

# King's Lynn and West Norfolk Homelessness trends and challenges

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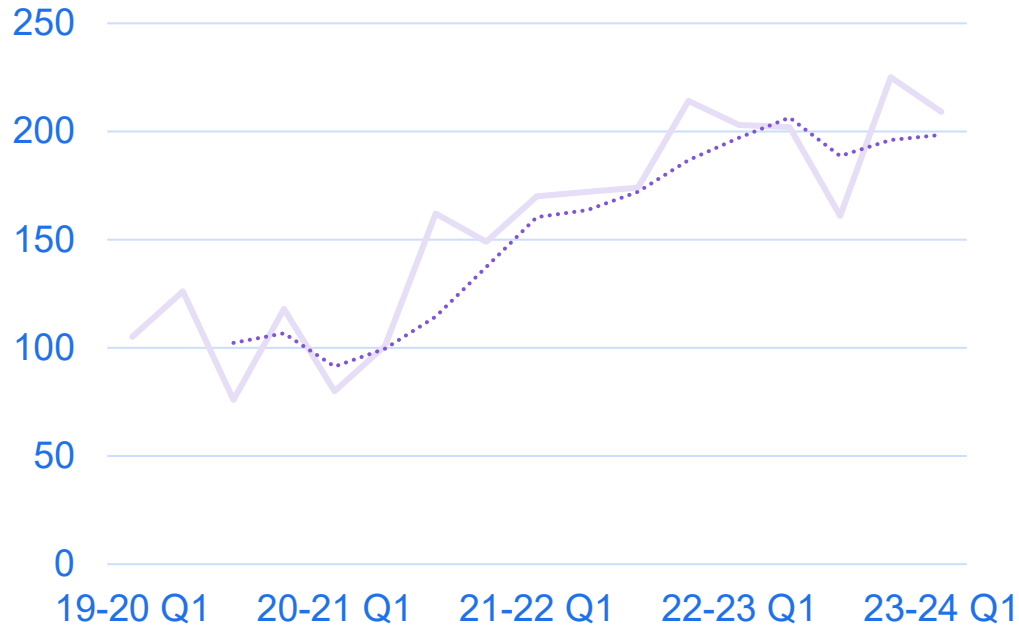
Andy King, Senior Housing Manager

November 2023

Borough Council of  
King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk



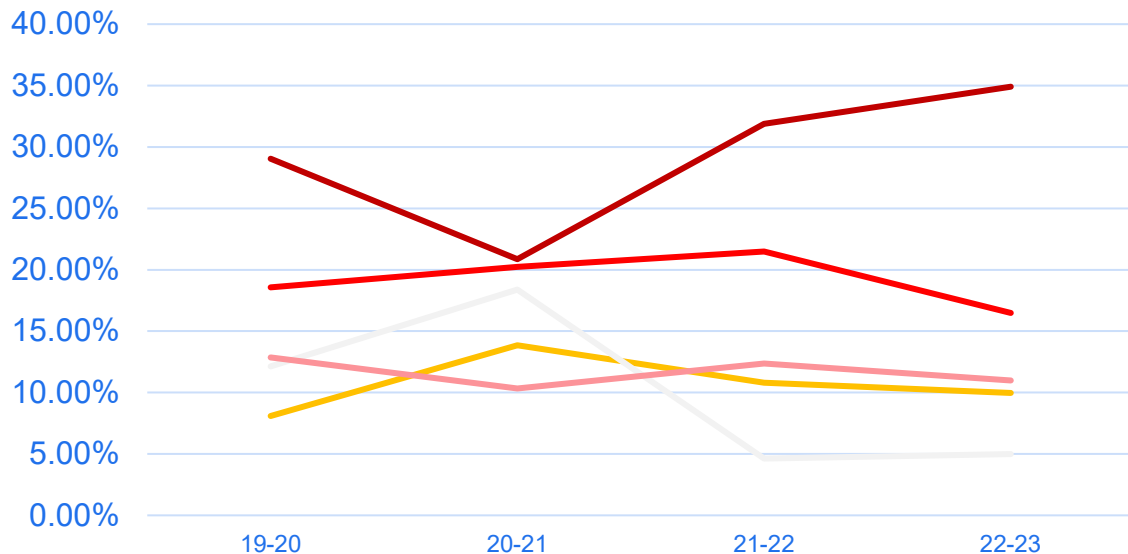
# Homelessness Presentations



- Presentations averaged at c.100 per quarter in 2019/20
- Steady increase over COVID pandemic
- Now at average of c.200 per quarter



