

Homelessness Prevention Action Plan review and update for 2016 - 17

Contents

Foreword from Lead Member for Housing	1
Introduction	1
Aims	2
Key Facts	3
Key Findings	5
Homeless Prevention Action Plan Update 2016 – 17	6
Appendix A - Homelessness Prevention Partnerships	17
Appendix B - Statistical Information	18

Foreword

“I am pleased to support Cherwell’s Homelessness Prevention Action Plan 2016/17 and to ensure it has full support from Councillors. This Council is very keen to reduce the number of households and communities whose lives are affected by homelessness.

Cherwell has moved from a crisis situation of over 400 households in temporary accommodation to approximately 40 households weekly. We have been pleased to see the quality of temporary accommodation become mostly purpose built, well managed homes where families stay until they can achieve a settled housing solution. We are not complacent about our performance and know that it is the result of both good operational work and effective planning within the Council and with our partners.

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 rising and becoming difficult for households to afford. We are working in a time of a significant reduction of funds for public services, and on-going welfare reforms.

I want to make sure that our most vulnerable residents are included. Our Homelessness Prevention Action Plan provides focus to help us all to understand the reasons for homelessness and provide solutions which really address them through partnership working to prevent homelessness. By working through a range of partnerships we hope to provide a safety net to include the needs of all individuals who need help to improve their life chances. Our objectives remain support to improve personal responsibility, personal resilience and personal health and well-being to prevent homelessness.”

Councillor John Donaldson, Lead Member for Housing

Introduction

Cherwell District Council’s Homelessness Prevention Plan has been refreshed for 2016 - 2017. 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 meant we continue to see reduced funds available for homelessness prevention to the Council and its partners

- The County Council has announced that it expects to need to make a further £50 million of cuts from its current budgets between now at 2019/20 and has recently consulted on its proposals to remodel services throughout the council. This includes possibilities of further reductions in housing related support for adults and young people. This will have a massive effect on homelessness prevention in Cherwell District Council if approved.
- The District Council is setting its budget for 2016/17 in an atmosphere of reduced funding from the County and a reduction in its own budget.
- The implementation of Universal Credit for single claimants has been introduced within Oxfordshire this year. The number claiming within Cherwell is still relatively low but announcements are expected for when this will be rolled out to larger sections of the community.
- Effects of Welfare reform are beginning to be felt. This includes a freeze on Local Housing Allowance rates until 2020 and benefit cap reduction to £20,000 for families living outside of London these are expected to have implications for claimants' ability to sustain a tenancy
- Interest rates have remained low, keeping mortgages more affordable
- We are pleased to see 'value for money' achieved through the partnerships funded from the Homeless Prevention Grant. Our regular monitoring showed 10673 individual support requests in 2014 – 2015 were met. This equates to £9.32 per intervention.

The review sets out the aims and proposed outcomes for the year 2016 – 17, 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 0.6%
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
Homelessness acceptances	The level of homelessness acceptances has increased significantly in the past year but correlates with the increase in the number of people approaching the council for assistance.
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: Loss of assured shorthold tenancy Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate
Temporary accommodation	Use of temporary accommodation has increased over the past year
	People are needing to stay in temporary accommodation for longer than previously due to a lack of affordable private rented accommodation to discharge homeless duties into.
	Use of bed and breakfast remains low but we have seen increase in the early part of this year.
	No 16 and 17 year olds are accommodated in B & B
Rough sleeping	The estimated number of rough sleepers in Cherwell increased from 14 to 21 during the most recent estimate in November 2015
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 affect the way we deliver the Homelessness Prevention Action Plan with the following key findings

- Number of households accepted as homeless has increased from last year
- End of AST has become the main reason for presenting as homeless this year and has seen a 9% increase on the total number of presentations to the Council when compared to the previous full year (14/15). Only half of those presenting as homeless as a result of end of AST were accepted as homeless.
- 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 duty presentations increased significantly last year.
- The number of looked after children is statistically predicted to increase which has implications for their housing need on leaving care
- The number of referrals made for people rough sleeping within the District has also increased. As a result of this we have also seen an increase in the number of people accessing the Single Homeless Pathway.

