

Homelessness Prevention Action Plan review and update for 2013 -15

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Foreword

“Last year, I endorsed Cherwell’s Homelessness Prevention Action Plan as having full support from Councillors who want to reduce the number of households and communities whose lives are affected by homelessness. I am pleased to be able to offer the same support to the review of the Action Plan.

Cherwell has moved from a crisis situation of over 400 households in temporary accommodation to less than 40 households who can access purpose built, well managed homes until they can achieve a settled housing solution. We are not complacent about this, and know that it is the result of both good operation work and effective planning.

As a nation, we are beginning to see an economic recovery, and in our district unemployment is down to 1%. These are good signs for the economic success of communities. However, house prices and rents in our district are difficult for some households to afford. We are working in a time of reducing funds for public services, and have yet to see the full effects of welfare reform. I want to make sure that our most vulnerable residents are not left behind. This homelessness prevention action plan focusses in the right places – understanding the reasons for homelessness and providing solutions which really address them through partnership working, in a partnership which includes individuals – personal responsibility, personal resilience and personal health and well-being.”

Councillor Debbie Pickford, Lead Member for Housing

Introduction

Cherwell District Council’s Homelessness Prevention Plan runs from 2013 – 2015, with a review built in after 1 year. The review of this Homelessness Prevention Action Plan comes at an important time strategically, with the following influences on the review:-

- Major reductions in public spending have reduced the amount of funds available for homelessness prevention to the Council and its partners
- The County Council has announced the level of cuts to the former supporting people budget, and is currently in consultation on its proposals to remodel services for

housing related support for adults and young people. This will have a massive effect on homelessness prevention in Cherwell District Council.

- The District Council is setting its budget for 2015/16 in an atmosphere of reduced funding from the County and a reduction in its own budget.
- The implementation of Universal Credit has been delayed but the effects of Welfare reform are beginning to be felt. This includes a new benefit sanction regime, with implications for claimants' ability to sustain a tenancy
- Interest rates have remained low, keeping mortgages more affordable
- The County Council ceased funding the local support scheme (which replaced the social fund) from April 2014

The review sets out the aims and proposed outcomes for the year 2014/15 moving into 2015/16, showing how the Council will continue to work with its partners to prevent homelessness. We will retain the 3 themes of personal responsibility, personal resilience and personal health and well-being as we believe that focussing on these areas is the best way to support residents to avoid homelessness and sustain settled accommodation.

Aims

With our partners' support, Cherwell District Council aims to:

- Take a broad view of homelessness prevention, looking to build personal responsibility, personal resilience and personal health and well being
- Continue to keep homelessness levels low through early intervention and crisis prevention
- Deliver focussed support which concentrates on preventing homelessness and avoiding repeat homelessness
- Understand the causes of homelessness and target prevention services to relevant groups such as emergent households
- Provide suitable accommodation to meet the needs of people in the district including better access to private sector accommodation

Key facts

Ethnic diversity	Cherwell District Council has lower than average national levels of ethnic diversity. The levels of diversity have increased between the censuses of 2001 and 2011
Unemployment	Unemployment in Cherwell District Council is lower than the national average at 1%
Demand for housing	The numbers on the Housing Register decreased when the new Allocation scheme was implemented but are now rising The majority of applicants are seeking 1 or 2 bedroomed accommodation
Empty homes	The number of empty homes in the district has decreased, assisted

	by the Council's Build! initiative and the use of home improvement grants
Court possessions	The number of court possession actions is decreasing faster than the south east and national averages
Homelessness acceptances	The level of homelessness acceptances has not fluctuated greatly over the past year
	Cherwell's levels of prevention are in line with national figures
	The number of preventions which allow applicants to remain in their existing home is lower than the national average due to the nature of the very buoyant local housing market
Reason for loss of last settled home	Very low levels of people being homeless on leaving care
	Few people homeless as a result of leaving hospital
	Main causes are Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate loss of assured short hold tenancy
Prevention and relief of homelessness	Levels of prevention are higher than the SE averages compared to levels of relief
Temporary accommodation	Use of temporary accommodation is low
	The majority of households leave temporary accommodation after a stay of less than 6 months
	Use of bed and breakfast is low
	No 16 and 17 year olds are accommodated in B and B
Rough sleeping	The estimated number of rough sleepers in Cherwell increased from 2 to 14 between 2013 and 2014
The cost effectiveness of early prevention	Research by Heriot-Watt University calculated the cost of preventing someone from becoming homeless was £1,700 compared with the £5,300 cost of helping someone after they become homeless
	The costs of a rent deposit scheme are estimated to be eight-and-a-half times less than the costs of providing accommodation under the main homelessness duty according to an advice note from the Department for Communities and Local Government
	Helping someone to retain their accommodation through mediation(for example settling family disputes is nine times less expensive than finding someone new accommodation according to an advice note from the Department for Communities and Local Government
	Advice on housing options, such as how to solve benefit problems or helping people to manage their finances (i.e. debt advice, benefit take-up), is also estimated at nine times less expensive than finding someone new accommodation

For more detailed information

Appendices

Appendix A	Cherwell District Council homelessness partnerships
Appendix B	Statistical information

Key Findings

We have analysed the data which affects the way we deliver the Homelessness Prevention Action Plan with the following key findings:

