

<b>ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
<b>17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Mohamed Hussein – Director: Housing Needs & Supply	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Steve Allen - Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Recreation	
Contact Officer(s):	Sarah Hebblethwaite – Housing Needs Operations Manager	Tel. 07525 125727

<b>HOMELESSNESS REVIEW</b>
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RECOMMENDATIONS	
<b>FROM:</b> Mohamed Hussein – Director: Housing Needs & Supply	<b>Deadline date:</b> N/A
<p>It is recommended that Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviews the contents of the Homelessness Review and endorses the development of a new Homelessness Strategy.</li> <li>2. Supports the development of the Homelessness Strategy from the information provided in the Homelessness Review.</li> </ol>	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 Members requested this report in collaboration with officers to keep the Committee updated on the Homelessness Review and the development of the New Homelessness Strategy.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 This report is required as the Homelessness Strategy is a Major Policy that must be considered by the Scrutiny Committee prior to amendment and implementation.

2.2 This report is for the Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

3. Housing need (including homelessness, housing options and selective licensing)

2.3 The report is being presented to the committee to provide an update on the current homelessness levels, access to accommodation and support available throughout the city. The review will inform the development of the Homelessness Strategy and its strategic objectives.

2.4 This report links to the following Corporate priority:

6. Keep all our communities safe, cohesive and healthy:

Providing affordable, warm, safe and secure housing is the cornerstone of a strong society, and the Common Housing Allocations Policy is one of the vehicles available to the council and its social landlord partners to achieve this.

Whilst this work cuts across the entire Sustainable Community Strategy, it most closely aligns with the priority to achieve strong and supportive communities

### 3. **TIMESCALES**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>YES</b>	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	15/3/2020
Date for relevant Council meeting if applicable	TBC in 2021	Date for submission to Government Dept. ( <i>Please specify which Government Dept.</i> )	N/A

### 4. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

This document begins the process that will lead to the creation of a new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy for Peterborough. The strategy will set out the actions that Peterborough City Council and its partners will undertake to both prevent and relieve homelessness and rough sleeping in the city.

Extensive progress has been made in recent years to ease the impact of homelessness on our city and its residents. Key to this is the understanding that preventing and relieving homelessness cannot solely be achieved by the Council, but through joint working with its partners in a 'one city' approach.

The key underlying challenge is to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation and support to create these opportunities. The strategy recognises the importance of meeting the holistic needs of people who are homeless and those at risk of homelessness and these are best met through shared outcomes and commitments with our partners.

Peterborough City Council has a statutory duty under section 2(1) of the Homelessness Act 2002 to complete a homelessness review. The review must consider the following –

- The levels and likely future levels of homelessness in their district
- The activities which are carried out for any of the following purposes:
  - i. Preventing homelessness in the housing authority's district
  - ii. Securing that accommodation is or will be available for people in the district who are or may become homeless; and
  - iii. Providing support for people in the district who are homeless or who may become at risk of homelessness: or who have been homeless and need

It must also consider the resources available to the housing authority, the social services authority for the district, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for the activities mentioned above.

#### 4.1 **OUR JOURNEY (2017 to 2020)**

4.1.1 Nationally, a sharp and sudden increase in the number of homeless households was experienced during 2018. Like many councils, Peterborough City Council had no option but to house 150 in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation, with 63 of these outside of the city's boundaries.

Over the past two years, the Council has succeeded in reducing this number to zero – this has been achieved despite a 56 per cent increase in the number of households approaching in 2018/2019 for help after being threatened with homelessness.

The Council met this challenge by committing extra funding to its housing service, restructuring the team, recruiting extra staff and providing comprehensive training to ensure the best possible outcomes were achieved quickly and consistently. While this was happening, careful attention was placed on the morale with the team, with the number of caseloads per worker reduced.

At the same time, the Council strived to increase the number of affordable homes in the city. By working with landlords, building, buying and working with partners, an additional 301 affordable homes are being created in 2020/21 which will help to ease demand.

In order to truly meet the need for affordable homes, both now and in the future, the Council plans to relaunch its Housing Revenue Account to bring about the return of council homes in Peterborough.

In addition, the Council played a pivotal role in the launch of the Safer Off the Streets partnership, which saw the whole city come together to reduce the number of rough sleepers on our streets. During the recent Covid-19 lockdown, huge progress has been made in housing rough sleepers in hotels and then transferring them to longer-term accommodation after their needs had been assessed. By working with its partners, the council has been able to provide the support needed by the former rough sleepers to encourage them to leave their lives on the street for good. During 2020 alone, our monthly rough sleeper counts have seen a reduction from 29 in January to only five in October.

Our partnership working was recognised nationally when we received a visit from HRH Prince of Cambridge earlier in the year.

Additional key achievements include:

4.1.2

### **Reducing and preventing rough sleeping**

- A predicted annual count of 5 rough sleepers for 2020.
- 123 rough sleepers were accommodated in emergency shelter at the height of the pandemic. Over 75 have now been moved to longer term accommodation.
- Creation of Safer off the Streets Partnership to create a 'one-city' approach to the services and support offered to rough sleepers.
- Successful Rough Sleeper Initiative Grant for 2020/21 totalling over £800,000. This has enabled us to put in place a range of initiatives to prevent and relieve rough sleeping.
- Boosting rough sleeper team from 1 FTE to 4 FTE and 1 Team Leader. 2 FTE rough sleeper posts and 1 Team Leader posts are funded through Rough Sleeper Initiative. This has enabled a confidence in our knowledge and understanding of the rough sleeping cohort.
- Housing First model is currently being developed in Peterborough

#### 4.1.3 **Access to permanent accommodation**

- The successful introduction of utilising the private rented sector to discharge housing duty following the Localism Act (2011). Since 1 October 2020 we had successfully supported 69 households into private rented sector accommodation.
- The continuation of an essential rent deposit scheme which supports households to access accommodation.
- The introduction of the Private Rented Sector team to support private sector landlords and tenants in both preventing and relieving homelessness.
- Allocating 795 Social housing tenancies for our RSL partners in line with the Peterborough Homes Allocations Policy in 2019/20.

#### 4.1.4 **The Housing Needs Team**

- The Housing Needs team have successfully prevented and relieved homelessness for 775 households in 2019/2020.
- The training of the whole Housing Needs team in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has resulted in lower caseloads and clear pathway to permanent plans to permanent accommodation. These have resulted in a considerable reduction in the number of households in B&B and no families in B&B.
- Creation of a Private Rented Sector team in November 2019 has assist with preventing homelessness and sourcing and securing properties in the private sector – reducing the length time of time in temporary accommodation, being able to make an offer before prior to the household becoming homeless and offering permanent accommodation to those at risk of homelessness.
- Introduction of new customer focused IT system to manage applications and allocations of social housing. Enabling customers to download the application, view their application, make changes and set an alert to know when properties become available to let.

#### 4.1.5 **Reducing and improving the need for temporary accommodation**

- Reduction of the number of households in Bed and Breakfast style accommodation to zero was accomplished on 19 March 2020.
- The quality of temporary accommodation for homeless households has been greatly improved through the private sector leasing scheme and purchasing properties to enable households to where possible live in self contained accommodation.

### 4.2 **CHANGING NEEDS IN THE CITY**

#### 4.2.1 ***Peterborough – A Changing City***

The population of Peterborough is growing rapidly. Between 2011 and 2018 the population grew by 18,000 bringing the mid-year population estimate to 203,600. The natural change of more births than deaths appears to be the key driver of population growth, although migration was also a prominent factor.

This growth has brought new jobs, skills, housing and opportunities. Peterborough has benefitted hugely from the rich, vibrant cultures that new and existing people living in the City

have brought with them. But rapid growth and a changing population has also brought challenges.

With the increase in population, we have also seen growth in the number of children and older people significant pressure on public services such as schools, social care and health providers. Not only are public services seeing an increase in the volume of demand for support, they are also dealing with increasingly challenging and complex issues, which often require a multi-agency response to tackle.

Demand for housing has also increased, changing the character of some local communities. Over the last few years, more adults of working age have moved into areas that traditionally had provided homes for families, resulting in longstanding communities moving to other parts of the city. This has led to some areas feeling a sense of overcrowding and the loss of community.

If the council and its partners are to adapt to the changing needs and demands for public services, it will need to fundamentally change the way it operates. Think Communities is a new approach to how the public sector in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire functions which will find new ways to support citizens to find the right solution to meet their needs, including accessing services and support, when they need it.

