

Kerslake Commission evidence submission

The Paper Cup Project

1. Thinking about the response to rough sleeping during the pandemic, which measures, policies, practices or joint working do you think worked well and why?

Everyone In was a much needed measure, and the government funding was absolutely required to make this happen. In Liverpool, the initiative was well received and most street homeless and hidden homeless took up the offer of accommodation - just five people refused. It was imperative to get people inside for their own safety and well-being and also to protect the NHS. Many have now successfully been moved into temporary accommodation.

2. In contrast, which measures, policies, practices or joint working do you think have not worked well and why?

After Everyone In came to an end, and the funding finished, working with other charities across the country, we discovered that some people were being asked to leave their accommodation and go back onto the streets. There is a huge missed opportunity for engaging with those people, and putting them back onto the streets is short sighted and not a long term solution. The use of funds in this way has not been of long term value.

3. Please describe the specific challenges, and opportunities, in the next phase of the Everyone In programme and helping people to move on from hotel accommodation.

There is a challenge for people who have NRPF - this demographic have been literally left out in the cold. The government needs to work more closely with organisations and local authorities to ensure that anyone with NRPF is looked after and assisted in an appropriate way.

4. And finally, what do you think needs to be put in place to embed the good work that developed during the pandemic, or improve upon it?

More focus on outreach and engagement, with mental health support and addiction support embedded in this. More help and support for anyone who is homeless with NRPF Less criminalisation of people experiencing homelessness and harsher punishments for those who assault or target people experiencing homelessness.