

Bridgend County Borough Council
Housing Support Programme Strategy
2022-2026

Statement of Need

Introduction

Welsh Government requires local authorities to produce a Statement of Need which will inform our strategic priorities. It includes what we know about the current and future needs and demands for homelessness and housing support services. The Statement also explains how identified needs will be met through the discharge of statutory functions.

This document sets out a range of data sets, which help to tell us what we know about the current and future needs and demands.

Population of Bridgend

Figure 1 – Population increases across Wales

Population change between 2011 and 2021

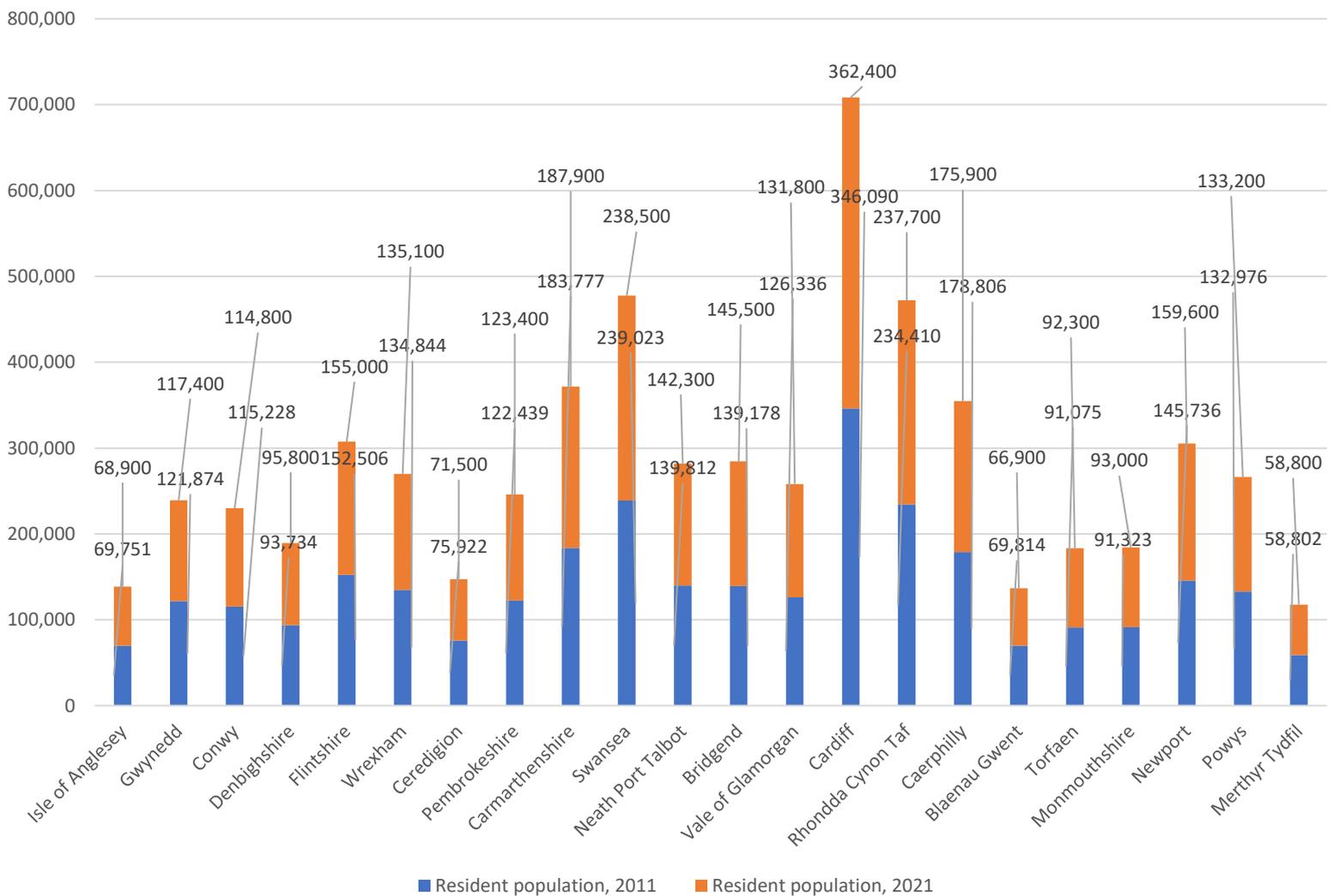


Figure 1 above shows the population change of each Local Authority in Wales between 2011 and 2021, based on census data from the Office for National Statistics' (ONS).

As can be seen, the population of Bridgend County has risen over the last ten years. The 2021 census shows the population size has increased from 139,200 in 2011 to 145,500 in 2021. This represents a 4.5% increase in population, significantly higher than the overall Welsh population increase of 1.4% (a growth of 44,000 to 3,107,500 people).

The ONS also predicts that by 2030, the population in Bridgend is projected to grow by at least a further 3% to 149,996.

Figure 2 – Projected household increases for Bridgend

	2021	2030	Variance
1 person	18,440	20,286	+10%
2 persons (no children)	20,188	21,274	+5.3%
2 persons (1 adult, 1 child)	2,570	2,950	+14.7%
3 persons (no children)	4,662	4,772	+2.3%
3 persons (2 adults, 1 child)	4,502	4,450	-1.1%
3 persons (1 adult, 2 children)	1,290	1,309	+1.4%
4 persons (no children)	1,801	2,060	+14.3%
4 persons (2+ adults, 1+ children)	5,728	5,635	-1.6%
4 persons (1 adult, 3 children)	493	506	+2.6%
5+ persons (no children)	285	340	+19.2%
5+ (2 adults, 1+ children)	2,278	2,572	+12.9%
5+ person (1 adult, 4+ children)	163	183	+12.2%
All household types	62,400	66,361	+6.3%

Figure 2 above shows the ONS projected population change, in terms of household composition for Bridgend between 2021 and 2030.

The total number of households in Bridgend is estimated to increase by 6.3% from 62,400 in 2021 to 66,361 in 2030. Of the net increase, 10% are one-person households and 14.7% one-parent families. “Couples” contribute 5.3% of the total increase. The biggest increase are in four person households (without children) and five person households (without children). That is shadowed by single parent households, and single person households.

Figure 3 – Percentage change in age of the population of Bridgend

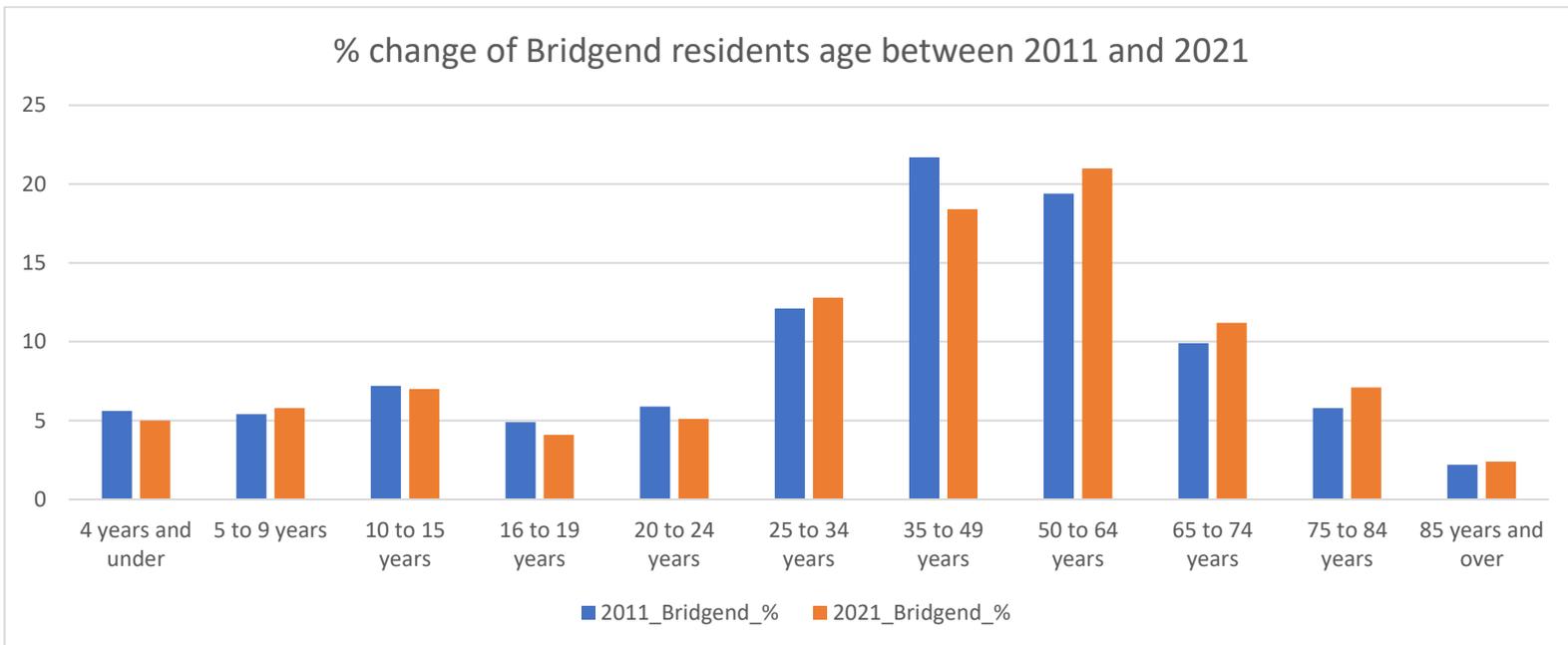


Figure 3 above shows the percentage change of population age in Bridgend between 2011 and 2021.

Noticeably there is a trend of an increase in percentage of older age groups, with all age groups from 50 to 64 and above showing an increase in % of the total population, when compared to 2011.

Other relevant stats from the ONS

- Over one-fifth (21.3%) of the Welsh population in 2021 (662,000) were aged 65 years and over, up from 18.4% (562,544) in 2011. The size of the population aged 90 years and over (29,700, 1.0%) has increased since 2011, when 25,200, 0.8%, were aged 90 years and over
- Nearly two-thirds (62.2%) of the Welsh population (1,931,800) were aged 15 to 64. This age group has declined slightly since 2011, when 64.7% of the overall population (1,981,784) were aged 15 to 64 years. The remaining 16.5% of the population (513,800) in Wales were aged under 15 years. The size of this age group has also decreased since 2011, when 16.9% (519,128) were aged under 15 years.
- In Bridgend, 24,300 (16.7%) of the population were under the age of 15. A total of 91,100 (62.6%) were aged 15 to 64, and 30,200 (20.8%) were aged 65 or over.

Homelessness applications

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 provides the legal framework in which the Local Authority must operate when dealing with homelessness presentations. The Act

places significantly increased duties on Local Authorities when compared to previous legislation, particularly with regards to homelessness prevention and offering accommodation to help relieve the homelessness of all eligible households.

Some of the key elements of the acts are detailed below.

➤ **S66 - Duty to help to prevent an applicant from becoming homeless (Prevention Duty)**

The local housing authority must help to ensure that suitable accommodation does not cease to be available for occupation by an applicant if the authority is satisfied that the applicant is:

- (a) threatened with homelessness, and
- (b) eligible for help.

➤ **S73 - Duty to help to secure accommodation for homeless applicants (Relief Duty)**

The local housing authority must help to secure suitable accommodation for occupation by an applicant, if the authority is satisfied that the applicant is:

- (a) homeless, and
- (b) eligible for help, and
- (c) is not being referred to another Local Authority where they have a local connection

➤ **S75 - Duty to secure accommodation for applicants in priority need when the duty in section 73 ends (Final Duty)**

When the duty in section 73 (duty to help to secure accommodation for homeless applicants) comes to an end in respect of an applicant under certain circumstances, the local housing authority must secure that suitable accommodation is available for occupation by the applicant if certain conditions apply, e.g. if the applicant:

- (a) does not have suitable accommodation available for occupation for a period of at least 6 months
- (b) is eligible for help
- (c) has a priority need for accommodation
- (d) is not intentionally homeless

➤ **Section 68 - Interim duty to secure accommodation for homeless applicants in priority need**

The local housing authority must secure that suitable accommodation is available for the occupation of an applicant to whom certain categories apply. The duty must also include those who reside or might reasonably be expected to reside with the applicant. Before the categories are considered, the authority must have reason to believe the applicant is :

- (a) homeless,
- (b) eligible for help, and

(c) have a priority need for accommodation, in circumstances where the authority is not yet satisfied that the applicant is homeless, eligible for help and in priority need for accommodation.

Covid 19 and changes to 'priority need'

As highlighted above the 2014 Act requires Local Authorities to consider whether a household is 'priority need', for both S.75 i.e. whether a Final Duty is owed and also for S.68 i.e. whether there is an interim duty to accommodate.

