



Homelessness Review 2019

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1.0 Introduction

The introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA 17) marked a significant change in homeless legislation. The HRA 17 came into force on the 1 April 2018 and changed the way homelessness is assessed and recorded by local authorities.

All local housing authorities must have a homelessness strategy and this must be reviewed every 5 years. In order to inform the strategy, a review of homelessness data must also be carried out.

The current Homelessness Strategy 2017 – 2022 is being reviewed earlier due to the introduction of the HRA 17.

2.0 Purpose

The purpose of the review is to:

- Establish the current and likely future levels of homelessness
- Identify the people at risk of homelessness
- Identify the main causes of homelessness
- Review the homelessness prevention and relief measures carried out by the Council
- Review the accommodation and support options available for those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness

The data used to carry out the homelessness review is from a number of sources:

- West Lancashire Borough Council's Homelessness Database
- P1E Returns (Government statistical return completed by local authorities)
- H-Clic returns (Government statistical return that replaced the P1E return as of April 2018)
- Office for National Statistics
- UK House Price Index
- Shelter Housing Databank

3.0 Homelessness Review – Main Findings

The homelessness review 2019 found that:

- the number of homeless presentations is increasing each year
- the number of prevention and relief cases has increased
- the number of statutory decisions made has decreased
- we are helping more people into accommodation
- more males than females are presenting as homeless

- the majority of those presenting as homeless are aged 25-44.
- more people have support needs due to mental health problems
- end of assured shorthold tenancy and family evictions are still the main causes of homelessness
- having dependent children is still the main reason for a person having a priority need
- temporary accommodation use is increasing

4.0 National & Regional Homelessness Data

Where possible, homelessness data on a national and regional basis has been compared with local statistics. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government produces a Housing Statistical Release on a quarterly basis that provides information on the number of households making homeless presentations.

Due to the introduction of the HRA 17, the way homelessness statistics are recorded has changed. The statistics published for the period January – March 2018 were the last to be produced using the P1E Return. As of April 2018, the statistics are based on the new collection regime called H-CLIC.

Where regional and national figures are referred to, the data for 2018/19 is only available for the period April – December 18. At the time of completing the review, the data for January to March 2019 had not been released.

5.0 Housing Supply and Demand in West Lancashire

Owner occupation remains the dominant tenure in West Lancashire. The Borough also has a large social housing sector with 7,270 homes. 5,930 of these are Council owned properties. The private rented sector is the smallest sector in the Borough.

The average selling prices of a property in West Lancashire is £190,873, which is higher than the Lancashire and North West at £141,466 and £159,471 respectively. Nationally, the average sale price is £243,128.

Mean private rents in West Lancashire are higher than Lancashire but lower than the North West and at a national level.

Table 1: mean private rents 2018

West Lancashire	£580
Lancashire	£552
North West	£605
National	£844

Source: Shelter Databank

Social housing rents in West Lancashire are also more favourable than at a national level. The average weekly Council rent in 2017/18 was £86.71 nationally but only £75.95 in West Lancashire. Housing association rents over the same time period were £95.59 at national level and £93.25 in West Lancashire.

New houses continue to be built within the Borough in an effort to meet demand.

Table 1 shows the number of new home completions over the last three years.

Table 2: New Home Completions

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Housing Association	60	20	N/A
Council	30	0	N/A
Private Developers	130	170	N/A
Total	210	180	N/A

Source: Shelter Databank

6.0 Homeless Presentations

Between April 2016 and March 2019, the Council dealt with 393 homeless presentations. This is an increase on the previous three years where the number was 208.

The number of presentations has increased year on year from 74 in 2016/17 to 226 in 2018/19.

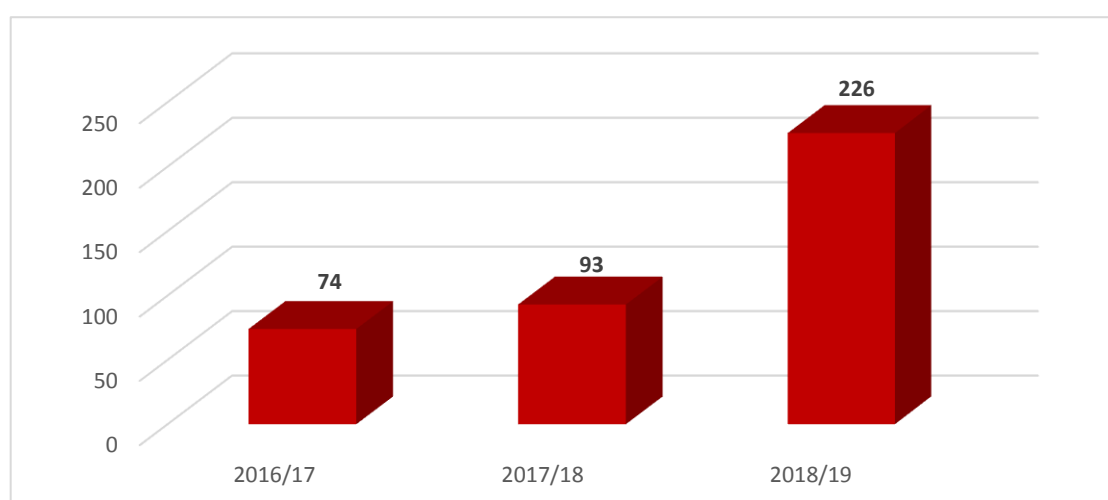
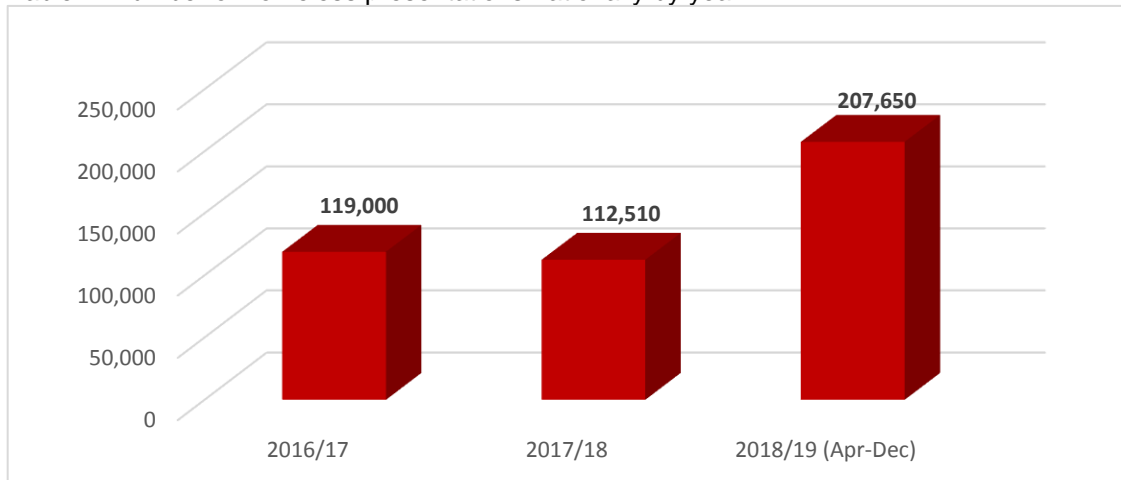


Table 3: Number of homeless presentations by year WLBC

Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

The number of presentations nationally showed a slight decrease in 2017/18 before rising in 2018/19, reflecting the sharp rise locally in the same year.

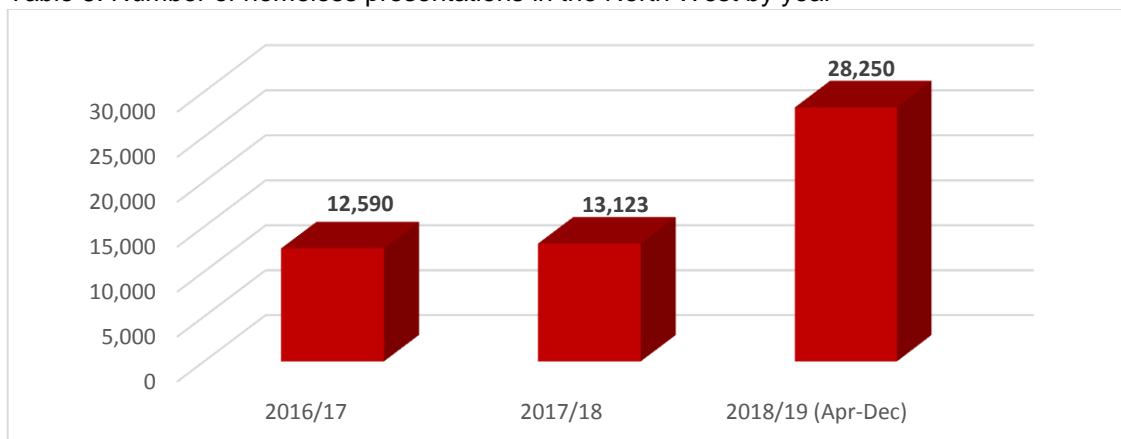
Table 4: Number of homeless presentations nationally by year



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

The figures for the North West continue the local trend of presentations increasing year on year with a marked increase in 2018/19.

Table 5: Number of homeless presentations in the North West by year



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

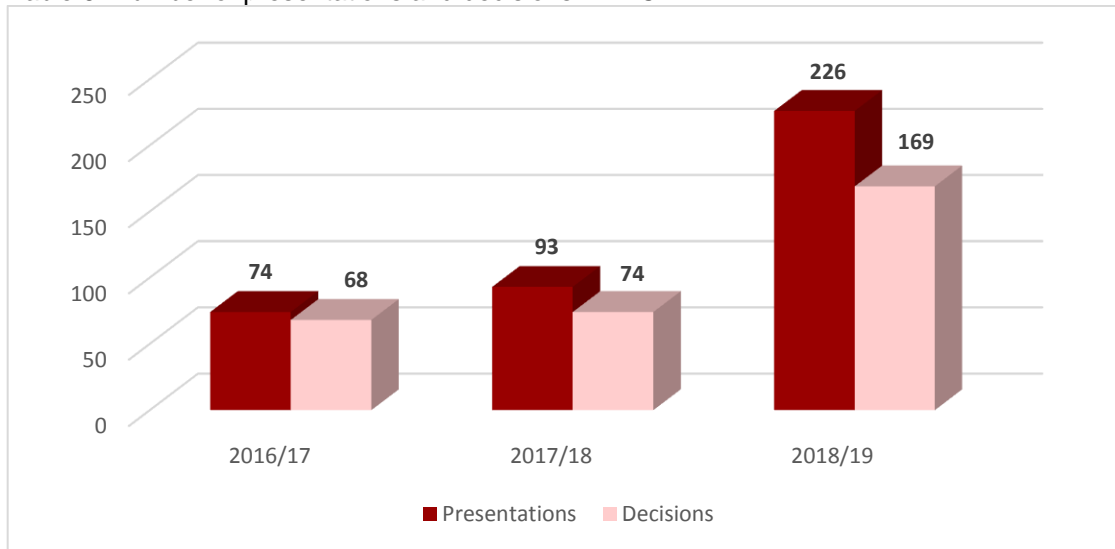
The increase in the number of homeless presentations across England was expected due to the introduction of the HRA 17 and the changes in how homeless cases are assessed and recorded.

7.0 Homeless Decisions

Not all homeless presentations result in a decision being issued. There are many reasons for this, such as the applicant failing to make any further contact or their homelessness being resolved in another way.

The following table shows the number of homeless presentations made and the number of decisions issued.

Table 6: Number of presentations and decisions WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

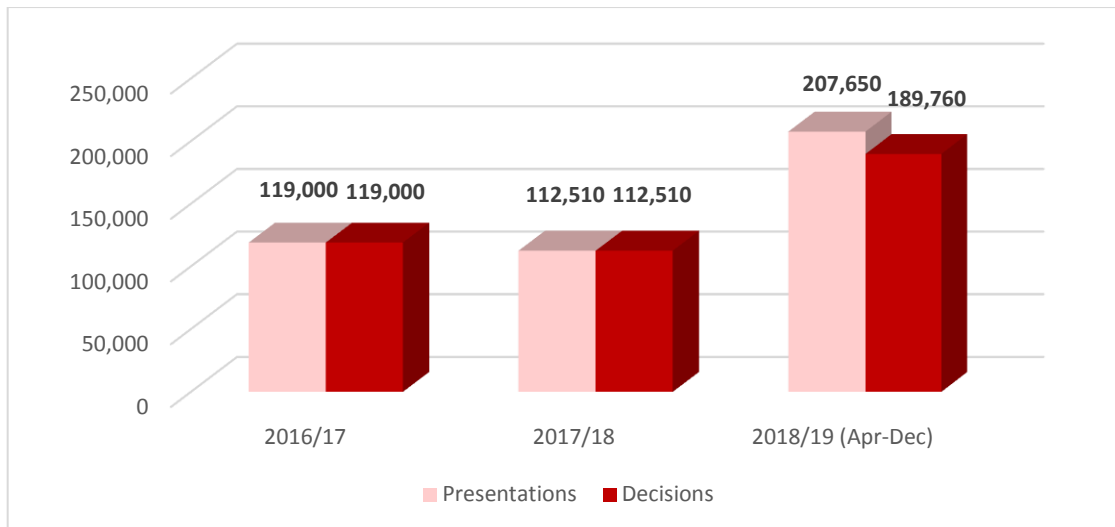
Analysis of the data suggests that over the 3 years from 2016/17, 79% of all homeless presentations resulted in a decision being issued. This is a decrease of 11% in the three years from 2013/14.

The new recording method introduced by the HRA 17, allows the Council to understand why no decision was issued. These figures are only available for 2018/19.

- Advice only/early closure 56
- Ineligible 1

Nationally, the figures seem to suggest that there was an equal number of presentations and decisions in 2016/17 and 2017/18 with 91% of all presentations leading to a decision in 2018/19.