- Number of households accepted as homeless has decreased
- Parental eviction overtook the end of an assured short hold tenancy (AST) as the main reason for presenting as homeless from 2012/13. It remained the main reason in 2013/14 although this year, less than half of those presenting as homeless as a result of parental eviction were accepted as homeless. This was due to casework revealing that several households had given up private sector tenancies which they believed to be unaffordable and returned to the parental home. Financial assessment showed they could have afforded the tenancy with improved budgeting skills. We have taken account of this by continuing to promote the Community Bank, and supporting the provision of debt and money advice.
- The increased partnership work with the voluntary sector, together with commissioning an outreach service has resulted in improved intelligence about rough sleeping. It demonstrated that Cherwell has been consistently under resourced through Supporting people and the successor funding.
- The number of casework presentations has increased and the number of duty presentations has decreased
- The number of looked after children is statistically predicted to increase which has implications for their housing need on leaving care
- The number of NEET young people is decreasing.

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Homelessness prevention action plan 2013 - 2015 update

Key Strategic Area 1 Personal responsibility

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Review	Refresh	Resources	
Increase access to good quality homes in all sectors	<i>Investigate and enable innovative models of housing provision:-</i> Build to Rent	This model is being actively considered but does not fit into a current programme of delivery at this time. In the recent Build to Rent HCA funding round there were no schemes being proposed for Oxfordshire	Consider for next AHP Continue to investigate opportunities for market rent	HCA grant Registered Provider funds CDC recyclable grant	
	Rent-save-own	Similarly this model of affordable housing delivery is part of the overall package of options that are being considered as to whether they can work in Cherwell. At present these types of tenure do not form a significant part of the housing offer.	Continue to investigate funding opportunities and other savings vehicles to access homeownership	Existing grant agreements Existing resources	
	Cherwell's own development programme	In 2013-14 there were 34 affordable homes delivered by CDC, these were a mix of 1, 2 and bed flats and houses for rent. Several of these properties were delivered as self-finish units together with a number aimed at those who were aged 18-15 impacted by the single room rate. For 2014-15 CDC will be delivering the remainder of its AHP, Places for Change and Empty Homes programmes. A large majority of the homes being for self-build, including 21 homes at Bicester	CDC's development programme for 2015-16 onwards will focus on the delivery of the Graven Hill site		

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Review	Refresh	Resources	
	<p>RP development programmes</p>	<p>In 2013-14 there was a district delivery of 145 rented and shared ownership homes with 59 Help to Buy sales. In the first quarter of 2014-15 there were 30 new rented and shared ownership properties delivered. This is on schedule for 150 new affordable housing delivery by the end of the year.</p> <p>The Help To Buy agency was transferred to Radion and we have worked to build relationships with the new team. The new Allocations policy made accessing low cost homeownership less bureaucratic by removing the requirement to be registered with both the Help to Buy Agent and Cherwell District Council.</p>	<p>RPs will submit their development programmes to the HCA and we will work with them to enable delivery. We believe there will be increased continuous market engagement in the new AHP.</p> <p>CDC maintains a target of 150 units to be delivered in 2015 – 16 through RPs including its own delivery programme</p> <p>We will continue to promote shared ownership and help to buy and require Registered providers to prioritise Cherwell District Council residents for low cost home ownership opportunities</p> <p>We will work with RPs according to Cherwell's Tenancy strategy when requesting disposal of properties to fund new development</p>		
	<p><i>Cherwell Bond Scheme</i></p> <p>Continue to work with private sector landlords to source properties for the Cherwell Bond Scheme and to develop and review the scheme</p>	<p>Despite difficulties in finding Landlords who are prepared to let properties within local housing allowance rates, the bond scheme continues to provide an option for households who cannot provide their own deposit for private sector rentals. The grants scheme provides a source of new properties with nominations rights for different periods depending on the level of grant funding.</p> <p>The Credit Union development officer is investigating ways in which the CU can support Bond Scheme tenants to save up</p>	<p><i>Cherwell Bond Scheme</i></p> <p>Work to promote the home improvement grant scheme to landlords, in return for nomination rights.</p> <p>Continue to work with other landlords promoting the benefits of the Cherwell Bond Scheme</p> <p>Work with the Credit Union to promote savings for Bond Scheme customers</p>	<p>Existing resources</p> <p>Tenancy Relations Officer</p>	

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Review	Refresh	Resources	
		for their own deposit fund.			
Contribute to a financial inclusion strategy which focuses on what can be achieved in partnership and plans for the predicted effects of welfare reform	<i>Personal Budgeting:</i> provide debt and money advice to housing applicants	<p>CDC supports CAB with funding through the Council contract to provide advice in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington as well as through an SLA to provide fast track advice for those at risk of homelessness. In the first quarter of 2014, CAB saw 1413 individual clients through the contract and 36 clients through the fast track service.</p> <p>We have connected the Beacon centre and Bridges with Aspire Oxford who can offer work experience and training opportunities</p> <p>We work with the Beacon Centre and Bridges Banbury to fund a Connections service for drop in clients which includes support for independent living and referrals to other agencies such as CAB for in depth debt and money advice</p> <p>See below for Credit Union and pre tenancy training, both of which contribute to this area</p>	<i>Personal Budgeting:</i> Provide debt and money advice to housing applicants via CAB. Continue to provide fast track advice for those at risk of homelessness Continue to support Beacon and Bridges centres and develop the services in partnership with other agencies such as Aspire and Connection	Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant agreements Existing resources Voluntary sector resources	
	produce a pack for front line staff to use following training to offer advice and signposting for personal budgeting	Carried forward	Research good practice and produce a pack for advisors	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant	
	find resources to offer a Rent in Advance scheme	Resources have been made available through discretionary housing benefit payments (DHP)	find resources to offer a Rent in Advance scheme including via DHP	Existing grant	

