# Lambeth leads with innovative housing model supported by Prince William to tackle youth homelessness



The London borough of Lambeth has become a central site for an ambitious new initiative aimed at tackling homelessness in the UK. The project, part of the broader "Homewards" programme, seeks to create a replicable model for ending homelessness across the country. This innovative housing development in Lambeth is one of six flagship locations where the initiative is being implemented, with backing from the homeless charity Centrepoint, of which Prince William is a patron.

Homewards, launched by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales in June 2023, is a five-year programme operating not only in Lambeth but also in Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Newport, Northern Ireland, and Sheffield. According to Homewards, the goal is to make homelessness rare, brief, and unrepeated through flexible, location-specific Local Action Plans devised in each area. Prince William has emphasised the importance of collaboration in this effort, stating that in a modern society, everyone should have access to safe and secure housing, dignity, and necessary support.

The Lambeth project, developed jointly with Centrepoint, focuses on creating affordable homes targeted at young people aged 18 to 24. Lambeth Council has pledged a 60-year lease agreement with Centrepoint to develop 18 high-quality affordable homes. This initiative not only provides housing but also intends to support young residents in their longer housing journey, while generating significant revenue savings by reducing reliance on costly temporary accommodation.

Centrepoint itself has been active in addressing youth homelessness with recent projects such as Reuben House in Peckham, South London. The development comprises 33 studio flats designed for young people who are either working or in apprenticeships, with rents capped at a third of their income. Each flat is self-contained with a kitchen, dining, bathroom, and living area. The homes are constructed off-site in Hull and brought to London, and equipped with solar panels to keep heating costs low, at around £200 annually. Centrepoint estimates that in London alone, roughly 15,000 young people aged 16 to 24 faced homelessness in the past year, out of about 129,000 nationally.

According to Centrepoint, without stable accommodation, it is often impossible for young people to maintain employment or stay engaged in education or training. Reuben House is part of Centrepoint’s Independent Living Programme, which plans to deliver a total of 300 homes in London and Manchester over the coming years. This project is considered a practical example of the kind of initiatives Homewards hopes to replicate across its other locations in the UK.

This partnership model in Lambeth exemplifies the innovative approaches the Homewards programme seeks to promote: combining local council involvement, charitable expertise, and the backing of prominent advocates such as Prince William. By focusing on tailored, community-driven solutions with an emphasis on young people facing homelessness, the programme aims to set a blueprint for broader, more effective national action against homelessness in all its forms.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/prince-lambeth-london-tony-jones-aberdeen-b1240745.html), [[7]](https://homewards.org.uk/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://centrepoint.org.uk/news/centrepoint-patron-prince-william-launches-homewards-homelessness-initiative), [[7]](https://homewards.org.uk/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://love.lambeth.gov.uk/lambeth-continues-to-tackle-affordable-housing-shortage-through-innovative-partnership/), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/prince-lambeth-london-tony-jones-aberdeen-b1240745.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2023-06-13/prince-william-launches-charitys-inspirational-peckham-housing-project), [[4]](https://londonnewsonline.co.uk/news/prince-william-opens-new-youth-homelessness-development/), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65880099)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/london/2023-06-13/prince-william-launches-charitys-inspirational-peckham-housing-project), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65880099)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://centrepoint.org.uk/news/centrepoint-patron-prince-william-launches-homewards-homelessness-initiative), [[7]](https://homewards.org.uk/), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/prince-lambeth-london-tony-jones-aberdeen-b1240745.html)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/prince-lambeth-london-tony-jones-aberdeen-b1240745.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://centrepoint.org.uk/news/centrepoint-patron-prince-william-launches-homewards-homelessness-initiative> - Centrepoint's patron, Prince William, has launched the 'Homewards' initiative, aiming to test ideas to end homelessness in six UK locations over the next five years. The programme will create innovative housing projects in Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Lambeth in London, Newport, Northern Ireland, and Sheffield, with the goal of developing a flexible model to be adopted nationwide. Prince William emphasised the importance of collaboration in addressing homelessness, stating, 'In a modern and progressive society, everyone should have a safe and secure home, be treated with dignity and given the support they need.'
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/london/2023-06-13/prince-william-launches-charitys-inspirational-peckham-housing-project> - Prince William has praised Centrepoint's new development in Peckham, South London, which provides 33 studio flats for young homeless individuals. The project, named Reuben House, offers affordable housing with rents capped at a third of residents' incomes. Each flat includes a kitchen, dining area, bathroom, and living space. Centrepoint estimates that approximately 15,000 young people aged 16 to 24 in London faced homelessness last year, out of a total of 129,000 nationally. The initiative aims to combat youth homelessness by providing stable housing and support for young people to build their futures.
4. <https://londonnewsonline.co.uk/news/prince-william-opens-new-youth-homelessness-development/> - Prince William attended the opening of Reuben House, a new development by Centrepoint in Peckham, South London, designed to combat youth homelessness. The development comprises 33 studio flats, each approximately 21 square metres, with rents set at a third of residents' incomes. Centrepoint aims to deliver 300 homes in London and Manchester in the coming years to help young people escape homelessness and build their futures. The project is part of Centrepoint's Independent Living Programme, providing affordable housing and support for young people aged 18 to 24.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65880099> - Prince William has opened a homelessness-charity project for young people in work or apprenticeships who need help finding affordable housing. Centrepoint's project in Peckham, South London, provides 33 new mini flats, with rents capped at a third of each tenant's pay. The homes are constructed in Hull and transported to London. Solar panels will cut heating bills to £200 per year. Without stable accommodation, it could be impossible for young people to keep their jobs or stay in training, the homelessness charity says.
6. <https://love.lambeth.gov.uk/lambeth-continues-to-tackle-affordable-housing-shortage-through-innovative-partnership/> - Lambeth Council, in partnership with Centrepoint, is addressing the affordable housing shortage for young working people aged 18 to 24. The council has proposed a 60-year lease agreement with Centrepoint to develop 18 high-quality, affordable homes for young residents. The initiative aims to provide young people with a home to call their own, supporting them as they continue their housing journey. The project is expected to generate significant revenue savings by reducing the costs associated with temporary accommodation.
7. <https://homewards.org.uk/> - Homewards is a transformative five-year programme launched in June 2023 by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The initiative aims to demonstrate that ending homelessness is possible by making it rare, brief, and unrepeated. Homewards operates in six flagship locations across the UK: Aberdeen, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, Lambeth, Newport, Northern Ireland, and Sheffield. Each location has created a Local Action Plan detailing the first steps towards ending homelessness in their areas.