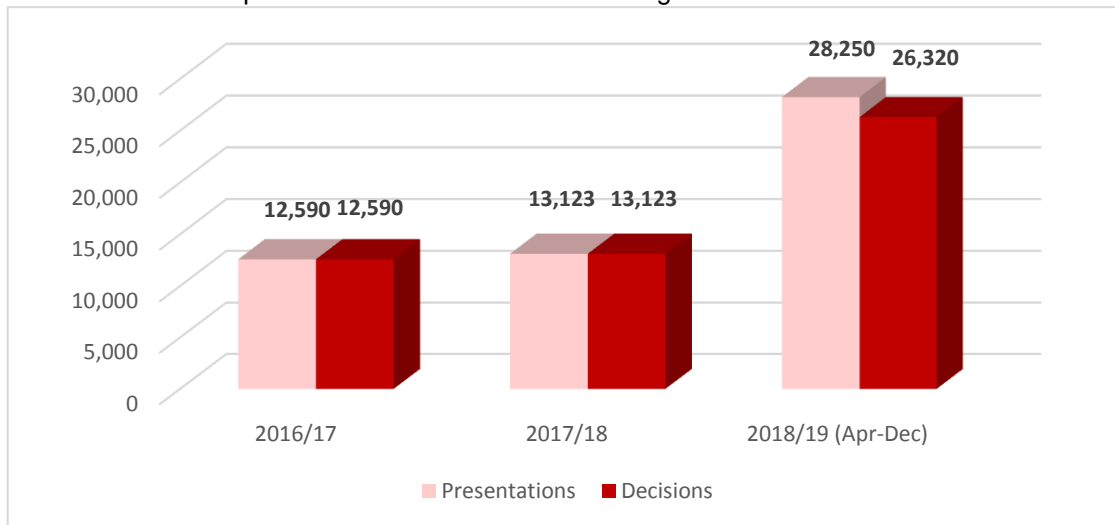
Table 7: Number of presentations and decisions at a national level



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

At a regional level, the figures for 2016/17 and 2017/18 mirror those at a national level in that the numbers of decisions issued are equal to the number of presentations. However, there is also a change in 2018/19 in that only 93% of presentations resulted in a decision being issued.

Table 8: Number of presentations and decisions at a regional level



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

8.0 Decisions Reached

Prior to the implementation of the HRA 17, there were five possible decisions that could have been reached following a homeless presentation. A person could be found to be:

- Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need
- Eligible with a priority need but intentionally homeless
- Eligible, homeless, but not in priority need
- Not Homeless
- Ineligible for assistance

The decision reached, determined what further action, if any, the Council was bound to take. Only those households found to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need were owed the full re-housing duty. Those found to be intentionally homeless or not in priority need were only entitled to advice and assistance to help them secure alternative accommodation.

Councils were encouraged to prevent and relieve homelessness but the HRA 17 reversed the assessment process making preventing and relieving homelessness the focus of all Council activities. There was an expectation that the number of prevention and relief cases would rise with the number of statutory decisions as outlined above, falling.

From the 1 April 2018, an enhanced homeless prevention duty was introduced which extended the period a person is considered to be threatened with homelessness from 28 days to 56 days. For those already homeless, a homeless relief duty was introduced placing a duty on Councils to work with those households for at least 56 days to try and bring their homelessness to an end.

Since the 1 April 2018, the decisions that can be made following a homeless presentation are now:

- Ineligible for assistance
- Not Homeless
- Prevention duty owed
- Relief duty owed

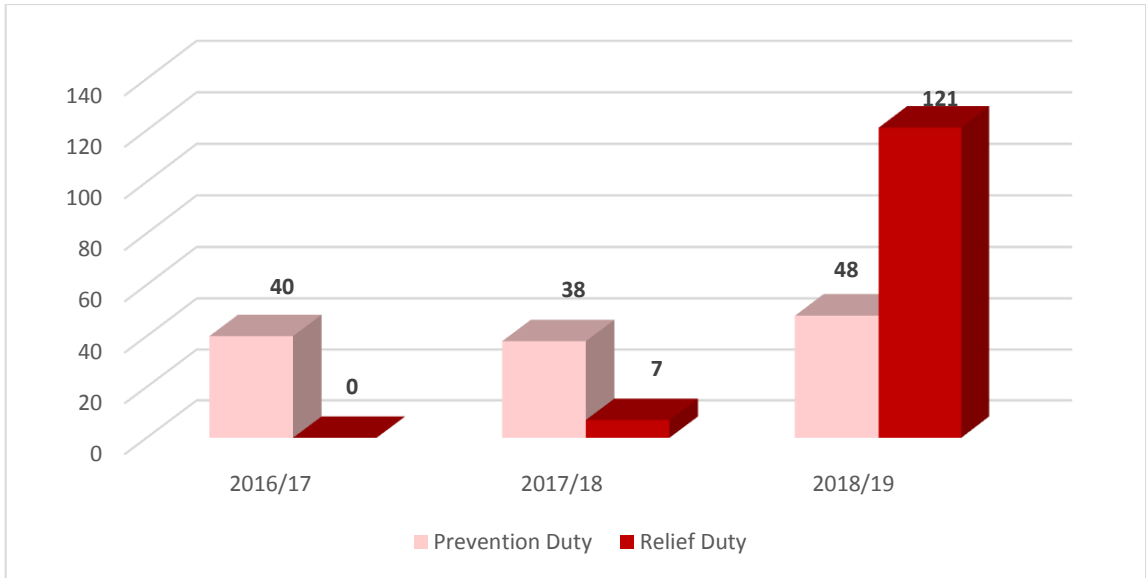
If after following the prevention and relief pathway the person is still homeless, one of the following decisions must then be made:

- Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need
- Eligible with a priority need but intentionally homeless
- Eligible, homeless, but not in priority need

If the HRA 17 is being correctly applied, the following figures should show an increase in the number of prevention and relief cases and a reduction in the number of statutory homeless decisions being made.

9.0 Prevention & Relief Duty

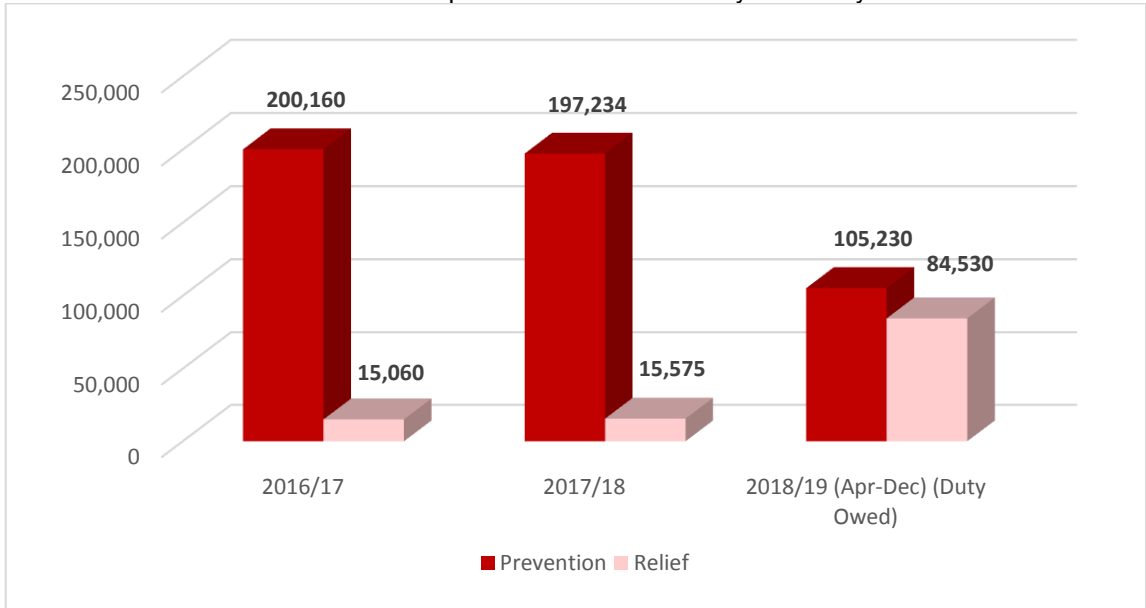
Table 9: Number of cases owed the prevention and relief duty WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

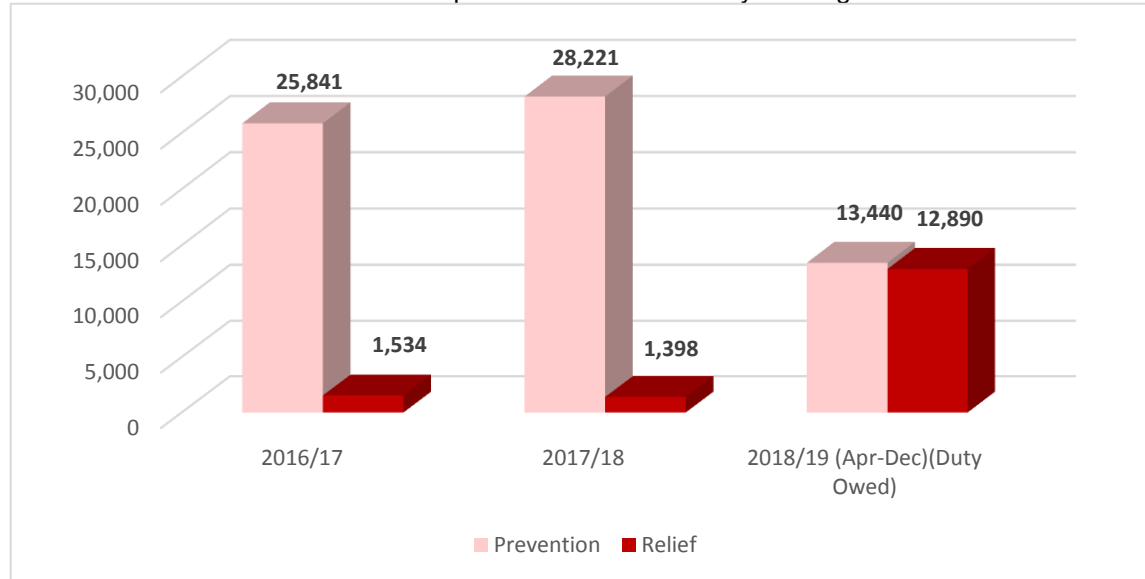
At a local level, the number of cases owed a prevention or relief duty has increased year on year with a marked increase as expected in 2018/19. However, more cases are being owed the relief duty rather than the prevention duty.

Table 10: Number of cases owed the prevention and relief duty nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 11: Number of cases owed the prevention and relief duty at a regional level



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

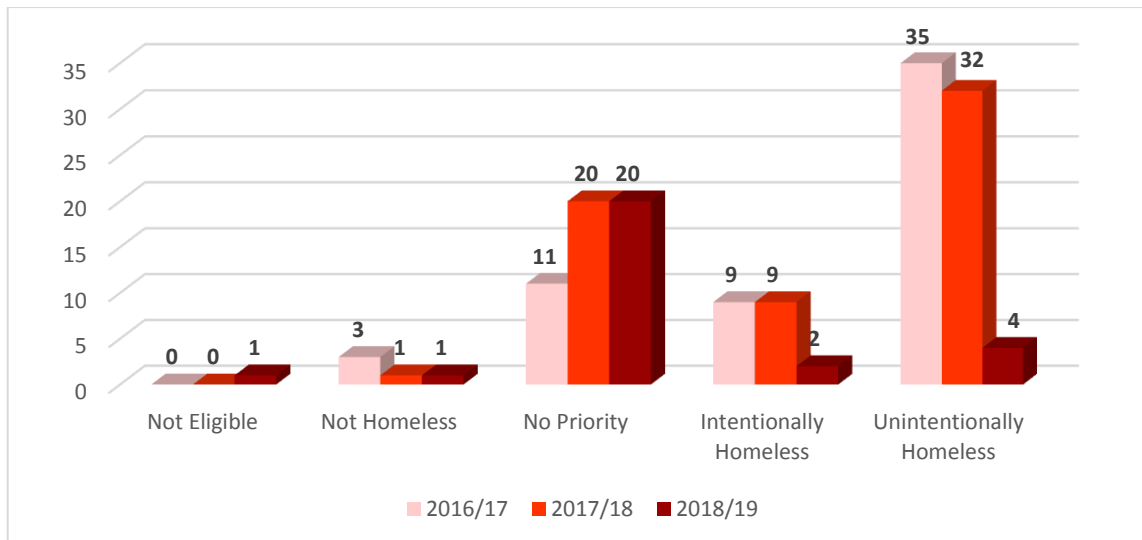
It is interesting to note that at a national and regional level, the number of prevention cases has decreased since the introduction of the 2017 Act whilst the number of relief duty cases has risen.

The reasons for an increase in the number of relief duty cases across the board are not clear, however, it suggests that homeless applications are either being made at a point where homelessness has already occurred so there are no prevention options or where prevention measures have failed.

10.0 Statutory Homeless Decisions

The following tables confirm the change in how homeless presentations have been recorded since 1 April 2018 as less statutory homeless decisions were made in 2018/19. The reduction in the number of statutory decisions is also reflected at a national and regional level.

