Homelessness Review 2021

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1. Introduction

1.1 Why conduct a homelessness review?

Housing authorities are required by legislation (Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) to carry out a periodic review of homelessness in their area. The purpose of the review is to determine the extent to which the population in the district is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, assess the likely extent in the future, identify what is currently being done and by whom, and identify what resources are available to prevent and tackle homelessness.

Local housing authorities should use this understanding of homelessness in their area to inform their Homelessness Strategy and they are obliged by legislation to involve partners in this process. In addition, the Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities sets out some requirements for a Homelessness Strategy.

It should:

- Link to the wider contributory factors of homelessness, such as health, wellbeing, employment and economic factors.
- Be consistent with other corporate strategies and objectives.
- Involve partners in implementing the strategic homelessness objectives.
- Have an Action Plan to show how the strategic objectives will be achieved.
- Be monitored and reviewed during the life of the Strategy.

1.2 Definition of Homelessness

The main provisions for dealing with homelessness are contained in Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended). The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 came into force on 3 April 2018. It made significant changes to Part 7 of the 1996 Act. Its main effect was to place increased duties on local authorities to assess an applicant's needs and to prevent and relieve homelessness.

A person is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that they will become homeless within 56 days. This includes where they have been given a valid section 21 notice in respect of their only accommodation, and the notice is due to expire within 56 days. Where a person is threatened with homelessness, the local authority will have a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent them from becoming homeless.

A person is statutorily homeless if they have no accommodation available for their occupation which they have a legal right to occupy and is reasonable for them to continue to occupy. If the person is statutorily homeless, the local authority will have some form of duty towards them. This ranges from advice and assistance, or providing interim accommodation, to the relief duty or the main housing duty of securing accommodation for a continuing period. The extent of the duty will depend on whether or not they are, or may

be, eligible for assistance, in priority need, intentionally homeless, or have a local connection. It is important to note that there is only a duty to secure accommodation for those who are eligible for assistance and have a priority need.

The priority need categories are set out in Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and these are:

- Pregnant women
- Households with dependent children
- 16 and 17 year olds
- Care leavers aged 18,19 or 20
- People made homeless by an emergency
- People vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or physical disability, having been in care, having served in the armed forces, having been in custody, having to leave accommodation because of violence or abuse or those who are vulnerable for some other special reason.

2. Homelessness in context

2.1 National context

A range of national policies and priorities, alongside legislation, have influenced and helped to shape the direction of the Council's Homelessness Strategy. Ending rough sleeping, reducing overall levels of homelessness and the eliminating the use of unsuitable emergency accommodation are national priorities. These are also linked to other strategies and initiatives relating to: reducing substance misuse, supporting victims of domestic abuse, reducing delayed hospital discharges, supporting looked after children and vulnerable families, supporting care leavers, and helping to rehabilitate those within the criminal justice system.

Key pieces of legislation and national polices include:

- The Criminal Justice Act 2003
- The Mental Health Act 2007
- The Health and Social Care Act 2012
- The Care Act 2014
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- HM Government Care Leavers Strategy 2014
- The Localism Act 2011
- The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- The Homelessness Code Of Guidance for Local Authorities 2018
- The Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018
- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, national levels of homelessness, rough sleeping and placements into temporary accommodation, including bed and breakfast style accommodation, had risen year on year over the last decade.

Thanks to temporary protective measures, particularly income protection programmes and eviction moratoria, the Covid-19 pandemic triggered no overall increase in homeless applications nationally. Temporary accommodation placements surged however, particularly of single homeless people, as the result of the emergency measures to protect those at risk of rough sleeping (Everyone In) during the pandemic.

The pandemic has also further exposed England's severe shortage of affordable homes. Access to long-term housing was the capacity challenge most widely seen as having been posed by the pandemic by local authorities according to research conducted by Crisis, a homelessness charity. A majority of councils surveyed said it had become harder to place homeless households in both social rented and private rented sector housing during the pandemic. *(Crisis homelessness monitor 2021)*

2.2 Local Context

Teignbridge

At a district level, the key strategic plans linked to this strategy are:

- The Teignbridge District Council Housing Strategy 2021-2026
- The Teignbridge Tenancy Strategy 2019
- The Teignbridge Council Strategy 2020-2030
- The Teignbridge Local Plan 2020-2033
- The Dartmoor National Park Local Plan 2006-2026

The Teignbridge Housing Strategy 2021-26 sets out what the Council, and its partners will be doing over the next five years to improve the housing situation for our current and future residents, and should be read alongside our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. Our vision is grouped into five key themes which reflect the broad range of work that we do to meet housing need in Teignbridge. The five key themes are:

1. Building affordable homes.
2. Improving homes
3. Preventing homelessness and addressing rough sleeping
4. Putting the client first and
5. Tackling climate change.

Devon

At a county-wide level, the key strategic plans linked to this strategy are:

- Happy and Healthy Communities, Devon's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025
- Wider Devon Sustainability and Transformation Plan 2016
- Promoting Independence in Devon, 5 Year Plan for Adult Social Care 2018
- The Children and Young People's Plan 2019-2023
- Healthy Lives, Vibrant Communities, Housing Choices, a Joint Strategic Approach to Supporting People to Live Independently in Devon 2020-2025
- Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation in Devon (currently at consultation phase)
- The Devon Partnership Trust Community Mental Health Framework (currently under development)
- Team Devon COVID-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus 2020

The Devon Recovery Co-ordination Group (DRCG) was established following the first response phase of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. The group brought together representatives across Devon to work with communities and help to reset, restart and regrow Devon. A crucial element of the DRCG's work has been to assess the impacts of the pandemic in Devon. Some of the key findings include:

- Communities stepped up to the challenge of the pandemic, and community-based groups have played a critical role in supporting vulnerable people and those with additional needs.
- The impact of the pandemic has not been felt equally and has fallen disproportionately on those groups who already suffered entrenched and systematic inequality.
- Those who privately rent their homes are at higher risk of rent increases or eviction, and food insecurity has also risen. Most at risk are households where someone has a disability or mental health issue, single adult households with children and those with a low income.
- The pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities including those around age, occupation, ethnicity, health status, place of residence and areas of deprivation.
- There have been rising numbers of people seeking support for domestic abuse, and there has been a rise in hate crimes including those motivated by sexuality and race.

We therefore face significant challenges over the coming years which are likely to be further exacerbated should we enter a period of austerity and reduced financial support for key public services. However, the work of the Recovery Coordination Group, and the many other multi-agency forums established in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, shows the value of collaborative knowledge sharing and partnership work through which we can build successful approaches to meeting the needs of those who need support.

3. Who has sought our help? Understanding the profile and needs of our clients

3.1 Total initial assessments and reasons for homelessness

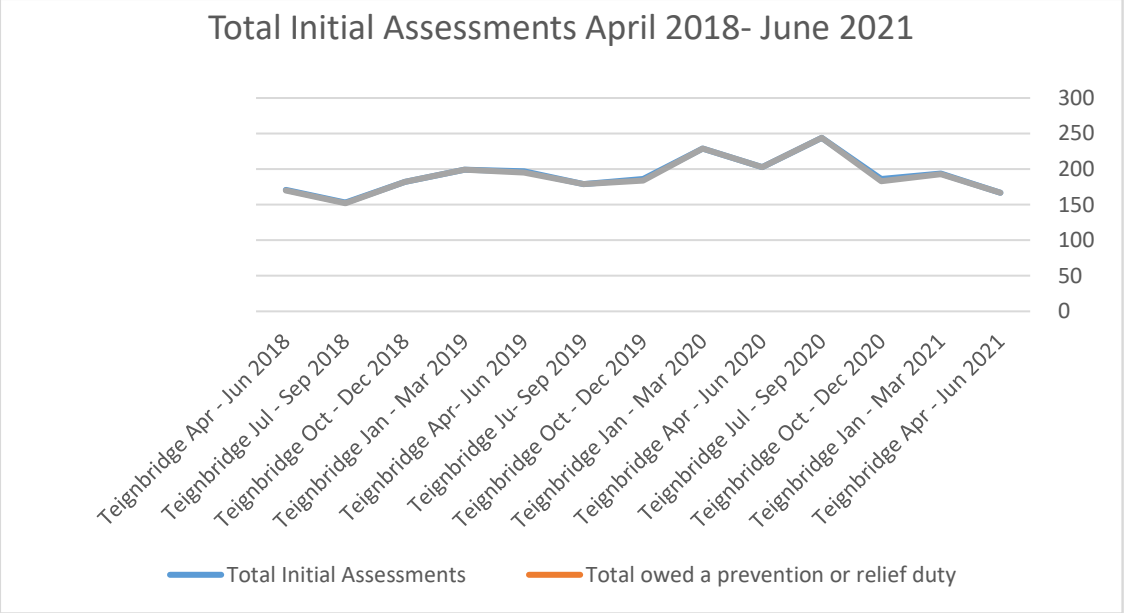
The term 'initial assessments' refers to the assessment process undertaken by our Housing Caseworkers when a person, or household is either homeless, or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. It is an indicator of overall demand for housing advice and support. When initial assessments are undertaken, a Personalised Housing Plan (PHP) is completed with the lead applicant of the household. This is a collaboratively produced bespoke plan which assesses the circumstances and specific needs of a household, and sets out the steps that should be taken by both the Housing Caseworker and the lead applicant in order to resolve their housing difficulties.

