



Sunderland

HOMELESSNESS FORUM

21 November 2018

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

Opening of the Forum

Cllr Stuart Porthouse

Why Preventing and tackling Homelessness is so Important

Graham King, Sunderland City Council

The Way Forward – Sunderland's Homelessness Strategy

Gill Lawson, Sunderland City Council

Work on the Ground

Helen Aitchison and Graham Ord, Changing Lives

Question Time

The Homelessness Reduction Act 6 Months on

Steve McKinley, MHCLG

Workshops

Close

LUNCH



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WELCOME

Cllr Stuart Porthouse

Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration



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WHY PREVENTING AND TACKLING HOMELESSNESS IS SO IMPORTANT

Graham King

Head of Commissioning, Sunderland City Council



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**WHY PREVENTING AND
TACKLING HOMELESSNESS
IN THE CITY IS SO IMPORTANT**

Background and journey so far
Statutory obligations and developments
Poor outcomes for people



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AVERAGE AGE OF DEATH (2001-2009)

Homeless



Men
48
years



Women
43
years

General Population



Men
74
years



Women
80
years



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Current developments
Collaboration is the key to success



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**WHY PREVENTING AND
TACKLING HOMELESSNESS
IN THE CITY IS SO IMPORTANT**

THE WAY FORWARD – SUNDERLAND'S HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Gill Lawson

Homelessness and Hostel Manager, Sunderland City Council



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ROUGH SLEEPING AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY

2019-2021

11.4%



Potential parental exclusion

11.3%



Potential termination of assured shorthold tenancy

10.6%



Potential relative/friend exclusion

10.1%



Relationship breakdown - non-violent

9.6%



Not recorded

9.2%

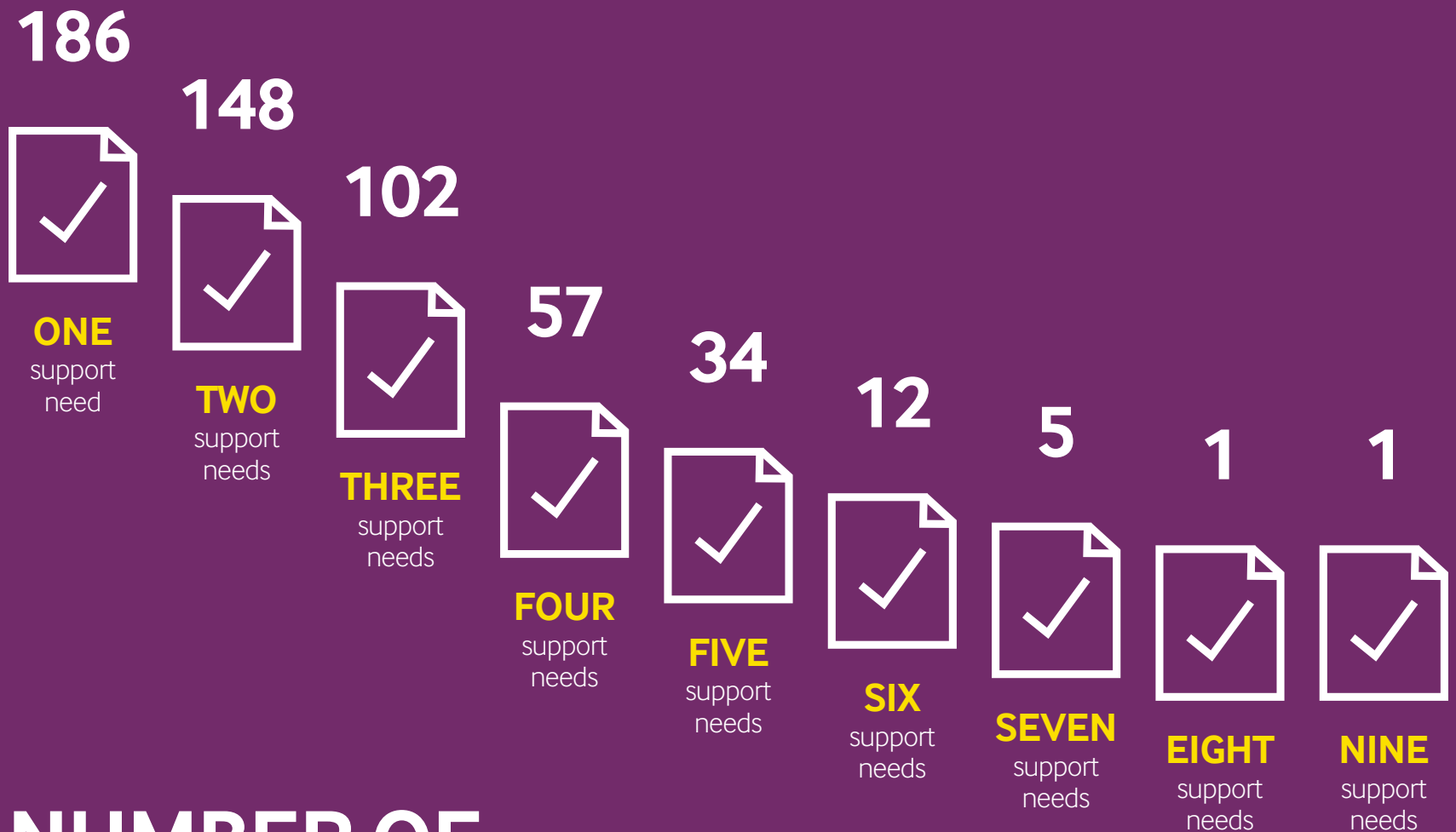


Domestic violence involving partner

MAIN HOMELESSNESS TRIGGERS IN SUNDERLAND



Sunderland HOMELESSNESS FORUM



NUMBER OF SUPPORT NEEDS PER CASE

ROUGH SLEEPERS STRATEGY



Prevention



Intervention



Recovery



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PRIORITY 1

Help people to remain
in their own homes
and prevent
homelessness



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PRIORITY 2

Support our most
vulnerable groups
(intervention)



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PRIORITY 3

Provide sustainable housing solutions (recovery)



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PRIORITY 4

Develop and maintain partnership working and strategic direction



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ROUGH SLEEPING AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY

2019-2021

WORK ON THE GROUND – TRANSLATING STRATEGY INTO ACTION

Helen Aitchison and Graham Ord

Changing Lives

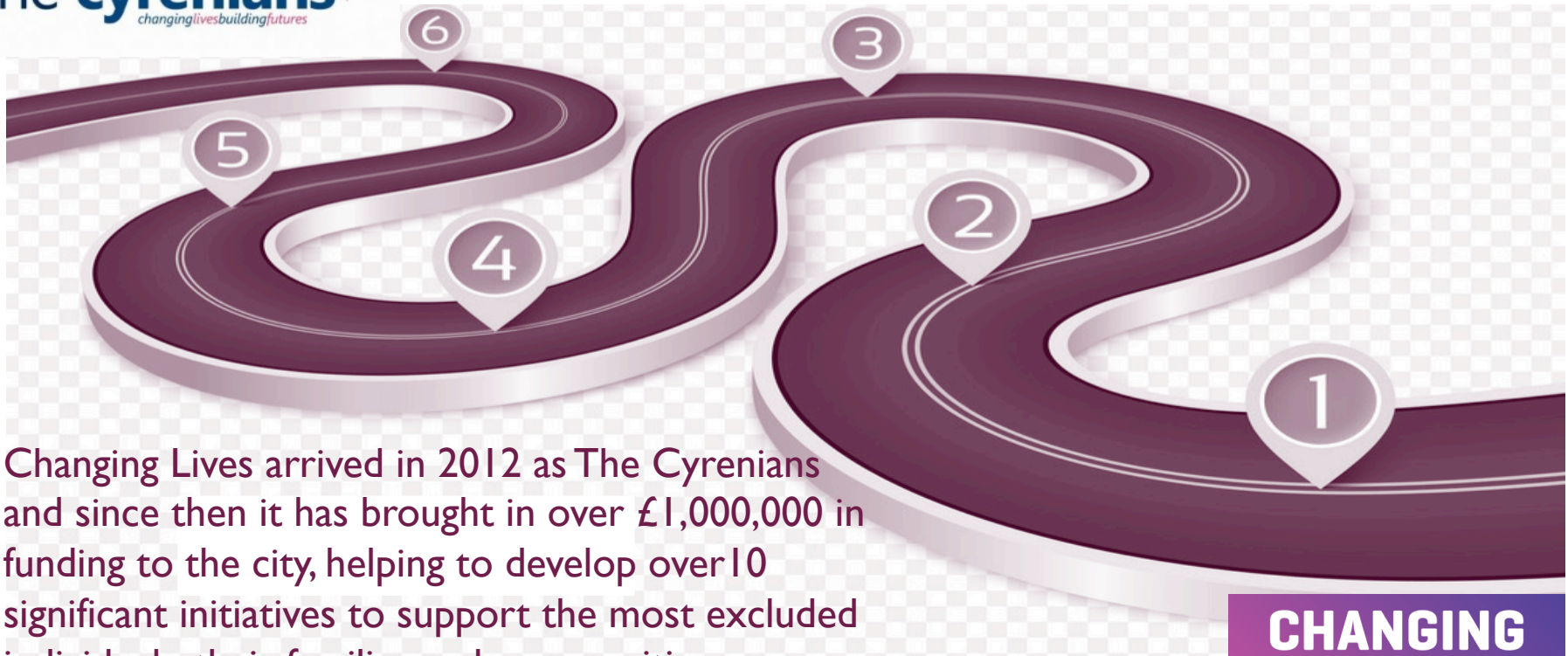


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CHANGING LIVES IN SUNDERLAND

CHANGING LIVES





Changing Lives arrived in 2012 as The Cyrenians and since then it has brought in over £1,000,000 in funding to the city, helping to develop over 10 significant initiatives to support the most excluded individuals, their families and communities.