Key strategic area 1 Personal responsibility					
Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
<p>Increase access to good quality homes in all sectors</p>	<p><i>Investigate and enable innovative models of housing provision:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build to rent ○ Rent-save-own ○ Cherwell's own development programme ○ RP development programmes 	<p>Various development models have been considered throughout the life of Cherwell's Homeless prevention Action plans. Currently delivery of new housing has been delivered through Cherwell's development team and the Build! Programme. Development has also been provided through RPs</p>	<p>Action – Continue with CDC's own development programme - CDC's development programme for 16/17 onwards will focus on the delivery at the Graven Hill Site, Bicester as well as other Build! Opportunities.</p> <p>Additional rented accommodation development for singles at affordable rents is also in the pipeline with some to be delivered during 2016.</p> <p>Action – Keep abreast of proposed changes to planning requirements to provide affordable housing - We will need to focus keenly on the proposed changes to planning requirements from the Housing and Planning Bill. It is proposed to remove the need for developers to provide affordable housing through S106 agreements. This could mean that there may be no new rented affordable housing delivered through large development sites and could face being dependent on relets only for those in need.</p>	<p>HCA grant Registered Provider funds CDC recyclable grant Existing grant agreements</p>	<p>1, 2, 6</p>

	<p><i>Cherwell Bond Scheme (CBS)</i> Continue to work with private sector landlords to source properties for the Cherwell Bond Scheme and to develop and review the scheme</p>	<p>CBS continues to be an option offered to households who are unable to raise the money required to cover the deposit needed to access Private Rented accommodation.</p> <p>We have seen a reduction in the number of people being supported by this option recently due to Local Housing Allowance rates not reflecting the current market costs for private rented accommodation</p>	<p>Action - Continue with Landlord Home Improvement Grant scheme, in return for nomination rights - This has enabled us to gain nominations to private rented accommodation at Local Housing Allowance rates (LHA)</p> <p>Action - Promote landlords forum - Officers will continue to work with landlords through the Council's Landlords Forum and newsletters where the benefits of joining the Cherwell Bond Scheme will be promoted to try to increase the amount of affordable rented properties available.</p> <p>Action – Consider new opportunities to improve access to the private rented sector - We will explore new initiatives to provide affordable homes in the private sector</p> <p>Action – Tenancy Relations Officer (TRO) to liaise with landlords to promote good practice - The TRO will continue to provide increased support to landlords. He will improve literature and legal advice to landlords on tenancy management issues. He will also provide expert advice and good practice to support staff across the Council in partnerships and also including the Cherwell Bond Scheme</p>	<p>Existing resources Existing grant agreements Tenancy Relations Officer</p>	<p>1, 6</p>
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			for those in housing need to access private sector housing		
Contribute to a financial inclusion strategy which focuses on what can be achieved in partnership and plans for the predicted effects of welfare reform	<p><i>Personal Budgeting</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provide debt and money advice to housing applicants ○ Establish a Credit Union in Cherwell ○ Target those most in need of Credit Union services to take up accounts ○ Continue to work in partnership with the Cherwell staff awarding Discretionary Housing Payments, targeting people at risk of homelessness 	<p>Cherwell District Council has extended its existing contract with Citizens Advice (CA) (formerly Citizens Advice Bureau) to enable it to continue until April 2017 which will be the complete length of the tender.</p> <p>This contract provides free money and debt advice to all residents in Cherwell on a range of issues and provides services operating in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Services are provided through office based appointments and home visits</p> <p>Citizens Advice are also developing their email services and telephone services to make their services more accessible.</p> <p>To date, this financial year (Apr – Sept) 3081 clients have been seen by CA as part of the contract for money and debt advice.</p> <p>Citizens Advice also provide a fast track housing advice service to support those at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>We worked with OCC to ensure that Connection Floating Support services continue to be funded to provide</p>	<p>Action - CDC to commence negotiations to continue provision of Debt & Money advice following expiry of the contract March 2017 - Work within the Council to plan and consider arrangements and funding to continue to provide quality debt and money advice to the residents of Cherwell following the expiry of the current tender arrangements in March 2017.</p> <p>Action - Refresh and re-launch Credit Union - Refresh and rebrand Credit Union in Cherwell to provide low cost loans and savings for Cherwell residents.</p> <p>Action - Provide on-going training and information on welfare reform for staff and partners in partnership across the Council - Provide training opportunities and updates on welfare reforms to ensure partner agencies and staff are up to date and well informed on the current issues and changes</p> <p>Continue Financial Inclusion work</p>	Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant agreements Existing resources Voluntary sector resources	1, 2, 3,4,7

