

23 February 2017

HOMELESSNESS SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP – 27 FEBRUARY 2017

A meeting of the Homelessness Scrutiny Sub-Group will be held at 5.30pm on Monday 27 February 2017 in Committee Room 2 at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Adam Norburn
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes – to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2017.
2. Apologies – to receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

- (a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;
- (b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors; and
- (c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

4. Briefing note from Bill Basra, Priority Families Co-Ordinator, Warwickshire County Council
5. Update from the Housing and Regeneration Manager (statistical data appended)
6. Conclusions and recommendations
7. Dates of future meetings – please bring your diaries to the meeting

PART 2 – EXEMPT INFORMATION

There is no business involving exempt information.

Membership of the Task Group:

Councillors Roodhouse (Chair), Mrs Garcia, Claire Edwards, Mrs New and Sandison

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Veronika Beckova, Democratic Services Officer (01788 533591 or e-mail veronika.beckova@rugby.gov.uk). Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

If you wish to attend the meeting and have any special requirements for access please contact the Democratic Services Officer named above.

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Homelessness Scrutiny Sub-Group (RBC)

From: Bill Basra, Priority Families Co-Ordinator (WCC)

Date: 27 February 2017

Re: Linkages between Priority Families Programme and DCLG Homelessness Early Intervention Project

Introduction

This note seeks to provide information on the linkages between the Priority Families Programme and the recently successful DCLG Trailblazer bid that has resulted in the Homelessness Early Intervention Project (HIEP).

Overview of Priority Families Programme

Phase 1 of the national Troubled Families Programme (in Warwickshire known as the Priority Families Programme) commenced on 1 April 2012 and concluded on 31 March 2015. The first phase required us to work with 805 families across three national criteria. A total of £4,000 was available per family through a combination of an upfront attachment fee and subsequent payment by results where significant and sustained progress could be demonstrated.

As a result of the success locally and nationally, Government indicated that there would be a second phase of the Programme which would run from April 2015 to March 2020.

Phase 2 is significantly different to Phase 1 in that:

- The headline criteria (see 3.4 below) for the identification of families are broader and more flexible.
- The notion of 'local criteria' to be viewed alongside national criteria has been removed (although there is considerable local discretion in the setting of local indicators under the headline criteria).
- There is an emphasis on earlier intervention, working with vulnerable families with multiple problems, and those that are a high cost to the taxpayer.
- The numbers of families to work with and turn round are significantly higher than in Phase One (2,790 families over five years).
- The amount 'invested' by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in the Programme on a per family basis has been reduced by 55% from £4,000 above to £1,800. Of this £1,800; £1,000 is payable upfront via an attachment fee and the remainder is on a 'payment by results' where significant and sustained progress can be demonstrated.

The headline criteria for Phase 2 are:

- Parents and children involved in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Children who need help

- Adults out of work or at risk of financial exclusion and young people at risk of worklessness
- Families affected by domestic violence and abuse
- Parents and children with a range of health problems

In order to be eligible for the Programme a family must 'fit' at least two headline criteria. The headline criteria are described in the chart below:



By 31 March 2017 the programme will have attached 1467 families and claimed payment by results for over 400 families. In monetary terms over £2 million has been levered nationally for the benefit of Warwickshire which has been used to commission a Family Support Worker Service, Youth Workers and Attendance Support required to deliver the Programme.

All Local Authorities are required to produce an Outcomes Plan to demonstrate eligibility for each of the criteria and also the thresholds that need to be met to ensure successful claims under payment by results. The Outcomes Plan for Warwickshire can be accessed via www.warwickshire.gov.uk/priorityfamilies.

Links with the DCLG Trailblazer Project

As with other parts of the County Council, the Programme was approached in December 2016 to support the principles of the bid and a meeting with relevant housing officers was held to facilitate, support and discuss the outline of the approach.

Since January and the notification of the successful application, as Priority Families Co-ordinator, I have attended Project Implementation Group as a representative from the Children and Families Unit. It should be noted that of the three priority areas:

- Termination of Assured Shorthold tenancy
- Violent relationship breakdown, involving partner
- Parents no longer willing to accommodate

At least two of these have direct overlaps with both the Priority Families Programme and on a wider level with the business of the Children and Families Unit. Close co-operation, therefore, within the project is of mutual benefit and it is hoped will lead to a sustainable model of collaborative working in the future.

On a more operational level, discussions are ongoing between HIEP and the Priority Families Programme on how the methodology that is currently employed by the Programme can be translated to help deliver the Homelessness Project. Key areas in this regard that are being explored are:

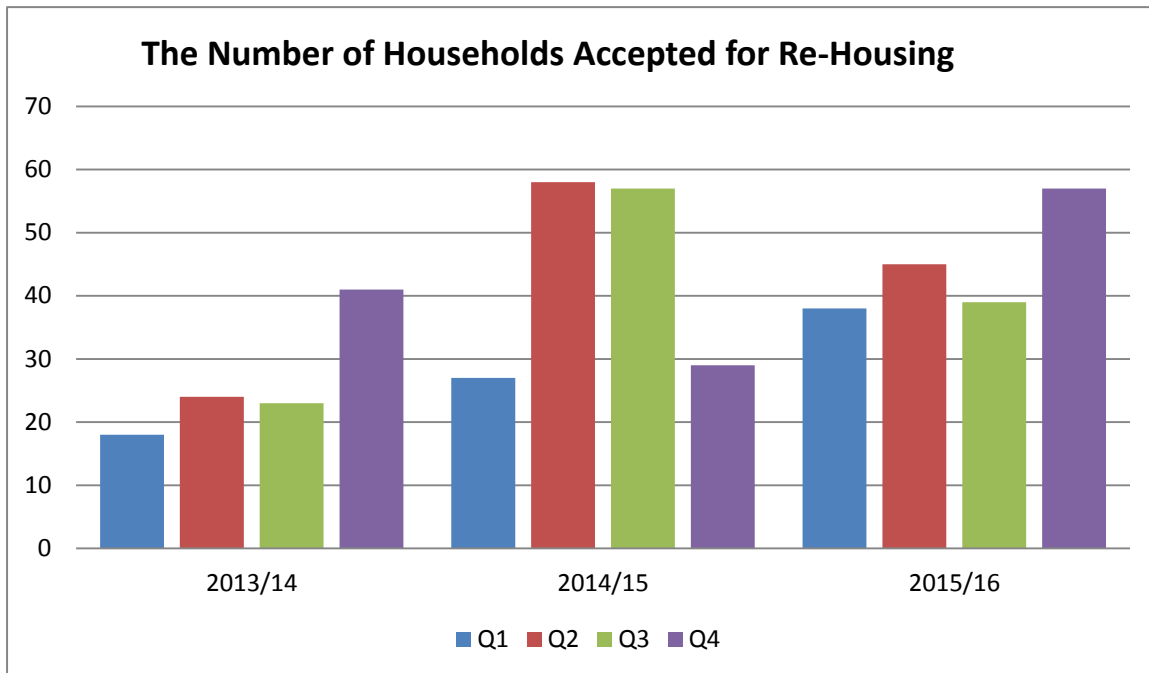
- Use of data matching and referrals to identify at risk cohorts
- Monitoring and Tracking Progress
- Capturing Successful Outcomes (quantative and qualitative)
- Evaluation and Engagement with Service Users
- Return on Investment
- One Worker, One Plan, One Family approach

Next Steps

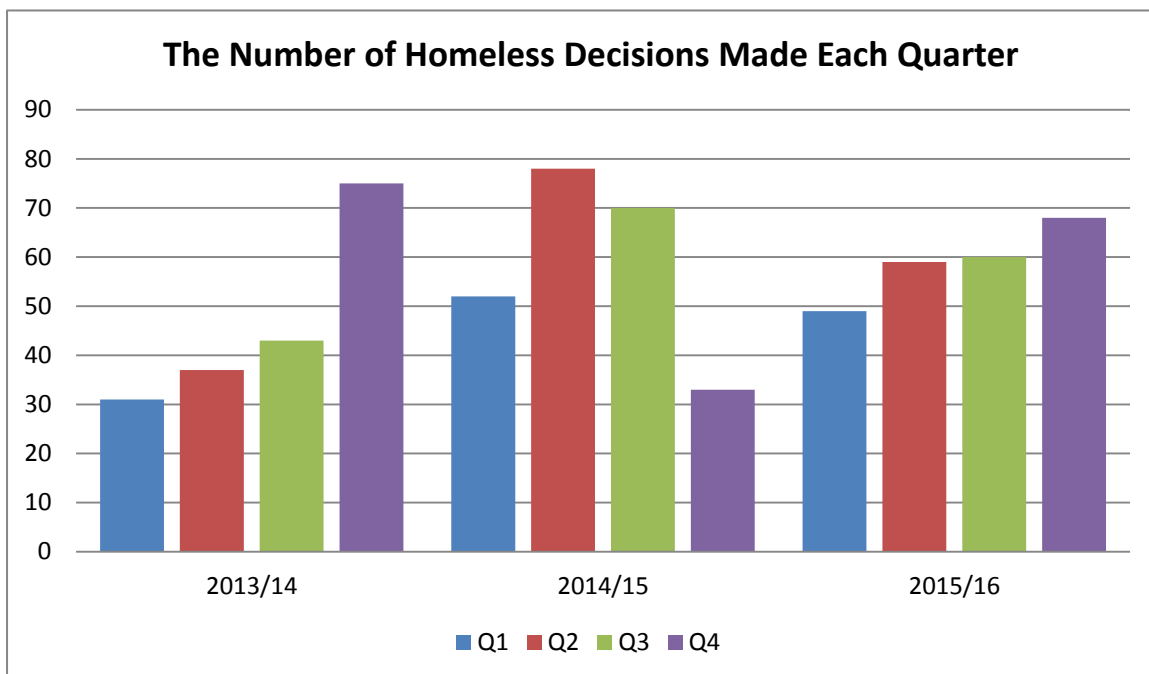
The Children and Families Unit, via the Priority Families Programme will continue to work with HIEP to explore the areas outlined above. I would be willing to attend a future meeting of the group but in the meantime, I am happy to answer any queries that arise from this paper or from the ensuing discussion.

Bill Basra
Priority Families Co-Ordinator
Children & Families, People Group
Warwickshire County Council
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✉ billbasra@warwickshire.gov.uk

