

Newsletter - Spring 2026



## Evidence given to PIP Timms Review

Last year we helped **2,436** people with PIP issues.

Our submission to the Government's consultation highlighted:

- Many of those we help with PIP also need other support such as food banks, indicating that PIP is not meeting basic needs.
- The assessment process is flawed, leading to unnecessary and stressful appeals.
- Delays and errors are undermining confidence in the system.



## The housing crisis is a public health crisis

A new Citizens Advice Report **Building healthier foundations** concludes that solving the housing crisis is vital to stop worsening health inequalities - we agree.

We ask that a number of essential changes happen:

- The Local Housing Allowance is uplifted to cover soaring private rents
- Minimum housing standards are enforced
- Councils are empowered to build more affordable homes

## Evidence given to the Somerset Council: Council Tax Reduction Task & Finish Group

As you know we've been campaigning for change to the Somerset Council Tax Reduction scheme, as our evidence shows that disabled people and households with children are facing substantial disadvantage. We were invited to present our evidence to Task & Finish Group and we made a number of recommendations - We look forward to reading the report and recommendations which is due to be published imminently.



# Life in Limbo: Temporary Accommodation, the Lived Experience

Somerset's housing crisis has led to a growing reliance on temporary accommodation for homeless households. This often leads to periods spent in unsuitable hotels and bed and breakfasts, with increasing insecurity and isolation.

In Somerset last December there were **346** households living in temporary accommodation and **184** families in B&Bs. This has to change.

Our campaigns team spoke in detail to some of our clients in this situation. Our report [Life in Limbo](#) explores the lived experiences of people in Somerset, identifies the issues and calls for meaningful change.

*"We were homeless for four months and those six weeks in that hotel were probably the worst we've ever had"*



## The reality

During April 2025 to March 26 we advised **418** people experiencing homelessness and **177** people in temporary or emergency accommodation.

They described:

- Frequent moves with little notice and poor communication
- Location, Isolation and disconnection
- Living without any cooking and laundry facilities
- Worsening health conditions

*"Within the system, people fade away"*



## We're calling for...

1. Improved support & communication from the council.
2. Placements that are on public transport routes, near support networks and schools.
3. Accommodation that has basic living standards with cooking facilities.



**Citizens Advice  
Somerset**

**0808 278 7842**

Monday to Friday 9am-4pm

For other advice options:  
[citizensadvice-somerset.org.uk](https://citizensadvice-somerset.org.uk)