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Review	Refresh	Resources	
	<p>Establish a Credit Union in Cherwell capable of offering “jam jar” accounts</p>	<p>The Cherwell Community Bank was launched on 19th July at the Castle Quay shopping centre in Banbury. 18 people joined on the day including CDC Council members. See http://www.northamptonshirecu.co.uk/news.asp</p> <p>A service point is held at CAB every Monday and more service points will be developed across the district as volunteers are recruited.</p> <p>The Credit Union has applied for funds from Lloyds Bank to develop its “hub and spoke” approach to maintaining local branding</p> <p>Website development has resulted in a bright up to date website. There is further development on going to differentiate between CCB and NCU clients to reduce potential confusion between the names.</p> <p>A launch is being developed at the Sunshine Centre for early September to promote Christmas savings and affordable loans</p>	<p>Continue to support the development of Cherwell Community Bank, increasing the number of access points across the district.</p> <p>Offer volunteering opportunities to build skills</p> <p>Research forward funding for CU development officer</p>	<p>arrangements</p>	
	<p>Target those most in need of Credit union services to take up accounts</p>	<p>The development officer continues to work with Housing Options and Sanctuary Housing to promote CU accounts. Agencies can refer directly to the CU on a specifically designed form which generates a call back from the CU to the person referred</p>	<p>Promote rent payment accounts for those in need to prepare for direct payments.</p> <p>Develop knowledge amongst RPs</p> <p>Improve take up through housing officers and extend training to all RPs with stock in the District</p>		

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Review	Refresh	Resources	
	Review the award of Discretionary Housing Payments to ensure compliance with new guidance, while targeting people at risk of homelessness		Work with benefits specialists to target DHP payments		
	Support residents to access mortgage rescue	<p>The Mortgage rescue scheme ended in March 2014. CDC had been one of the most successful authorities in securing mortgage rescue scheme funds due to a combination of the housing market in our area and the excellent casework and partnership provided by CDC Housing Options and CAB. We are using this experience to continue to provide creative options to present to those in mortgage difficulties including the fast track advice service at CAB.</p> <p>So far, we have not experienced many cases where tenants are made homeless as a result of repossession on buy to let mortgages but will monitor trends in this area.</p>	Use learning from Mortgage Rescue to ensure high quality housing options advice continues to be given to people in mortgage difficulties		
	<p><i>Skills and training</i></p> <p>Build an operational working relationship with the Job Centre Plus manager</p>	The JCP Partnerships Manager has joined the Financial Inclusion Group. We have provided contacts of RP partners for the RP group she co-ordinates to boost engagement.	Continue to build relationships including with JCP		
			Work with YMCA and Banbury Foyer to provide training which meets the claimant commitment		

Key Strategic Area 2

Personal resilience

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
<p>Provide support to members of vulnerable groups (including vulnerable adults, victims of domestic violence and young people); to avoid homelessness, be “housing ready” and maintain housing successfully</p>	<p><i>Contribute to the re-commissioning processes and optimise provision in Cherwell for services within the:</i></p> <p>Young People’s pathway</p>	<p>Commissioning is on-going, with tender responses currently being analysed. The interviews will take place over the Autumn and new services will be commissioned.</p>	<p><i>Following the re-commissioning processes continue to optimise provision in Cherwell for services within the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Young People’s pathway o Domestic Abuse services o Single homeless people <p>Contribute to the implementation of new services following re-commissioning of the young people’s pathway, domestic abuse services and single homeless pathway</p>	<p>Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant arrangements County Council funding</p>	
	<p>Domestic Abuse services</p>	<p>The proposed cuts to Council spending will affect Refuge Provision. With the Oxfordshire Housing and Homelessness Group, we are looking at possible mitigations including better use of enhanced housing benefit and reciprocal arrangements with other local authorities. We have met with reducing the Risk as part of our SLA monitoring. They are developing strategies to continue their work and support the outreach service in the event that County and District funding is cut or withdrawn.</p>	<p>Add DA professionals to the Homelessness Prevention Group Facilitate training in DA services for CAB and other partners Promote need for DA services to Police and Crime Commissioner</p>		
	<p>Single homeless people</p>	<p>Re-commissioning is on-going We have negotiated a proposed funding distribution which relates better to need across the County, resulting in a 300% increase in funding in CDC to £100k. We are working on a proposal for move on accommodation to be provided in Cherwell District Council if the County budget proposals are accepted. This would incorporate the current Cherwell Connection Project Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation abstinence beds</p>	<p>Continue to participate in re-commissioning and development of services. Work with Oxfordshire County Council to develop the new pathway once the budget has been set</p>		