**CHANGING
LIVES**

CURRENT SERVICES

- Homeless Response Service
- Homeless Veterans Service
- Homeless Hospital Prevention Service
- Sanctum Service
- CDAS
- GAP and MAP / Sanctuary Hub
- Ready to Work Service
- WEAR Recovery



AISHA'S STORY

HOUSING FIRST CLIENT



WHO WE ARE?

CHANGING LIVES IN...

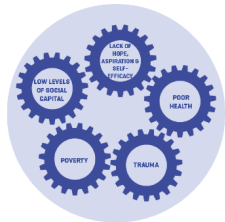


- **We support:**
 - Over 7,000 people supported each month
 - Over 100 projects offering life-changing support
- **Our services:**
 - Homelessness
 - Drug and Alcohol
 - Women and Families
 - Employment

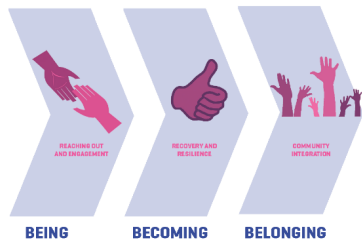
THEORY OF CHANGE

THEORY OF CHANGE

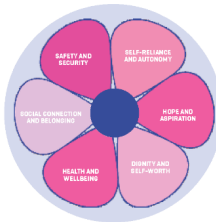
INTERCONNECTED PROBLEMS



THREE-STAGE JOURNEY



FLOURISHING PEOPLE



**CHANGING
LIVES**

 /ChangingLivesCharity

 @ChangingLives_

www.changing-lives.org.uk

- Therapeutic Recovery through a trauma informed understanding
- Strength based work that dissolves “label” Status whilst still validating experience
- Flexible Service Delivery and Co-production
- Personalised approach of choice, control and involvement
- Peer led
- Assertive Outreach, Refer and Accompany

OUR SERVICES ARE
INTEGRATED





HOUSING FIRST IS A CROSS
BOROUGH INITIATIVES



-
- 21 Entrenched homeless individuals supported in their own homes
 - 13 of which have spent over 16 months of stability with representation as homeless
 - No reoffending from the 15 Individuals with a previous history of offending
 - 18 GP registrations which has stopped their presentation at A&E services
 - 10 Mental Health assessments that have led to meaningful treatment
 - 8 Women supported with their complex needs who could not access mainstream provision
 - 14 Referrals into recovery services



- No First Night Out 33
- No Second Night Out 27
- 302 Brief interventions that prevented rough sleeping and representation as homeless
- Including:

UC 24
 Universal
 Credit



ROUGH SLEEPERS

Sunderland in Numbers

-
- **“This is the best house I have ever lived in and it is great to know when something like the boiler goes off I can ring and it will be fixed”**
 - **“It shows what a decent house and some support can do...I have struggled all my life and it feels this is the first time someone has actually helped me...not just supervised my kids and me, but actually helped.”**
 - **“Changing Lives? You’ve certainly changed my life”**
 - **“It’s safe and I now can think about what has happened to me in my life. But it’s positive because I can get help to deal with it.”**
 - **“Life is hard, it always has been, but I have a chance now and it’s on my terms and it’s my choices.”**

CLIENT VOICE



Individual Experiences

WHAT'S NEXT

CHANGING
LIVES



-
- Changing Lives homeless services to continue in Sunderland
 - Changing Lives and partners to continue to be part of the development, delivery and review of the Homeless Strategy in Sunderland utilising a robust consortium approach to prevention and responding and ending homelessness
 - Sunderland to continue to develop pragmatic and pioneering responses to homelessness (i.e CL's Housing First Sustainment Worker, Sanctum)
 - Standardised strategy, toolkit and response to individuals needs throughout Sunderland
 - Sunderland to be at the voice for the North East to influence National strategies and agenda

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Future

QUESTION TIME



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THE HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT SIX MONTHS ON

Steve McKinley

Homeless Advice Support Team, MHCLG



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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The Homelessness Reduction Act Six Months on