The Act initially set out 10 categories of priority need, as detailed below:

- a) A pregnant woman
- b) People responsible for dependent children
- c) Vulnerable as a result of some special reason
- d) People made homeless by fire, flood or other disaster
- e) Victims of domestic abuse
- f) Young people aged 16 or 17
- g) People aged 18 – 20 who are at particular risk
- h) People aged 18-20 who have spent time in care
- i) Armed forces personnel
- j) Vulnerable as a result of time in prison

At the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic, Welsh Government (WG) introduced an 'All In' approach to homelessness. Local authorities had to ensure that no-one was to be without accommodation due to the public health initiative making everyone priority need.

As of 24th October 2022 an 11th category of priority need came into force, specifically:

- k) a person who is street homeless

Guidance for the above states that street homeless does not mean rough sleeping, street homeless is when a person has no accommodation they can occupy in the UK or elsewhere which they are entitled to occupy, which they have a license to occupy or which there is a rule of law enabling occupation.

Figure 4 – Homelessness applications to BCBC

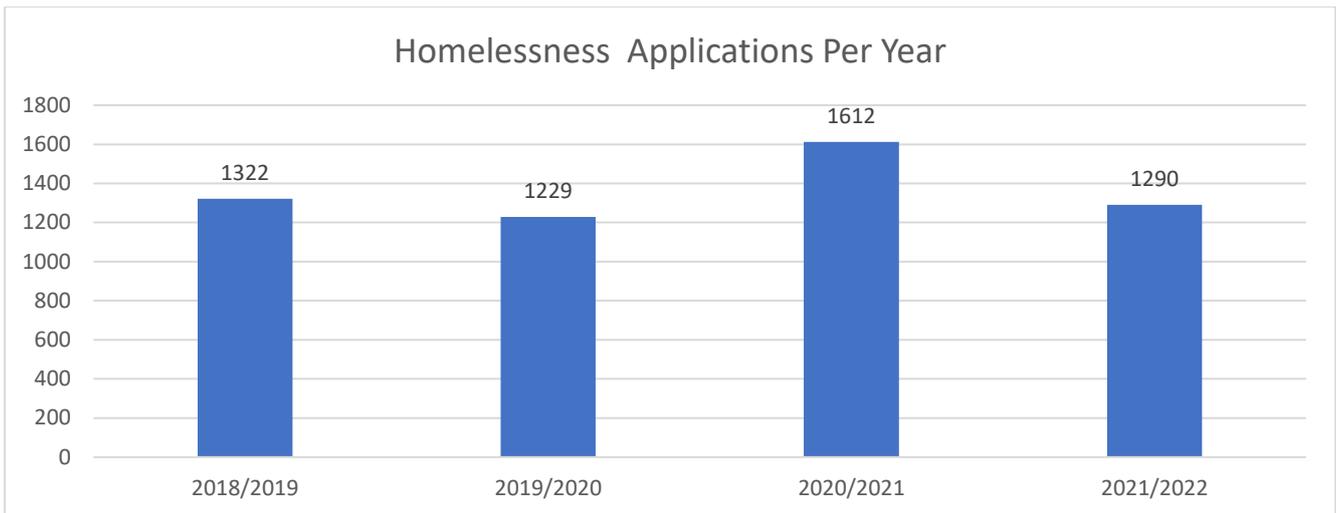


Figure 4 above shows the total amount of homelessness applications to BCBC which resulted in a S.62 assessment, per year since 2018/19.

The period of 2020/21 saw the highest level of presentations ever recorded by BCBC, which was likely influenced by the Covid 19 pandemic.

It is worth noting that whilst in 2021/22 there was a decrease in applications from the peak in 2020/21 the number of 1290 is still a marked increase on presentations compared to the figures at the time of Bridgend's 2018 Homelessness Review and 2018-22 Homelessness Strategy.

In 2017/18 BCBC received 1032 Homelessness Applications. The amount received in 2021/22 represents a 25% increase from 2017/18.

If we go back to 2015/16, around the time the Housing Wales Act 2014 came into force there were 673 homelessness applications. The amount received in 2021.22 represents an increase of 92% from 2015/16.

Between 2018/19 and 2021/22 the yearly average number of applications BCBC received was 1363.

Between 2014/15 and 2017/18 the years average number of applications BCBC received was 908.

As such whilst homelessness applications over the last 4 years have remained relatively consistent in terms of numbers, with a peak in 2020/21, these figures show a significant increase in demand, when compared to figures from 4-8 years ago.

Figure 5 – Single person household homelessness applications to BCBC

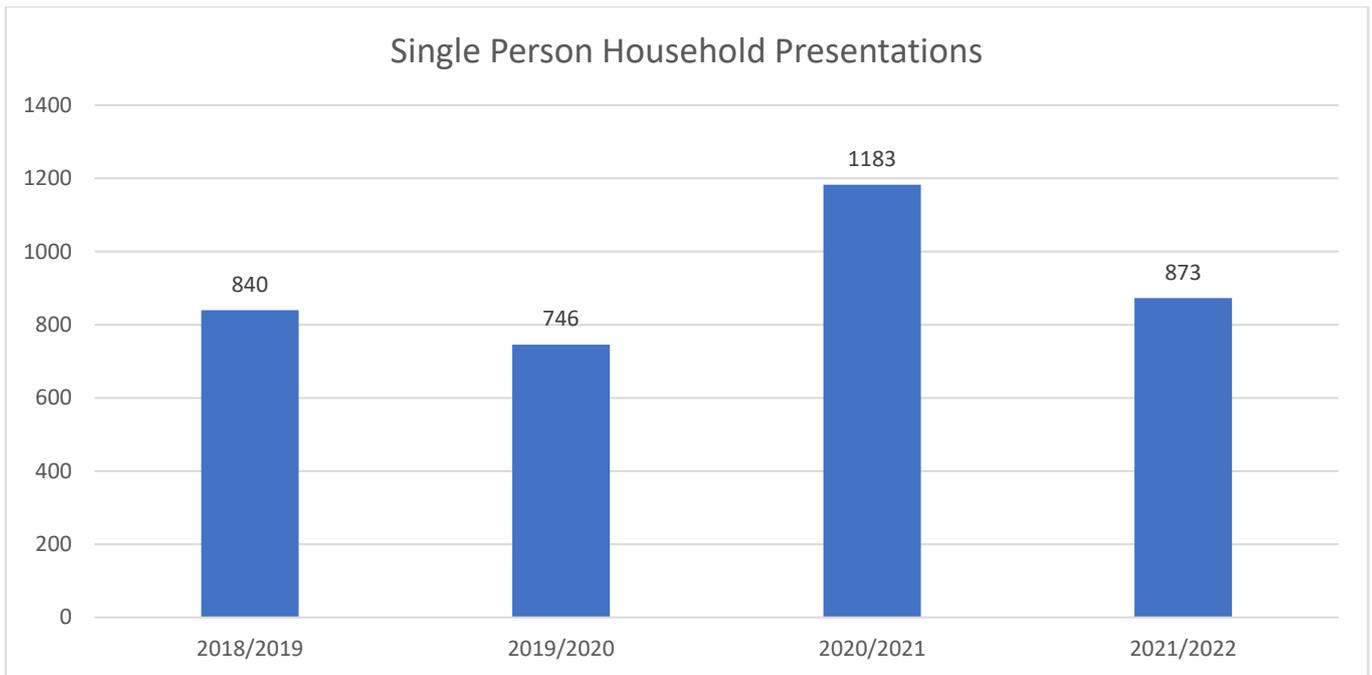


Figure 5 above shows the amount of single person homelessness applications to BCBC since 2018/19. When looking at Figure 5, in conjunction with Figure 4 we can see that single person applications make up a significant percentage of applications.

- In 2018/19 single person applications accounted for 64% of all applications
- In 2019/20 single person applications accounted for 61% of all applications
- In 2020/21 single person applications accounted for 73% of all applications
- In 2021/22 single person applications accounted for 68% of all applications

From the above we can see that although consistently single person households make up a significant portion of application, since 2020/21 there has been a rise in the percentage of single person applications.

This is likely in part due to the change in priority need / the 'All In' approach referenced above, given that prior to this approach single person households will have accounted for the majority of households found not to have fallen into priority need categories. It is perhaps unsurprising that we are seeing more single person presentations as more assistance is now available, with increased eligibility for temporary accommodation.

Figure 6 – Homelessness applications to BCBC broken down by age

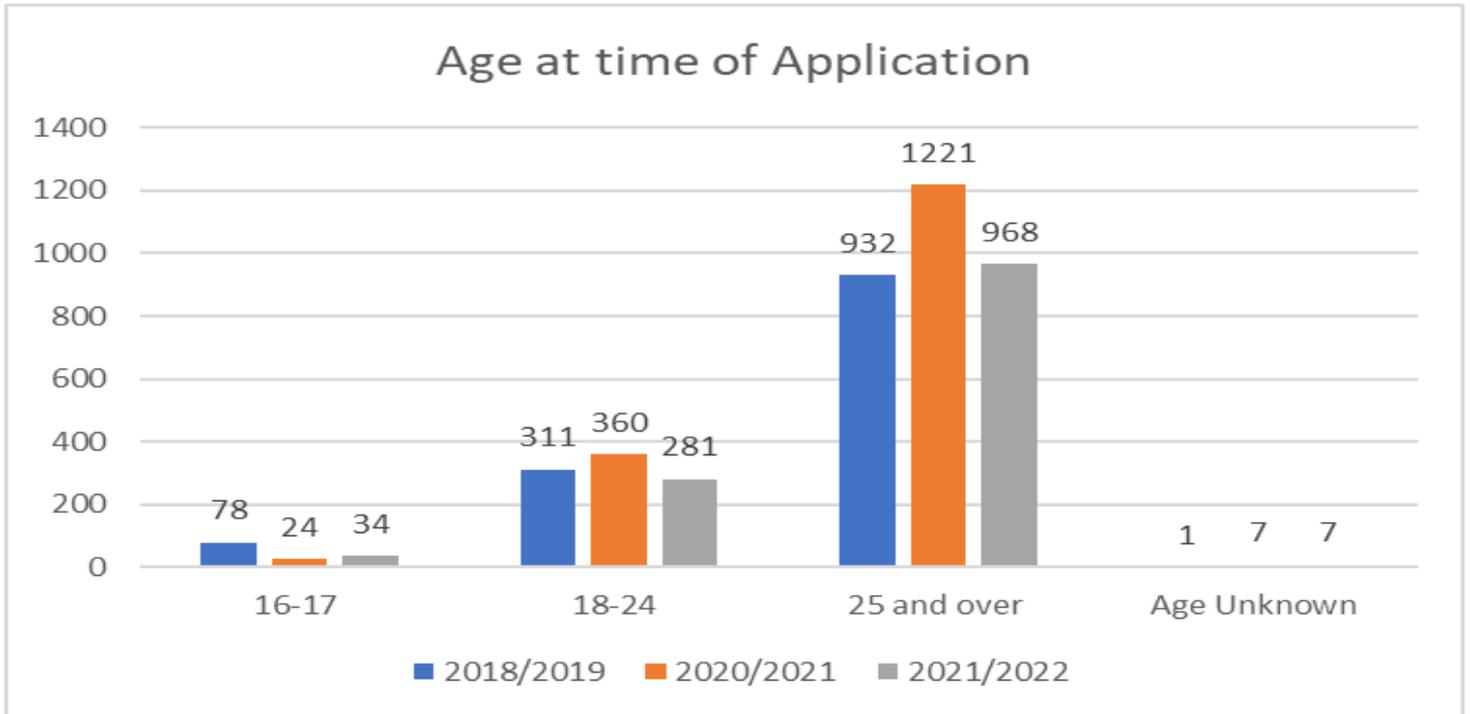


Figure 6 above shows the homelessness applications to BCBC since 2018/19, broken down by age. When looking at Figure 6, in conjunction with Figure 4 (total applications) we can see that:

- Applications from 16 & 17 year olds accounted for:
 - 6% of applications in 2018/19
 - 1% of applications in 2020/21
 - 3% of applications in 2021/22
- Applications from 18-24 year olds accounted for:
 - 24% of applications in 2018/19
 - 22% of applications in 2020/21
 - 22% of applications in 2021/22
- Applications from 25 years and over accounted for:
 - 70% of applications in 2018/19
 - 76% of applications in 2020/21
 - 75% of applications in 2021/22

The above suggests that homelessness applications from those aged 16 and 17 remains a relatively small percentage of overall applications. Further the number of presentations from young persons has decreased in both the 16 & 17 year old category and the 18-24 year old category from 2018/19 to 2021/2022.