		<p>expert support services and assessments for vulnerable clients. We particularly focus triage services at both the Beacon Centre and Bridges Drop in centre in Bicester to provide support for independent living and referrals to other agencies such as Citizen Advice for in-depth money and debt advice which also prevents Homelessness.</p>	<p>with Partners - work to promote and develop financial inclusion measures and joint working through regular meetings - including other teams in the Council and partner agencies across the statutory and voluntary sectors.</p> <p>Action - Support work of NOAP - Encourage service providers to work collaboratively to ensure no duplication, and coordinated support and service delivery and a joined up approach to meet client's needs. To extend this work to include Food Banks across the District. To do this we will also continue to work with Citizens Advice North Oxfordshire Advice Partnership</p>		
	<p><i>Skills and training</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build an operational working relationship with the Job Centre Plus manager 	<p>Close links were made with the JCP manager and supported the implementation of Universal Credit with Cherwell. The JCP manager left their post shortly after the implementation of UC.</p>	<p>Action - Identify new contacts at JCP - Re-establish contacts and forge close working with the new Job Centre Plus manager following staff changes.</p>		1,2,3

Key Strategic Area 2 Personal resilience

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Young People’s (YP) pathway ○ Domestic Abuse services ○ Single homeless people including those who may be sleeping rough 	<p>Re-commissioning of OCC funded support to the Young Person’s Pathway was completed in April 2015 and is now operational.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Single Homeless Pathway has been re-commissioned throughout this year and contracts have now been awarded to the successful organisations. Work is now starting for Cherwell to receive funding for support to provide local accommodation opportunities by February 2016 to ensure those with a Cherwell connection will have improved access to local accommodation within the district</p> <p>A new County Domestic Abuse Strategic lead has been appointed by OCC and is beginning a strategic review of domestic abuse services and support funding across the County.</p> <p>Locally we have established a multi-agency group in Cherwell which</p>	<p>Action - Hold local Homeless Partnership meetings and events to provide updates and training to staff and partners – communicate with local partners to share knowledge and best practice.</p> <p>Action - Attend monitoring meetings with OCC - Continue to monitor the progress of the development of supported housing in Cherwell to ensure that the new pathway for single homeless clients will be operational from 1 February 2016</p> <p>Continue to monitor the newly commissioned Supported Housing Pathway provision for young people (16-25 years) and young families provided through in the YP pathway in Cherwell.</p> <p>Action - Continue to provide DA outreach support in Cherwell District Council - Continue to provide a DA specialist outreach worker in Cherwell. This post will continue to support reported cases, assessed as low and medium risk cases by Police, to prevent homelessness whenever its possible and safe to do so</p>	<p>Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant arrangements County Council funding</p>	<p>2, 4, 5, 9</p>

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
		<p>includes representation from the Banbury purpose built Refuge to ensure we are kept updated and participate to represent Cherwell.</p>	<p>Action - Hold regular DA partnership meetings in Cherwell to keep updated - Provide a domestic abuse monitoring meeting in Cherwell to include Community Safety and those providing other specialist services in the District including Banbury refuge and also the new county DA specialist Post</p> <p>Action - Participate in the county review of domestic abuse - To work jointly with the Community Safety Manager to share attendance at the County meetings of ODASG and also to participate in the county review of domestic abuse services and refuge accommodation provision</p>		
<p>Improve and develop Partnership working and provide suitable housing options</p>	<p><i>Review service provision for vulnerable groups in the statutory and voluntary sector,</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ to create better access to services across the district ○ to optimise value from the floating support service ○ evaluate partnership funding 	<p>We have made contact with voluntary and faith groups including Food Banks and have improved partnerships with statutory agencies.</p> <p>We monitor delivery in co-operation with the floating support service provider.</p> <p>We conduct regular service level agreement monitoring meetings with all funded organisations to evaluate provision.</p>	<p>Action - Review and update website - Review information on the Cherwell website and promote the work being done across the council and other agencies to prevent homelessness within the district.</p> <p>Action - Refresh the Cherwell Community Directory - Review provision of information to agencies and individuals including the Council Community Directory.</p> <p>Action - Produce new leaflets and posters - Provision of posters and other advice and materials to report and assist those who may be sleeping rough.</p>	<p>Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant arrangements Voluntary sector resources</p>	<p>2,4,5</p>

