



	Drug Related Deaths	Rough Sleepers	Households officially assessed as homeless		Drug Related Deaths	Rough Sleepers	Households officially assessed as homeless
East of England	<a href="#">398</a>	<a href="#">337</a>	<a href="#">14,460</a>	Scotland	<a href="#">1,051</a>	<a href="#">1,500</a>	<a href="#">32,242</a>
East Midlands	<a href="#">403</a>	<a href="#">287</a>	<a href="#">11,300</a>	South East	<a href="#">616</a>	<a href="#">670</a>	<a href="#">19,060</a>
London	<a href="#">477</a>	<a href="#">1,132</a>	<a href="#">31,620</a>	South West	<a href="#">436</a>	<a href="#">488</a>	<a href="#">15,250</a>
Northern Ireland	<a href="#">154</a>	<a href="#">33</a>	<a href="#">5,316</a>	Wales	<a href="#">318</a>	<a href="#">126</a>	<a href="#">12,537</a>
North East	<a href="#">332</a>	<a href="#">89</a>	<a href="#">8,200</a>	West Midlands	<a href="#">404</a>	<a href="#">256</a>	<a href="#">17,820</a>
North West	<a href="#">905</a>	<a href="#">369</a>	<a href="#">25,030</a>	Yorkshire & Humber	<a href="#">601</a>	<a href="#">270</a>	<a href="#">14,890</a>

*This table relates to the number of individuals reported to have passed away because of drug misuse; experienced rough sleeping; and households considered homeless by their local councils.*

\*Please click on relevant stat for reference and more information

## Harms

- **Expansion of mental health and addiction specialists to support some of the most vulnerable in our society.**
- **Increase access and awareness of the life-saving drug, Naloxone.** Naloxone is a drug that can revive and help individuals experiencing overdose of some common and pervasive illegal drugs. The Salvation Army knows first-hand from our homelessness and addiction services how effective this life-saving tool is.

## Homelessness and rough sleeping

- **Those experiencing rough sleeping should be prioritised for support and shelter, to get and keep them off our streets.** The Salvation Army knows from our own work the lifechanging impact shelter and support services can have on the life of someone experiencing rough sleeping which is why we are calling for a change in the law so all those forced into rough sleeping are prioritised for help.
- **Government funding to tackle rough sleeping should be invested into support services that help people overcome problems such as poor mental health and addiction, which can be both the cause and result of living on the streets.**

## Loneliness

- Loneliness does not discriminate, it can and does impact those of all ages and backgrounds. Community-led solutions can break down these barriers as well as the stigma attached to this pervasive issue.

## Poverty

- **The government should commit to ensuring that the basic rate of Universal Credit covers at least the cost of essentials like food, household bills and travel costs.** The Salvation Army is part of the [Guarantee Our Essentials](#) campaign to ensure social security payments actually meet the cost of living. No-one eligible for social security support should be pushed into poverty while in receipt of it.
- **Scrap the 5-week wait for Universal Credit.** The Salvation Army has found the five-week wait for an initial payment creates and compounds financial hardship which advance payments fail to alleviate.
- **As a temporary measure, until the cost-of-living crisis has been resolved:**
  - **Universal Credit loans should be replaced with grants**
  - **DWP should pause the clawback of benefits debt**
- A new cross-Government task force should be set up to tackle, with empathy and compassion, the reasons people are not earning and are trapped in poverty, by improving education and employment locally so they can achieve a decent standard of living.

*The General Election provides all of us with an opportunity to use our voices and challenge those seeking elected office to address the issues in your community. To help you make the most of the coming weeks and stay compliant with electoral law, [the Public Affairs Unit has created a range of resources](#).*