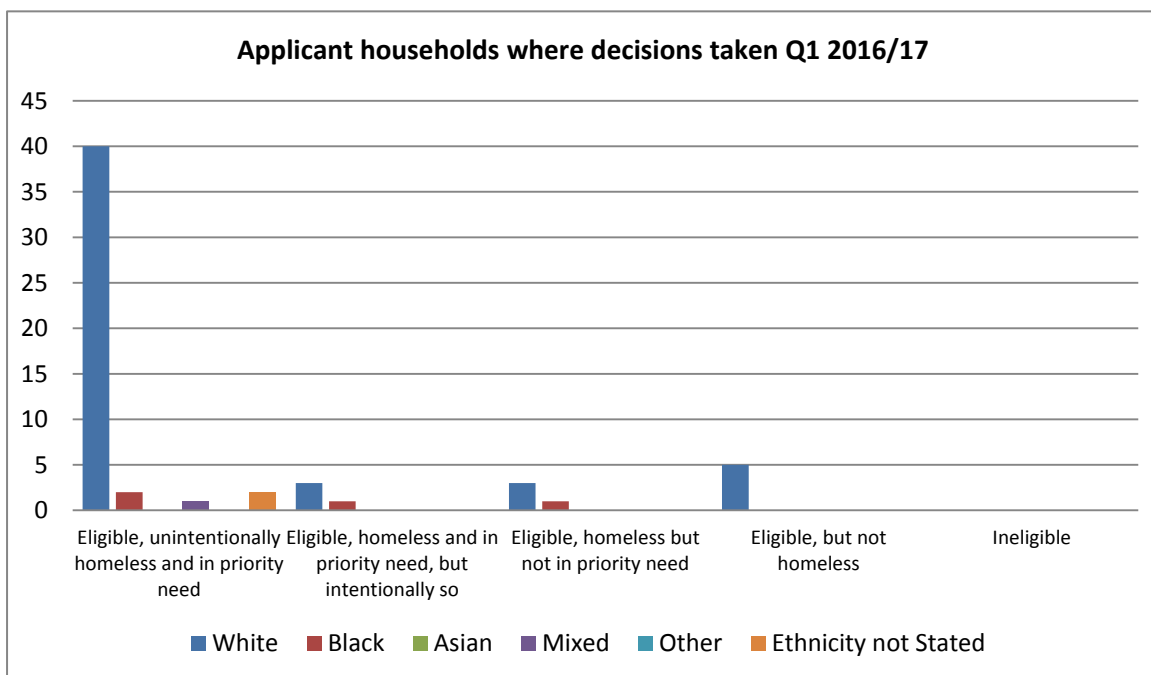
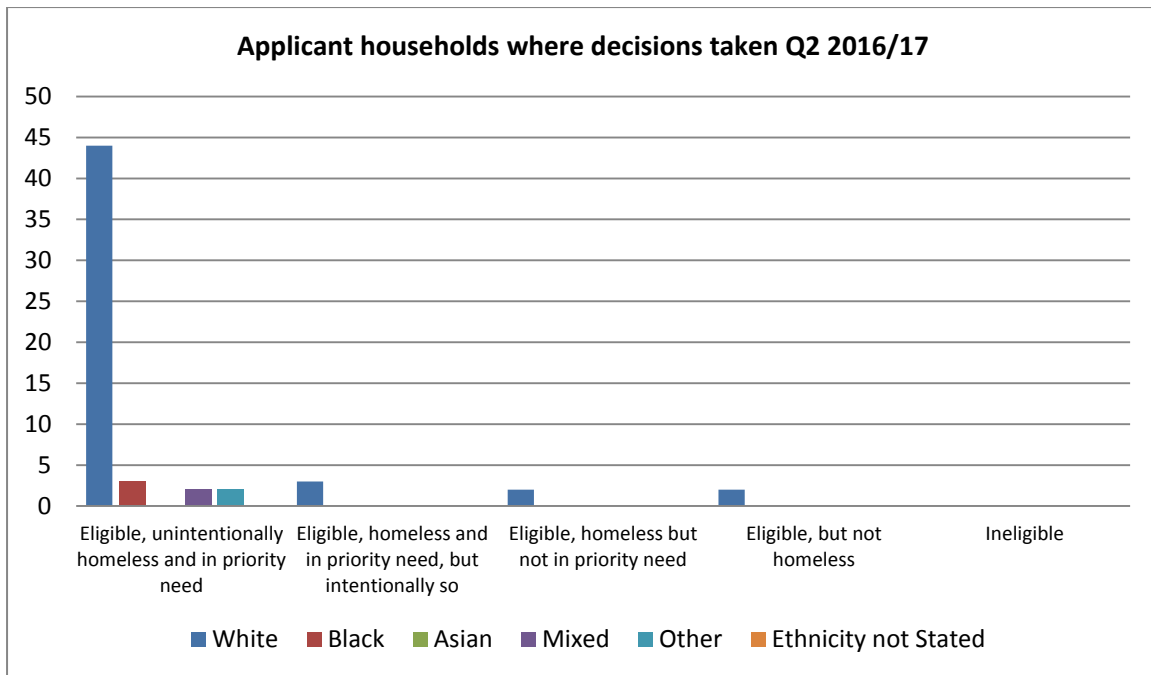
P1E Statistics



