

Whilst the Welsh Government has the power to make a lot of the key decisions on housing and homelessness, there are also some clear actions the UK Government can take to help end homelessness in Wales.

In the run-up to the General Election, candidates and activists from political parties may turn up on your doorstep to try to win your vote.

If you'd like to find out how committed they are to ending homelessness in Wales, this guide includes some example questions you could ask.

### **Housing Benefit**

As the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite, many of us are being pushed to the brink of homelessness as we struggle to bridge the gap between benefits and rising rental costs. Others are simply priced out of renting a home altogether.

Crisis wants the new UK Government to make a long-term investment in Local Housing Allowance rates so that homes more affordable.

**You might like to ask:** *Will your party make sure people on the lowest incomes can afford their rent by investing in Local Housing Allowance?*

### **Benefit cap**

The benefit cap is a limit to the total amount in benefits that a person can receive. The cap means that those of us who are already living on the poverty line are denied the levels of financial support we need, placing us at greater risk of homelessness.

The new UK Government must ensure we get the financial support we truly need to ensure we all have an affordable and stable place to call home.

**You might like to ask:** *How would your party stop the benefit cap from pushing people into homelessness?*

### **Criminalisation of homelessness**

The Vagrancy Act 1824 is a long-outdated law that enables people in both England and Wales to be criminalised for facing homelessness and sleeping on the street.

In 2022, a vote to scrap the Act was supported across political parties. We now need a new UK Government to follow through and put an end to this ancient and cruel law.

**You might like to ask:** *Will your party repeal the Vagrancy Act?*