The Think Communities approach will:

- address the ways in which demand for statutory and sometimes costly services will be managed
- it will be cognizant of and reflect the role and input of all our key partners
- it will allow a single cross-partnership conversation with communities to convey a shared vision to achieve mutual benefit
- it will demonstrate how we will build and sustain trust, transparency and accountability with and between communities and our partners

Our vision is to develop a system wide approach to tackling complex needs which builds upon community strengths and assets. The vision has three key areas:

- **People:** Resilient communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where people can feel safe, healthy, connected and able to help themselves and each other.
- **Places:** New and established communities that are integrated, possess a sense of place, and which support the resilience of their residents.
- **System:** A system wide approach in which partners listen, engage and align with communities and with each other, to deliver public service and support community-led activity.

This will be achieved through the service re-design work that commenced in October 2020.

#### 4.2.2

### **Housing Affordability**

In considering homelessness and rough sleeping there is a need to consider housing and in particular availability and affordability. The average house price based on sales in July 2020 was £222,420, an increase of £16,799. Using CACI data on households' incomes and the average house prices based on sales and valuations a calculation can be made to consider how many times income the local house prices represent. A common rule of thumb is that a house price of 3 to 3.5 times income is considered to be affordable. In July 2020 the ratio was

8.8 making home ownership unaffordable for those on lower incomes.

The private rented sector is buoyant in Peterborough. The median weekly rent for a 1 bedroom property in Peterborough was £126 in July 2020 and an increase of £5 per week in the last 12 months, the Local Housing Allowance rate was £110 per week. The gap between median rent and Local Housing Allowance grows with the size of the property and with a gap of £34 per week for a 4 bedroom property.

#### 4.2.3 **Peterborough Homes Housing Register**

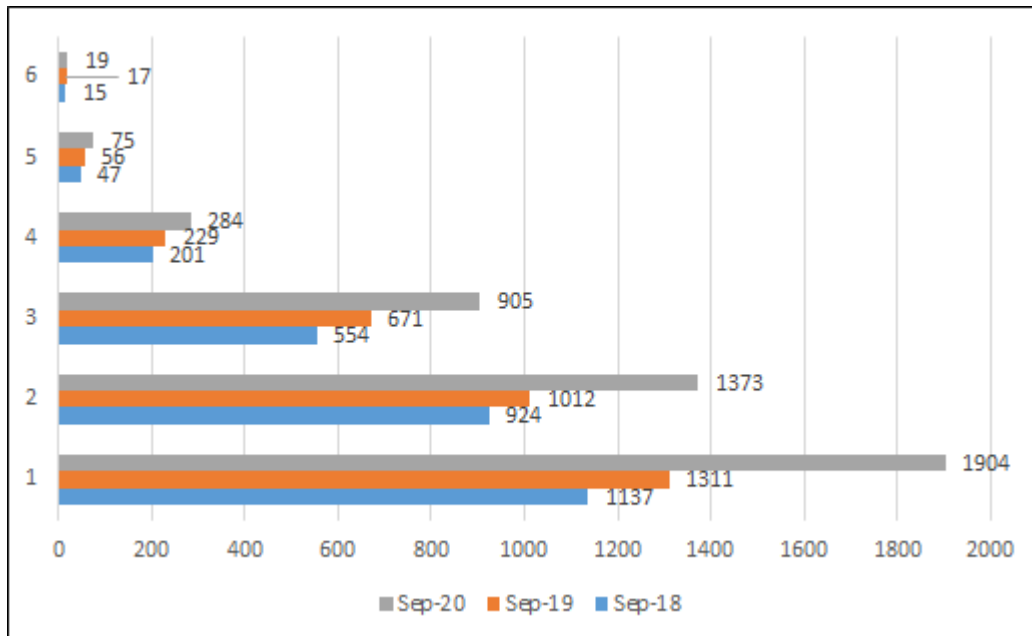
A considerable number of household's approach Peterborough City Council with a specific housing need. Peterborough City Council works with Cross Keys Homes, Accent, Longhurst, BPHA, Circle Anglia, Home Group, Hyde, Clarion, Riverside ECHG, Chorus Homes and Muir Group. Applications are assessed in line with the Peterborough Homes Allocations Policy. This policy is agreed by all partners and Peterborough City Council and outlines the process for allocating social housing in the city.

Choice Based Lettings is a way of allocating social housing. It gives households seeking accommodation with a social landlord the choice of the type of property and area of the city they would like to live. The Choice Based Lettings partnership in Peterborough includes eight Registered Social Landlords excluding Cross Keys Homes. These members advertise their properties through the Choice Based Lettings Scheme via the Peterborough Homes Jigsaw website. Available properties are advertised on a weekly cycle and eligible applicants can place bids of interest.

Cross Keys Homes properties are also advertised via the Peterborough Homes Jigsaw website. Those that were transferred in 2004 via the Large-Scale Voluntary Transfer require a 48 hour turnaround and so are advertised for 24 hours. Those that were built or acquired after 2004 are advertised on a weekly cycle.

Additionally, the Housing Needs service have recently began the process for reviewing and creating a new Allocations Policy.

#### 4.2.4 **Total number of households on the Housing Register from 2018-2020 by bedroom requirement**



Between September 2019 and September 2020 the number of households on the Peterborough Homes Housing Register increased by 1,264. A household's chances of securing social housing are based upon the number of properties that are advertised for let through the Choice Based Lettings Scheme.

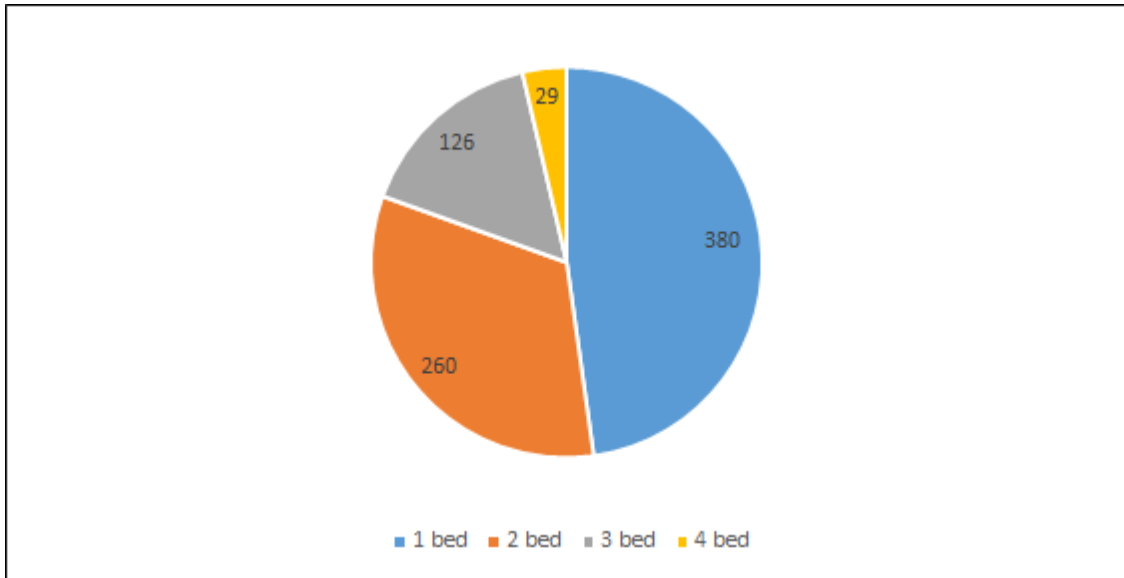
Whilst work has continued at a pace to secure an appropriate level of temporary accommodation to meet increasing demand it remains important to secure the development of new permanent homes with a suitable mix of tenure. The total stock of housing managed by Registered Providers in Peterborough is approximately 17,000.

During the financial year 2019/20, 281 new affordable housing homes were built in Peterborough comprising 184 rented tenure homes and 97 shared ownership tenure homes. In total, 1,145 new dwellings were built in Peterborough during this period, with affordable housing representing 24.5% of the overall delivery. This is a significant improvement in rates of affordable housing delivery achieved in recent years which have seen an annual average of less than 150 new affordable homes delivered per year over the previous 4 year period.

The increase in affordable housing delivery rate is set to continue for this year, with 301 new affordable homes anticipated for completion by the end of 2020/21 comprising a tenure split of 191 rented tenure homes and 110 shared ownership tenure homes. Delays caused by the pandemic may see these figures fluctuate if timescales for completions. The rate of completion of affordable housing delivered through S106 agreements remains challenging on large strategic sites with major infrastructure requirements that affect the overall development viability of the scheme.