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
			Action - Continue CDC partnership funding -Continue to monitor performance and ensure grant funding to partnership working to prevent homelessness continues		
Offer opportunities for individuals to participate in improving their housing options	Provide Self build and self-finish opportunities within the Build programme housing developments. Provide a Specialist approach and service for those applying for housing stating they are 'No fixed abode' to gain access to the Housing Register. Develop a new and improved 'Move-on protocol' to maximise the use of supported accommodation opportunities within the District	Applicants to the housing register stating they are of No Fixed Abode are offered an appointment with a Housing Officer to confirm their circumstances and discuss the housing options and support available to them. A new move-on protocol from supported accommodation has been designed as part of the recent review of the housing allocations scheme.	Action - Monitor the outcomes of the Move-on protocol - Embed the Cherwell 'Move-on protocol' with Partners providing supported housing and to monitor its success. This new way of assessing requests to move-on will enable maximisation of supported housing accommodation and also ensure that the skills required to manage a tenancy are adequately tested to ensure tenancy success. Action - Support development of a 'tenancy ready scheme' for people in prisons - Encourage the development of a tenancy ready Scheme within prisons Action - Investigate support to provide furniture and fittings by donation or at reasonable cost	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant Existing grant arrangements County Council funding Voluntary sector resources CLG offenders Bid	2
	Improve development of opportunities for single people to succeed through support, skills and housing opportunities at affordable rents in	Consideration to develop a single persons housing strategy and more new single homeless provision in Cherwell District Council. Successful CLG Single Homeless Bid led by Cherwell for the county to	Action - Work in partnership across the Housing Team to produce a Single Persons Housing Strategy to ensure there is an improved supply of single accommodation in Cherwell – This will provide a stepping stone and opportunity for those with additional		2,3,4,5

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
	Cherwell	<p>prevent homelessness and improve housing options for ex-offenders.</p> <p>Further work to be considered to understand and mitigate cuts from OCC.</p>	<p>support needs who require skills and support to enable them to access general housing successfully and will include delivery of 13 units of supported accommodation in Cherwell to be used as part of the new single homeless pathway and integrate with existing supported housing provision across the county and provide support within District.</p>		
	Develop a Rough Sleepers' action plan to try to reduce rough sleeping	<p>We have developed significant partnership working in Cherwell to provide arrange of service delivery to support vulnerable people and prevent rough sleeping in Cherwell. This continues to be a major focus for the community and we have been pleased to participate with Faith groups, Street link, Salvation Army meetings, Beacon Centre, Street Pastors and BYHP</p>	<p>Action - Produce a Rough Sleepers multi agency Action Plan and improve contact with Food banks and Street pastors - Continue to liaise with Partners to prevent homelessness and to provide support to vulnerable people. To also include the Street Pastors and Food Banks information and intelligence to work to encourage positive engagement from all those in need. Provide information to enable them to assist those they link with in the local community to access services.</p>		2,3,4,5

