**A Brief History of Homelessness**

**The earliest laws against begging date from just after the Peasant's Revolt in 1381. They were followed in 1547 by anti-vagrancy measures to tackle the homeless, whose numbers had swollen following Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.**

[**https://www.thepavement.org.uk/stories/1029**](https://www.thepavement.org.uk/stories/1029)

Through the eyes of Steve Gower

Volunteer Independent Advocate for the Homeless, 2016-24

Complimented with editorials of Credible Historical academics and leaders of the free world

Hubert Humphrey (1911-1978) served as U.S. Vice President from 1965 to 1969.

In an address to the Democratic National Convention in New York City on July 13, 1976, Humphrey spoke about treating the weakest members of society as a reflection of its government:

***“The ultimate moral test of any government is the way it treats three groups of its citizens. First, those in the dawn of life — our children. Second, those in the shadows of life — our needy, our sick, our handicapped. Third, those in the twilight of life — our elderly.”***

**The history of homelessness**

Two common phrases from the homeless in 2016

1] I would rather be in prison

2] I feel safer on the street

1815 Duke of Wellington won at the Battle of Waterloo

1820 -24 Increased levels of homelessness, especially in London

It took some 50 years for it to be realised that rewarding people for collecting vagrants was not the solution: the rewards were cut and then abolished in 1822, by which time, the vagrant population had been swollen by homeless sailors, veterans of the Napoleonic war and persons displaced by the effects of the Industrial Revolution.

The Pavement Magazine

### **The History of the Vagrancy Act 1824**

* [**Alan Murdie**](https://www.thepavement.org.uk/stories?journalist=91)

*June 06 2010*

1824 The Vagrancy Act

Prison

Workhouse

Asylum

Broadmoor 27 May 1863

The **Crimean War** (1853–56)

The 1890 Housing of the Working Classes Act allowed London's local councils to build houses and clear away slums. In 1896 London County Council developed the first council housing in Bethnal Green.

**Boer War**. Between 1899 and 1902

World War I (1914–18)

The first major council house-building programme occurred between the First and Second World Wars. Some 17,000 homes were built across Britain in 1920/21, jumping quickly to 110,000 in 1921/22. Housing was a big concern for Liberal Prime Minister David Lloyd George, who had campaigned on the slogan of building homes “fit for heroes”.

The building scale fluctuated over the next two decades, peaking in 1938/39 when 122,000 new council houses were completed, but the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 brought building almost to a halt.

<https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/national/16888594.key-events-history-uk-council-housing/>

Second World War (1 September 1939 – 2 September 1945)

The Iron Curtain began at the end of World War II in 1945 and ended in 1989–90:

Monday, January 6, 1941. In an address known as the [Four Freedoms speech](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Four_Freedoms_speech)

four fundamental freedoms that people "everywhere in the world" ought to enjoy:

1. [Freedom of speech and expression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_speech)
2. [Freedom of worship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_worship)
3. [Freedom from want](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_from_want)
4. [Freedom from fear](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_from_fear)

[Universal Declaration of Human Rights](https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights) 1948

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a standard of living that is adequate for their health and well-being. This includes the right to:

* Food
* Clothing
* Housing
* Medical care
* Necessary social services
* Security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age, or other lack of livelihood

The article also states that motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance and that all children should enjoy the same social protection.

It was not until 1946 that major construction began again, hitting 168,780 in 1949. Between then and 1978, the total number of new council homes completed each year in the UK never fell below 100,000.

<https://www.penarthtimes.co.uk/news/national/16888594.key-events-history-uk-council-housing/>

1963 Care in the community JFK USA President

*On Oct. 31, 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed a bill meant to free many thousands of Americans with mental illnesses from life in institutions. It envisioned building 1,500 outpatient mental health centres to offer them community-based care instead. The bill would be the last piece of legislation Kennedy would ever sign; he was assassinated three weeks later.*

https://www.wbur.org/news/2013/10/23/community-mental-health-kennedy

1980s

For the United Kingdom, the war cost 258 men, 6 ships (10 others suffered varying degrees of battle damage), 34 aircraft, and £2.778 billion (£9.255 billion in 2018), but the campaign was considered a great victory for the United Kingdom.

Wikipedia

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### **1980 Housing Act & Right To Buy**

In 1980, the new ‘Right to Buy’ scheme forced councils to sell some of their housing stock. The number of council houses sold overtook the number built. Tenants passing the RTB requirements bought many of the better-quality houses. Because of this, the number of available social housing properties began to fall.