Steve McKinlay

Homelessness Advice and Support Team



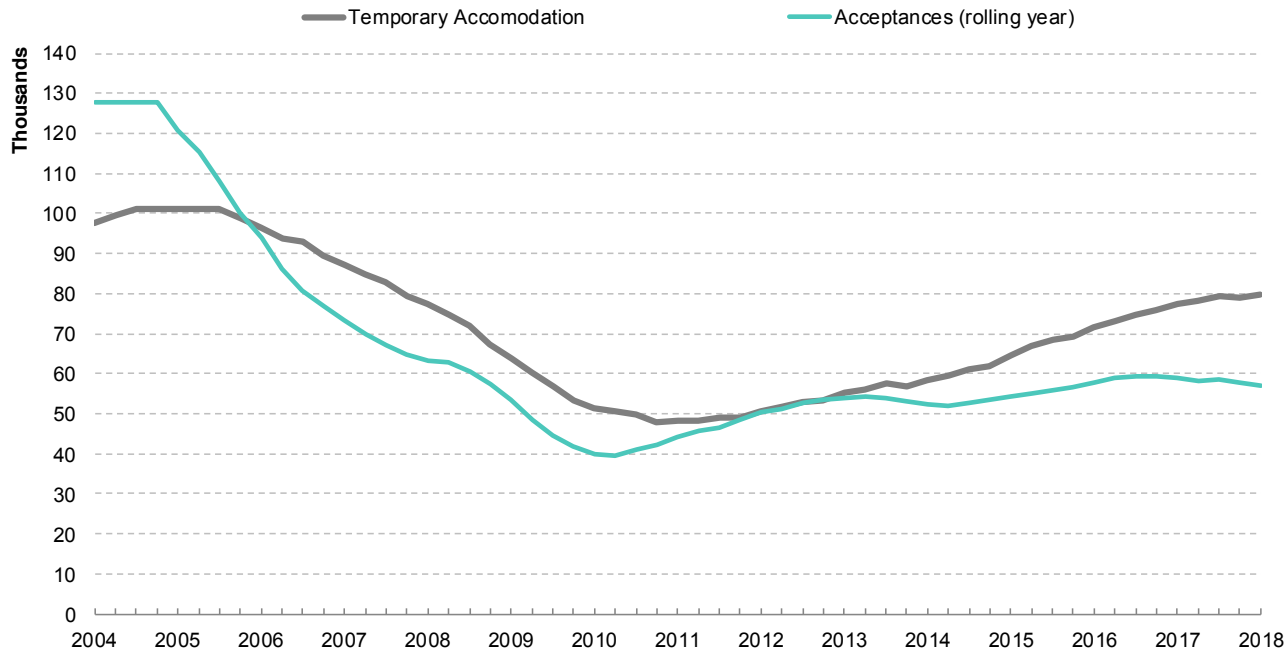
- Brief background to the Act and support on implementation
- Feedback on progress to date from local authorities
- Rough Sleeping update



Trends in homelessness

The Homelessness Reduction Act was introduced in a context of rising acceptances and numbers of households in temporary accommodation.

The number of households accepted as homeless and in temporary accommodation, Q1 2004 to Q1 2018 (000s)