# Reason for presentation



- Domestic abuse
- End of private rented tenancy
- Family no longer willing or able to accommodate
- Other reason
- Relationship breakdown (non-abuse)

Chart shows key increases relating to:

- End of PRS tenancy
- Domestic abuse

Other significant factors include:

- Family no longer willing/able to accommodate
- Relationship breakdown



# The Private Rented Sector

## Demand



- Presentations doubled since 2019
- 80+ households in TA at huge cost to council

## Supply



- Landlord exodus driven by legislative changes, mortgage rates and house prices

## Accessibility

- Local Housing Allowance frozen
- No affordable properties for families on benefits
- Typical £3-400 shortfall per month



# Domestic Abuse

- **Domestic Abuse Act 2021** – Automatic priority need for victim-survivors of domestic abuse
- **Increased awareness** – and improved support from support providers e.g. Leeway and Pandora Project
- **New Sanctuary Scheme** – : two dispersed properties suitable for any gender (plus children)
- **DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance)** – aiming for accreditation in Spring/Summer 2024

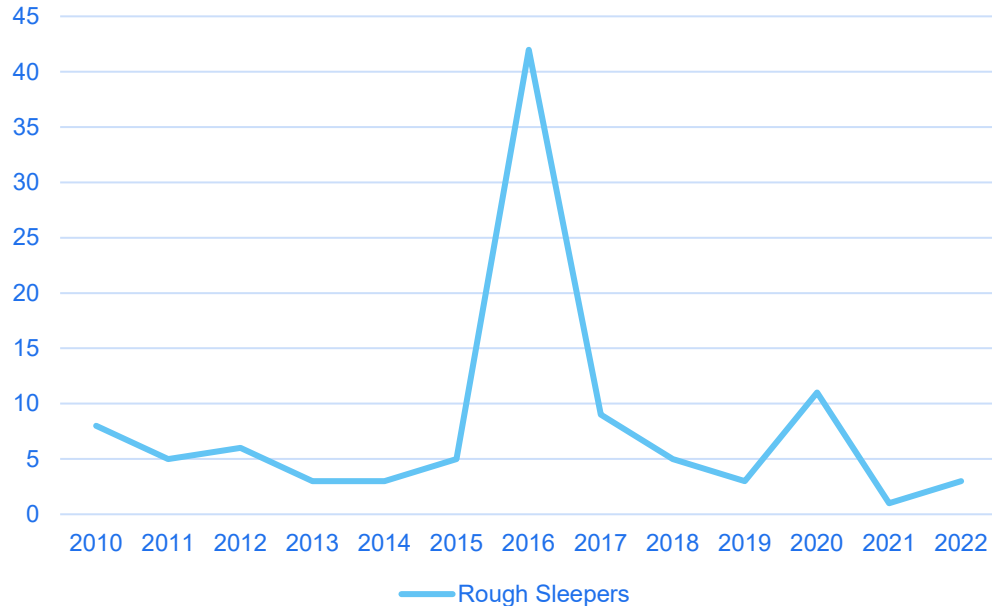


# Other contributory factors

- **Physical Health** – 21% of applicants, up from 16%
- **Mental Health** (30%); **Alcohol Dependency** (9%) – slight increases
- **Reductions** in numbers with drug dependency (4.6%) and 16-17 year olds (0.4%)
- **Horizon Scanning:**
  - Homes for Ukraine ending 2024
  - Asylum and Immigration
  - Renters (Reform) Bill – impact on PRS



# Rough Sleeping



- **Rough sleeping peaked in late 2010s** following end of Supporting People contracts and other contributory factors
- **2016 figure of 42 on a par with Southend, Cambridge, Exeter – 17<sup>th</sup> highest nationally**



