

Look forward: Building on the lessons of the pandemic

We are so proud of all of our staff, volunteers and partners for their dedication and innovation this year. Now we must ensure we are learning the lessons of that work and building upon them so that we can end rough sleeping for good.

Our commitment to diversity and inclusion

At St Mungo's 90% of our staff agree that we have a positive approach to diversity and inclusion, this is something that we are looking to build upon both for our staff and our clients.

By 2026, we want a high representation of BAME staff at senior levels to reflect the diversity of the communities with which we work. We will achieve this through our race action plan for staff and will publish measures around race for transparency and accountability. Meanwhile, we are looking to develop a toolkit and materials to help our staff work with clients through issues around discrimination, bullying and harassment.



A legacy of shared working

According to Government estimates, the Everyone In initiative provided accommodation and support to 90% of people who were sleeping on our country's streets. In the next five years we want to build on the positive lessons we have learnt and on the principles of joint working between the different organisations involved in homelessness, as exemplified by Everyone In.

On 23 March, one year on from the first lockdown, the Independent Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, led by Lord Bob Kerslake, the former Head of the UK Civil Service, was launched. We are pleased to be advising the Commission and providing secretariat support on the report which will examine and learn the lessons from the emergency response for people sleeping rough during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A challenging environment

We know that even with lessons learnt from the last year that building on our successes will not be easy. We will be dealing with the impact of rising unemployment, potentially increased evictions, and further pressure on local authority budgets, including expected real term cuts in Universal Credit and local housing allowances.

Longer term, the fallout from what the Chancellor called an 'economic emergency' in November 2020, and how the Government chooses to reduce the national debt will also impact our work. There are also implications from our exit from the European Union, both upon the economy and on non-UK nationals. Meanwhile, there continues to be a growing disparity between the richest and the poorest and most vulnerable in society; between those who have and those who have not.



Our strategic ambition – end rough sleeping by 2026

We are in a challenging environment, but not an impossible one. We believe that we can end rough sleeping by 2026. We also believe that policies and interventions can be put in place to end homelessness for good.

In April 2021 we launched our new five year strategic plan. It will not be easy, but over the next five years we must build on the successes of the last year; through providing services for people experiencing homelessness and at risk of homelessness, creating more longer-term housing options and ensuring that no one has to return to the streets.