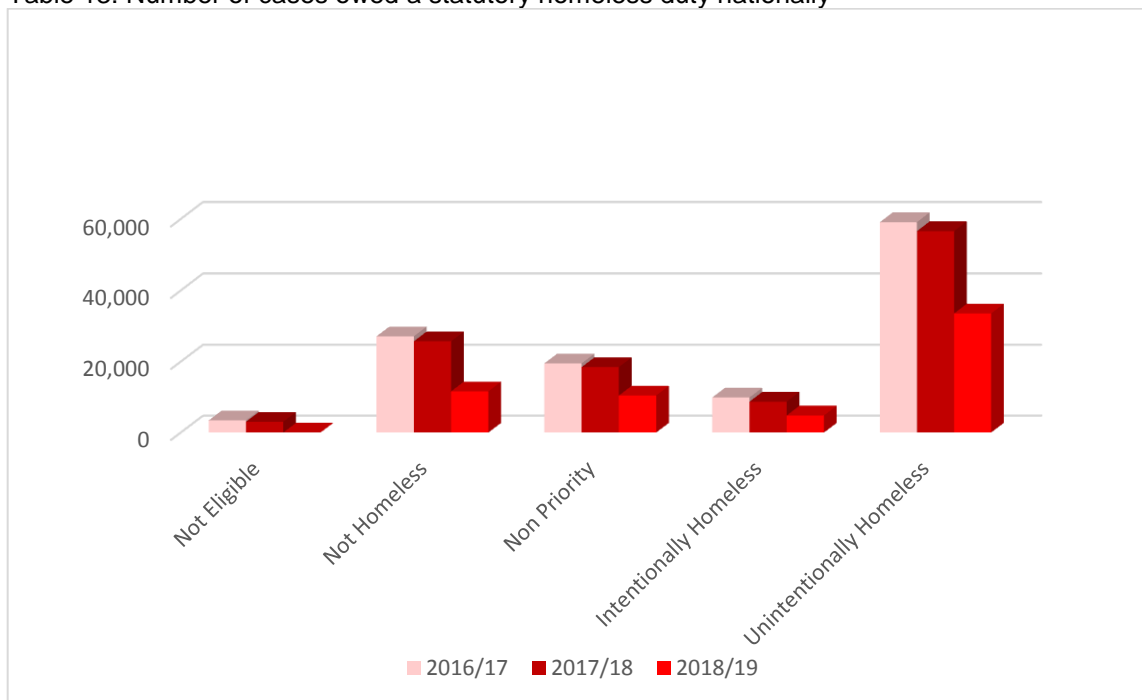
Table 12: Number of cases owed a statutory homeless duty WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

As expected, the number of intentionally and unintentionally homeless decisions fell in 2018/19 which means that more cases have been dealt with through prevention and relief. It is noticeable that the number of non-priority cases has remained the same which suggests that there may be a gap in service provision and or accommodation options for this group.

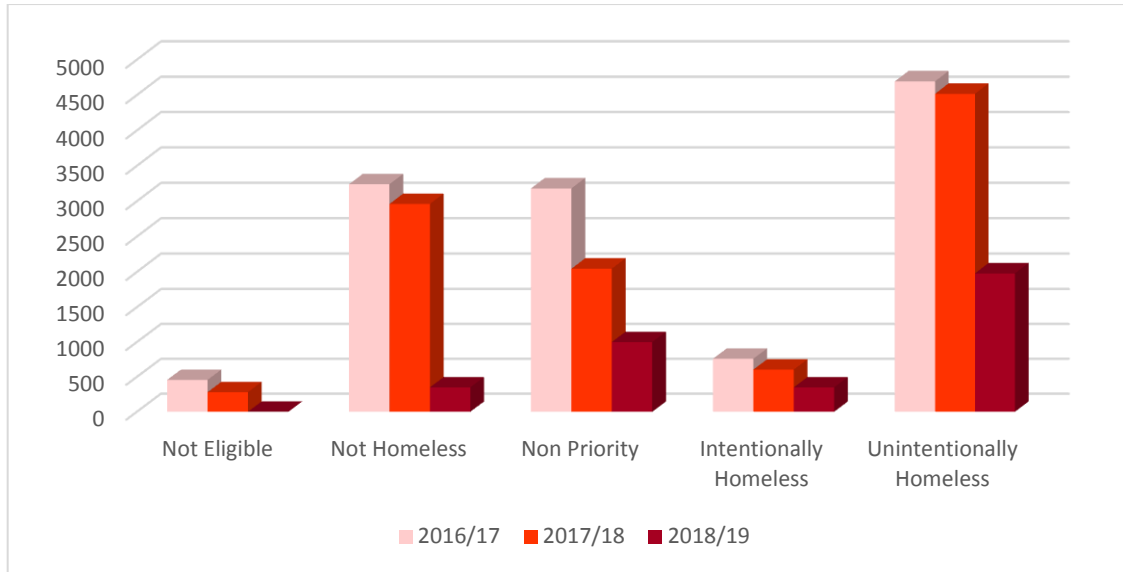
Table 13: Number of cases owed a statutory homeless duty nationally



	Not Eligible	Not Homeless	Non Priority	Intentionally Homeless	Unintentionally Homeless
2016/17	3,410	27,140	19,500	9,860	59,110
2017/18	3,040	25,720	18,450	8,700	56,600
2018/19	0	11,610	10,440	4,820	33,570

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 14: Number of cases owed a statutory homeless duty at regional level

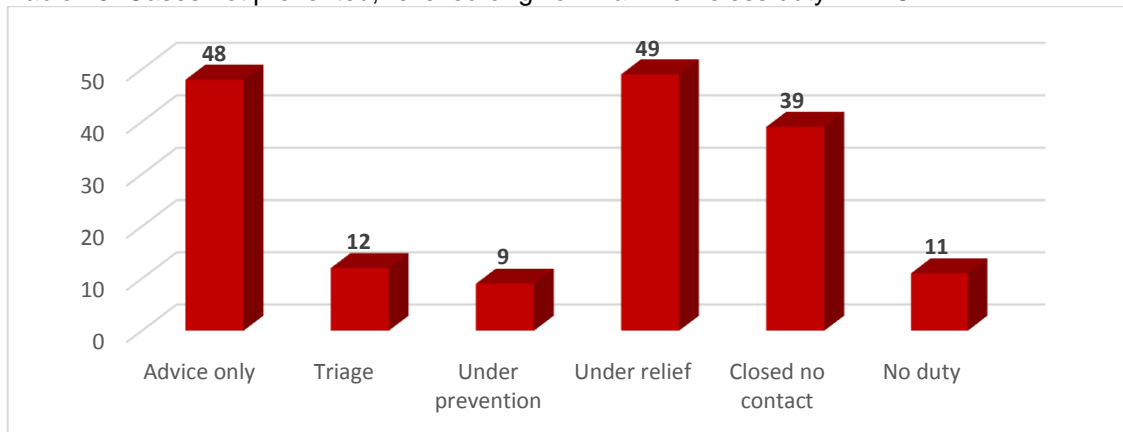


	Not Eligible	Not Homeless	Non Priority	Intentionally Homeless	Unintentionally Homeless
2016/17	457	3,240	3,181	760	4,694
2017/18	281	2,961	2,046	605	4,518
2018/19	0	350	1,000	350	1,980

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

The cases where homelessness was not prevented, relieved or given the main homeless duty (found to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need) during 2018/19 was also analysed.

Table 15: Cases not prevented, relieved or given main homeless duty WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Cases with a status of triage, under prevention or under relief were still open and either being assessed or still being assisted at the time the data was reviewed.

11.0 Outcome of cases where a prevention duty was accepted

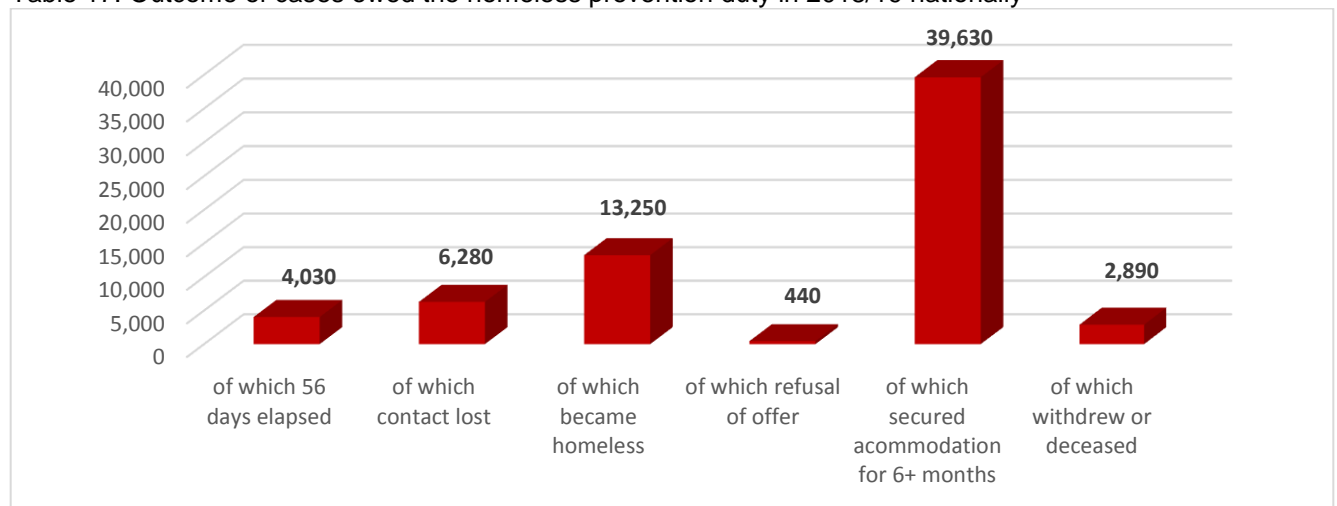
Once a homeless duty has been accepted, the outcome of the case will depend on the duty that is owed. The following tables show the outcome of the cases by the duty owed.

Table 16: Outcome of cases owed the homeless prevention duty in 2018/19 WLBC



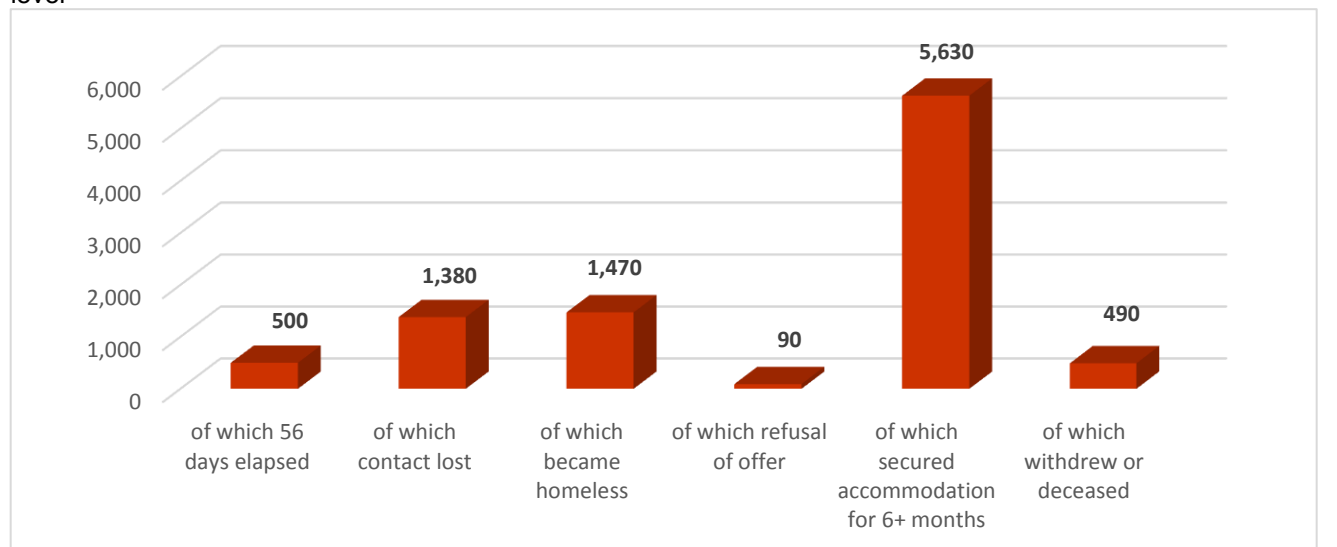
Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 17: Outcome of cases owed the homeless prevention duty in 2018/19 nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 18: Outcome of cases owed the homeless prevention duty in 2018/19 at a regional level



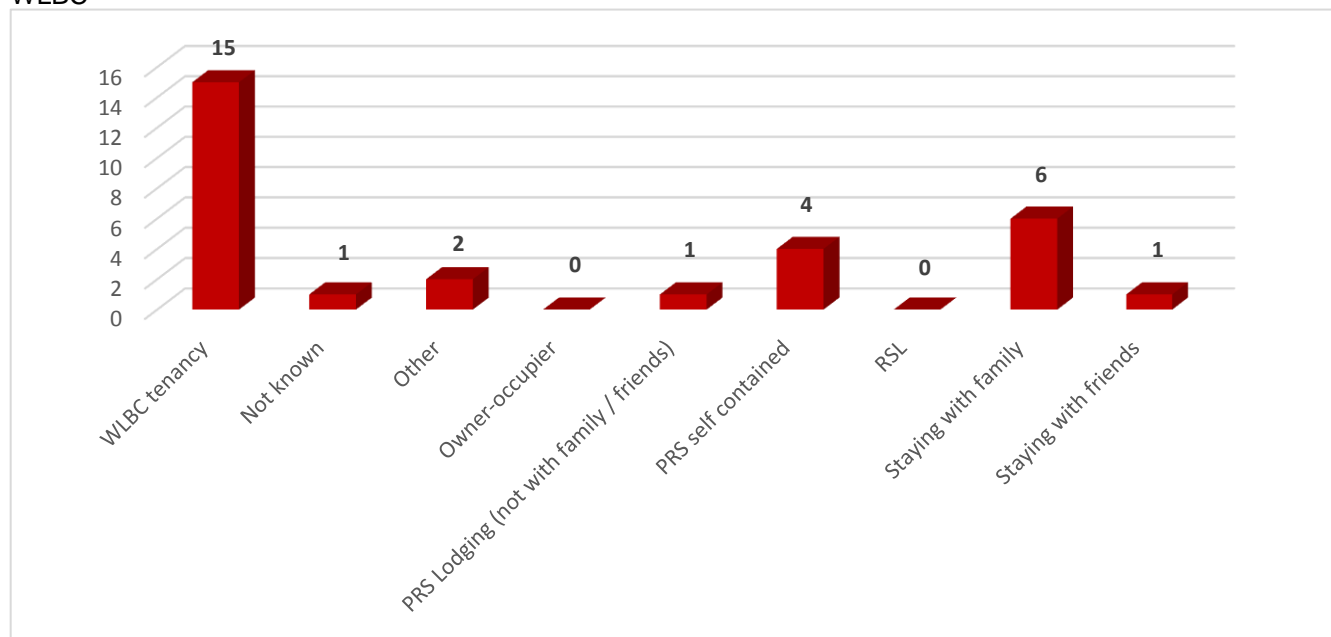
Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

At all levels, the number of households where accommodation was secured for 6+ months has been the main outcome for those owed the prevention duty. Whilst this is encouraging, the number of cases where contact is lost or homelessness occurs suggests more work needs to be done to achieve a better outcome for those households.