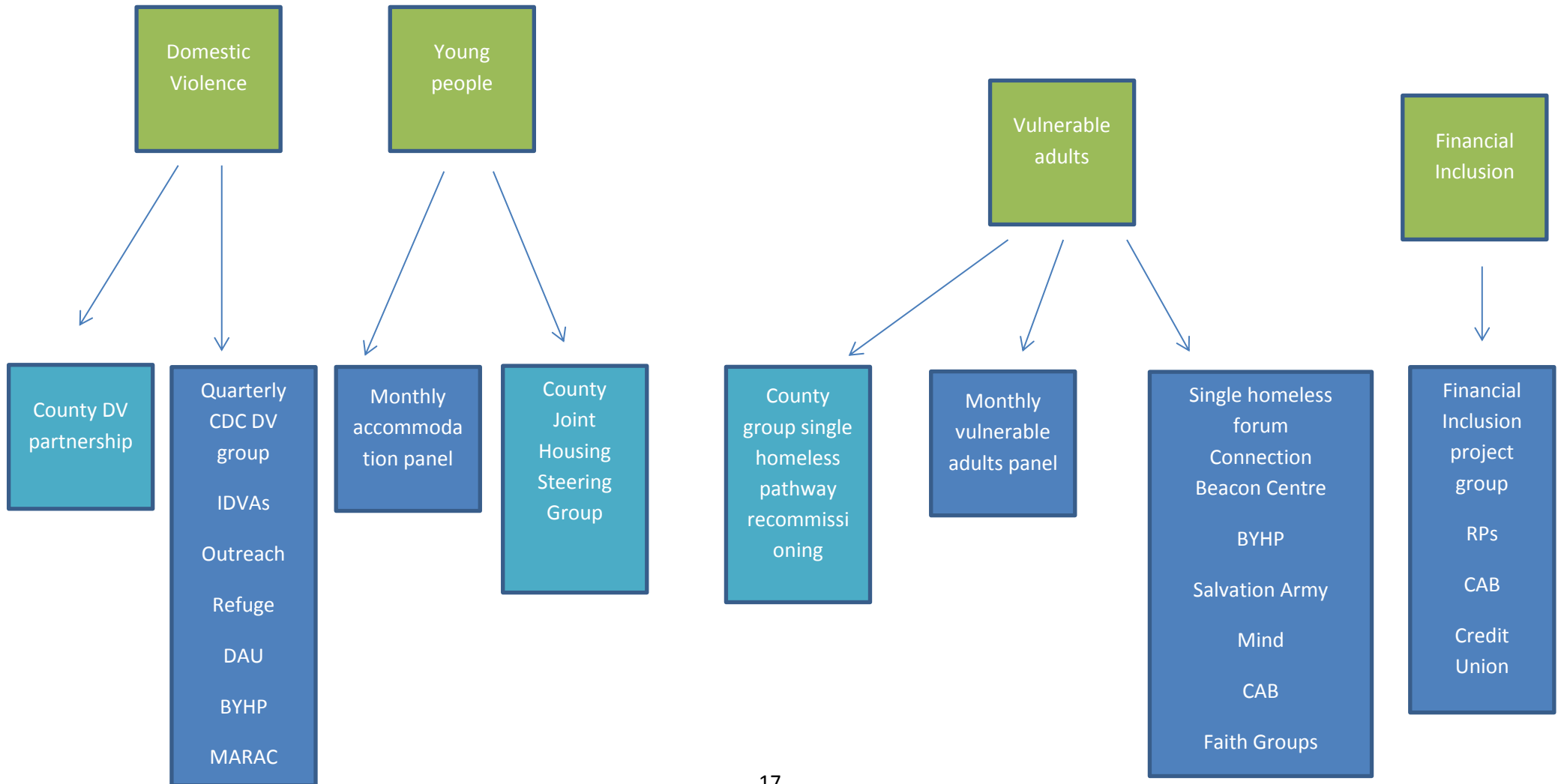
Key Strategic Area 3 Personal Health and Wellbeing					
Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going Forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
Improve partnership working to develop and maintain services in a time of austerity, offering opportunities to develop expertise and share 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 ○ Vulnerable Adults accommodation panel ○ Young People's accommodation panel 	<p>There have been significant changes to partnership working and commissioning of supported housing.</p> <p>Operational joint working and partnership has continued successfully in Cherwell with both Young Peoples and Vulnerable Adults meetings monthly.</p> <p>A council financial inclusion event was supported and appreciated by partners</p> <p>Partnership working is essential to minimise effects of the on-going changes</p>	<p>Action - Continue to support partnerships in the local community to prevent homelessness and promote financial inclusion - Partnership working continues to be essential to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>We will continue our existing links within existing resources to continue the current service delivery.</p>	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant County Council	2,5
	Participate in all forum opportunities for discussion and partnership working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ JATAC ○ MARAC ○ Joint Housing Steering Group ○ Oxfordshire Housing and Homelessness 	<p>The Housing Department has continued to be represented at the various multi-agency meetings to ensure that Cherwell are aware of activities taking place across the district and throughout Oxfordshire.</p> <p>This has allowed us to identify opportunities to work in</p>	<p>Action - Continue to attend relevant multi-agency meetings for discussion and partnership working opportunities – to participate at Oxfordshire County Council meetings to discuss the effect of the significant government budget cuts at OCC which will</p>	Existing resources Homelessness prevention grant	2