#### 4.2.5

#### **Total number of properties advertised through Choice Based Lettings by bedroom size between September 2019 – August 2020**

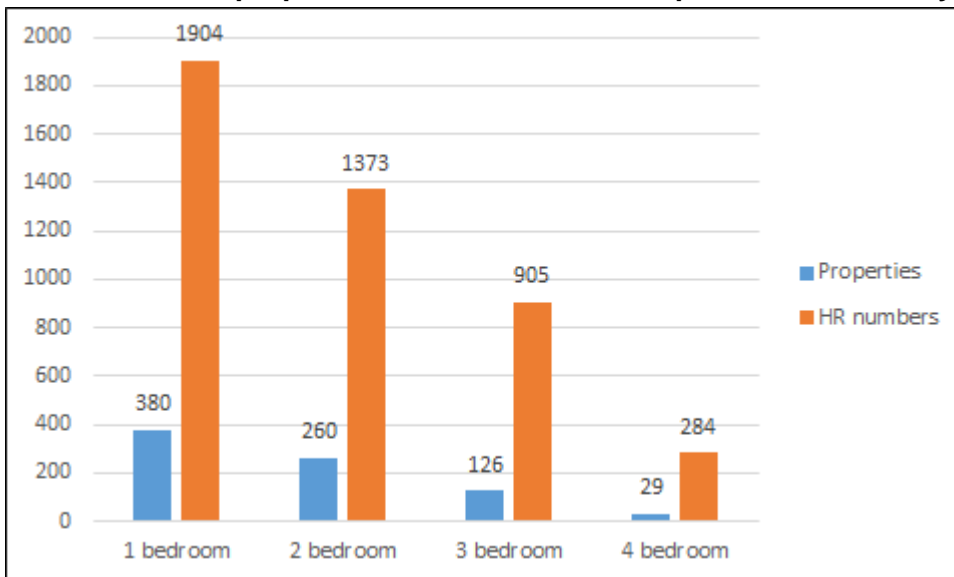


Please note that some properties may have been advertised on several occasions in order to find a suitable tenant.

The chart below shows the total number of available lets in the table above in comparison to the total number of applicants by property size. This provides an indication of a household's chances of securing a social housing tenancy.

#### 4.2.6

#### Total number of properties re-let in 2019/20 compared to demand by bedroom size



The demand for social housing is high and is far greater than the properties that are available to let.

#### 4.2.7

#### Housing Revenue Account

When Peterborough sold its stock to Cross Keys Homes, the rationale for transfer and closure of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was clear: huge constraints on investment, a housing “subsidy” redistribution system that collected net income from council tenants and passed it to the government, and challenges around stock investment requirements.

We are now in very different times: the subsidy system has gone and artificial constraints on investment have been relaxed. Homes England provides grants to local authorities for development.



One of Peterborough’s key drivers is to increase the supply of social and low-cost housing for those in the greatest need. Our Registered Provider partners are committed to providing affordable housing but are unable to develop sufficient social housing. Also developing our own homes offers the possibility to build to meet our corporate objectives including environmental ambitions and providing pathways for the most vulnerable in our community.

## HOMELESSNESS

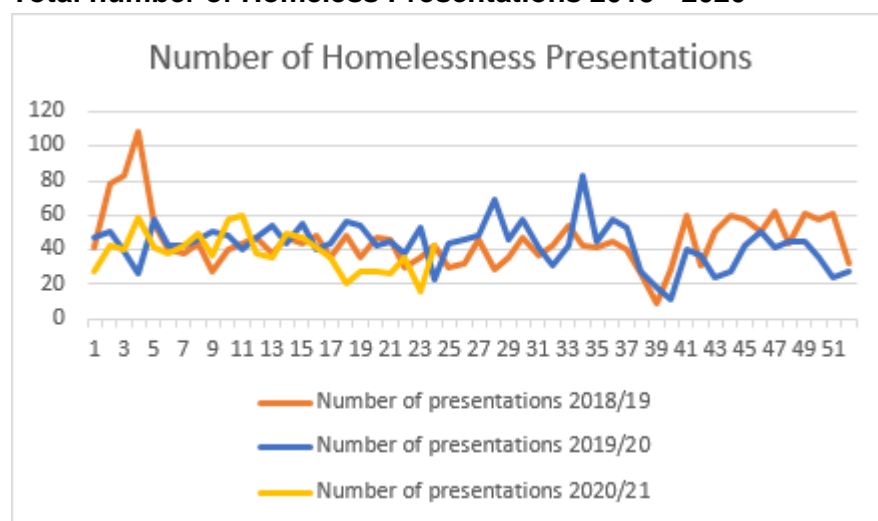
### 4.2.8 Numbers of people becoming homeless

Peterborough has seen consistently high number of Homelessness presentations to the City Council:

- 2018/2019 - 2355
- 2019/2020 - 2231
- 2020/2021 - 1680

Southwark was a Pathfinder Authority for the Homelessness Reduction Act and saw an increase of 38% in homeless presentations during its Pathfinder year. However, during 2018/19 Peterborough had 2,355 presentations - a 56% increase on the previous year. This represents an adverse gap of 18% between the expected demand (from the Pathfinder results) and the actual demand.

### 4.2.9 Total number of Homeless Presentations 2015 - 2020



Since 2018 the service has worked hard to address the backlog of casework and provide permanent accommodation for those who they have a duty to rehouse. This has been achieved through Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 training, case management sessions, and a focus on decision making. Furthermore, this has been complemented by the rapid development of the Private Rented Sector team and their dedication to procure accommodation for those who are excluded from the Peterborough Homes Housing Register. This has built resilience across the team and enabled the service to further reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation.

4.2.10 The pandemic has had an impact on homelessness presentations. The number of clients contacting Housing Needs for assistance has remained at a steady level during this time, but those becoming homeless as a result has reduced. This is because measures put in place by

the government to suspend eviction action has meant households in rented accommodation have been able to remain and continue to. Additionally, the number of households becoming homeless after being asked to leave by friends and family reduced during lockdown, as family units were required to remain isolated together. This has started to re-emerge as measures have been eased.

Furthermore, the restrictions placed on landlords have resulted in evictions ceasing. There is likely to be a surge in evictions once the restrictions are eased or lifted. This may result in households approaching the Housing Needs service with higher levels of rent arrears making the challenge of finding alternative accommodation difficult. Many households have remained together during the pandemic, which may result in an increased strain on relationships and trigger an increase in households presenting once the restrictions are lifted. Housing Needs are therefore expecting a surge in demand over the coming months.

#### 4.2.11 Ethnicity of households making homeless presentations` in 2018/19 and 2019/20

Ethnic Group	2018/19	2019/20
Any other ethnic group	14	10
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	1	2
Asian or Asian British - East African Asian	2	1
Asian or Asian British - Indian	8	6
Asian or Asian British - Other	54	33
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	93	87
Black or Black British - African	82	104
Black or Black British - Caribbean	21	15
Black or Black British - Other	23	21
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group - Chinese	5	2
Don't know / refused	26	13
Mixed - Other	33	42
Mixed - White and Asian	13	20
Mixed - White and Black African	21	19
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	23	22
Other ethnic group: Arab	9	10
White - British	1086	1054
White - Irish	9	10
White Other - Greek/ Greek Cypriot	1	1
White Other - Gypsy/Roma	2	4
White Other - Irish Traveller	1	2
White Other - Kurdish	9	8
White Other - Other	297	283
White Other - Turkish	1	1
Unknown	521	461
Total	2355	1770

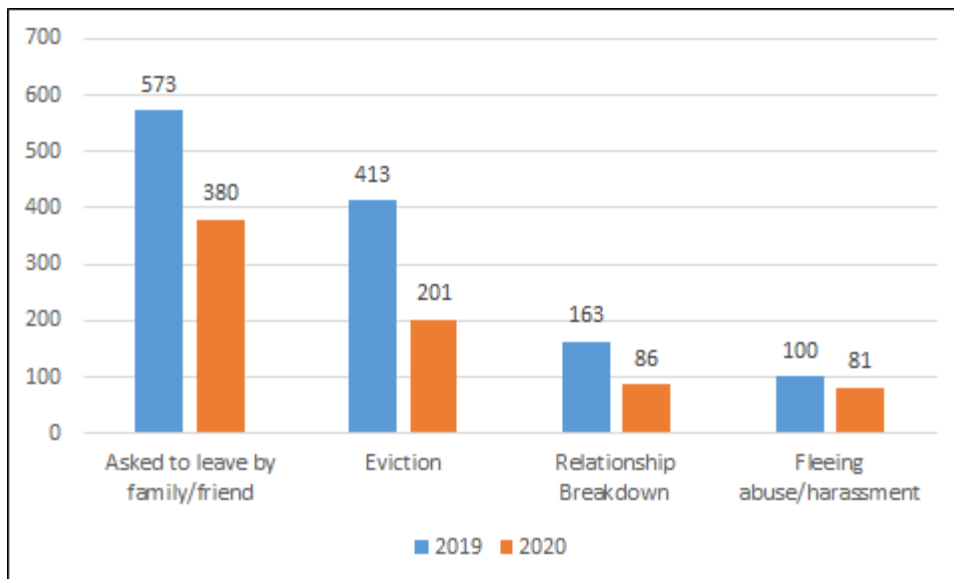
#### 4.2.12 Reasons for Homelessness

In 2019 the main reason for presenting as homeless was asked to leave by family (21.7%), followed by Section 21 notice (15.2%), friends no longer willing to accommodate (8.4%) and relationship breakdown (8.6%). In 2020 the main reasons are detailed in the graph below.