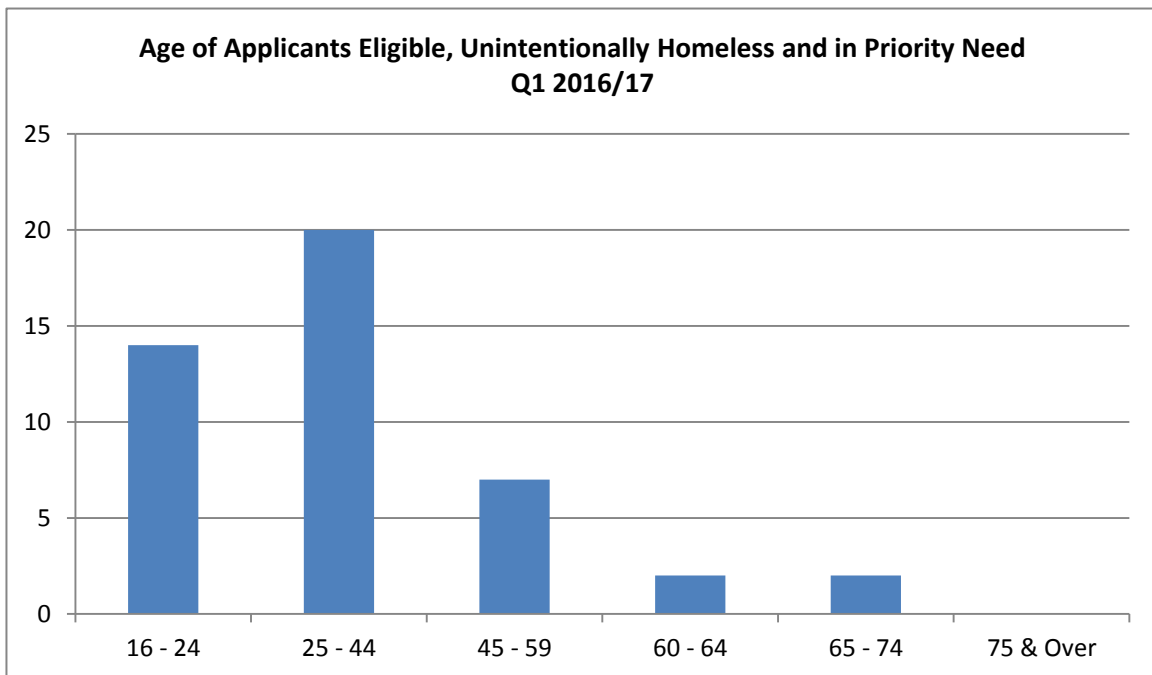
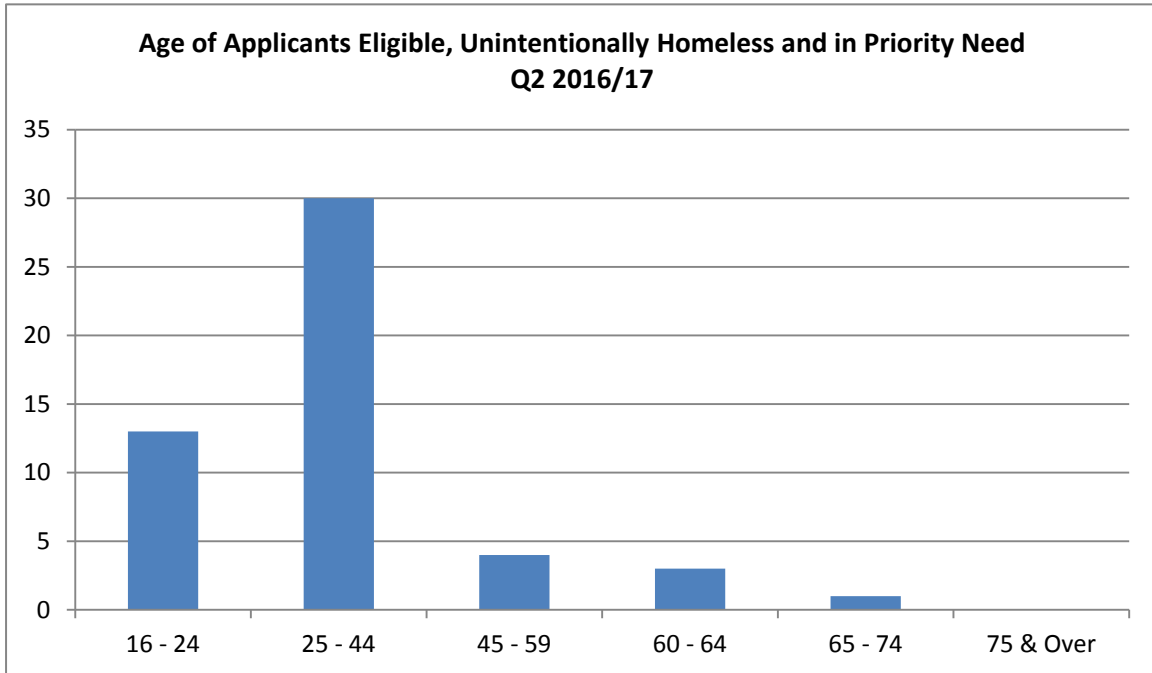
Over the past 3 years, there seems to have been a steady increase in the number of households accepted for re-housing, there has been spikes in all three years, most notably the double spike of Q2 & 3 in 2014/15.



As with Acceptances, there has been a steady increase in the number of homeless decisions made each quarter, Q4 on 2014/15 saw an unusual dip, bringing figures down to Q1 2013/14 levels, this dip subsequently recovered however.

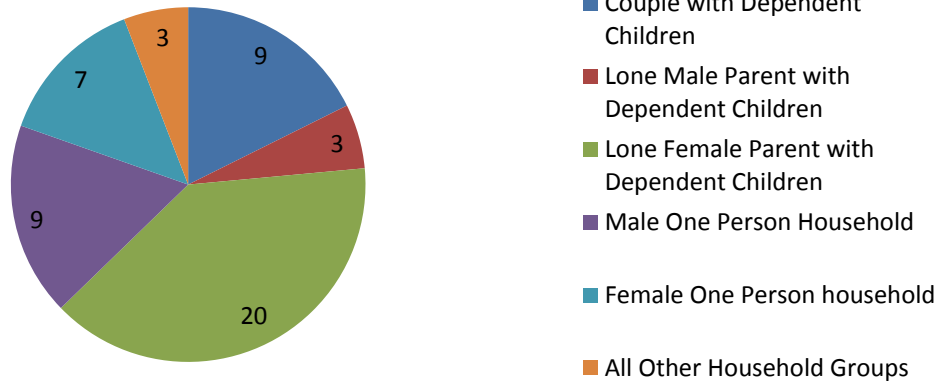


Looking at both of the previous quarters from 2016/17 it is safe to assume that decisions are being made at a steady and consistent pace with similar results and the exact same amount of decisions being made in both Q's – 58.

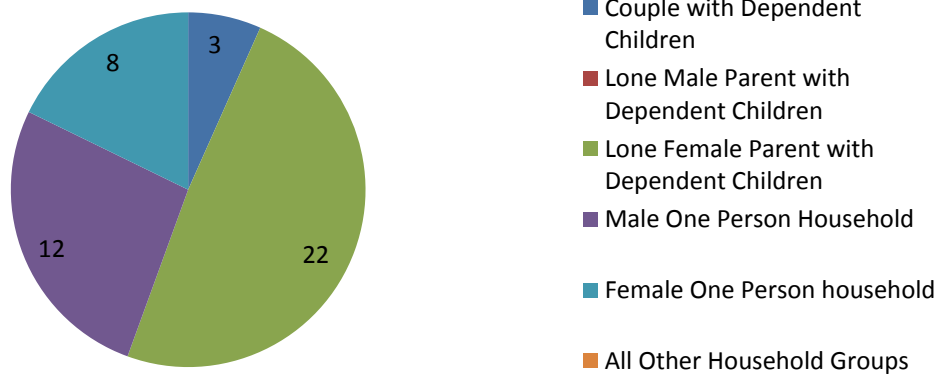


There has been a rise of 6 applicants in Q2 compared to Q1. The most significant change came within the 25-44 age group, there were ten more cases in Q2 than in Q1.