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
			Develop a deeper understanding of the reasons for homelessness including lack of tenancy sustainment and use the analysis to plan future service provision including staff training	Existing resources	
	<i>Review service provision for vulnerable groups in the statutory and voluntary sector:</i> to create better access to services across the district	We have made contact with voluntary groups including Food Banks and have improved partnerships with statutory agencies We are updating the community directory and the professionals' leaflet on domestic abuse services	Maintain and develop partnerships which have been formed Update and reissue web based community directory Review information for professionals and voluntary groups about housing services	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant arrangements Voluntary sector resources	
	to optimise value from the floating support service	We monitor delivery in co-operation with the floating support service provider.	Floating support services will be re-commissioned under the new funding arrangements – see above		
	evaluate partnership funding	We conduct regular service level agreement monitoring meetings with all funded organisations to evaluate the provision CAB will be reporting on their performance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September	Evaluate performance and issue new agreements following budgetary process		
Offer opportunities for individuals to participate in improving their housing options	Offer an accredited pre tenancy qualification to housing applicants	Pilot being held at the Foyer in Banbury starting August 2014. Following evaluation we will propose a scheme to RP partners	Evaluate the pilot accredited pre tenancy qualification to housing applicants Offer a district wide accredited scheme in partnership with RP landlords Investigate the appetite for self-funded training	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant arrangements County Council funding Voluntary sector	

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
				resources	
	Offer skills training through housing development including exploring the potential of the Build! programme to enhance residents' employment opportunities	Residents in Places for Change properties have the option of attending construction skills training through ACE training Kidlington. The first self-builders have begun their training with ACE and will start on site in Autumn 2014	Evaluate and continue to offer skills training to Places for change residents Research the possibility of extending training options to other applicants		
	Work with the Thriving Families service to offer opportunities to households to improve their housing options through addressing challenging behaviours, and issues which are affecting their ability to maintain a settled housing solution	We maintain contact with Thriving Families and will review provision if the needs data dictates it	Maintain partnership with the Thriving Families service to identify opportunities for households to improve their housing options through addressing challenging behaviours, and issues which are affecting their ability to maintain a settled housing solution		
	Work with partners to offer meaningful daytime occupation and volunteering opportunities Campaign to reduce begging	We support the Beacon and Bridges drop in centres Connection floating support encourages meaningful day time occupation We fund BYHP and the Hill to encourage young people to develop positive past times and access training and educational opportunities. There are issues with the premises at the Hill, and much effort is being made to provide activities in a reduced space. BYHP has joined with Banbury CAG to kick off Banbury Incredible Edible.	Continue to work with partners to offer meaningful daytime occupation and volunteering opportunities Launch campaign to reduce begging in partnership with Banbury town centre co-ordinators and Beacon Centre		
			<i>Move on</i> Review the use and availability of move on accommodation from supported accommodation, including Banbury Foyer and O'Hanlon House Investigate in partnership with	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant	

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
			Oxfordshire County Council the implications of the rise in numbers of looked after children and its potential effects on demand for housing services		
			<i>Ex- Offenders</i> Develop partnership with the new CRC responsible for offenders who have served under 1 year sentence	CDC led bid for funding to CLG – results known Autumn 2014	

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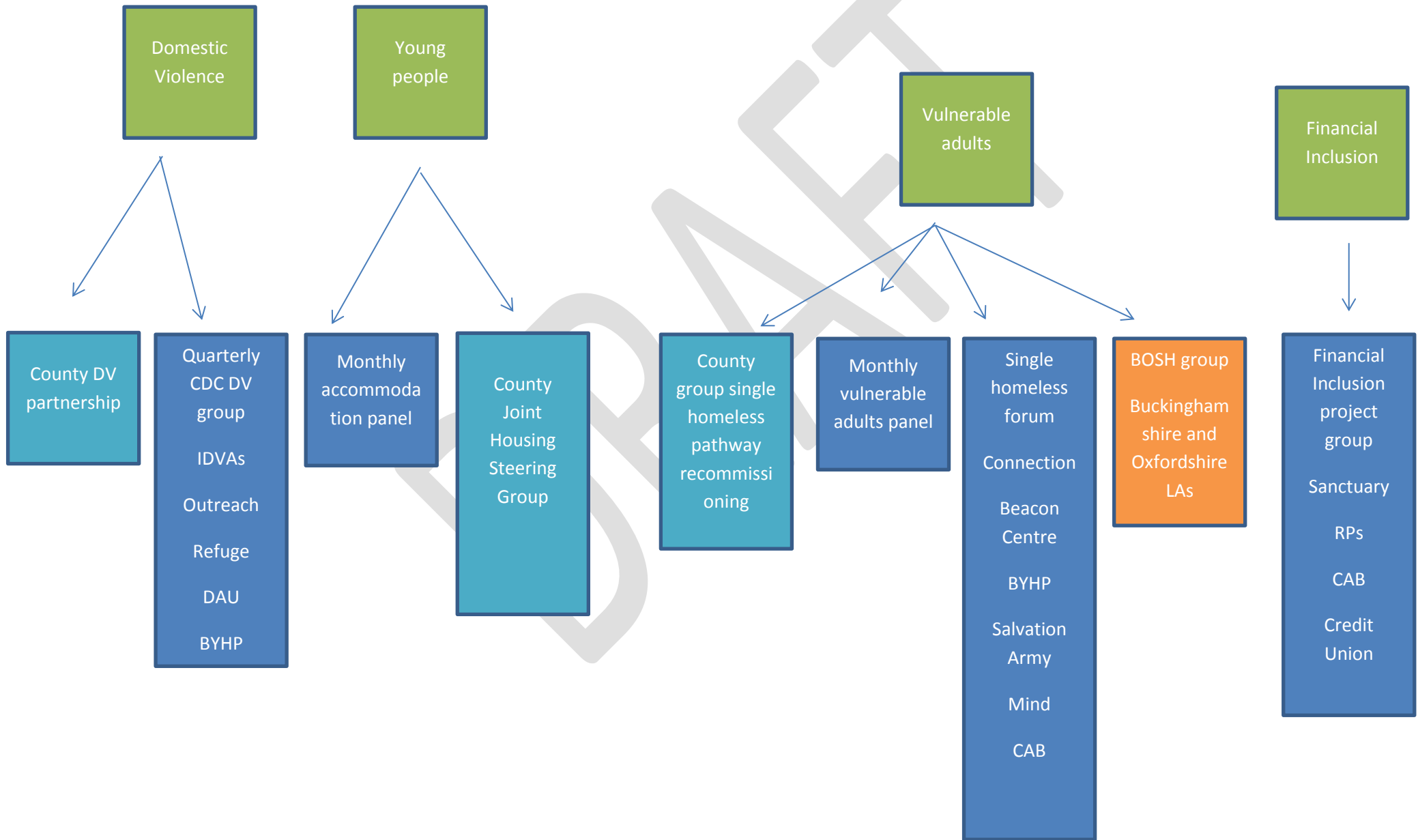
Key Strategic Area 3 Personal Health and Wellbeing