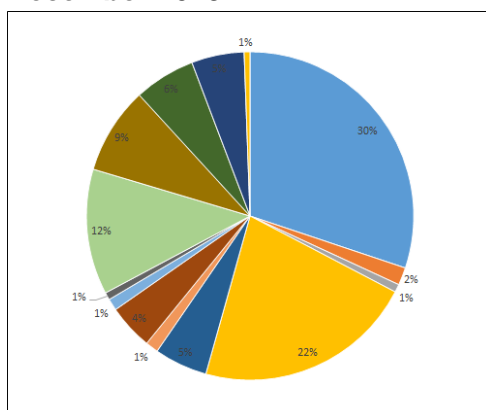
In order to reduce and prevent the number of households approaching with a s21 notice, both landlords and tenants need to be able to access immediate support and advice as soon as difficulties arise in the tenancy. Landlord and tenant liaison/mediation alongside a dedicated resource to resolve any difficulties at the outset will provide an important prevention tool. The changes to the s21 notice period to 6 months provide the perfect opportunity.

The high number of households being made homeless as a result of being asked to leave accommodation by their family or friends. Often the households who have been made homeless are families which have formed and grown, but are unable to access housing through other routes, such as private sector accommodation or home purchase. If homelessness from friends and family is to be reduced there will need to be the development of a targeted and pro-active response. Effective and timely mediation, together with home visits, and planned moves into alternative accommodation could be considered.

#### 4.2.13 The 4 main reasons for homelessness 2019 and 2020

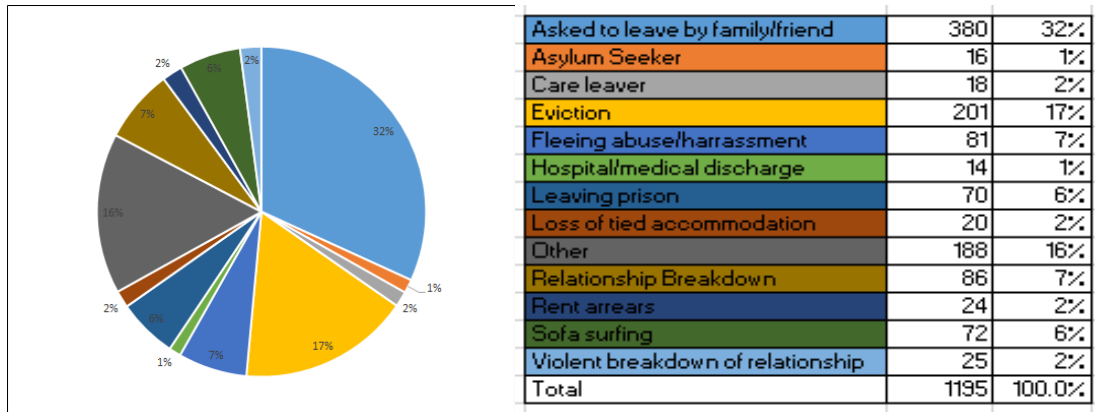


#### The main reason for homelessness for all households approaching from January to December 2019



Asked to leave by family/friend	573	30%
Asylum Seeker	33	2%
Care leaver	15	1%
Eviction	413	22%
Fleeing abuse/harassment	100	5%
Hospital/medical discharge	24	1%
Leaving prison	85	4%
Loss of tied accommodation	22	1%
Mortgage repossession	14	1%
Other	235	12%
Relationship Breakdown	163	9%
Rent arrears	115	6%
Sofa surfing	99	5%
Violent breakdown of relationship	11	1%
Total	1902	100%

4.2.14 **The main reason for homelessness for all households approaching between January and October 2020**



4.2.15 **Duty to Refer**

The Homelessness Reduction Act of April 2018 placed a duty upon statutory agencies to refer cases into the Council’s Housing Needs team whenever a risk of homelessness has been identified. This referral arrangement was implemented in October 2018.

Following several months of agencies getting used to the new requirements the Council has seen an increase in referrals from organisations such as the DWP, prison and probation services. With these referrals has come a heightened sense of expectation. Clients who may well have not approached the Council previously and found accommodation without our assistance are now being referred to the Council. In 2019 this resulted in an increase in persons approaching us due to leaving prison in

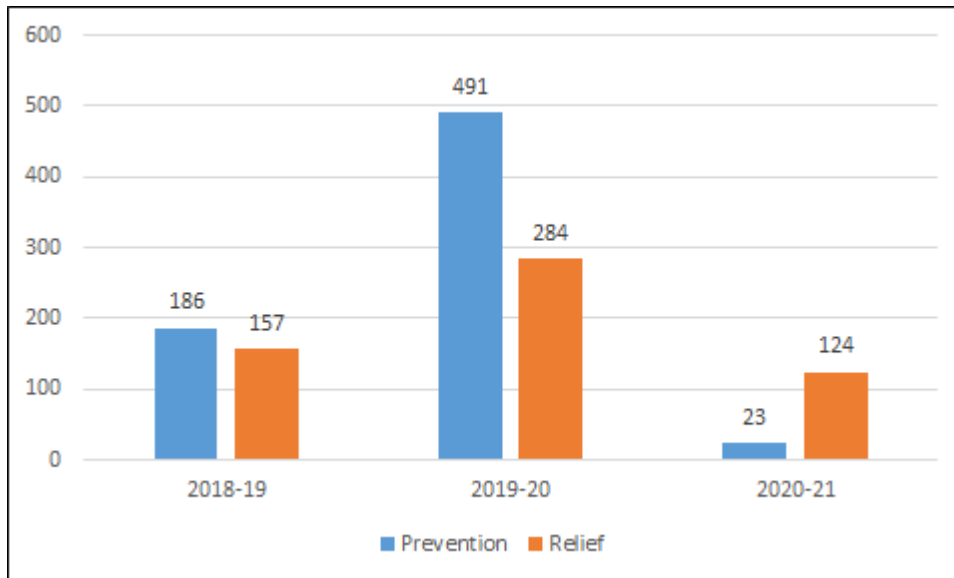
- 2019 - 85
- 2020 - 70 to date

**4.3 PREVENTING AND RELIEVING HOMELESSNESS**

4.3.1 Applicants who approach the Local Authority are assessed in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. Applicants are owed a duty when a Local Authority is satisfied that they are eligible for assistance and are homeless, threatened with homelessness or have been served a valid s21 notice. Applicants who are threatened with homelessness are owed a prevention duty and those whose who are homeless are owed a relief duty.

A key function of the Housing Needs Service is to prevent and relieve homelessness when possible through using the homelessness prevention tools or assisting households into alternative accommodation in the private rented sector.

4.3.2 **Total number of homeless preventions and reliefs in 2018-19 to date**



The Housing Needs Team continues to develop prevention tools and strategies to enable officers to focus on preventing homelessness. These include use of the Rent Deposit Scheme and Discretionary Housing Payment to prevent homelessness, negotiation with friends and family and resolving landlord and tenant disputes.

When prevention is not possible, the officers will then focus on relieving homelessness through effective Personalised Housing Plans and actions for both the officer and client. In 2018/19 through to 2019/2020, officers worked hard to increase the numbers of preventions and reliefs from 325 to 775.

During 2020/2021 and the pandemic there were limited opportunities to both prevent and relieve homelessness. Prevention activity within the Housing Needs service was reduced due to the focus on providing the emergency shelters and dealing with households who were homeless on the day.

#### 4.3.3 Housing Needs Team

The key work of both relieving and preventing homelessness is a shared aim of the team. Over the last six months the team has also additionally led the coordination and management of the shelter for rough sleepers. The team have worked tirelessly to support households who are homeless alongside managing the shelter and supporting the day to day challenges of accommodating rough sleepers across multiple sites.

The six Gateway Officers within the team provide the initial contact and triage for the service and assess if clients are eligible and they have reason to believe that they are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

There is a considerable demand for the service and there are often long waiting times for a customer to be able to speak to an officer. However, during the pandemic this has greatly improved by clients leaving a voicemail and a contact number and Gateway Officers calling them back the same day preventing a long wait on the telephone.

