

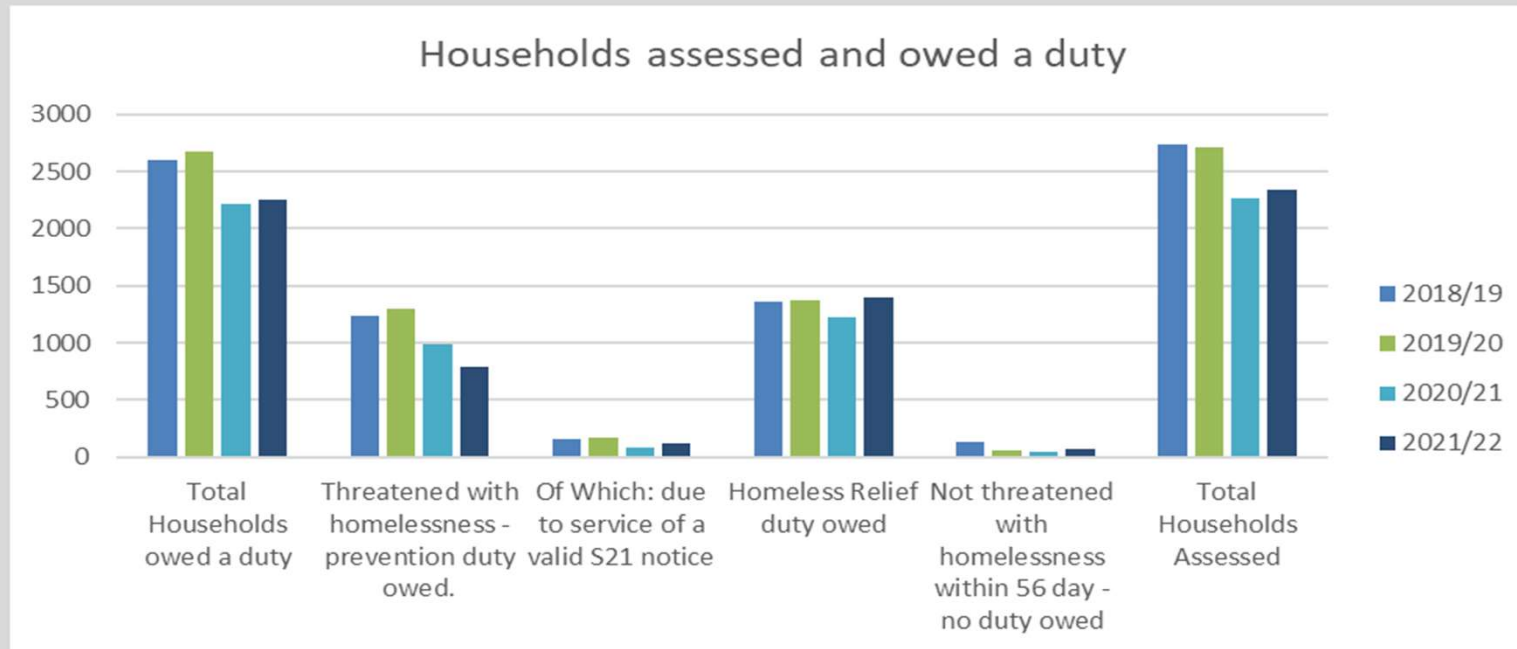
Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy

2022 -2025

Strategy Development

- Review of homelessness and related data
- Lived experience questionnaires
- Stakeholder questionnaires
- Review of national and local legislation, strategies and policies
- Stakeholder day - identification of actions
- Writing the strategy - four key priorities of prevention, intervention, recovery and increasing the supply of accommodation
- Consultation - 17th October until 4th December

