

# Supported housing: a lifeline in crisis

**SAVE OUR  
SUPPORTED  
HOUSING**

After years of funding cuts, supported housing is facing a financial crisis with homes and support services closing and many more at risk of closure. We're asking the government to urgently commit to both emergency and long-term funding to keep doors open for residents who need a safe home the most.

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## What is supported housing?

Supported housing is a lifeline that helps more than half a million people in England to live independently in their communities. It refers to affordable homes for rent with a range of different support staff and services. Nearly 75% of supported housing is provided by housing associations, not-for-profit providers of safe and affordable homes. Many people can live in a supported home, including:

- Older people with care and support needs.
  - People with learning disabilities or autistic spectrum disorder.
  - Women fleeing domestic abuse.
  - Care leavers.
  - Armed forces veterans.
  - People with mental health related needs.
  - Disabled people.
  - People leaving prison or hospital.
  - Refugees and newly arrived communities.
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## How is supported housing funded?

Supported housing depends on government grants to build new homes. It also needs separate funding from local authorities or the NHS to run tailored support services. These services help people live as independently as possible in their communities. Supported housing sits at the intersection of housing, health and social care.

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## Supported housing saves taxpayers money and relieves pressure on public services

Supported housing saves the public purse around £3.5bn every year. Research shows that without supported housing, we would need 14,000 more inpatient psychiatric places, 2,500 residential care places, and 2,000 more prison places. 41,000 more people would be homeless, and NHS hospital beds would see an additional 110,000 days of delayed discharge. A supported home helps people live healthy lives at home, all whilst relieving pressure on overstretched public services.

**£3.5bn**

Every year supported housing in England saves the public purse around £3.5bn.

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## Why is supported housing facing a financial crisis?

Supported housing is in financial crisis, schemes are closing while demand rises. There is a current shortfall of up to 325,000 supported homes. This is equivalent to a population the size of Nottingham who need a supported home they can't access.

Since 2010, as the financial challenges faced by councils and NHS trusts worsened, funding for supported housing has been cut, and the sector now faces an entrenched financial crisis. Without urgent action, more homes will be lost. Almost a third of NHF members have closed homes in the past 12 months and 1 in 3 say they may have to stop providing supported housing altogether.

If we lose these supported housing services, it will be harder for the government to deliver its missions to build an NHS fit for the future, reduce homelessness, halve violence against women and girls, and tackle crime.

## What can you do to save our supported housing?

To keep doors open and invest in new supported housing, providers need funding now and for years to come. Despite an extremely welcome and significant focus on building new social homes in the Spending Review, desperately needed specific funding for supported housing services was not announced. To save our supported housing, we're asking the government to:

1. Urgently commit to long-term, sustainable funding for support services. This should be addressed at the Autumn Budget and in the housing and homelessness strategies.
2. Create an emergency fund for support services in the Autumn Budget to prevent more supported housing schemes from having to close their doors this year.
3. Allocate enough of the new Social and Affordable Homes Programme funding to meet rising demand for new supported and older persons' housing and make it easier for small organisations to bid.

### You can:

- Post about your visit, the crisis and our campaign on social media.
- Apply for a Westminster Hall debate on the future of supported housing.
- Submit a written question to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Examples include:
  1. Will the forthcoming Long-Term National Housing Strategy address the viability and supply of supported housing?
  2. What steps is the department taking to address the financial pressures faced by supported housing providers?
  3. What steps is the department taking to ensure we meet future supported housing demand?

Please contact Ade Bakare, Public Affairs Officer at the National Housing Federation at [ade.bakare@housing.org.uk](mailto:ade.bakare@housing.org.uk) for support and more ways you can champion supported housing.

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