A total of 10 Housing Solutions Officers are employed with the remit of both preventing and relieving homelessness. Officers are encouraged to be both innovative and practical in their approach and are guided by a Team Leader and through 1 to 1's and case management sessions provided by the wider management team.

MHCLG advise that the average caseload for officers is between 35-40 cases but where local authorities manage demand and systems well, the caseload is between 20-25 per officer. However, this approach involves regular management support. The current average caseload for officers within the Housing Needs team is 51. This is a 30% reduction that has been achieved whilst managing rest centers, reducing B&B to zero and alleviating the backlog of application to be processed to join the Peterborough Homes Housing Register.

Officers report that they are seeing an increased level of complexity amongst those presenting as homeless. This includes both mental and physical health. The thresholds for access to both social care and mental health services appear to have increased and clients who would have previously qualified for assistance are no longer able to access this support. With the pressures on services many clients are only dealt with at the point of crisis, often leading to an increase in the client's support needs.

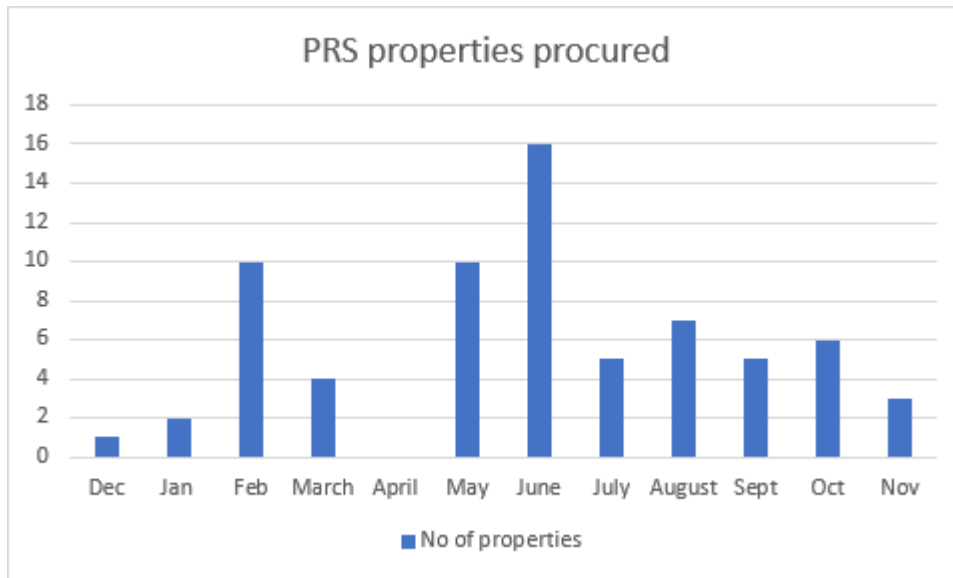
Following intensive training through group sessions and coaching through casework and one to ones the officers are advising that they are both confident and able to approach their caseloads in a systematic manner. Much progress has been made in terms of ensuring that all households have a pathway into accommodation. Referrals are made to floating support service to support the opportunities for households to maintain their accommodation. The service was closed for a week to ensure that all Housing Register application were processed, and households could maximise their opportunities to secure permanent accommodation. Furthermore, we are working with MCHLG on an improvement plan to further develop prevention tools and the opportunities to both prevent and relieve homelessness.

Work has recently commenced to look at the re-design of the service in order to meet both current and future demand and improve the customer journey.

#### 4.3.4 **Access to the private rented sector**

The success of the Private Rented Sector means that we procured 119 properties through the scheme and have discharged duty to 67 families and single clients, some of whom have been in our temporary accommodation settings for over two years. This includes 5 two bed properties, 1 three bed property, 2 four bed properties, 2 five bed properties and 57 one bed or shared facilities properties. We recognize that landlord packages need to be tailored to the individual landlords / letting agents we are working with and need to be reactive to the current climate i.e., newly introduced Coronavirus Act.

#### 4.3.5 **Total number of PRS properties available by date available from December 2019 to November 2020**



One of the challenges that the PRS team face is managing client's expectations. Most households approaching the service wish to access social housing. This is often a barrier as households are not willing to consider private rented options.

#### 4.3.6 **Rent Deposit Scheme**

The rent deposit scheme offers an interest free loan for households at risk of homelessness or who are homeless to access alternative accommodation. Officers are required to ensure that properties are both reasonable and affordable prior to agreeing an interest free loan. This scheme is primarily used to access the private rented sector but is also used to enable households to be able to provide registered social landlords with rent in advance required to be able to sign up to a new tenancy. In 2019/2020, 199 households were assisted through the scheme.

#### 4.3.7 **Discretionary Housing Payments**

There had been for several years a disconnect between the Housing Needs Service and the department who manages the Discretionary Housing Payments fund. We have worked closely with the team to ensure we work together on utilizing the fund in the most efficient way and have formed a closer working relationship with the DHP department to ensure that administrators of the fund have a greater understanding of our clients and their issues. Processing times have improved to ensure we can effectively utilize the fund as a homelessness prevention tool and clients can access affordable private rented properties.

During 2019/20 a total of 107 households received Discretionary Housing Payments to prevent or relieve their homelessness.

#### 4.3.8 **Negotiation with Landlords**

The Private Rented Sector Team have built strong relationships with Landlords and we now have a better understanding of the issues which they feel they need support with. Key to private tenancy success is supporting tenants with the initial 'set-up' of their tenancies. The PRS team offer a 6-week initial support package which is now supported by the newly established floating support team.

A further primary concern of landlords is the financial risk they may take when taking on a high-risk tenant or a tenant with a poor tenancy record. We assist on negating this risk by negotiating a financial incentive at the beginning of the tenancy and setting up direct payments to the landlords of any benefits payments.

Success of the scheme is demonstrated by the fact that all tenancies that have been instigated by the team have yet to be terminated.

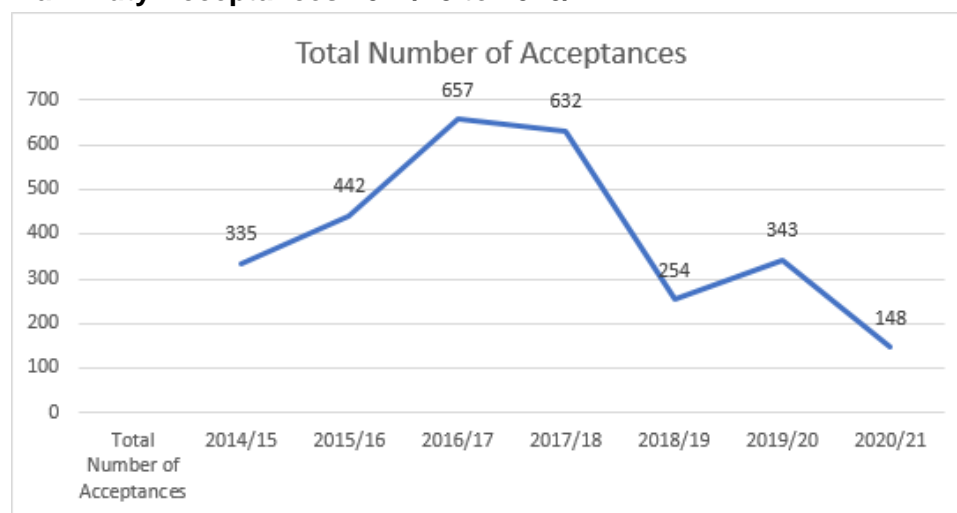
### Acceptances and Temporary Accommodation

4.3.9

The two graphs below show main duty acceptances and households in temporary accommodation. The 2018/19 figure for accepted cases is far lower than previous years. This figure is reported under the new Homelessness Reduction Act 2018. Whilst main duty acceptance criteria have not altered the process prior to this has with additional duties in both prevention and relief prior to main duty decision. Therefore, the lower figure in 2018/19 is in part due to the amendments within the Act.

