



**SAVE OUR
SUPPORTED
HOUSING**



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Rt Hon. Sir Keir Starmer MP & Rt Hon. Rachel Reeves MP
Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer
10 and 11 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

April 2025

Dear Prime Minister and Chancellor,

We write to you on behalf of a wide range of organisations who provide or rely on supported housing services across England to raise serious concerns about the financial crisis facing the supported housing sector and the impact of this on the deliverability of the government's missions.

Supported housing is a vital national resource that delivers homes and services to half a million people. It boosts wellbeing, health and employment prospects, and enables people to live independently with the right support. Supported housing plays an indispensable role in cutting NHS waiting list backlogs, and reducing pressure on social care, temporary accommodation, and other vital public services. By providing homes for prison leavers, it reduces the risk of reoffending. And by reducing the disadvantage faced by Armed Forces veterans it helps public authorities meet their statutory duties under the Armed Forces Covenant.

The financial crisis facing supported housing

However, the future of supported housing is at risk because of the dire financial situation facing the sector. Following years of funding cuts under the previous government, local authorities have been forced to decommission vital services. Rising costs alongside reduced funding have rendered many services unviable, forcing many to close, while demand for supported housing continues to rise. The decision to increase employers' National Insurance contributions has placed even further pressure on providers' budgets.

1 in 3 supported housing providers had to close schemes last year because of funding pressures. All this has created an existing shortfall of 80,000 supported housing places for working age adults and between 73,000 and 245,000 places for older people across



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England. These pressures are set to worsen still, with research conducted by the National Housing Federation showing that:

- 60% of providers will have to close supported housing schemes in the future.
- 1 in 3 providers may be forced to stop providing supported housing altogether.

The risk to the government's missions

Without intervention from government at the forthcoming Spending Review, more supported housing services will be lost. This will not only jeopardise ministers' commitment to improving supported housing as laid out in recent consultation documents, but will also hinder the government's ability to deliver on vital overarching objectives outlined in the Plan for Change agenda:

- **The NHS and social care:** without supported housing there would be a need for an additional 14,000 inpatient psychiatric places and 2,500 places in specialist residential care. In 2023/24, mental health inpatients experienced 110,000 days of delayed discharge waiting for supported housing, the primary reason for delayed discharge. A further reduction in provision will therefore impede the government's mission to build an NHS fit for the future, tackle waiting list backlogs, and shift from 'hospital to community'. Without appropriate housing for those who can live independently with support, the government's long-term ambition to take steps towards a National Care Service will also be jeopardised.
- **Homelessness:** without supported housing an estimated 41,000 more people would be made homeless, with a further 30,000 put at serious risk of future homelessness. Without government intervention to support the sector, councils will be even more reliant on expensive and poor-quality temporary accommodation and ministers' ambition to reduce record levels of homelessness will be hindered.
- **Violence against women and girls:** without supported housing, more women will be forced to return to abusive relationships. Data from Women's Aid indicates that more than 4,000 women referred to refuge services have been turned away because of a lack of capacity. Reduced supported housing provision will jeopardise the government's ambition to halve violence against women and girls over the next decade.
- **Crime and the criminal justice system:** without supported housing, more than 2,000 additional prison places would be required. Reduced supported housing services will therefore limit the net impact of government's plan to create more prison places. Reoffending rates for those who are homeless on release is almost double that of those who are released into accommodation. This means that reduced supported housing provision will also impact significantly on ministers' ambition to tackle crime and create safer streets.

The government's opportunity to save supported housing

We welcome the government's commitment to regulating the sector and tackling rogue

providers, and echo the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee's call to rejuvenate supported housing. The upcoming Spending Review provides a vital opportunity for ministers to do this: enabling good quality providers of supported housing, averting the significantly worsening financial crisis facing the sector and instead placing it on a more sustainable footing.