12.0 Prevention Duty Accommodation Outcomes

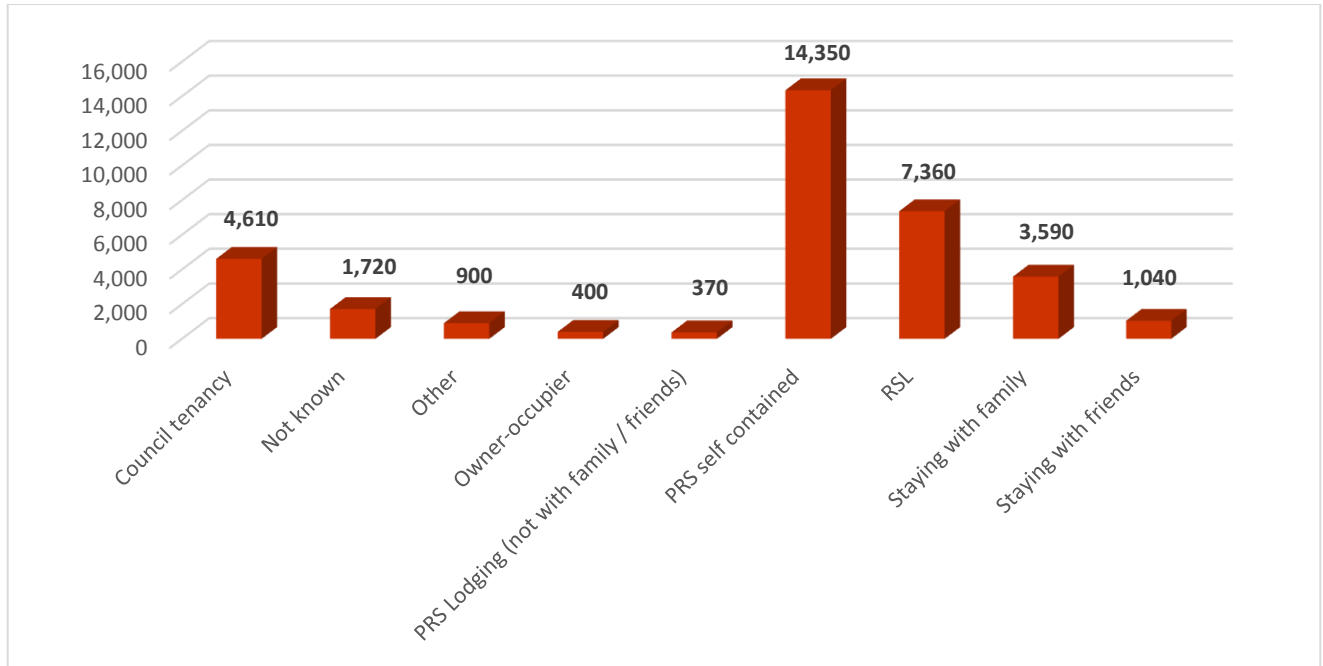
The following tables show the accommodation outcomes for those households where homelessness was prevented due to accommodation being secured for 6+ months.

Table 19: Accommodation outcome of cases where homelessness was prevented 2018/19 WLBC



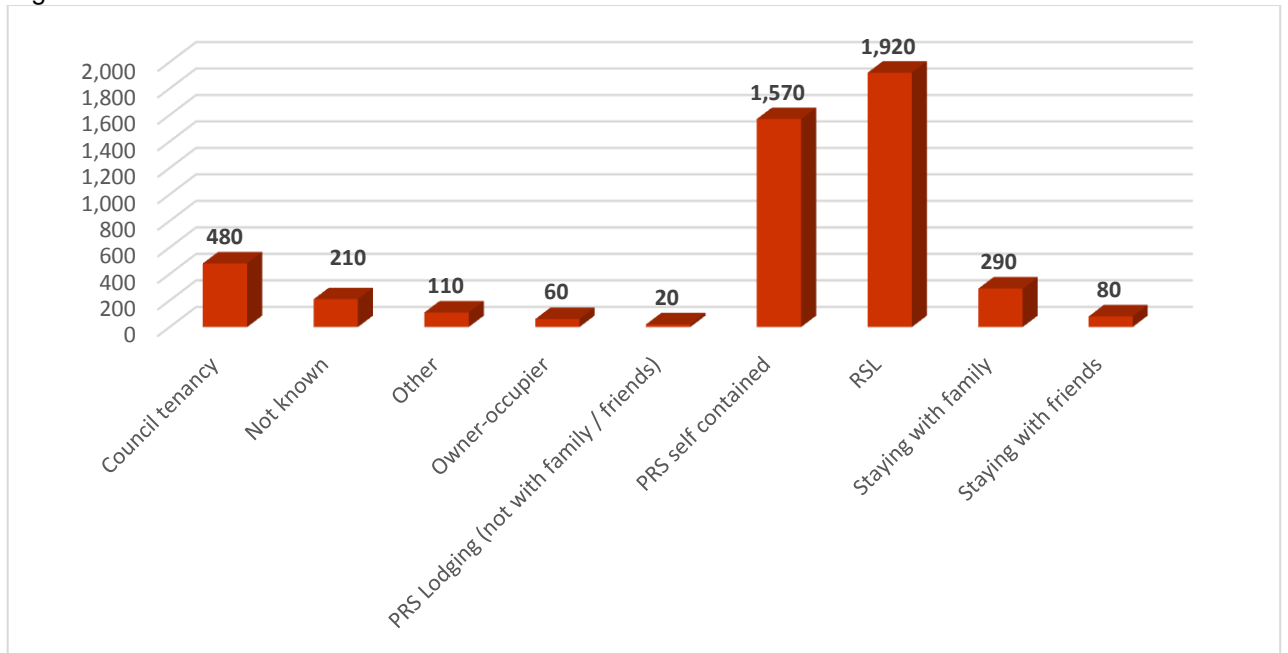
Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 20: Accommodation outcome of cases where homelessness was prevented 2018/19 nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 21: Accommodation outcome of cases where homelessness was prevented 2018/19 at regional level

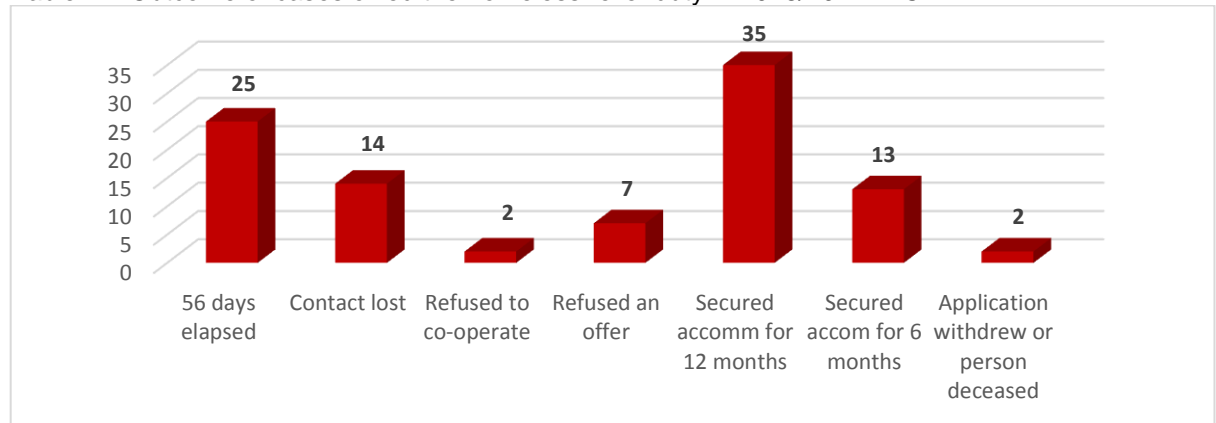


Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

The type of accommodation secured reflects the differences in social housing provision nationally. Locally, the main tenure of accommodation secured is council accommodation followed by private rented accommodation. Nationally, it is private rented accommodation followed by registered provider and council accommodation, while at a regional level it is registered provider accommodation followed by private rented and council accommodation.

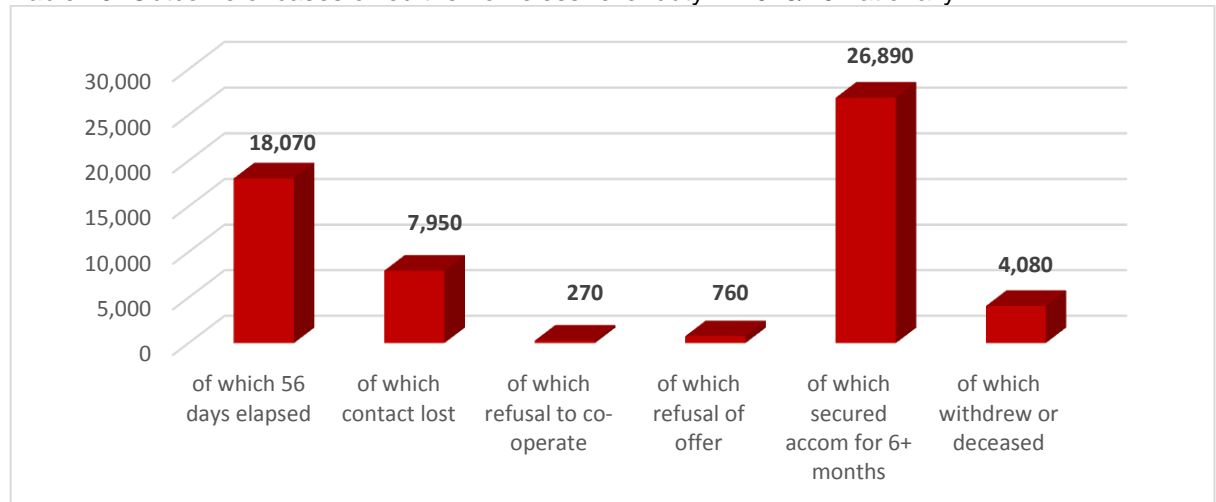
13.0 Outcome of cases where a relief duty was accepted

Table 22: Outcome of cases owed the homeless relief duty in 2018/19 WLBC



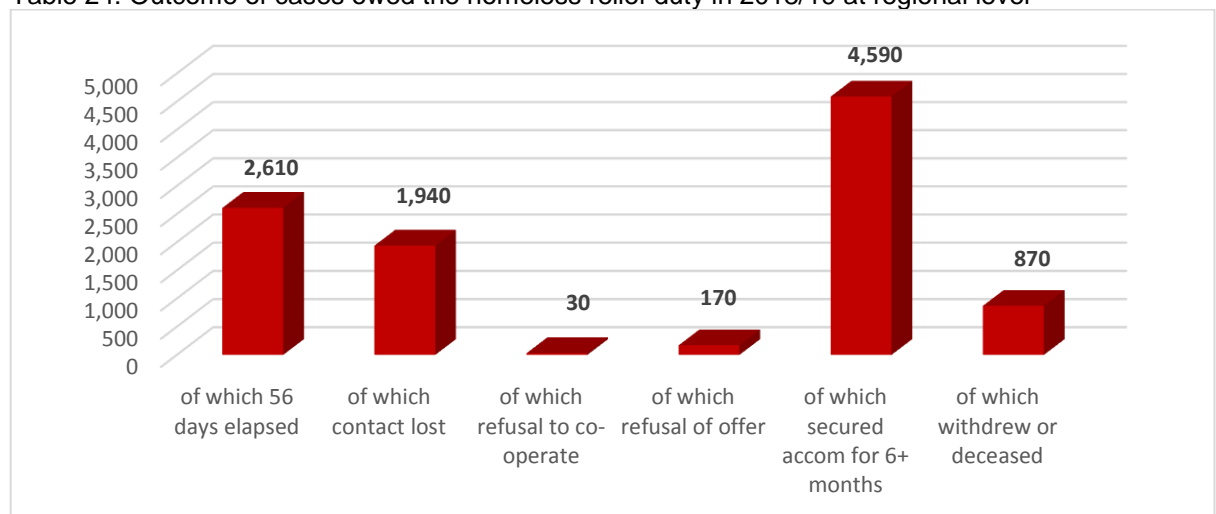
Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 23: Outcome of cases owed the homeless relief duty in 2018/19 nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 24: Outcome of cases owed the homeless relief duty in 2018/19 at regional level



