



11 November 2024

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19 NOVEMBER 2024

A meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held at 6pm on Tuesday 19 November 2024 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Members of the public may view the meeting via the livestream on the Council's website.

Mannie Ketley
Executive Director

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2024.
2. Actions arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2024 (report to follow).
3. Apologies
To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.
4. 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;
 - (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 non-pecuniary 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.

5. Community Safety Annual Report.
6. Draft Homelessness Strategy.
7. Remote Meetings/Proxy Vote Consultation (report to follow).
8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Timms (Chair), S Edwards, Freeman, Hassell, Lawrence, New, Parker, Sayani and Srivastava.

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer on 01788 533522 or email linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk. Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Community Safety Annual Report
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2024
Contact Officer:	David Burrows
Summary:	<p>The report provides a summary of work in relation to Crime and Disorder, as delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p>The report considers performance during the previous year, priorities for the forthcoming year and highlights several projects delivered through the Community Safety Partnership.</p>
Financial Implications:	None.
Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:	None.
Environmental Implications:	None.
Legal Implications:	The committee is scrutinising the work of the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in accordance with S19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
Equality and Diversity:	No specific implications. Partnership priorities include hate crime.

Scrutiny Committee - 19 November 2024

Community Safety Annual Report

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Regulation and Safety

Summary

The report provides a summary of work in relation to Crime and Disorder, as delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership.

The report considers performance during the previous year, priorities for the forthcoming year and highlights several projects delivered through the Community Safety Partnership.

1. Introduction

The 1998 Crime and Disorder Act requires 'responsible authorities' to work together to reduce crime and disorder at a local level. In England, the responsible authorities are the police, local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, health and probation services. The responsible authorities must work together to protect their local communities from crime and to help people feel safer.

The Scrutiny Committees have a statutory responsibility (at least once a year) to review the decisions and actions of the responsible authorities within the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in relation to their crime and disorder functions.

2. The Rugby Community Safety Partnership

The Rugby Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is well established with a good track record of understanding levels of risk within the Borough, producing action plans to deal with local community safety concerns and working across partners to maximise resources.

The community safety function currently sits within the Environmental Health and Community Safety Team. The team is managed by Henry Biddington, Environmental Health and Community Safety Manager. This role is supported by Claire Baldwin, the Community Safety Team Leader and Helen Highfield the Senior Community Warden. The team is also made up of the Council's Community Wardens, who have a very good reputation with elected members for providing front line proactive and reactive services including out of hours and at weekends.

Following a review of the Community Safety Partnership in December 2023 and actions agreed by the CSP Board in 2023 to make improvements a revised Partnership Plan was agreed by the Board in November 2023.

The Rugby Community Safety Partnership Plan 2023/24 (appendix 1). The Plan identifies the legal duties of the board, the aims and objectives, identifies strategic and local priorities, sets out the delivery model and provides some outcomes to measure success. The following sets out the outcomes and what actions we have put in place to have achieved them. There will be further data to identify if we have achieved these outcomes in March 2025.

Development of a Youth Intervention strategy building on work that has already begun.

Work has continue with the Youth Intervention Meeting and building up partnerships with schools and other external partners including Youth Justice, Early Help and Children Services. The Local Contextual Safe Guarding meeting has been added to address concerns around exploitation, trafficking and safe guarding of vulnerable young people.

Reduction of youth ASB across a 12 month period.

Operation Resolve was launched in the Town Centre increasing Police resources to tackle and reduce ASB. Reports of ASB to the Council have reduced by 67% in the last 12 months.

Reduction of youth related violent crime.

Initiatives have been put in place to address youth related violent crime. These include Operation Thunderbird which targeted a group of young people causing violence in the Town Centre and saw a reduction of youth related violence in the Town Centre. Our #Knife Free Rugby Campaign launched in August aimed at reducing incidents of young people carrying knives.

Have action plans for addressing strategic priorities.

The Action plan (appendix 2) is in place and reviewed on a quarterly basis by the Priority Action Group Meeting. Actions are signed off as completed and any additional actions required to address strategic priorities are added.

Reduce incidents of VAWG related crime.

Safer Streets 5 interventions included the upgrade of the CCTV network across Rugby ensuring that the system can continue to work to deter and detect crime.

Prior to Christmas town centre licensed venues were visited by the Community Safety Team and provided with further material for 'Ask Angela' and prevention of drink spiking.

Walk with us initiative launch by the Police.

Improve the feeling of safety across the Borough for women and girls.

Work has been completed by the partnership through the ongoing enough campaign, Safer Streets Funded interventions and work in schools through Loudmouth.

The outcome is difficult to measure as there has not been a follow up survey since completed in 2021 aimed specifically at Women and Girls. There have been a number of other surveys from RBC and WCC and data for these is being analysed to see what comparisons can be made and if improvements can be identified.

Identify and reduce crime in identified areas for area action.

Work was carried out around Millenium Green in the Benn Ward following a number of incidents. Surveys were conducted with local residents who identified poor lighting and a lack of CCTV for a reason they felt unsafe in the park.

Through Safer Street Funding the CSP improved the current lighting, added in solar path lighting and installed CCTV around the park. This has seen a reduction in incidence and further residential surveys have identified improvements.

Priority Action Group

The Priority Action Group is made up of operational members of the CSP. It develops and maintains the action plans to address the strategic priorities of the CSP. The group meets every quarter to ensure actions are being implemented and completed and identify new actions.

3. 2021/25 Strategic Assessment

3.1 Overview

Strategic Assessments are assessments of crime and disorder, which allow Community Safety Partnerships to respond more effectively to the community, plan activity, allocate resources and deliver activities that focus on priorities and achieve results.

The Rugby CSP Strategic Assessment 2021/24 was produced by the Warwickshire County Council Insight Service and was commissioned with the intention of providing Rugby with:

- A review of 2020/24 priorities
- Analysis of crime and disorder to inform future priority settings
- The identification of any areas of concern
- Recommendations for the suggested 2021/24 priorities.

This was used at the CSP Board meeting in February 2021 to set six priorities and three cross cutting themes: instead of the usual one-year plan. The priorities were set for four years to allow longer term action rather than short term gains.

The priorities are:

- Young people linked to knife related violent crime
- Personal robbery
- Retail business crime
- Domestic abuse
- Exploitation of young people
- Hate crime

The cross-cutting themes are:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Reducing re-offending
- Cyber crime

3.2 2023/24 Performance Summary

The Rugby CSP Crime and Disorder Data is taken from the Community Safety Dashboard and reports produced by Business Intelligence Analys' at Warwickshire County Council.

Young People linked to knife related violent crime - there has been a reduction of 11.5% of knife related violence and a reduction of 83.3% in knife related violence offences of suspects aged 18 years old or under

Personal Robbery - There has been an increase of reported personal robbery across the first six months although numbers remain low. There was an incident in which a number of robberies took place by one group in one location which has contributed to the increase. The offenders were arrested and the MO is being monitored to determine if a pattern emerges.

Retail Business Crime continues to rise with a 17.3% increase in shoplifting offences. There has been intense partnership work in this area with an increase in Policing attention and encouragement to businesses to report.

Domestic abuse – Rugby has seen a stable number of Domestic abuse cases being referred to MARAC but continue but increases in DA offences in April which is being monitored. RBC have now trained Officer in the HABT team as an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor.

Hate crime has not increase but there have been more incidences reported in schools in Rugby than other areas in Warwickshire. Work to address this has been actioned by the Hate Crime Partnership.

The CSP is going through the strategic assessment process to determine the strategic priorities for 2025/29 which will be completed in March 2025.

4. Projects Showcase

The following projects demonstrate some of the additional work which has been commissioned by the Rugby CSP over the past 12 months. The projects described are funded from CSP budgets, derived from either RBC or Police core budgets or Police and Crime Commissioner grant funding.

4.1 #Knife Free Rugby

One of our strategic priorities of the Rugby Community Safety Partnership is to tackle young people linked to knife related violent crime and we have a duty to address serious violence.

We designed the campaign of #knifefreerugby to enable the Rugby Town community to come together to raise awareness of the endangerment of carrying a knife and what implications that can arise from doing so.

With the Anti-violence Bee being mobile gave us the opportunity to locate it in 13 sites throughout the Borough enabling us to achieve raising awareness and the campaign to as many youths and family members as we could.

At each location Rugby Borough Council Community wardens and Community Safety Team were available to speak to the visitors to give information and advice. Virtual reality headsets were also used to give youths an insight of how their decision to carry a knife or be with someone known to carry can change their lives and the serious impact this has.

This was great success and started some in depth conversations and reflection. The campaign and the virtual Reality headsets are now being launched in Youth clubs and youth centre's where the youths will be taking part in workshops about knife crime. Having the Bee Monument has got the Town talking on how we can all work together to be a part of a safe Town.

2730 youths and adults were engaged with and uncountable visitors listening and taking photos and sharing them on social media and other friends and family to help raise the awareness.

Following on from the monument's success, we will be continuing the #knifefreerugby campaign in our youth sports clubs and in our open green spaces and further initiatives will be established.

An amnesty bin was provided by our local Rugby Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, numerous bladed items were surrendered which will be presented at the British iron works Centre.

The Bee monument had a huge thought-provoking impact on the residents of Rugby, with great appreciation for the campaign.

4.2 Futures Unlocked

Rugby Community Safety Partnership has continued to provide financial support for Futures Unlocked for their work with ex-offenders.

Futures Unlocked is a charity whose purpose over the last 18 years has been to train and enable volunteer mentors to provide practical, emotional and spiritual support to ex-prisoners returning to the community. For the last seven years the charity has been based in Rugby and delivers mentoring support to the whole of Warwickshire.

There are currently upwards of 40 volunteer mentors who have been trained by the charity to provide mentoring support across a range of pathways identified by research and adopted by HM Prisons and Probation Service as providing the most sustainable desistance from crime.

The management of a case involves an in depth assessment by a Community Chaplain staff member, a match meeting between client, mentor and chaplain and, only when all are content to proceed, regular meetings occur between mentor and client with six weekly review meetings between all three. At review the parties triangulate scorings to establish distance travelled on the pathways. These scorings are further rendered into a RAG (red, amber, green) rating.

4.3 Youth Intervention

Within the CSP we have continued working with various agencies to develop a Youth Intervention Strategy. The youth intervention strategy works to identify young people and provide a staged intervention approach to prevent behaviour from leading to criminality.

We work hard to bring together the agencies who can make a difference to the behaviour of young people at the Youth Intervention meetings. Partners who are engaged include several of Rugby's schools, housing providers, youth workers, Warwickshire Youth Justice Service, Rugby First, Warwickshire Police, WCC Early Help and Support and social workers. Youth intervention meetings are used to discuss interventions, and to offer commitment and support to the young people/parents who are struggling with issues relating to ASB.

The Youth Intervention meeting refers young people to numerous agencies for specialist support, including referrals to Compass, for young people who have drug issues; referrals to 'Ontrack' (part of RBC sports and recreation) for one-to-one support where individuals are otherwise disengaged; and referrals to Warwickshire Youth Justice Service for young people who are moving beyond ASB and into criminality, exploitation, and county lines. Other interventions include visits to parents, antisocial behaviour contracts and banning orders from youth groups to make young people or their parents responsible for their actions and provide support for young people to steer them away from adverse behaviour. We also have a range of diversionary activities including a hair and beauty course and boxing partly funded through OPPC grants.

Working with all the agencies has made a difference in a variety of areas which were suffering from high levels of ASB. This has helped to make residents of those areas feel safer in their homes and provided visible evidence of agencies working together in the interest of community safety.

Dealing with ASB not only tackles the immediate issue but also prevents many people who could become involved in serious crime being supported to help them stop offending.

Rugby Borough Council has a team of community wardens – a reactive team who attend reports of ASB within Rugby, manage areas where youths are gathering and move individuals on where they are causing any nuisance. Wardens will identify those who are termed as ringleaders in ASB and link in with Warwickshire police to discuss any actions we can take together.

All partners work closely with Warwickshire police to combat ASB and nuisance behaviour to reduce ASB in our communities and support victims, young people and residents of Rugby.

Over the past 12 month period reports of ASB to the Council has reduced by 67% due to the hard work put in by the Community Safety Team and the CSP partners.

4.4 ASB Case Management and Conflict Resolution

The ASB Case Management meeting looks at individual cases of persistent ASB with the view of protecting and supporting the victim and vulnerable residents.

The meeting is a partnership meeting involving housing providers, Victim Support, Rugby First, Warwickshire Police and WCC Early Help and Support and social workers.

The meeting discusses cases and identifies interventions that can be used to protect the victims and resolve conflicts.

We have developed a good working partnership with Mediation and Community Support (MACS) who are a charity that provide conflict resolution and mediation services to help resolve disputes, support victims, and provide partnership staff in conflict resolution.

Since February 24 to end of July 24 – 11 cases, which involved 18 households, 28 people and in only 1 case one person declined but the additional conflict coaching was offered to the other party.

4.4 Safer Streets 5

In September 2023 Rugby Borough Council (RBC) submitted a joint funding bid with Warwickshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office for funding from the Home Office for Safer Streets 5.

Between September 2023 and March 2024 we delivered phase one. This included funding a full upgrade to the Town Centre CCTV network to ensure that it is fit for purpose now and in the future.

In phase 1 lighting was upgraded in Millenium Green in the Benn Ward and CCTV was added.