Key Homeless Data - countywide



Main reasons for homelessness

Prevention

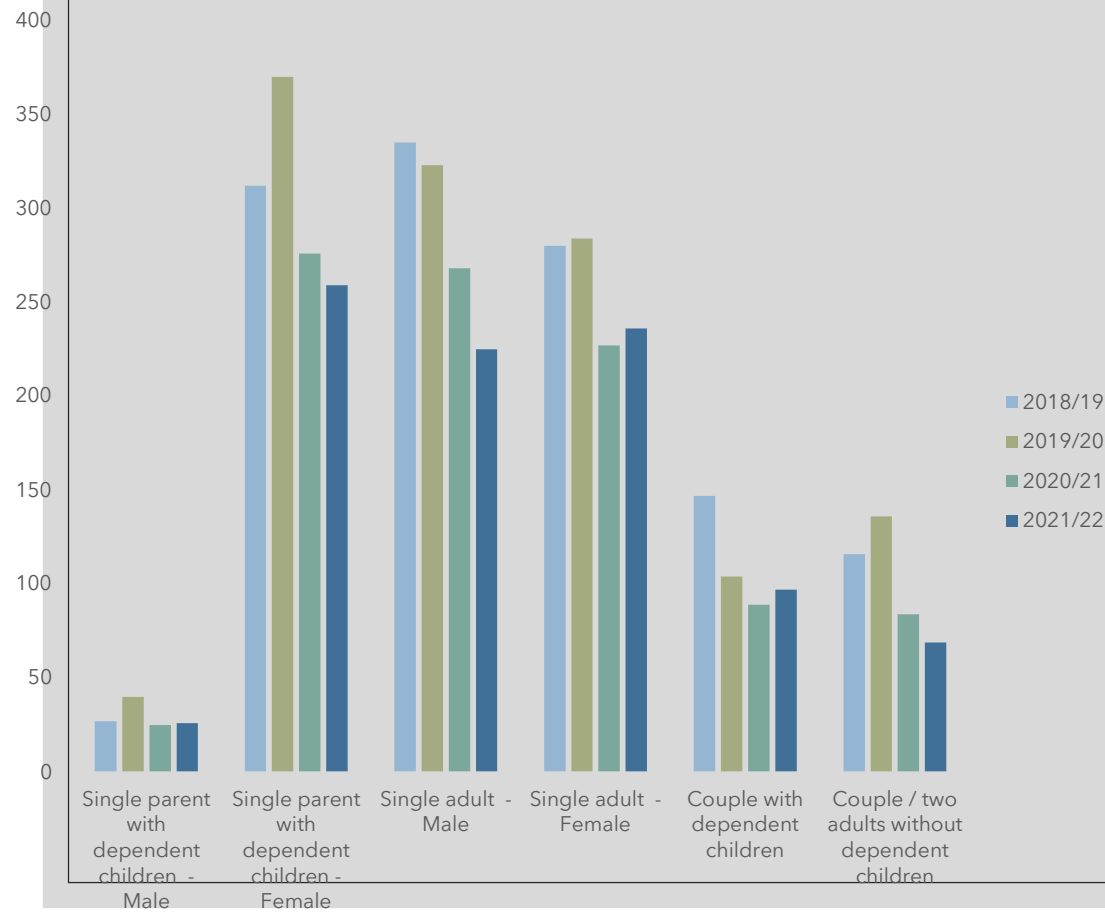
- Family / friends / relatives no longer willing to accommodate
- End of Assured Shorthold Tenancy
- Relation breakdown violent and non-violent
- Other

Relief

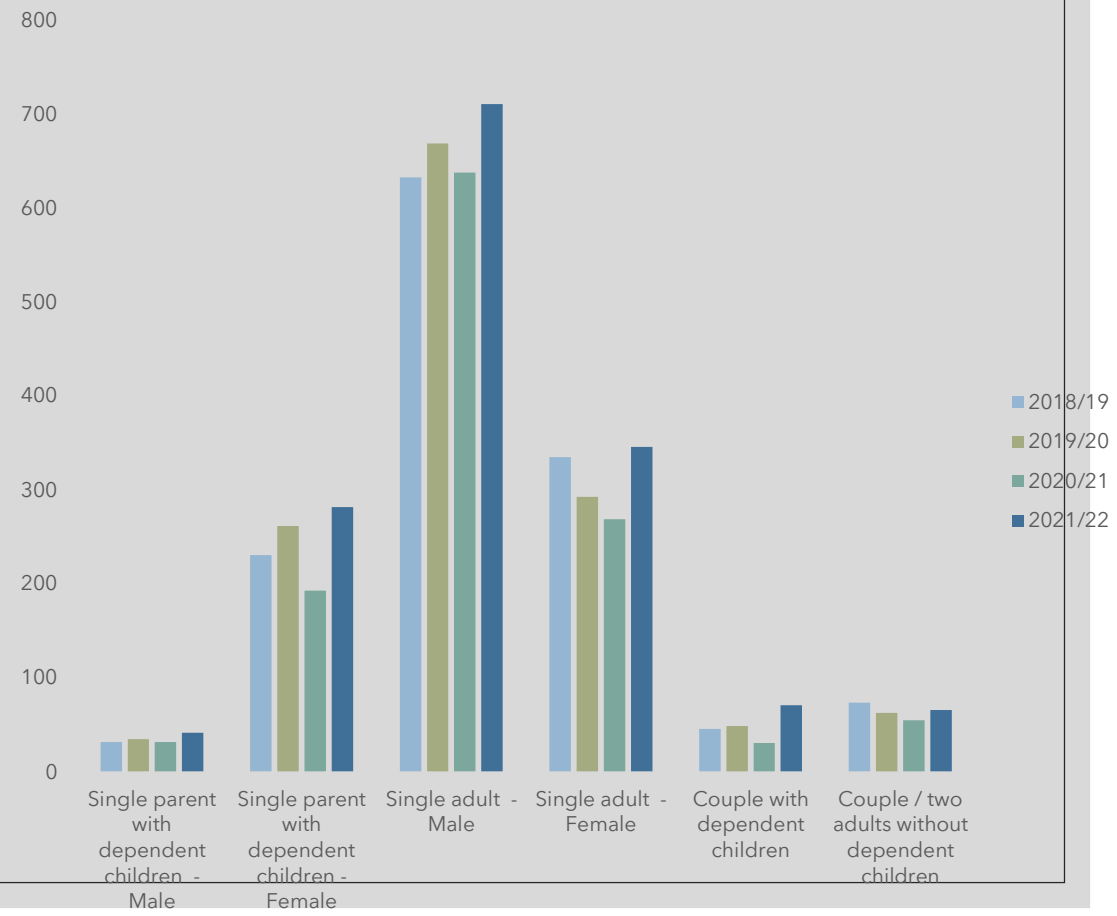
- As prevention plus;
- Left institution
- End of social housing tenancy

