

# THE LIMITS OF CASH FIRST



**END**

**FURNITURE**

**POVERTY**

# Furniture Poverty

The inability to afford or access basic furniture, appliances and furnishings that provide a household with a socially acceptable standard of living

## Furniture insecurity

- A household has the items they need for now
- But if something essential breaks or needs replacing, they will not have the savings to do so
- Often moving from one crisis situation to another

## Furniture destitution

- A household has none or very few of the items needed
- In long-term chronic situation



# EXTENT OF FURNITURE POVERTY

- 6m people in the UK are living in furniture poverty – 9% of the UK population
- 55% of people in furniture poverty, 2.6m people, have a disability
- 26% of social housing tenants are living in furniture poverty
- Over 1m adults living in 'deep furniture poverty', missing 3 or more items
- At least 740,000 children living without a bed

**END**

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# FURNITURE PROVISION THROUGH CRISIS SUPPORT

- Help with furniture and appliances is an established function of local authority crisis support
- 37% of LWA budgets spent on furniture and appliances – roughly the same percentage for several years
- Hugely reliant on the Household Support Fund to prop up LWA budgets – core spend dropped to 29% in 23/24

END

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# OPTIONS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Give the recipient cash to buy items - 7% (12%)
- Provide vouchers to redeem for items – 12% (12%)
- Provide furniture and appliances directly through a contract with a furniture supplier – 79% (76%)

# BENEFITS OF ITEM PROVISION

- Financial Savings
- Certainty
- Customer Service
  - Logistics
  - Wrap around support
  - Responsiveness
  - Empathy

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# BENEFITS OF CASH FIRST?

- Choice for recipient
- Reduces cost for local authority of coordination, logistics and administration

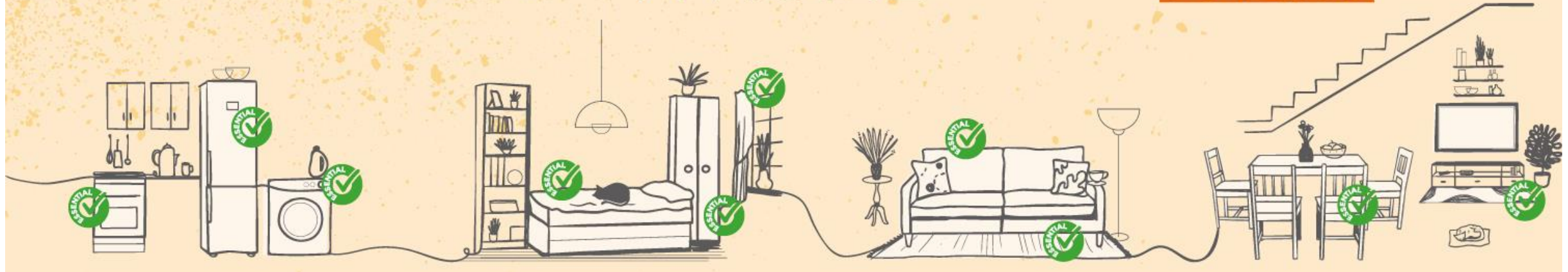
END

FURNITURE

POVERTY

# MAKE A HOUSE A HOME

**TOGETHER  
WE CAN  
END FURNITURE  
POVERTY**



**END  
FURNITURE  
POVERTY**



For more information about the campaign:

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