In phase 2 to be delivered by March 2025 the Town Help points will be refurbished and upgrade so that they are fit for purpose for now and in the future.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 19 November 2024
Subject Matter: Community Safety Annual Report
Originating Department: Regulation and Safety

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Draft Homelessness Strategy
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2024
Contact Officer:	Michelle Dickson, Chief Officer – Communities and Homes michelle.dickson@rugby.gov.uk
Summary:	A copy of the draft Homelessness Strategy is attached for review by the Committee prior to submission to Cabinet.
Financial Implications:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity:	No new or existing policy or procedure has been recommended.

Scrutiny Committee – 19 November 2024

Draft Homelessness Strategy

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Communities and Homes

Summary

A copy of the draft Homelessness Strategy is attached for review by the Committee prior to submission to Cabinet.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.2 The council recognises the pressing need to develop a new homelessness strategy to address the evolving challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. This initiative is not only a response to the increasing demand for tailored support services but also a fulfilment of statutory obligations aimed at preventing and alleviating homelessness.

2. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

- 2.2 Every local authority must carry out a homelessness review, formulate and publish a homelessness strategy based on that review. All authorities are required to publish homelessness strategies at least once every five years. The homelessness review is an assessment by the local housing authority of the levels and future levels of homelessness in its district.
- 2.3 Under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, local authorities are required to take a proactive approach in preventing homelessness and to provide tailored support to those at risk. This includes conducting regular reviews of existing strategies and ensuring that services meet the current needs of the population. A new strategy will ensure compliance with these legal requirements and reflect the latest legislative changes and best practices in homelessness prevention.

3. COLLABORATIVE WORK IN THE HOMELESS FORUM

- 3.2 Significant collaborative efforts have taken place within the Homeless Forum, which brings together stakeholders from various sectors, including local charities, healthcare providers, and housing associations. This forum has facilitated open discussions, shared insights, and identified gaps in current services. The collaborative nature of this work is essential for creating a

comprehensive strategy that is informed by diverse perspectives and experiences, ensuring a holistic approach to tackling homelessness.

4. CONSULTATION WITH ELECTED MEMBERS

- 4.2 Consultations have been conducted with elected members, fostering a strong commitment to addressing homelessness at the highest levels of local government. These discussions have highlighted the importance of political will and community engagement in driving effective solutions. Elected officials have expressed their support for a strategy that prioritises innovative approaches and resource allocation to enhance service delivery and outcomes for those affected by homelessness.

5. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

- 5.2 The development of a new homelessness strategy is crucial for meeting statutory requirements, leveraging collaborative efforts, and harnessing the support of elected members. By addressing these key areas, the council will be well-positioned to make a meaningful impact in reducing homelessness and improving the lives of vulnerable individuals in our community.
- 5.3 The draft Homelessness Strategy is being presented to the meeting as part of the role of the Committee in policy development for pre-consultation and pre-decision scrutiny. The draft Strategy is due for submission to Cabinet on 20 January 2025.
- 5.4 A copy of the draft Homelessness Strategy is attached at Appendix 1.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.2 The committee is asked to review the draft Homelessness Strategy and make any necessary recommendations to Cabinet.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 19 November 2024
Subject Matter: Draft Homelessness Strategy

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

Foreward

I am delighted to present the new Homeless Strategy on behalf of Rugby Borough Council for the period **2024/25 – 2029/30 or 2025 – 2030?**

Firstly I'd like to thank the hard work of RBC staff and officers who work so hard to provide support for the most vulnerable of our residents. This is a pivotal time for the provision of housing in this county and as a new administration at RBC takes the reins, I am very conscious that new legislation, a new Government and a new corporate strategy needs to work together to alleviate the real detrimental impact of homelessness on our community.

Working in partnership is a key cornerstone of the new strategy and we must acknowledge the hard work of our partners in alleviating the impact of not having a proper place to call home on so many people in our wider community.

I am particularly pleased that a new Landlord Forum, a refreshed Allocations Policy in 2025, the progress we are making in providing 100 new homes at the newly named Navigation Way on the site of Biart Place which will be ready for occupation in Autumn 2025, and all the other new-build housing schemes we are committed to developing over the lifetime of this strategy.

We want to work with other housing providers, both Registered Providers and the private sector to provide good quality, affordable housing that meets residents needs across the Borough whether in the town or new-build or in our parishes and villages. Tackling inequality is a key feature of our new Corporate Strategy and this strategy is one of many ways in which we will deliver it.

My thanks to everyone who is working on this strategy and its implementation and to Cllr Noreen New, the Liberal Democrat lead on Housing.

Introduction

Local Authorities have statutory duties to assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 defines someone as 'homeless' if there is no accommodation available for them to occupy, or if it is not reasonable for them to continue to occupy the accommodation they have. The Government funding arrangement for statutory homelessness duties include a combination of the Homelessness Prevention Grant, Housing Benefit Temporary Accommodation Subsidy reimbursed by DWP and the Local Government Finance Settlement. There are also other programmes available which allocate or receive bids from Local Authorities for funding such as Rough Sleeping Initiative.

Both individual and structural factors can cause or exacerbate homelessness. These factors are often interrelated and reinforced by one another. On the individual level issues such as relationship breakdown, mental health problems, substance misuse and experience of violence, abuse and neglect can lead to homelessness. On structural level poverty, inequality, unemployment, housing supply and affordability can lead to or compound homelessness.

Due to multiple disadvantages faced by homeless households across various policy areas such as housing, health, education, welfare benefits, social care, migration, crime and employment it is imperative that homelessness is addressed with a joint and multi-agency approach.

The Council is a member of the Warwickshire Homelessness Strategic Group formed in 2019 in response to the fundamental changes introduced by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in the way Local Authorities assess and assist homeless applicants, with a strong focus on prevention. The Group commissions countywide homelessness services and reports to the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Rugby Homelessness Forum brings together local statutory and voluntary organisations to prevent and tackle homelessness in the borough. The Forum provides a platform for partners to collaborate, develop and promote solutions to issues affecting those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in Rugby.

The new Rugby Homelessness Strategy seeks to build on the successful partnerships built over the course of the previous Homelessness Strategy 2015-2018 especially with public health and paves the way for the Council to continue to work with its statutory and voluntary organisation partners by coordinating activities, sharing best practice and learning. The multi-agency partnerships and groups will play a crucial role in delivering this strategy over the next five years. The action plan will be monitored quarterly and reviewed annually by partners. This will help to:

- Address inequalities for those who are vulnerable
- Do things more fairly
- Do things better and more efficiently

Our Partners

Warwickshire Homelessness Strategy Group

- Warwickshire County Council
- North Warwickshire
- Nuneaton & Bedworth
- Rugby
- Stratford-on-Avon
- Warwick
- Warwickshire Police;
- Probation; and
- Public Health NHS

Rugby Homelessness Forum

- Rugby Borough Council
- Homeless Link
- P3 Charity
- Hope4 Charity
- CGL (Change, Grow, Live)
- Doorway
- Futures Unlocked
- Together UK
- EQUIP
- DWP

Our achievements over the last 5 years 2019/20 – 2023/24

New Homes

4,852 homes were delivered. Of which, 1,033 were affordable. The Council will continue to seek 20%-30% of all new homes to be affordable, where the sites meet the thresholds outlined in the Local Plan.

Private Sector Housing Leasing Scheme

231 properties have been leased, increasing the range of housing options available to customers on the Housing Register which also helped raise property standards in the private sector and bring back empty properties into use.

Property Acquisition and Disposal Policy

In addition to introducing the above policy in 2022, over the last 5 years the Council also completed 105 property acquisitions increasing the housing supply for applicants on the

Statutory Duties

The Council successfully ended duties to 796 (42%) households who were owed Prevention or Relief Duty by securing accommodation in the social or private rented sector

Main Duty Owed

The number of applicants to whom the Council owes Main Duty has declined by 84% over the last 5 years due to the successful outcomes achieved with households owed Prevention and Relief Duties

Length of Stay in TA

At 86%, the length of stay for most households in Temporary Accommodation had been short-term i.e. less than 6 months between 2019/20-2023/24. The 6-months target for all 134 households with children in B&B was also met.

Tenancy Ready

Recruited Tenancy Support Officers to help tenants with low to medium support needs with maintaining their tenancies such as budgeting and live independently.

Warwickshire Homelessness Strategy Group

Was formed in 2019 providing a platform for jointed-up approach to tackling homelessness on county and local level.

Rugby Pathway Scheme

Secured £xxx Rough Sleeper Initiative funding which enabled recruitment of additional officers to provide outreach and joint working with voluntary sector to address rough sleeping in the borough

Rugby Private Renters' Charter

In 2020, the Council and its partners have developed and signed up to the charter ensuring landlords meet standards required by law.

RBC Housing Charter for Private Rented Sector Housing

Have been developed to provide key information for landlords and tenants on their rights and responsibilities.

Legislations Update

A number of key legislations have been introduced during the period of the Council's last homelessness strategy. This has changed the way the Council's homelessness services are delivered. With the new government in place since July 2024, other changes are expected to follow during the lifetime of this new strategy. Key changes that have (and continue to) shaped the way homelessness services are provided and potential new provisions that are likely to make an impact are as follows:

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 imposed new duties on local authorities requiring statutory homelessness services to focus on prevention of homelessness with a more person-centered and collaborative approach. It includes:

- New duties called Prevention Duty and Relief Duty requiring Councils to take reasonable steps to help eligible applicants regardless of their priority to prevent homelessness within 56 days or if they are already homeless help them secure suitable accommodation;
- Requirement to carry out an assessment and create personalized housing plan;
- Duty on public bodies to people whom they know are threatened with homelessness; and
- Right of applicants for a review of any part of the legislation

The Tenant Fees Act 2019 aims to reduce costs in the private rented sector by capping tenancy deposits and introducing 'permitted' fees that landlords and agents are allowed to charge tenants.

Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduces a statutory definition emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, controlling or coercive, and economic abuse. The Act also grants homeless victims of domestic abuse automatic priority need status for homelessness assistance.

It also places a duty on Local Authorities to provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. In addition, the Act protects the victim's secure lifetime or assured tenancy when being rehoused by social landlords.

Renters' Rights Bill 2024 seeks to create a fairer and more secure private rented sector. It aims to abolish Section 21 of Housing Act 1988 also known as 'no fault' evictions. The landlords instead will be required to provide tenants with 'reasonable' grounds for ending their tenancy e.g. breaking rental agreement and change of use. Amongst many other provisions, the bill also includes:

- A new Private Rented Sector Landlord Ombudsman;
- Make it illegal for landlords and agents to discriminate against prospective tenants in receipt of benefits or with children;

- End the practice of rental bidding by prohibiting landlords and agents from asking for or accepting offers above the advertised rent;
- Apply the Decent Homes Standard and Awaab's Law to the private rented sector, and
- Strengthen local authority enforcement.

An expected reform of the **National Planning Policy Framework** with a more emphasis on presumption in favour of development with mandatory target for 1.5 million homes nationally for the next 5 years.

A proposed new '**ending homelessness unit**' with a cross-government taskforce which will produce a long-term cross-government strategy to address homelessness. This should enable a multifaceted approach to address homelessness where households face multiple exclusions and challenges to access services.

The report on **Independent Investigation of the National Health Service 2024** identifies significant health inequalities faced by homeless households in temporary and those who are rough sleeping. People facing homelessness are far more likely to have asthma or other breathing problems, heart disease, or epilepsy. The report also draws attention to:

- a study of homeless hospital inpatients which found that, 64 percent had three or more physical health co-morbidities.
- A survey of people experiencing homelessness which found that, 82 percent had a mental health diagnosis.

The findings from the above report is likely to shape the Unit's response to challenges in relation to homelessness and health.

In addition, in recent years household finances have been significantly hit by **the cost of living crisis**, driven by high levels of inflation, increasing living costs and steep increase in the cost of fuel. This has led to increased pressure on Council's homelessness and other services and is expected to continue on a long-term basis.

National Context

The latest Crisis Report December 2023 into the scale of homelessness found that they were 309,000 homeless people in England. This is based on recorded homelessness by Local Authorities on households living in temporary accommodation and those who are rough sleeping. During 2023/24, local authorities recorded around 336,000 (out of 348,000) homelessness prevention or relief duties owed to households following an initial assessment.

