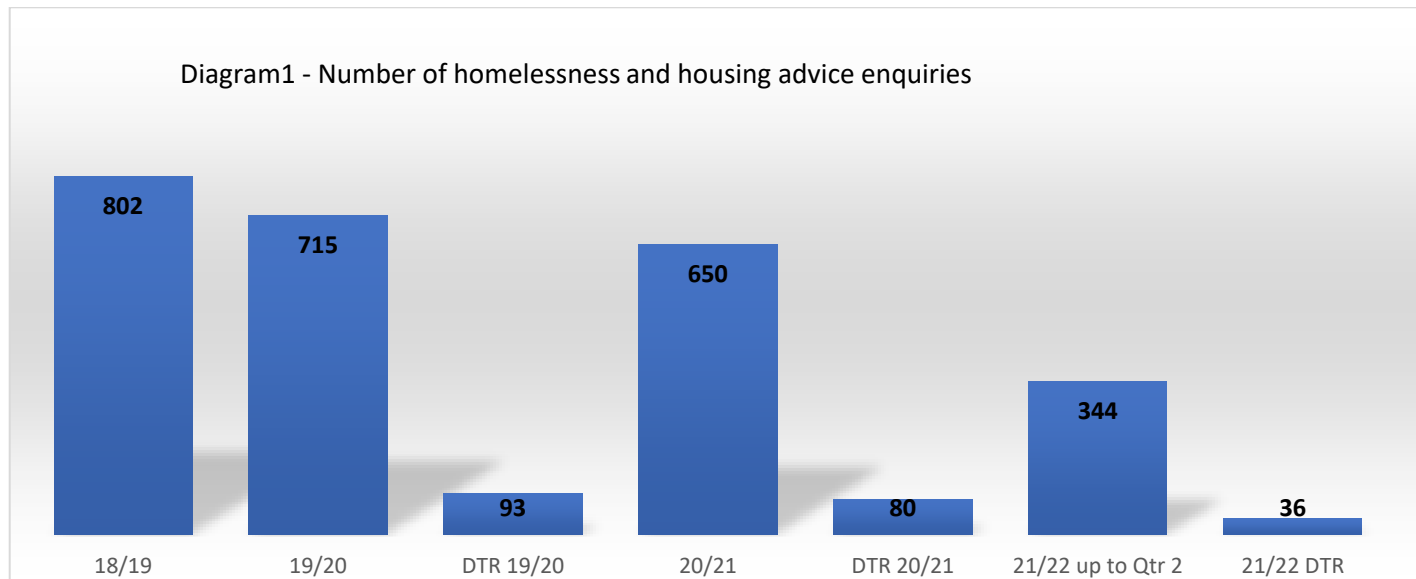


Appendix 1 - Overview of Homelessness and Housing Advice Service at Fylde Council 20/21 and to Qtr 2 21/22

Housing enquiries

During 2020/21 the service dealt with 650 enquiries for homelessness and housing advice. This is a steady reduction year on year since 2018/19 which saw the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 which was implemented in January 2018. The service expects to receive similar level of enquiries in 2021/22. This reduction is directly due to work of the service following the introduction of the Act, in preventing and relieving homelessness with an element of tenancy support and landlord engagement to prevent tenancy failure, when clients have already been supported.

The service receives Duty to Refers (DTR) from Statutory Agencies, such as the Police, Social Services, Hospital discharges, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Services and Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for vulnerable clients presenting to their services facing homelessness. In 2019/20 we received 93, in 2020/21 this dropped slightly to 80. At the end of Quarter 2 2021/22, this figure is 36 and it is expected the figures will be similar as previous years.