Figure 7 – Homelessness applications to BCBC broken down by ethnicity

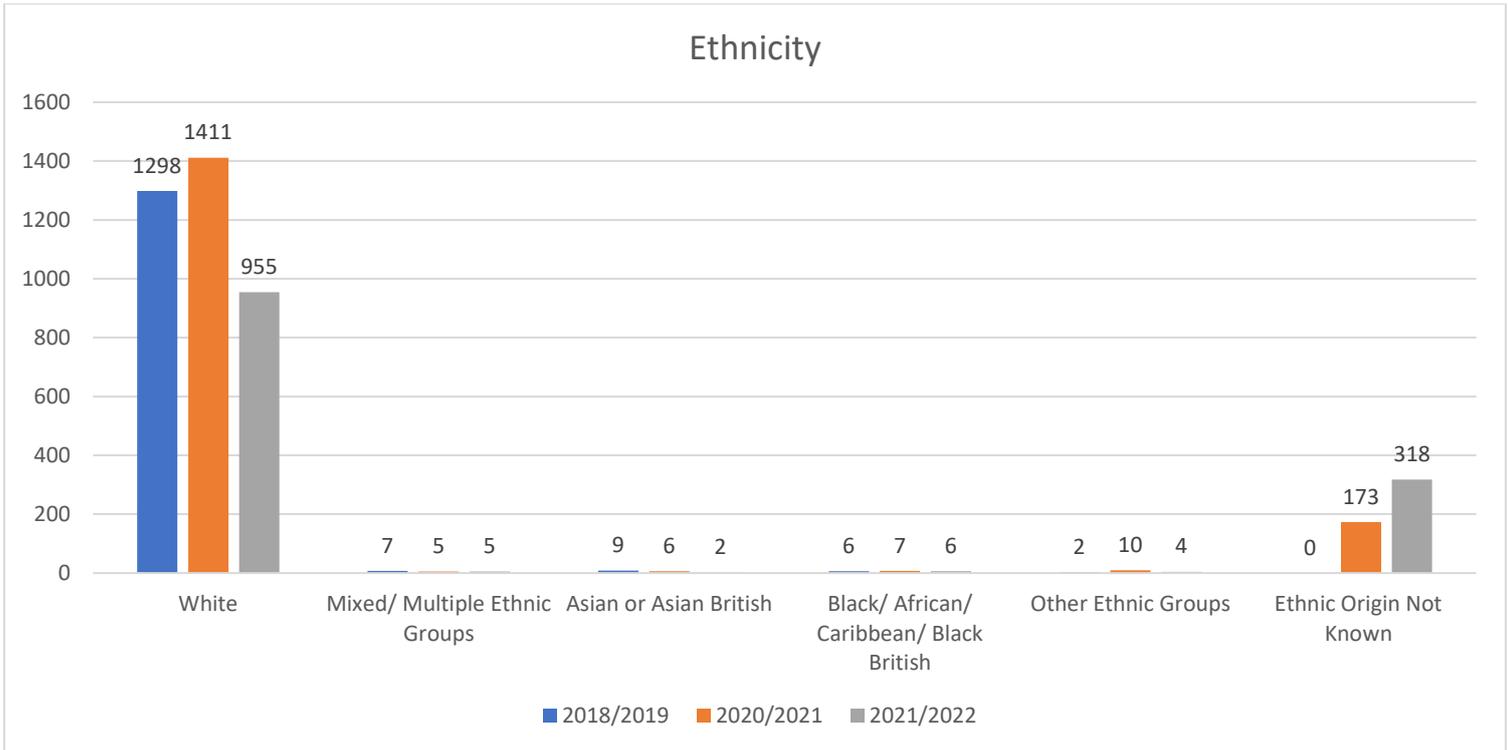


Figure 7 above shows that consistently since 2018/19 the vast majority of homelessness applications to BCBC are from white individuals.

Figure 8 – Homelessness applications to BCBC broken down by gender

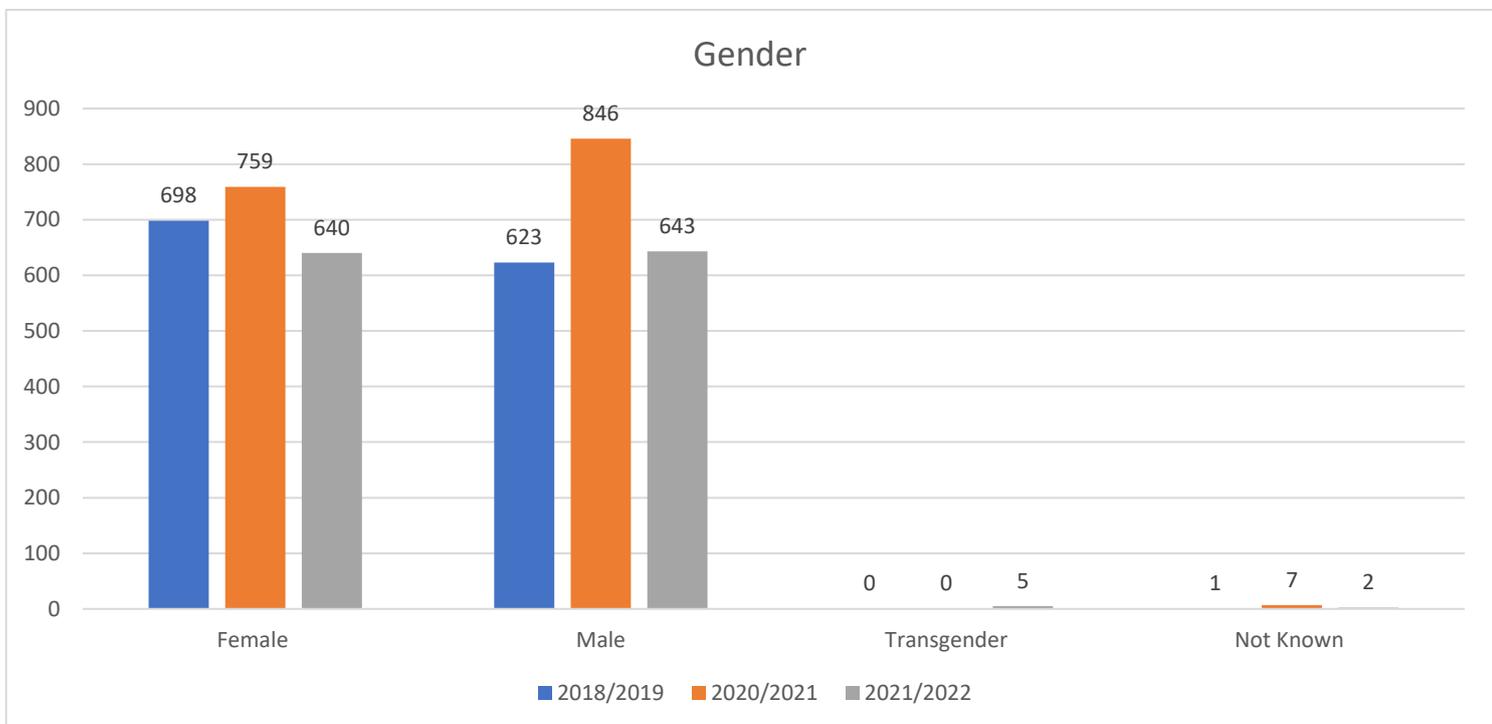


Figure 8 above shows the number of homelessness applications to BCBC, broken down by gender, since 2018/19. When looking at Figure 8, in conjunction with Figure 4 we can see that:

- Applications from Females accounted for:
 - 53% of applications in 2018/19
 - 47% of applications in 2020/21
 - 50% of applications in 2021/22

- Applications from Males accounted for:
 - 47% of applications in 2018/19
 - 52% of applications in 2020/21
 - 50% of applications in 2021/22

Transgender and gender unknown make up less than 1% on the years they were recorded. The above data suggests homelessness applications are made from both males and females equally each year.

Applications from those who are transgender are almost nonexistent. There were no applications in 2018/19 and 2020/21. Whilst there were 5 applications in 2021/22 these still accounted for only 0.4% of all applications in that year.