In England, the number of households owed a homelessness duty has increased by 36,520, an 11% increase over the last 5 years. The main reasons for loss of home or being

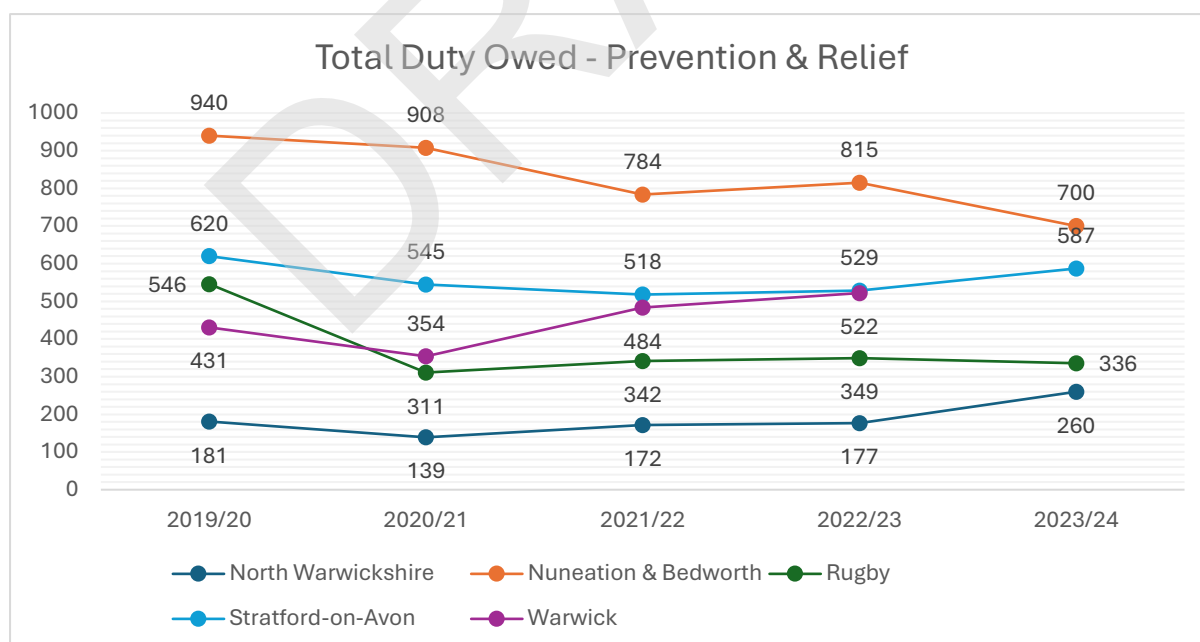
threatened with homelessness include *Family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate, End of private rented tenancy (assured shorthold), Domestic abuse and Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner*. The proportion of homeless households owed a duty and needing support has also increased (by 41,710) from 46.6% in 2019/20 to 54% in 2023/24. History of mental health problems and Physical ill health and disability are the most common support needs cited by households owed a duty.

The latest government release¹ on rough sleeping snapshot in England estimated that 3,989 people were sleeping rough on a single night in Autumn 2023.² An increase by more than a quarter for two years in row. Of the total 82% were men, 82% were over 26 years of age and 62% were from UK.

Local context

The chart below illustrates the number of households owed a homelessness duty across Warwickshire over the last 5 years. Notably, the beginning of the period was marked by the Covid pandemic in 2019. Rugby, like all boroughs in the County experienced a significant number of households owed a homelessness duty during 2019/20. Of the 2,874 applications assessed across the County, 95% (2,718) were owed a Duty. 20% (567) of which were owed by Rugby.

However, in Rugby, following a sharp drop (43%-243) since 2019/20, the number of households owed a Duty has remained stable with an average of 335 households owed a duty per year.³



¹ Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2023

² At 4,751, the number of people sleeping rough reached its peak in 2017.

³ Total Duty owed in 2021/22 is an average of 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Statutory Homelessness Duties Explained

**Local Authorities have a series of duties if a person meet the statutory definition of homelessness and are eligible for assistance
Irrespective of any duties owed and priority need, anyone seeking assistance will be provided with advice and support**

Prevention Duty

Local authorities have a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent an applicant's homelessness.

The prevention duty is owed to all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness in the next 56 days, irrespective of 'local connection', 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'.

The duty is also owed where a valid Section 21 notice has been served which expires within 56 days.

The prevention duty may mean for example, negotiating with a landlord or family member, providing mediation, helping to reduce rent arrears, or securing alternative accommodation before a household becomes homeless.

Relief Duty

Local authorities have a duty to take reasonable steps to relieve an applicant's homelessness.

The relief duty is owed to all eligible applicants who are homeless, irrespective of 'priority need' or 'intentional homelessness'. At the Relief stage applicants with no 'local connection' to the local authority where they have made their request for homelessness assistance can be referred to a 'local authority where they do have a 'local connection'.

If the local authority has reason to believe the applicant is in priority need, it may have a duty to provide interim accommodation during the relief duty.

The duty lasts up to 56 days but may be extended if no main duty is owed.

The relief duty may mean for example, helping an applicant to secure housing in the private sector with tenancy for 6 or more months, placing them in supported accommodation or deciding if they qualify for social housing.

Main Duty

The main duty is owed to applicants whose homelessness has not been prevented or relieved, who are homeless through no fault of their own, and who are in priority need.

It places a duty on the local authority to secure an accommodation for their occupation until the Duty is ended. That duty is ended successfully when an applicant accepts an offer of social housing or a private rented tenancy for 12-months. The main duty can end unsuccessfully if for example the applicant abandons or loses their temporary accommodation provided to meet the main duty; refuses a suitable offer of accommodation or ceases to be eligible.

Applicants who are in priority need but are intentionally homeless may receive advice and assistance, and temporary accommodation for a short period of time whilst they make alternative arrangements for accommodation.

Key Terms

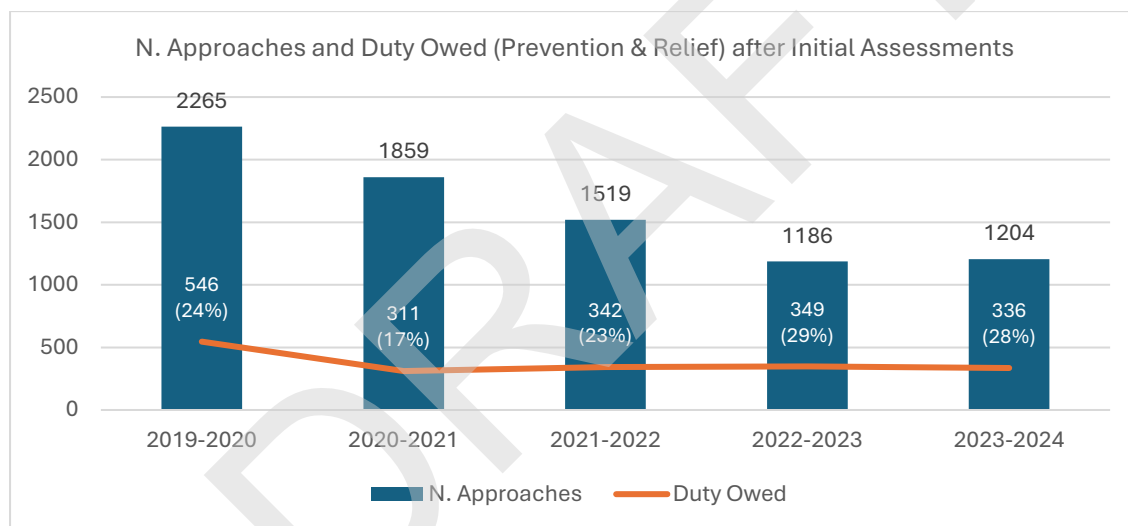
- **Eligibility** for homelessness assistance depends on immigration and residence status. Different rules apply for British and Irish nationals, and for people from abroad.
- A **Section 21** eviction notice is a legal route through which landlords can evict tenants who have an assured shorthold tenancy.
- People in **priority need** include those who are: pregnant or have children; care leavers aged 18 to 21; aged 16 or 17 and not owed a Children Act duty; homeless as a result of domestic abuse; homeless due to flood, fire or other disaster; and those deemed by the local authority to be 'vulnerable' due to, for example, mental or physical disabilities, old age, having been in custody or the armed forces.
- **Duty to Refer** Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places a duty on specified public authorities to refer service users who they think may be homeless or threatened with homelessness to local authority homelessness/housing options teams. This is designed to encourage public authorities to work together and build strong partnerships to intervene and prevent homelessness by considering the housing needs of their service users.

Homelessness Assessments

The Housing Advice Service Team (HAST) is responsible for providing advice and assistance to anyone who approach the Council for help. Households may approach directly or referred by internal or external services. Some public authorities have statutory Duty to Refer with consent of the service users where they are considered to or at risk of homelessness.

Every household that presents to HAST has an initial assessment to determine their circumstances and what duty under Part 7 Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2022 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, if any, is owed to them. New duties introduced in HRA 2017 meant that more people will be eligible for assistance from local authorities.

2019/20 experienced a 27% increase from previous year in the level of assessments completed. Although there has been a reduction in the overall number of approaches year on year since (except small increase in 2023/24), the proportion of households owed a duty has remained steady below 30%.⁴

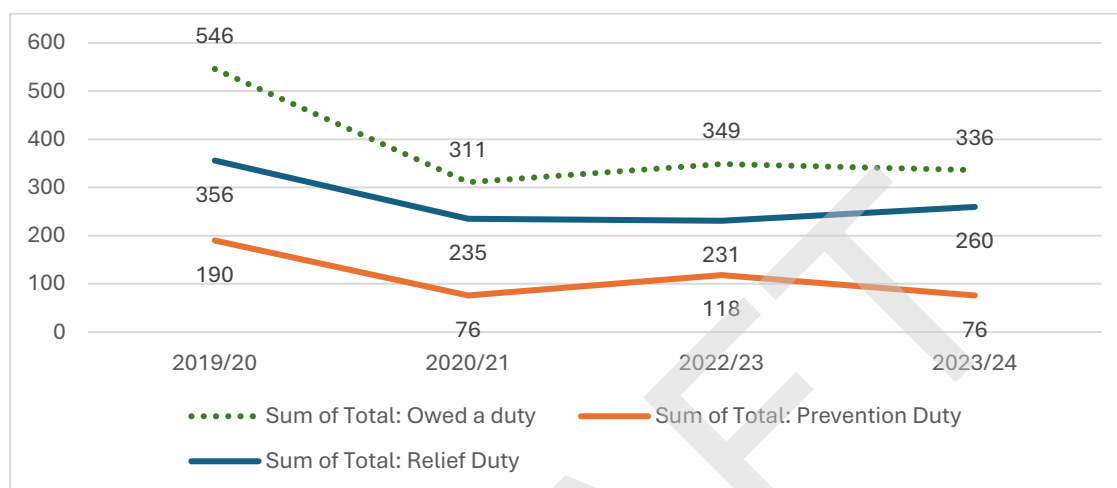


The large number of households who are not owed a duty would still receive advice and support from HAST in terms of information, signposting and referrals to other services.

⁴ The data for total households owed a Duty for 2021-22 is an average of 2022-23 and 2023-24

Homelessness Duty and Outcome

Of all approaches made to the Council 23% (1,884) were assessed as being owed a Duty by the Council. Of which, 30% (557) were Prevention Duties and 70% (1,327) Relief Duties. **Missing data 2021/22**. As the number of Relief Duties remains **consistently** higher over the last 5 years, it indicates that the Council is reaching fewer households at their preventative stages where support needs can potentially be addressed and that more targeted approach and interventions needed to prevent homelessness in the borough.



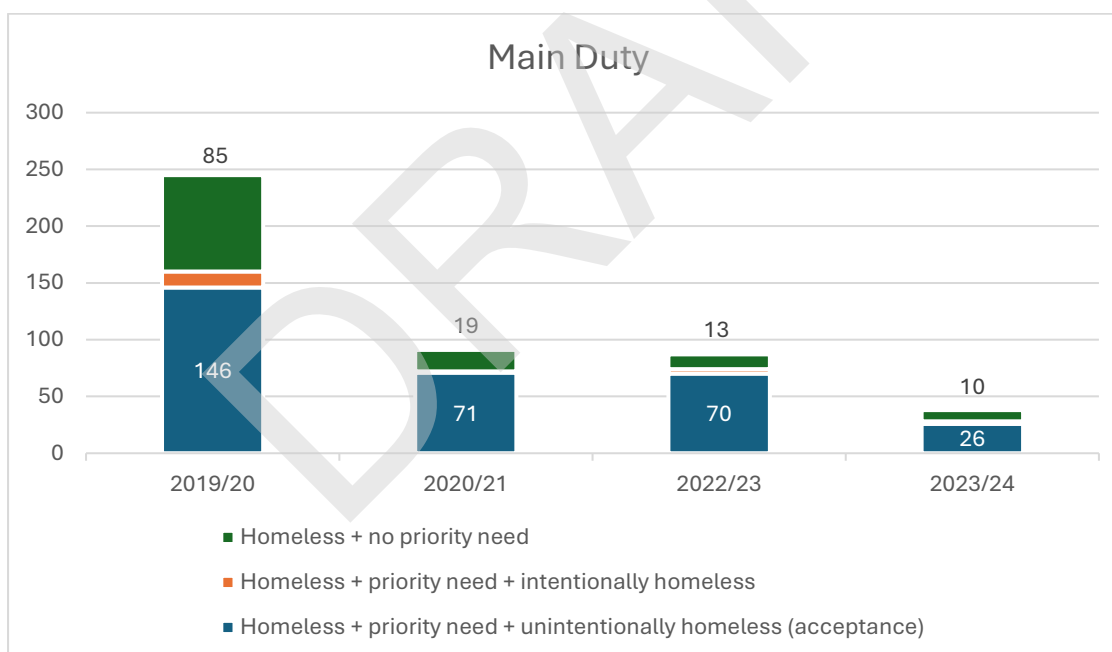
The Council successfully prevented homelessness for 217 households by either helping applicants remain in their existing (92) or securing alternative accommodation (125). Of those who were owed a Relief Duty, the Council helped additional 579 households into secure accommodation.