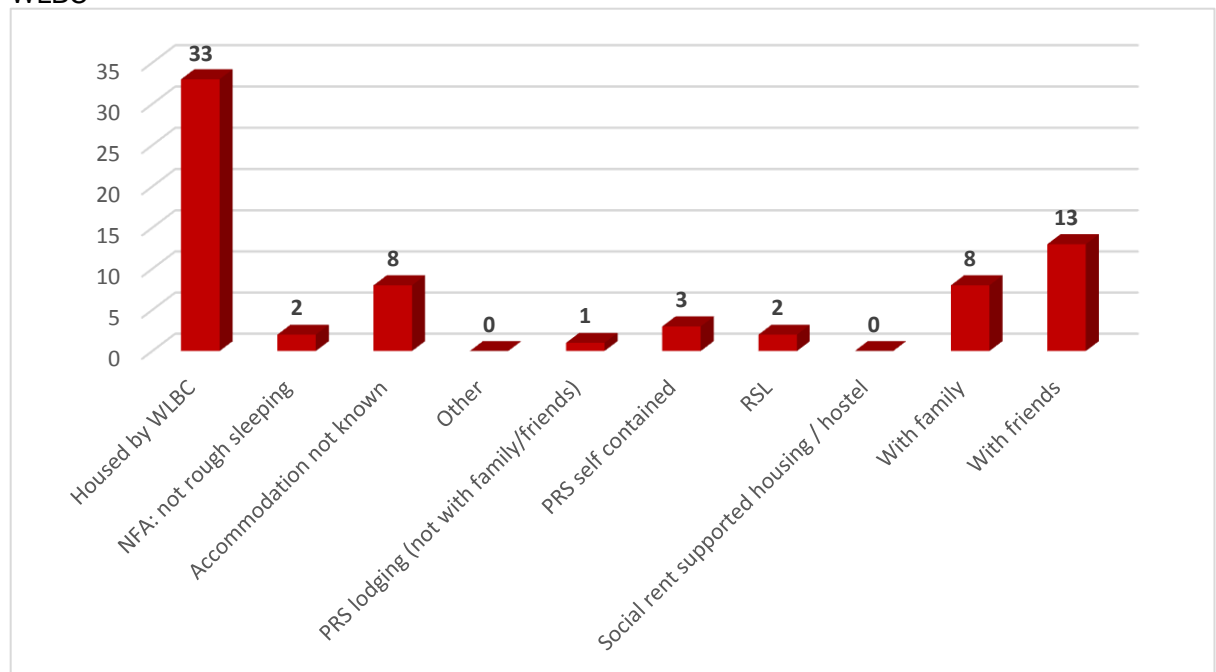
Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

For those owed the homeless relief duty locally, 48 households secured accommodation for 6+ months, however, the number of cases where 56 days has passed without the homelessness being relieved is still of concern. The picture is the same at a national and regional level which suggests that more work is required to reduce the number of relief cases where 56 days passes without the homelessness being relieved.

14.0 Relief Duty Accommodation Outcomes

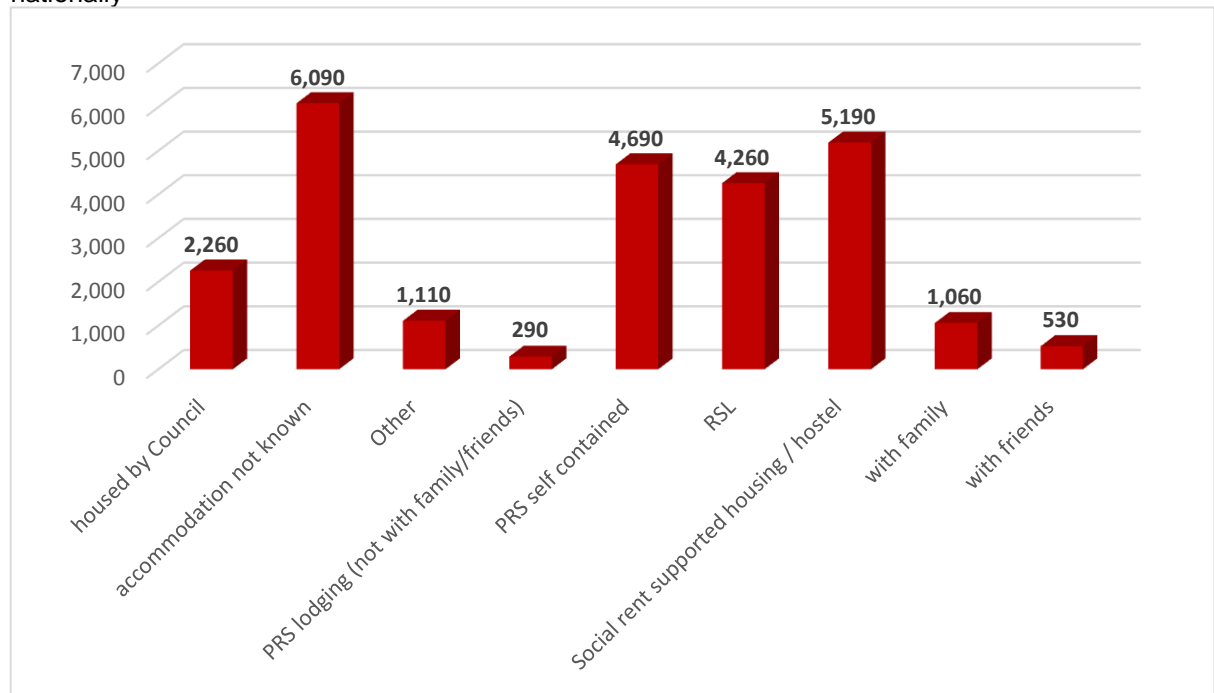
The following tables show the accommodation outcomes for those households where homelessness was relieved due to accommodation being secured for 6+ months.

Table 25: Accommodation outcome of cases where homelessness was relieved 2018/19 WLBC



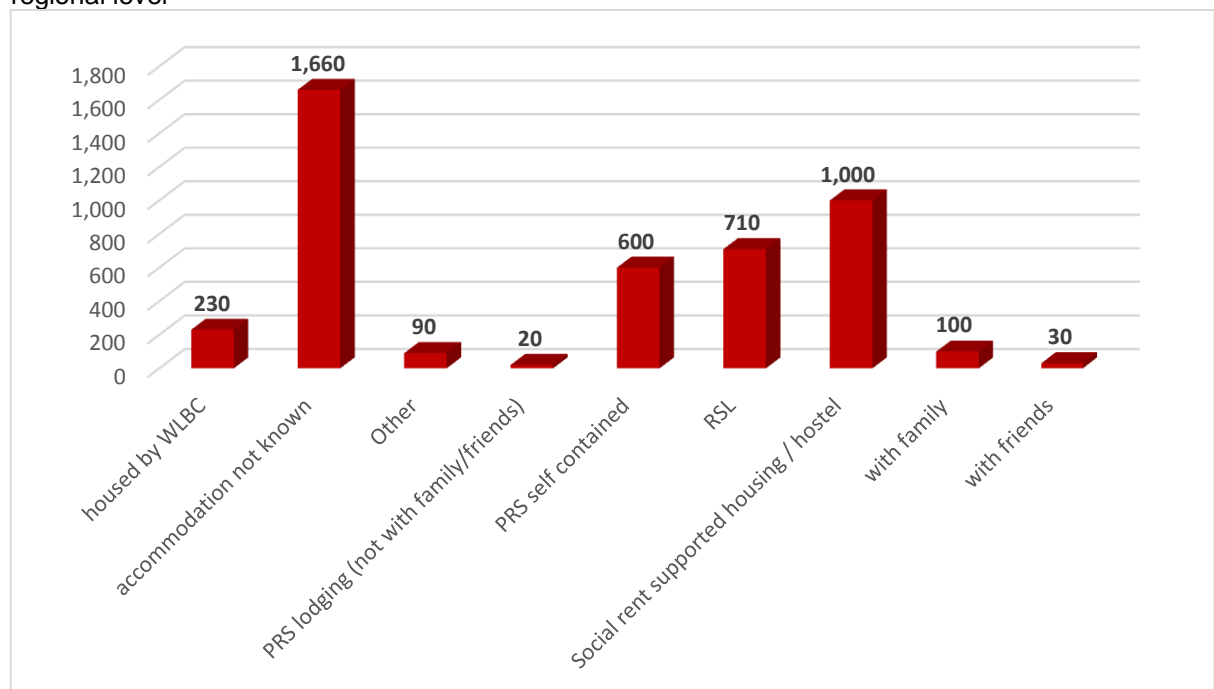
Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 26: Accommodation outcome of cases where homelessness was prevented 2018/19 nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 27: Accommodation outcome of cases where homelessness was prevented 2018/19 at regional level



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

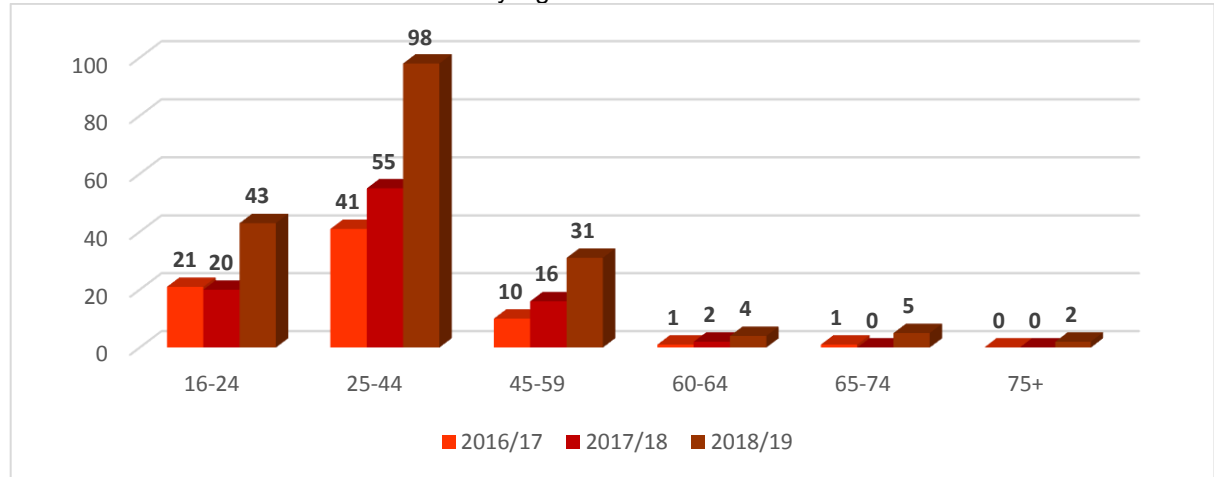
At a local level, the Council is still the main provider of accommodation to those owed the relief duty followed by friends and family. However, at a national and regional level, the main accommodation outcome is accommodation not known followed by supported housing/hostel. This

suggests that at a national and regional level, councils are finding it more difficult to secure social housing for those owed the relief duty.

15.0 Homelessness Presentations & Age

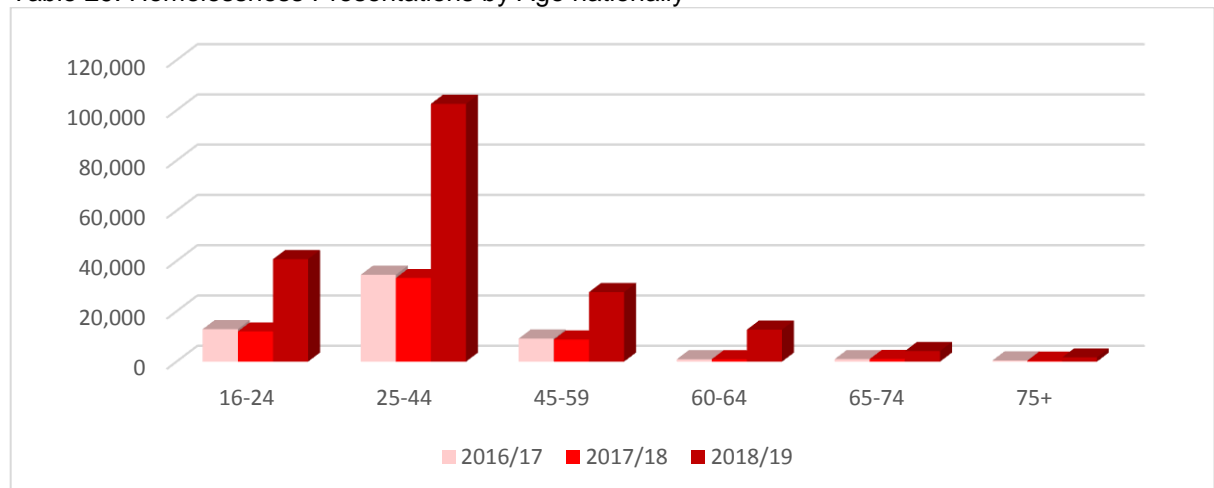
The highest proportion of homeless presentations are made by applicants aged 25 – 44 with the second highest by applicants aged 16 – 24. This has been consistent since 2011. This trend is mirrored at both a national and regional level.