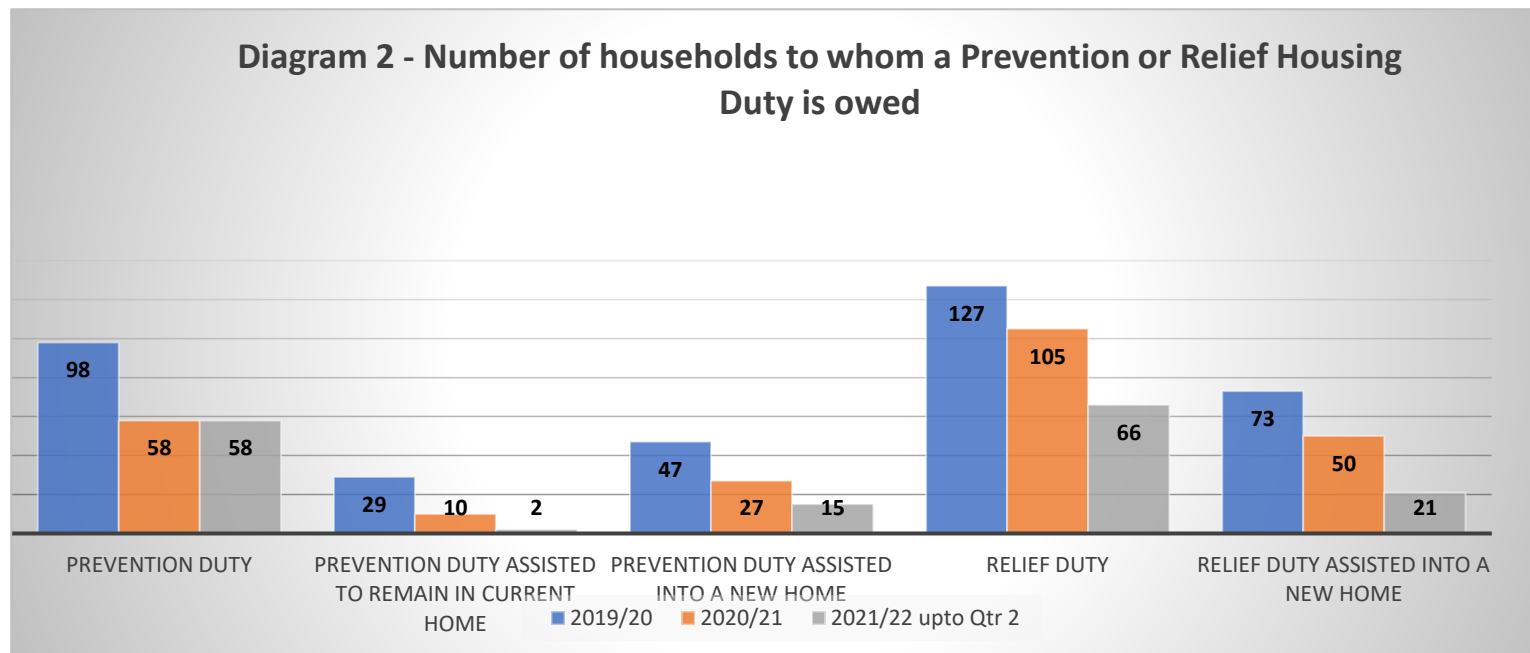


Homeless Reduction Act Statutory Housing Duties

Diagram 2 below 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 had demonstrated anti-social behaviour.

The effect on the housing service in 2020/21 was a decrease in households to whom a Prevention Duty was owed from 93 to 58. The impact in 2021/22 was a marked increase in Prevention Duties owed with the figure being the same at the end of Quarter 2 2021/22 as it was for the whole of 2020/21 as Landlords have been able to proceed with possession proceedings. This is further evidenced by a drop since 2019/20 by over 50% for the number of households to whom we can support to remain in their own home via negotiations with Landlords around rent arrears and tenancy management issues.

Throughout the Covid 19 pandemic the number of households to whom a Relief Housing Duty is owed as they are already homeless or, moving from Prevention into Relief Duty as accommodation has not been sourced, has remained high since 2019/20 and throughout 2021/22.



Where the Relief Housing Duty has ended and the local authority has been unable to secure accommodation for 6 months the ongoing **MAIN HOUSING DUTY** remains for applicants who are; 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 overleaf 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 19 in 2019/20 following the introduction of the HRA. The trend downwards continued into 2020/21 at 16. In 2021/22 this downward trend appears to have stopped and a trend appears that this figure will increase, as at the end of Quarter 2 the local authority has accepted a main duty towards 13 households.

For both clients owed a Prevention and Relief Duty the ability to move clients into new accommodation has been affected by the lack of available and affordable accommodation within both the private and social rented sectors and this is impacting on the length of time households are remaining in temporary homeless accommodation. This is then having an impact on the number of households the Local Authority owe a Main Housing Duty towards.