Within 10 years, councils and local authorities sold 1 million homes across the country. while the presiding government set strict limits on council spending. Funding was limited to smaller-scale projects, and this meant that no new housing schemes could be built.

20 Jul 2020 — **Social housing** stock peaked in England in **1981** at 5.49 million homes.25 As of 1 April 2019, the number stands at 4.13 million

insufficient social housebuilding plus too many homes being sold or demolished means there's been a net loss of social housing nearly every year since 1981.

Reagan and Thatcher Care in the Community

*.What did the Community Care Act 1990 do?*

*Purchaser/provider split*

*The National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990 received royal assent on 29 June 1990. The Act made provisions to split the provision and commissioning (ie purchasing) of healthcare.*

*It marked the start of an internal market within the NHS, with the creation of NHS trusts and changes to how local authorities carried out their social care functions. These proposals had been outlined in the Department of Health white paper Working for Patients in January 1989*

https://navigator.health.org.uk/theme/national-health-service-and-community-care-act-1990#:~:text=The%20Act%20made%20provisions%20to%20split%20the,authorities%20carried%20out%20their%20social%20care%20functions.

HMP Whitemoor opened in 1991

part of the high-security estate. The main establishment now supports two regimes: a mainstream prisoner population and a population with personality disorders.

**WARS IN PEACE British Military Operations since 1991**

Even with the post-Cold War peace dividend, the UK remained in the top tier of defence spending. According to SIPRI figures,3 in 1991, the UK had the fourth-largest defence budget ($49.9 billion)

In particular, since 1997 the UK’s spending on overseas development assistance, as measured by OECD criteria, has overtaken that of Germany and France, making it the biggest donor state after the US, due to an increase from $4.56 billion in 1991 to $13.76 billion in 2012 (in 2011 dollars), a proportion of just under 0.6 per cent of GNI.2 Added to this is the diplomatic clout provided by a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. And, with this wealth, the UK has chosen to invest in military capability. Even with the post-Cold War peace dividend, the UK remained in the top tier of defence spending.

# **Biden and Starmer delay the decision to approve long-range strikes inside Russia**

US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer postponed a decision on allowing Ukraine to use long-range Western-supplied missiles to strike inside Russia following a meeting at the White House on Friday.

Issued on: 13/09/2024

PFI expanded considerably in 1996 and then expanded much further under Labour with the NHS (Private Finance) Act 1997, resulting in criticism from many trade unions

Proper maintenance was a big attraction of PFI

This has led to a bill for backlog maintenance in the public sector of at least £37bn. Some £10bn of that is in the NHS. As a result, areas involving patient treatment are being closed 'all the time', NHS England told MPs recently.16 Feb 2024

Night shelters and HMOs are all multiple-occupancy

Cuts to mental health services { lack of care }

Right to buy [Community divided]

The **2007–2008 financial crisis**, or the **global financial crisis** (**GFC**), was the most severe worldwide [economic crisis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_crisis) since the [Great Depression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression). [Predatory lending](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predatory_lending) in the form of [subprime mortgages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subprime_lending) targeting low-income homebuyers,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007%E2%80%932008_financial_crisis#cite_note-1) excessive risk-taking by global [financial institutions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Financial_institution),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007%E2%80%932008_financial_crisis#cite_note-2) a continuous buildup of [toxic assets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Toxic_asset) within banks, and the bursting of the [United States housing bubble](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2000s_United_States_housing_bubble) culminated in a "[perfect storm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perfect_storm)", which led to the [Great Recession](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Recession).

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

2017 Social Impact Bond Government scheme paid to each company who they took off the street

2017 Grenfel Fire 72 tenants died

2018 SG

“Everyone is entitled to live without fear in a safe and warm environment within their own home”

Steve Gower

Motion written in 2018 and passed by Unite Community 01500 Branch 2019

Motion passed at conference Workers party 2025

They were written within the Human Rights Act in 1948.

2018 - Housing First

**There are five core principles of Housing First:**

* Immediate access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements. ...
* Consumer choice and self-determination. ...
* Recovery orientation. ...
* Individualized and client-driven support. ...
* Social and community integration.

**What are the 5 principles of care?**

Health and Social Care Standards ​

The Standards are built upon five principles; dignity and respect, compassion, being included, responsive care and support and wellbeing.

