



Homeless Link

Housing First – beyond homelessness?

Alex Smith, Homeless Link



Homeless Link

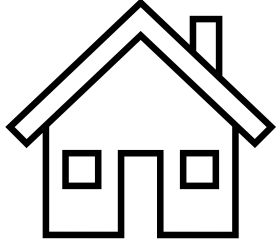


We are the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. We work to make services better and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.



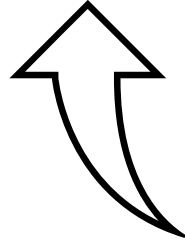
The 7 Housing First Principles

1



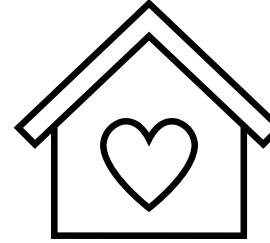
People have a right to a home

2



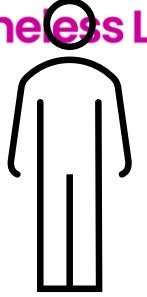
Flexible support is provided for as long as is needed

3



Housing and support are separated

4



Individuals have choice and control

5



An active engagement approach is used

6



The service is based on people's strengths

7



Harm Reduction approach is used

Housing First in England



active services
in England,
compared to
32 in 2017.

87 services
that responded can support

1,995



individuals at any
one time between them
– nearly **6x** as many
as in 2017.



of services have
been operating for
more than
2 years.

Funding



Is Housing First a rough sleeping intervention?



Evidence



Tenancy sustainment 70% – 90%



Improvements to health



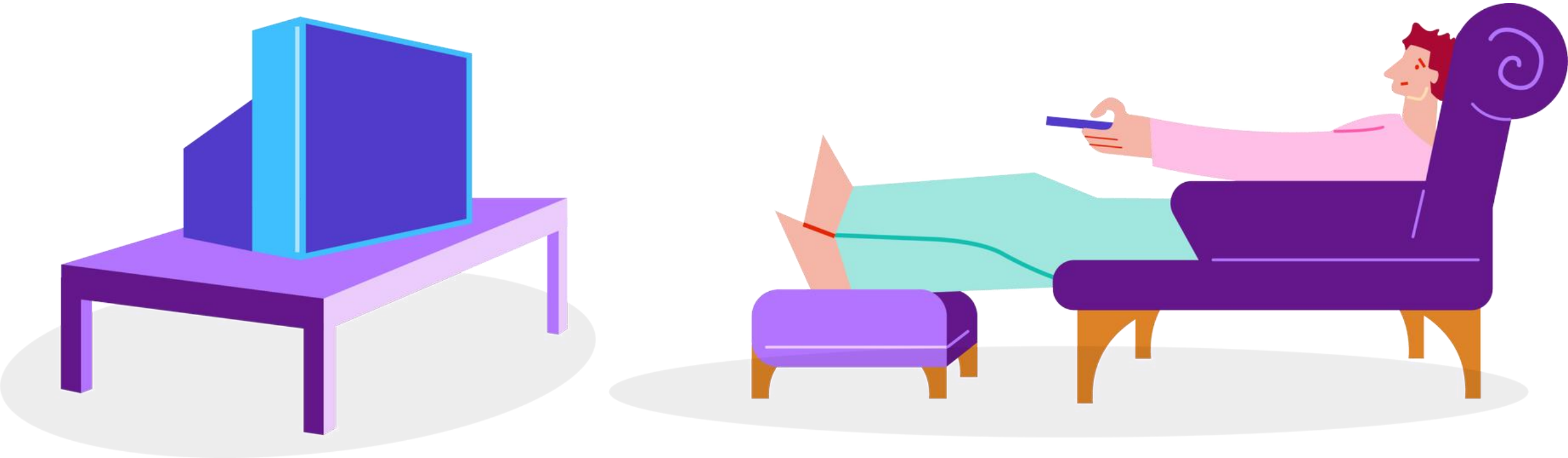
66% improvement in mental health

71% improvement in engagement with mental health services

80% improvement in engagement with meaningful activity

Reduction in offending

Reduction is arrests, ASB and begging



Reduction in substance use



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71% of Housing First residents have drug dependency

International evidence shows 70% of residents reduce their drug use, with 89% reporting improvement in their quality of life