In total, initial assessments have been undertaken for 2490 households since the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April of 2018. Of those, 2480 have been assessed as being owed either;

- A prevention duty because they were threatened with homelessness within 56 days or;
- A relief duty because they were already homeless at the time of their initial assessment.

Demand for the service has remained fairly consistent over the past three and a half years, although we have seen some spikes in demand, for example between January and March of 2020, and between July and September of 2020.

The Graph below shows the total number of households who have presented, or who have been referred to our Housing Solutions Service since the enactment of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April of 2018.

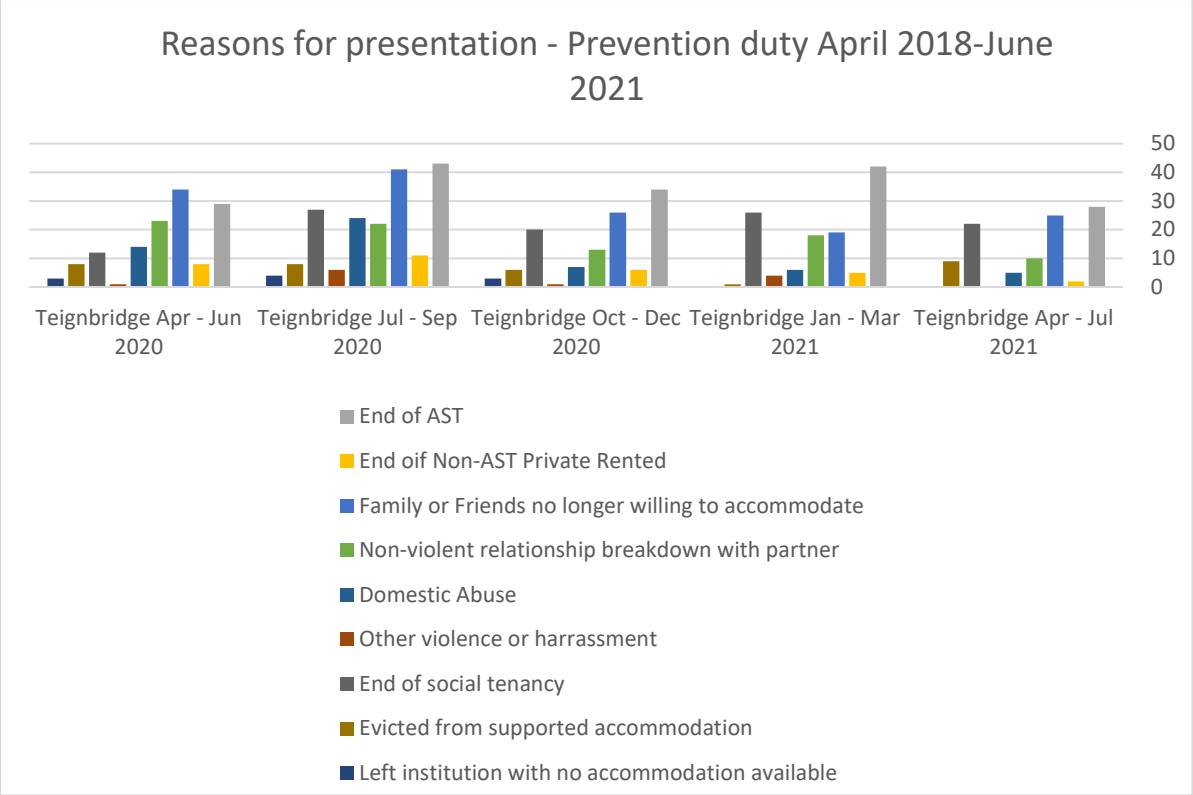


Reasons for Homelessness

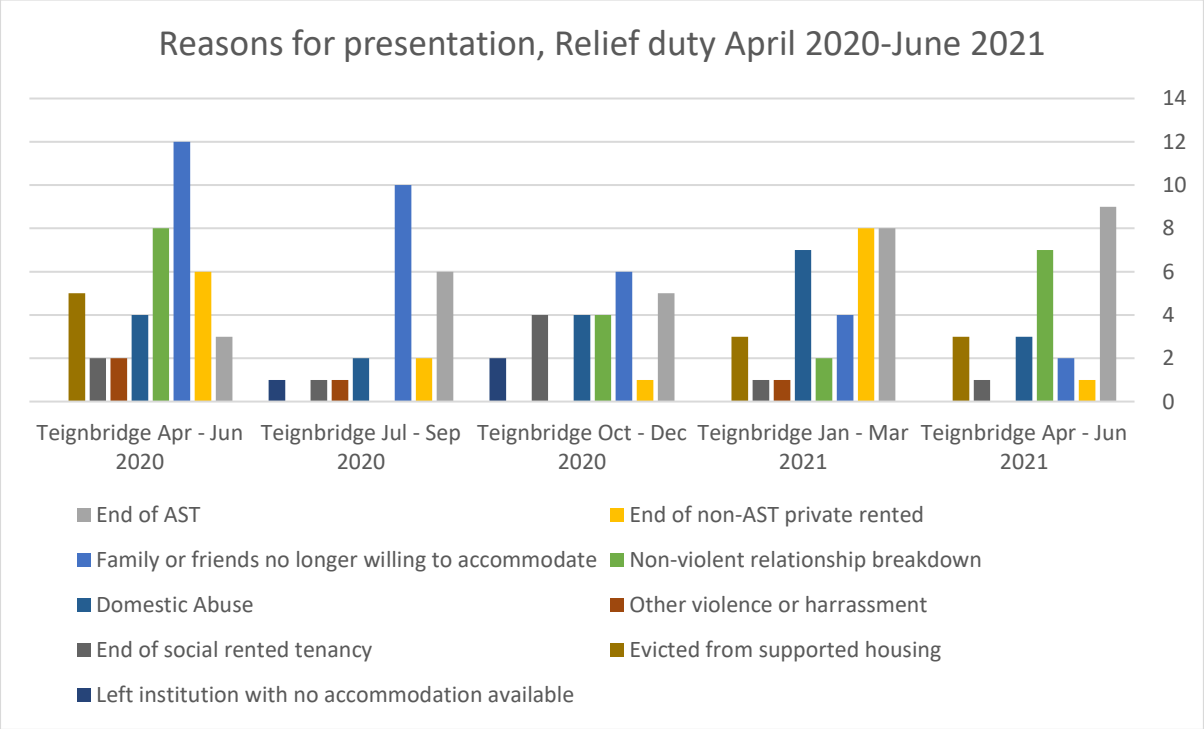
The next graph shows the reasons for homelessness for those households owed a prevention duty between April 2020 and June 2021.

The top five reasons for homelessness were:

1. Ending of an assured short hold tenancy: 176 households
2. Friends or family no longer being willing to accommodate: 145 households
3. Ending of a social tenancy: 107 households
4. Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner: 86 households
5. Domestic abuse: 56 households



The next graph shows the reasons for homelessness for those households owed a relief duty between April 2020 and June 2021.



The top five reasons for homelessness were:

1. Ending of an assured short hold tenancy: 49 households

2. Friends or family no longer being willing to accommodate: 34 households

3. Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner: 21 households

4. Domestic abuse: 20 households

5. Evictions from supported housing: 11 households.

3.2 Support needs of households needing housing support

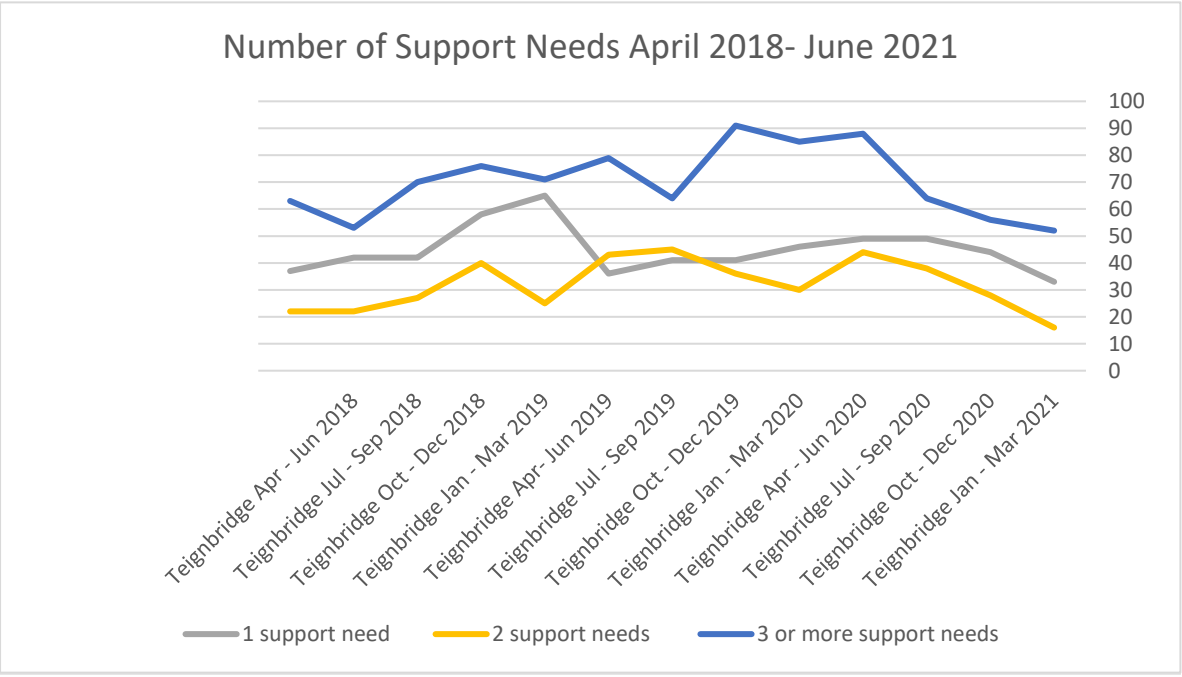
When a Personalised Housing Plan is completed, we record the specific support needs of the household requiring housing assistance.

The majority of households for whom initial assessments have been undertaken since April 2018 have disclosed that they have one or more support needs.

- 1911 households have identified that they have one or more support needs
- 569 households over the same period have disclosed that they do not have any identifiable support needs.

Of those households who have identified that they have support needs, a high proportion of have multiple support needs, i.e. three or more.

- 912 households identified three or more support needs
- 416 households identified 2 support needs
- 583 households identified 1 support need.



3.3 Types of Support Needs

A breakdown follows of the specific support needs identified by households and individuals who have approached our service between April 2018 and June 2021. The categories recorded are a statutory requirement, and are reported to central Government on a quarterly basis.

The data shows that mental health issues, physical ill health and disability, being a victim of domestic abuse and repeat homelessness are areas of high need for our clients.

1) Young People in Need of support

    a) 16 or 17 year old: 82 households

    b) 18-25 year old requiring support: 168 households

    c) Young parent requiring support: 31 households

    d) Care Leaver aged 18-20: 59 Households

    e) Care leaver aged 21 and over: 75 households

2) Physical ill health and disabilities, history of mental health issues and learning disabilities:

   a) People with physical ill health and/ or a physical disability: **926** households

   b) People with a history of mental health problems: **1181** households

   c) People with a learning disability: 324 households

3) Drug and Alcohol Dependency

   a) People with a disclosed drug dependency issue: 235 households

   b) People with a disclosed alcohol dependency issue: 221 households

4) Offending history

   a) People with a history of offending and criminal convictions: 416 households

5) Domestic violence and sexual abuse (DVSA) and exploitation

   a) At risk of/ has experienced sexual abuse or exploitation: 178 households

   b) At risk of/ has experienced domestic abuse: **503** households

   c) At risk of/ has experienced abuse (non-domestic abuse) 225 households

6) Repeat homelessness and a history of rough sleeping

   a) People who have a history of repeat homelessness: **380** households

   b) People who have a history of rough sleeping: 289 households

7) Additional support needs:

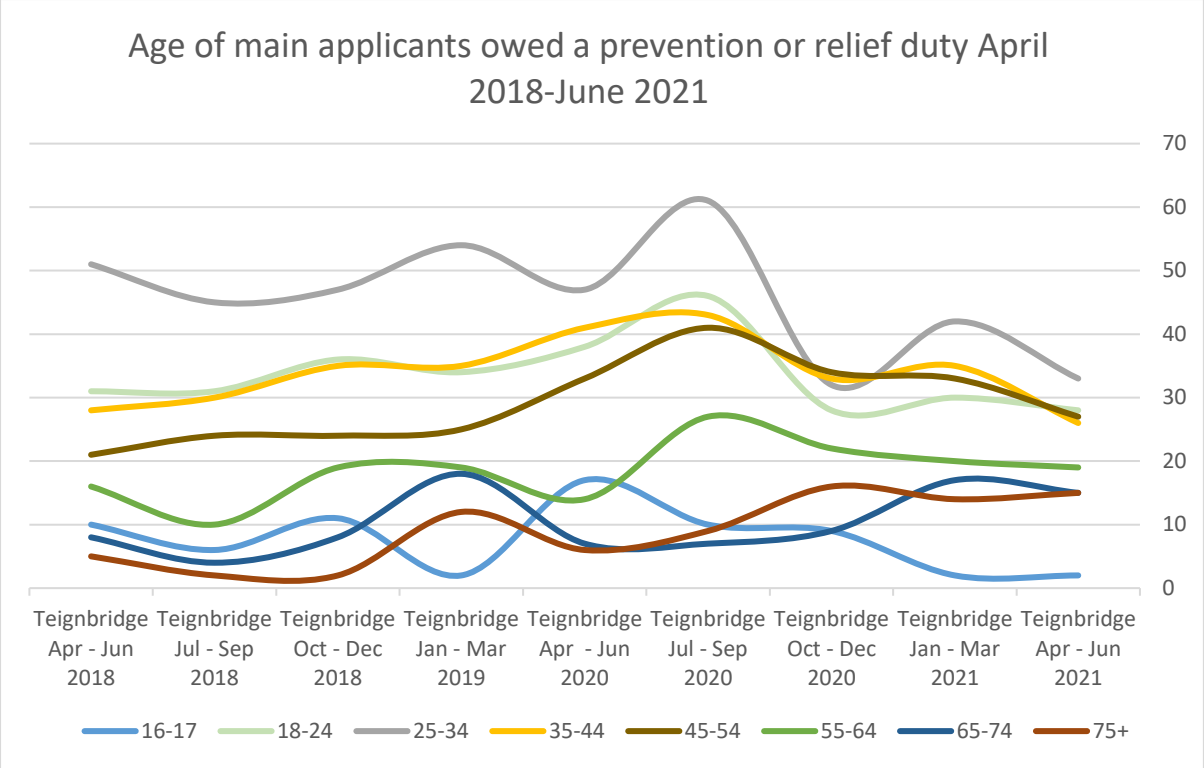
   a) Old age: 123 households

   b) People who have served in the armed forces: 89 households

   c) Need support with employment, education or training 125 households

3.4 Age of main applicants

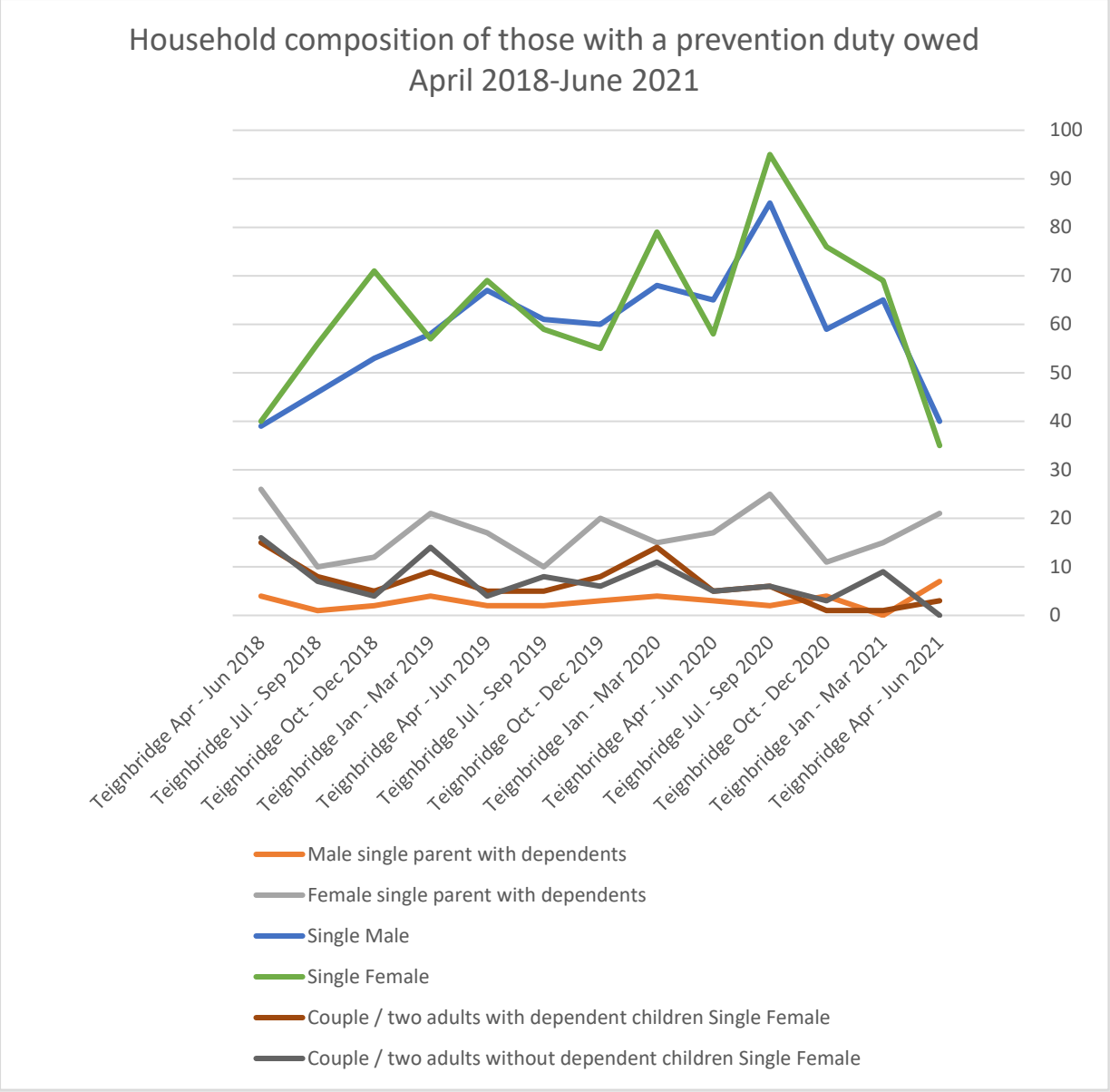
The next graph tracks the age range of the main applicants for housing support between April 2018 and June 2021. The largest age group needing housing support are 25-34 year olds. There are also high numbers of presentations from people aged 18-24 years old, 35-44 years old and 45-55 years old.