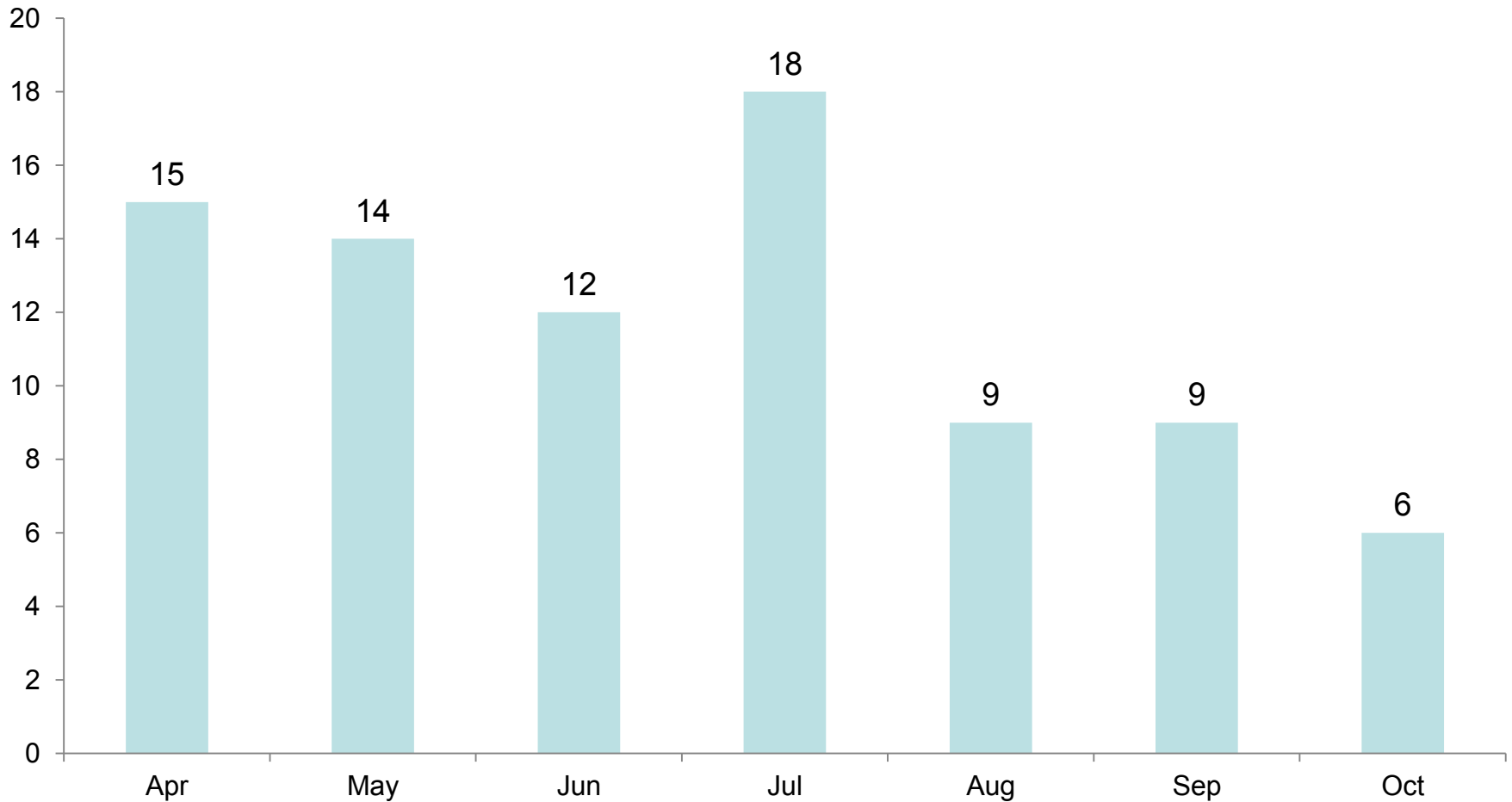
- 56,580 households were accepted as homeless 2017-18
- 79,880 households were in temporary accommodation as at 31 March 2018;
- 5,940 households in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation at 31 March 2018.

Source: MHCLG P1E

Since 2010 homeless acceptances and the associated use of temporary accommodation and bed and breakfast have been increasing – although in the last year there has been a decrease in acceptances and reduction of families in B&B over 6 weeks