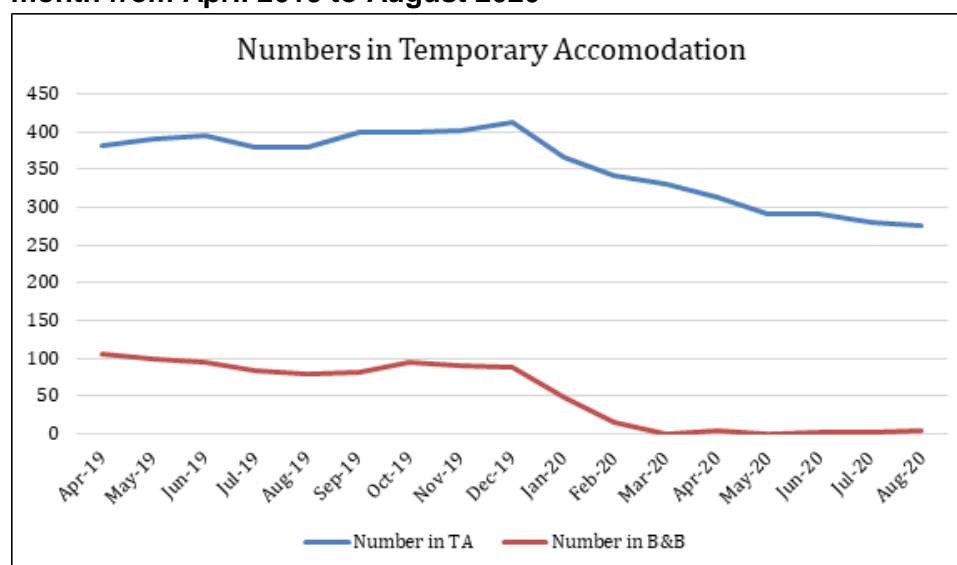
### Main Duty Acceptances 2014/15 to 2020/21

4.3.10



### Households accommodated in temporary accommodation and in B&B at the end of each month from April 2019 to August 2020

4.3.11



The Housing Needs service have continued to work hard to reduce the number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation. They have reached the point that they have very few households with children accommodated in hostel accommodation and none in B&B



accommodation. The households in hostel accommodation are quickly moved to self-contained once it is secured. B&B is no longer used for families and for single applicants is now only in an emergency and only for a very short period.

### Rough Sleeping

4.3.12

#### Reasons for rough sleeping


The reasons for rough sleeping are multi-faceted and include poor mental health, relationship breakdown, loss of employment or temporary contracts and substance misuse.

Public Health England recognises both structural and individual factors.

**The causes of homelessness and rough sleeping**

The causes of rough sleeping are typically described as either structural or individual factors. These can be interrelated and reinforced by one another.

<p><b>Structural factors include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poverty</li> <li>• inequality</li> <li>• housing supply and affordability</li> <li>• unemployment or insecure employment</li> <li>• access to social security</li> </ul>	<p><b>Individual factors include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor physical health</li> <li>• mental health problems</li> <li>• experience of violence, abuse and neglect</li> <li>• drug and alcohol problems</li> <li>• relationship breakdown</li> <li>• experience of care or prison</li> <li>• bereavement</li> <li>• refugees</li> </ul>
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### 4.3.13 Levels of rough sleeping

Rough sleeping in Peterborough, through the official rough sleeper count, has increased over the last 5 years, however data obtained by our monthly non-official counts we believe this has dropped significantly in 2020, as can be seen in table below.

### 4.3.14 Total number of persons found sleeping rough in Peterborough during official count/estimate 2014-2020

Year	2018	2019	2020*
No of Rough Sleepers	29	37	5*
Percentage Change	-6%	+29%	-86%*
Percentage Change since 2010	38%	43%	-76%*

The rough sleeper team are confident that the predicted number for 2020 is accurate. The street outreach is more frequent and the understanding and knowledge of who is sleeping out has grown. The reduction in numbers reflects the extensive work achieved during COVID-19 to resettle rough sleepers in rest centres

Rate of rough sleeping in Peterborough have historically been higher compared to East of England and England, which means Peterborough is one of 83 Local authorities receiving national funding as part of the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI).

#### 4.3.15 **Current health services available for rough sleepers in Peterborough**

There are currently no targeted health services commissioned for rough sleepers in Peterborough. In Cambridge City targeted support is commissioned by the CCG through the Cambridge Access Surgery.

Many rough sleepers in Peterborough are registered with Boroughbury practice (approx. 50) in the centre of the city, this is partly historic but also due to Dr Ruth Beesley delivering clinical sessions at the Garden House. These sessions are possible due to RSI funding. In 20/21 the RSI funding enabled 2 days a week GP provision and 1 day a week of nurse time solely for those people who are rough sleeping.

#### 4.3.16 **Health services funded by Local Authority**

Peterborough City Council received time limited funding for 20/21 from Government as part of the Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) – this was used to fund some health aspects including:

- **Drug and alcohol outreach worker** - CGL Aspire have been contracted to provide a full-time drug and alcohol Outreach worker to work alongside the rough sleeper outreach team. In addition, a consultant psychiatrist works one day a week to administer and prescribe in an alternative location.
- **Mental and physical health support** - 2 days a week GP and 1 day a week nurse support for rough sleepers. A full time Mental Health Navigator who has a case load of 10 rough sleepers to guide them through their journey and advocate and ensure appropriate support is in place.

The extension of Cambridge's Counting Every Adult service into Peterborough offers support to individuals with complex needs including alcohol and substance misuse and mental health needs, some of whom are rough sleepers. This is not strictly a health service but helps to identify health needs and engage the most vulnerable.

#### 4.3.17 **Other services for rough sleepers**

In January 2020 the Council was successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) through the rough sleeping initiative (RSI) of over £800,00 and £429,000 from the Next Steps Accommodation Programme funding to further sustain and develop the work on Rough Sleeping during 2020 – 2021. The RSI award has enabled us to:

- Sustain the rough sleeper outreach team with 5 posts consisting of 4 rough sleeper outreach officers and a rough sleeping coordinator post
- Maintain a European Economic Area Navigator working with EEA Nationals towards establishing re-connection or eligibility in order to secure accommodation.

- Funding a prison resettlement worker to work with rough sleepers inside HMP Peterborough and reduce the numbers of sleepers being released from HMP Peterborough onto the streets.
- Maintaining the provision of a floating support service to former rough sleepers in both temporary and permanent accommodation.
- Funding of a landlord incentive scheme to increase access to single person accommodation in the private sector.

The Next Steps Accommodation award will enable us to continue to accommodate rough sleepers until March 2021.

The Covid 19 pandemic forced a considerable change in how services were delivered to rough sleepers with the instruction from the government to get everyone in and the closing of shared sleeping sites such as those provided by the crash bed settings. The re-purposing of part of the RSI initiatives to meet the new needs of rough sleepers. The re-purposed money allowed the creation of a floating support service to help those who had moved on to prevent them from becoming homeless again.

#### 4.3.18 **Covid-19 and the impact**

The impact of the pandemic is likely to be far reaching in terms of housing and homelessness, making it difficult for some to meet their housing costs. This will become clearer once the furlough scheme has been ended and there is an understanding of the true impact on employment levels and incomes across the city.

On the 26 March 2020 the MHCLG issued an instruction letter to all local authorities as part of the “everyone in” campaign. The four main principles of this campaign were to focus on those rough sleeping, at risk of rough sleeping, and those accessing accommodation that made following social distancing guidelines difficult.

In Peterborough the impact of this was that we were no longer able to use the crash bed facilities we had secured at Longhurst Homes or go ahead with the plans to extend the winter night shelter provision or the additional 12 crash bed facilities we had secured funding for in the 2020-21 Rough Sleeper Initiative funding. The MHCLG instructed local authorities would need to work with the NHS and other partners to provide accommodation that would enable rough sleepers to self-isolate, to prevent the transmission and risk of transmission of COVID symptoms.

The council worked in partnership with Safer off the Streets partners, including Light Project Peterborough, Longhurst Homes, Cross Keys Homes, Peterborough Soup Kitchen, and Aspire CGL to secure accommodation initially at the Holiday Inn Express, Orton Northgate, which was later extended over 3 sites.

At the height of the pandemic, the shelters were accommodating 123 rough sleepers. Support was offered 24hrs a day with 3 meals being provided by Safer off the Streets Partners, access to health care from the outreach nurse, access to mental health support from a mental health nurse and drug and alcohol support from Aspire CGL.

As part of the resettlement planning, the Private Rented Sector team worked hard to find suitable properties. Registered Social Landlord partners supported with further accommodation and supported accommodation settings created vacancies. In total 90 rough sleepers were

supported into long term accommodation. 75 of these have been resettled directly from the rest centres and 15 from supported accommodation settings into long term accommodation.

The pandemic has provided opportunities for partnership working and the Housing Needs service has taken the opportunity to strengthen and grow their working relationships with partners in the statutory, voluntary and faith sectors. The success of the joint working to overcome barriers and to support rough sleepers to access accommodation, support and health services have been amazing. The Housing Needs service are keen to build on this work and further strengthen those working relationships.