	Prevention Duty	Relief Duty	Total
Private Rented Sector	79	144	223 (28%)
Social Rented Sector	99	334	433 (54%)
Staying with friends or family	23	47	70 (8%)
Temporary Accommodation	0	1	1 (0.1%)
Owner-occupier	3	0	3 (0.3%)
Other	13	45	58 (7%)
Not known	0	8	8 (1%)
Total	217 (27%)	579 (73%)	796

The main activities undertaken to secure accommodation private and social housing, include funding deposit, council register, mediation, referral to support accommodation

Reason for Duty Ending ⁵	Prevention	Relief	Total
Secured accommodation for 6+ months	217	579	796
56 days elapsed		421	421
Homeless (including intentionally homeless)	165		93
Withdrew application / applicant deceased	23	69	92
Contact lost	10	68	78
56 days elapsed and no further action	30		30
Refused final accommodation		20	20
Intentionally homeless from accommodation provided		10	10
Notice served due to refusal to cooperate		9	9
No longer eligible	1	4	5
Refused suitable accommodation offer	2		2
Local connection referral accepted by other LA		2	2
Refused to cooperate	2		2
Total	450	1182	1632

The sharp decline (84%) in the number of households owed a Main Duty from 245 households in 2019/20 to 38 in 2023/24 reflects the successful activities undertaken as part of Relief and Prevention Duties.

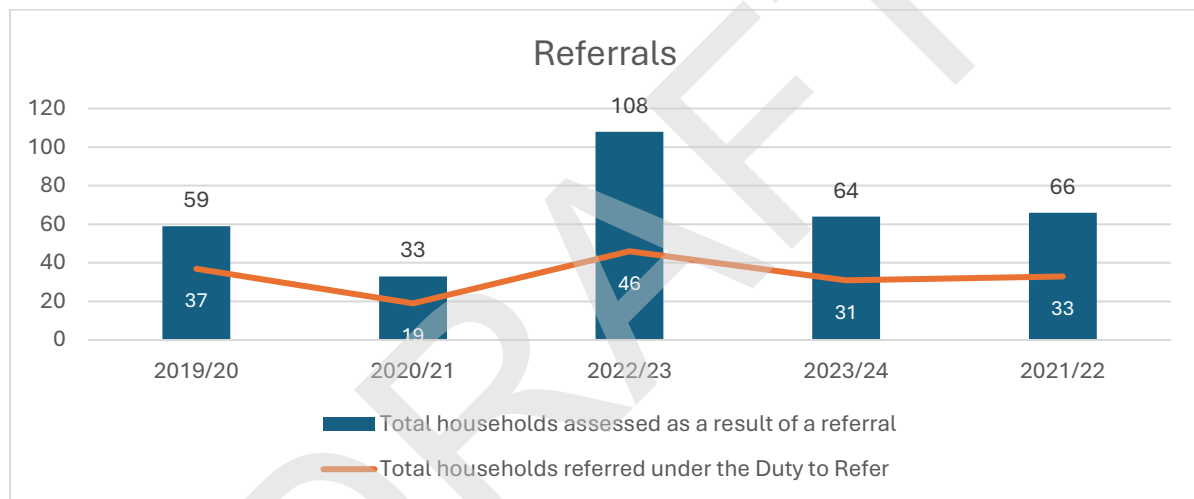


Of the 461 applicants owed a Main Duty, 259 (56%) accepted households social housing offer, 10 (2%) private rented sector offer and

⁵ Excludes 2021/22 data

The large number of people approach the Council either do not engage with the process or opt out due to factors such as resolve housing problem by themselves, chaotic lifestyle that hinders meaningful participation in the process or do not meet the statutory definition of homelessness. In all cases, the Housing Service provides support in terms of advice, signposting and referral to other services or agencies if appropriate.

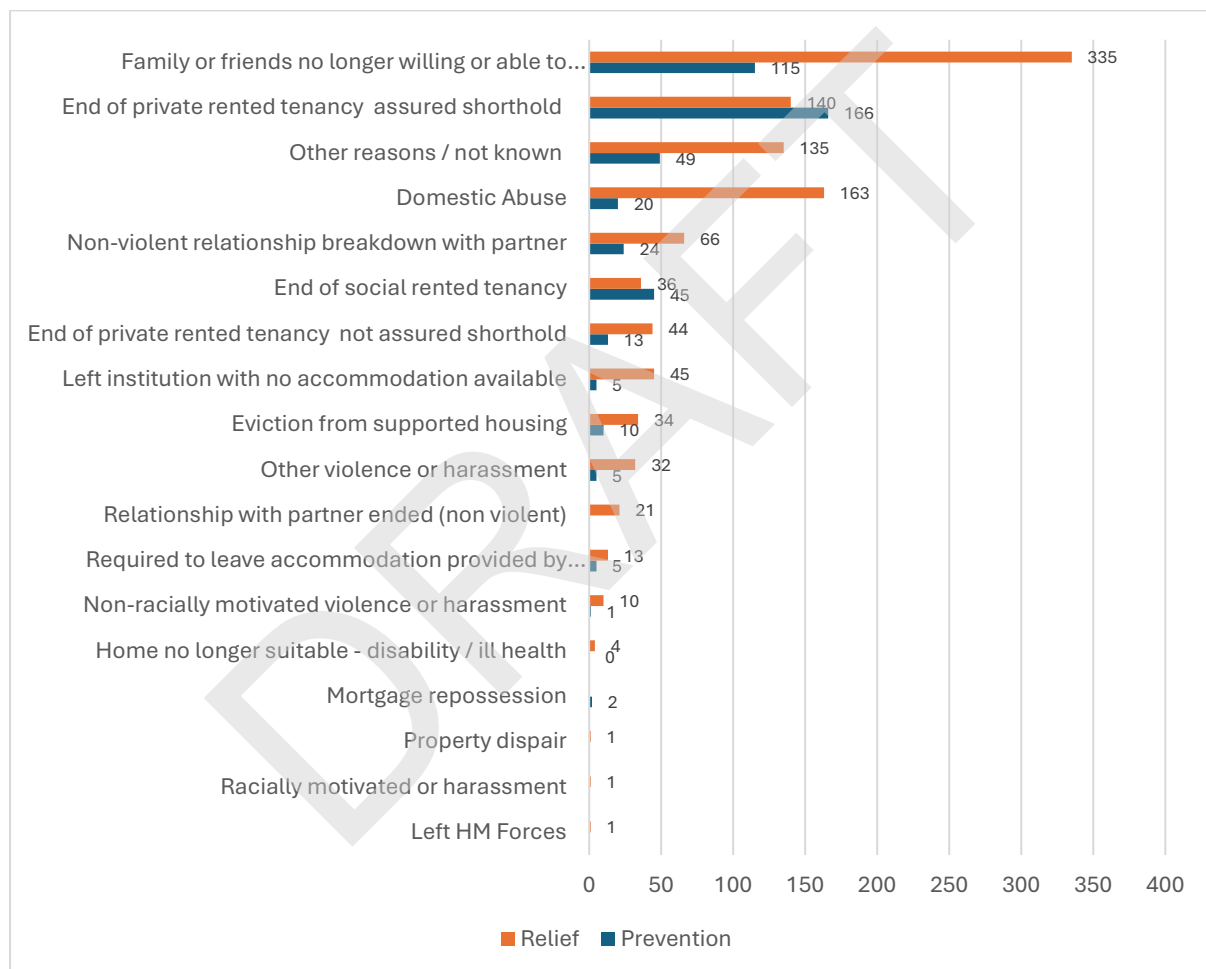
50% (166)⁶ of the applicants assessed were referred by agencies who have a Duty to Refer households who are or at risk of becoming homeless. Most of the referrals under Duty to Refer came from The Probation Service, Adult and Children Social Services. 48% (159) of referrals came from agencies not subject to Duty to Refer such as Supported housing, hub or Housing Related Support Provider, Refuge Provider and other non-housing related provider such as Citizen Advice Bureau/Debt Advice Agency and community based mental health services.



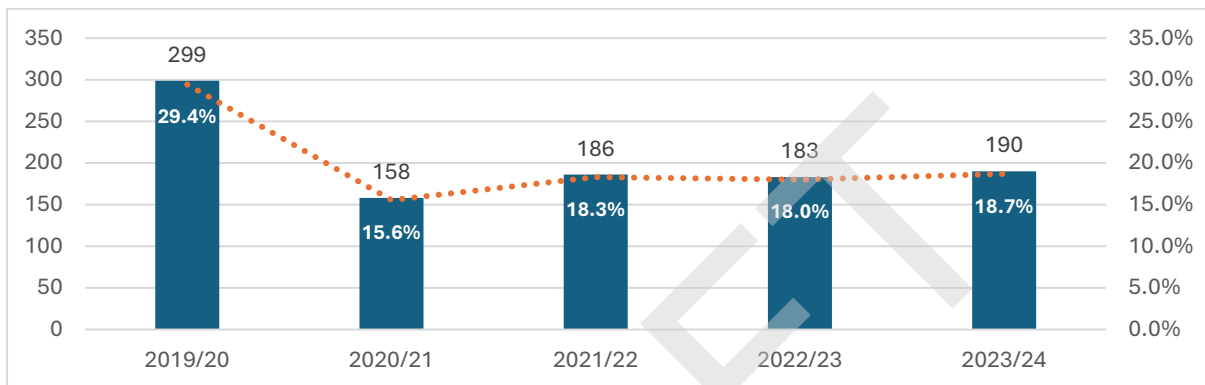
⁶ Data for 2021/22 is an average of data available for the 4 years between 2019/20 – 2023/24.

Reason for loss or threat of homelessness

Over the last 5 years, the main reasons for loss of last settled home or threat of homelessness were due to either family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate, or end of private rented assured shorthold tenancy. Households owed a Prevention Duty were mainly threatened with homelessness due to end of private rented tenancy, whilst those who were already homeless and owed a Relief Duty mainly lost their homes due to family or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate or are fleeing from domestic violence. This data need to be treated with caution as data from 2021/22 is not available and also reasons for or threat of homelessness are not known for a large number of households owed a Duty.



Over the last 5 years, 38% (721)⁷ of households accepted as owed a Duty were registered unemployed. Only 13% (249) were in full-time employment. 54% (1,016) of the households owed a Duty had support needs. The majority of them had a history of mental health problem, followed by physical ill health and disability and at risk of or have experienced domestic abuse. A majority of the applicants were also either single adults or single parents with dependent children. Although the number of households needing support was at its peak in 2019/20 (299), which declined by -47% in 2020/21 (158), the chart below shows the number of households owed a duty needing support remained steady over the last 3 years following an 18% increase between 2020-21 and 2021-22.



⁷ Data for 2021/22 is an average of 2022/23 and 2023/24

Accommodation

994 (53%) applicants⁸ were helped to secure accommodation for more than 6 months by either (helping to) find a new or remaining in the existing accommodation. Of which, 49% (492) were accommodated in Social Rented Sector and 25% (245) in the Private Rented Sector. The remaining stayed within their existing accommodation.

The number of applicants being helped to secure accommodation within the Social Rented Sector is expected to experience a sustained increase due to the significant cost related to Temporary Accommodation in the private sector.

Cost-saving measures involving the use of a proportion of the Council's own stock as temporary accommodation will reduce the level of properties available for applicants on the Housing Waiting List. **Over the last 5 years, the Council spent on average £64,284.68 per year on temporary accommodation. In 2021/22 the spending reached its peak to £78K. However, a 26% reduction was achieved by the end of 2023/24 bringing the cost down, just below the spending level in 2019/20. Of the 1,607 households, 68% (1059) were placed in private sector lease (52%-548) and nightly let accommodation (48%-511). 32% (516) households were placed in Council owned/managed TA and 2% (32) in other types of TA.**

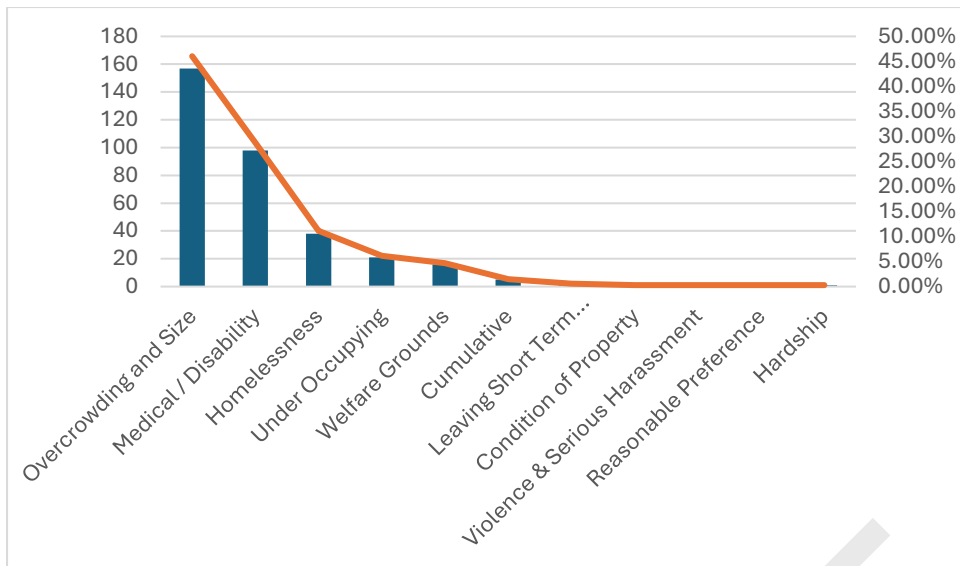
Although the number of households placed in temporary accommodation has more than doubled since the last strategy, the length of stay in the majority of cases is less than 6 months. **Refer to chart xx in evidence base**

Waiting List

Currently⁹ there are 341 applicants on the Waiting List. At 11% (38), applicants with Reasonable Preference for Homelessness make up the 3rd largest group on the List followed by Overcrowding and Size (46%) and Medical /Disability (29%).