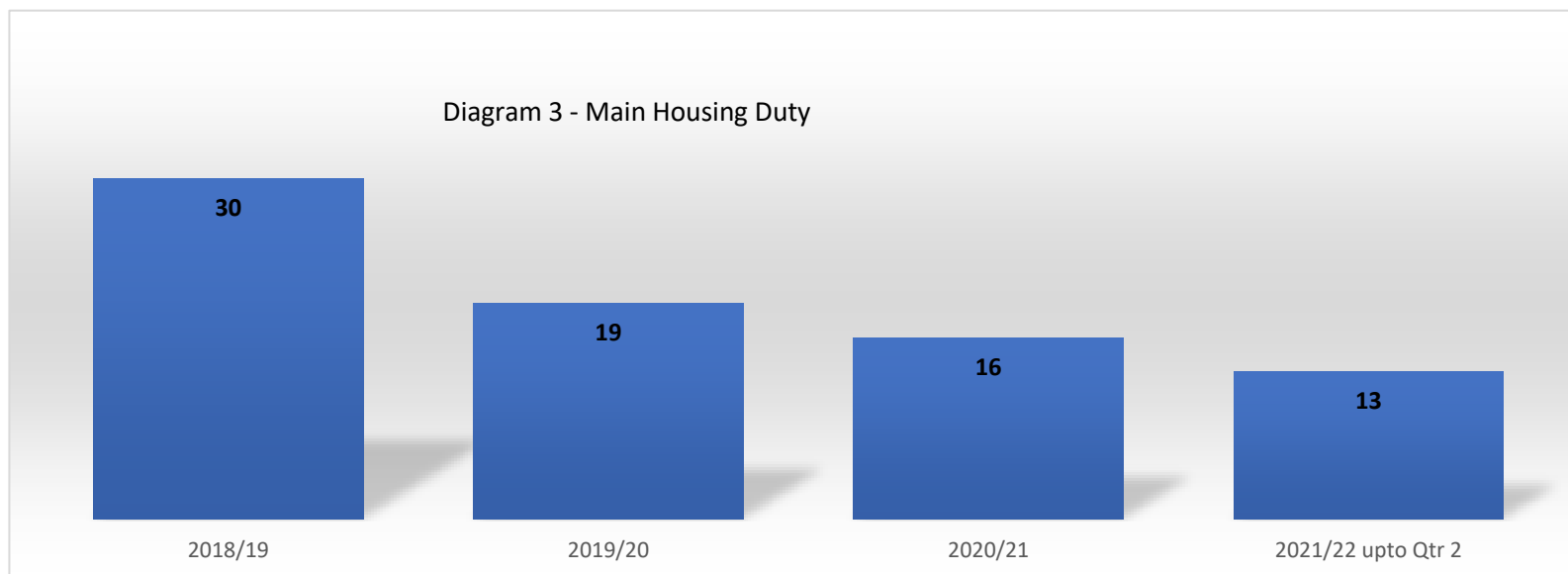
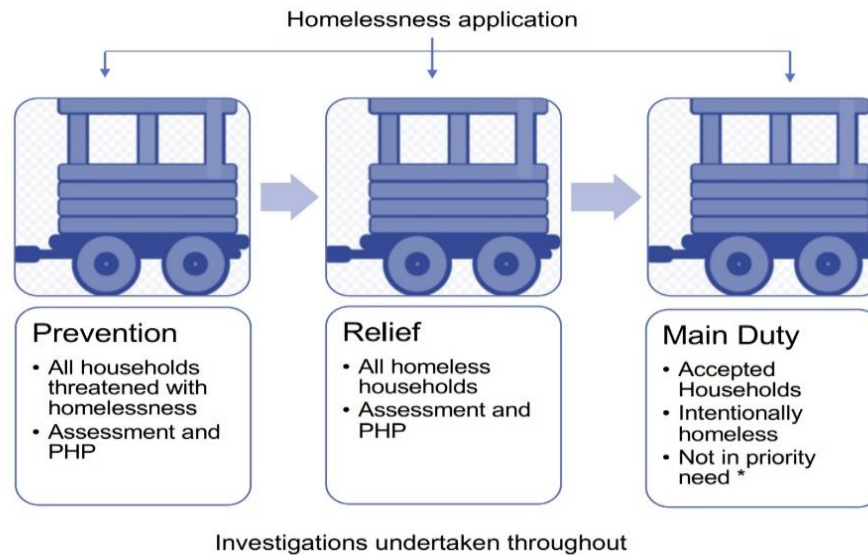


Diagram 4 from the National Practitioner Support Service illustrates the different stages of the Homeless Reduction Act Housing Duties placed on Local Authorities. Depending on what stage of homelessness clients present to the local authority they will remain in Prevention or Relief for a period of 56 days before progressing to Main Housing Duty. The intention is for the Local Authority to be able to source accommodation in either Prevention or Relief Housing Duty stages to reduce the number of households progressing to Main Housing Duty.