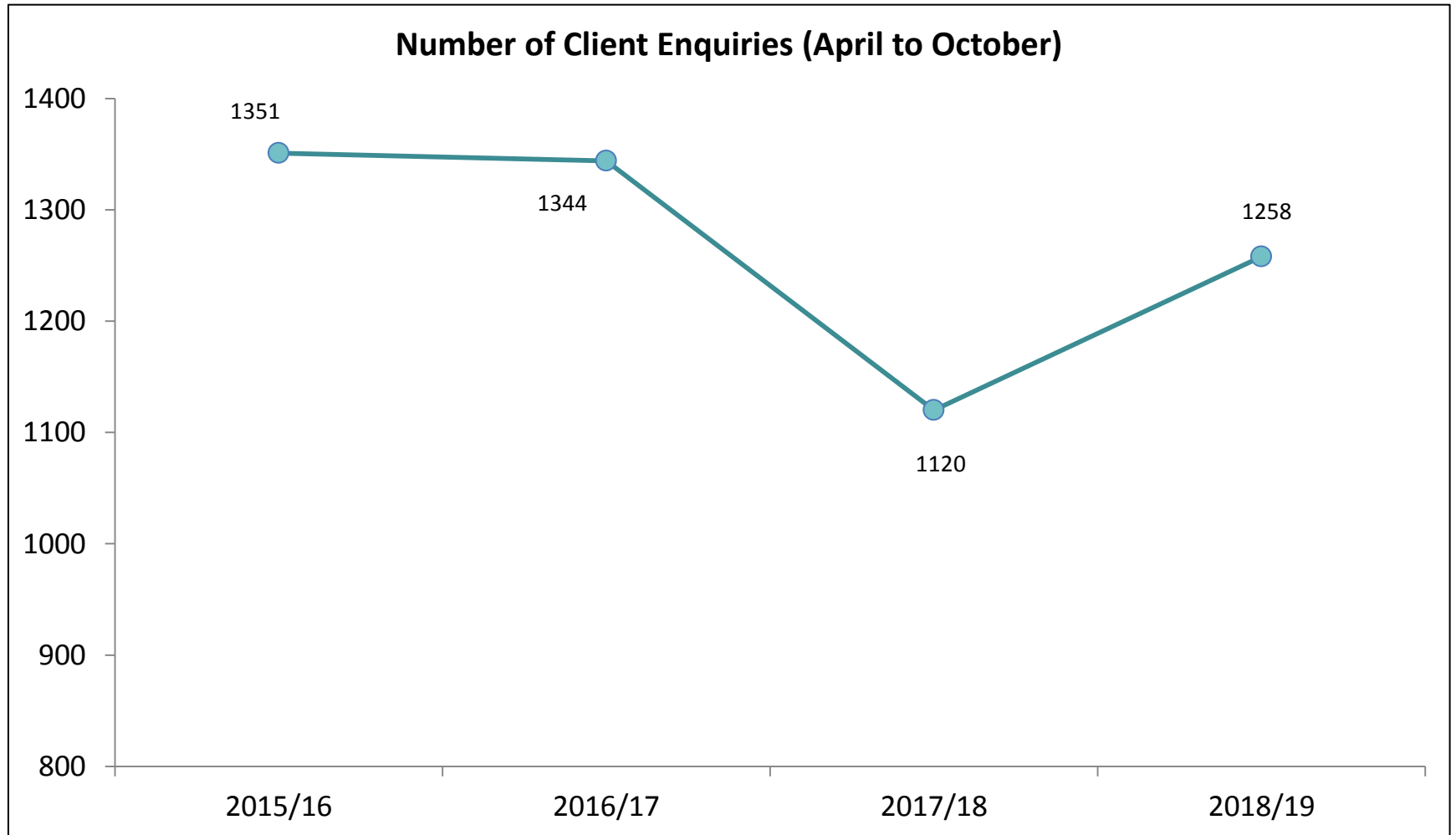


Temporary Accommodation started since April 2018





2004-2018 Sunderland data





Homelessness Reduction Act

Shifts local authority approach to homelessness from less crisis intervention to more prevention, ensuring more people are entitled to help

Background

- **Housing Act 1996 Part 7** remains the primary legislation
- **Prior to April 2018** the principal duty was to secure accommodation for applicants who were eligible, homeless or threatened with homelessness within 28 days and who had a 'priority need' for housing and were homeless unintentionally
- **Homelessness Reduction Act 2017** amended the 1996 Act, introducing new statutory duties to act to **prevent and relieve** homelessness for all eligible applicants who are homeless or threatened with homelessness **within 56 days**

Before 3 April 2018

- **Single people** with no clear priority need were entitled to 'advice and assistance', but their needs were often not assessed
- **Prevention activity** was 'good practice', but not compulsory – crisis response at the point of homelessness was commonplace
- **The process** involved an application, officers undertaking inquiries, assessing an applicant against the statutory tests and making a decision, without needing to involve the applicant in finding possible solutions

Now

- **All eligible applicants** have a full assessment of their housing and support needs.
- Local connection, intentionality and priority need are not a barrier to accessing support.
- **Applicants and authorities work together** to prevent or relieve homelessness.



The Act placed a number of new duties on local housing authorities

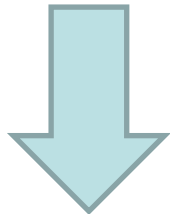
- **Expanded advice and information duty:** Available to **all residents** regardless of eligibility. Advice must be designed to meet the needs of particular groups: care leavers, former members of the armed forces, people leaving custody, victims of domestic abuse, people leaving hospital and people with mental health issues.
- **Prevention duty :** Owed to all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness in the next 56 days irrespective of 'local connection', 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'. Includes tenants served with a valid Section 21 notice (no fault eviction) which expires within 56 days.
- **Relief duty :** Owed to people who are actually homeless and lasts for 56 days, irrespective of 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'. The local authority **may refer** to another authority if the applicant has no local connection to their authority



1258 clients applied for Housing
Advice

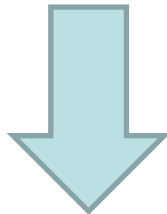


892 HRA Applications



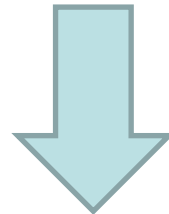
136 households
threatened with
homelessness
PREVENTED

- Secured 6 or 12 month tenancy
- Secured existing accommodation
- Negotiation/advocacy with landlords



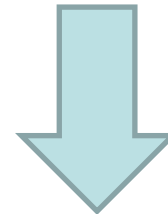
224 households
threatened with
homelessness
RELIEVED

- Secured 6 or 12 month tenancy
- Secured supported housing
- Negotiations with family
- Accommodation secured through financial payment



94 Assessed as NOT
HOMELESS

- Secured 6 or 12 month tenancy
- Secured supported housing
- Negotiations with family
- Accommodation secured through financial payment



16 Homeless Acceptances

- Homeless + priority need + unintentionally homeless - s193(2) duty

As well as...