Table 28: Homelessness Presentations by Age WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

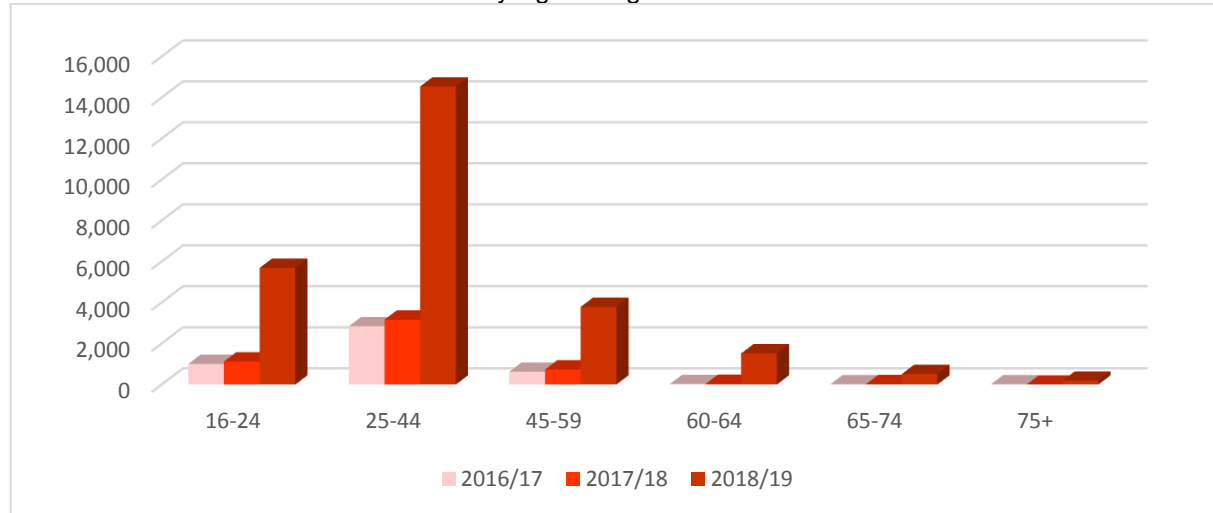
Table 29: Homelessness Presentations by Age nationally



	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
16-24	12,940	12,020	40,750
25-44	34,530	33,270	102,610
45-59	9,170	8,810	27,660
60-64	950	990	12,740
65-74	1,010	1,080	4,230
75+	510	430	1,680

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 30: Homelessness Presentations by Age at regional level



	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
16-24	1,004	1,123	5,690
25-44	2,842	3,164	14,540
45-59	624	734	3,790
60-64	24	27	1,520
65-74	12	20	510
75+	10	0	190

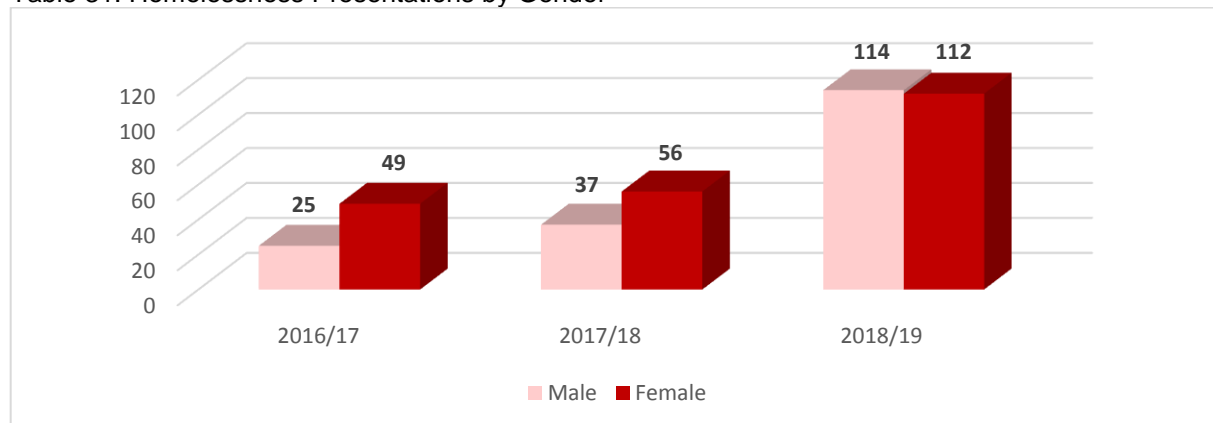
Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

16.0 Homelessness Presentations & Gender

Of the 393 homeless presentations made, 217 (55%) were from females with 176 (44%) being from males. Up until 2018/19, more females and males presented as homeless.

West Lancashire has a population total of 113,900 with 55,200 being male and 58,800 being female. Based on those figures, over the last three years, 0.32% of the male population presented as homeless with 0.37% of the female population presenting.

Table 31: Homelessness Presentations by Gender

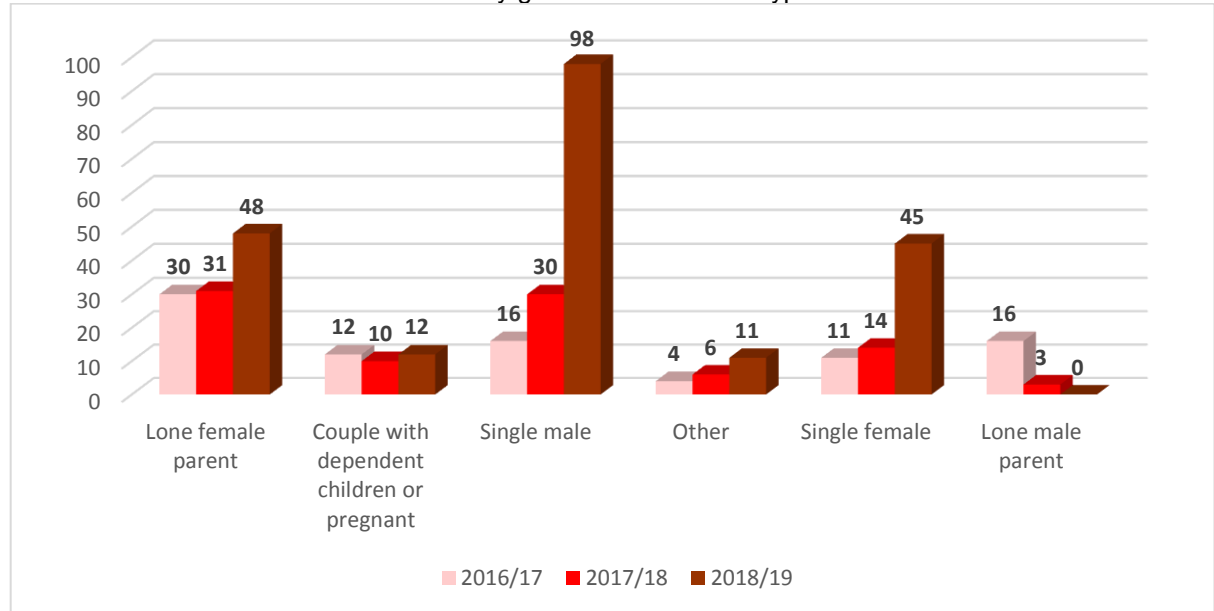


Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

17.0 Homelessness Presentations by Gender and Household Type

The data below confirms that in 2018/19, the number of single males presenting as homeless was far higher than in previous years, reversing the trend of lone female parents being the highest presenting household group.

Table 32: Homelessness Presentations by gender & household type WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

This has also been the trend both at national and regional level.

Table 33: Homelessness Presentations by gender & household type nationally

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Single male parent with dependent children	2,230	2,290	4,610
Single female parent with dependent children	27,710	26,610	44,220
Other/gender not known with dependent children	3,120	2,710	190
Single male	7,360	8,060	67,940
Single female	5,660	5,730	43,870
Single other/gender not known	0	0	490
Couple/two adults with dependent children	12,760	11,210	14,930
Couple/two adults without dependent children	0	0	10,000
Three+ adults with dependent children	0	0	1,820
Three+ adults without dependent children	0	0	1,670

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 34: Homelessness Presentations by gender & household type at regional level

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Single male parent with dependent children	87	120	550
Single female parent with dependent children	1,927	2,259	5,880
Other/gender not known with dependent children	209	220	20
Single male	935	1,079	10,890
Single female	645	679	5,400
Single other/gender not known	0	0	50
Couple/two adults with dependent children	684	673	1,770
Couple/two adults without dependent children	0	0	1,360
Three+ adults with dependent children	0	0	210
Three+ adults without dependent children	0	0	220

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

18.0 Support Needs

The HRA 17 introduced the recording of a households support needs as part of the homeless assessment.

Across England, the top three support needs identified were:

- History of mental health problems
- Physical ill health & disability
- At risk of / has experienced domestic abuse

Table 35: Identified support needs

	WLBC	National	Regional
History of mental health problems	38	40,140	7,220
Physical ill health & disability	18	25,160	4,240
At risk of / has experienced domestic abuse	14	17,330	3,050
Offending history	7	13,650	3,050
History of repeat homelessness	5	11,890	2,850
History of rough sleeping	3	9,850	2,110
Drug dependency needs	8	10,020	1,940
Young person aged 18-25 requiring support to manage independently	5	7,850	1,240
Alcohol dependency needs	10	7,800	1,410
Learning disability	3	7,670	1,250
Access to education/employment/training	0	6,470	1,190
At risk of / has experienced abuse (non-domestic abuse)	1	5,160	1,140
At risk of / has experienced sexual abuse /	2	3,840	690

exploitation			
Old age	4	2,460	360
Young parent requiring support to manage independently	1	2,070	310
Young person aged 16-17	1	2,140	310
Care leaver aged 21+	1	2,070	370
Former asylum seeker	2	1,960	670
Care leave aged 18-20	3	1,950	340
Served in HM forces	0	1,330	280

Source: WLBC Homelessness Data & Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

19.0 Homelessness & Ethnicity

The data provided in this section is only relevant to West Lancashire. Government does not yet collect the personal data of the person presenting as homeless, therefore, we are not able to carry out national and regional comparisons.

West Lancashire Borough Council records the ethnicity of all homeless applicants for equal opportunities monitoring purposes. The figures show that the majority of requests for assistance come from those who class themselves as white British. This has been consistent over the last 10 years.

Table 36: Ethnic origin of those presenting as homeless

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
White British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	65	78	197
White: Any other white background	3	1	9
White Gypsy/Traveller	0	0	1
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	0	1	1
Mixed: White & Black African	0	0	0
Mixed: White & Black Asian	1	0	1
Other Mixed	0	1	0
Indian	0	0	0
Pakistani	0	0	0
Bangladeshi	0	0	0
Other Asian	0	1	1
Caribbean	0	0	0
Black African	0	0	2
Other Black	0	0	0
Chinese	0	0	0
Other	5	10	3
Not Known	0	0	0
Arab	0	0	1

Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

20.0 Foreign Nationals & UK Nationals from Abroad

The data provided in this section is only relevant to West Lancashire. Government does not yet collect the personal data of the person presenting as homeless, therefore, we are not able to carry out national and regional comparisons.

The following tables shows the number of homeless presentations broken down by the applicants' country of origin. The figures show that 91% of all homeless presentations are made by UK nationals.

Table 37: Homeless applications by country of origin

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
British/Irish resident in the UK	67	84	207
UK national (returning to UK or arriving in the UK for the first time)	0	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0
Latvia	1	0	0
Lithuania	0	0	0
Poland	2	0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0
Slovenia	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	0	0
Romania	1	1	0
Other EEA National	0	1	1
Non EEA National	3	8	0
EEA Citizen permanent right to reside	0	0	1
EEA citizen worker	0	0	6
Non UK/EEA granted refugee status	0	0	4
Non UK/EEA indefinite leave to remain	0	0	0
Non UK/EEA limited leave to remain	0	0	2

21.0 Primary Causes of Homelessness

There are many reasons why a person can become homeless. The Council records all of the reasons given and reports these to Government on a quarterly basis.

In West Lancashire between 2016 and 2019, the top three reasons given for homelessness were:

- End of assured shorthold tenancy
- Domestic abuse
- Parents / friends / relatives unwilling/unable to accommodate

Table 38: Reasons given for homelessness WLBC

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Parents/Friends/Relatives Unable to Accommodate	24	19	37
Non-violent relationship breakdown	7	4	21
Domestic Violence	12	19	14
Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons	1	3	0
Racially motivated violence	0	0	0
Other violence	0	0	0
Racial harassment	0	0	0
Other harassment	1	0	5
Mortgage Arrears	4	2	3
Local Authority Rent Arrears	0	1	0
Registered provider rent arrears	0	2	0
Private Sector Rent Arrears	4	1	0
End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy	11	22	52
Reasons other than end of AST	0	1	3
End of NASS accommodation	1	0	4
Left other institution or local authority care / prison / hospital	4	2	2
Left HM forces	0	0	1
Other	2	4	45
End of social rented tenancy	0	0	14

Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 39: Reasons given for homelessness nationally

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Parents/friends/relatives unable to accommodate	15,580	15,220	45,660
Non-Violent Relationship Breakdown	3,000	3,200	15,000
Domestic Violence	6,650	6,810	16,320
Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons	940	920	0
Racially motivated violence	40	0	0
Other violence / harassment	1,720	1,930	3,940
Racial harassment	60	40	0
Mortgage Arrears	360	340	0
Local Authority Rent Arrears	220	280	0
Registered provider rent arrears	250	260	0
Private Sector Rent Arrears	1,200	1,280	0
End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy	18,270	15,500	0
Reasons other than end of AST	4,010	3,280	0
End of NASS accommodation	1,270	1,260	2,370
Left other institution/local authority care/prison/hospital	1,870	2,150	3,110
Left HM forces	130	110	0
Other	3,550	3,970	42,940
End of social rented tenancy	0	0	8,730
End of private rented tenancy: not AST	0	0	4,210
Evicted from supported housing	0	0	5,670

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 40: Reasons given for homelessness at regional level

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Parents Unable to Accommodate	1,008	1,069	6,270
Non-Violent Relationship Breakdown	314	348	2,120
Domestic Violence	796	877	2,270
Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons	111	112	0
Racially motivated violence	0	0	0
Other violence / harassment	98	222	610
Racial harassment	0	0	0
Mortgage Arrears	17	30	0
Local Authority Rent Arrears	15	0	0
Registered provider rent arrears	0	16	0
Private Sector Rent Arrears	59	78	0
End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy	513	638	4,960
Reasons other than end of AST	343	419	0
End of NASS accommodation	359	328	730
Left other institution/local authority care/prison/hospital	138	162	530
Left HM forces	0	0	0
Other	374	435	6,300
End of social rented tenancy	0	0	1,260
End of private rented tenancy: not AST	0	0	470
Evicted from supported housing	0	0	820

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

22.0 Homelessness & Priority Need

S.193 (2) and s.195 (2) of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002) and the Homelessness (Priority Need for Accommodation) (England) Order 2002 set out the priority need categories.