Figure 9 – Homelessness prevention duty (S.66) outcomes

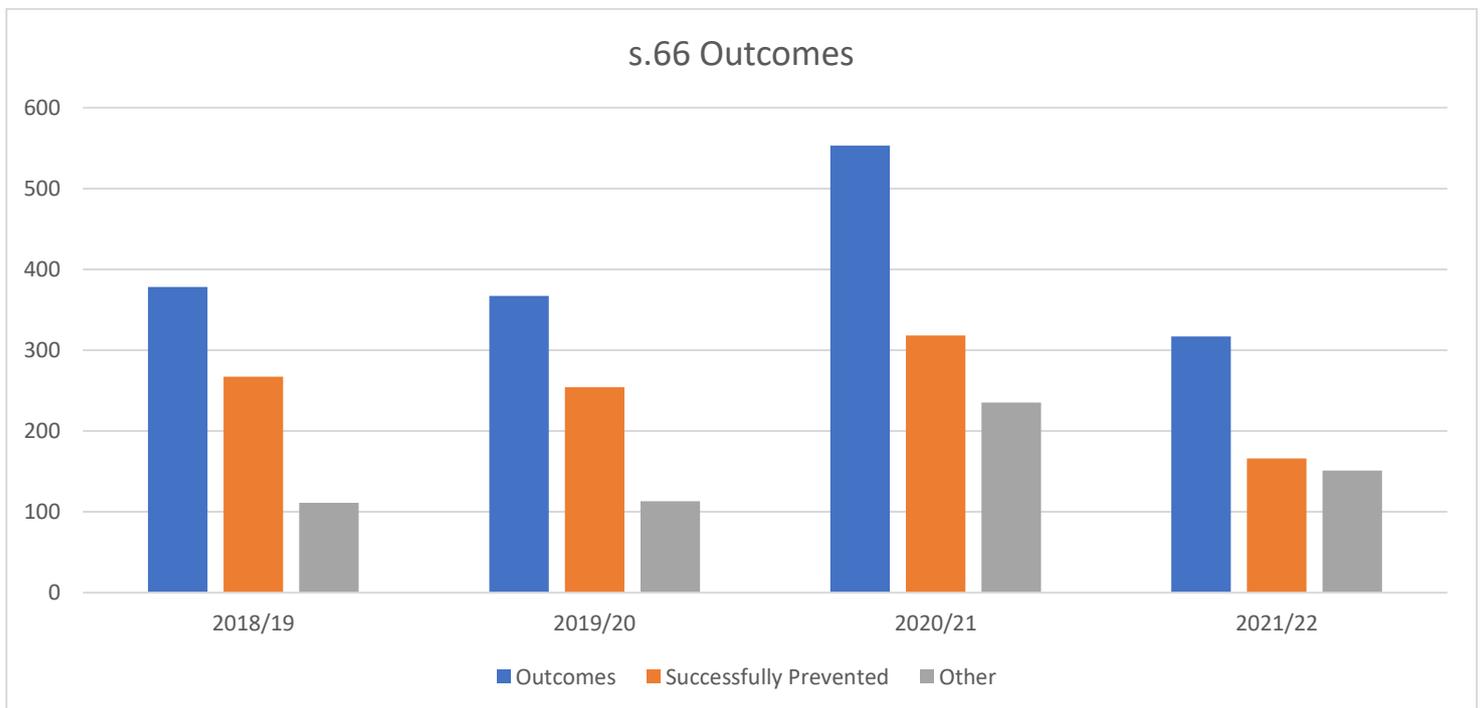


Figure 10 – Homelessness relief duty (S.73) outcomes

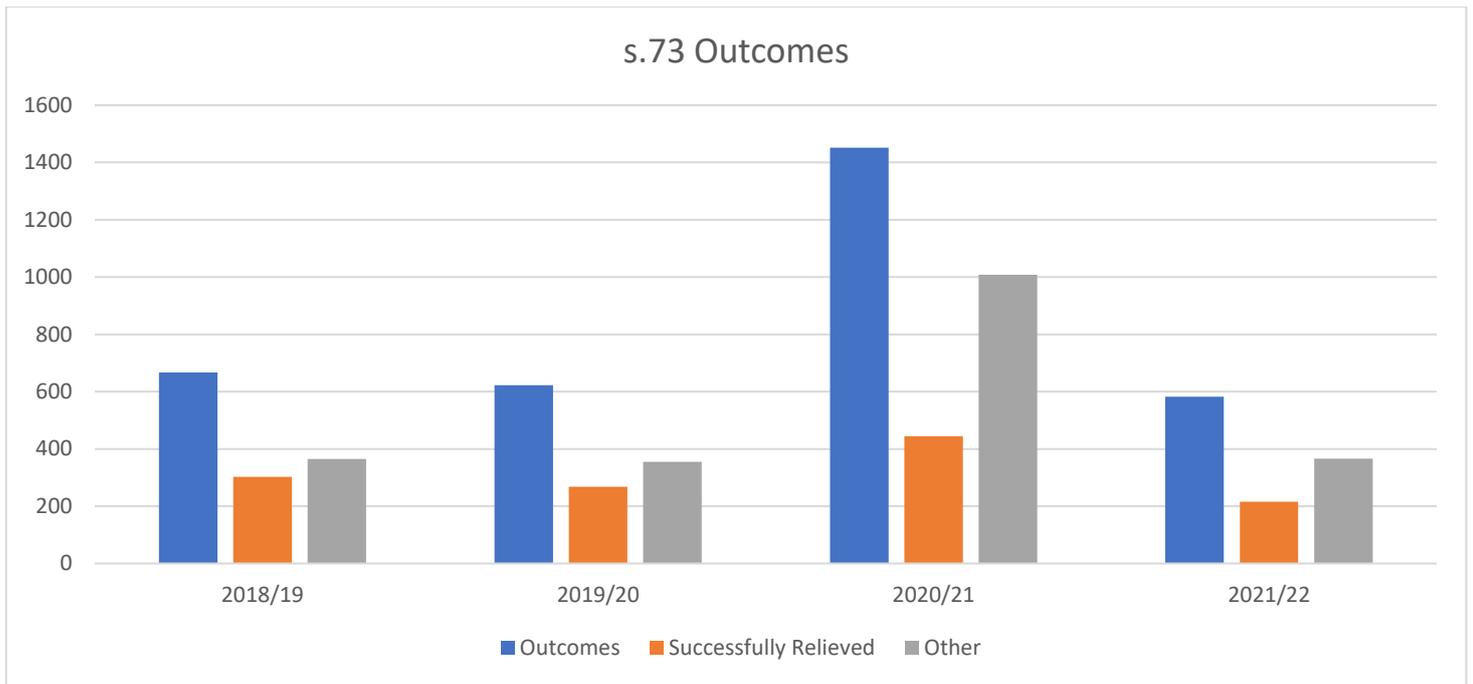
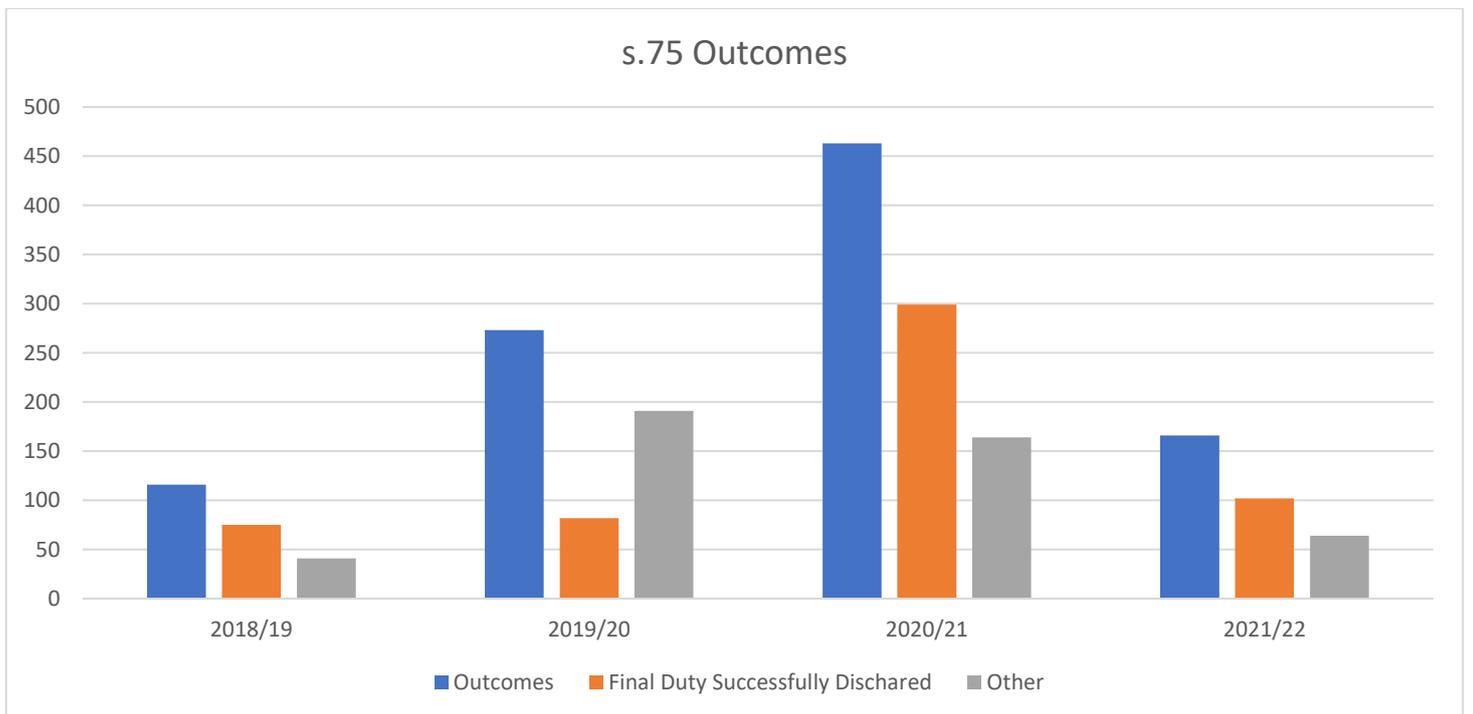


Figure 11 – Homelessness final duty (S.75) outcomes



Figures 9, 10 and 11 above demonstrate the number of outcomes each year relating to the Local Authority's three primary duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, and of those which resulted in positive outcomes.

'Other' outcomes will be made up from alternative outcomes, the list of which is below.

- Assistance Refused
- Application Withdrawn
- Non-Co-operation
- Application Withdrawn due to loss of contact
- Unsuccessful prevention
- Unsuccessfully relieved
- Eligible, Homeless but not in Priority Need
- Eligible, Homeless and in Priority Need but Intentionally Homeless

It is important to note the number of applications (Figure 4) and outcomes will not match exactly as an outcome can be recorded for an application which were triggered in the previous year.

From Figure 9 we can see that over half of the outcomes for s.66 prevention duties each year were positive discharges, with 2018/19 recording the highest result at 71%.

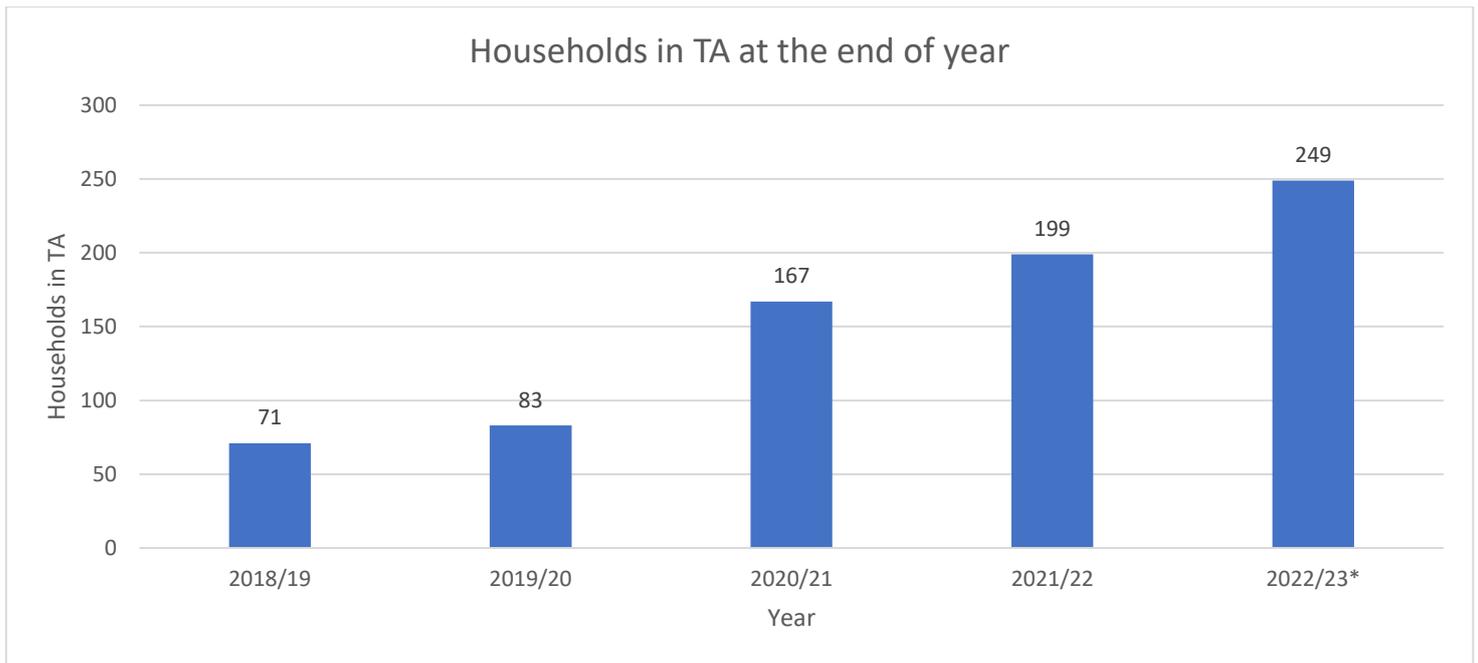
Figure 10 demonstrates the number of relief duties successfully relieved, the data dips to 31% in the year 2020/21 which is likely due to the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the lack of available move on accommodation. As RSL's became operational again and properties begun to be turned/ around the numbers slightly rose last year with an overall positive result of 37%.

During the Covid 19 pandemic there was a large period where move on accommodation was very difficult to secure. This is due to factors such as RSL's not turning properties round as quickly, courts being closed, so evictions were halted, as well as the notice period for a Section 21 being increased to 6months. Additionally, it is important to recognise the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, with families experiencing financial hardship and local private rented accommodation increasing in price it has become an unattainable avenue for many people facing homelessness.

Figure 11 shows an average positive discharge of 55% across the 4-year period. It is important to note there was a reduced percentage of only 30% in the year 2019/2020, this will be attributed to the introduction of a new housing application system (jigsaw). All outstanding applications needed to be transferred over which triggered an increased number of applications/outcomes.

Temporary accommodation

Figure 12 – Temporary accommodation placements



**2022/23 figure is as of the end of January 2023, as end of March figure not available at the time of drafting*

Figure 12 above shows the number of households in temporary accommodation in Bridgend at the end of each financial year, since 2018/19. These figures represent a 251% increase in the number of temporary accommodation placements at the end of each year between 2018/19 and 2022/23.

Whilst this Figure shows a steady increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation since 2018/19, there is a sharp increase in 2020/21 and beyond. These figures are likely strongly impacted by the Welsh Government 'All In' approach.

Figure 13 – Temporary accommodation stock

Pre-Covid19 Temporary Accommodation stock breakdown (February 2020)	
Type of accommodation	Units
ABBA (Alternative to B&B accommodation)	20
Hostels (including emergency beds)	41
Leased / other RSL	19
B&B	7
Hotels	0
Holiday Let / AirBnB / PRS directly with LL	0
	87

Post-Covid19 Temporary Accommodation stock breakdown (February 2023)	
Type of accommodation	Units
ABBA (Alternative to B&B accommodation)	29
Hostels (including emergency beds and Pods)	45
Leased / other RSL	21
B&B (NCA and Alex)	15
Holiday Let / AirBnB / PRS directly with LL	95
Hotels (units currently in use)	19
	224

As can be seen from Figure 13, above BCBC's temporary accommodation stock has increased dramatically from a total of 87 units pre Covid 19 pandemic and 'All In' approach, to a total of 224 units in February 2023 and post 'All In' approach. This represents a 157% increase in the total amount of units.

Whilst all types of temporary accommodation have increased, the above shows an obvious and dramatic increase in the use of tourism accommodation, such as holiday lets and hotels. These were not in use at all prior to the 'All In' approach and now account for 114 units, representing 51% of BCBC's total temporary accommodation stock.

Figure 14 – Temporary accommodation cost

Year	Cost	% Increase on previous year
2018/19	£81,000	N/A
2019/20	£135,000	67%
2020/21	£2,300,000	1604%
2021/22	£3,100,000	34.8%

Figure 14 above shows the year-on-year cost and the associated % increase of temporary accommodation in Bridgend, since 2018/19.

Given the substantial increase in units of accommodation shown in Figure 13 above, it would be an expectation that costs would increase. Figure 14 shows us that the costs have however increased exponentially, compared to the number of units. This

is likely because of the amount of tourism units taken on, which are less cost effective than other forms of accommodation.