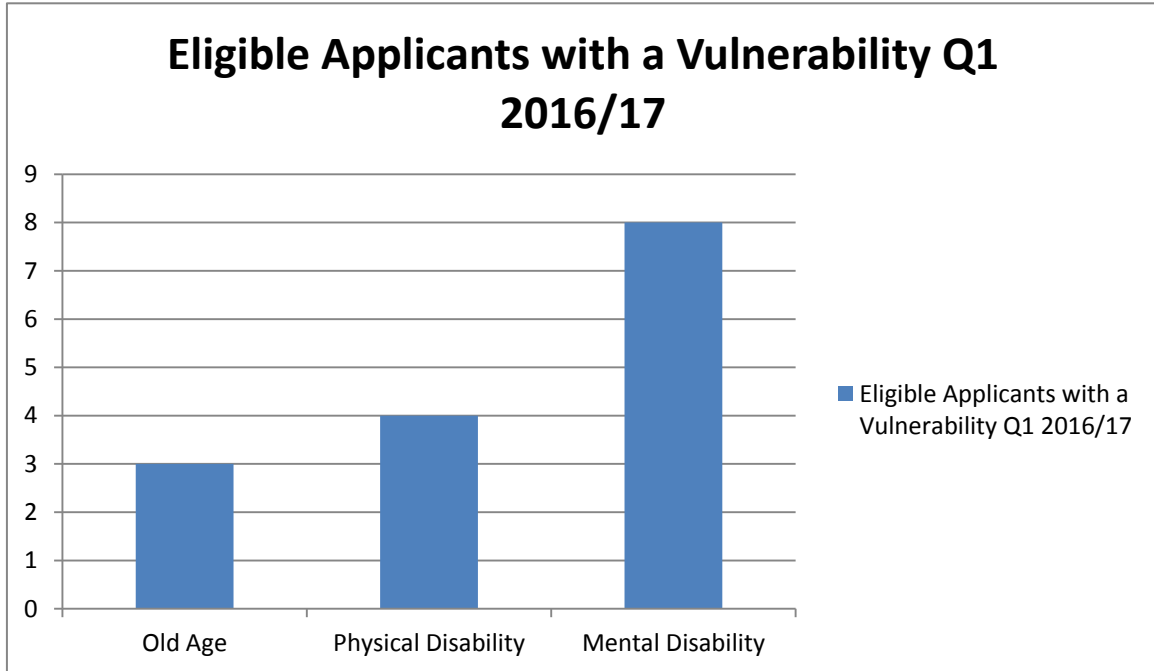
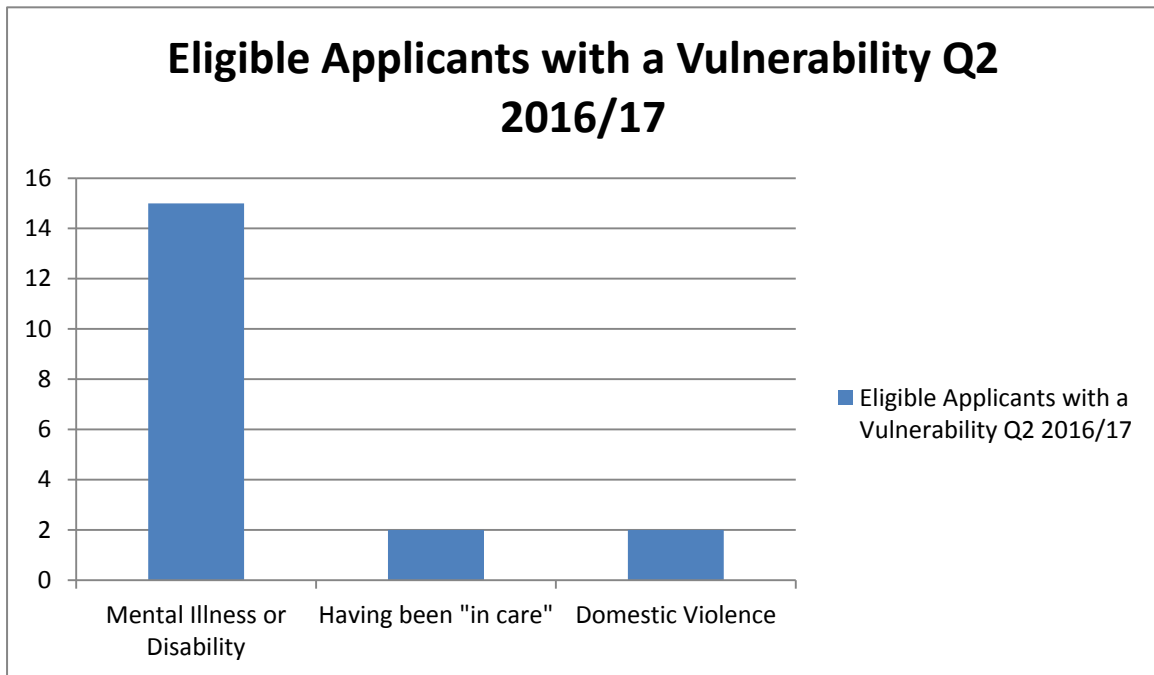
Applicant Households Eligible for Assistance, Unintentionally Homeless and in Priority Need by Household Type Q2 2016/17