Councils are key partners in delivering sustainable supported housing, but they require long-term investment to prevent further decommissioning of services and put the sector on a sustainable footing. To save supported housing and deliver this, we are calling for:

- Long-term and increased funding for housing-related support of at least £1.6bn per year for local authorities.
- A commitment to deliver more supported homes by 2040, with clear funding in the Affordable Homes Programme, and ensuring supported homes form part of the government's 1.5m housebuilding target.
- Ensuring that the long-term housing strategy and homelessness strategy encompass the vital role of supported housing.

With your support, we look forward to working with you to ensure that the supported housing sector can act as delivery-partners for your missions for government.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Henderson, Chief Executive, National Housing Federation

Caroline Abrahams CBE, Charity Director, Age UK

Dr Lade Smith CBE, President, Royal College of Psychiatrists

Mark Atkinson, Director General, Royal British Legion

Jonathan Tame, Advisor to the Bishop for Housing, Church of England

Cllr David Fothergill, Chairman of the Community Wellbeing Board, Local Government Association

Kate Markey, Chief Executive, Nationwide Foundation

Abigail Ampofo, Interim CEO, Refuge

Emma Haddad, Chief Executive, St Mungo's

Mark Winstanley, Chief Executive, Rethink Mental Illness

Vic Rayner, CEO, National Care Forum

Rick Henderson, CEO, Homeless Link

Balbir Kaur Chatrik, Director of Policy and Prevention, Centrepont

Dr Ruth Owen OBE, Chief Executive, Leonard Cheshire

Imogen Blood, Director, Imogen Blood & Associates

Gavin Smart, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Housing

Naina Mandleker, Senior Commissioning Manager - LDA, NHS Gloucestershire ICB

Dr Rhidian Hughes, Chief Executive, Voluntary Organisations Disability Group

Andrew Powell, CEO, Healthier Heroes CIC

Liz Rutherford, Chief Executive, Single Homeless Project

Kathryn Smith OBE, Chief Executive, Social Care Institute for Excellence

Lynne Shea, Chief Executive, Salvation Army Homes

Gill Leng, Advocate for improved health & equity through homes

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Julie Layton, Chief Executive, Advance
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Victoria Buyer, Chair, Age UK Lancashire
Henrietta Podd, Executive Director, Allia C&C Ltd
Sally Parsons, Chief Executive, Alpha Living
Julie Doyle, Chief Executive, Amplius
Sarah Jones, Chief Executive, Anchor
Ulfat Hussain, Chief Executive, Arawak Walton Housing Association
Paul Richards, Chief Executive, Arc Inspire
Clive Parry, England Director, ARCEngland
Michael Voges, Chief Executive, ARCO
Gill Bryant, Chief Executive, Aurora Nexus
Nicola Greenfield, Director of Support, BCHA
David Chaffey, Chief Executive, BHT Sussex
Jody Bulman, Chief Executive Officer, Birnbeck Housing Association
Richard Hill, CEO, bpha Limited
Maxine Bradbourn, CEO, Brighter Futures Housing Association
Gail Teasdale, Chief Executive, Broadacres
Liz Zacharias, Director, Campbell Tickell
Matthew Eddisford, Chief Executive, Care Housing Association
Ursula Aitchison, Policy, Strategy and Research Specialist, Chelmer Housing Partnership
Sarah Maguire, CEO, Choice Support
Colin Mackell, Group Chief Executive, Chrysalis Group Services Ltd
Sally Tsoukaris, General Secretary, Civil Service Pensioners Alliance (CSPA)
Claire Miller, Group Chief Executive, Clarion Housing Group
Helen Lennon, Chief Executive, Connect Housing Association
Louise Reynolds, Head of Support Services, Connexus Homes Limited
Anna Lunts, Chief Executive, Creative Support
Mandy Elliott, Chief Executive, Crosby Housing Association
Sarah Hernandez, Managing Director, Derventio Housing Trust
Rachael Dodgson, Chief Executive, Dimensions
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Paul Smith, CEO, Elim Housing
Chan Kataria, Group Chief Executive, emh group
Charlotte Talbott, Chief Executive, Emmaus UK
Sara Sharrock, Chief Executive, Empower Housing Association
Ian Martin, Chief Executive, Estuary Housing Association
Pat Brandum, Chief Executive, Evolve Housing + Support
Alison Barnes, Customer Engagement Officer, FairOak Housing Association
Marie Davis, CEO, Falcon Support Services
Rebecca Clarke, Head of Operations, First Priority Housing Association
Esme Wadsworth, Head of Property, FitzRoy Support