Household Composition

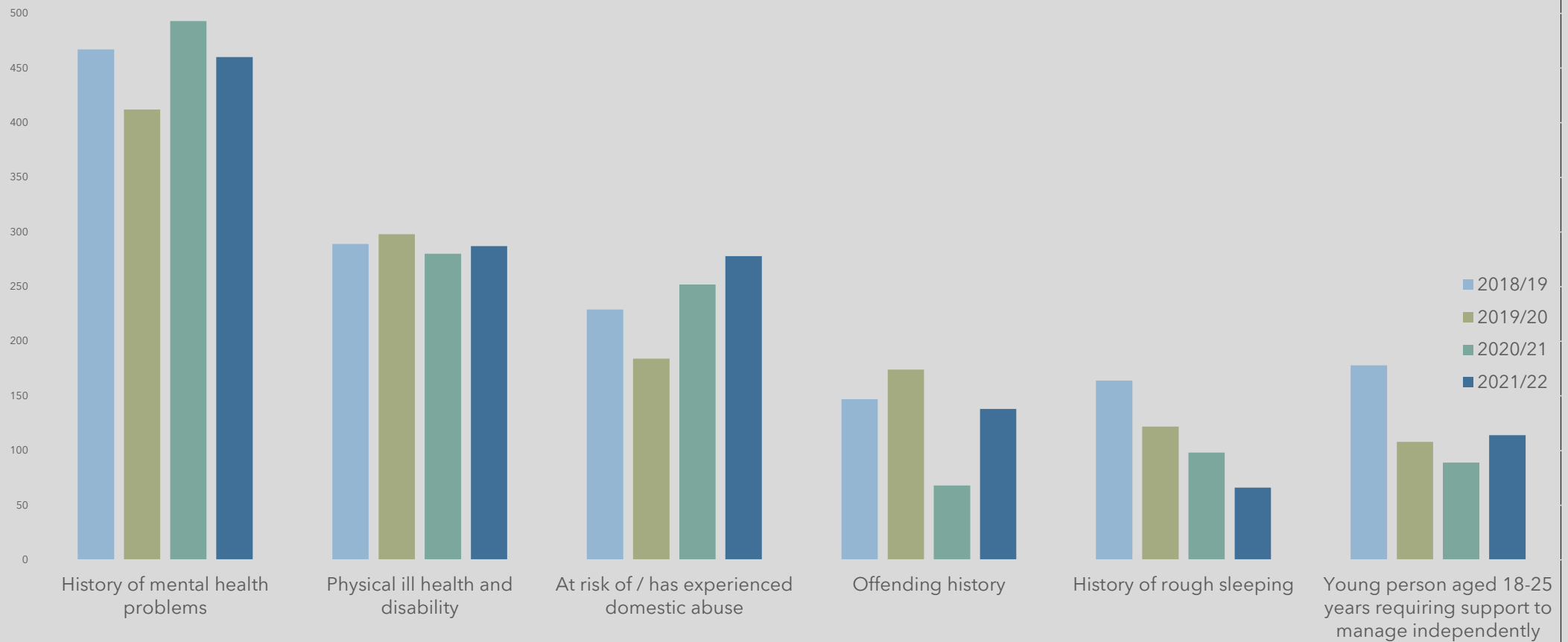
Prevention Duty



Relief Duty



Support needs of households owed a prevention or relief duty



Other key stats

- 13,000 households on housing registers across the county
- Over 50% are families
- Nearly 800 households are placed into temporary accommodation every year
- 23% of households we owe a duty say they have a support need due to mental health
- Rough sleeping numbers reducing (from annual count)
- Accessing Private Rented Sector has got harder since the last strategy
- Number of social housing lets have declined (particularly during covid)
- New build levels declined but returning to pre-pandemic levels
- Rise in benefit claimants in 2020/21

