



Building the **infrastructure** we need to  
tackle homelessness **better**



# 1

reliable evidence i.e.  
evidence that is  
actionable,  
accessible and  
accurate

# 2

act on the best  
evidence available

# 3

learn to ask the right  
questions - to go  
beyond the surface of  
assumptions to draw  
deeper insights

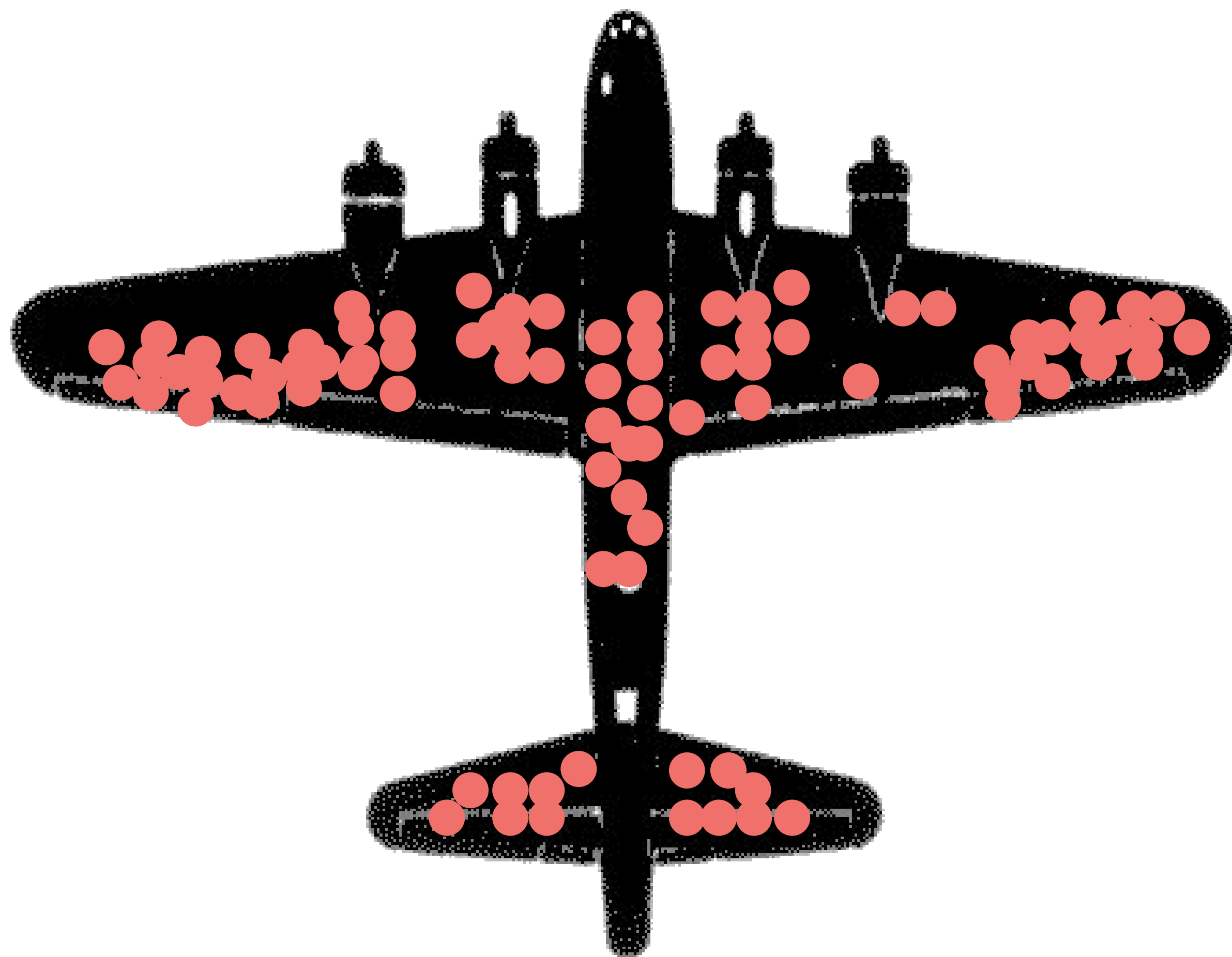




# Abraham Wald

Tasked with helping the Allies **improve the safety of bomber aircrafts**, at a time where probability of a pilot surviving a tour of duty was little better than fifty-fifty.