3.5 Household composition of those seeking help

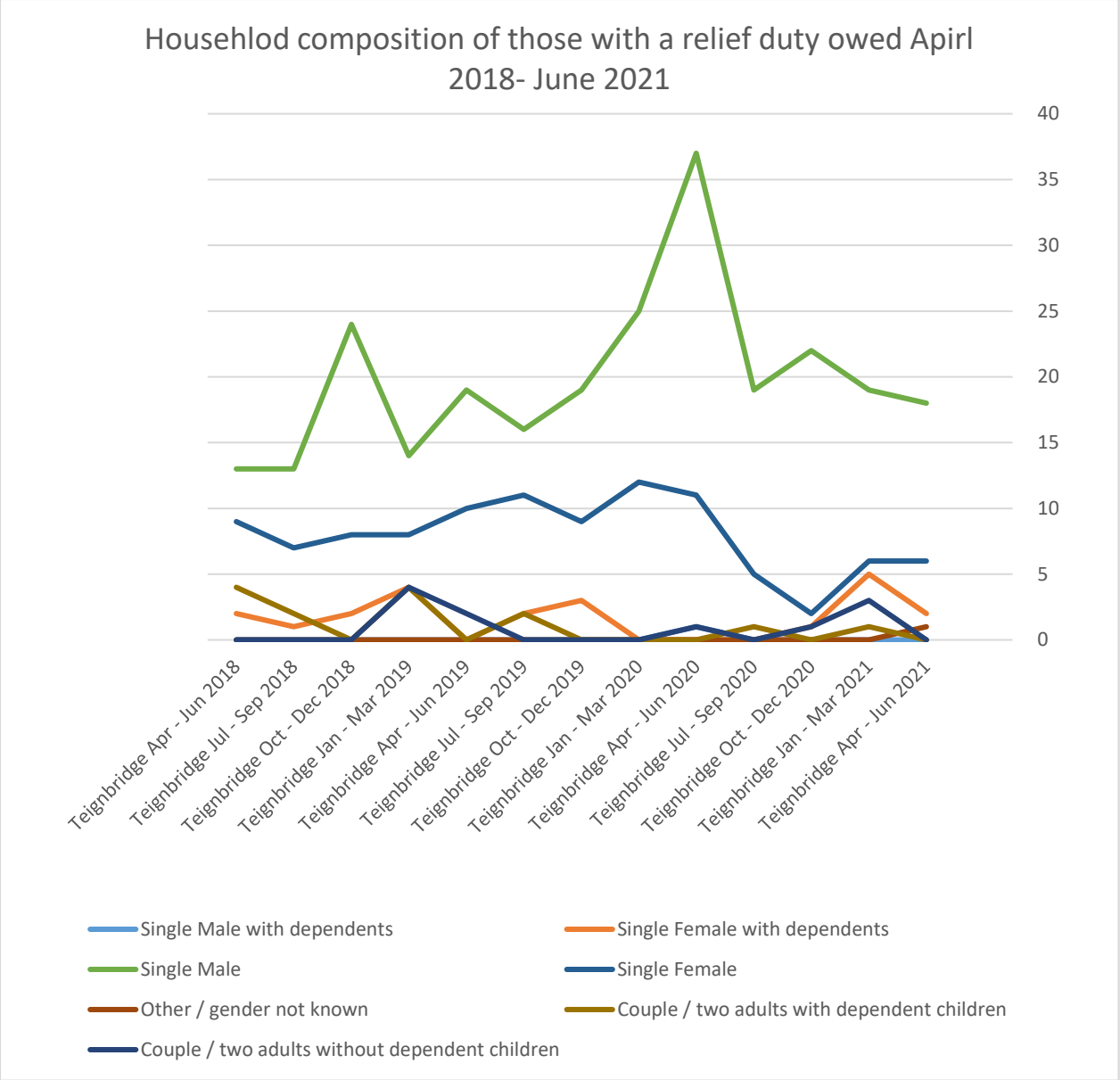
The next graph tracks the household composition of applicants for housing support between April 2018 and June 2021 for those people with a prevention duty owed to them.

The top three categories are: single males, single females, and single females with dependent children.



The next graph tracks the household composition of applicants for housing support between April 2018 and June 2021 for those people with a relief duty owed.

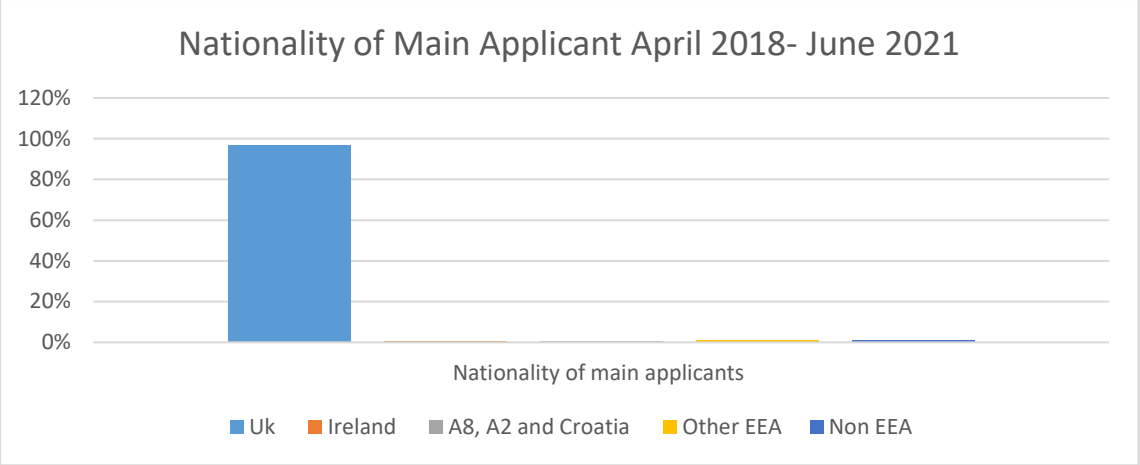
Again, the top three categories are: single males, single females, and single females with dependent children. We saw a significant spike in demand from single adult males during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic as people were asked to leave precarious accommodation arrangements prior to and during the first lockdown.