⁸ Data for 2021/22 is an average for 2022/23 and 2023/24

⁹ As at 18 October 2024



Affordability

Over the last 5 years, 38% (721)¹⁰ of households accepted as owed a Duty were registered unemployed. Only 13% (249) were in full-time employment. [Moved to profile](#)

The average price of a home bought with a mortgage in Rugby was £306,000 in August 2024¹¹. An increase from the average of £297,000 in August 2023. This is higher than West Midlands, which experienced a lower increase from £261,000 to £254,000 in the same period.¹²

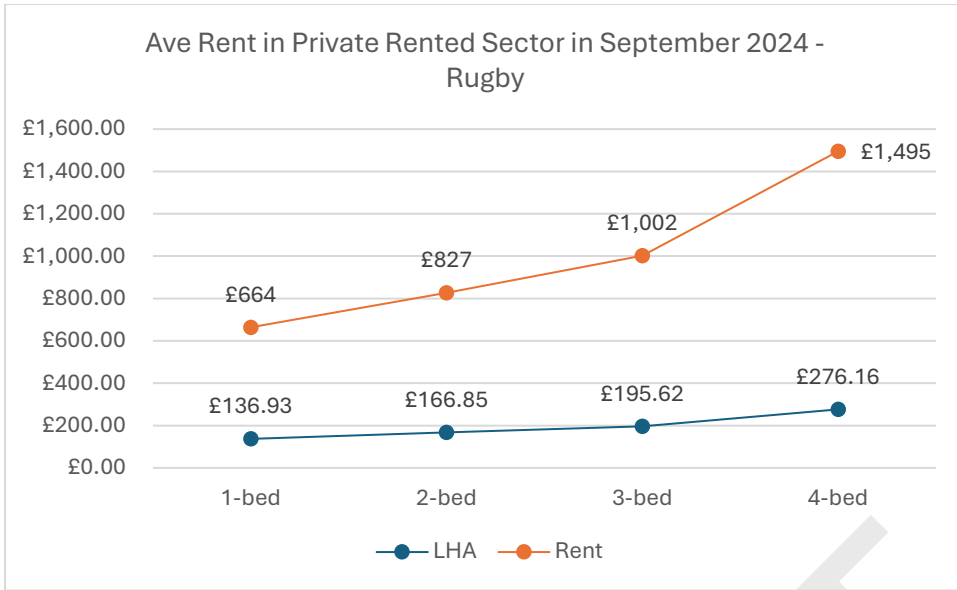
The average monthly private rent in Rugby was £996 in September 2024. An 8.2% increase from £865 in September 2023. Across the West Midlands, the average monthly rent was £896, up from £823 a year earlier. During the same period, the average rent for England was £1,336 in September 2024, up 8.5% (£105).

The chart below illustrates the gap between Local Housing Allowance Rates and average rent claimants are expected to meet. The LHAs cover between 19-21% of the average rent across different bedsizes. As rents continue to increase and without any significant increase in LHA rates, private sector rents will remain unaffordable for households on low income.

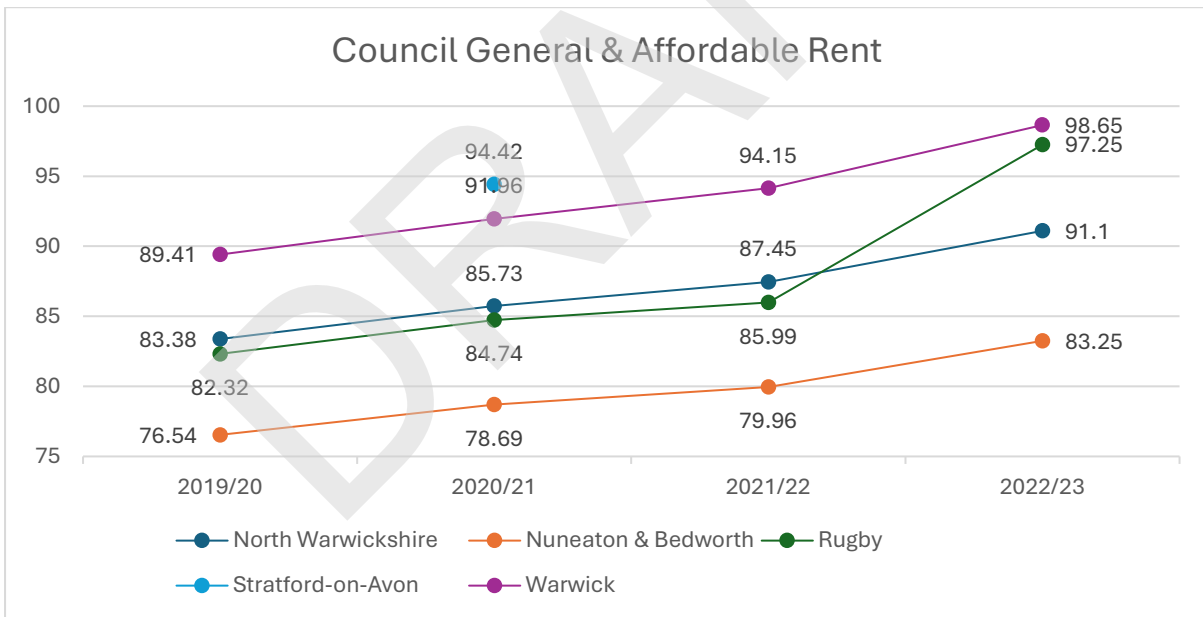
¹⁰ Data for 2021/22 is an average of 2022/23 and 2023/24

¹¹ Office for National Statistics – provisional data

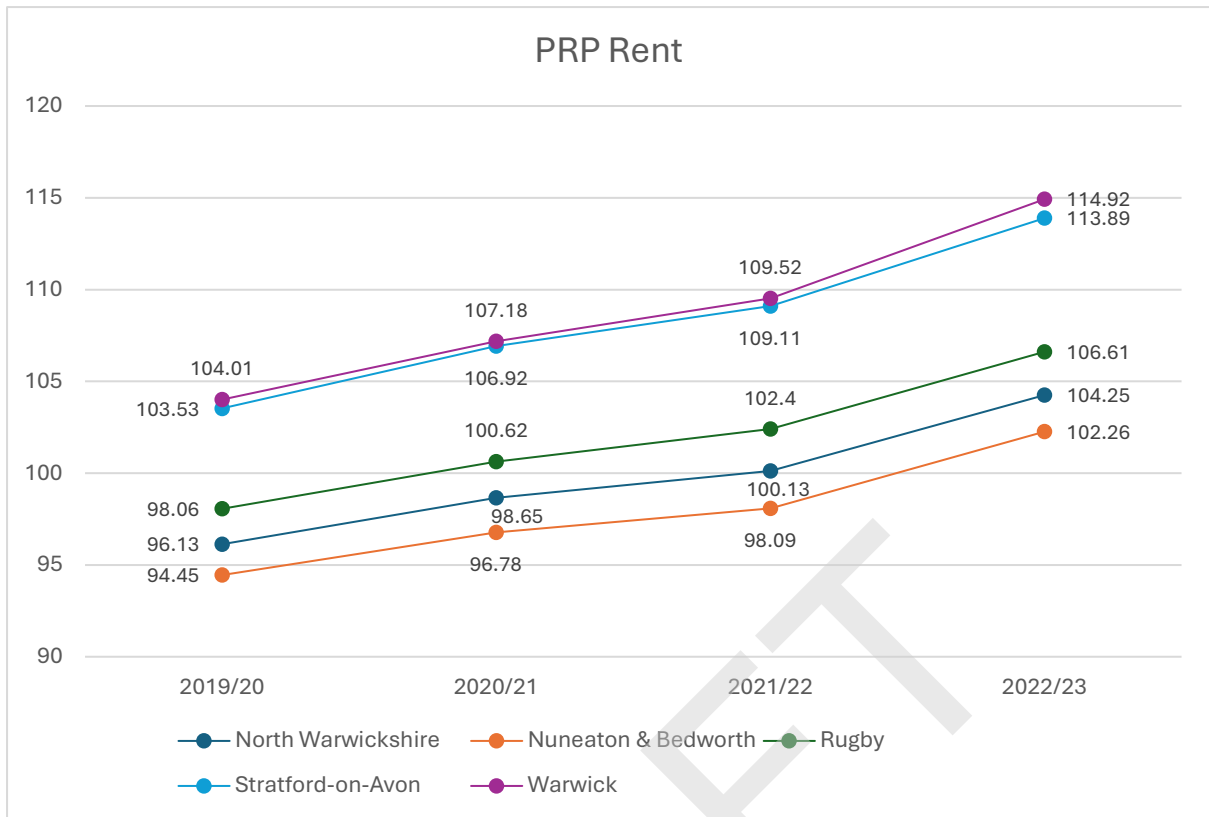
¹² Office for National Statistics



The charts below show continued increase in rents across Warwickshire for both Council and Housing Association properties. ¹³ However, compared to private rented sector, social housing remains the choice of accommodation for the majority of homeless applicants households due to the comparative low levels of rent.



¹³ Government Statistics



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Rough Sleeping

People who sleep rough experience some of the most severe health inequalities and report much poorer health than the general population. Many have co-occurring mental ill health and substance misuse needs, physical health needs, and have experienced significant trauma in their lives.¹⁴

Single night counts and estimates are used to indicate level of rough sleeping across Local Authorities in England. It is difficult to accurately estimate or count number of people seen or thought to be sleeping rough on any given night due to the weather, where people choose to sleep, the date and time chosen for the count, and the availability of alternatives such as night shelters. For the Autumn Snapshot, Local authorities can decide whether to count or estimate by using the method that will most accurately reflect the number of people sleeping rough in their area.

The latest Government snapshot figures released in February 2024 show that the number of people sleeping rough in a single night has increased regionally and nationally for a second year in a row. Although Rugby has experienced a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough from the peak of 12/11 in 2019 to 4 in 2023, the current count of 13 rough sleepers at the time of developing this strategy shows that the number of rough sleepers has more than doubled since 2023 and also exceeded the peak of 2019.

Rough sleeping in a single night in Autumn in England – Snapshot

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N. Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0
Nuneaton & Bedworth	8	6	1-4	3	10
Rugby	12 (11)	5 (4)	1-4 (3)	6	4
Stratford-on-Avon	6	4	1-4	4	2
Warwick	21	4	6	11	7
West Midlands	319	214	213	250	256
England	4,266	2,688	2,440	3,069	3,898

The Councils Outreach Team Homeless Awareness Panel

Over the last 5 years 33 applicants were sleeping rough at the time of homelessness application. This peaked to 12 applicants during 2023/24. Notably, a 50% increase from 2019/20. This increase is in line with the regional and national trend as shown in the table below.

Rough sleeping at the application for those owed a Prevention or Relief Duty

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	% change between 2019/20 & 2023/24

¹⁴ Guidance- Health matters: rough sleeping Updated 11 February 2020

N. Warwickshire	2	1	0	1	3	50%
Nuneaton & Bedworth	17	24	24	52	71	317.6%
Rugby	8	3	6*	3	12	50%
Stratford-on-Avon	13	24	20	30	45	246.1%
Warwick	13	21	10	22	16*	23%
Warwickshire	53	73	60**	108	147**	177.3%
West Midlands	410	610	600	1,040	1,290	214.6%
England	8,330	11,720	11,340	14,870	17,210	106.6%

*Missing data and is an average of four years for which data is available for the Local Authority

**Readjusted due to missing data

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Supporting those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness

The Council works with statutory and voluntary organisations to provide a range of services to households who are at risk or are already homeless. The table overleaf gives an overview of the types of services available which are delivered in the form of:

- **Advice and guidance:** information provided on the range of options available to service users in terms of housing, welfare benefits, skills, employment and getting specialist help. **Housing Advice and Support Team**
- **Floating support:** for those who need support to manage and maintain their accommodation if it is at risk. **P3 , council's Tenancy Coach set up utilities**
- **Accommodation based support** for homeless households providing a short-term safe place and tailored support with an aim to secure longer-term suitable accommodation. **P3 medium to low support needs with independent living. Low to medium Joy Homes in-borough, a number of longer term supported acc for ppl with care and support needs run by charity orgs can't maintain independent living without support. P3 has hostel type**
- **Financial Support** to eligible homeowners, private sector and housing association tenants to remain at home by providing various grants such as Disability Facilities Grant, Hospital Discharge Grants (hospital liaison officers have this budget), Home Safety Grants and Warm and Safer Homes Grants.

