

Social problems and issues
Dr Stuart Isaacs
Course Leader, Social Policy and Sociology
London Metropolitan University

Session two: Homelessness

Answers to short answer questions

Q1 *What are the main social problems associated with homelessness?*

- Poverty and low income
 - Lack of affordable social housing
 - Danger of slipping into rough sleeping
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Q2 *Referring to the text above and thinking about the video, what are the differences between rough sleepers and the homeless?*

- Rough sleepers sleep in the open, they are 'roofless'.
 - Homeless people may have a roof over their head but be in temporary, unstable accommodation.
 - Rough sleepers most often have acute individual problems: mental health issues, alcohol and/or drug addiction.
 - Homeless people do not necessarily have individual problems but are anyone who has, through loss of income or relationship breakdown, become homeless
 - Rough Sleepers are not necessarily covered as 'priority need' under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977.
 - Couples and single parent families with children are priority need under the 1977 Act.
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Q3 What ideas can you come up with to solve homelessness? Think about short, medium and long term solutions.

- Short term solutions might be: more support from street workers for rough sleepers; more money from government for housing benefit; more drop-in centres to access health and social workers, showers and food for rough sleepers; more advice centres for homeless people giving legal advice and options for housing.
 - Medium term solutions might include: more temporary accommodation for homeless people and rough sleepers to help them get on their feet; opportunities for re-training or education for homeless / rough sleepers; work placement paid at living wage rates.
 - Long term solutions could be: revising the 1977 Act to extend priority need to single people, increase resourcing to build social housing over several decades, employment programmes in poor neighbourhoods, statutory rent caps on the private rented sector, greater funding for rough sleepers to allow them to access the best mental health and addiction services over a long period of time.
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Further reading

Chapter 4, section 5, (4.5) of 'Social Problems in the UK: An Introduction' by Stuart Isaacs, David Blundell, Anne Foley, Norman Ginsburg, Brian McDonough, Dan Silverstone, Tara Young
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