

# Post-War Homelessness Policy in the UK

Jamie Harding

Post-War  
Homelessness Policy  
in the UK

Making and Implementation

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*This book is dedicated to my parents, Sally and Jim, who have always loved and supported me, especially on several occasions when I wanted to give up studying.*

## PREFACE

“I didn’t come to study this; I came to find out about people living in cardboard boxes.” I remember the words of one of my fellow undergraduate students who was not impressed by being required to study Policy Making and Implementation as part of his Social Policy degree. One of several substantial debts that I owe to the lecturer that day, Professor Michael Hill, is that he demonstrated to me the importance of the policy process—policies that can improve the situation of the most disadvantaged people, particularly those who are homeless, are more likely to be made and implemented by those who understand the process.

The voice of homeless people themselves is rarely heard directly in this book, but I hope that they may benefit indirectly from a better understanding of the forces that have shaped policy in the post-war period. Criticism (ideally polite and constructive) of the arguments set out here is welcomed: debate is good and will help to shape the ideas to be included in a second edition, should I be fortunate enough to have the opportunity to write one. By then, I hope that fewer people will be experiencing homelessness and that the period for which they are homeless will be shorter and less uncomfortable.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ALMO	Arm's Length Management Organisation
ASBO	Anti-social Behaviour Order
CHAR	Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless (later the Housing Campaign for Single People)
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DHSS	Department of Health and Social Security
DoE	Department of the Environment
DWP	Department of Work and Pensions
HMII	Homeless Mentally Ill Initiative
JCG	Joint Charities Group
LHA	Local Housing Allowance
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government
NAB	National Assistance Board
NAO	National Audit Office
RSI	Rough Sleepers' Initiative
RSU	Rough Sleepers' Initiative
YTS	Youth Training Scheme