Financial support from homeless prevention fund for rent arrears, pay rent deposits .
- **Specialist support** for vulnerable groups such as people who have experienced or at risk of violence and abuse, people with substance misuse, ex-offenders and people with mental health problems and/or disabilities.
- **Dedicated resource** to support those who are sleeping rough including the provision of safe place in severe weather conditions.
- Pathways Scheme – entranced complex needs/ accommodation support
- Outreach Team -, R
- Public health and homelessness - LAs County wide Hospital Liaison Officer

- Private Sector Lease

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Services for households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness		Young People	Single Adults 25+	Families	Rough Sleepers	Other groups
General advice & Support	Rugby Council Homelessness & Prevention Team	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rugby Citizens Advice Bureau	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	P3 – Navigator Hubs for general advice and support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Together SWiFT – for people with disabilities					✓
	Doorway – supports homeless young people	✓				
	Rugby Hope4 Centre					
Accommodation based support	HEART financial assistance for aids and adaptations, improving home conditions and hospital discharge					
	Disability Facilities Grant- help homeowners carry out adaptations					
	P3 – Young People Supported Accommodation	✓				
	P3 – Accommodation based HRS Service for adults 25+ years		✓		✓	
Floating Support/ Outreach	Rugby Council Rough Sleeper Solution Officers				✓	
	St Basils	✓				
	Together – Disability Floating Support including Mental Health					✓
	P3 – Floating Support		✓	✓		✓
Housing & Housing Pathways	Doorway	✓				
	Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA	✓				
	Rugby Council Private Sector Leasing Scheme					
	Council Financial Assistance to help secure Private Rented housing					
	Housing Allocation Scheme for access to Social Rented Housing					
	Intermediate Home Products e.g. Intermediate Rent and Shared Ownership					
Specialist Support	SWEP – Severe Weather Emergency Provision				✓	
	RoSA – support for victims of sexual abuse or violence					✓
	Blue Sky Centre Sexual Assault Referral Centre					✓

	Futures Unlocked – support for ex-offenders					✓
	Change, Grow, Live - recovery focused drug and alcohol services					✓
	Rugby Wellbeing Hub for people with mental illness or impairment					✓

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Our Priorities

This strategy identifies four key priority areas which will shape the way the Council will work with its partners to address homelessness in the borough. These priorities are informed by the homelessness evidence base, feedback from service users, members of staff and partner organisations.

The priorities are focused on preventing homelessness, supporting households who are already homeless or threatened with homelessness and ensuring a range of options available to alleviate homelessness. Collaboration with partner agencies to achieve positive outcomes is also a key priority. Homelessness is complex and requires a multi-agency approach.

The Council will work with its partners in the following priority areas:

1) *The prevention of homelessness*

- Contract with CAB providing money advice support for financial inclusion
- Ensuring support to access social housing and private sector accommodation is accessible to all key customer groups;
 - single people
 - support for rough sleepers
 - support for families
 - support for victims of domestic abuse
- Housing services – tenancy coaches and tenancy sustainment work to ensure customers are tenancy ready and can sustain accommodation
- Work to prevent and relieve the main causes of homelessness in Rugby as identified in the evidence review (private sector accommodation and relationship breakdowns and eviction from relatives & family homes)
- Engagement with support providers and mental health services for vulnerable users
- Early engagement and open lines of communications with Registered Providers (RPs)
- Increasing supply and access to supported housing for young people
- Ensuring robust and effective delivery of the Joint Housing Protocol for homeless young people and care leavers
- Effective utilising our homelessness prevention grant to help customers to sustain their tenancy
- Mediation to prevent friends and family evictions including upstream prevention work

2) *tailored support for our most vulnerable clients*

- Disabled Facilities Grant
- Rough sleepers

- Pathways customers and customers with complex needs
- Hospital discharge customers
- Prison release customers
- IDVA trained staff to provide support for DA & to access further support services
- Homes for Ukraine scheme
- Close liaison with the Home Office and Migration services
- Continued review of the pledge for Afghans, Syria & all asylum dispersal customers

3) *ensure that we enable a variety of accommodation options to meet specific customer needs*

- Rent deposit & Rent in advance policy
- Acquisitions strategy and links to the corporate asset management strategy
- Strategic enabling with RP's and Homes England
- Landlords Forum & engagement with key stakeholders
- Work with housing providers to secure new housing developments & alternative accommodation options
- Keep the Private Sector Leasing scheme under review (PSL) based on housing and homeless service need
- Reciprocal arrangements with other LA's alongside county wide partnership working
- Review Housing Allocations policy biannually
- Ensure we are looking to increase social housing supply

4) *work with our partners across the statutory and VCS to secure the best outcomes for clients*

- Work collaboratively with all key partner agencies
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Hope 4 and P3, providing support & assistance to vulnerable customers
- Working to support the Warwickshire authorities joined up Warwickshire homelessness strategy
- Public health, working with and supporting referrals from medical providers and hospital discharge cases
- Housing Related Support
- Setting up a Housing Board and reviewing the strategies action plan & measuring its keys objectives (annual review and assessment alongside an updated evidence base of service demand)
- Develop a collaborative action plan developed with the Councils key stakeholders
- Work with and support work with community groups and voluntary sector across the district

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Rugby Homelessness Strategy 20xx – 20xx Action Plan

Prevention of Homelessness		Target
Action 1	Recruit an Early Intervention Officer	
Action 2	Develop a Rent Deposit Scheme	
Action 3	Develop pathways for vulnerable groups including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Victims of domestic abuse - Ukraine and asylum dispersal cases - Rough sleepers 	
Action 4	Review young homelessness crisis pathway intervention and develop joined up approach with social services	
Action 5	Continue to develop early intervention and long term recovery housing options for rough sleepers alongside our pathway accommodation model	
Provision of Accommodation		Target
Action 1	Draft and implement a Temporary Accommodation Policy	
Action 2	Conduct a feasibility study on demand, potential sites and opportunities for in-borough hostel and supported accommodation provision for a range of special needs group with low to high support needs.	
Action 3	Bring back xx units under Private Sector Leasing Scheme	
Action 4	Complete xx acquisitions	
Partnership and Support		Target
Action 1	Work collaboratively with Warwickshire councils to manage the reduction in supporting people funding on outreach homelessness services	
Action 2	Work with the Warwickshire Councils and public health to agree an action plan for collaborative working to address health inequalities for those facing homelessness	
Action 3	Set up Housing Board or Steering Group to monitor delivery of key objectives and review latest challenges (meeting quarterly with annual review)	
Create efficiencies		Target
Action 1	Review processes to increase operational efficiency	
Action 2	Review IT requirements to increase operational efficiency	
Action 3	Review reporting data and quality to increasingly use performance data to inform budgets and service delivery	
Action 4	Training plan to ensure continuous development of the team	

Homelessness in Rugby

Evidence Base 2019/20 – 2023/24

TABLE xx

Number of approaches

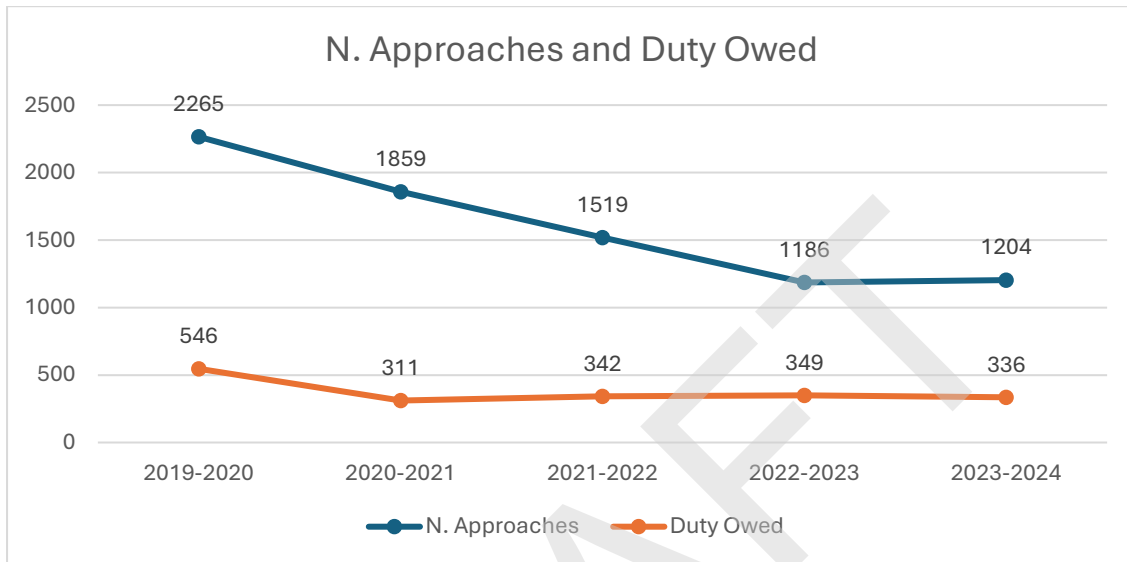


TABLE xx

Number of households Owed a Duty

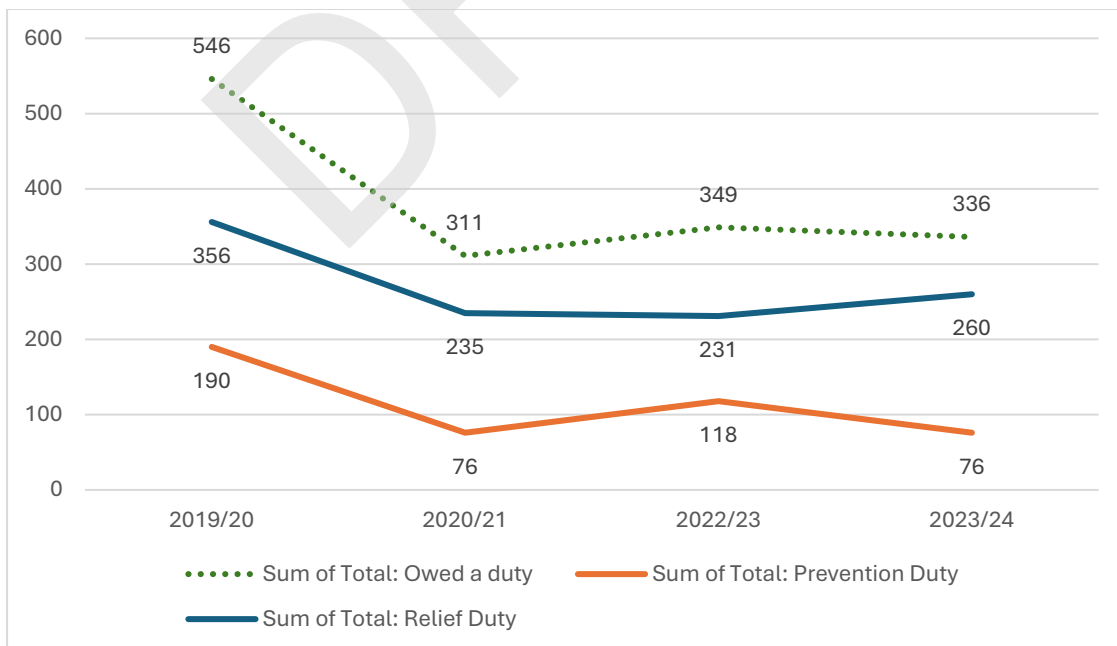
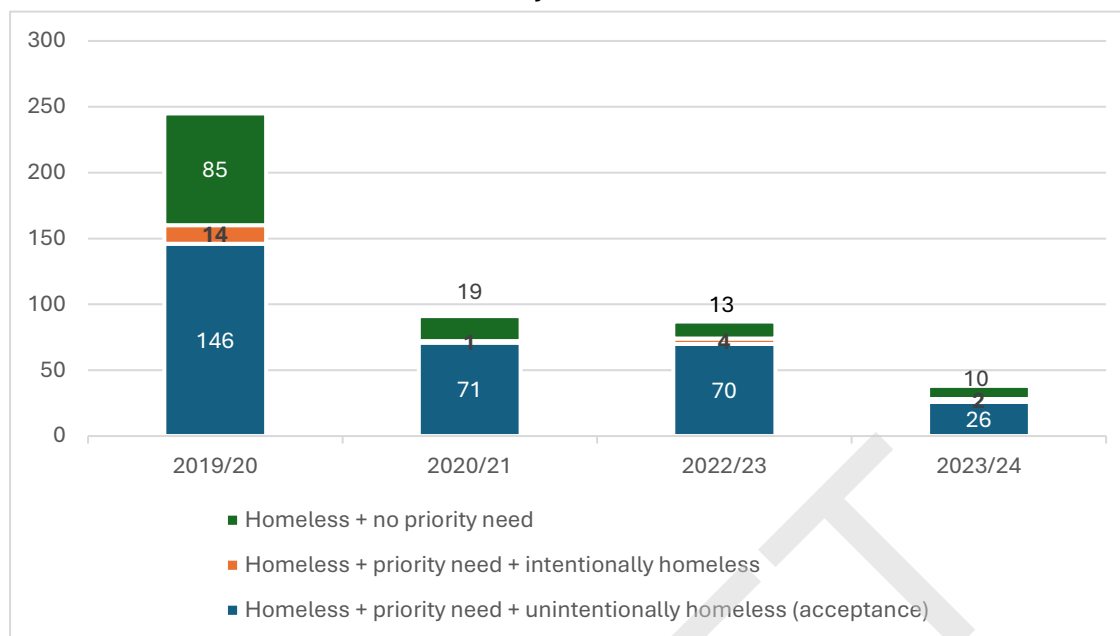


