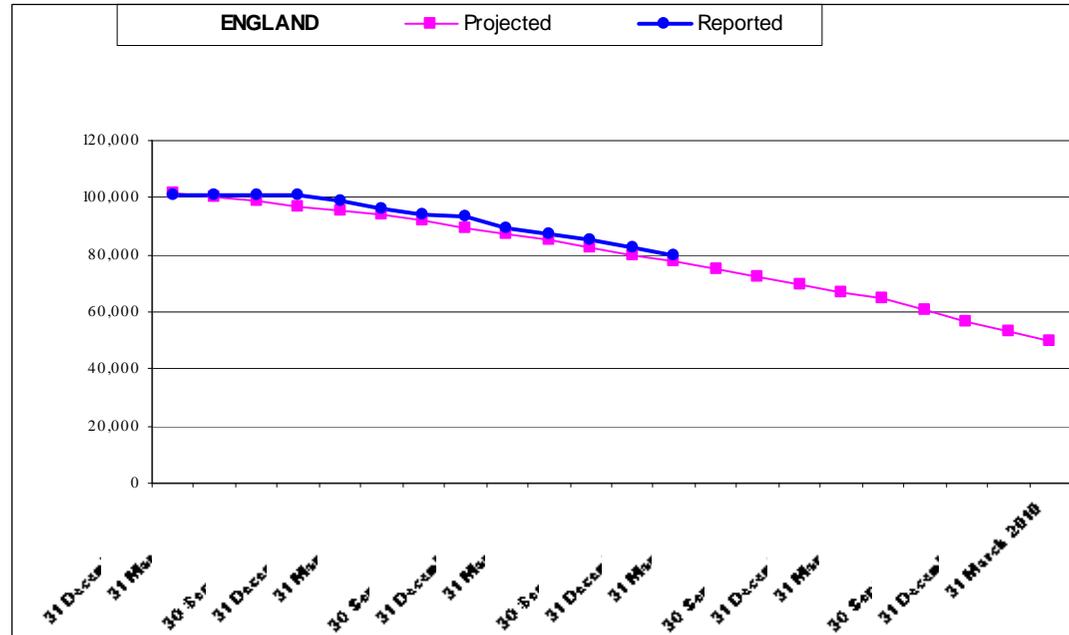


Households accepted by local authorities
as owed a main duty each quarter, England



Homelessness acceptances in England down from around 135,000 in 2003/04 to 63,000 in 2007/08

Temporary Accommodation



77,510 households were living in Temporary Accommodation in England on 31 March 2008. 2.5 % lower than at the end of the previous quarter and down by 11% compared to the same time last year.

- **Laying the Foundations**
- Homelessness Act 2002 – Required LAs to produce local strategies for tackling homelessness – kick started the agenda
- **Mind-set Change**
 - Move away from processing applications towards prevention and earlier intervention
 - Prevention, Prevention, Prevention - start from position that every case is preventable
 - Reversing the pyramid and remodelling services ('spend to save')
 - Focus on the tackling the causes and symptoms of homelessness
 - Development of the 'Options Toolkit'

A number of key targets have been set

- To stop placing families in B&B for more than 6 weeks by April 2004
- To reduce Temporary Accommodation by 50% by 2010
- Commitment to end the use of B&B for 16/17 year olds by 2010
- To reduce rough sleeping by two thirds by 2002

Developing local capacity

- Team of Specialist Homelessness Advisors – offering training and diagnostic reviews
- Regional Champion Programme
- Innovation Funds - encouraging good practice
- 'Homelessness Strategy Health Check - Toolkit
- National Youth Homelessness Scheme set up as part of a package of measures to prevent and tackle youth homelessness

How is homelessness being prevented?

Cause of homelessness	Action to prevent homelessness
Parents, relatives or friends exclusions, relationship breakdown	Mediation/counselling, home visits
Violent relationship breakdown	Sanctuary schemes
End of assured shorthold tenancy	Advice, landlord mediation/ negotiation, rent deposit/bond
Mortgage or rent arrears	Debt counselling, advocacy in court, resolving HB problems
Person poorly-equipped to sustain tenancy	Advice and support (Supporting People), life skills, budgeting
Lack of information	Early, proactive intervention, advice and good range of options

- Local authority **Homelessness Strategies** - legislative requirement to publish revised strategies this year
- Increased investment of **£200million** over 3 years to local authorities and the voluntary sector – to continue prevention work and deliver Temporary Accommodation target
- **Debt advice/mortgage repossessions:** Court desks; National Housing Advice Service; partnership with CAB
- Updating the **Rough Sleeping Strategy** 10 years on
- Delivering the **Places of Change** programme, investing £80 million in 80 new projects

Housing Reform Green Paper

- providing housing services and options which help and encourage people towards greater economic independence and social mobility
- focus on contribution of housing in both in the private rented and social sector - promoting fairness and value for money

Building on our current work to improve choice through

- Enhanced Housing Options Trailblazers
- review to make better use of the Private Rented Sector
- expansion of Choice-Based Lettings
- overcrowding pathfinders

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