

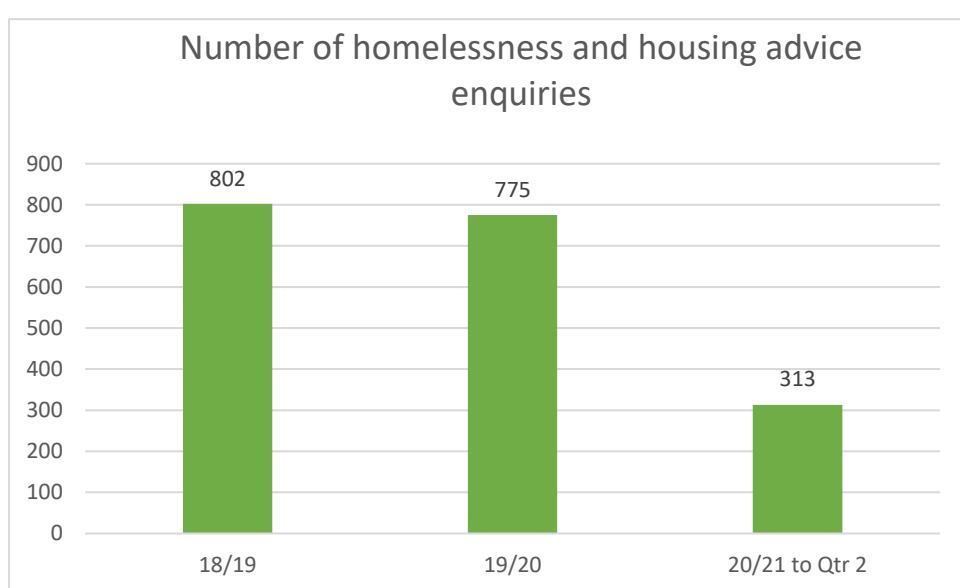
## Appendix 1 - Overview of Homelessness and Housing Advice Service at Fylde Council Dec 2020

### Housing enquiries

During the first two quarters of 20/21 the service has seen similar number of enquiries for homelessness and housing advice and it is expected by the end of 20/21 the service will have continue to support around 800 households per annum.

In addition, the service receives duty to refers from Statutory Agencies, such as the Police, Social Services and Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). In 2019/20 we received 93 and at the end of quarter 2 2020/21 this has fallen to 29. This drop is explained as a result of the operation of the service during Covid 19 pandemic, where formal duty to refers were not made, but contact was made direct via email or telephone due to the immediate nature of support required.

**Diagram 1 – Number of homelessness and housing advice enquiries**



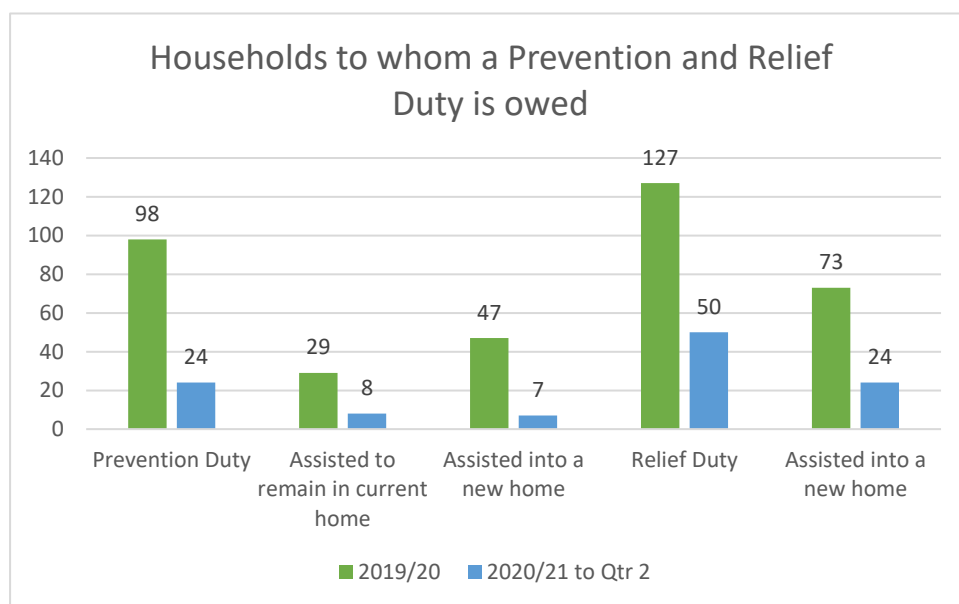
### Homeless Reduction Act Statutory Housing Duties

Diagram 2 provides data on the number of households the service has accepted either a Prevention or Relief Duty towards under the Homeless Reduction Act 2018. During the Covid 19 pandemic the MHCLG introduced new measures for renters affected by coronavirus to prevent tenants being evicted from private sector and social rented accommodation. The Law was changed initially during the first lock down to ensure Section 21 notice periods were extended from 2 months to 4 months and in September 2020 the notice period was extended to six months. Exceptions still apply where tenants have demonstrated anti-social behaviour.