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going Forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group ○ Health and Wellbeing Board ○ Brighter Futures theme groups ○ Credit Union project group ○ Financial inclusion partnership ○ HSAG Reviewing and forming new groups if necessary	<p>partnership such as the DCLG Single Homeless fund project supporting ex-offenders throughout Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The joint Credit Union Project with South Northants DC has ended. Initial conversations have been held to start a Cherwell focused project in partnership with Sanctuary is to begin shortly to ensure delivery reflects the needs of the district.</p>	<p>affect current supported housing provision and working arrangements in Cherwell and across the county.</p> <p>New requirements for Safeguarding and the new MASH referral system for adults and children needs to be embedded with partners and staff through a training programme</p> <p>Action – Continue to develop the DCLG offender project to prevent homelessness - On-going strategic assessment of ex-offender housing needs through the on-going work with DCLG funding and the CRC in Cherwell</p> <p>New IT platform for Credit union</p>		
<p>Work towards Gold Standard for homelessness services and continue to provide a high quality housing options service, focussing on homelessness prevention</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>A diagnostic peer review was undertaken in September 2014 which we passed with a mark of 72%. This has allowed us to now begin applying for the 10 challenges to meet the gold standard</p>	<p>Action - Continue work to achieve homeless Gold standard - Work with the National Practitioner Support Service, NHAS and the Oxfordshire Housing Homeless group to meet the Gold Standard and use the diagnostic peer review tool to improve performance.</p>	<p>Existing resources</p>	<p>all</p>

Key objectives	Key actions and milestones	Progress to date	Going Forward	Resources	Gold Standard Challenge
	Implement the new Allocations Scheme ensuring those in greatest need are prioritised for housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reassess applications to achieve appropriate banding under the new scheme ○ Ensure applicants understand the new scheme ○ Train partners in the new scheme 	<p>A review of the existing allocations scheme has been undertaken this year and a revised version was launched on 7 September 2015 following consultation with partners about proposed changes.</p> <p>Changes introduced included the introduction of a reserve list for those without a recognised housing need and the introduction of priority for people who can demonstrate that are subject to financial hardship within their existing home.</p>	<p>Action - Regularly review Allocations Scheme rules as new changes in legislation are introduced and monitor rent levels across all housing sectors - Monitor the changes introduced by the revised allocations scheme to ensure that those in greatest need are prioritised for housing and that there have not been unintended consequences of the review.</p>	Existing resources	2

Appendix A Homeless partnerships **Cherwell District Council Homelessness partnerships**

Themes, County Group Cherwell Group



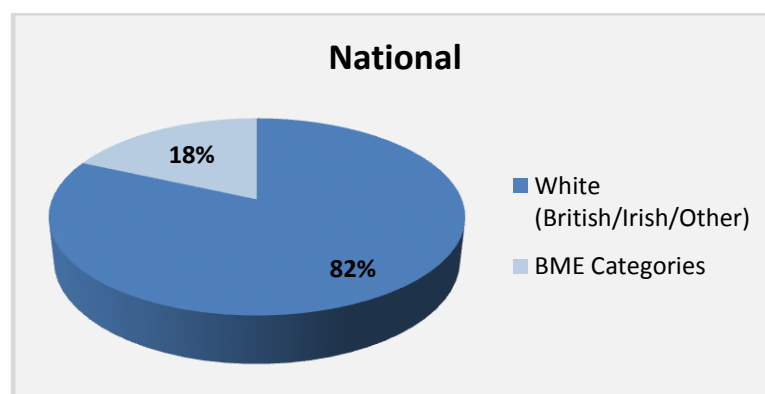
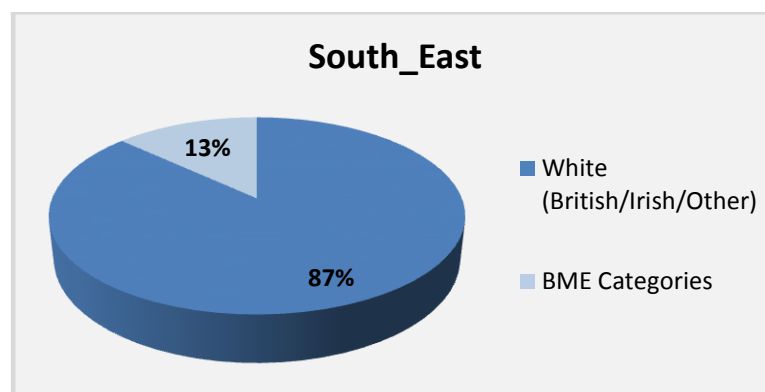
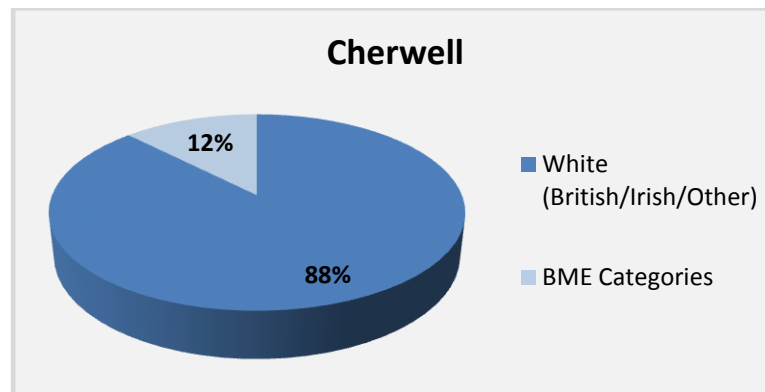
Appendix B