2020 Covid All In - Hotels: Statement from Gloucester social services of 150 - 180 individuals on the DO NOT PLACE LIST in Gloucester

8 November, 2021 (Updated 22 March, 2023)

### **The top ten builders in the UK**

### 3) Taylor Wimpey

[Taylor Wimpey](https://www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/) is a leading UK housebuilder with an annual turnover of around £2,727 million. The average selling price of a Taylor Wimpey home is £323,000. They have been in business since 1921 and are headquartered in High Wycombe. Taylor Wimpey has 5,948 employees and builds over 9,600 houses per year.

Why has social affordable housing declined so much since 1980?

Insufficient social housebuilding plus too many homes being sold or demolished means there's been a net loss of social housing nearly every year since 1981.

[Loss of social housing - Shelter England](https://england.shelter.org.uk/support_us/campaigns/social_housing_deficit#:~:text=Insufficient%20social%20housebuilding%20plus%20too,nearly%20every%20year%20since%201981.)

[Shelter England](https://england.shelter.org.uk/support_us/campaigns/social_housing_deficit#:~:text=Insufficient%20social%20housebuilding%20plus%20too,nearly%20every%20year%20since%201981.)

What percentage of UK housing is social housing?

17%

**Homecare Association**

30 Jul 2024

Yesterday the Chancellor announced the government is cancelling social care charging reform. Today, a [**Ministerial Statement**](http://tracking.homecareassociation.org.uk/tracking/click?d=UaQ5-QSf01x0-CDyTmoMSrB9BQEqwdz2g5yyu3lfkhejVGI1OIfKEar5B2CwnjQZ65TySIjdF53j5Mz8EluAsMB2Z-aQe-1VoPYdVoiHiIucM1tqsItVMeMyct0WLu3zA6Y_gcPkCzxBbKeRfzXz1P9ocIPD8Tcg58y99Fw93nA8Rqd296CzbhfyH8NalW465657QKpwYb_VLQtDo6qrt-41) confirmed they will not provide the Adult Social Care Training and Development Fund. As usual, the Treasury is pouring most of the money into the bottomless pit of the NHS.

The government plans to continue funding Adult Social Care Learning and Development at the same level as last year.

Dr Jane Townson OBE, CEO of the Homecare Association commented:

“Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose. Social care remains the poor relation to the NHS, despite its crucial role in supporting people to live well at home and reducing pressure on hospitals.

The new government has been quick to share its plans for the NHS but has said little about social care, apart from talk of fair pay agreements, for which there is no funding.

We call on the government to come clean and clarify its plans for the sector. Without meaningful, funded reform, we risk the collapse of a system that millions depend on. The time for empty promises and half-measures is over – we need action now."

The number of children's homes in England continues to rise across all regions. As of 31 March 2023, there was a 9% increase in the number of children's homes (to 2,880) and a 7% increase in the number of places (to 10,818) compared with 31 March 2022.8 Sept 2023

As of 2022, around 11 million people in the UK were living in relative poverty, increasing to 14.4 million when housing costs are considered.

During this year, it was also estimated that almost 4.22 million children were living in relative poverty.

<https://www.statista.com/>

Adam Scorer, chief executive of National Energy Action (NEA), said:

*“Every year we see the consequences of failing to keep the most vulnerable people safe and warm during the coldest, winter months. Today’s figures show a significant drop in premature winter deaths, partly because of a higher number of deaths outside winter months, but it’s still 45 people per day in the winter months. The truth is that we should not accept any death directly caused by a cold, unsafe home.*

How much does the UK government subsidize fossil fuels?

The UK's domestic fossil fuel subsidies are estimated at £13.6 billion a year, most of this as tax reductions.

How much does the UK spend on pharmaceuticals?

Total pharmaceutical expenditure

Total UK pharmaceutical expenditure was £36.7 billion in 2022 (2023 prices), with around: 48.3% relating to spending on community-prescribed medicines. 21.4% on over-the-counter medicines.31 May 2024

In the UK, local authorities spend money on social care, with the majority of the money going to long-term and short-term care:

|  | **2022/23 expenditure** |
| --- | --- |
| Total | £28.4 billion |

In 2023, the UK public donated an estimated £13.9 billion to charity, which is a record amount and a 9% increase from 2022. This was despite fewer people donating than before the pandemic, with some donors giving larger amounts.

Some 290,000 eligible households sought local authorities' help on homelessness in 2021/22.

Crisis

Criminal Bill - a criminal offence to be homeless.

The Big Issue [**Liam Geraghty**](https://www.bigissue.com/author/liam-geraghty/)

11 Apr 2024

We have learned nothing over the past 200 years.

Steve Gower