#### 4.3.19 **Supported Accommodation**

Peterborough City Council provide Housing Related support through an annual grant to support the following client groups;

- Single Homeless
- Homeless Families
- Single homeless and young people at risk
- People with mental health problems
- Victims of domestic abuse
- Ex-offenders and substance misuse

#### 4.3.20 **Housing Related Support services in Peterborough**

Service Provider	Client Group
Fairview Court – including Drop In services – Longhurst Group	Single Homeless
New Haven – Longhurst Group	Single Homeless
Peterborough Foyer – Longhurst Group	Young People
Temporary Accommodation Hostel Provision - Cross Keys Homes	Homeless households
Mayors Walk -	Single homeless
Eastlands - Home Group	Mental Health Problems
Timestop - YMCA	Young People
The Cresset - YMCA	Single Homeless
Womens Refuge - Womens Aid	Domestic Abuse
Floating Support Services - P3	Ex-offenders, substance misuse, chronically excluded

In 2018 a review was completed of current Housing Related Support provision. The report looked at current provision, gaps in services alongside the needs and demands. The review outlined the following gaps;

- Move-On – There is a severe lack of appropriate and affordable move-on accommodation (social housing and private rented) for clients who are ready to exit services. This is a particular issue for single people who are moving out of hostels and supported accommodation and several respondents referred to the long wait clients were facing for social housing. One respondent suggested that Private Landlords incentive schemes and guarantee of floating support might encourage more landlords to

accept those exiting services and who are on benefits and/or with previous rent arrears.

- These were noted

- 'Step Down' accommodation and support – Clients moving on from short term supported accommodation often end up going from a high supported environment to independent living with low level floating support, which is generally time limited. This sudden drop-in support often impacts negatively on the client's ability to sustain their independent accommodation, resulting in them becoming homeless again. There needs to be a more transitional approach that will allow the level of support to reduce gradually.
- Long Term Support – There are several short term supported housing and hostel services, but for those who need ongoing support there are very few long-term placements available and a lack of long-term floating support for those requiring some access to ongoing support to live independently.
- Complex Needs – Difficulty access appropriate supported accommodation and community support for people with issues such as drug and alcohol (including needing rehabilitation services), enduring mental health problems and domestic abuse victims with complex needs (e.g. dual diagnosis).
- Floating Support – Need for additional floating support to ensure it is available to support all clients who need it when moving on or whose needs can be met this way, rather than through a referral being made to supported housing / hostels
- Mental health – need for greater level of early intervention and access to mental health support as well as ongoing low-level support

During recent months discussions have taken place with partners looking at the supported housing needs of those with complex needs and a bid to MCHLG for supported accommodation for this cohort has been submitted. Furthermore, MCHLG are considering a bid for rough sleeper move on accommodation in the form of 22 self contained units for those households who have experienced rough sleeping.

#### 4.3.21 **Supported Accommodation Panel**

The Supported Accommodation Panel was created during the height of the pandemic to enable us to secure as many suitable move on placements for those being accommodated. Supported accommodation providers were at full capacity and move ons were very limited.

It was decided to create a panel made up of representatives from Housing Needs, Longhurst, Cross Keys Homes and the support worker who has referred someone. Together the clients background, current circumstances, substance misuse, behaviour, arrears are all discussed. Together an agreement is made as to whether the client is ready to move on to independent accommodation and if so, what conditions need to be met to be given Band 1 priority.

This panel successfully supports those who are ready to move on. It creates flow through the supported accommodation provider settings so that those who need the support can access it in a timely manner.

#### 4.3.22 **Partnership Working**

All Housing Authorities need to work in partnership with statutory, internal, contracted and voluntary sector organisations with the aim of preventing and relieving homelessness. This is reinforced in the Homeless Reduction Act 2018 and the 'duty to refer' requiring public bodies to refer to a Housing Authority any consenting individual they come across who is homeless or threatened with homelessness. The public bodies include prisons, young offender institutions, secure training centres, secure colleges; youth offending teams; probation; jobcentres; social services; emergency departments and hospital.

The Housing Needs service has good and productive relationships with its partners and there is a strong desire amongst statutory, voluntary, and faith-based organisations to work to both prevent and relieve homelessness. However, there is an acknowledgment that there are often challenges and barriers that prevent organisations from delivering the best services for their clients.

Our partnership working has been recognised nationally and we were fortunate enough to receive a visit from HRH the Duke of Cambridge at the Garden House where we and our partners were able to showcase the work we had done.

#### 4.3.23 **Safer off the Streets**

The Safer off the Streets partnership was launched on 10 October 2018 as a response to rough sleeping being the most visible consequence of homelessness. It had been noted that many organisations across the city were working to reduce rough sleeping, but there was a lack of a co-ordinated response. The partnership was originally made up of 17 organisations which has now grown to 19, from across the city from both the statutory and voluntary sectors.

By working together under one common charter the agencies create a support network for rough sleepers, to deliver a 'one-city' approach to preventing rough sleeping in the future. The partnership also provides the public with a single contact point to donate funds, offer their time volunteering or offer other donations knowing that these will be used to benefit rough sleepers in Peterborough.

By signing up to a charter and working together the partnership aims to raise funds to support rough sleepers through the work of the Light Project Peterborough, partly funding the Garden House, which acts a drop-in rough sleeping support hub in the city centre and supporting the other voluntary agencies such as Peterborough Soup Kitchen. In addition, the partnership aims to educate people about the work of agencies working with rough sleepers and how people can best support those sleeping outside into sustainable accommodation, reducing the negative effects that rough sleeping can have on communities such as the costs involved in clearing abandoned sleeping sites, and anti-social behaviour associated with drug and alcohol dependency.

#### 4.3.24 **Young People**

The Children Act 1989 identifies two groups; those who are voluntarily accommodated (s20) from whom the parents retain responsibility even though they have been placed in care and those who are subject to a care order obtained through legal proceeding (s31).

The Leaving Care team work closely with young people as they reach 16 to ensure that they have a smooth transition into adulthood. Where a young person disengages or losses their accommodation, they are referred to the Housing Needs team who assess them in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

The TYSS team work closely with young people under the age of 18 who are homeless and threatened with homelessness and will mediate with parents and family to prevent them from becoming homeless. When this is not possible, they will work with Housing Needs to prevent or relieve their homelessness. Both services recognise the damaging impact of young people being accommodated in temporary accommodation and work hard to prevent this. Direct access accommodation is available through Timestop with the support of their personal advisor and Housing Needs or in a planned move to Peterborough Foyer.

Whilst the joint protocol is in place officers are reporting on limited occasions services fail to act in line with its principles. This could be linked to staff turnover and new staff being unaware of the protocol. Consideration may also be given to the costs of the placements and a reluctance to proceed with this route. This often results in young people being 'pin ponged' between services and not getting the support and assistance they need.

#### 4.3.25 **Domestic Abuse**

Domestic abuse and violent relationship breakdown often result in homelessness. Housing Needs continue to work with our partners to ensure people can remain safe in their homes. When this is not possible, we will work with partners to enable clients to access temporary accommodation or a refuge.

#### 4.3.26 **Probation Services**

The introduction of the Duty to Refer under the HRA17 has provided opportunities for closer working and early notification of those who are homeless and threatened with homelessness which allows for early intervention work prior to applicants presenting as homelessness in crisis. However, the expectations of both clients and the Probation Service are quite often very high. In the circumstances that we are unable to provide temporary or permanent accommodation there is a willingness for probation officers to support with personalised housing plans. The Housing Needs service is taking part in a project to improve the working relationship between services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and look forward to improving the relationship further through training, understanding, and joint working.

#### 4.3.27 **MAPPA**

The Housing Needs service has a good working relationship with many of the MAPPA partners and attends the weekly panel meetings. Over the last two years this relationship has grown and greatly improved. This client group is often complex and requires an innovative approach that is supported by the Team Leaders and Housing Needs Managers who implement early intervention work. One of the key challenges in this area of work is to obtain accommodation from our Registered Social Providers that is deemed suitable and approved. This is particularly challenging for single applicants as the housing stock in the city takes the form of mainly flats and bedsits in residential areas. Housing Needs are currently working with partners to refresh the MAPPA protocol and hope that this will build on the work that has already been completed as well as providing opportunities for pathways into permanent accommodation.

#### 4.3.28 **Armed Forces**

The Armed Services Covenant is a promise between the nation, the government and the Armed Forces community to ensure that all those who serve and have served in the Armed Forces,

and their families are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged by their service. The Council signed the community covenant in 2013 as a commitment to our Armed Forces community. When either serving or former personnel approach the Housing Needs services for assistance joint working with SSAFA, the MOD and other supporting organisations is undertaken to ensure that these applicants are not disadvantaged. The service also accepts referrals from the Council's Armed Services Champion, currently Councilor John Fox, and also HRA17 S213 referrals via the Duty to Refer protocol in order to ensure early intervention for service personnel who are at risk of homelessness or in need of housing advice.

