



Dear Sir David Amess MP and Mr James Duddridge MP,

HARP and the undersigned residents of Southend West and Rochford & Southend East constituencies would like you to join us as we declare that **It's Time to end street homelessness.**

As you know, innovative and collaborative work by a range of local agencies, including HARP and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, has led to the temporary housing of the vast majority of rough sleepers in our local community during the Covid-19 pandemic. This success has also been witnessed nationwide.

We cannot let this work be in vain, and a return to 'normal', pre-Covid levels of homelessness is unthinkable.

The emergency measures put in place to get people off the streets during the pandemic have presented the perfect opportunity to build on the amazing work taking place both locally and across the country. We are grateful for your support so far and for the Government funding provided via local authorities to keep people off the streets during and after lockdown. However, due to the complex nature of homelessness and with new people finding themselves homeless every day, a bigger commitment is needed to make sure that no-one has to end up on the street in the long term.

At HARP, we are calling for a national commitment not only to ensure that every one of the people temporarily housed are offered permanent accommodation, but that they have the enduring support they need to stay off the streets, and that more is done to prevent people becoming homeless in the first place. This can be done by:

- Rolling out Housing First, which HARP plans to launch in Southend by the end of 2020, across England.
- Making sure that there is enough affordable private and social housing in order to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place.
- Ensuring that everyone has access to emergency accommodation if they don't have somewhere safe to stay.
- Ensuring that everyone can access a safe place to stay regardless of their immigration status.

If this commitment is not made now then we could lose the momentum gained through the hard work done during the pandemic. In short, **The Time Is Now** to end street homelessness. We therefore ask you to stand with HARP and the people of the Southend West and Rochford and Southend East by:

- Publicly supporting our “It’s Time” campaign, highlighting the urgency of this situation.
- Mentioning our “It’s Time” campaign and your support for it in Parliament.
- Writing to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, or requesting an appointment regarding this issue.
- Doing all you can to support innovative housing solutions in our area, including Housing First.
- Demanding support for people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) status.
- Prioritising the needs of vulnerable people suffering through the housing crisis when considering future votes in Parliament.

We are grateful for your support now and in the future.

Thank you,

Jackie Bliss, Chief Executive, HARP

[Your name will be added here]

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