3.6 Nationality and ethnicity of main applicants

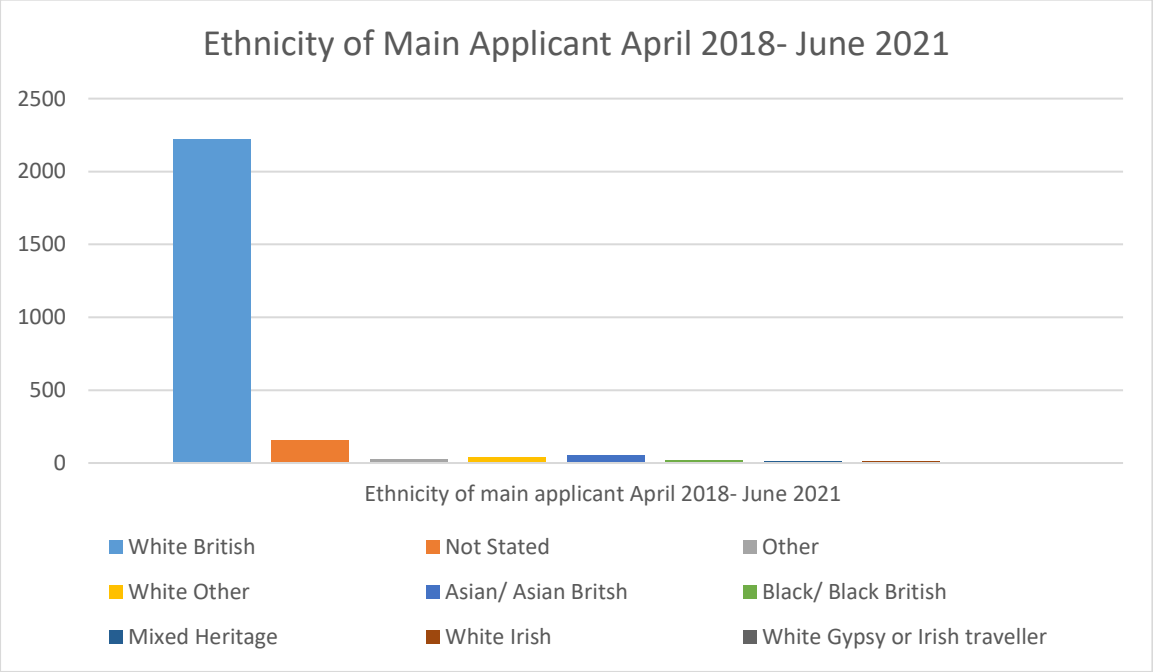
The graph below shows the nationality of the main applicants for households requiring housing support between April 2018 and June 2021, broken down by percentages.

As illustrated in the next graph, the vast majority (97%) are UK nationals.



The next graph shows the ethnicity of the main applicants for households requiring housing support between April 2018 and June 2021.

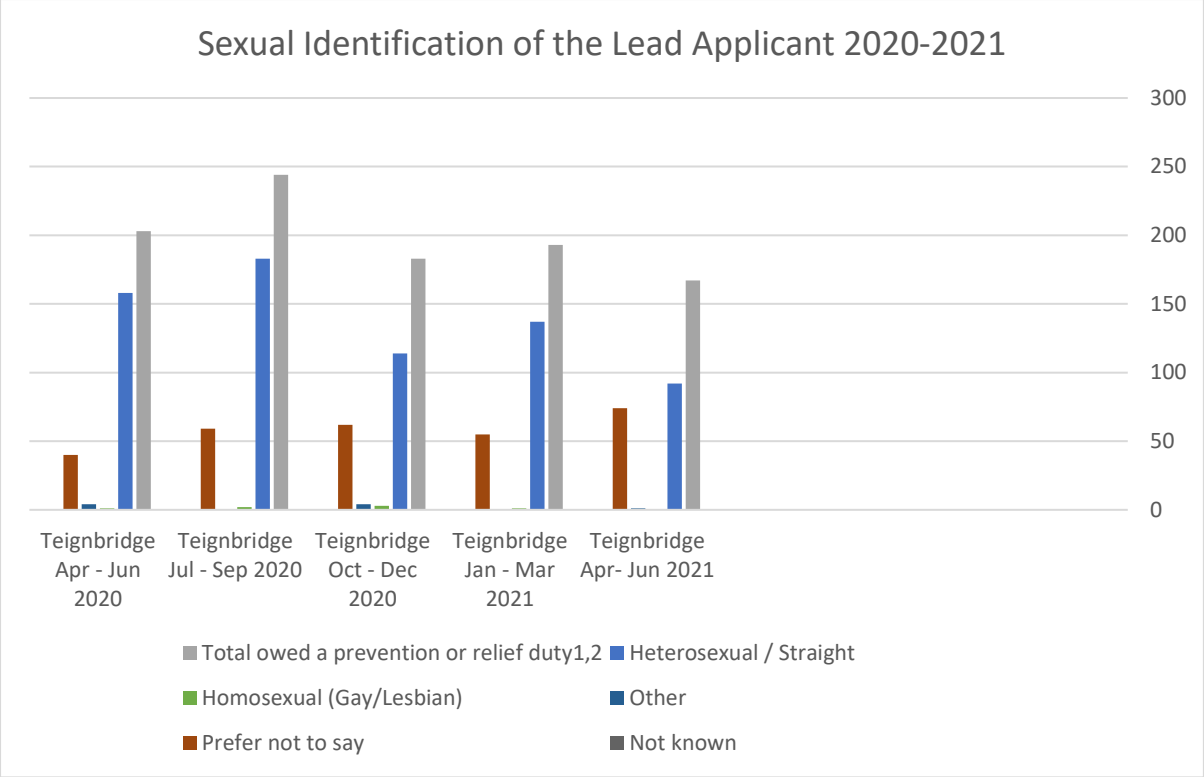
The majority of applicants identify as being White British. A small minority of applicants identify as either Black or Black British, Asian or Asian British, from another White ethnic group or have chosen not to state their ethnicity.



3.7 Sexual identification of main applicants

The next graph shows the sexual identification of the lead applicants for households requiring housing support between April 2020 and June 2021.

The majority of lead applicants identify as being heterosexual/ straight, however a significant proportion chose not to state their sexuality.



4. Homelessness prevention and relief work

4.1 Reasons for the ending of prevention duties

A prevention duty owed to an applicant can be discharged or ended for a number of reasons, for example because alternative accommodation has been found for a household, or because we have taken steps to enable a household to remain in their existing home.

Between April 2018 and June 2021, prevention duties were ended for a total of 1809 households, of which, accommodation was secured for 1240 households.

The top 5 reasons for prevention duties ending were:

1. The household moved into alternative accommodation: 689

2. The household were helped to remain in their existing accommodation: 551

3. 56 days elapsed meaning that the relief duty was triggered: 247

4. The household became homeless, including intentional homelessness: 170

5. The application was withdrawn by the applicant or the applicant passed away: 70

4.2 Reasons for the ending of relief duties

A relief duty owed to an applicant can also be discharged or ended for a number of reasons, for example because alternative accommodation has been secured for six months or more, or because the 56 day 'relief period' has elapsed, after which a final assessment of statutory homelessness is made.

Between April 2018 and June 2021, relief duties were ended for a total of **544** households.

The top 5 reasons for prevention duties ending were:

1. Accommodation was secured for 6 or more months: 247

2. 56 days elapsed triggering the end of the relief duty period: 214

3. The application was withdrawn by the applicant or the applicant passed away: 49

4. Contact was lost because the applicant disengaged: 12

5. The applicant became intentionally homeless from accommodation provided: 8

4.3 Main homelessness duties

Where a relief duty cannot be discharged, a final statutory 'main duty' homelessness decision must be made. Between April 2018 and June 2021, 202 main duty decisions were made:

- 84 households were found to be homeless, in priority need for assistance and unintentionally homeless.
- 48 households were found to be homeless, in priority need for assistance but intentionally homeless.
- 62 households were found to be homeless but with no 'priority need' for assistance.
- 8 households were found to be not homeless.

5. Temporary Accommodation

5.1 Profile of our temporary accommodation provision

The Accommodation Team is led by our Accommodation Lead and includes a team of officers whose job it is to: manage placements within temporary accommodation, collect rent and oversee financial arrangements, and resettle people into secure and suitable homes.

Our temporary accommodation provision is made up of:

- A supported temporary accommodation project for single homeless households and families called Albany House. Albany House is made up of ten rooms including six single rooms, two small family rooms and two large family rooms.
- A Housing First project made up of 11 self-contained one bedroom properties where enhanced support is provided by our Rough Sleeper Team and our contracted support provider, Sanctuary Supported Living.
- A further 28 units of leased, self-contained properties of varying sizes spread across the district area.
- We also help to fund two accommodation projects for young people which are managed by Young Devon.
- When no other options are available, we have to place people into bed and breakfast accommodation. We do not place 16 or 17 year olds into bed and breakfast and we cannot legally place families or expectant mothers into bed and breakfast for any longer than six weeks.
- We are currently in the process of purchasing a property to be used as an additional supported accommodation project for homeless families and expectant mothers comprising of five rooms of varying sizes. This will provide an alternative to bed and breakfast placements. We are also in the process of purchasing five one bedroom properties to house former rough sleepers under the Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.

5.2 Net spend on Temporary Accommodation 2019- 2021

Between 2019- 2021, placements into temporary accommodation cost a total of £296,997.00 to the local authority. Costs in 2020/2021 were particularly high as a result of the increased demand for temporary accommodation brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, and due to our need to procure additional units of self-contained accommodation in order to provide accommodation that would enable people to self-isolate if necessary.