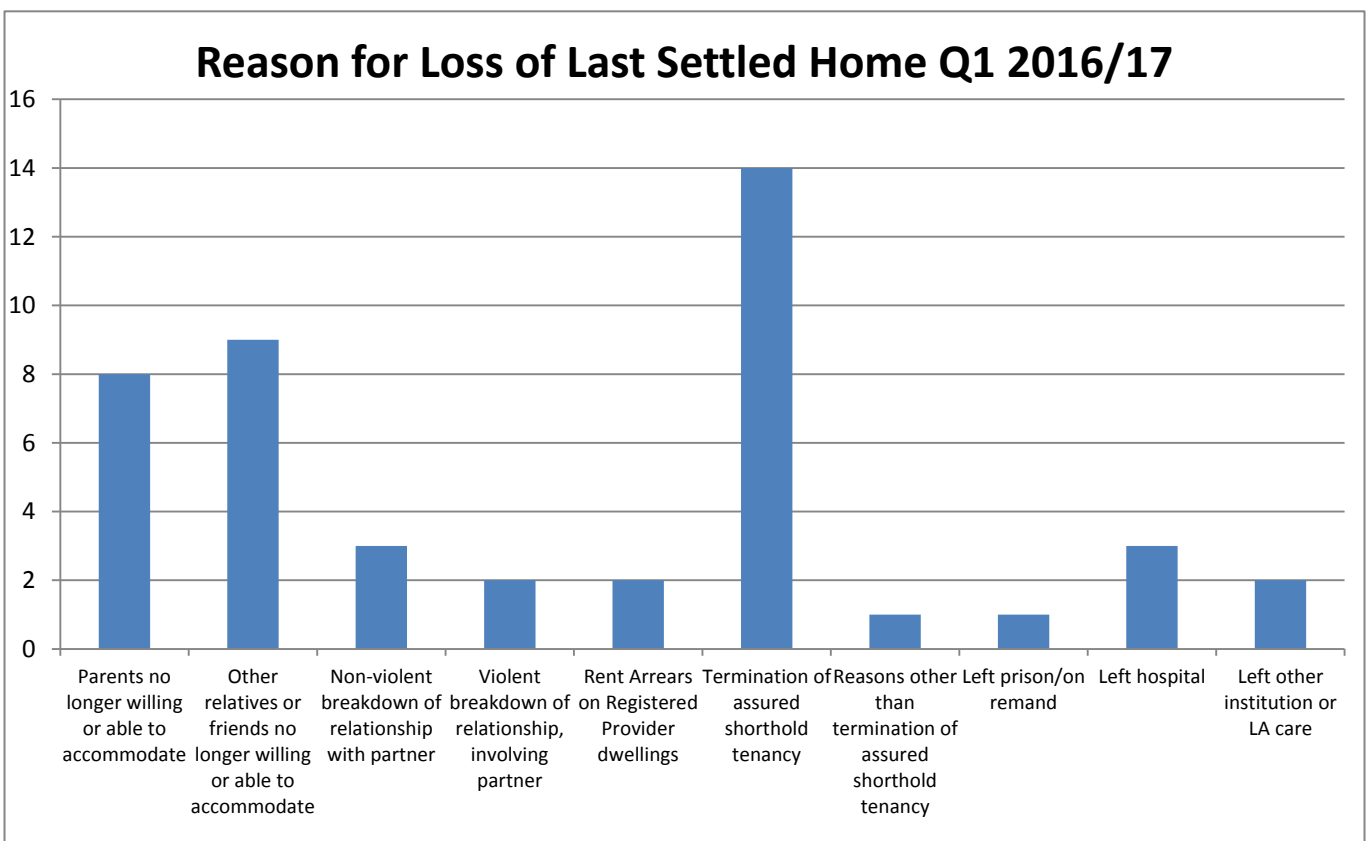
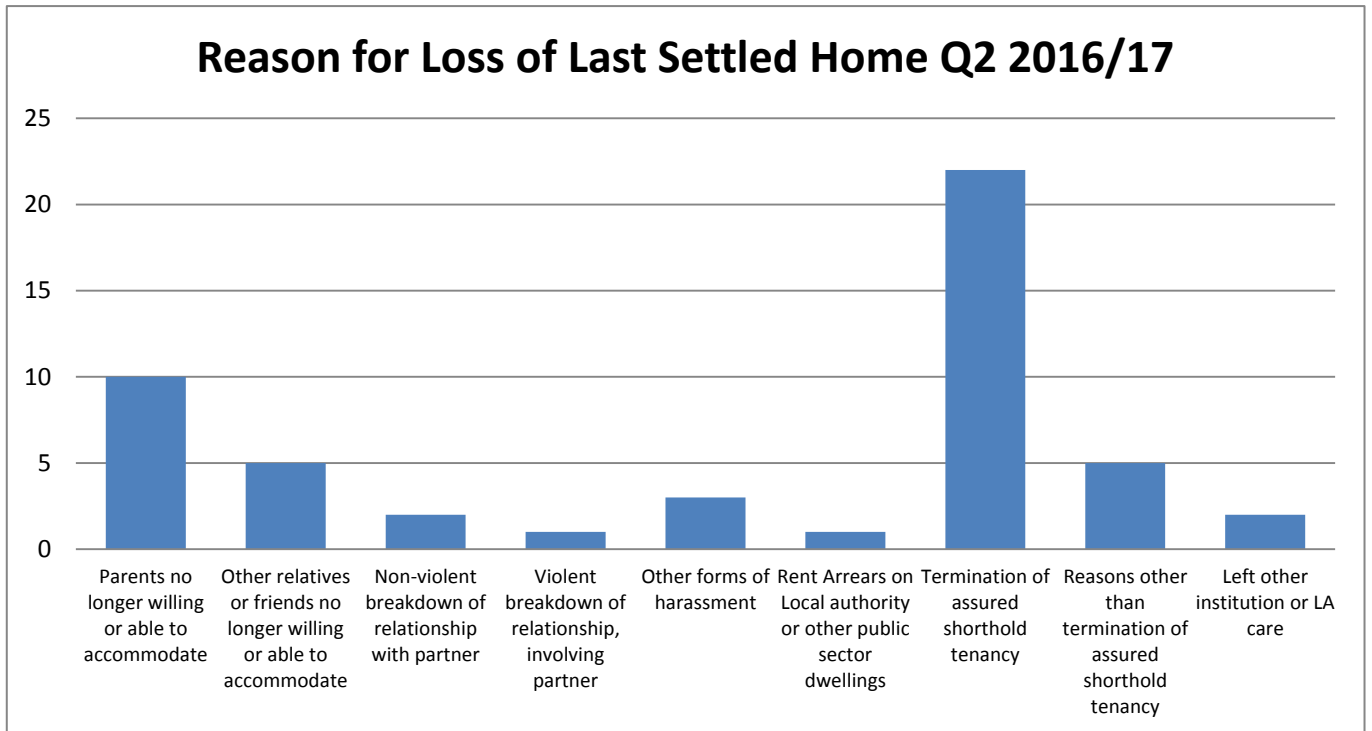
Applicant Households Eligible for Assistance, Unintentionally Homeless and in Priority Need by Household Type Q1 2016/17