TABLE xx

Number households Owed a Main Duty

**TABLE xx mention period 2019/20 – 2023/24**Reason Prevention and Relief Duties Ended **Total should be 1542**

Reason for Duty Ending	Prevention	Relief	Total
Secured accommodation for 6+ months	217	579	796
56 days elapsed		421	421
Homeless (including intentionally homeless)	165		93
Withdrew application / applicant deceased	23	69	92
Contact lost	10	68	78
56 days elapsed and no further action	30		30
Refused final accommodation		20	20
Intentionally homeless from accommodation provided		10	10
Notice served due to refusal to cooperate		9	9
No longer eligible	1	4	5
Refused suitable accommodation offer	2		2
Local connection referral accepted by other LA		2	2
Refused to cooperate	2		2
Total	450	1182	1632

TABLE xx

Reason Main Duty Ended

Reason Main Duty Ended	Total
Housing Act 1996 Pt6 social housing offer - accepted	259
Refused suitable TA offer, withdrew or lost contact	26
Became intentionally homeless from TA	23
Housing Act 1996 Pt6 social housing offer - refused	13
Private rented sector offer - accepted	10
Voluntarily ceased to occupy	7
Ceased to be eligible	1
Private rented sector offer - refused	0
Not known	0
Total	339

TABLE xx

Duty ended due to accommodation for secured for 6+ months - by Type of Accommodation

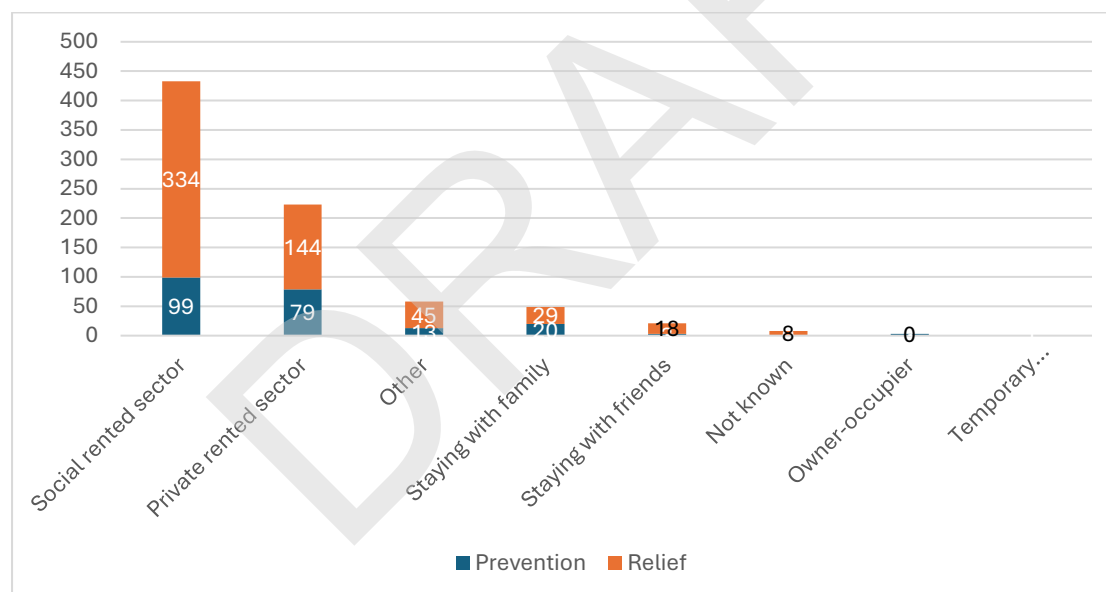


TABLE xx

Duty ended due to accommodation for secured for 6+ months - by Social and Private Rented Sector

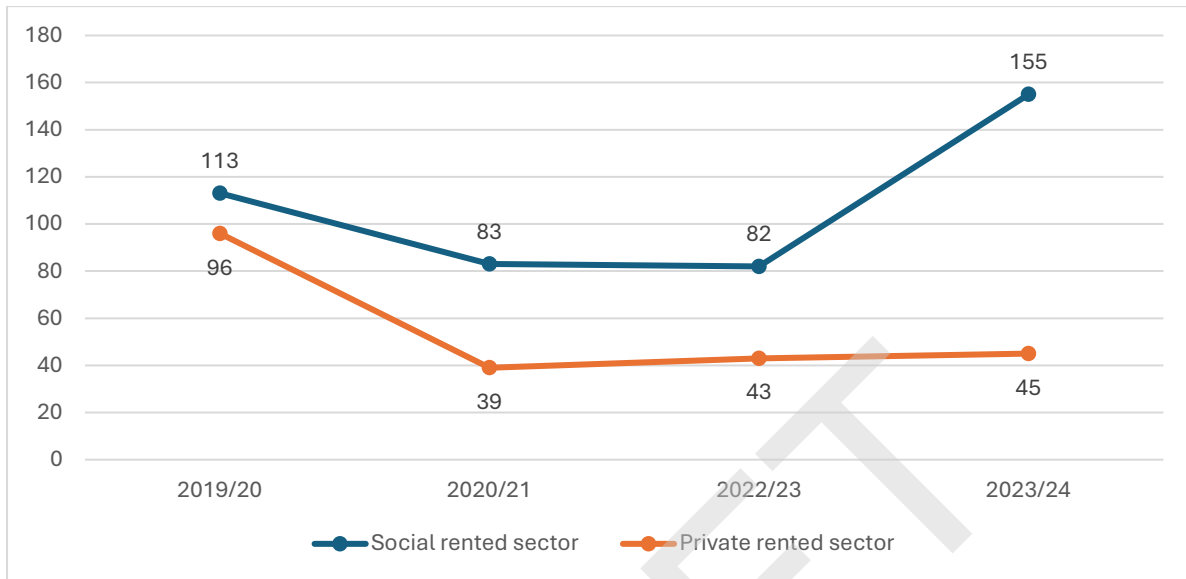


TABLE xx check spelling

Number of households owed duty by reason for loss, or threat of loss of last settled home 2019/20-2023/24