25 applications
withdrawn prior to
assessment

2 Hungry Dogs fed

83 households placed
in TA

48 people funded for
hostel accommodation



Will encourage local housing authorities and other public authorities to build stronger partnerships focussed on early help and intervention and to build more integrated pathways and services.

It will help ensure that people who face the threat of homelessness are identified earlier through their contacts with public authorities and get referred for help

The duty applies to:

- Prisons and youth offender institutions;
- Secure training centres and Secure colleges;
- Youth offending teams;
- Probation services (including community rehabilitation companies);
- Jobcentre Plus;
- Social service authorities;
- Emergency departments and Urgent treatment centres;
- Hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care;
- Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the armed forces.

Consent is needed prior to a referral being made.

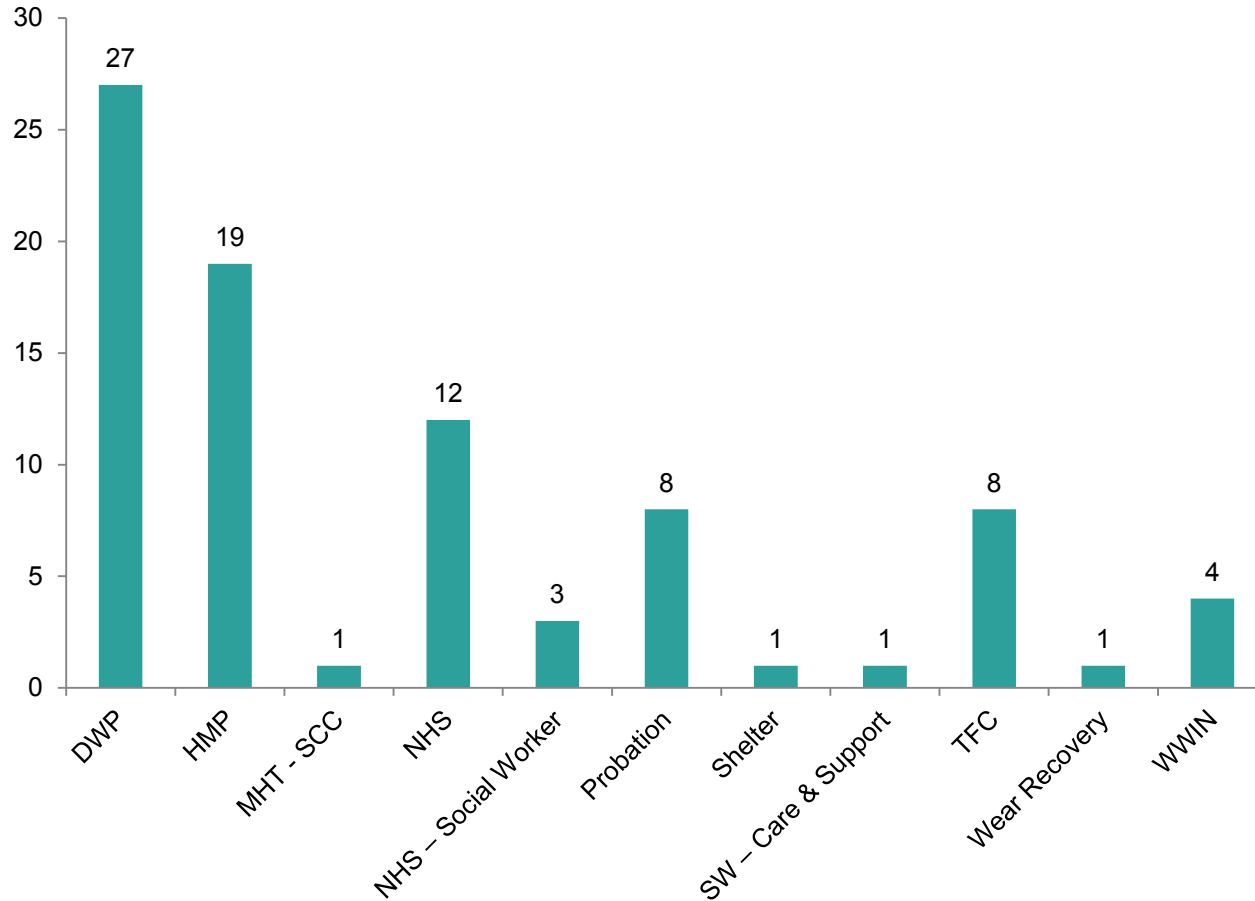
We have provided support ahead of 1 October to other government departments