Between Q1 & Q2 there has been a significant increase in the number of couples with dependent children who are eligible; there has also been an increase in lone male parents with dependent children.

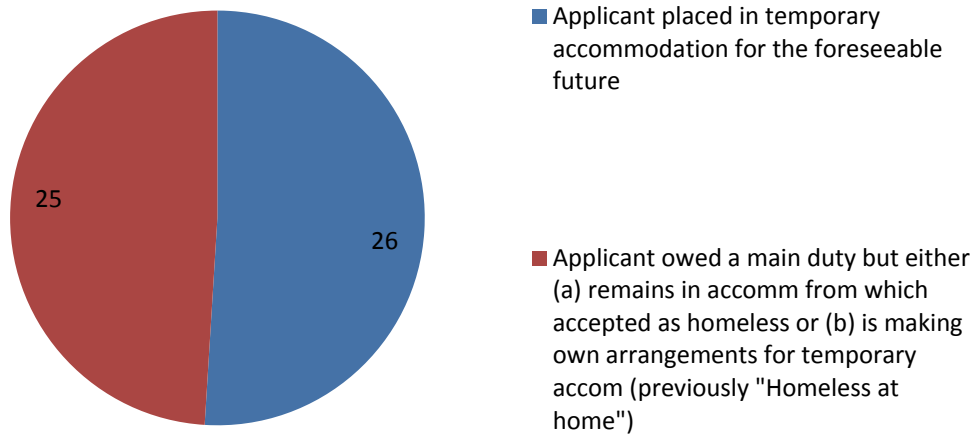


Looking at both Q1 & Q2, the mainstay seems to be applicants with mental illness, the number doubling between Q1 & Q2

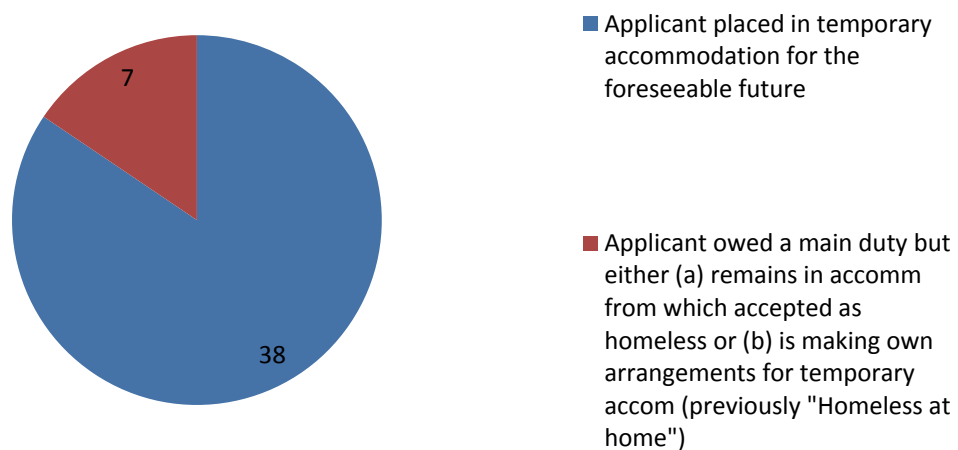


From looking at the period between Q1 & Q2, it is clear that Termination of assured shorthold tenancy is the major reason why people are losing their homes.

Immediate Outcome Where Applicant Household Found to be Eligible, Unintentionally Homeless and in Priority Need Q2 2016/17

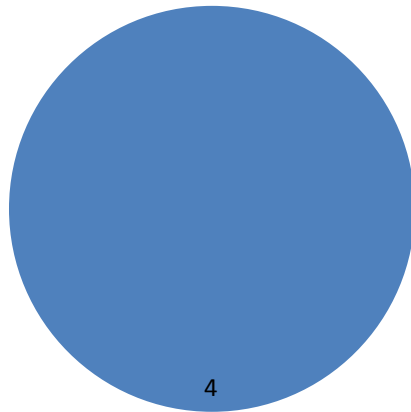


Immediate Outcome Where Applicant Household Found to be Eligible, Unintentionally Homeless and in Priority Need Q1 2016/17



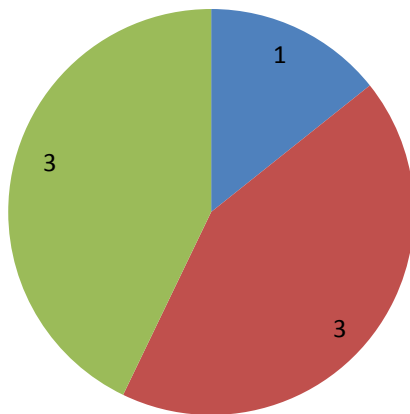
Over the first two Q's of 2016/17, there has only been two immediate outcomes of those found homeless – placed into temporary accommodation or they are owed a main duty, during the last Q the stats showed the two were near enough even.