Figure 14 also shows us the clear cost impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the 'All In' approach, with a 1604% increase in costs in 2020/21. As this approach has continued, we have seen costs further increase in 2021/22, although at a far slower pace given that the obvious significant changes in terms of cost and units taken on was in the first year of the pandemic and legislative change i.e. 2020/21.

Figure 15 – Average length of time in temporary accommodation

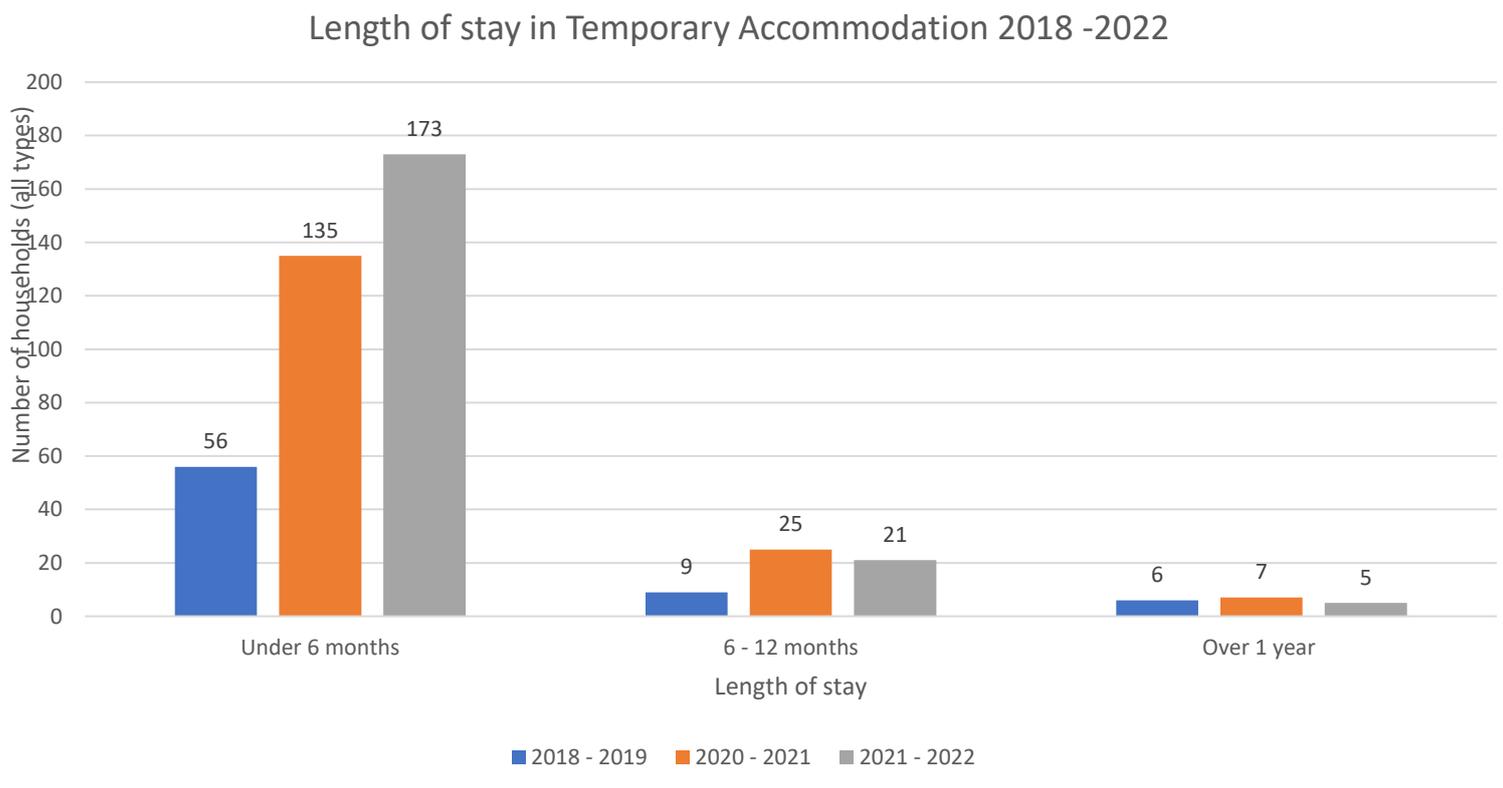


Figure 15 above shows the average length of stay for households in temporary accommodation between 2018/19 and 2021/22.

Whilst the chart shows an increase in the amount of households year on year, this is expected, given the increase in demand highlighted throughout this document.

Figure 15 shows us that the majority of households are consistently in temporary accommodation for less than 6 months and that relatively speaking not many households are in temporary accommodation for over 1 year.

The Figure does however show an increase since 2020/21 in the number of households in temporary accommodation for 6-12 months. This suggests that households have been in temporary accommodation for longer periods since this time, suggesting challenges in availability of suitable move on accommodation.

Rough sleepers

Figure 16

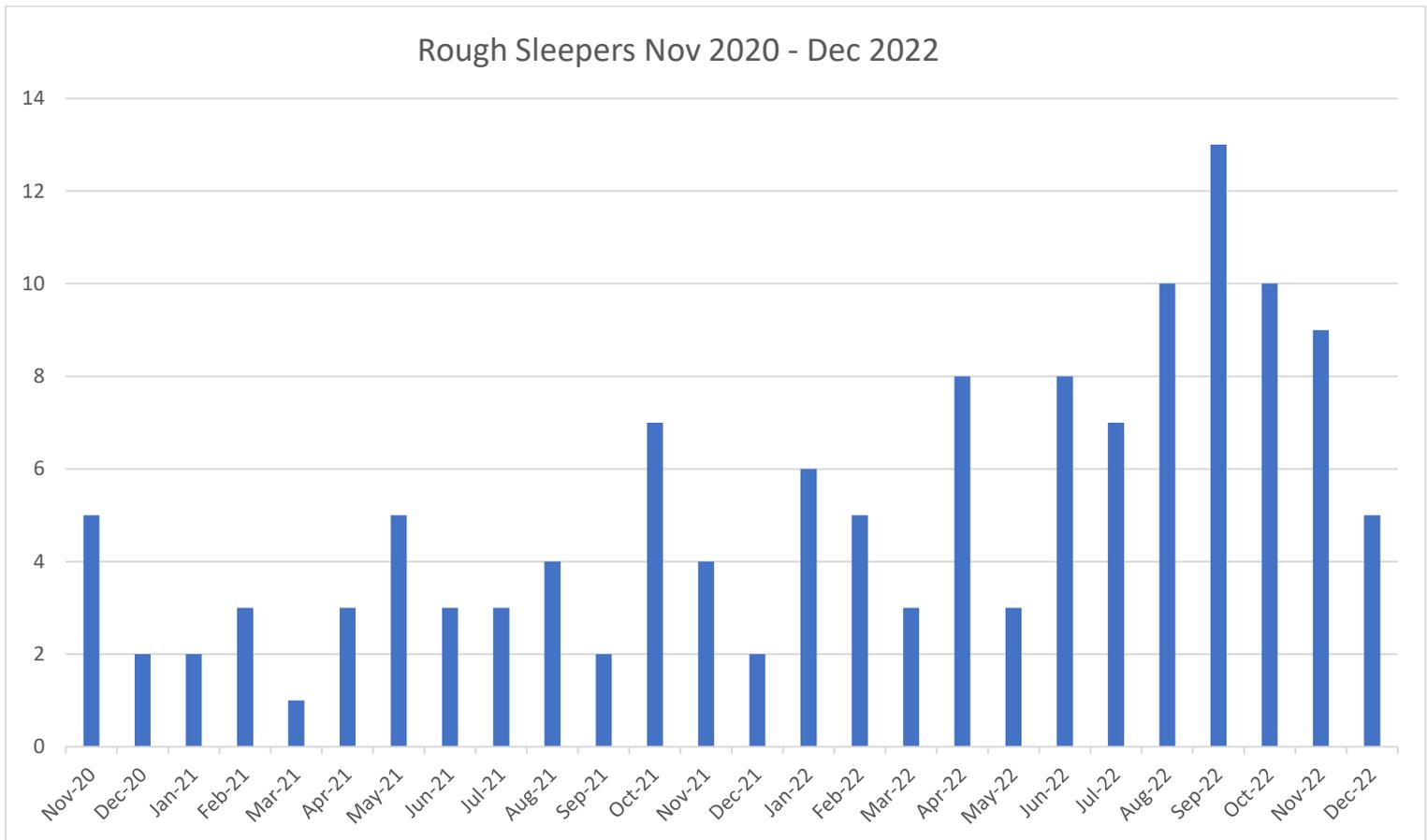


Figure 16 above shows the amount of identified rough sleepers at the end of each monthly period from November 2020 to December 2022. These figures are based on local intelligence and agreed by a multi-agency Homeless Cell, which was set up at the beginning of the Covid 19 pandemic.

As can be seen above the number of rough sleepers across the county at any one time is relatively low when compared to the amount of homelessness presentations, as demonstrated in Figure 4. Based on the figures above the average amount of rough sleepers at the end of each month since November 2020 is 5.

The trend does however broadly show an increase in rough sleeping as we move through the months of the pandemic and the 'All In' approach, referenced above and into 2022. The latter months of 2022 show the highest numbers of rough sleepers at any point since November 2020, peaking at 13 rough sleepers at the end of September 2022.

Based on the above it is fair to say that at any point the number of rough sleepers in the county is likely to be somewhere between 1 and 13.

The number of rough sleepers at the time of BCBC’s Homelessness Strategy 2018-22 was 5, based on a one-night count in November 2018.

Whilst the location of rough sleepers is not recorded, feedback from the Homeless Cell states that anecdotally the majority of rough sleepers are identified in around Bridgend Town Centre, with a small number identified in and around Porthcawl.

Private rent sector

According to the latest Census, 15.3% of Bridgend households rented privately in 2021, up from 12.3% in 2011. The percentage of Bridgend households that owned their home (outright or with a mortgage or loan) decreased from 72.4% to 70.5%.

Figure 17 – Available private rent properties within LHA rates

No. of bedrooms	Average monthly rent	22/23 LHA rate	Difference	No. available properties	No. available properties at LHA
Shared room rate	£487.50	£254.28	–£233.22	2	0
1 bedroom	£625.00	£388.92	–£236.08	9	0
2 bedrooms	£728.94	£473.72	–£255.22	20	0
3 bedrooms	£952.92	£498.64	–£454.28	24	0
4 bedrooms	£1366.67	£673.14	–£693.53	3	0
5 bedrooms	£N/A	£673.14	£N/A	0	0

Figure 17 above shows the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates, by bedrooms, for all property types. Rent averages have been taken from a desktop search of properties available to rent on “Zoopla” (<https://www.zoopla.co.uk>) on 13th February 2023. The total number of properties available when search was completed on 13th February 2023 was 58.

The search identified no available properties within the Local Housing Allowance rate for any property size, highlighting the significant lack of private properties available to rent at an affordable rate for those reliant on the Local Housing Allowance.

The disparity in the average rent and Local Housing Allowance rates in the Figure above is stark, giving an insight into the challenges households reliant on welfare benefits have when trying to find suitable and affordable accommodation in the private rent sector. These challenges are particularly acute for larger properties with the average rent for both 3 and 4 bedroom properties over double the Local Housing Allowance rate.

Figure 18 – Universal Credit standard allowance rates

Eligible amount	Monthly standard allowance
Single and under 25	£265.31
Single and 25 or over	£334.91
Couple and both under 25	£416.45

Couple and either are 25 or over	£525.72
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Looking at the Universal Credit entitlements detailed above, and the average rents set out in Figure 17, it is clear that the challenges to those in receipt of Universal Credit are similar to those in receipt of Local Housing Allowance i.e. securing suitable and affordable accommodation in the private rent sector, for those in receipt is extremely challenging.

Figure 19 – Average earnings in Bridgend

Average weekly earnings 2011-2022		
Year	Bridgend	Wales
2018	546.5	509
2019	525.9	534.8
2020	548.2	541.5
2021	607.6	563.7
2022	574.9	598.1

Figure 19 above shows the average weekly earnings for those in employment both across Bridgend and across Wales. Data is sourced from Stats Wales.

The above figures suggest that average weekly earnings are not increasing at the same level that accommodation prices are. According to Stats Wales, the proposed median weekly earnings figure for 2022 is lower in Bridgend than the median weekly earnings in 2021.

High rent and low incomes create demand for assistance from local housing authorities, which in turn increases homelessness applications, temporary accommodation occupation and demand for social housing.

Social housing stock

In 2021, just under one in seven households (13.9%) lived in socially rented housing, compared with 13.8% in 2011.