Diagram 4 – Stages of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

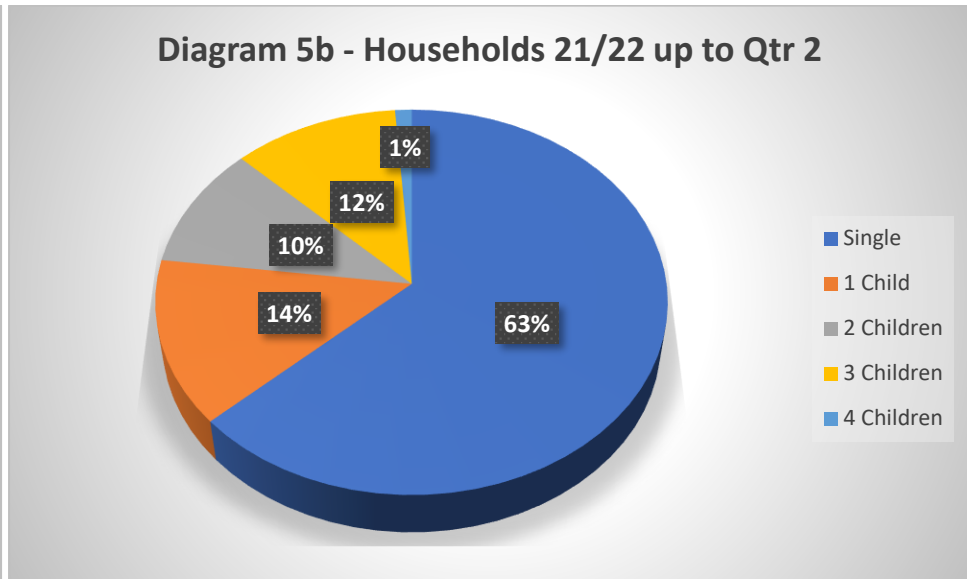
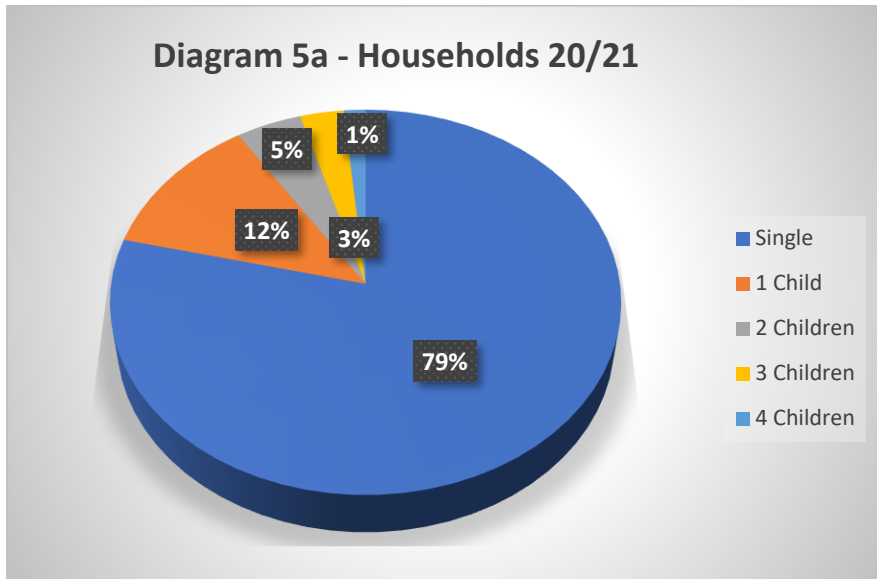