# The pattern seemed clear

Many of the airplanes were riddled with gunfire all over the wings and fuselage. But they were **not being hit in the cockpit or tail.**



## THE MILITARY'S RESPONSE

“Let’s place extra  
armour on the wings  
and fuselage – where  
there’s the **most holes.**”

It’s a shame because  
these slides are so nice  
but as before - I think  
that unless we use a  
bomber people will  
notice and it won’t go  
down well



ABRAHAM WALD:

Not so fast. Where are  
the **missing holes?**





## KEY DATA WAS MISSING

They were only considering the planes that had **returned**. Not all those that had been shot down.





1.

You have to take into account **all data** you cannot immediately see.







2.

Learnings from  
data aren't always  
easy or obvious.







3.

It's important to  
question basic  
assumptions.







TODAY

The rate of aircraft accidents is at a historical low. **Why?**



The use of data and evidence has been **designed** in to the whole system.







What if we applied the same  
rigour and meticulous testing to  
the **homelessness** issue?





DESPITE OUR COLLECTIVE EFFORTS

The **positive impact** of  
our work has changed  
little over the past  
decades.





# Centre for Homelessness Impact

*Better evidence for a world  
without homelessness*







Our mission is to accelerate the  
end of homelessness by  
championing the creation and  
use of better evidence.

By starting a movement that will lead to more and **faster learning and experimentation** across the sector





We have **lots to be proud of.** And we now know more than ever before about what works to help solve or prevent homelessness.  
**But we can do more.**







THE CHALLENGE IN A COUNTRY LIKE OURS

How can we ensure that,  
when we try to help people  
who are homeless, we do so  
*as effectively as possible?*



We know what problems need to be solved, but may not be making the right kinds of investments to address them.  
**Evidence is lacking.**





In other fields, we've improved our understanding of what works by applying scientific methods. **Why not do the same for homelessness?**





In the 200 years since the first use of clinical trials, medicine has progressed from the ideas of Galen to the wonders of gene therapy.





The same testing that has revolutionised business could similarly help improve outcomes in our sector.







It's time for the homelessness  
sector to **catch up.**





# Scared straight

The 'scared straight' programme brings teenagers who are getting into trouble into prisons to show them the harsh realities of life behind bars. It's such an appealing idea that it has been tried in a number of countries. **The problem is 'scared straight'-style programmes don't work.**

Photo credit Eric Fernandez/ The guardian



It's one of the very rare examples where a programme has been tested to see if it worked (it didn't)- but then the results ignored.





Housing First is one of the few models which has ever been thoroughly evaluated. In other areas – **we simply don't know** if our investment is having positive impact.







# 80% rule

reviews in many areas show that most things don't work. This includes many interventions that seem like 'no brainers'





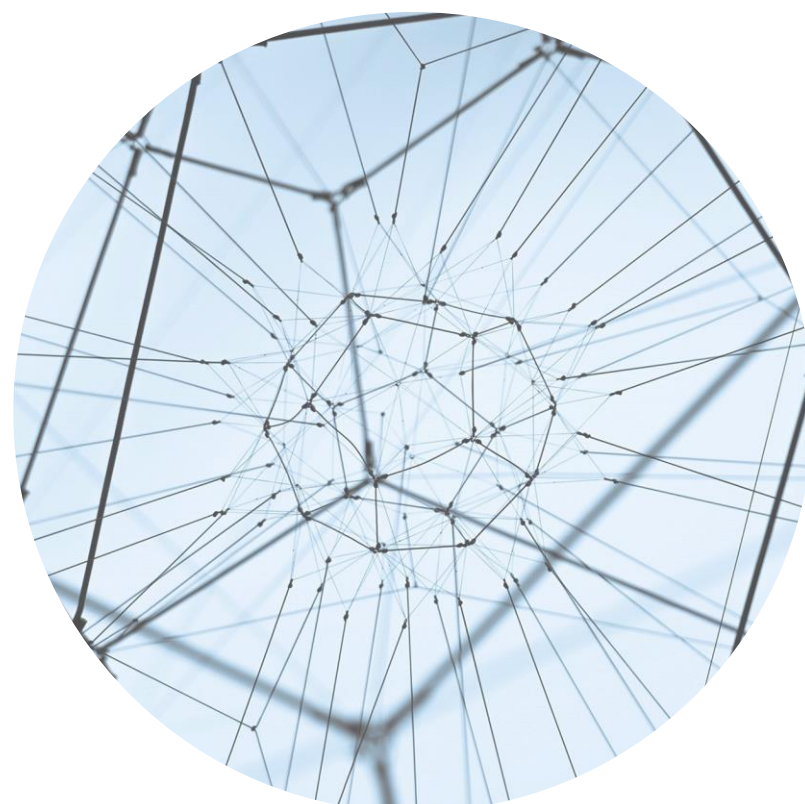
Our mission is to improve the lives of those experiencing homelessness by ensuring **that policy, practice and funding decisions are underpinned by robust evidence.**

[www.homelessnessimpact.org](http://www.homelessnessimpact.org)





## Right now we're working on...



Systematically mapping the landscape of current evidence to make results easier to find and interpret and to identify gaps.