Net spend 2019/20: **£123,375.00**

Net spend 2020/21: **£173,602.00**

Teignbridge Council Temporary Accommodation Provision

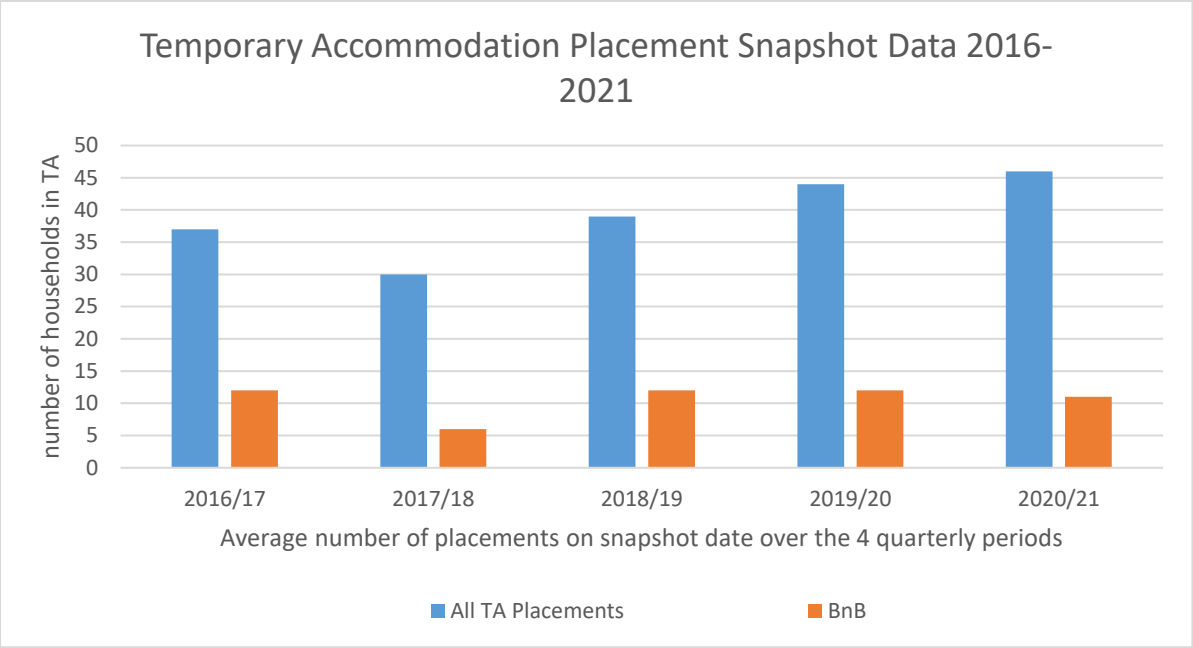
Accommodation Type	Number of units	Description	Tenure	Average length of stay
Bed and Breakfast	**Average of 9** households placed on any given date.	Spot purchased accommodation booked on nightly basis.	Licence	20 days

Accommodation Type	Number of units	Description	Tenure	Average length of stay
Albany House	10 Rooms 6 x single occupancy 2 x small family rooms 2 x large family rooms	Local Authority owned homeless supported accommodation. Mixed occupancy (single people and families).	Licence	52 days
STAR Project Crash Pads	11 x 1 beds 11 x 1 Beds 7 x 2 Beds 1 x 3 Bed (30 total)	Housing first accommodation project for rough sleepers. Self-contained furnished properties for use as emergency accommodation.	Licence	320 days 152 days
Second Stage Temporary Accommodation	3 x 3 beds 4 x 2 beds 1x 1 bed	Self-contained unfurnished properties leased from private landlords and registered providers.	Non-secure tenancy	195 Days

Accommodation Type	Number of units	Description	Tenure	Average length of stay
Private Sector Lease (PSL) for temporary accommodation	(8 Total)			

5.3 How many people require temporary accommodation?

The next graph aggregates the average number of households placed into temporary accommodation by Teignbridge Council each year since 2016. In line with the overall rise in demand for housing advice and support, we have seen a consist rise in the demand for temporary accommodation placements.



On any average night the following number of households were occupying temporary accommodation (TA) and bed and breakfast accommodation (B&B):

2016/17: 37 households in TA, of which BnB: 12 households

2017/18: 30 households in TA, of which BnB: 6 household

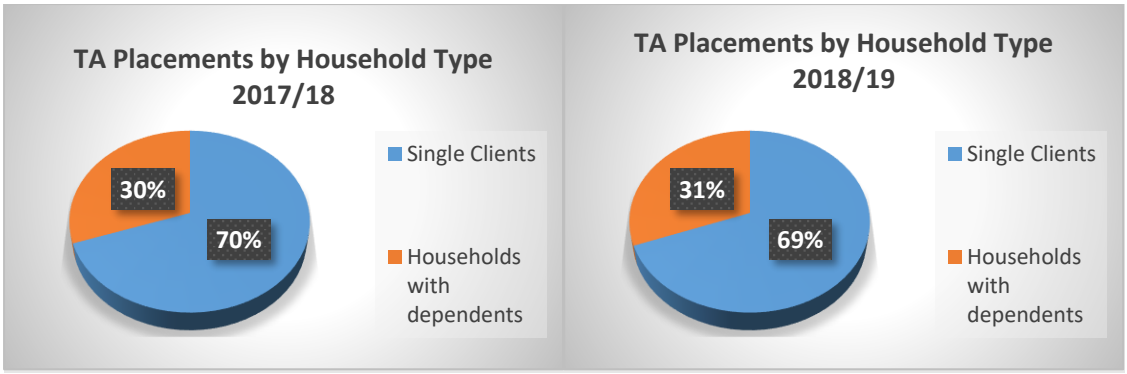
2018/19: 39 households in TA, of which BnB: 12 households

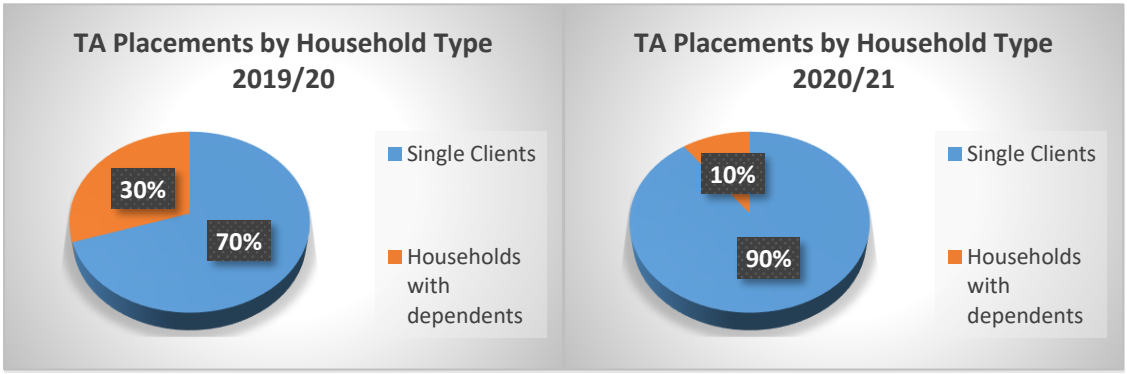
2019/20: 44 households in TA, of which BnB: 12 households

2020/21 46 households in TA, of which BnB: 12 households

5.4 Household composition of people accessing temporary accommodation

The following charts illustrate that, aside from the in the year 2020/21, the split between single people and families requiring temporary accommodation has remained at a consistent level. In 2020/21, a higher proportion of single clients required temporary accommodation compared to families, because families were largely prevented from becoming homeless as a result of the temporary moratorium on evictions implemented by Government.



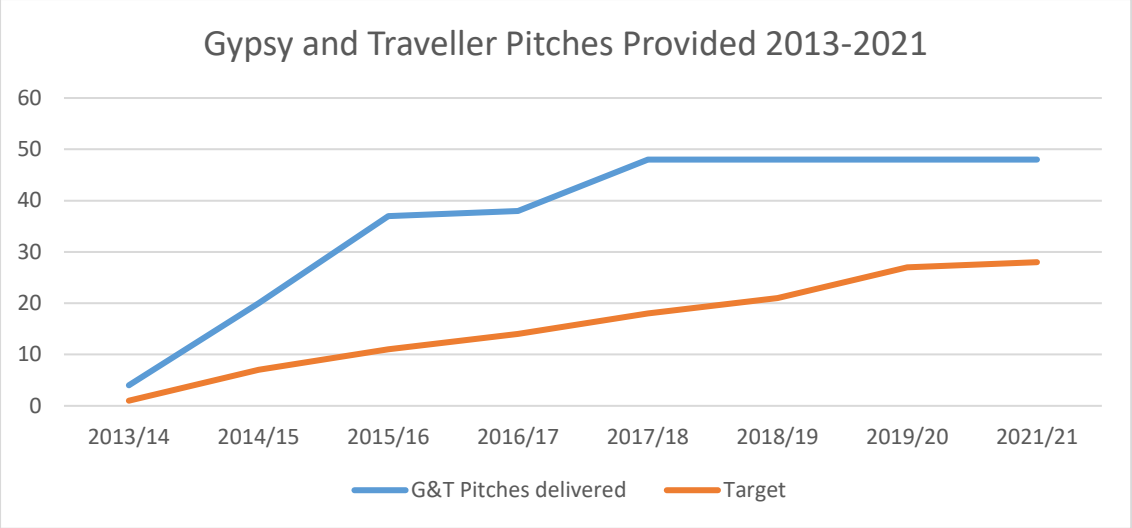


5.5 Gypsy and Traveller Provision

A gypsy and traveller pitch is likely to accommodate a single household and is generally a piece of ground large enough to accommodate a static caravan, a touring caravan and an amenity building. It will have a parking area and provide enough space to carry out domestic activities, for example laundry, children's play, and a sitting area.