Supporting you to prevent homelessness



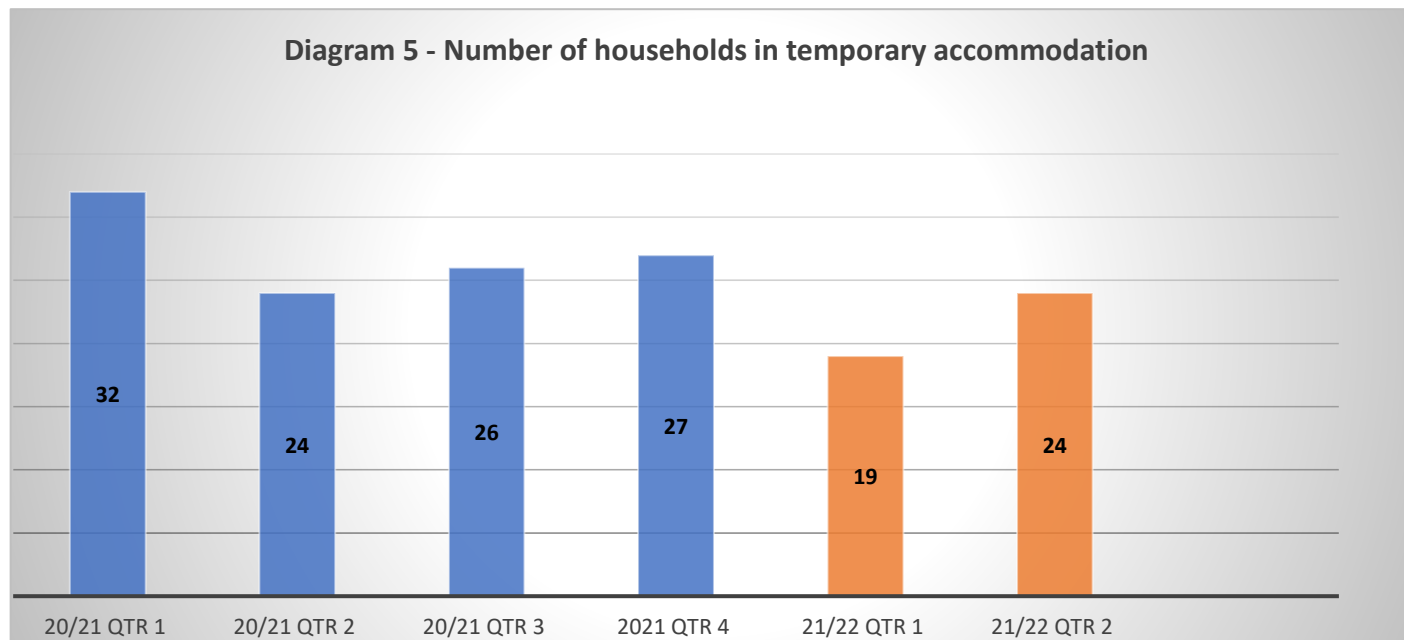
Household Make up

Diagram 5a and 5b details the size of households approaching the service. In 2020/21 78% of clients were single person households, this has fallen in 2021/22 to 63%. The numbers of households with two or three children has increased during the first two quarters of 21/22. The service has seen an increase in families with children following the easing of restrictions for Landlords to be able to proceed with possession proceedings approaching as homeless, either due to rent arrears or the Landlord wishing the sell the property. In the majority of these cases negotiation with the Landlord to prevent homelessness has not been successful.



Households in temporary accommodation

Households can be in temporary accommodation at either Housing Relief Duty or Main Housing Duty Stages. Fylde Council has available 10 units of temporary homeless accommodation in Fylde under an agreement with Progress Housing Group. The service relies heavily on B&B accommodation in Blackpool and Fylde. Diagram 5 illustrates the number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter during 2020/21 and up to the end of Qtr 2 2021/22. The number of households has remained consistently high throughout 2020/21 and into 2021/22.