Figure 20 – Social housing stock in Bridgend

	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed	Total
General needs	1497	3359	3246	134	6	8242
Supported housing (inc. sheltered)	212	197	55	9		561
Other supported housing	100	136	4			291

<i>Extra Care</i>	49	31				84
<i>Intermediate rent</i>	48	139				187
<i>Shared ownership</i>	4	15				19
<i>Market rent</i>		1				1
<i>Total</i>	1910	3878	3448	143	6	9385

Figure 20 shows us that at the time of the 2021 census there were 9385 social housing properties in the County Borough. Of those, 8242 were general needs properties.

It is important to note that the above are not available properties, but a reflection of the total number of properties in ownership by Registered Social Landlords operating in the borough.

We can see that there are only 134 general need four bedroom properties in the borough, accounting for only 2% of the total general need stock. There are even fewer five bedroom + properties, with only 6, account for 0.07% of the general needs stock.

The other key point to note is the relatively limited amount of one bedroom stock. There is more than twice as many two and three bedroom properties, when compared to one bedroom.

Common Housing Register (CHR)

BCBC operates a Common Housing Register (CHR). As BCBC is not a stock holding Authority, four main housing associations use one housing register to allocate social housing. The four main housing associations are:

- Valleys to Coast
- Hafod
- Wales and West
- Linc Cymru

Anyone can apply to go on the CHR, with decisions as to who is eligible, and the level of priority guided by a Social Housing Allocations Policy (SHAP).

In general, applicants must be eligible and in housing need to be added to the register. This will be determined by a full housing assessment. Applicants who are not in housing need can also be added if they want to live in a low demand area, or if they meet a Local Lettings Policy's requirement.

Figure 21 – Number of applications to the CHR each year

Year	Applicants added to the CHR during the year	% Increase
2019/20	147	N/A
2020/21	428	191%
2021/22	873	104%

2022/23	993 (as of 20 th February 2023)	14%
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Figure 21 above shows a pattern of increasing applications to the CHR each year.

Figure 22 – Number of applicants on the CHR at end of year

Year	Number of applicants on the CHR at the end of year	% Increase
2019/20	816	N/A
2020/21	1477	81%
2021/22	2143	45%
2022/23	2547 (as of 20 th February 2023)	19%

Figure 21 and Figure 22 above show a clear increase in the demand for social housing, through increasing applications each year, resulting in increasing numbers of people on the CHR, at the end of each financial year.

Figure 23 – Breakdown of applicants on the CHR by bedroom need

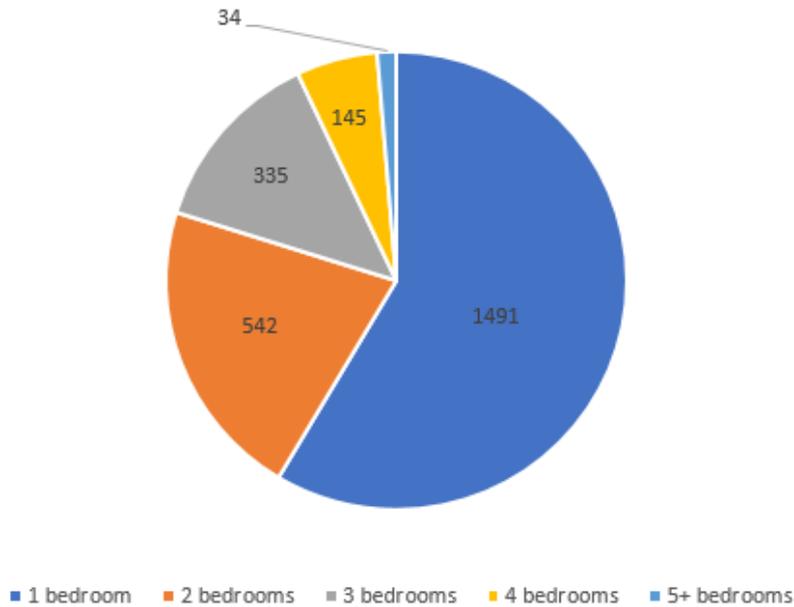
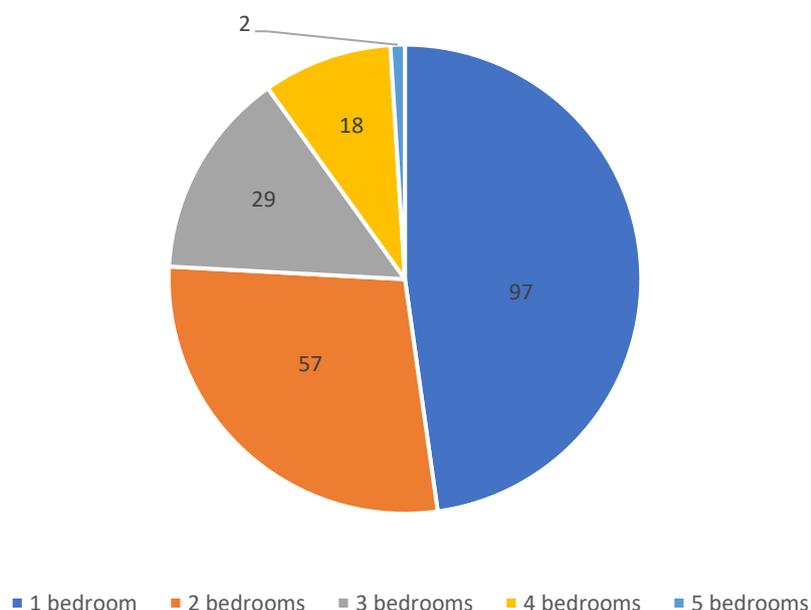


Figure 23 above shows a breakdown of the bedroom need of the 2547 households on the CHR on 20th February 2023. We can see that by some way the majority of households on the CHR are waiting for a 1-bedroom property, with this need accounting for 59%.

As highlighted in Figure 20 above, social housing stock is particularly lacking in terms of 1 bed properties. Further there is a particular need for larger properties, with there being more households on the CHR for 4- and 5-bedroom properties than there are total stock of this nature in the borough.

Figure 24 – Breakdown of applicants on the CHR waiting for an accessible property by bedroom need



203 of the 2547 households on the CHR on 20th February 2023 are waiting for an accessible property, to meet the physical needs of the household. Figure 24 above shows the breakdown of the bedroom need of these 203 households. Again there are more households waiting for an accessible 1-bedroom property, than any other bedroom need.

Figure 25 – Number of successful allocations from the CHR each year

Year	Number of allocations
2020/21	303
2021/22	465
2022/23	412 (as of 20 th February 2023)

Figure 25 above shows the number of properties successfully allocated via the Common Housing Register. Again it is likely that the lower figure in 2020/21 is impacted by lockdowns during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Looking at these figures in conjunction with the number of applications to the CHR, detailed in Figure 21 we can see that in 2021/22 there were nearly twice as many applicants to the CHR, than there were successful allocations.

Figure 26 – Average wait for a CHR allocation by bedroom size

	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4 bedrooms	5 bedrooms
2020/21	341 days	257 days	322 days	541 days	None
2021/22	416 days	292 days	317 days	512 days	None
2022/23	373 days	311 days	350 days	406 days	181 days

Figure 27 – Average wait for an accessible CHR allocation by bedroom size

	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4 bedrooms	5 bedrooms
2020/21	411 days	331 days	333 days	245 days	None
2021/22	1048 days	304 days	588 days	748 days	None
2022/23	433 days	617 days	699 days	549 days	None

Housing Support Grant outcomes

The Housing Support Grant (HSG) is a funding stream issued by Welsh Government to Local Authorities. The HSG is an amalgamation of three previous separate grants; Supporting People Programme, Homelessness Prevention Grant and Rent Smart Wales Enforcement.

The aim of the HSG is to prevent homelessness and support people to access and / or maintain a safe and suitable home. Local Authorities utilise this grant to fund projects aimed at preventing homelessness and helping people to live in their own home or supported housing.

Projects can include:

- support to help prevent homelessness
- support to help people live independently
- support to help people live in their own home, hostel or sheltered housing

The HSG does not fund the statutory duty on local authorities to prevent homelessness but encourages services to complement and support the statutory service to ensure that the overall offer authorities provide helps people into the right homes with the right support to succeed. It supports vulnerable people to address the problems they face, such as debt, employment, tenancy management, substance misuse, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence and mental health issues.

Figure 28 – number of households supported via HSG services

	Total
2018	2262
2019	1685
2020	2432
2021/2022	2970
2022/2023 P1 ONLY	2157*

**2022/2023 figure is for the first 6 months of the year, only.*

Figure 28 above shows us that the number of households being supported by HSG funded services is increasing. Between 2018 and 2021/22 there was a 31% increase.

In 2022/23 2157 were supported in the first 6 months alone. If numbers continue along the same projection, there will be another significant increase in the total number of service users supported.

Figure 29 – Lead support need of those accessing HSG funded services

Lead Need	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 P1 ONLY
Alarm Services (including in sheltered/extra care)	88	54	1	0	0
Families with Support Needs	91	33	16	65	61
Generic Floating support to prevent homelessness	760	531	888	853	491
Men Experiencing Domestic Abuse	2	6	13	20	22
People over 55 years of age with Support needs	423	267	523	642	410
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV, Aids)	6	1	0	0	1
People with Criminal Offending History	8	20	6	11	11
People with Developmental Disorders (I.e. Autism.)	2	3	2	6	3
People with Learning Disabilities	221	161	156	186	103
People with Mental health Issues	196	187	202	102	103
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	10	4	4	7	13
People with Refugee Status	14	9	4	9	0
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Alcohol)	12	14	19	25	10
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Drugs and Volatile substances)	10	32	20	41	24
Single parent Families with Support needs	8	3	9	18	35
Single people with Support Needs not listed above (25-54)	91	74	101	229	223
Women experiencing Domestic Abuse	142	192	242	403	359
Young People who are Care Leavers	18	1	18	8	8
Young People with Support Needs (16-24)	160	93	208	345	280
YEARLY TOTALS	2262	1685	2432	2970	2157

KEY: Top 5 Needs 1 - RED 2 - AMBER 3 - GREEN 4 - BLUE 5 - ORANGE

Figure 29 above shows the lead support need of those accessing HSG funded services since 2018. The Figure shows that consistently generic prevention services are the most accessed provision, followed by services which support those over the age of 55. Services which support women experiencing domestic abuse are also routinely well utilised.