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. Current proportions are shown in the graphs below.



Source Gold standard NPSS

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%

2. Housing Demand

Changes made to the Housing Allocations Scheme as part of the Localism Act 2011 meant there was a significant reduction in the number of people eligible to join the housing register. We have recently reviewed these changes and amended the allocations scheme to support more people to join the housing register. The figure below show the number of people registered to be on the housing register as of 5th November 2015.

Band	General	Homeless	ST moving to district	Transfer	Grand Total
1	39			66	105
2	345	28	1	89	463
3	218			39	257
Reserve List	15			3	18
Grand Total	617	28	1	197	843

The table below shows that the 87% of people on the housing register need 1 or 2 bedroom properties.

Current Bedroom Need	General	Homeless	ST moving to district	Transfer	Grand Total
4	19			16	35
3	46			25	71
2	245	28		49	322
1	307		1	107	415
Grand Total	617	28	1	197	843

3. Trends in Homelessness

a) Rough Sleeping

The number of people reported to DCLG as rough sleeping within the district in 14/15 was 14. The most recent estimate (conducted in November 2015) increased to 21 with Cherwell. Oxfordshire saw a 64% increase in the number of people reported as sleeping rough in 14/15. This was partly due to a change in the way rough sleepers were reported by Oxford City who had previously conducted a street count whilst the other districts conduct estimates due to the geographic nature of the different constituencies.

Cherwell have seen an increase in the number of people reported as sleeping rough in the past year.

Year	Total Reported	Total Verified	Access the Pathway	Refused the Pathway	Not Eligible/ No Local Connection	Re-connected
Aug 12 – Mar 13	38	8	4	0	3	1
Apr 13 – Mar 14	90	27	8	15	3	1
Apr 14 – Mar 15	132	79	25	21	7	2
Apr 15 – Sept 15	60	27	7	10	0	0

For 2015/16 Cherwell have funded Connection directly to provide an outreach service within the District for Rough Sleepers. This has allowed Cherwell to link the outreach service with the generic floating support service within the district and for Connection to attend the day centres at Banbury Beacon and Bicester Salvation Army 2 days a week to allow for a smooth transition between the different parts of the support services available.

Homeless Presentations –

Figures show that the number of people approaching the council as homeless or at threat of becoming homelessness has increased in the past year.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Cancelled	2	1	0	5
Number of Presentations	124	127	128	166
Accepted	62	59	51	78
Non Priority	10	9	22	26
Intentionally Homeless	30	24	33	26
Not Homeless	20	27	14	30
Not Eligible	2	1	3	1
Pending	0	5	5	0
198 Referrals	0	2	0	1
Duty Presentations	72	58	52	100
Casework Presentations	53	69	76	66

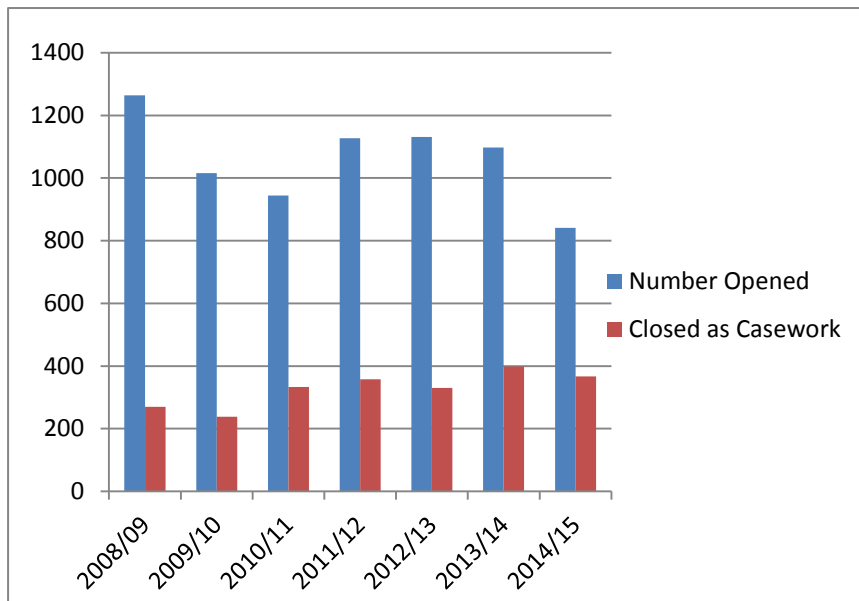
- The number of presentations continues to increase, last year we saw an increase of 22%
- The number of people being accepted increased by 23%
- 28% of approaches were from Singles or Couples
- The number of presentations made to duty increased by 92% - this was in part due to changes in service delivery in the housing needs team due to vacancies within the team and long term sickness

