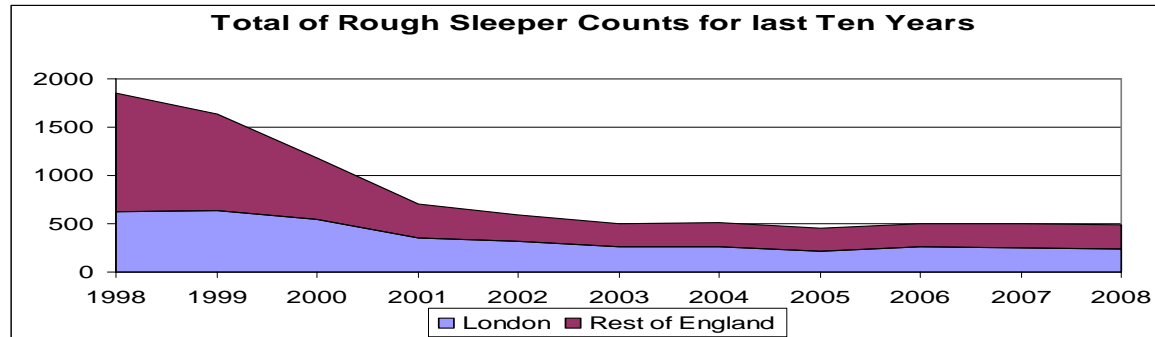


No one left out: communities ending rough sleeping:

**Good practice notes on a
strategic response and offer for
rough sleepers from the A8 and
A2 countries**

1980/1990s: high numbers sleeping rough with large encampments in London e.g. the Bull Ring (“Cardboard City”) and in 1998 there were an estimated 1,850 people sleeping rough on streets of England on any one night

Target set in 1998 to achieve a **two thirds** reduction in rough sleeping by 2002. In most areas the target was met and is being sustained but...



... still people on the streets, with particular challenges for people from the A8 and A2 countries. The new strategy signals the government’s intent to make further progress and work with partners to end rough sleeping for everyone by 2012

- **Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 set out rights to enter and reside for A8 nationals**
- **Annex 12 and 13 of the Code of Guidance sets out eligibility to housing assistance for A8 nationals**

In summary, A8 nationals have:

- The right to enter
- The right to reside for an initial 3 months, after which...
- The right to reside is conditional upon being self sufficient, self employed or registered with the Workers Registration Scheme and exercising Treaty Rights (i.e. working)
- No recourse to prescribed public funds until they have completed 12 months continuous work under the WRS, but they may be eligible for housing assistance if they are working and registered with the Workers Registration Scheme

- No recourse to public funds and limited eligibility for housing assistance reduces the usual routes off the streets
- Increasing numbers of A8 nationals are being affected by the economic downturn. Many people have returned home – but many of those staying are the least equipped to cope – low skills, limited language, alcohol dependency...and feel they have little to return to
- **Impacts on Individuals:** Rough sleeping exacerbates physical and mental health difficulties for individuals, entrenches people away from the work place and the visibility of rough sleeping makes them especially vulnerable
- **Impacts on communities:** environmental impacts, community cohesion, anti-social behaviour

Offer:

Engagement:

Establish contact and communicate offer

Documentation
Supported Reconnections
Short Term Accommodation
Treatment beds
Advice and support to exercise Treaty Rights
Contribution based benefits checks

Outcomes:

Supported reconnection

Exercising Treaty Rights

(Time scale 1 – 4 weeks)