Questionnaire & interview outcomes

Service users (single people)

- Most people had experienced homelessness for more than six months
- More than 50% had a mental health problem and 25% a substance misuse issue
- Most people had a tenancy at some point, most became homeless due to relationship breakdown either with family or a partner (but lost original reasons)
- Most people received support from their Housing Advice Team staff
- Most people wanted support and connection to their family and friends but this was made harder by being homeless
- In most areas the TA was beneficial but they wanted more support whilst being accommodated and many wanted support to remain once housed
- Accessing benefits and/or employment was an issue for those in more rural Districts

Stakeholders

- What was good?
 - Outreach teams & day centres
 - Support provision from LAs and Navigators
 - Collaboration between partners
 - RS Co-Ordinator role
 - Housing initiatives like Housing Led/First, No First Night Out
 - Charity run services and funding
- What were the gaps?
 - Lack of accommodation across the board but especially for young people and those with complex needs
 - Better access to mental, physical and substance misuse services
 - Raising awareness of services and pathways
 - Sharing good practice, reducing duplication and increasing collaboration

Action Plan

- Prevention
 - Reducing homelessness for victims of domestic abuse including through tackling financial abuse and developing a country wide sanctuary scheme
 - Utilise data collection and improve quality
 - Develop the prison leavers protocol
 - Collaboration and outreach with partners including Health services and DWP
 - Developing prevention panels
 - Increase use of the commitment or duty to refer
 - Deliver on thematic review of rough sleeper actions
- Intervention
 - Tenancy sustainment and support
 - Staff training including PIE
 - Increase utilisation of harm reduction services
- Recovery
 - Meaningful activities
 - Peer mentoring
 - Access to education, employment & training
- Supply of accommodation
 - Increase supply of supported and step-down accommodation for range of needs
 - Identify demand for supported units for rough sleepers and increase supply if required
 - Provide 35 units of safe accommodation for victims of Domestic Abuse

Communication plan

Action	Outcome	Communication Channels	Target Audience	Responsible	Due date and frequency
To re-promote the Duty to Refer / Commitment to Refer message.	To increase the number of referrals to Homeless Teams through Duty to Refer from a wider range of agencies.	Existing joint meetings and publicity materials with public organisations.	Public organisations who may meet people who are potentially homeless.	District Councils	Dec-22
For organisations and agencies who have an interest in preventing homelessness to continue to meet on a regular basis to share information, develop best practices and current policy developments.	To have a cohesive and coordinated approach and response to homelessness.	Regular local homeless forums	Organisations and agencies who are involved in homelessness.	District Councils and voluntary/ statutory agencies	Quarterly or Bi-annually depending on local arrangements
To continue to review information on housing and homelessness on the district council websites to make sure it is up to date and accessible including through obtaining views on the information from People With Lived Experience (PWLE) To include case studies or videos to make messages more impactful.	For the public, organisations and people who are homeless or may become homeless to have easily accessible online information.	District Councils' Websites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · People who are homeless or may potentially become homeless · General Public 	District Councils	Sep-22 and a six monthly review
To promote the services available to rough sleepers including Streetlink, Cold/Hot Weather Emergency Provision, new services plus the existing services both statutory and voluntary.	For the public to have an increased awareness of the services available for people who are homeless. All organisations to promote a jargon free, cohesive message.	Regular media campaigns to include local newspapers, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · People who are homeless or may potentially become homeless · General Public 	District Councils, WSHOG and Homeless organisations	Quarterly as a minimum

Bromsgrove Data

	Prevention						Relief					
	18/19		19/20		20/21		18/19		19/20		20/21	
End of AST	34	20.2%	36	18.8%	13	11.1%	4	5.6%	7	7.9%	4	4.8%
Family/Friends no longer willing to accommodate	47	28.0%	57	29.7%	38	32.5%	21	29.2%	27	30.3%	29	34.5%
Other	26	15.5%	31	16.1%	29	24.8%	23	31.9%	20	22.5%	19	22.6%
Relationship Breakdown (non-violent)	20	11.9%	33	17.2%	19	16.2%	4	5.6%	12	13.5%	12	14.3%
Domestic Abuse	18	10.7%	17	8.9%	14	12.0%	12	16.7%	9	10.1%	14	16.7%

Local Action Plan for Year 1

Working with partners who attend the Homelessness Strategy Steering Group to develop local action plan

- Building partnerships with Health
- Supporting services who help those most affected by the cost of living crisis
- Review accommodation availability to meet need in respect of both temporary accommodation and longer term accommodation options
- Review the Domestic Abuse Officer role, the safe accommodation and the provision of sanctuary schemes.
- Ensure that there are options for Young People and Rough Sleepers (crash pad/NFNO)