The State of the Homeless Charity Sector in England

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Press Headlines

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"Dramatic rough sleeping rise in England condemned as disgraceful"

Number of people sleeping rough in UK leaps by more than a third since 2010

Romanians and Bulgarians make up a QUARTER of all those sleeping rough across England

Government cuts blamed as rough sleeping increases for fourth year in a row

Down and out in austerity Britain: Number of rough sleepers soars by 37 per cent

So what are ‘the facts’?

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5% increase on 2012 figures (national)

3% decrease on 2012 figures (London)

37% increase on 2010 figures (national)

Total 2414 people (one night)

BUT…

MASSIVE regional differences e.g.

Bristol UP **356%** on 2012

Cornwall UP **54%** on 2012

Lewisham DOWN **63%** on 2012

Herefordshire DOWN **45%** on 2010 figures

Derby UP **1075%** on 2010 figures!

Why?

- Localism
- Removal of Supporting People ringfence
- Migration out of London (enforced?)
- Reduction in overall bed spaces
- Hostel ‘silt-up’ and PRS reluctance to take people on HB
- No Second Night Out, Street Link and other innovations eg Housing First
- EU migration?
- Homelessness Transition Fund (HTF)

In addition…

Gov't 'special initiatives' often fail to deliver System Change i.e. temporary improvements in quality and quantity of service responses but essentially 'more of the same'…

Dearth of rights-based approaches, still based on 'pity model' as illustrated by growth of soup runs, night shelters and food banks

Emergence of Social Impact Bonds and payment by results schemes offer investment but at what cost?