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
Improve partnership working to develop and maintain services in a time of austerity, offering opportunities to develop expertise and share best practice, improve value for money and offer a co-ordinated approach	Provide forum opportunities for discussion and partnership working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ single homeless forum ○ accommodation panel ○ young people's accommodation panel 	We are reviewing the Single Homeless Forum to provide a Homelessness forum incorporating a Domestic Abuse Group to better cover homelessness issues in the district	Update single homeless forum to provide Homelessness prevention forum for all groups including domestic abuse professionals	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant County Council	
		The accommodation panel meets monthly and reviews cases in a partnership setting, sharing knowledge and expertise	Continue with this successful format Provide training opportunities for members		
		The young people's panel meets monthly and reviews cases in a partnership setting, sharing knowledge and expertise	Continue with this successful format Provide training opportunities for members		
	Participate in forum opportunities for discussion and partnership working:	CDC regularly attends and contributes to the forums which contribute to effective casework	Participate in forum opportunities for discussion and partnership working	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant	
	JATAC				
	MARAC	CDC regularly attends and contributes to the forums which contribute to effective casework and safeguarding			
	Joint Housing Steering Group	CDC attends the JHSG and is participating in the young people's re-commissioning	Continue to develop relationships and understanding through the group		
Oxfordshire Housing and Homelessness Group	The group meets quarterly and has discussed issues including Gold standard and NSNO	Continue to support the Oxfordshire Housing and Homelessness Group			
Health & Wellbeing Board	As the chair of HSAG CDC co-ordinated the report to the HWB on homelessness and temporary accommodation and co-ordinated the setting of new and renewed targets Councillor Pickford has attended a special meeting of the HWB to discuss the proposed cuts to the former Supporting People funding to represent CDC.	Promote housing and homelessness prevention as key parts of the Health and Wellbeing agenda in Oxfordshire			

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
	Brighter futures theme groups	CDC produced an annual report on the Brighter Futures project to break the cycle of disadvantage, Housing provide the theme lead for advice services and housing delivery.	Work through the Brighter Futures theme Group to improve services in the areas of greatest deprivation		
	Credit union project group	The project group meets monthly and brings together staff in CDC and SNC to share good practice.	Credit Union Project Group will continue to promote and support the Cherwell Community Bank		
	Financial inclusion partnership	The housing team have participated in the financial inclusion partnership	Financial Inclusion partnership will work to provide an action plan		
	HSAG	CDC held the chair of HSAG until June 2014.	Continue to attend and support HSAG as an important part of the Health and Wellbeing agenda		
	Reviewing and forming new groups if necessary	It is proposed to create a Homelessness forum from the Single Homeless forum, with a Domestic Abuse group held in conjunction with it. CDC feel that at time of great change it is more important than ever to bring partners together to reduce duplication and make sure all partners are aware of developments and the services which are on offer.	Reviewing and forming new groups if necessary		
Work towards Gold Standard for homelessness services and continue to provide a high quality housing options service, focussing on homelessness prevention	Work with NHAS and the Oxfordshire Housing and Homelessness group to meet the Gold Standard and use the diagnostic peer review tool to improve performance	We were disappointed that we were not able to participate in a Gold Standard Peer review in June due to staffing issues at the Partnership support team. However, we will be meeting in early September to set a date for an Autumn review. This is a stage in an application to reach Gold Standard in the Government's challenge.	Work with the National Practitioner Support Service, NHAS and the Oxfordshire Housing and Homelessness group to meet the Gold Standard and use the diagnostic peer review tool to improve performance. Complete a diagnostic peer review by April 2014 and use the outcomes to improve service delivery	Existing resources NPPS resources	
	Implement the new Allocations Scheme ensuring those in greatest need are prioritised for housing: Reassess Applications to achieve appropriate banding under the new scheme	The new Allocations Scheme has now bedded in. It has revealed that there is some mismatch between the stock and the housing register in the area of sheltered housing and we are encouraging partners to conduct their own reviews in this area. The Allocations Scheme will be reviewed in 2015 and minor changes are likely to be	Review the new Allocations Scheme ensuring those in greatest need are prioritised for housing and that there have not been unintended consequences of the review	Existing resources	