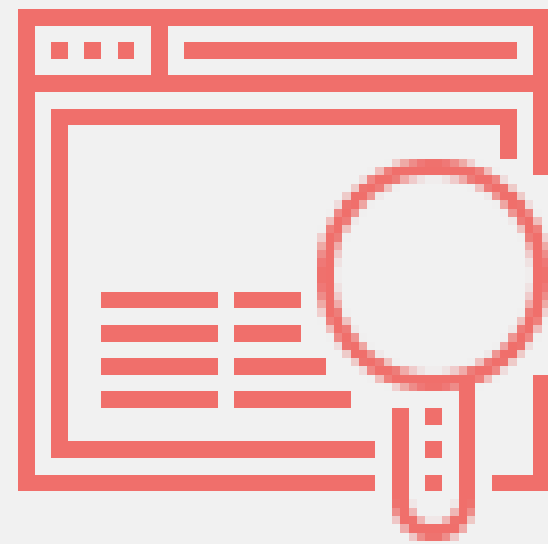
Synthesising existing evidence and developing an outcomes and evidence framework to underpin our efforts



Designing accessible tools to help improve practice as well as the strength of the evidence base.



## WHY ARE WE CREATING THESE TOOLS?



Reliable evidence either **doesn't exist** or it **isn't easily accessible**.



Interventions proven in one setting **may not easily be transferable** elsewhere and will require **careful adaptation and evaluation**.



There's also gap in data that supports **ongoing learning about what works**.



# Example map







## INITIAL REFLECTIONS FROM OUR MAP

The good news is **there is evidence out there** and many things appear to work. But...



**1**

Most of the evidence comes from North America.

We need more local studies.

**2**

Multicomponent interventions appear to be the most effective.

We need to understand better why this is.

**3**

Even if most things seem to work, we can't do everything.

We need to be able to prioritise, especially within complicated programmes.



# EARLY PROTOTYPES

Our decision tool helps you make evidence-based decisions in your work.

Filter by outcome category:

- Accommodation
- Prevention
- Legislation

Sort programmes by:

- Relevance
- Rating

### No Second Night Out

Individuals experiencing homelessness who are at risk of sleeping rough should be supported to access safe and secure accommodation. This programme provides support to help them achieve this.

### Housing First

Housing First is a consumer-driven approach that provides immediate access to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, without requiring psychiatric treatment or sobriety as prerequisites for housing.

### Transitional Housing

Transitional housing provides a bridge between homelessness and permanent housing. It offers a safe and secure environment for people to stabilize themselves and prepare for long-term housing.

### Supported Housing

Supported housing provides a range of services to help people with mental health issues or other vulnerabilities to live independently in their own homes.

### Discretionary Housing Payments

Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) are one-off payments made by local authorities to help people with homelessness pay for private rented accommodation.

## Housing First

WHAT IS HOUSING FIRST?

Housing First is a consumer-driven approach that provides immediate access to permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness, without requiring psychiatric treatment or sobriety as prerequisites for housing. Additionally, the Housing First approach is guided by the idea that housing is a basic human right. Consumer choice is central to the Housing First model and guides both housing and service delivery.

AT A GLANCE:

- 4/5
- 3/5
- 4/5

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF HOUSING FIRST?

The goal of Housing First for individuals with mental health and addiction challenges who have experienced chronic homelessness is to promote recovery. This is accomplished first by ending their homelessness and then by collaborating with them to address health, mental health, addiction, employment, social, familial, spiritual, and other needs.

WHAT DOES THE EVIDENCE SAY?

