

Homelessness Review 2016



Background

The Council has a duty to review homelessness and publish a Homelessness Strategy to

- Address the causes of homelessness
- Introduce initiatives to prevent homelessness
- Secure sufficient accommodation for homeless people or those who may become homeless
- Ensure appropriate support to prevent repeat homelessness

The Council adopted the Homelessness Strategy 2015-2019 following consultation with a review to be undertaken each year from June 2016



The Council's approach

- Early intervention to prevent homelessness wherever possible
- Working to ensure an appropriate supply of good quality affordable accommodation in both private and social sectors
- Working together to support households with more complex needs



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Developments and trends

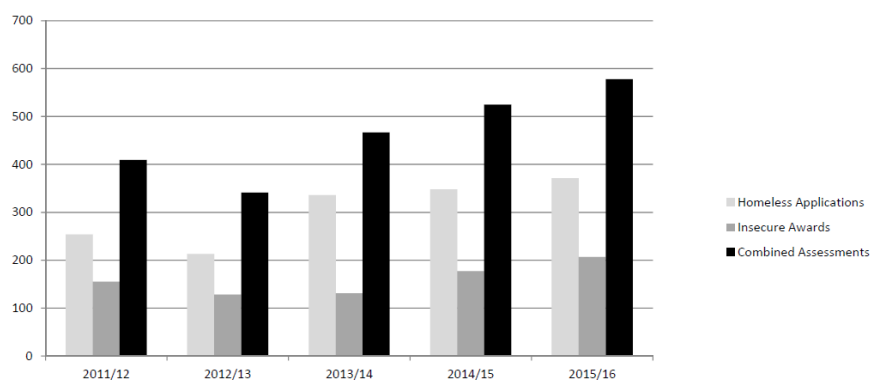
- Continuing pressure on homelessness and housing advice services
- Increase in use of temporary accommodation including bed and breakfast
- Signs that rough sleeping is increasing
- Access to housing - affordability, debt, tenancy history, set up costs
- Difficulty in accommodating – complex needs, mental health, offenders



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Assessment trends 2011-2016

Homeless Assessments and Insecure Awards for last 5 Financial Years



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Positive issues and changes

- Development of training shared houses
- IAA (Insecure Accommodation Awards)
- Commissioning of services e.g. domestic abuse, intensive support service, housing, debt and general advice
- Tenancy sustainment
- Joint protocols and work relating to young people and care leavers



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Future concerns

- Welfare Reform agenda – LHA rates, age based restrictions (under 35), benefit cap, Universal Credit
- Changes to financial support for Temporary Accommodation (TA) – TA subsidy and Universal Credit
- Potential less rented accommodation – social and private
- Financial constraints and funding for support and advice agencies
- Pressures on resources, time, staff, financial if demand rises



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Potential opportunities and solutions

- Development of more shared houses
- New approaches to housing advice
- Joint work on welfare reform
- Review opportunities to increase new suitable housing supply including temporary accommodation
- Review access to good quality private rented accommodation
- Working with partners on specialist housing or support
- Continue to deal with rough sleeping and review approaches



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Any questions?



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