The effect on the housing service and the number of households to whom a Prevention Duty is owed has decreased significantly. Although this move by Government has been welcomed, it is expected that in the New Year the number of households the service is supporting with homeless prevention measures will increase significantly.

The service is still operating as normal regarding, households to whom we owe a Relief Duty, which at the end of quarter 2 was at 50 households, however of those 24 have been assisted into new accommodation.

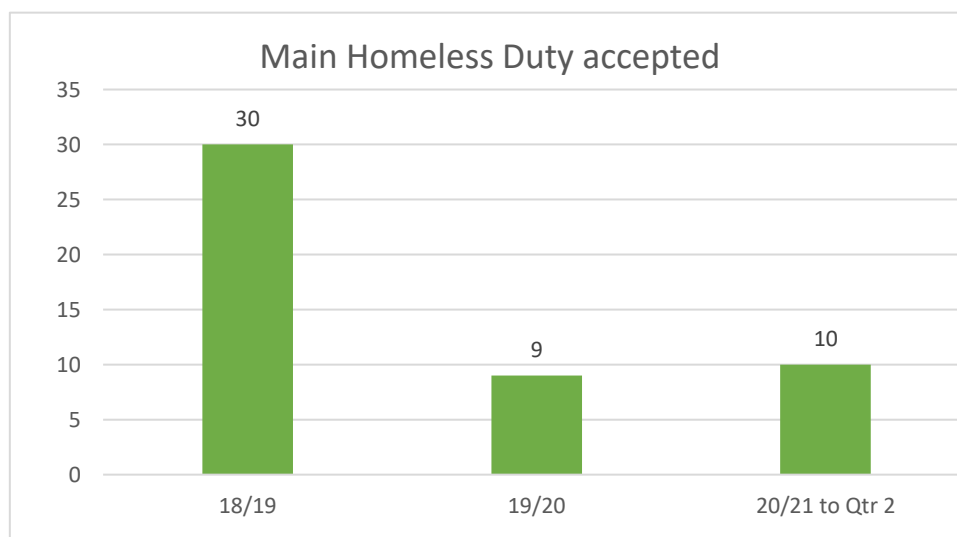
**Diagram 2 – Households to whom a Prevention or Relief Duty is owed**



Where the duty to relieve homelessness has ended, the local authority is subject to an ongoing **MAIN HOUSING DUTY** to secure that accommodation is available to an applicant who is; eligible for assistance, in priority need, and, intentionally homeless. The introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 reduced significantly the number of households to whom a main homeless duty was owed as support was available to all households, (not just households in priority need), during prevention and relief.

Diagram 3 details the number of households to whom a main duty has been accepted. In 2018/19 main duty acceptances was 30 and this fell to 9 in 2019/20 following the introduction of the HRA. However, during the current pandemic the ability to secure accommodation for households during the prevention and relief stages has been hindered due to lack of move on accommodation and the number of households to whom a main duty has increased to 10 at the end of Quarter 2 2020/21. It is still anticipated that at the end of 20/21 main duty acceptances will still be less than levels prior to the introduction of the HRA.