Figure 30 – % of individuals with a secondary and tertiary support need

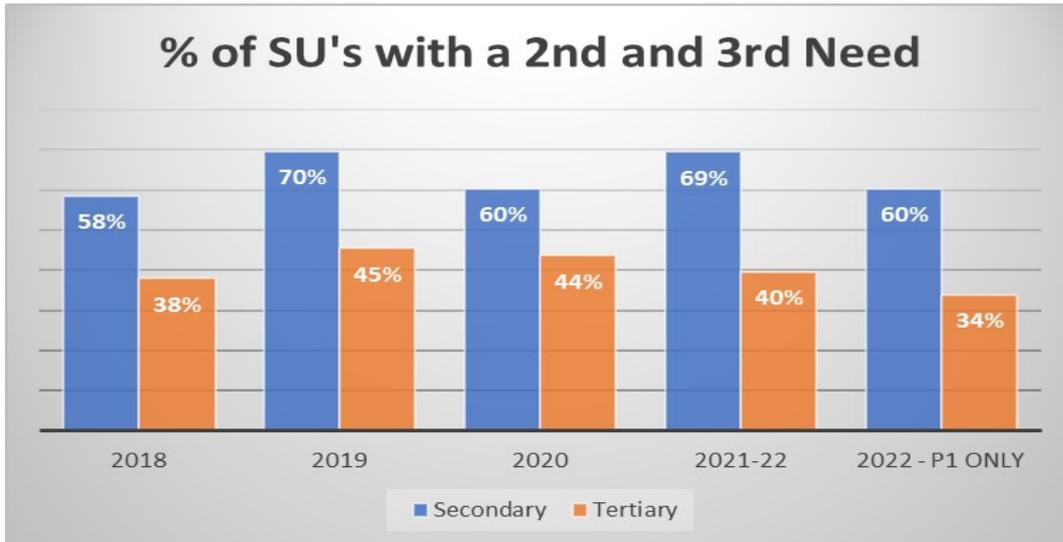
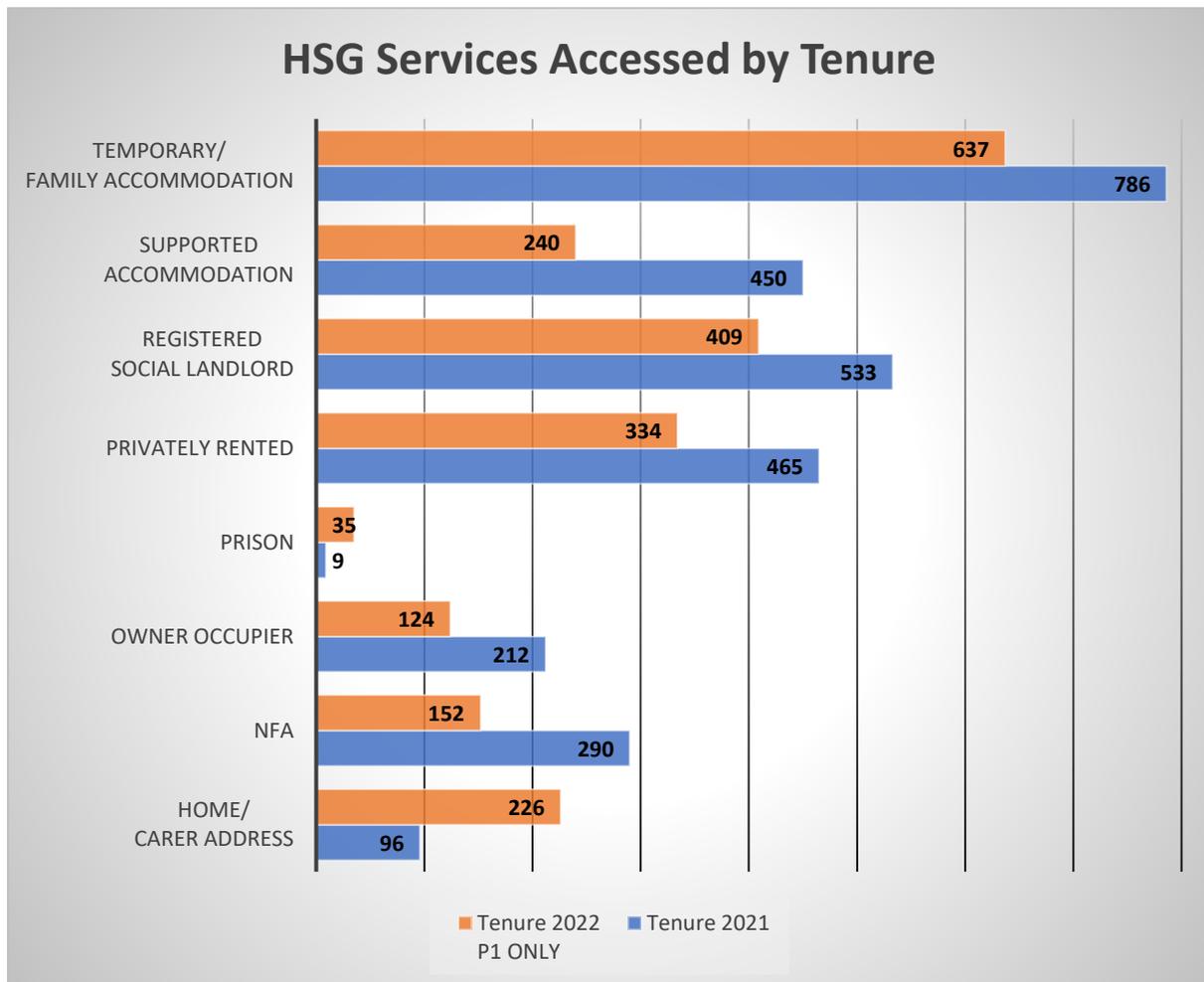


Figure 30 above shows us that most households accessing HSG-funded services presented with more than one support need. In addition a number of those (between 34% & 45%) have at least three support needs.

Figure 31 – HSG services accessed by tenure



In 2021/22 and for the first 6 months of 2022/23 households in temporary accommodation were supported more than any other tenure of accommodation. This is perhaps expected, given the number of households in temporary accommodation detailed at Figure 12.

Households across a range of tenures were supported, with those in rented (either private or social) accommodation receiving significant levels of support.

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Figure 32 – BCBC VAWDASV Team referrals

2022															2021
Month	High Risk Referrals	Medium Risk Referrals	Standard Risk Referrals	Repeat Cases	Engaged	Male	Female	Other	LGBTQ+	16 - 17	18 - 25	26 - 39	40 - 55	56+	High risk referrals
Jan	69	73	14	42	118	18	138	0	3	2	30	65	44	15	45
Feb	83	60	16	42	129	15	144	0	5	1	22	78	41	17	38
Mar	159	78	13	58	177	23	227	0	9	5	41	114	63	27	61
May	69	62	18	23	139	23	126	0	4	3	25	70	35	16	62
Jun	102	59	15	27	168	26	150	0	6	4	32	82	44	14	51
July	94	75	27	22	180	31	162	3	4	3	36	84	49	24	42
Aug	94	68	19	15	173	27	154	0	6	3	41	80	40	17	59
Sep	121	69	10	28	179	30	169	1	3	3	35	82	51	29	67
Oct	145	68	18	62	190	31	200	0	9	5	44	91	51	40	65
Total	936	612	150	319	1453	224	1470	4	49	29	306	746	418	199	490

Figure 32 above shows the referrals into BCBC’s VAWDASV team for January to October 2022. The only comparable data for 2021 is that for ‘High Risk’ referrals as highlighted on the far right of the Figure.

Looking at the total numbers for the period above ‘High Risk’ referrals increased from 490 to 936, an increase of 91%.

Whilst otherwise relatively limited in terms of comparable data the above does show us that the vast majority of referrals are for females and that most cases are deemed to be ‘high risk’ referrals.

Looked after children

Figure 33, below shows the position with regards to Bridgend’s Looked After Children at the end of 2022 and the projected amount of care leavers over coming years.

Figure 33 – Looked After Children in Bridgend

Age Profile of Care Experienced Children as at 31-12-2022

Boys					Total
Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 15 years	16 to 17 years	
13	40	43	81	44	221
Girls					Total
Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 15 years	16 to 17 years	
7	38	38	69	26	178
Total					Total
Under 1 year	1 to 4 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 15 years	16 to 17 years	
20	78	81	150	70	399

Period	Number of care leavers
2020-21	32
2021-22	26
2022-23	26
2023-24	35*
2024-25	41*
2025-26	23*

*projected

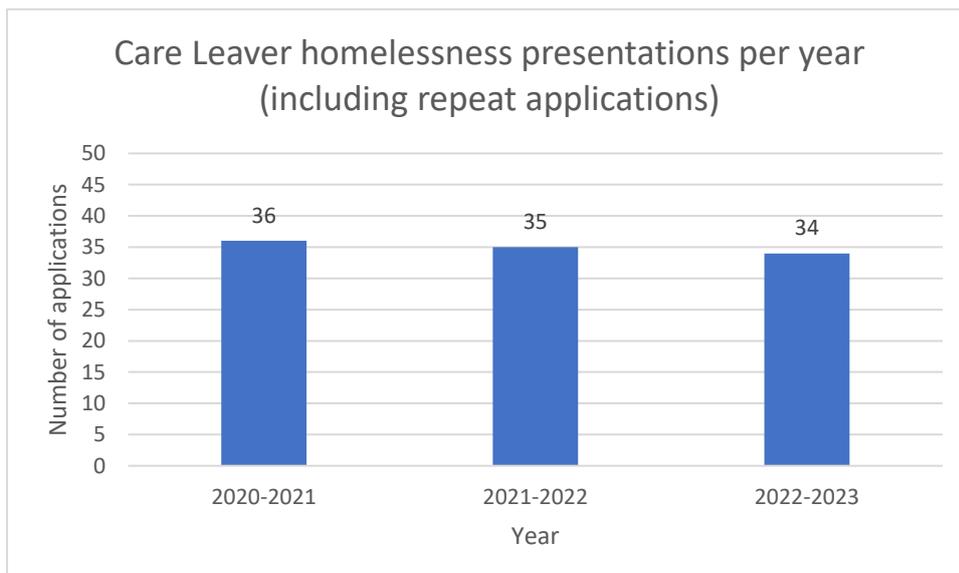
Figure 34 – Homelessness applications to BCBC by Care Leavers by year

Since 2018-19, 288 individuals have left Local Authority care. 55 of these individuals have gone on to make at least one application to Bridgend’s Housing Solutions team. Over half of those individuals (31) have made more than one presentation to the Housing Solutions team, with some individuals making up to 6 applications from 2019 – 2023.

Of the 55 Care Leavers who have made an application to homelessness, the average age, at the point of their first application, is 19 years and 7 months. This suggests that individuals are not presenting as homeless directly after leaving care, but on average within the first 2 years of doing so.

Analysis suggests that:

- 19.1% of Care Leavers have made a homelessness application.
- 56.4%, or 31 out of the 55 Care Leavers have made more than 1 approach to homelessness services for assistance.



The Figure above shows the number of homelessness applications made to the Local Authority by those who have left care since 2018.

When looking at Figure 36, in conjunction with Figure 4 we can see that: Applications from Care Leavers accounted for:

- 2.2% of homelessness applications in 2020/21
- 2.7% of homelessness applications in 2021/22

When looking at Figure 36, in conjunction with Figure 6 we can see that: Applications from Care Leavers accounted for:

- 10% of homelessness applications from 18–24-year olds in 2020/21
- 12.5% of homelessness applications from 18–24-year olds in 2021/22

Of the 55 Care Leavers who have made an application to homelessness, the average age, at the point of their first application, is 19 years and 7 months.

Analysis has been conducted to understand the different reasons why Care Leavers have accessed homelessness services. Figure 35 below considers the initial homelessness application made by Care Leavers, not including repeat presentations. The findings illustrate how being “asked to leave by family” was the main reason for housing precarity, with over a third (36%) of applications being made for this reason. Upon assessment of applications, it was reported that Care Leavers would often return to biological family after care, to then be asked to leave, resulting in the need to access our services.

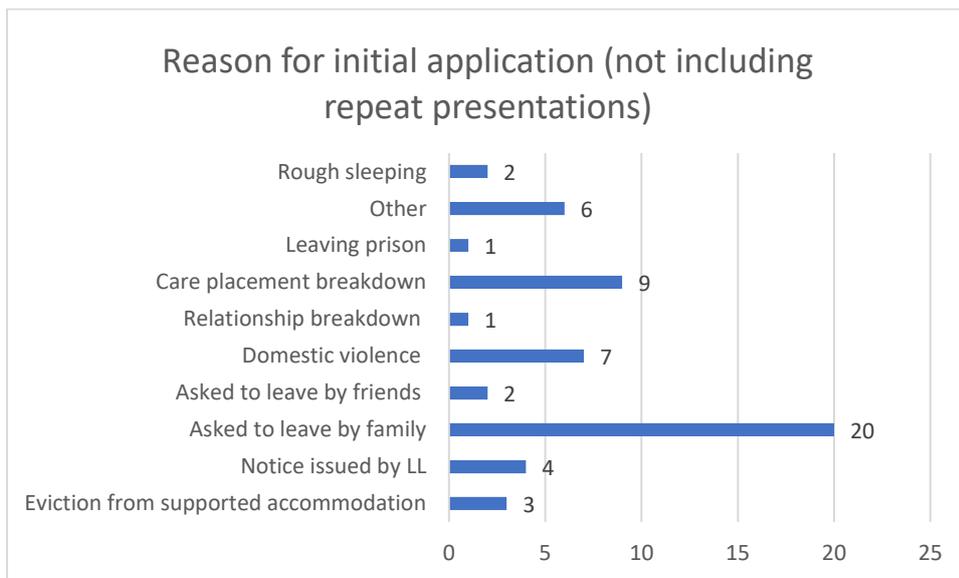
The second most common reason for needing to access services came from reports of a “care placement breakdown”. These cases represent those who were asked to leave active, formal care or foster placements both in and outside of the Bridgend area, where mediation was not an option.

Domestic violence was also a common trend within the data.