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress Update	Refresh	Resources	
		made as a result. We will consult all our partners on the changes.			
	Ensure applicants understand the new scheme	We publicised the new scheme to applicants, members and partners agencies. As queries arise, trained staff are available to advise applicants	Ensure applicants are advised of and understand any changes resulting from the review of the allocations scheme		
	Train partners in the new scheme	RP partners have received training and have a working relationship with the Assessment and Rehousing team which enables them to ask for guidance when needed	Ensure partners are advised of and understand any changes resulting from the review of the allocations scheme		
	Explore the options to secure funding for a Sanctuary scheme to enable victims of domestic violence to remain in their homes where safe and appropriate	RP landlords have funded Sanctuary scheme adaptations working in partnership with CDC and the police	RP landlords should continue to fund adaptations.		
	Young people in bed and breakfast accommodation		Maintain low to zero levels of 16 and 17 year olds in bed and breakfast accommodation working in partnership with Social Care	Existing resources	
Monitor levels of rough sleeping and promote service offers whereby individuals can avoid rough sleeping			Continue to improve intelligence gathering through partnership working	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant funding	
			Work creatively with any additional funding for the single homeless pathway in Cherwell to provide improved services and best value for money	County Council funding	

Appendix A Homeless partnerships **Cherwell District Council Homelessness partnerships (landscape)**



Appendix B statistical information

1. Demographic overview

Changes between 2001 census and 2011 census

a) Ethnicity

The BME population in Cherwell has increased in the 2011 census compared to the 2001 census.

2011 census Ethnicity - BME

Cherwell	SE	National
12%	13%	18%

Population

Up from 131,785 to 141,868

b) Age

Under 15s down from 19.8% to 18.8%

Over 65s up from 13.5% to 15.3%

c) Qualifications

Level 4 qualifications up from 20% to 28.9%

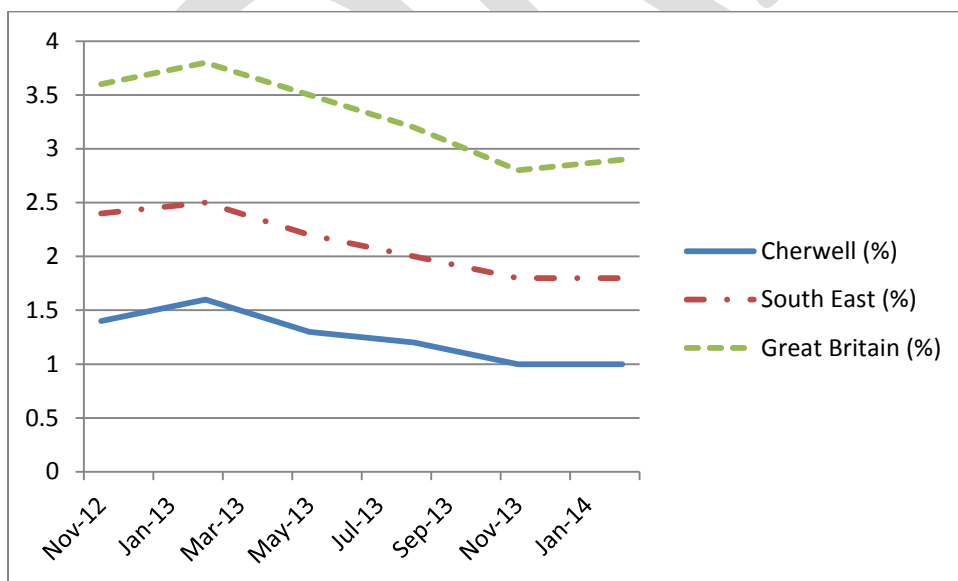
Level 2 qualifications down from 21.6 to 15.2

No qualifications down from 24.5% to 19.7% (national average 22.7%)

d) Unemployment

CDC unemployment rate 1%, UK unemployment rate is 2.9% at February 2014

Unemployment Trends



Source ONS

Proportion of Young People not in Education or Employment decreasing

The majority of young people succeed in education and make a positive transition into adult life and the job market. Unfortunately a small proportion does not make this transition successfully, and become NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

As of end December 2013, 4.8% of years 12 to 14 in Oxfordshire were classed as being NEET, down from 6.1% in December 2013. The most common reasons for this in Oxfordshire were given as:

- Seeking employment, education or training (of which 17% live in Cherwell, 31% in Oxford City, 22% in South Oxfordshire, 21% in Vale and 9% in West Oxfordshire).
- Not available to labour market/learning due to illness/pregnancy/parent/unlikely ever to be economically active (10% of NEETs).