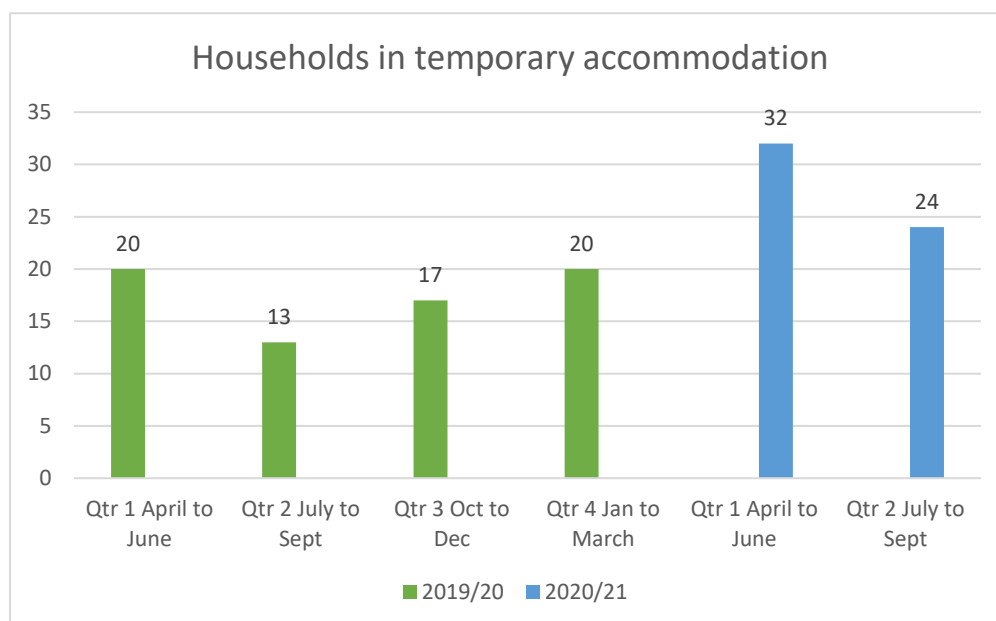
**Diagram 3 – Main Duty Acceptances**



### Households in temporary accommodation

Fylde council has available 10 units of temporary homeless accommodation in Fylde under an agreement with Progress Housing Association. The service relies heavily on B&B accommodation in Blackpool and Fylde. During the current Covid 19 pandemic the service has seen a significant increase in the number of households approaching the service to whom there is a requirement to provide temporary accommodation. Diagram 4 illustrates the number of households in temporary accommodation when compared with the same period last year.

**Diagram 4 – Number of households in temporary accommodation**

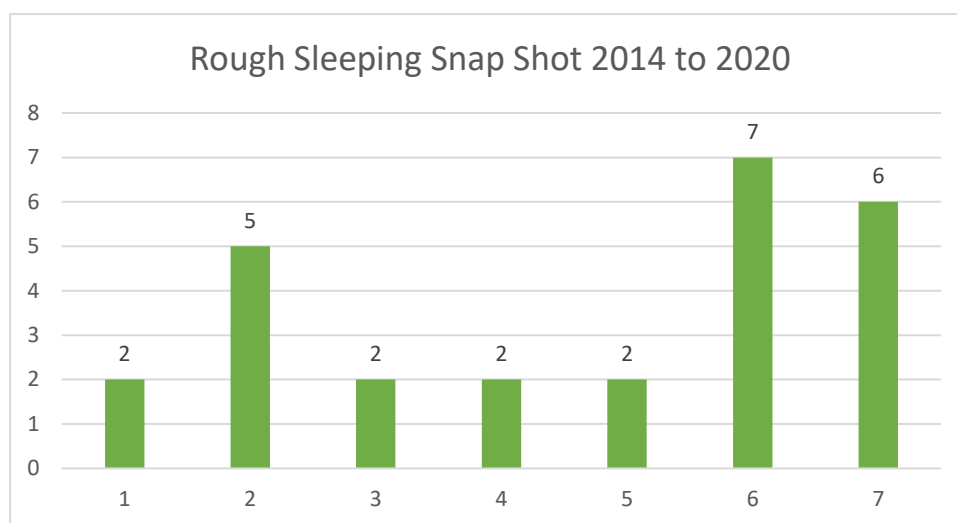


At the end of Quarters 1 and 2 2019/20 the service was accommodating 20 and 13 households. At the same time in 2020/21 the service was accommodating 32 and 24 households. The main reasons households were approaching the service was due to loss of employment, relationship breakdown violent and non-violent and friends or family unable to accommodate due to a need to self-isolate. Since March 2020 the service has accommodated 84 households.

### Rough sleepers in Fylde

Since the autumn of 2010, all local authorities have been required to submit an annual snapshot figure to MHCLG to indicate the number of people sleeping rough in their area on a typical night between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November. In Fylde the 2020 count was conducted on the 19<sup>th</sup> November and was a evidence-based estimate using evidence from different partner agencies. Diagram 5 details the annual rough sleeping snapshot recorded figures for Fylde dating back to 2014. The last two years the service has seen the highest numbers of rough sleepers dating back to 2014.

**Diagram 5 – Rough Sleeping snapshot 2014 to 2010**



At the beginning of the Covid 19 lockdown period homeless households were identified as a specific category by Government and there was a requirement for statutory services to work together to identify households at risk of homelessness, current homeless households and rough sleepers to provide additional support across all services to work together to manage Covid 19 cases. Services included the NHS, local authorities, Police, adult social care, probation, mental health, family support and drug/alcohol services.

Initially there was a requirement to get all rough sleepers off the streets by the weekend of 28/29 March. In Fylde we have done this for 7 clients at risk of or rough sleeping by providing B&B accommodation and sourcing supported accommodation.