Homelessness Prevented - Household Able to Remain in Home Q2 2016/17



- Providing other assistance that will enable someone to remain in accommodation in the private or social rented sector

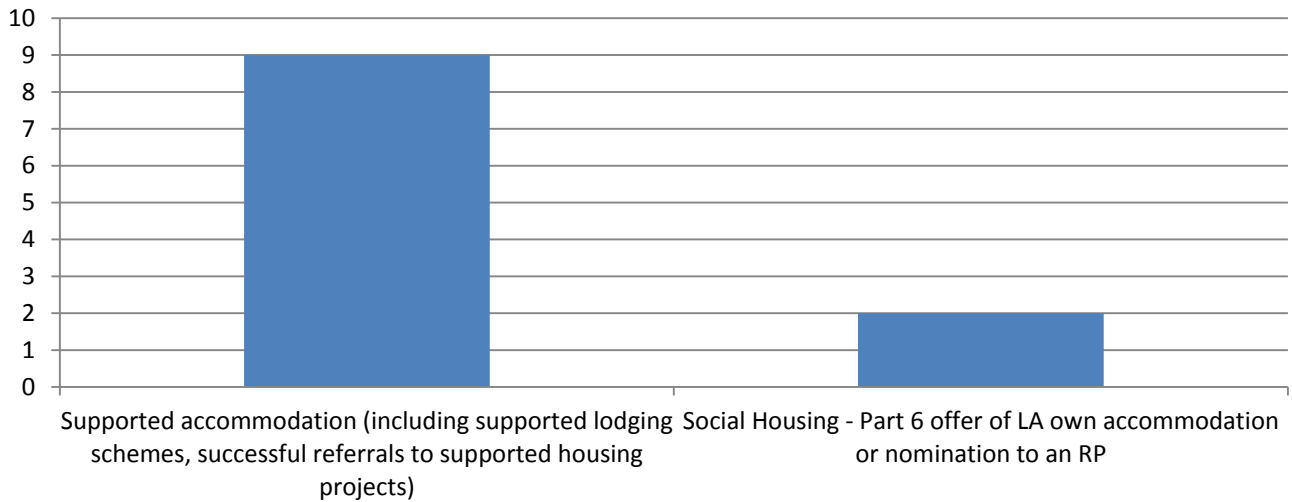
Homelessness Prevented - Household Able to Remain in Home Q1 2016/17



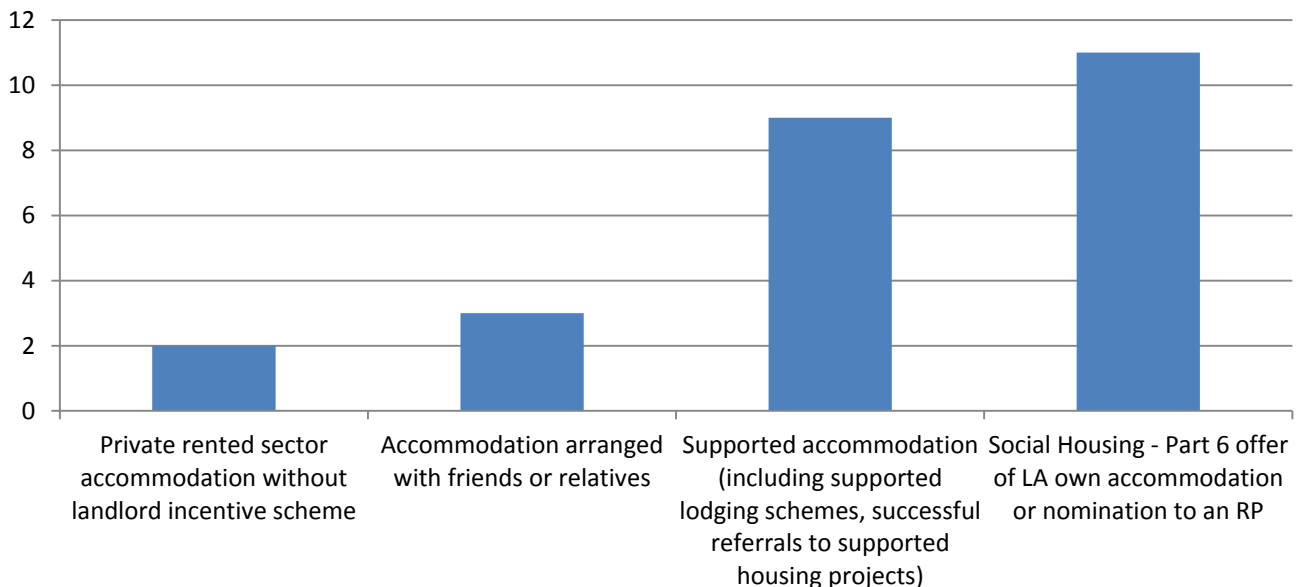
- Mediation using external or internal trained family mediators
- Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector
- Negotiation or legal advocacy to ensure that someone can remain in accommodation in the private rented sector

Between Q1 & 2 of 2016/17 there has been a drop in the amount of cases of people being able to remain in their own homes, there now seems to be only one main reason however – the people are receiving other assistance to enable them to remain in accommodation.

Homelessness Prevented or Relieved-Household Assisted to Obtain Alternative Accommodation Q2 2016/17



Homelessness Prevented or Relieved-Household Assisted to Obtain Alternative Accommodation Q1 2016/17



There has been a drop in cases of homelessness being prevented via obtaining alternative accommodation, there is however now just two main ways that have been used – supported accommodation and social housing.