



Homelessness and political change

Matt Downie, Crisis UK

Crisis UK

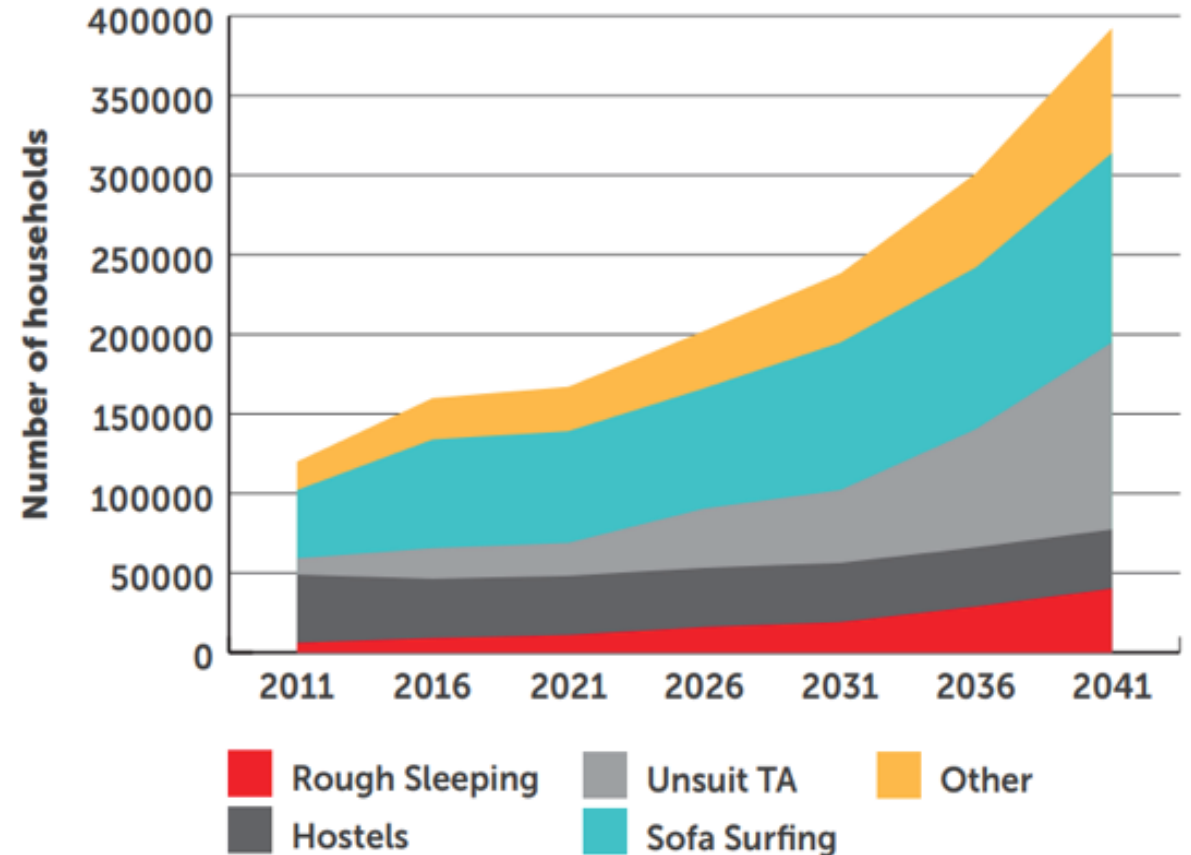
- A service provider to 8,000 people
- A heritage of civic engagement and subversive challenge
- A clear mission to end homelessness
- A determined and optimistic campaigner



Homelessness in Great Britain

- Rapidly increasing need
- Chronic housing shortages in much of Britain
- Drastic cuts to welfare and local government budgets
- Traditional hostel provision still dominant
- But....reasons for real hope in Wales and Scotland

Figure 1: Baseline Forecasts of Core Homelessness Main Component, Great Britain, 2011-41



Politics and homelessness

- It may not win elections, but a bad response loses votes
- When rough sleeping is high, a window of opportunity opens for good (and bad) policy making
- When successes are clear they can be built upon

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HOMELESS MAN DIES OUTSIDE COMMONS
Tragedy sparks call for action on rough sleeping
by AIDAN RADNEDGE
A ROUGH sleeper died yards from Parliament yesterday after a night of sub-zero temperatures. The homeless man, thought to be in his 40s, could not be revived when he was found unconscious in an underpass next to Westminster Tube station that MPs use daily. Shocked campaigners said the death should shame ministers into tackling the 'appalling' problem of homelessness in Britain. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, whose team used to give food to the man, led tributes and asked for flowers to be laid at the scene. 'The powerful can't carry on walking by on the other side while people don't have a home to call their own,' he said. 'It's time all
Continued on Page 4 »