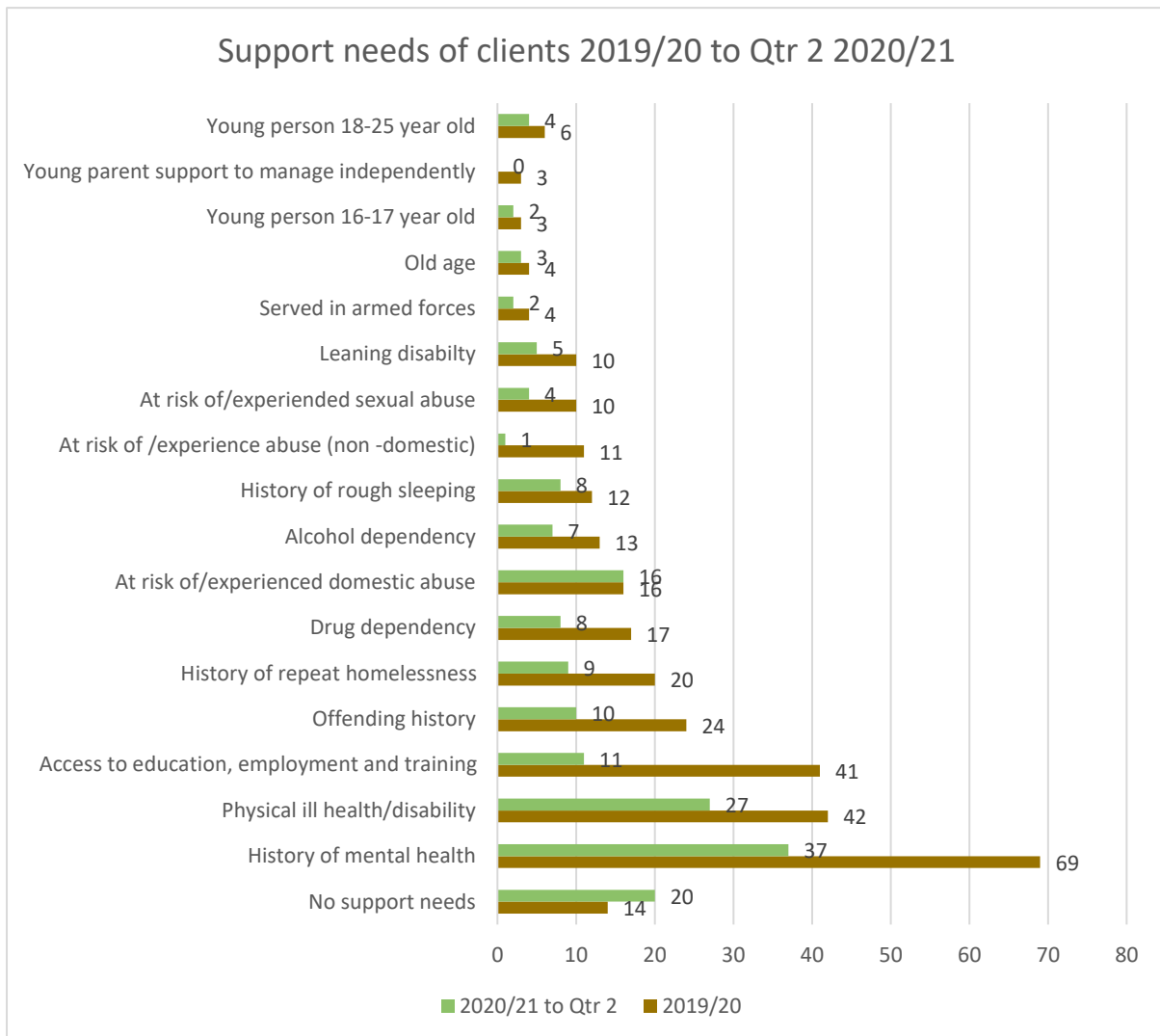
Of the 6 rough sleepers reported in November 2020/21, 5 have a local connection to neighbouring boroughs. The Housing Service has been working with these authorities to ensure support and accommodation has been offered. Two rough sleepers have been identified as having accommodation in Blackpool and are therefore not homeless.

### **Presenting support needs**

Diagrams 6 and 7 detail identified support needs of clients. Diagram 6 details identified support needs of all clients who have approached the service. Diagram 7 illustrates the multiple support needs of complex clients presenting to the service.

Approximately 75% of clients who are approaching the service with identified support needs present with multiple support needs. This includes clients: aged between 18-25; classed as being old age; served in armed forces; learning disability; at risk of /experienced sexual and domestic abuse; history of rough sleeping and repeat homelessness; alcohol and drug dependency; offending history; physical ill health or disability; and a history of mental health.

**Diagram 6 – Support needs of clients 2019/20 to Qtr 2 2020/21**



**Diagram 7 – Multiple support needs of complex clients 2019/20 to Qtr 2 2020/21**