# Rough Sleeping – action taken

- **Commissioned intensive support service** (Purfleet Trust) providing outreach and in-reach (through DLUHC RSI)
- **Housing First (x8) and Housing-led accommodation (x10)** for people with longer-term histories of sleeping rough
- **Enhanced homelessness prevention service** through the Sustainable Housing Partnership Service (SHPS) (county funded)
- **Welfare cabins** for people with higher support needs





# Rough Sleeping – impact

- **Rough Sleeping reduced to 0-3 on a single night consistently**
  - 6<sup>th</sup> largest reduction in RS numbers nationally between 2016-22
- **Housing First accommodation** has high level of success with people with long-term history of sleeping rough
- **Purfleet Pathways houses** – 100% success rate of people moving into PRS/social accommodation in 2022
- **Able to focus on prevention and recovery-** ie preventing RS from occurring in first place as opposed to responding to high numbers on the street into emergency accommodation. Where RS does occur we want it to be rare, brief and non-reoccurring.
- **However:**
  - DLUHC RSI funding ends March 2025
  - Local success set against national trend of increasing RS numbers



# KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK - OUTLINE MAP OF SERVICES – SIMPLIFIED VERSION

**Prevention** – to prevent people sleeping rough for the first time

**Intervention** – to support people sleeping rough / at imminent risk

**Accommodation** – short, mid and long-term accommodation for single people who are sleeping rough or at risk

**Recovery** – activities to sustain accom. and address support needs

		<b>First Stage</b>	<b>Second Stage</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	
<p>Criminal Justice collab.</p> <p>Hospital discharge</p> <p>Adult Social Care Help Hub</p> <p>BCKLWN Housing Needs</p> <p>SHPS</p>	<p>BCKLWN – Housing Needs (inc. out of hours)</p> <p>Purfleet Trust – outreach service</p> <p>Purfleet Trust – day centre</p>	<p>Welfare Cabins (pods)</p> <p>Nightly-paid / B&amp;B accom.</p> <p>Temporary Accom. (Council owned)</p> <p>King's Lynn Night Shelter (October-June)</p>	<p>Supported accom. (hostels etc)</p> <p>Youth Accom.</p> <p>Housing-led accom.</p> <p>Refuge and specialist accom.</p> <p>Ex-offenders</p>	<p>Housing First</p> <p>Social Housing</p> <p>Private Rented Accom.</p>	<p>Purfleet Trust – intensive support</p> <p>SHPS – sustainment</p> <p>CGL – drug and alcohol</p> <p>General services e.g. Money Advice, Steam Café, Purfleet Trust, Shelter</p>

**SYSTEM SUPPORT** – underlying strategies and practices to ensure the best service for people sleeping rough or at risk

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy; council's Corporate Plan.  
 Homelessness and Housing Delivery Task Group. Multi-agency strategic and operational meetings  
 Protocols including care leavers, 16/17 year olds

# Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

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# Background – why are we doing this?

- **Legal requirement**
  - Section 1(1) of the Homelessness Act 2002
- **Good practice, regardless**
  - Significant developments since 2019 in terms of demographic, demand and the nature and scope of the borough's resource
  - Necessary to identify resources and services required



# Timeline

Review

Oct 2023-Jan 2024



Formulate

January-April 2024



Launch

May 2024 TBC



# Review – Oct 2023 to Jan 2024

- **Data ‘deep dive’**
  - BCKLWN - all homelessness presentations 2019-23
  - Data ‘ask’ of partner agencies
  - Specific ‘ask’ of social services
- **Focus Groups**
  - BCKLWN – Housing Options; other council departments
  - Partners – Accommodation; support
  - Lived experience – families; people who have slept rough
- **Summary paper**



# Formulate – Jan-Apr 2024

- **Further focus groups**
  - Co-production focus with partners and lived experience
- **Research**
  - What works well elsewhere?
- **Key elements**
  - Advice and information
  - Early identification and intervention
  - Breaking cycles of homelessness
  - Developing partnerships



# Launch! – May 2024 (TBC)

- **A borough-wide strategy**
- **Created and owned** by the borough
- **Recognise** successes and achievements
- **Acknowledge** the work to come





# Questions / Discussion