

My view only

In terms of the causes of homelessness, the policy of selling off council houses to tenants accompanied by a steep decline in the number of new social housing properties being built is the primary cause of homelessness and insecure housing. The policy was not motivated by the desire for everyone to own their own home, but to get the state out of the business of providing homes. The assumption being the private sector could do a better and more efficient job than the public sector. Even though a number of families have benefited from this, many of them (who may well have been able to buy a property in the private sector) have sold their homes to private landlords. As the cost of property has soared this policy has led to rents becoming unaffordable for many people.

Insecure shorthold tenancies have also fuelled this problem. If individuals or families are having to look for a new home every six months they will have problems saving for deposits, etc. Also, the problem of people buying second homes has increased the price of property making home ownership an unrealistic proposition for many.

To solve the problem of homelessness and insecure accommodation I think Councils should

1. A) build more social housing,
2. B) reclaim abandoned and unused properties and use them as social housing, and
3. C) stop selling off social housing.

Regards,

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