The Teignbridge Local plan target is for 70 pitches over 20 years, which equates to 3.5 pitches every year and will be provided by either direct provision, or by assisting the G and T community to gain planning consent for pitches on their own land. To date 48 pitches have been delivered since the beginning of the Local Plan in 2013, the majority at Haldon Forest, near Exeter.

Within the Local Plan there are two major strategic allocations with a requirement for pitches to be provided by developers. Due to the collaboration between the Council and the developers, suitable land, that would not have otherwise been forthcoming, has been brought forward; one site now has planning consent and another with an application pending.



From work carried out, in consultation with the Teignbridge Gypsy and Traveller Forum, it is anticipated that future demand for pitches will remain fairly consistent and the emerging Teignbridge Local Plan will update these figures.

6. Rough Sleeping

6.1 Background

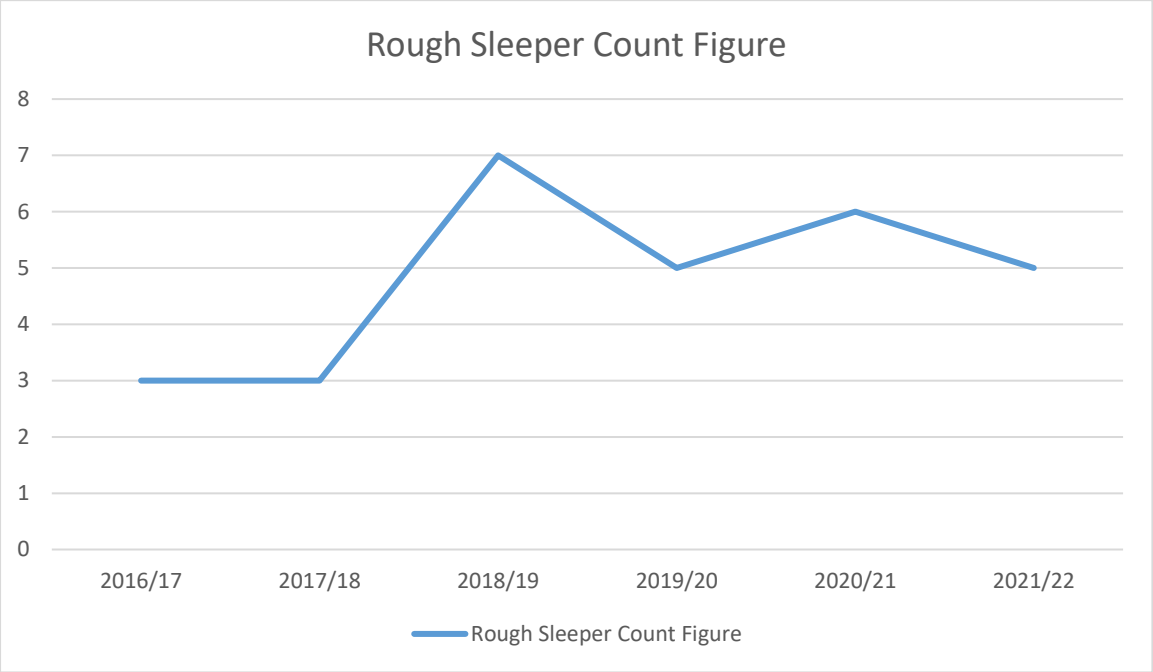
For the past five years, we have been committed to offering accommodation and support to anyone who we confirm is rough sleeping in Teignbridge and who has a local connection to the district. This offer is made regardless of whether we have a statutory duty to do so under the Homelessness Reduction Act. Our Rough Sleeper Team respond to intelligence provided by members of the public, Teignbridge Council colleagues or partner agencies such as local policing teams by conducting outreach visits in order to verify the reports we receive. People who are found to be rough sleeping but do not have a local connection to Teignbridge are offered reconnection to the area with which they do hold a local connection.

We provide a range of accommodation options, including our Housing First Project which compromises of 11 one bedroomed properties. Support is provided by our Rough Sleeper Navigator, and support workers from Sanctuary Supported Living.

Each year in the autumn, we conduct an official rough sleeper count, undertaken with a representative from Homeless Link, a national membership charity working directly with people who become homeless in England. Community and voluntary sector agency representatives and local police officers also help us to conduct the count, and the findings are reported to central Government.

6.2 Rough Sleeper Snapshot Figures

Despite the overall rise in demand for homelessness services and temporary accommodation placements over the last four years, we can be proud that we have not seen a correlating increase in the most acute form of homelessness, rough sleeping. The graph below shows the annual rough sleeper count figures in Teignbridge since 2016, including the most recent figure from our official count conducted in November 2021.



6.3 Key interventions to address Rough Sleeping

Maintaining relatively low rough sleeping numbers has been the product of intensive outreach work on the part of our Rough Sleeper Team, combined with the targeting of resources and collaborative partnership working. In addition to fulfilling our commitment to provide accommodation and support to all verified rough sleepers who have a local connection to Teignbridge, we have also:

- Provided increased staffing resource to the Rough Sleeper Team, which now has 3.5 full time equivalent officers, through the Rough Sleeper Intervention funding stream.
- Expanded our Housing First project to 11 one bedroom self-contained properties.
- Expanded our provision of leased one bedroom transitional 'crash pad' accommodation which can be accessed by the Rough Sleeper Team for those former rough sleepers who do not require the intensive level of support provided in our Housing First Project.
- Established a Multi-Disciplinary Team, led by our Rough Sleeper Coordinator and made up of representatives from key statutory agencies such as Probation, The Police, Adult Social Care, and Mental Health Services, together with community and voluntary sector representatives.

7. Devon Home Choice

The Council works in partnership with the other local authorities in Devon to deliver a choice-based lettings scheme known as Devon Home Choice (DHC). All the registered providers which operate in the districts, and the two unitary authorities, which work across Devon are also involved in the scheme as partners, and representatives from each authority and from each registered provider sit upon the DHC Management Board.

The aims of DHC, as stated in the policy document, are to provide:

- Choice for people seeking housing and the ability to move within Devon
- A common scheme across Devon that is transparent, easy to understand and accessible to all.

DHC provides a common:

- Application form
- Housing register
- Approach to assessing housing need and awarding priority
- Approach to advertising available properties

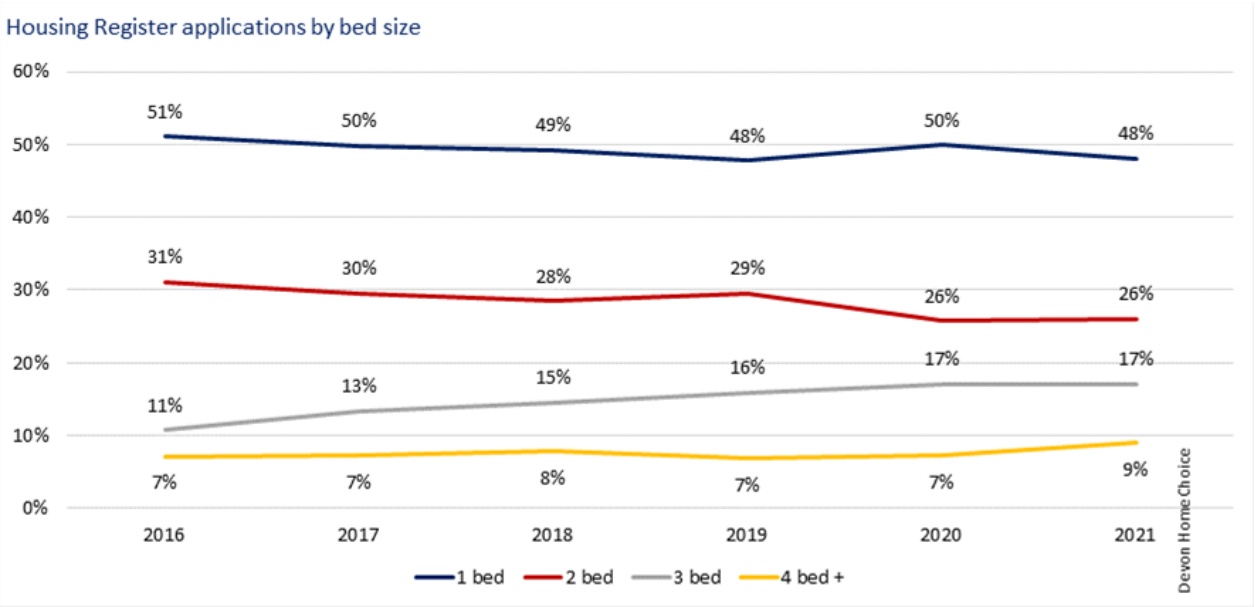
The DHC scheme includes an assessment framework which contains detailed criteria against which housing need is determined. The circumstances of all housing applicants are considered in accordance with this framework and they are then placed into one of four bands, according to need, in descending order of priority.