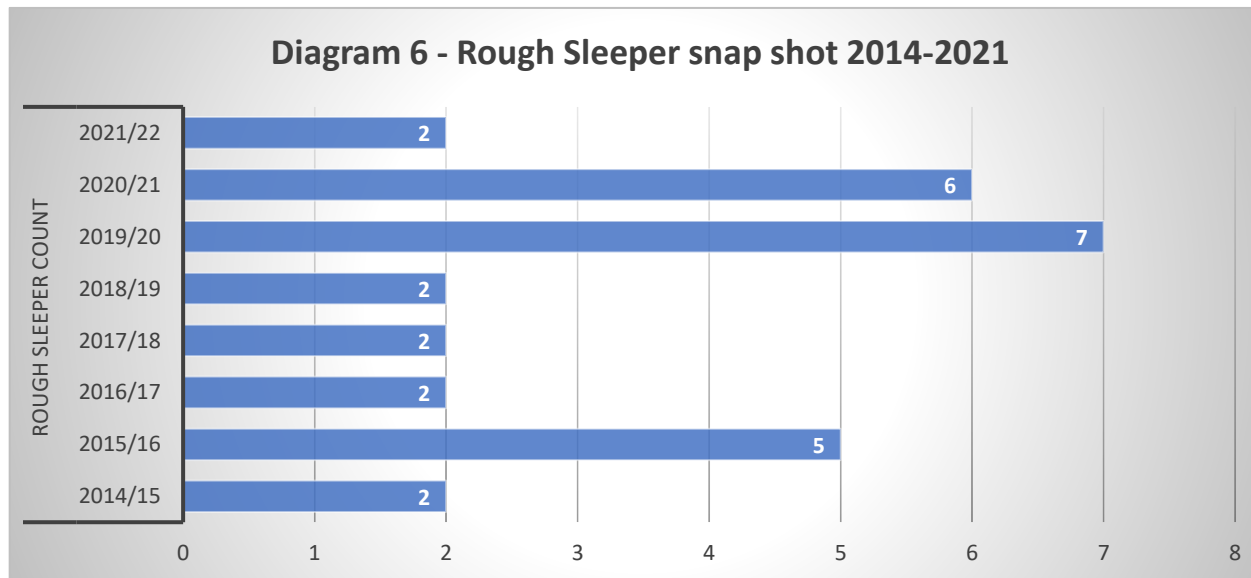
Rough sleepers in Fylde

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 1st October and 30th November. In Fylde the 2021 count was conducted on night of the 18th to 19th November and was an 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. This figure has now returned to previous years figures at 2.

Fylde Council's Housing Advice and Homelessness Service actively work to support all rough sleepers in Fylde. At present the service is supporting these two rough sleepers. All rough sleepers have been offered support which includes;

- Full homelessness assessment
- An offer of temporary accommodation while their homelessness status is investigated.
- Mobile phones are issued so that we can engage rough sleepers throughout the process.
- Private Rented Sector options including assistance with rent bond and rent in advance
- Access to the local Choice Based Letting System, MyHomeChoiceFyldeCoast and appropriate priority banding can be awarded
- Assistance once accommodation is sourced with carpets, household items and white goods. Intensive Tenancy Support is also offered for the initial 3 months of the tenancy.
- Support to achieve economic wellbeing.
- Referrals to specialist agencies.



Presenting support needs

Diagrams 7 overleaf gives details of the multiple support needs of clients presenting to the housing service in 20/21 and up to the end of Qtr 2 21/22. Since Quarter 3 2020/21 approximately 90% of clients approaching the service under homelessness legislation have multiple disadvantaged support needs. Only 8% of clients who have presented to the service since the first quarter of 2020 have no support needs.

The service has seen a marked increase in clients presenting with mental health and physical ill health and disability, with clients needing mental health support seeing a 50% increase. The service experienced an increase at the beginning of 2021 of clients presenting with a history of rough sleeping and repeat homelessness, however in Quarter 2 2021/22 these figures appear to be returning to more manageable levels. Domestic and non domestic abuse has remained high since the beginning of 2020 with drops in intervening quarters, however the service during quarter 1 21/22 saw the highest recorded figure of clients presenting due to either domestic or non domestic abuse. Young persons aged between 18-25 with multiple disadvantage support needs has increased. This could be due to the lack of affordable accommodation within both the social and private rented sector for this age group coupled with Local Housing Allowance rates fixed at the shared room rate of £61.50 for private rented sector, making this tenure not an alternative to social rented accommodation for this age group. Noticeably there has been a drop in clients requiring support to access education or employment. This could either be due to the fact the support is being provided elsewhere or that their current support needs are so high it is unlikely that support into education or employment is relevant, at the time of presentation under homelessness legislation.

Diagram 7 - Multi-Disadvantaged Support Needs