Reasons for Presentations and acceptances

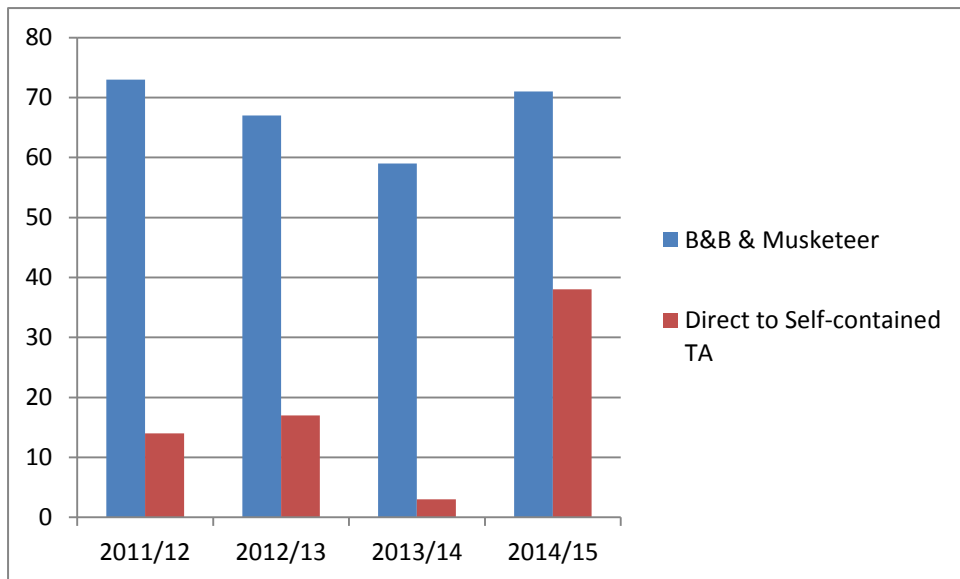
		Number	per cent		Number	per cent
Reasons	2013/14	Accepted		2014/15	Accepted	
End AST	26	11	20%	48	24	29%
Parental Eviction	27	11	21%	35	23	21%
Relative / Friend Eviction	20	5	16%	18	8	11%
Relationship Breakdown	10	8	8%	18	6	11%
Other Loss of private / Tied	4	2	3%	14	5	8%
Domestic Abuse	13	5	10%	8	3	5%
Hospital Discharge	3	0	2%	1	0	1%
Other Violence	1	0	1%	3	1	2%
Illegal Eviction	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mortgage Repossession	3	3	3	4	2	2%
NFA	3	0	2%	2	0	1%
Prison	1	0	1%	1	0	1%
Supported Accom Eviction	4	3	3%	9	5	5%
Emergency	5	1	4%	1	1	1%
Loss of Tied accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0
MOD Discharge	4	1	3%	0	0	0
Other Reasons	0	0	0	2	0	1%
Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0
RSL Eviction	4	1	3%	2	0	1%
S198 Referral	0	0		1	1	
totals	128	51		166	78	

- We have seen the number of people approaching the council for assistance having been evicted from Private Rented Accommodation nearly double in the past year this is now the top reason for people becoming homeless in Cherwell.

- **Advice and Prevention**



Emergency Temporary Accommodation Placements



Though improved casework we have been able to plan more efficiently for cases that we are aware will require placing in temporary accommodation. This improves the standard of service being provided and prevents costs to the council in having to identify expensive B&B accommodation.