The Council is a member of the Management Board which oversees the work of the two Officers employed to manage DHC. These Officers are employed by Exeter City Council on behalf of the partnership.

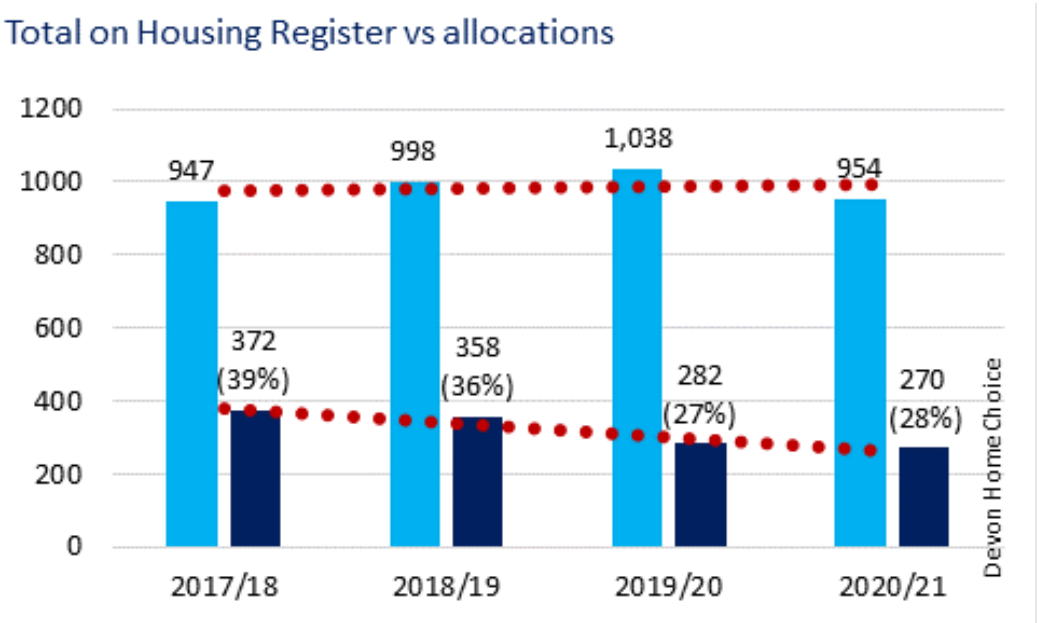
We have two full time allocations officers who manage the social housing register of need (Devon Home Choice) in Teignbridge. They process applications and changes of circumstances, assign priority 'banding' status in line with the Devon Home Choice Policy and act as points of contact for applicants. The team is managed by the Housing Solutions Lead who is also responsible for conducting reviews and appeals.

Demand for social housing within Teignbridge remains high as illustrated through the graphs below.

People with a one bedroom need consistently account for around half of all applications on the Devon Home Choice register, however we have also seen an increased need for larger three and four bedroom properties in recent years.



The total number of applicants on the housing register has remained fairly static over the past four years, however there has been a reduction in total social housing allocations in the last two years. This is in part a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and associated Government led interventions which caused stasis and limited movement within the housing market.



9. Partnership Arrangements

There are a myriad of partnership which we attend that operate across Devon and the wider peninsular area relating to housing, homelessness and wider health and wellbeing needs. Details of some of the key partnership forums are provided below. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

1. The Devon and Cornwall Housing Options Partnership (DCHOP)

The DCHOP comprises of the eight Devon district housing authorities together with Torbay Council and Cornwall Council. Housing and Homelessness Leads from these authorities meet on a bi-monthly monthly basis in order to: share best practice, investigate opportunities for the pooling of resources and promote a consistent approach to homelessness service delivery.

2. The Devon Homelessness and Health Partnership Cell

Initially established in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the group brings together statutory agencies including: Housing and Homelessness leads, Substance Misuse Commissioners, Domestic Violence Services Commissioners, Criminal Justice representatives, Public Health Registrars, Mental Health Services Leads and the Police. The group meets on a bi-monthly basis in order to promote best practice, develop standard operating procedures and protocols and overcome barriers to service delivery.

3. Devon Homelessness Prevention Partnership for 16 & 17 Year olds and Care Leavers (DHPP)

This group meets on a bi-monthly basis and includes Housing and Homelessness Leads and commissioners of services for young people based at Devon County Council. Recent joint working has focussed on developing a Homelessness and Social Care Care Leavers protocol, and updating on the protocol for 16 and 17 year olds. A Care Leavers Housing Action Plan has been developed by Children's Services and is is monitored by DHPP group. The group reports to the Devon County Council Joint Commissioning Group on housing/homelessness issues for young people (16/17 year olds and care leavers up to 25 years).

DHPP group also receives reports on the Devon Youth Homeless Prevention Work provided by Young Devon, Encompass, and several different Local Authorities.

4. The Devon Youth Homelessness Prevention Workers Forum

This provision of Devon Youth Homelessness Prevention workers (HPWS) is a service which is jointly funded by Devon County Council and each district housing authority. The HPWs arrange fortnightly Homeless Prevention Panels (HPPs) with supported accommodation providers present, so local new cases can be considered for accommodation. The Devon Youth Homeless Prevention Workers Forum meets quarterly.

5. The Devon and Cornwall Housing Options Partnership Practitioner's Forum

The main purpose of this group is to assist DCHOP, and is attended by senior Homelessness and Housing Options officers from across Devon and Cornwall. The group meets bi- monthly to discuss their working arrangements, raise problems they encounter relating to service delivery, celebrate successes and resolve cross-border issues.

6. The Refugee Resettlement Governance & Operational Groups

Refugee Resettlement arrangements in Devon are coordinated by Devon County Council's Communities Team who also commission the support provided to resettled families. It is the responsibility of the district authorities to provide safe accommodation for resettlement, and to oversee the management of the accommodation provided. Governance and operational groups meet on a quarterly basis.

7. The Joint Commissioning Group for the Children and Families Partnership

A The Joint Commissioning Group for the Children and Families Partnership meets on a bi-monthly basis bringing together representatives from a wide array of statutory agencies in order to set commissioning intentions relating to the services provided to children, families and young people in Devon. The group is attended by the Devon and Cornwall Housing Options Partnership manager who represents the interests of the district housing authorities.

8. The Devon and Cornwall Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) operational meetings and Strategic Management Board (SMB)

These arrangements are established by the Criminal Justice Act 2003, and sections 325 to 327B provide the statutory basis for MAPPA. Local Housing Authorities have a Duty to Co-operate with MAPPA arrangements. MAPPA SMB group meetings are usually held 3 or 4 times per year and there is an expectation that all organisations with a Duty to Co-operate are represented at SMB meetings.

Each Local authority also nominates a single point of contact (SPOC) and deputy, to attend level 2 or 3 MAPPA meetings if invited, to provide housing advice to the meeting group.

9. The Devon Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference Operational Meetings and Steering Group.

This is a non-statuary group which is led by Devon and Cornwall Police and which meets on a bi-monthly basis. The purpose of the MARAC Steering Group is to monitor and assist, where necessary, the local MARAC meetings, monitor attendance at the Steering Group, and generally achieve the requirements of the national Safe Lives organisation. The local meetings are held every fortnight to review (usually) high risk cases, which need more intense monitoring and action, due to the risk associated with the victim, from the perpetrator. There are named single points of contact who represent their District Council at the local MARAC meetings. Case details are sent securely a few days before the meetings, with consideration for privacy of the victim and family.

10. The Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board

The Devon Domestic Abuse Partnership Board was established in response to the statutory requirements for collaborative working under the Domestic Abuse Act, in order to support the victims and families of victims of domestic violence and abuse. The group brings together a wide array of agencies from the public and community sectors. Work of the group has thus far focused on developing a Domestic Abuse Strategy for Devon and setting out commissioning plans to support victims and families in safe accommodation.

11. The Community Mental Health Framework Southern Devon Locality Implementation Team

A Community Mental Health Framework Southern Locality Implementation Team has recently been established in Teignbridge in order to develop and implement services due to be provided under the new Community Mental Health Framework. The team is led by the Devon Partnership Trust and involves a wide array of partnership agencies, including Housing and Antisocial Behaviour Team officers from Teignbridge District Council.

13. The Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon Rough Sleeper Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

Led by our Rough Sleeper and MDT Coordinator, The Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon Rough Sleeper Multi-Disciplinary Team brings together key statutory and community sector agencies who work with Rough Sleepers and former Rough Sleepers. The MDT provides an opportunity to 'case conference' for clients with complex needs, and also enables referrals into our Housing First Project.