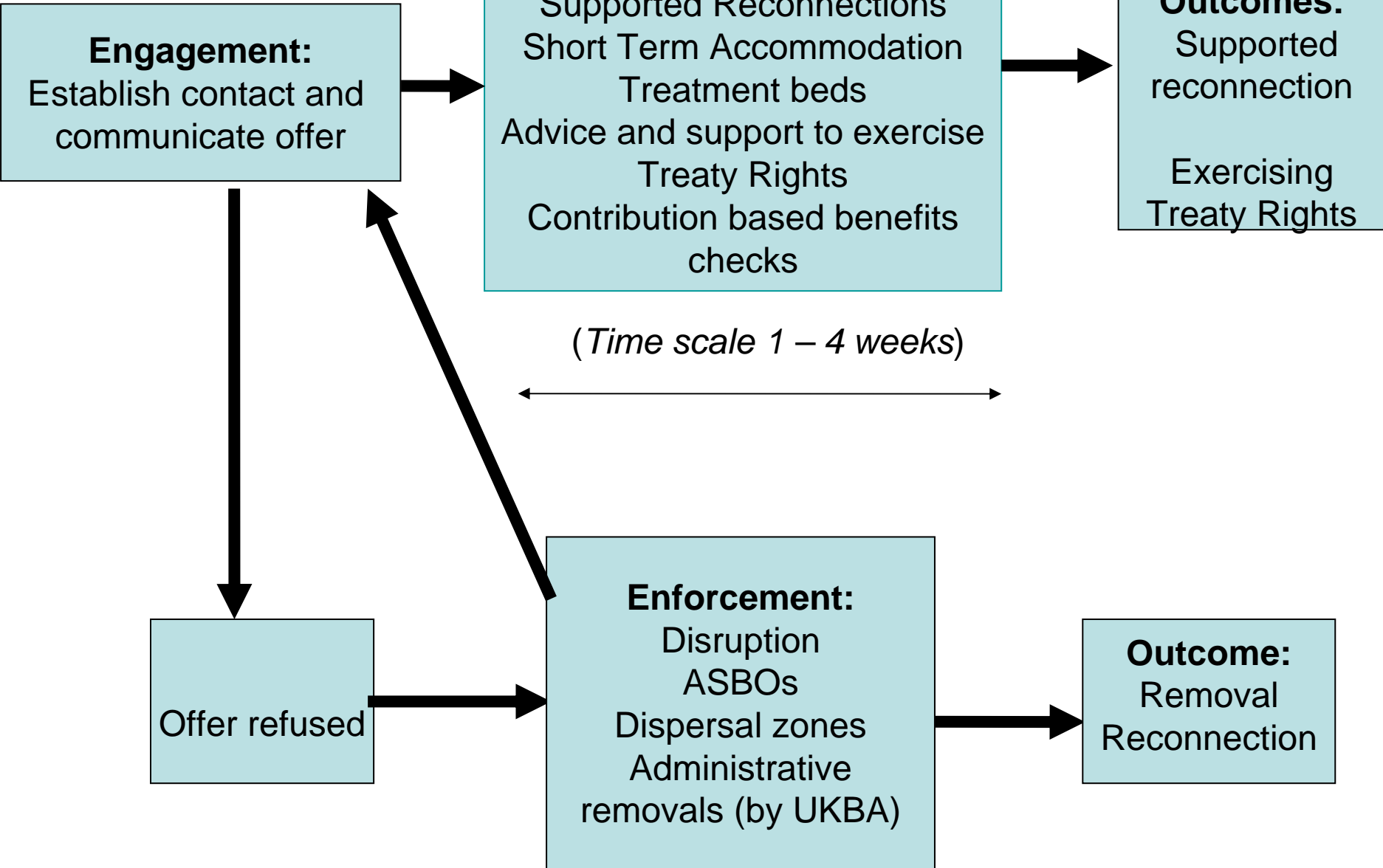
Offer refused

Enforcement:

Disruption
ASBOs
Dispersal zones
Administrative removals (by UKBA)

Outcome:

Removal
Reconnection



- Quantify numbers sleeping rough
- Identify partners – faith and community groups, voluntary sector, police, regional UKBA contacts...
- Information
- Interpreters and translated materials
- Establish contact and assess needs
- Agree consistent approach and “offer”
- Communication strategy and briefings for key stakeholders
- ID and documentation
- Advice to exercise Treaty Rights
- WRS support
- Contribution based benefit checks
- Check eligibility for housing assistance
- Conditional detox (leading to work or return)
- Reconnections beds
- Reconnections to support services in home countries as well as families
- Multi-agency case management approach



This wasn't acceptable
in London in 1989 and
isn't acceptable in 2009