- We worked with OGDs to publish guidance aimed at the specified public authorities.
- We also gave LGA feedback on their guidance
- DWP and MoJ produced operational guidance for their public authorities. DHSC also produced guidance for hospitals. DfE wrote to Directors of Children's Services and put information in a weekly bulletin.
- We asked local authorities to adopt a standard email address for referrals (dutytorefer@localauthority.gov.uk) and to date most LAs have adopted this and we are working with the rest to encourage them to do so



Sunderland duty to refer stats

Public authority referral received from





OGD responsibilities

Department of Health and Social Care

- Rapid audit of gaps in provision of substance abuse and mental health services [with aim to provide up to £30m from 19/20]
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews

Ministry of Justice

- Offender accommodation pilots
- Increased accountability for prison Governors and Community Rehabilitation Companies

Department of Work and Pensions

- Homelessness experts in every Jobcentre Plus
- Improving guidance & practice sharing for work coaches & external stakeholders
- Exploring how welfare works for Housing First

Home Office

- Targeted immigration casework support
- A national point of contact for assistance with immigration status

Department for Education

- Additional support for care leavers at risk of rough sleeping

Department for Culture Media and Sport

- Expanding the social finance market including SIBs



Support for implementation and work on homelessness prevention

To support the implementation of the new legislation we have:

- **Updated** the Homelessness Code of Guidance
- **Provided £72.7 million** in new burdens funding (Sunderland £73, 876)
- Committed to **review the Act** within 2 years
- Established the **Homelessness Advice and Support Team (HAST)** who offer advice and support to local authorities on preventing homelessness and implementing the Act
- **Funded Trailblazers** are trying out new approaches to prevention that others can learn from, including some 'upstream' interventions
- **LB Southwark** was funded as an 'early adopter' of the HRA. They hosted visits and shared their learning and tools on request with large numbers of authorities



Other support to prevent and relieve homelessness

A range of funding to support work on homelessness and rough sleeping

- **Flexible Homelessness Support Grant** - £617 million ring-fenced funding from 2017/18-2019/20. Funding breakdown 2017/18: £196 million: 2018/19: £206 million, **2019/20: £215 million.**
- Sunderland received £84,215 Flexible Homeless Support Grant funding for 2018/19.
- **Private Rented Access Scheme funding** - On 10 October we launched this £20 million fund to enable better access to the PRS for those who are or threatened with homelessness. Funding is to prevent single homelessness and reduce households in TA.



Early key messages coming through from local authorities

The Act represents a major shift in practice, organisation, and culture which will take some time to bed in. Some areas are facing delivery challenges

- Some authorities in high demand areas are reporting that the administrative burden of the Act combined with new case management systems and the requirements of reporting H-CLIC data are challenging
- Footfall has not increased significantly in most authorities but associated casework has, with more duties owed and cases held open longer for prevention and relief work
- Availability of accommodation to prevent and relieve homelessness affecting outcomes- including access to social housing, PRS and supported housing
- Some LAS reporting increase in TA, partly due to improved assessment and offer for single people, but also because the strong focus on delivering the HRA has led to less resource in the short term going into management of TA



Rough Sleeping *Building on the Homelessness Reduction Act, there is greater focus on rough sleeping. To help meet the commitment to halve the number of people rough sleeping by 2022 and to eliminate it altogether by 2027 we have published the Rough Sleeping Strategy*

Rough Sleeping Initiative 2018/19

- 83 local authorities reporting highest levels of rough sleeping
- £30 million for this year to have immediate impact on reducing rough sleeping
- New team of Advisers working with local authorities
- Reporting to Secretary of State regularly on progress

Rough Sleeping Initiative 2019/20

- Allocated a further £34 million provisionally to the 83 authorities
- Expressions of Interest letters to all other authorities regarding a further £11 million funding available.

Rapid Rehousing Pathways for rough sleepers:

From the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy - EOI requested from local areas wishing to be early adopters of new provision: 15

Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs; Social Lettings Agencies; Supported Lettings and new Navigator roles to support people rough sleeping.

- £14 million this year and additional funding next year for other areas.



Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategies

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities/chapter-2-homelessness-strategies-and-reviews>





Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Thanks for listening

Steve McKinlay
HAST@communities.gov.uk

WORKSHOPS

A GIVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CITY'S HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME

Café/reception area – Liz McEvoy

B CHALLENGES FOR HOMELESSNESS – INPUT INTO THE CITY'S EMERGING HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Main room – Gill Lawson



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CLOSING REMARKS AND MOVING FORWARD

Cllr Stuart Porthouse

Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration



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