- Consumers choose to live in permanent housing first, then address other needs.
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- Consumers choose to live in permanent housing first, then address other needs.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING HOUSING FIRST

- Local government must be committed to providing permanent housing for all people experiencing homelessness.
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RESOURCES

- Commentary Collection
- Implementation Checklist
- Research and Insights
- Checklists

RELATED INTERVENTIONS

- Supported Housing
- Psychologically Informed Environments

## Our Evidence Portal supports those working in homelessness to have greater impact.

Most of us would agree that defining success by outcomes rather than outputs leads to more effective impact for those experiencing homelessness. The evidence in this tool is categorised by outcome to help focus resources towards the programmes and interventions that have the greatest positive impact in people's lives.

Choose an outcome to see the evidence or jump to a category using the buttons below.

Health + Social Care | Accommodation | Prevention

### Health and Social Care Outcomes

Health and social care outcomes are a key part of helping people with their health, but they can also help address the problems that led them to be homeless.

- Mental health: People are provided with and trained in mental health and psychological support services.
- Substance misuse: Adults receive appropriate support to reducing and avoid dependency support services.

### Accommodation Outcomes

People are provided with and trained in mental health and psychological support services.

- Security: People's housing situation is secure, they are at high risk of eviction or being homeless.
- Community: People report a sense of belonging in their neighbourhood and feel safe and secure in their housing.

### Prevention Outcomes

People are provided with and trained in mental health and psychological support services.

- Needs are met: People have their current needs across education, health, social care, and housing.
- Co-production: All key stakeholders and factors are actively involved in designing their support.

## People are protected from and treated for mental health and psychological support concerns

Poor mental health is both a cause and consequence of homelessness. There is a higher rate of mental health problems amongst the homeless population than the general population.

The most of mental illness can trigger or be part of a series of events that can lead to homelessness. Additionally, several health issues might be exacerbated or caused by the stresses associated with being homeless. A report for Crisis (Mental Health in the Adult Single Homeless Population 2019) found that homeless people were nearly twice as likely to have experienced mental health problems as the general population. The rate of psychosis was 4-5 times as prevalent than in the general population. The same research shows that on a person's housing becomes more stable the rate of serious mental illness decreases.

THEORY OF CHANGE AND KEY HYPOTHESES

- Mental health: People are provided with and trained in mental health and psychological support services.
- Substance misuse: Adults receive appropriate support to reducing and avoid dependency support services.
- Accommodation: People are provided with and trained in mental health and psychological support services.
- Prevention: People are provided with and trained in mental health and psychological support services.
- Co-production: All key stakeholders and factors are actively involved in designing their support.

WHAT EVIDENCE IS AVAILABLE?

Mental health and psychological support services are available for people experiencing homelessness. This evidence is available for people experiencing homelessness.

Area	Location	Year of Publication	Type of Study
Reduction in depression symptoms among substance misuse recovery admissions and their recovery experiences	USA	2013	RCT
Housing placement and subsequent days homeless among formerly homeless adults with mental illness	Boston, USA	1999	RCT
Evaluation of the Housing First program in systems with severe mental disorders in France	France	2013	RCT
Cost effectiveness of supported housing for homeless persons with mental illness	USA	2003	Non-experimental

INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMMES RELATED TO THIS OUTCOME

- Psychologically Informed Environments
- Housing First
- Mental Capacity Act
- CBT
- Psychotherapy

CASE STUDIES

- South Lanarkshire

## Impact Guide

Evidence, strategies and guidelines to help you have greater impact in your work to end homelessness.

Select a subject area below to get started

- Accommodation
- Health and Social Care
- Prevention
- Services and Outreach
- Employment
- Education and Skills
- Legislation

## Accommodation

Accommodation is the most fundamental issue for people facing homelessness, and challenges can arise from many places.

Quote from the above video which gets to the nub of the challenge:

Quote from the above video which gets to the nub of the challenge:

How might we improve accommodation for people experiencing homelessness?

- HOUSING MODELS: Not all homeless people need the same sort of housing. Some people need more than just a roof over their head.
- PRIVATE RENTING: In private rentals, rents can be high and properties are often in poor condition.
- HOUSING SUPPLY: There is not enough good quality affordable housing for the people that need it.
- AFFORDABILITY: In many parts of the country, rented accommodation is too expensive for people on low incomes.





We're asking for feedback on our tools over the coming weeks





# We want to know your thoughts on...

1. How do you imagine the maps being used? And where do you see them having the biggest impact?
2. What do the findings feel like? And is there more or less evidence than you expected?
3. What reviews would you like us to prioritise and why?

Survey: [goo.gl/fKxsuw](https://goo.gl/fKxsuw)





# Questions





Thank you.