“Other” reasons include, but are not limited to:

- Bail conditions meaning accommodation cannot be accessed;
- Accommodation deemed unsuitable due to pregnancy / having a child;
- Voluntarily ceasing accommodation

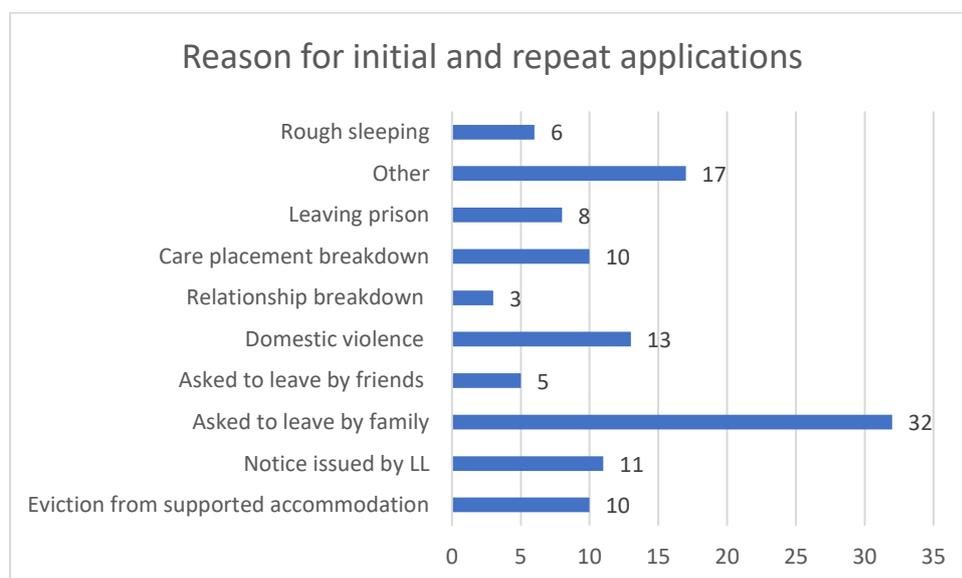
Figure 35: Reason for initial homelessness application (not including repeat presentations).



Similarly to above, Figure 36 highlights the reasons for all homeless applications including initial and repeat presentations. The data shows very similar trends.

Again, being “asked to leave by family” represents over a quarter of applications (27.8%), with “Other” representing 14.7% of applications, mostly relating to Care Leavers “voluntarily ceasing” existing accommodation.

Figure 36: Reasons for initial and repeat applications.



In order to understand why Care Leavers may present, and re-present to homelessness services, information on Primary and Secondary support needs were considered, based on information disclosed in their homelessness assessment and needs highlighted in any consequent support referrals.

Figure 37: Primary Support Needs (including repeat presentations).

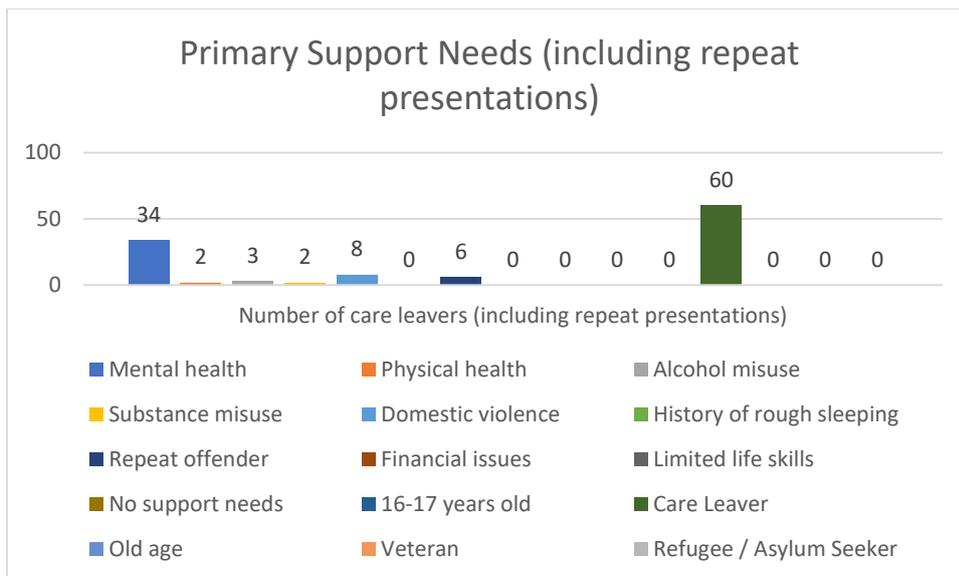


Figure 37 considers what Primary Support needs were identified, including in repeat presentations for the same individual. The reason we have considered repeat presentations is because some individuals support needs changed over time, for example, in applications made in 2020 vs in 2023.

Being a “Care Leaver” was highlighted as the main primary support need. 52.2% of applicants reported to have support needs directly relating to the fact they were either in care at the time of assistance or had been in care previously. Mental health related support needs also made up almost a third of applicants’ support needs, representing 29.6% of primary support needs.

Similar trends can be seen in Figure 38. Over a third of applicants (33.9%) reported that being a Care Leaver wasn’t their primary support need but contributed to their overall support needs.

Having “limited life skills” such as never having held a tenancy or lived independently made up a quarter of applicants needs (25.2%). This was very closely followed by “mental health”, representing 24.3% of care leavers “primary” support needs.

Figure 38: Secondary Support Needs (including repeat presentations).

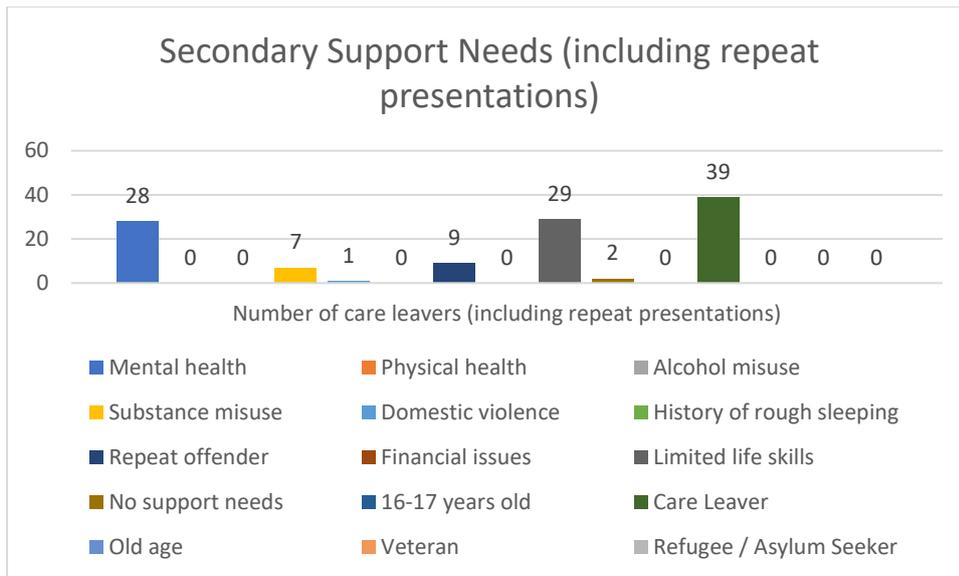


Figure 39 (below) goes on to highlight the outcome of each homelessness application, including repeat presentations. This helps us to understand the needs of applicants even after housing support has been provided.

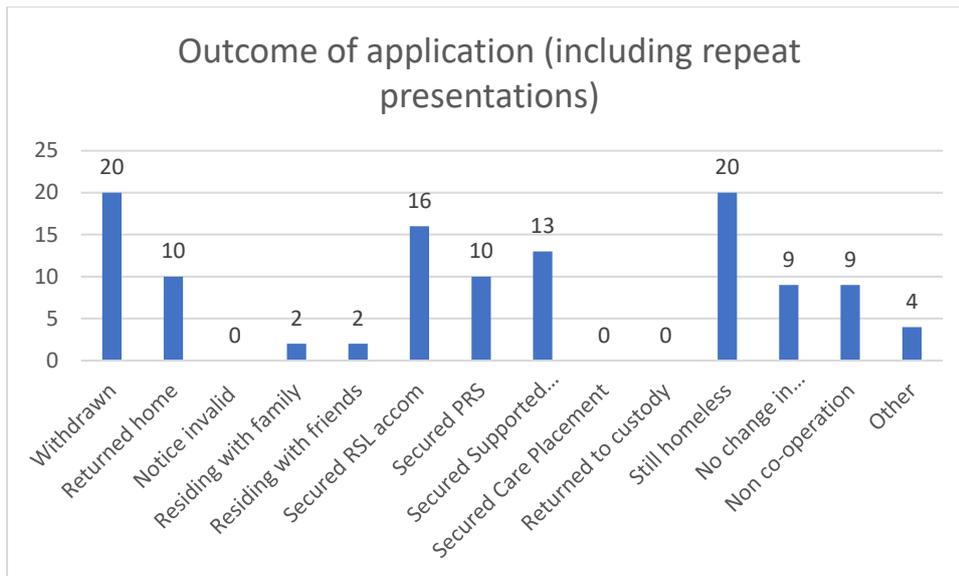
In the case of 20 applications (17.4%), the applicant remained homeless at the point their application was closed, either remaining in temporary accommodation or “sofa surfing” with family / friends.

Another 20 applications were reported to have been “Withdrawn” as requested by the applicant, where no further support was needed or requested.

13.9% of applications led to a social housing tenancy being secured, which is a good outcome promoting independence and autonomy.

13 other applications (11%) resulted in a supported accommodation placement being secured, in the case where young people did not yet possess the skills to live independently.

Figure 39 – Outcome of homelessness application (including repeat presentations).



Armed Forces Personnel

Both homelessness presentation and housing need applications representing those who have left the Armed Forces have been low, when looking at data from 2020 – 2023. However, those who have served in the Armed Forces are still represented in the data captured, outlined below.

- Since 2020, 8 homelessness applications were received as a direct result of the applicant leaving the Armed Forces and having no other suitable accommodation in which to reside.
- 18 applicants reported to have an additional support need as a result of serving in the Armed Forces
- More generally, since 2020, 260 applicants disclosed to have previously served in the Armed Forces in their homelessness application

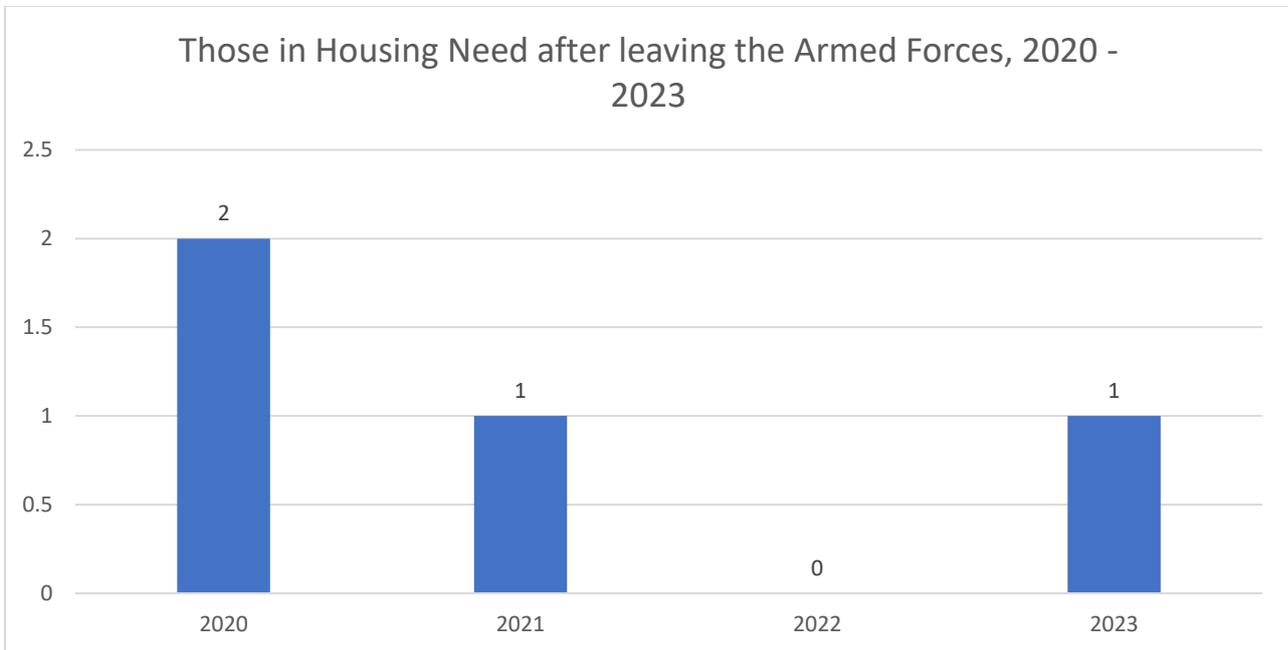
In addition to homelessness applications, a number of Housing Register applications were also received from those who were currently living in Armed Forces accommodation and needed to move on, or those who were in housing need as a direct result of leaving the Armed Forces and any accommodation provided by the forces.

Figure 35 – Housing Register applications received from those residing in Armed Forces Accommodation, 2020 - 2023



The figure has risen steadily year on year and plateaued from 22-23. Although the individuals who made these applications were residing in Armed Forces accommodation at the time, leaving the Armed Forces was not consistently listed as the primary housing need.

Figure 36 - Those in Housing Need after leaving the Armed Forces, 2020 - 2023



This figure represents individuals who made Housing Register applications whilst not residing in Armed Forces accommodation, but listed “Leaving the Armed Forces” as their main reason for needing to access accommodation.