#### 4.3.29 **Key Objectives from the Homelessness Strategy 2018**

Peterborough's Homelessness Reduction Strategy 2018 - 2020 makes clear our intentions as a City to meet the requirements of the 2018 Act, and our response to rising levels of demand from homeless people. Since 2018, the City Council has committed significant levels of investment to address the issues highlighted in the 2018 Strategy - both in increasing the operational capacity needed and making capital investment to create new temporary and permanent homes for people who need them. In addition, our well-established working relationship with key partners to tackle homelessness has been essential to our initial success. The following paragraphs summarise the main achievements that have been made.

##### ***Objective 1: Eliminating the use of Travelodge type accommodation and reducing/eliminating the use of B&B type accommodation for temporary accommodation***

- Following a high of 63 households being placed out of area in Travelodge accommodation in June 2018, this reduced to zero by December 2018. It has stayed that way with one brief exception in June 2019 which was quickly resolved.
- In March 2020 we had zero households in B&B type accommodation.

##### ***Objective 2: Increase the supply of self-contained temporary accommodation options in order to support the reduction of B&B use***

- The Council have ended the use of B and B and reduced the numbers in temporary accommodation by 30%.

##### ***Objective 3: Ensuring the effective implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and embracing the culture change this will bring***

- Following the introduction of the Act and the duty to work with clients at both the prevention and relief stages. Staff have received training including understanding duties at both stage, robust decision making and supporting households into alternative accommodation.
- The service has commenced a redesign project establishing a positive customer journey while considering the principles of Think Communities.

##### ***Objective 4: Creating a suite of prevention tools which will give the Housing Needs team improved chances of success***

- Housing Needs staff have been trained to further understand and confidently use the keys tools for homelessness prevention.



- The creation of the PRS team has resulted in offers being made at the point of prevention, relief and main duty. This has had a positive impact on reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation, preventing households from going into temporary accommodation and reducing the number of families in B&B to zero.
- Housing Needs are working with MCHLG on an improvement plan to increase the suite of prevention tools.

**Objective 5: Support landlords and tenants to support them to overcome landlord/tenant issues which may lead to eviction actioned chances of success in preventing homelessness**

- The Housing Needs team continues to work with private sector landlords to support them to deal with landlord tenant disputes. However, despite our efforts Landlords serving section 21 notices in order to obtain possession of their properties remains one of the main reasons for households approaching us as for homelessness assistance.
- A successful bid to the MHCLG for funding to expand this area of the service assisted in establishing the Private Rented Sector team in November 2019.
- The aims and objectives of the scheme are affordability, housing quality, security of tenure and access to housing for households in poverty.
- The scheme works with landlords to tailor bespoke incentives and packages dependant on clients needs and risks.
- Services include eligibility checks, references & address histories, financial assessments, renting ready courses, tenant and landlord support, point of contact and setting up of direct payments through benefits. We also carry out checks on landlords to ensure they are reputable and inspections of properties.
- The team has formed strong working relationships with DHP department, DWP, housing enforcement, floating support, supported housing settings and homelessness officers to ensure holistic support is offered to clients to ensure their tenancies are sustainable.
- Early success of the first year are -
  - 123 properties procured
  - 6 regular landlords / letting agents working with PRS team
  - 27 landlords have worked with PCC during the 12 month period
  - 49 clients and landlords issues resolved to ensure client remains in property
  - 24 clients assisted into / move from supported housing

**Objective 6: Bringing together services to work holistically in ensuring financial inclusion, income maximisation and debt advice are accessible and prioritised in order to support preventative work**

- The use of Discretionary Housing Payment to help clients who may be struggling with debt or arrears is under continual review between the City Council and Serco to ensure that the funds are directed towards those most in need, and where there is an opportunity to prevent homelessness.
- Work with CAB improved the capacity across the partnership to triage people attending the Housing Needs service and identify early opportunities to support people who may be at risk of becoming homeless.
- The Peterborough Homelessness Forum was established in October 2018. This brings together partners from across the public, voluntary, community and faith sectors to consider how we tackle homelessness as a City.

**Objective 7: Explore the potential of a Social Lettings Agency/Guaranteed Rent Scheme**

### **for private landlords**

- Now that the Private Rented Sector Scheme is fully established and working effectively, we can explore the value and effectiveness of establishing a complementary scheme to the service.
- We will shortly begin exploring the establishment of a Social Lettings Agency and a Bond Scheme which following research with other authorities has proven successful with increasing the private sector offer to clients.

### **Objective 8: Ensure that information and advice on housing and homelessness prevention is widely available and that our customers are seen at the earliest possible opportunity**

- The 'Duty To Refer' came into effect as a result of the HRA. This makes it incumbent on services and organisations who may identify a potential risk of a family or individual becoming homeless, to make an early referral to the City Council Housing Needs team. Initially this was dealt with via a new mailbox but then through an ALERT referral via the Jigsaw application.
- Working with our partners to ensure that households at risk of homelessness are referred to us at the earliest opportunity. This includes officers being based at the Garden House in the City Centre to provide support to those accessing the Light Project Peterborough.

### **Objective 9: Maintain services and create an effective supported accommodation pathway for single homeless and rough sleepers**

- The creation of a new Supported Housing Panel that supports a clear pathway to and from supported accommodation attended by all key partner agencies.
- A new system - Jigsaw - was implemented to ensure that accurate data on caseloads and performance of the team can be used as a management tool. This is now being embedded and used more routinely by the team. Dashboard reports are being made to the Housing Programme Board on a monthly basis. We are also making good progress on a service improvement plan which was created following a visit by the MHCLG Homelessness Advice and Support Team.

### **Objective 10: Increase the focus on performance supported by clearer data**

- A new system - Jigsaw - was implemented to ensure that accurate data on caseloads and performance of the team can be used as a management tool. This is now being embedded and used more routinely by the team. Dashboard reports are being made and weekly reporting.

#### **4.3.30 What challenges and opportunities do we continue to have as a city?**

From the information and findings of this Homelessness Review, workshops with partners and consultation with members of the Housing Needs team. The following strategic objectives were identified for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

1. ***A relentless focus on preventing homelessness happening in the first place and preventing a problem becoming a crisis***
2. ***Ensuring an excellent customer journey for everyone***
3. ***Doing our utmost to ensure that affordable homes and the right support are available for those who need it most, at the time they need it***
4. ***To help rough sleepers to make positive choices to enable them to find homes off the streets***
5. ***Transformation through Partnership***

The next stage in the creation of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy will be the creation of sub-objectives and actions with our key partners.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

We are working with our keys partners to consult and develop the Homelessness Strategy and will be consulting with them throughout the process.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT**

- 6.1 The anticipated outcome of consideration of this report is that it is supported from the Committee for proceeding with the creation of the Homelessness Strategy

## **7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

Peterborough City Council has a statutory duty under section 2(1) of the Homelessness Act 2002 to complete a homelessness review. The review must consider the following -

- The levels and likely future levels of homelessness in their district
- The activities which are carried out for any of the following purposes:
  - i. Preventing homelessness in the housing authority's district
  - ii. Securing that accommodation is or will be available for people in the district who are or may become homeless; and
  - iii. Providing support for people in the district who are homeless or who may become at risk of homelessness: or who have been homeless and need

It must also consider the resources available to the housing authority, the social services authority for the district, other public authorities, voluntary organisations and other persons for the activities mentioned above

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 N/A

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no financial implications.

### **9.2 Legal Implications**

Peterborough City Council has a statutory duty under section 2(1) of the Homelessness Act 2002 to complete a homelessness review to inform the creation of the Homelessness Strategy

### **Equalities Implications**

- 9.3 It is not envisaged that there will be any implications for anyone falling into a protected characteristic group. However, during the consultation period will undertake equality impact assessment and report back to scrutiny with our findings.

### **Rural Implications**

- 9.4 There are not any rural implications for this policy.

### **Carbon Impact Assessment**

- 9.5 There were not any Carbon Impacts that were highlighted as a result of the assessment.

#### Corporate Priorities: Environment Capital

The Homelessness Review does not have any implications on the corporate priority of Environmental Capital.

#### Crime and Disorder / Community Safety

The Homelessness Review does not have any implications on crime and disorder/community safety.

#### Discrimination and Equality

It is not envisaged that there will be any implications for anyone falling into a protected characteristic group.

#### Human Resources

The Homelessness Review does not have any implications on Human Resources

#### ICT

The Homelessness Review will not have an impact on ICT.

#### Property

The Homelessness Review does not have any implications on property.

#### Procurement

The Homelessness Review does not have any implications on procurement

#### Cross-Service Implications

We will be consulting with Housing Enforcement, Childrens Social Services and the Occupational therapy team, TYSS, and the leaving care team to inform the Homelessness Strategy.

#### Risk Assessment

We have not conducted a formal risk assessment.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 None.