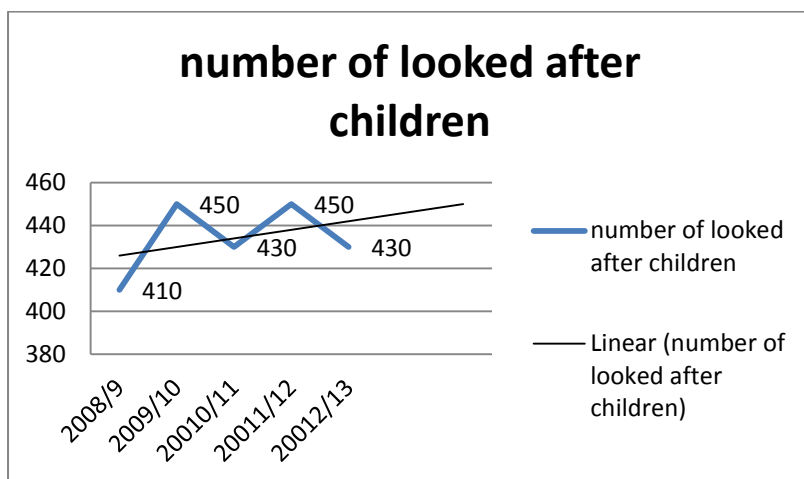
2. Housing demand

The introduction of the new Allocations Scheme had a major effect on the Housing Register. Prior to the introduction of the new scheme, there were close to 4,000 applicants on the Register. The new requirements that applicants must be in housing need to register; plus a requirement to provide evidence of household income and assets under £60,000 have reduced the numbers on the register to 701 in July 2014. However, it should be noted that the trend is upwards – in May 2014, there were 648 applicants on the register. The majority of applicants have a one or two bedroom need.

a) Number on Housing Register July 2014

Applicant Type	Current Bedroom Need	1	2	3	Grand Total
General	1	6	107	121	234
	2	4	151	47	202
	3	3	36	15	54
	4		10	2	12
General Total		13	304	185	502
Homeless	1		2		2
	2		24		24
	3		2		2
Homeless Total			28		28
Transfer	1	50	18	20	88
	2	16	15	6	37
	3	4	22	5	31
	4	1	14		15
Transfer Total		71	69	31	171
Grand Total		84	401	216	701

b) Safeguarding and looked after children



Source: OCC Joint Commissioning Performance Team

More children are being looked after, or identified as at risk. It is likely that this is as a result of increased investment in child protection services. 68% of Looked After Children are placed in a foster placement. There are also rising reports to police of domestic violence in situations involving children. Again, increased reporting is actively targeted and therefore an increase in reported levels does not necessarily mean an increased level of such violence.

3. Trends in Homelessness

a) Figures remain low, and relatively static due to the high levels of prevention work which is carried out. The homelessness figures have for the most part remained relatively unchanged, despite changes in economic circumstances and increased difficulty in sourcing accommodation in the private sector at local housing allowance rates.

2013/14 q2	Cherwell	% total	South East	% total	national	% total
16 – 24	2	12.5	517	32.3%	3,732	28.0%
25 – 44	12	75%	801	50%	7,270	54.6%
45 – 59	0	0%	222	13.9%	1,779	13.4%
60 – 64	0	0%	19	1.2%	212	1.6%
65 – 74	0	0%	29	1.8%	215	1.6%
75+	0	0%	11	0.7%	100	0.8%

b) Rough sleeping is increasing

Oxfordshire has experienced a 42% increase in rough sleeping from 2012 to 2013. The estimate of 14 rough sleepers submitted from Cherwell to DCLG in November 2103 represented a rise from an estimate of 2. The district was identified by Homeless Link as one of the South East “outliers” (non-representative local authorities, deviating from the norm of increases or decreases).

Cherwell represented 44% of the referrals to the Connection outreach service in Quarter 1 2014/15

Council Areas	Number Referred	Number Accepted for verification	Number of RS actually verified
Cherwell DC	20	20	13
West Oxfordshire	7	7	4
South & Vale DC	19	19	10
Total	46	46	27

c) Reasons for presentations and acceptances

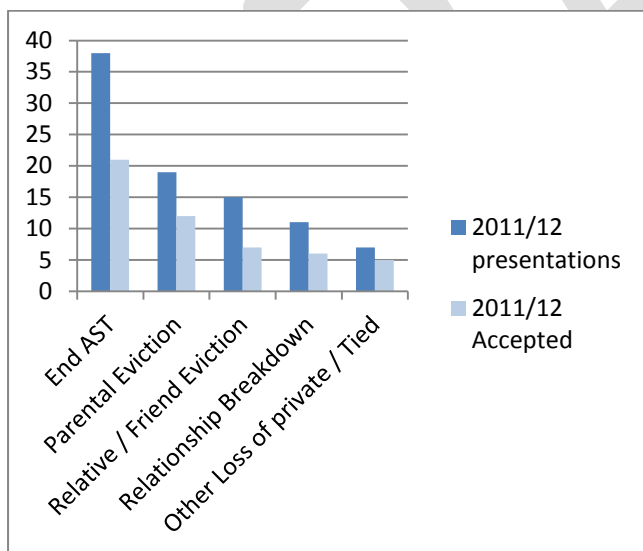
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Cancelled	2	1	0
Number of Presentations	124	127	128
Accepted	62	59	51
Non Priority	10	9	22
Intentionally Homeless	30	24	33
Not Homeless	20	27	14
Not Eligible	2	1	3
198 Referrals	0	2	0
Duty Presentations	72	58	52
Casework Presentations	53	69	76
Emergency TA Placements	87	84	62
B&B & Musketeer	73	67	59
Direct to Self-contained TA	14	17	3

Parental eviction overtook the end of AST as the main reason for presenting as homeless from 2012/13. It remained the main reason in 2013/14 although this year, less than half of those presenting as homeless as a result of parental eviction were accepted as homeless.