Familiar sight: A rough sleeper in a Westminster underpass

Selena's all leather and grace
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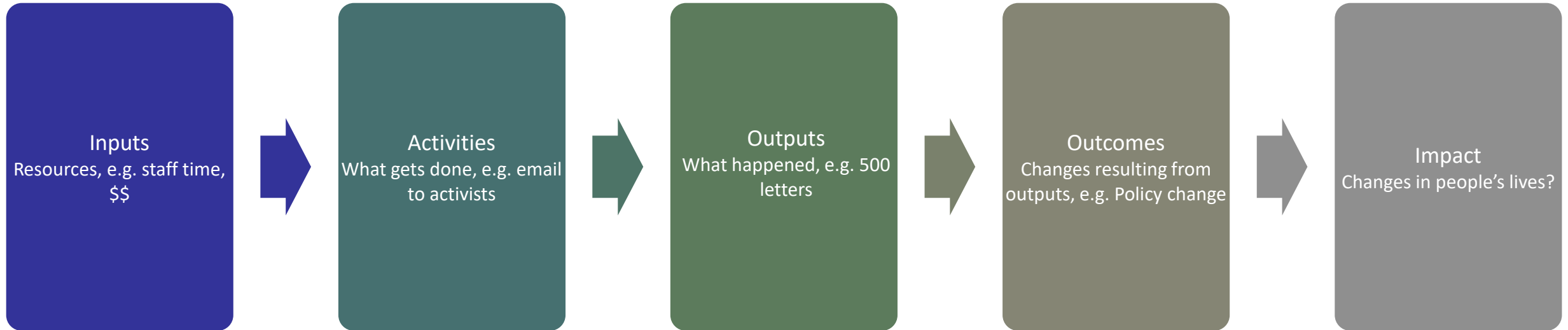
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Campaigning successes



Impact is everything

The impact chain



Relationships and respect

**Are politicians from
another planet?**



Let's talk about Bob



Evidence, solutions & strategy

The dangers of protest

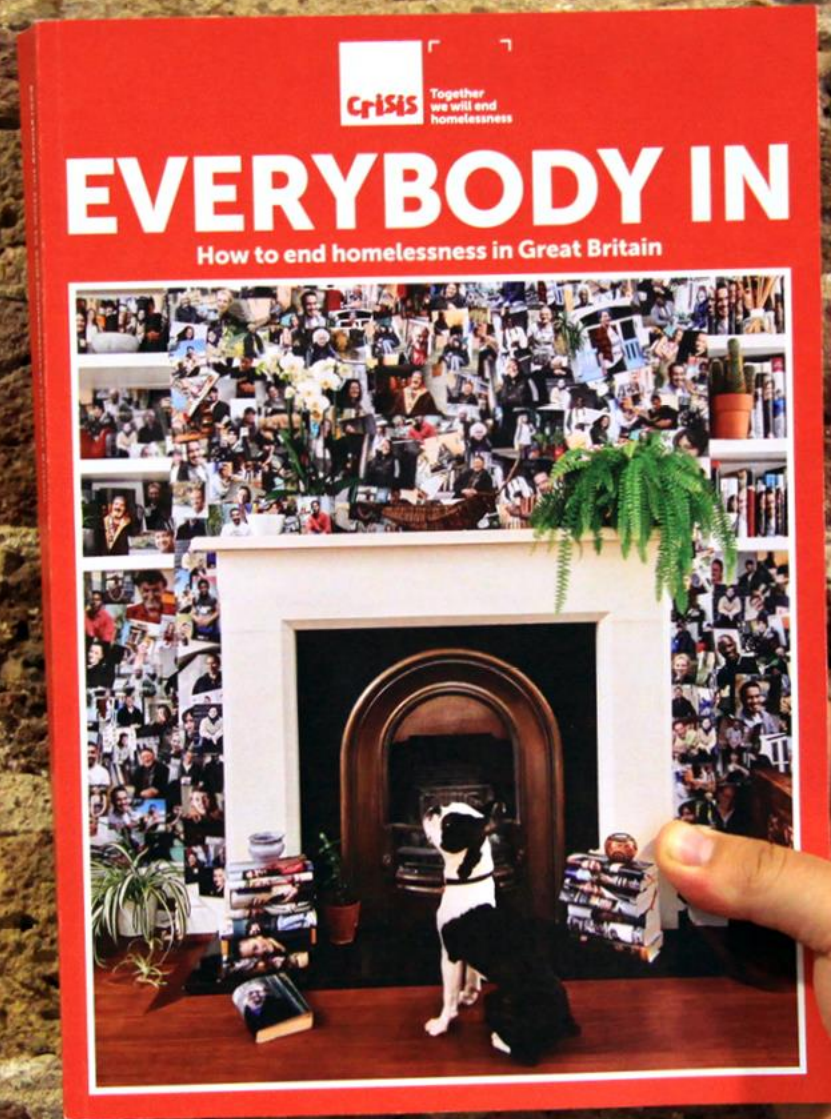


Evidence

- When your evidence is human, not academic
- When you really understand who is responsible for your decision, and what makes them tick
- When you know the best argument that will be used against you



Solutions...the art of the possible



In conclusion...

- Be bold and aspirational
- Be politically neutral & astute
- Build real relationships with decision makers
- Invite lived experience into all decisions
- Avoid the moral high-ground
- Race to give away credit
- Be creative and have fun
- Never, ever, give up.



Thank you



crisis.org.uk