Mark Parkin, Chief Executive, ForHousing
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Karen Cooper, Chair, G320
Sheree Brooks, Operations Manager- Older Peoples Services, Gateway Housing Association
John Verge, Chief Executive, Golden Lane Housing
Alison Dean, Chief Executive, Great Places Housing Group
Raife West, Chief Executive, Havant Housing Association
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Amy Laurie, Director of Care & Supported Housing, Hightown
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Ruth Kettle, Chief Executive, Inspire North
Sasha Deepwell, Chief Executive, Irwell Valley Homes
Brian Moran, Chief Executive, Jigsaw Homes Group Limited
Helen Bedser, Chief Executive, Julian House
Simon Gale, Chief Executive, Justlife Foundation
Fiona Fletcher-Smith, Chief Executive, L&Q
Kim Larkin, Managing Director, LA Directories Ltd
David Davies, Head of Supported Housing, LiveWest Homes Ltd
Leann Hearne, Chief Executive, Livv Housing Group
Karl Hallows, Chief Executive, LMS Retirement Living Limited
Chris Hampson, Chief Executive, Look Ahead
Jane Toffel, The President of the Association, Maldon Housing Association Ltd
Mel Barrett, Chief Executive, Metropolitan Thames Valley
Sam Monaghan, Chief Executive, MHA
Charlotte Norman, Group Chief Executive, MSV Housing Group
Alison Beachim, Group Chief Executive, New Outlook Housing Association
James Walder, Chief Executive, North Star
Holly Dagnall, Director of Homes and Wellbeing, Nottingham Community Housing Association
Tracey Bush, Chief Executive, One Fylde
Salma Ravat, CEO, One Roof Leicester
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Wendy Evans-Hendrick, Chief Executive Officer, Orwell Housing Association
Nicky Boland, Chief Executive Officer, Outward Housing
Hannah Kavanagh, Executive Director of Housing, P3 Charity
Matthew Bailes, Chief Executive, Paradigm Housing Group

Jonathan Beebee, CEO, PBS4 UK Ltd
Karen Cooper, Chief Executive, PCHA
Clare Norton, CEO, Peter Bedford Housing Association
Linda Wallace, Chief Executive, PHAHomes
Paul Reynolds, Assistant Director, Pilgrim's Friend Society
Tom Neumark, CEO, Porchlight
Rachel Law, Chief Executive, PossAbilities
John Ghader, Chief Executive, Prima Housing Group
Jacqui De-Rose, Chief Executive, Progress Housing Group
Fiona Humphrey, Chief Executive, Providence Row Housing Association
John Glenton, Chief Executive, Riverside
Helen Razdan, Chief Executive, Self Help Community Housing Association
Angela Gascoigne, Chief Executive, SHAL Housing
Cathy Kane, Interim CEO, Social Interest Group
Tania Marsh, Chief Executive, Society of St James
Andrew Meyer, Chief Executive, Solo Housing (East Anglia)
Neil Blanchard, Chief Executive, Southdown Housing Association
Paul Hackett CBE, Chief Executive, Southern Housing
John Bowker, Chief Executive, Southway Housing Trust
Jean Templeton, Chief Executive, St Basils
Paul Fernandes, Director, St Ignatius Housing Association
Tracey Gore, Director, Steve Biko Housing Association
Lisa Brown, Founder, Supported Living Property Network Ltd
Andrew Furtek, Chief Executive, Tamil Community Housing Association
Stephanie Hood, Chief Executive, Tamworth Cornerstone Housing Association
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Gary Fulford, Chief Executive, whg
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