If an applicant falls into one of the following categories, they will automatically be in priority need:

- A pregnant women or a person with whom she resides or might reasonably be expected to reside

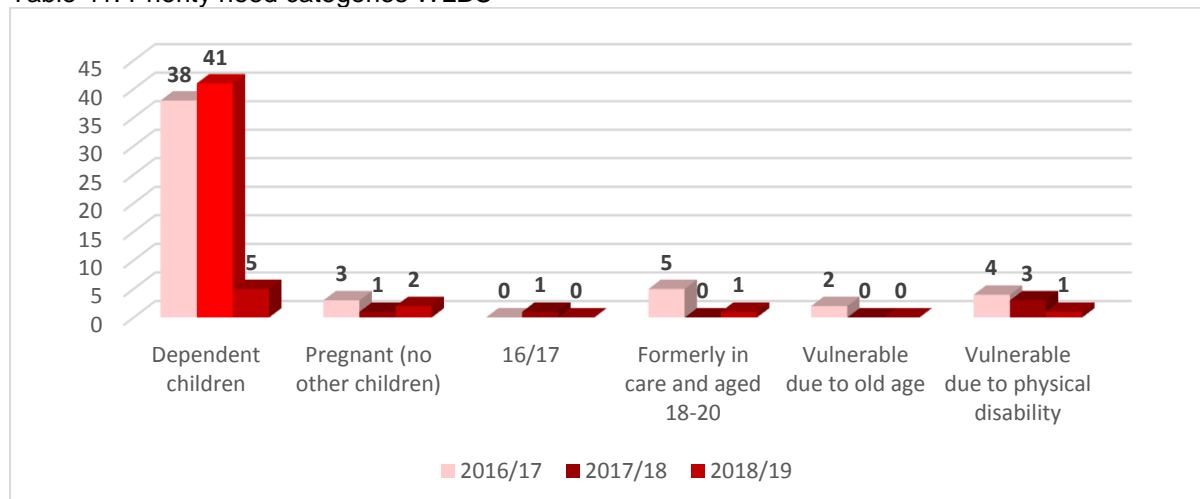
- A person with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside
- A person aged 16/17 who is not a 'relevant child' or a child in need to whom a local authority owes a duty under s.20 of the Children Act 1989
- A person under 21 who was (but is no longer) looked after, accommodated or fostered between the ages of 16 & 18 (except a person who is a relevant student)
- A person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of an emergency such as flood, fire or other disaster

If an applicant falls into one of the categories below, they will only have a priority need if they are considered to be 'vulnerable' and it is for the local authority to make that decision.

- A person aged 21 or more who is vulnerable as a result of having been looked after, accommodated or fostered (except a person who is a relevant student)
- A person who is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reason or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside
- A person who is vulnerable as a result of having been a member of HM regular naval, military or air forces
- A person who is vulnerable as a result of:
 - a) having served a custodial sentence
 - b) having been committed for contempt of court or any other kindred offence; or
 - c) having been remanded in custody
- A person who is vulnerable as a result of ceasing to occupy accommodation because of violence from another person or threats of violence from another person which are likely to be carried out
- A person who is vulnerable for any other special reason, or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside

The main reason for a person to be found to have a priority need is having dependent children. This has been the main reason each year since the first review in 2002.

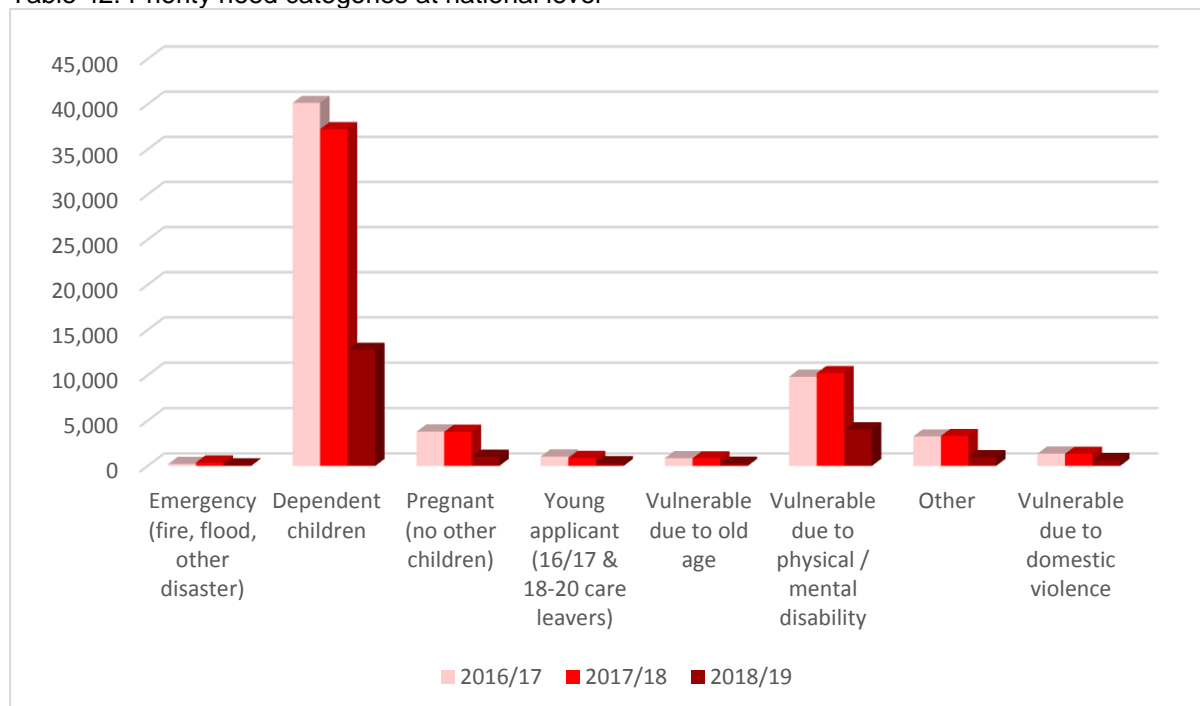
Table 41: Priority need categories WLBC



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

The picture is the same at both national and regional levels.

Table 42: Priority need categories at national level

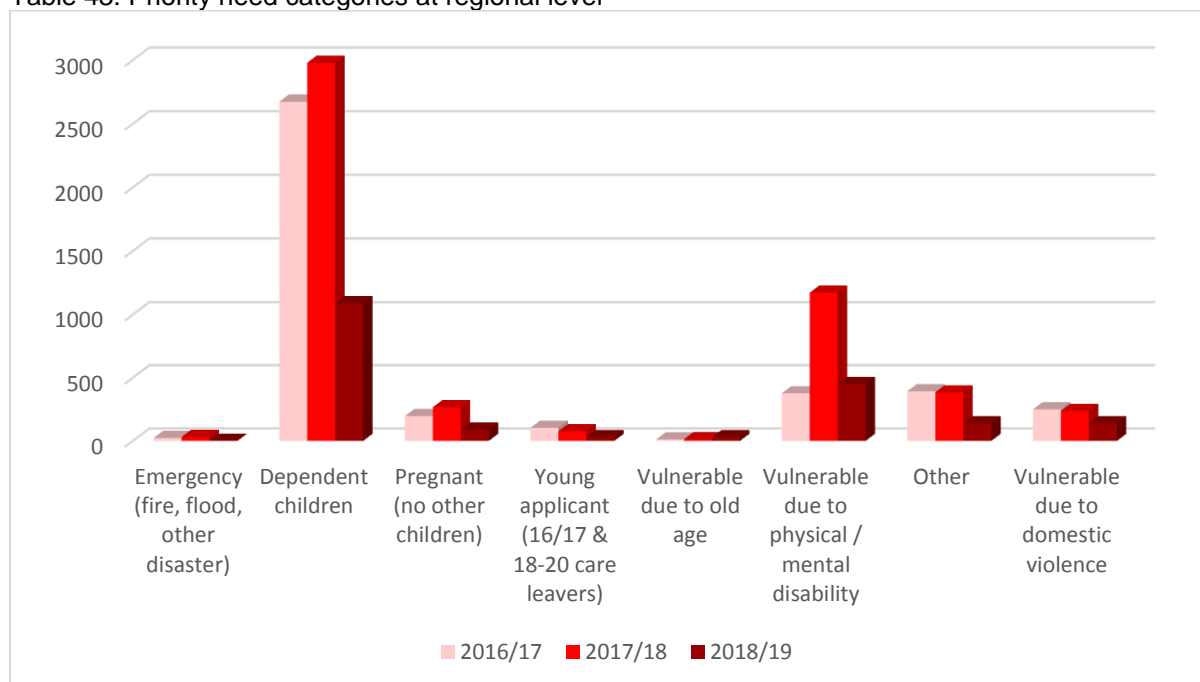


	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Emergency (fire/flood/other disaster)	220	380	70
Dependent children	40,140	37,230	12,790
Pregnant (no other children)	3,780	3,760	1,020
Young applicant (16/17 & 18-20 care leavers)	1,030	870	300
Vulnerable due to old age	860	840	250
Vulnerable due to physical/mental disability	9,830	10,230	4,030
Other	3,250	3,300	960
Vulnerable due to domestic violence	1,350	1,330	650

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

*other includes alcohol/drug dependency, learning difficulty, time in care, time in custody, HM forces, former asylum seeker, violence/threats of other than DV

Table 43: Priority need categories at regional level



	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Emergency (fire/flood/other disaster)	24	32	0
Dependent children	2,674	2,980	1,090
Pregnant (no other children)	197	267	90
Young applicant (16/17 & 18-20 care leavers)	104	77	30
Vulnerable due to old age	12	15	30
Vulnerable due to physical/mental disability	377	1,173	450
Other	394	384	140
Vulnerable due to domestic violence	251	237	140

Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

23.0 Temporary Accommodation Placements

Where a person makes a homeless presentation to the Council and there is reason to believe that the person is homeless and may have a priority need for assistance, the Council is under a duty to provide temporary accommodation until a final decision is made on the case.

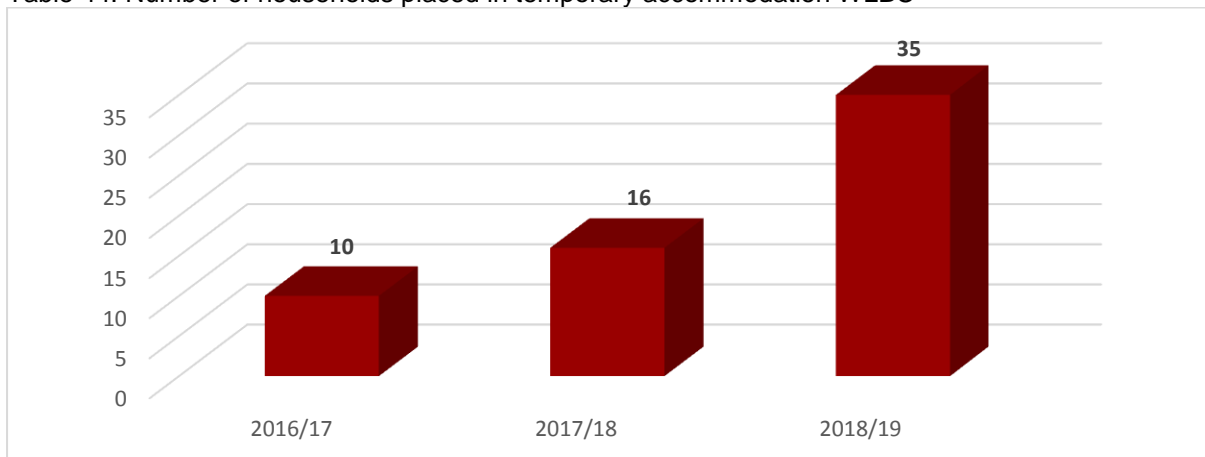
Government guidelines state that bed and breakfast accommodation should only be used in an emergency and families should not be placed in such accommodation for more than 6 weeks.

In West Lancashire, temporary accommodation for households that have presented as homeless is provided directly by the Council in the form of self-contained bedsits that are partly furnished. All of the accommodation is located in the Skelmersdale area.

The Council has not had to place any homeless household in bed and breakfast accommodation in the last three years.

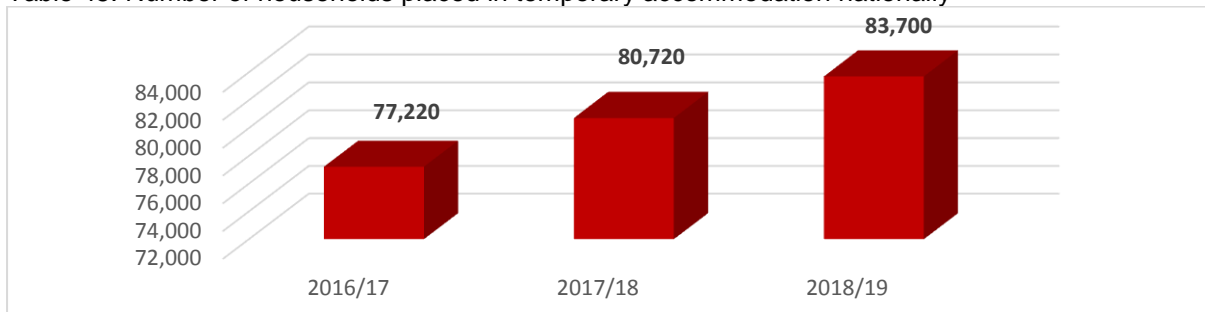
The data confirms that the number of households being placed in temporary accommodation locally, nationally and regionally has increased significantly since the introduction of the HRA 17.