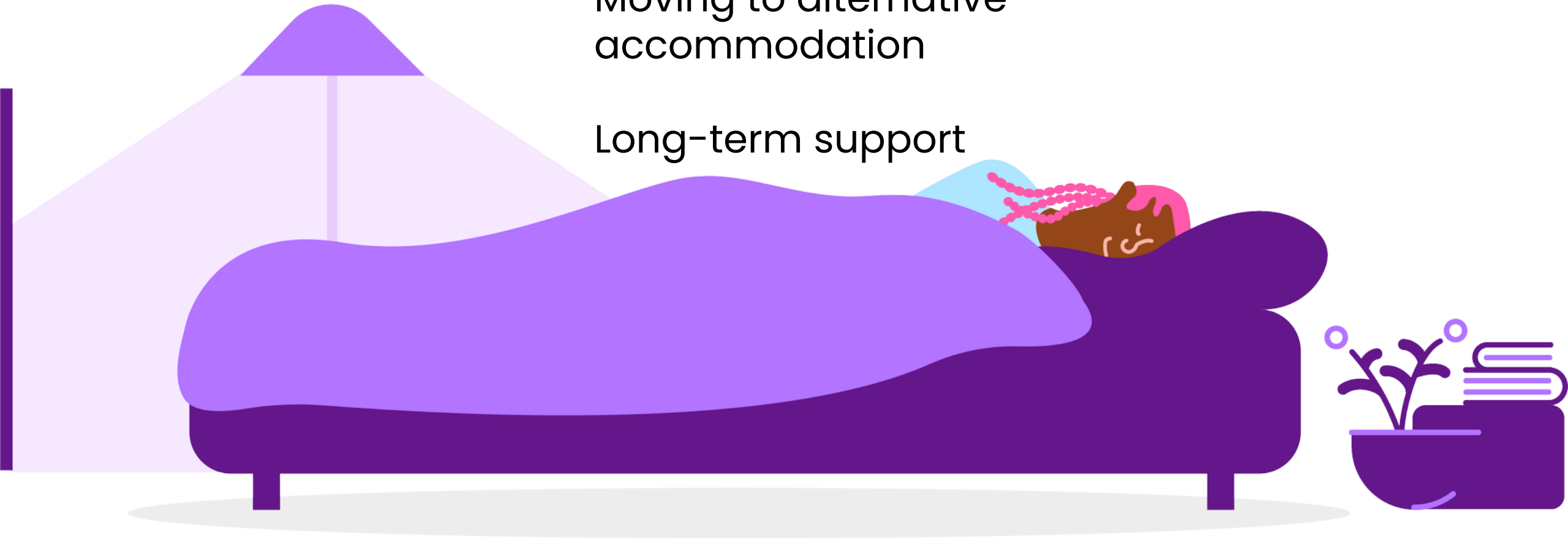
The complexity of need



High rates of death and dying

Moving to alternative
accommodation

Long-term support



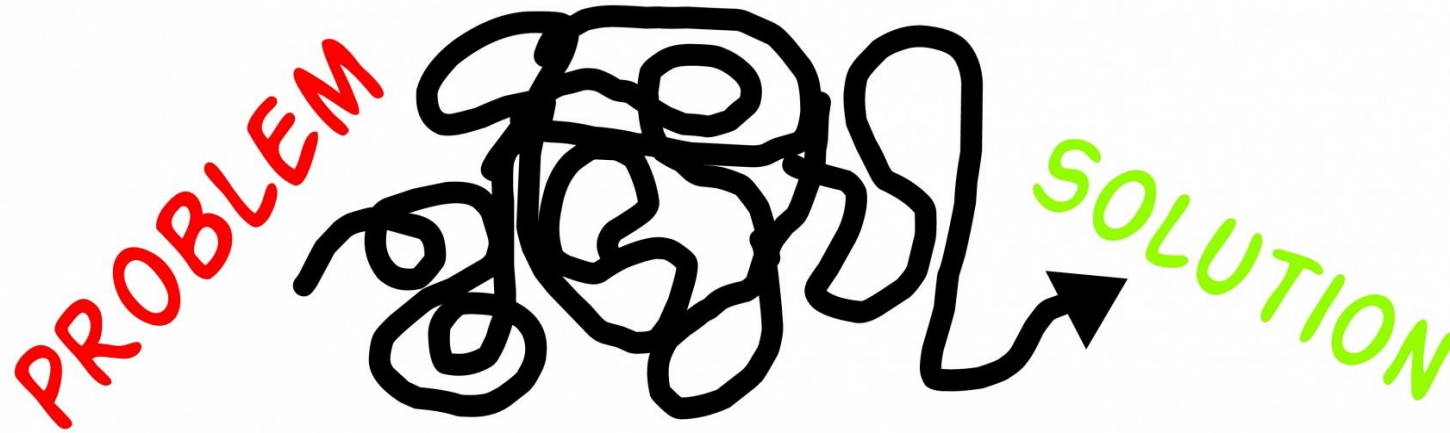
Embedding specialist roles



Integrated Case Management
Vz
Assertive Community Treatment



Housing First England vision



The future





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Alex Smith

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What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services. We work to improve services through research, guidance and learning, and campaign for policy change that will ensure everyone has a place to call home and the support they need to keep it.

homeless.org.uk

[@HomelessLink](https://twitter.com/HomelessLink)