Further research reveals that the main reason for this is that applications have been made by households who had previously held tenancies in the private rented sector returning to the parental home. They have then made a homelessness application from there.

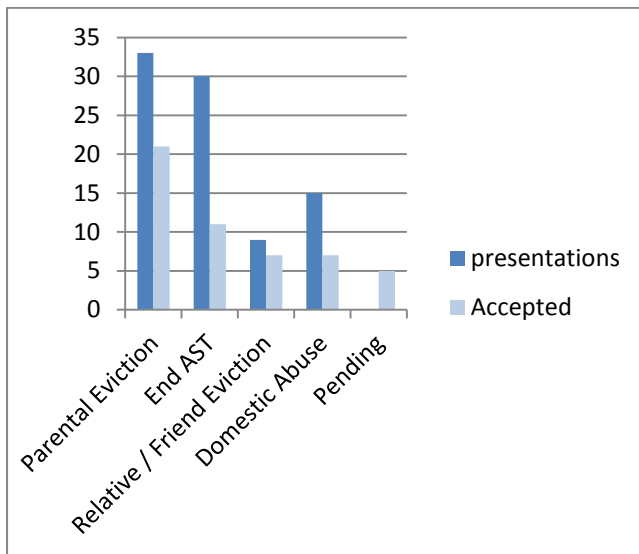
Top 5 reasons for presentations and acceptances by year

2011/12 (top 5 reasons same for both presentations and acceptances)



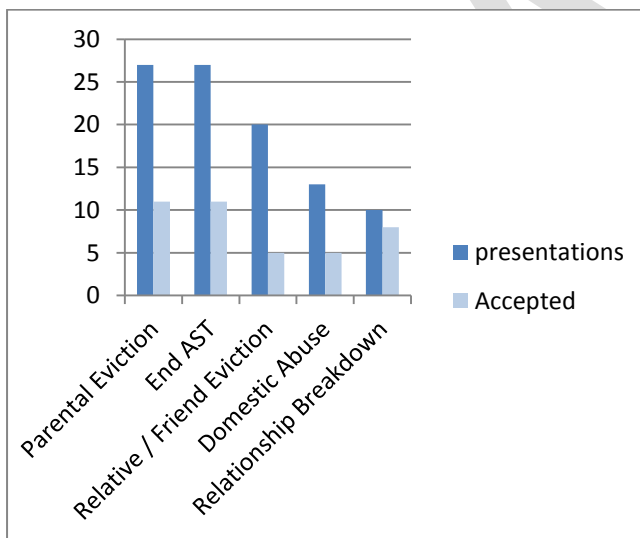
2012/13

Presentations and acceptances



2013/14

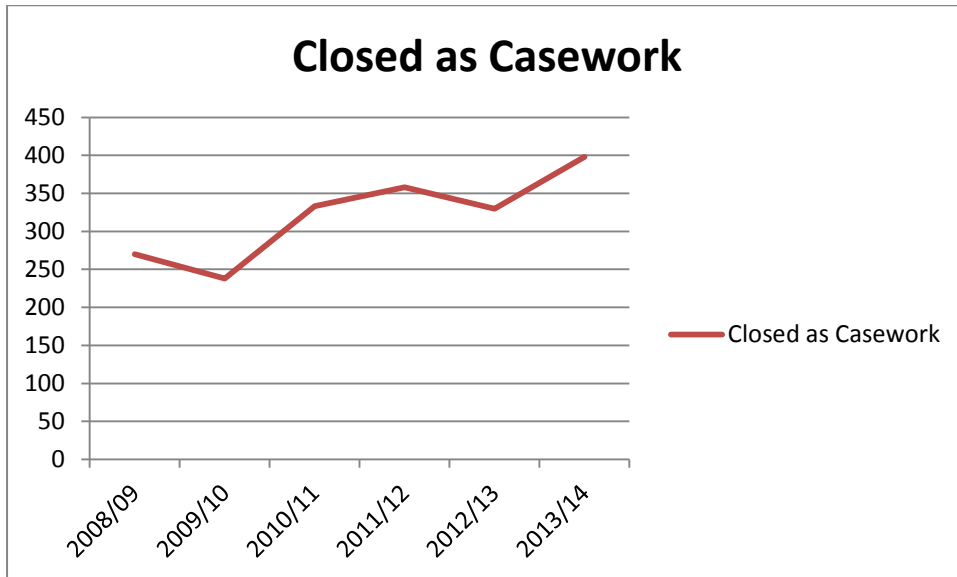
Presentations and acceptances



	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Accepted	62	59	51
Non Priority	10	9	22
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Casework Presentations	53	69	76

- Number of households accepted as homeless has decreased
- Number found to be non-priority has increased
- The number of casework presentations has increased
- Number of duty presentations has decreased
- There is an increase in cases presenting due to domestic abuse.

Advice and Prevention



Over 1,000 cases present each year requiring advice and prevention case work intervention. The proportion requiring in-depth assistance and advocacy is rising due to increasingly complex needs of applicants.

d) Emergency Temporary Accommodation placements

Emergency placements have decreased over the past 3 years.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Emergency TA Placements	87	84	62