Table 44: Number of households placed in temporary accommodation WLBC



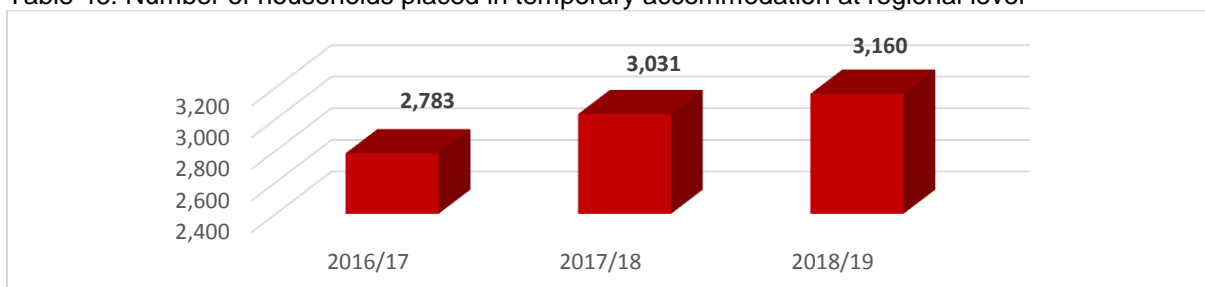
Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 45: Number of households placed in temporary accommodation nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 46: Number of households placed in temporary accommodation at regional level

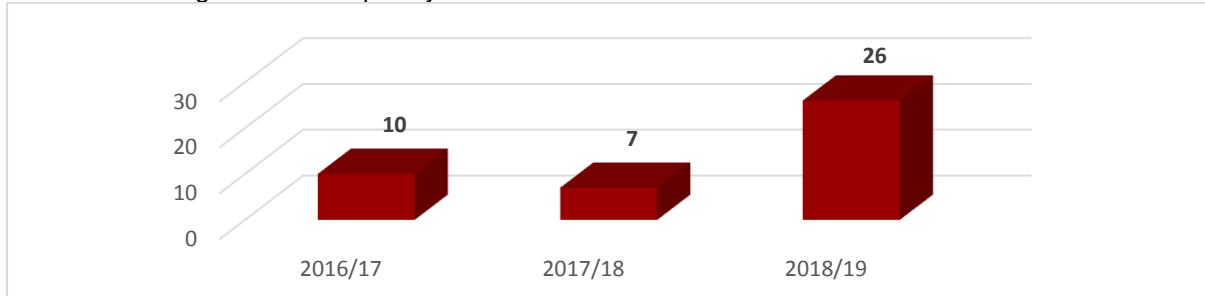


Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

24.0 Average time spent in temporary accommodation

The following chart shows the average number of weeks a person was provided with Council owned temporary accommodation.

Table 47: Average time in temporary accommodation in weeks

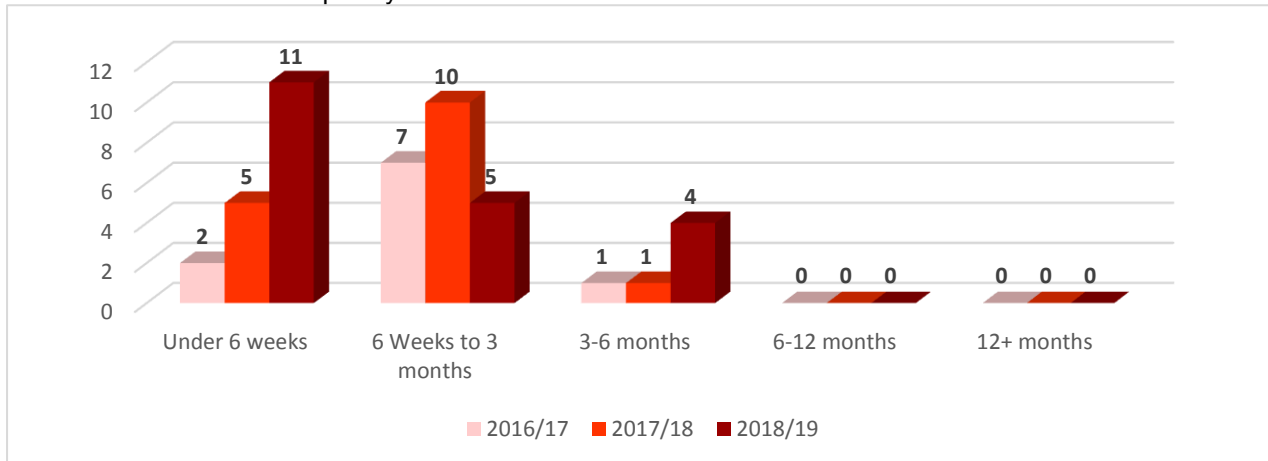


Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

The average length of stay in temporary accommodation provided by the Council was in decline from 2016/17 but increased significantly in 2018/19.

The increase in the average length of stay in temporary accommodation can be linked to an increase in market rents for private rented accommodation; excluding lower income families and a more stable social housing market. West Lancashire Borough Council is the main provider of social housing in the borough and the number of tenancies becoming available is at an all-time low.

Table 48: Total time in temporary accommodation



Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

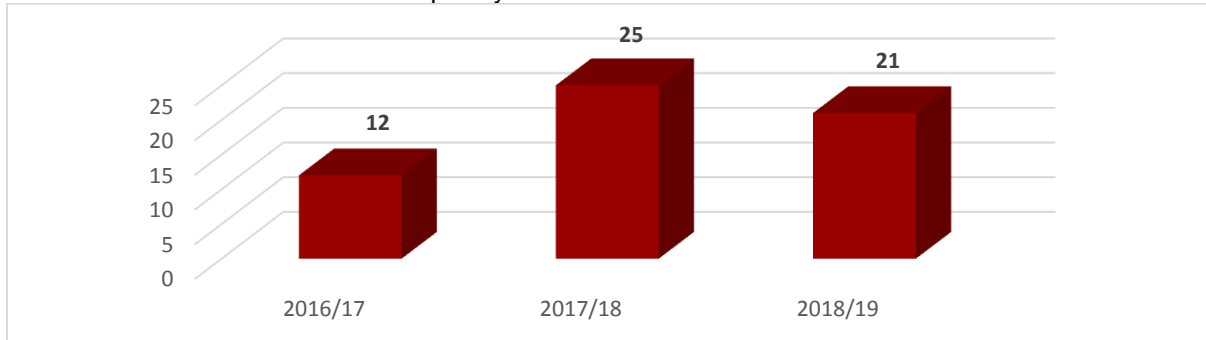
The total amount of time spent in temporary accommodation is beginning to rise. In previous years, the majority of households have spent less than 6 weeks in temporary accommodation but the low levels of Council housing becoming available along with an increase in market rents in the private sector is leading to households remaining in temporary accommodation for longer.

25.0 Children & Temporary Accommodation

The Council records the number of children in households that are provided with temporary accommodation.

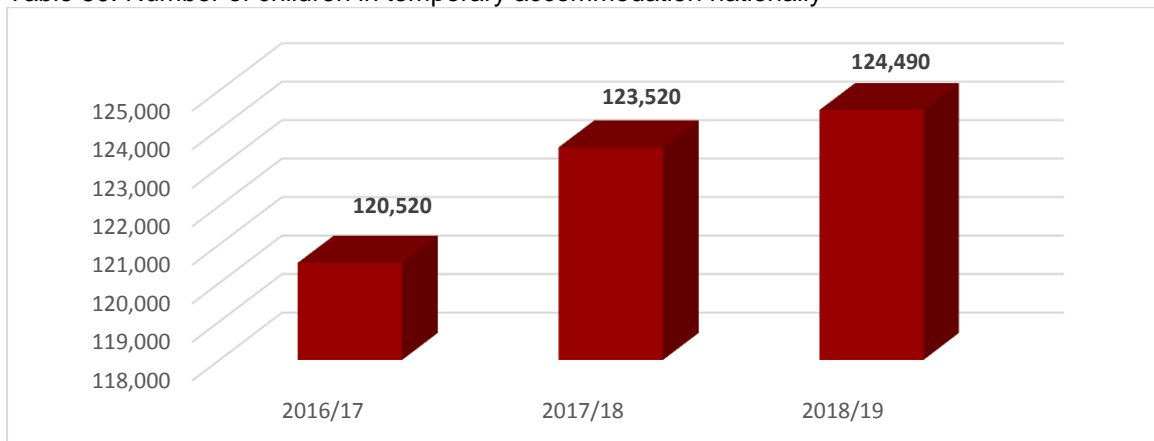
Between April 2016 and March 2019, 58 children were placed in temporary accommodation. Despite the increase in the use of temporary accommodation in 2018/19, the number of children residing in temporary accommodation reduced. It is encouraging the note that this is against the national and regional trend where the numbers have significantly increased.

Table 49: Number of children in temporary accommodation WLBC



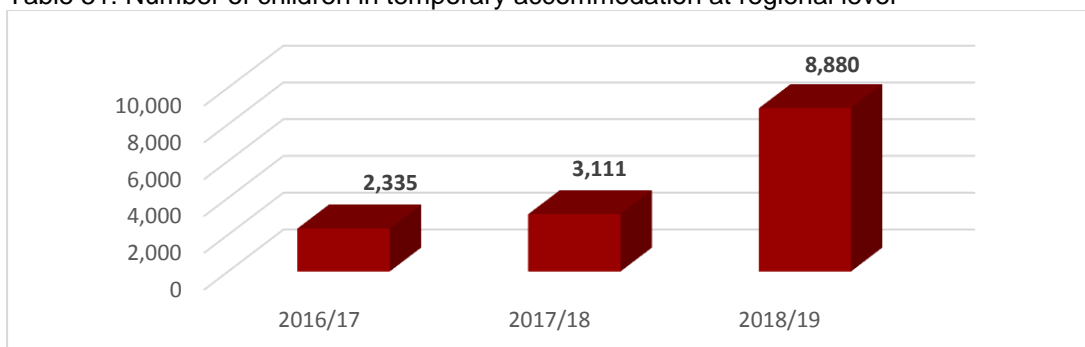
Source: WLBC Homelessness Data

Table 50: Number of children in temporary accommodation nationally



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

Table 51: Number of children in temporary accommodation at regional level



Source: Government Statistical Data: Detailed local authority homelessness figures live tables

26.0 Rough Sleeping

The definition of rough sleeping is:

'people sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations or 'bashes')'.

In order to provide a snapshot of the number of people rough sleeping in an area on a particular night, local authorities are required to carry out either a rough sleeper count or an estimate. The night chosen for the count or estimate must be between October and November the number must be reported to Government.

The number of people sleeping rough in West Lancashire has historically always been low therefore an estimate is carried out rather than an actual count. The Council engages the help of local partners who record anyone they see bedded down on the night chosen for the estimate. The number of rough sleepers recorded on the night chosen has been 0 for the last 3 years.

This does not mean that there are not times when people have been reported to be rough sleeping in the Borough, however, the reports of people rough sleeping is very low.

27.0 Homelessness Prevention Fund

In order to prevent or relieve homelessness, the Council utilises a fund to provide financial assistance to homeless households. The Council has received grant funding from Government since 2017 to help fund homeless prevention measures.

Table 52: Government grant allocations

	17/18	18/19	19/20
Homelessness Prevention Grant	£49,247	£49,416	£49,663
Flexible Homelessness Support Grant	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000
New Burdens Funding	£16,997	£15,569	£20,065
HCLIC Funding	£272.00	£3,129	£0

The Council currently uses the fund for measures such as clearing rent arrears, providing deposit and rent in advance to help secure a private rented tenancy and to support the Sanctuary Scheme. The Sanctuary Scheme provides funds to install additional security measures to homes where the occupier has been the victim of domestic abuse.

Table 53: Homelessness prevention fund expenditure

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Clearing rent arrears	£0	£0	£3,337.58
Deposit & rent in advance	£0	£0	£2,663.82
Other	£0	£0	£215.84
Sanctuary Scheme	£4,430.40	£9,169.20	£7,298.60

28.0 Future Levels of Homelessness

The introduction of the HRA 17 led to an increase in homelessness figures in 2018/19, an increase that was predicted. It is expected that future levels of homeless presentations will continue to increase but the level of increase will be at a much lower rate than seen in 2018/19.

By comparing the increase in presentations over the last 5 years and the number of presentations from April 2019 to 30 August 2019, future levels of homelessness can be predicted.

Table 54: Predicted number of future homeless presentations

2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
286	343	432

It is also expected that the number of cases owed the prevention and relief duty will increase.

Table 55: Predicted number of future prevention & relief duties owed

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Prevention Duty	60	72	84
Relief Duty	146	171	196

In relation to the people at risk of homelessness, it is predicted that presentations will come from the following groups.

Table 56: Predicted number of future presentations by household group

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Single Male	67	86	105
Single Female	50	55	60
Lone Female Parent	67	86	105
Lone Male Parent	4	8	16
Couple + Dependent Children	10	24	30

The biggest increase in presentations is likely to come from single males and lone female parents. This means that more affordable accommodation options will be required for these groups over the next 3 years.

Based on the number of households placed in temporary accommodation in 2018/19 it is likely that the need for temporary accommodation will increase over the next three years and with having dependent children being the main reason for awarding priority need, future provision will need to be suitable for families. There is also no temporary accommodation outside of Skelmersdale and this needs to be addressed for households in other parts of the Borough who would be unable to continue to access work or schools if placed in temporary accommodation in Skelmersdale.

Although we have only been recording the support needs of households since April 2018, the figures from April 2019 to 30 August 2019 show that people with support needs as a result of mental ill health is increasing.

Table 57: Predicted number of people reporting support needs

	2018/19	2019 April - August
History of mental health problems	38	37
Physical ill health & disability	18	10
At risk of / has experienced domestic abuse	14	8
Offending history	7	2
History of repeat homelessness	5	1
History of rough sleeping	3	0
Drug dependency needs	8	5
Young person aged 18-25 requiring support to manage independently	5	5
Alcohol dependency needs	10	2
Learning disability	3	5
Access to education/employment/training	0	0
At risk of / has experienced abuse (non-domestic abuse)	1	0
At risk of / has experienced sexual abuse / exploitation	2	0
Old age	4	5
Young parent requiring support to manage independently	1	0
Young person aged 16-17	1	1
Care leaver aged 21+	1	0
Former asylum seeker	2	0
Care leave aged 18-20	3	0
Served in HM forces	0	0

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Laura Lea
Homelessness & Private Sector Housing Manager
Telephone: 01695 585 196
Email: laura.lea@westlancs.gov.uk

You can also download this document from our website at www.westlancs.gov.uk