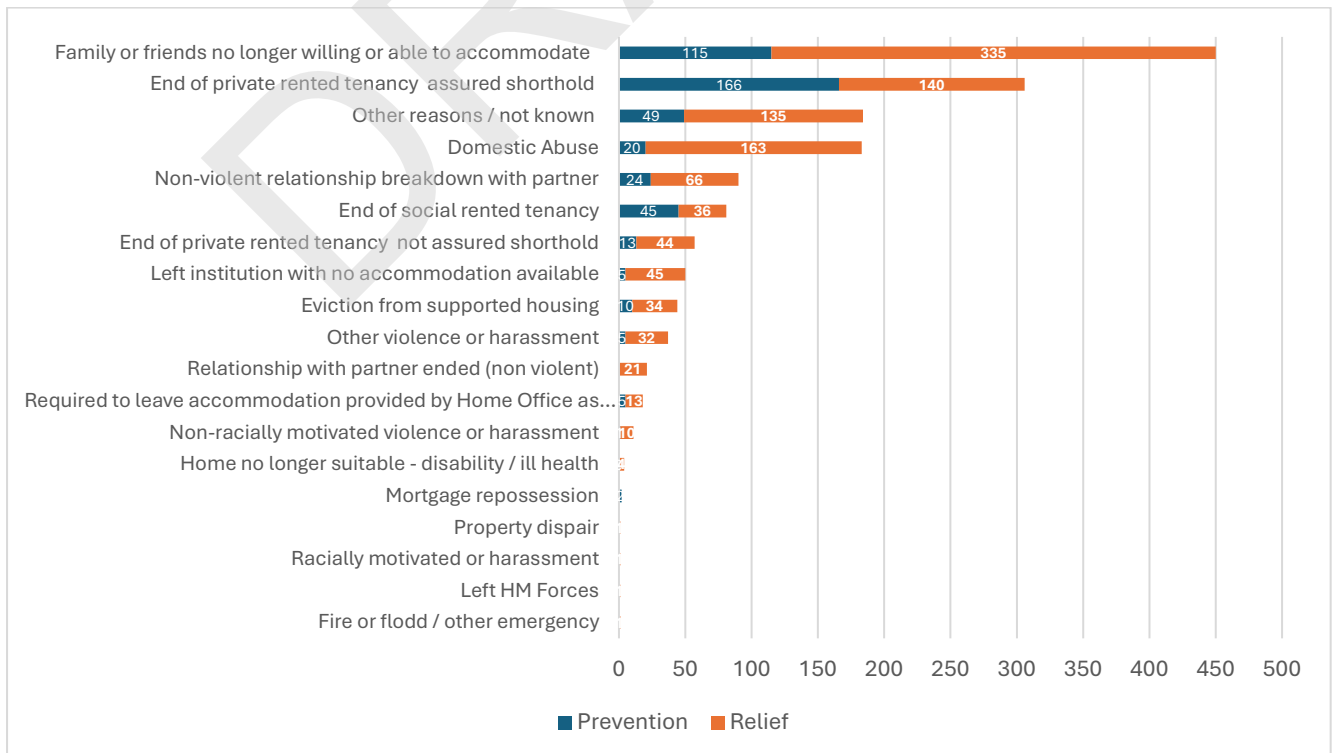


TABLE xx

Households with support needs

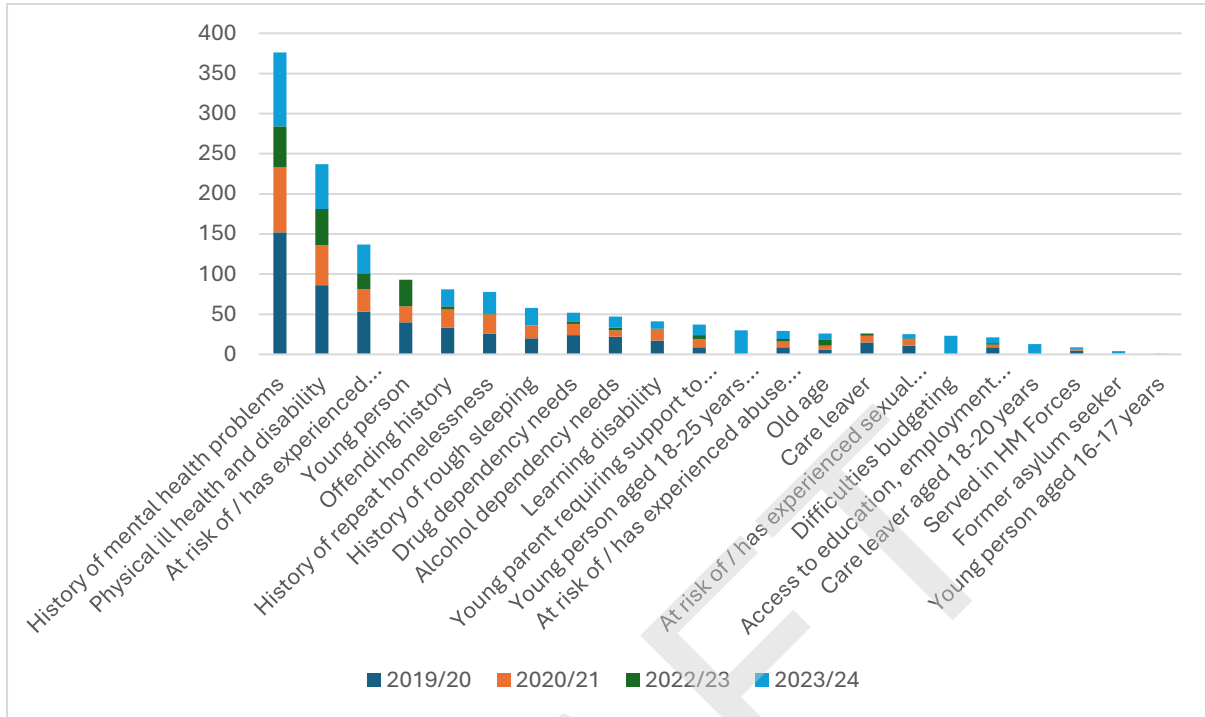


TABLE xx

Household Profile by Age

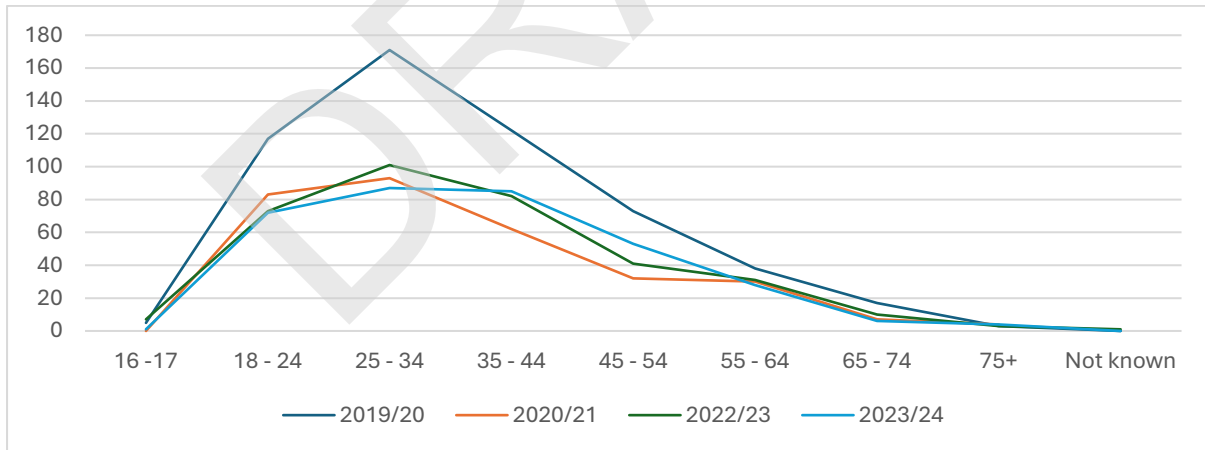


TABLE xx

Household Profile by Employment

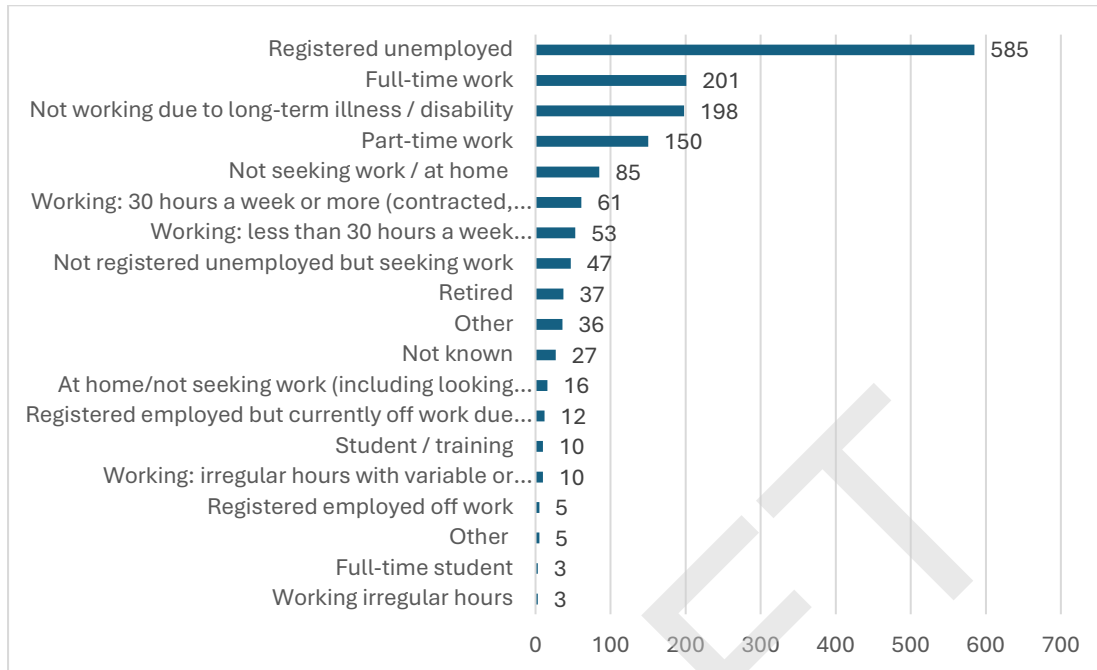


TABLE xx

Household Profile by Age

Profile		Total 2019/20 to 2023/24	2019/20	2023/24	% Change
Gender	Main applicant - Male				
	Man applicant - Female				
Age	16-17	13			
	18-24	345			
	25-34	452			
	35-44	351			
	45-54	199			
	55-64	127			
	65-74	40			
	75+	14			
	Not known	1			
Nationality	UK	1021			
	EEA	102			
	Non-EEA	67			
	Ireland	3			
	Not known	0			
Ethnicity	White	1281			
	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	99			
	Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	81			
	Asian / Asian British	39			
	Not known	24			
	Other ethnic groups	18			
Household	Single parent				
	Single parent with dependent children				
	Couple with dependent children				

Temporary Accommodation

TABLE xx

Number of households in Temporary Accommodation

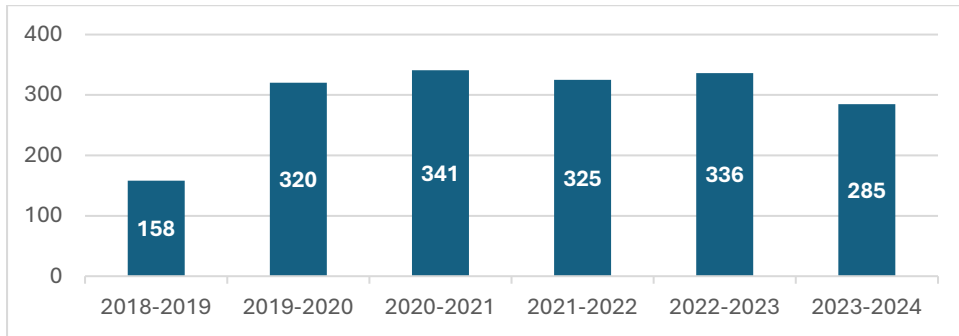


TABLE xx

Number of households in temporary accommodation by Accommodation Type

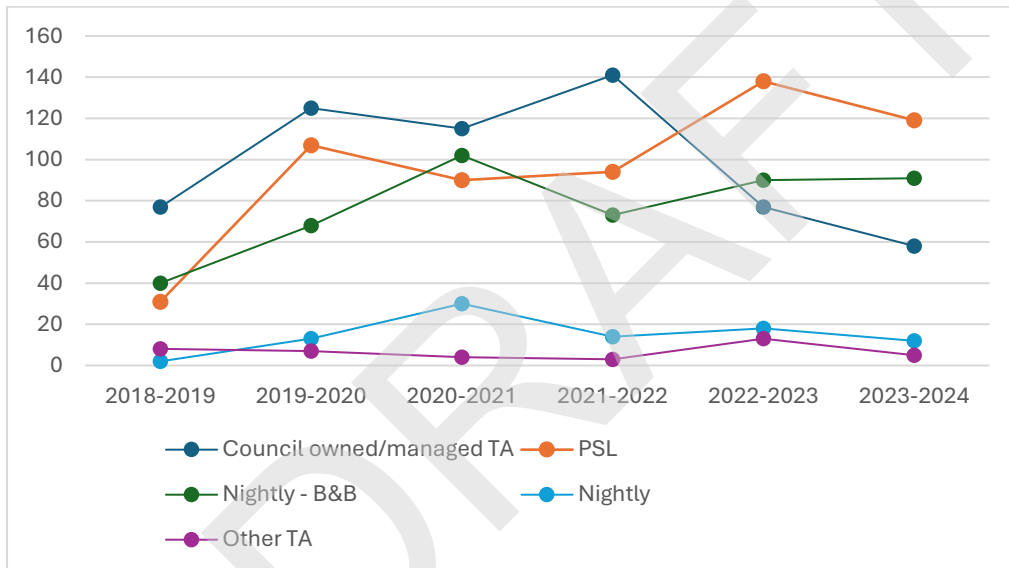


TABLE xx

Number of placements in temporary accommodation by Household Type

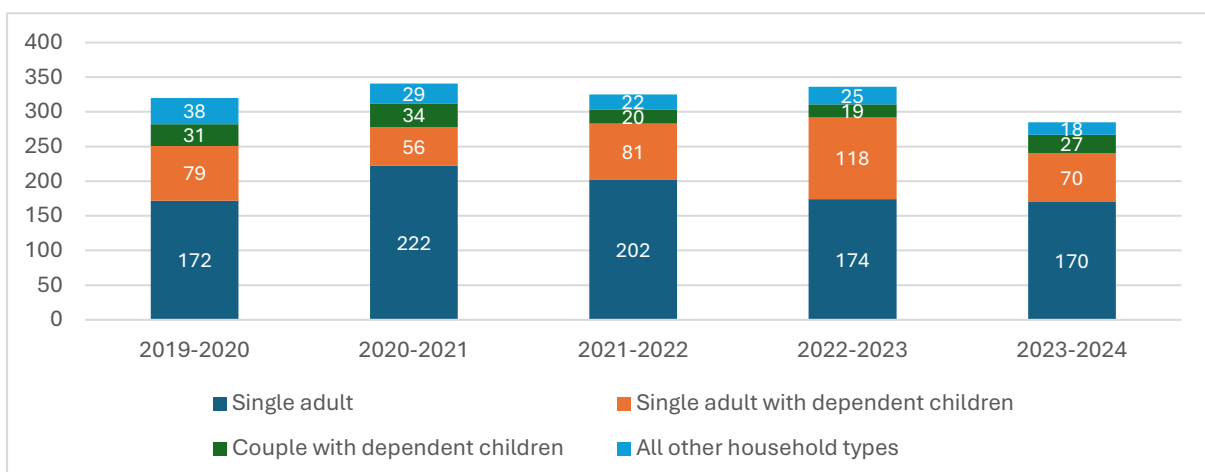


TABLE xx

Number of households in temporary accommodation by Accommodation and Household Type (2019/20-2023/24)

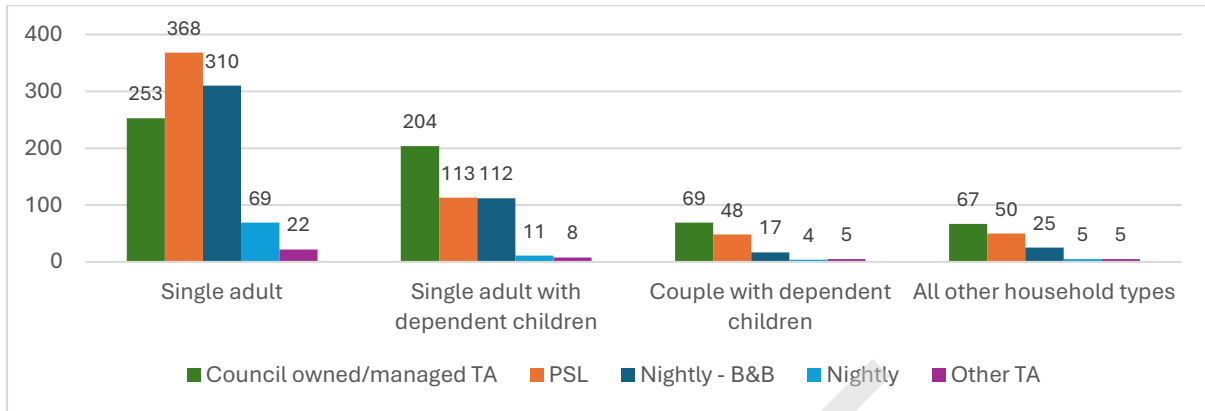
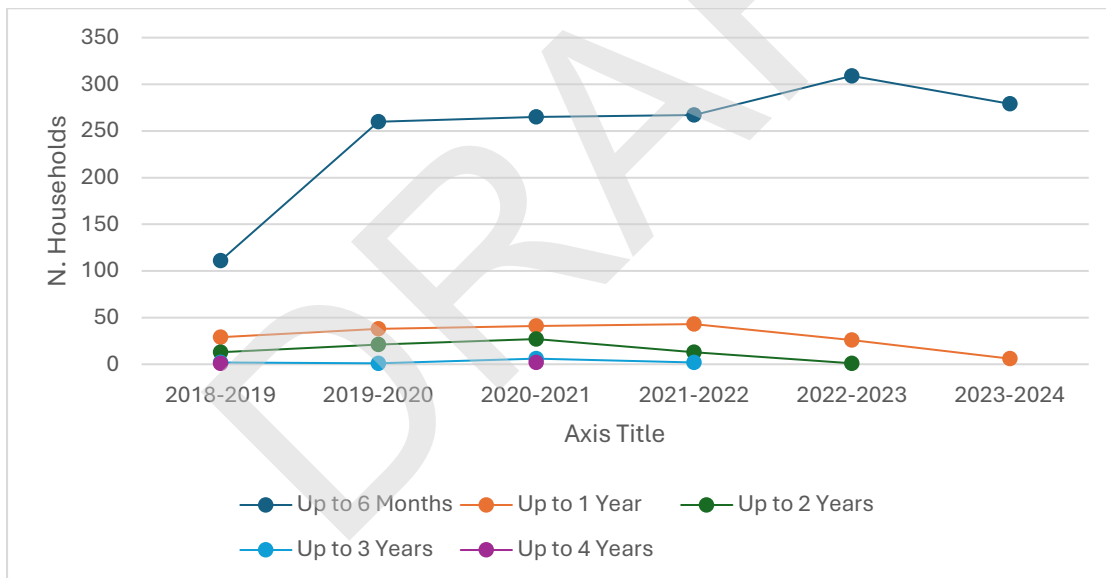


TABLE xx

Length of Stay in Temporary Accommodation



AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2024
Contact Officer:	Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk
Summary:	The report details the proposed changes to the current overview and scrutiny forward work programme.
Financial Implications:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity:	No new or existing policy or procedure has been recommended.

Scrutiny Committee – 19 November 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance

Summary

The report details the proposed changes to the current overview and scrutiny forward work programme. The Committee is asked to consider and agree the content of the new work programme.

1. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

- 1.2 A copy of the current work programme is attached at Appendix 1. At a Scrutiny Committee Pre-Meeting held with the Chair and Vice-Chair a number of changes were proposed, and the work programme has been updated using track changes so that these are clear to the Committee.
- 1.3 A revised work programme is attached at Appendix 2 for consideration and approval.

2. ITEMS TO BE SCHEDULED

- 2.2 It is suggested the following items are removed:
- Telephony System – to be included as part of a wider more strategic review of the Customer Service Journey
 - Performance and holding the Executive to Account – Portfolio Holders will be invited to future meetings depending on the nature of the topic and with the agreement of the Chair.
 - Review of Communications – as above to be included as part of a review of the Customer Service Journey
 - Provision of Youth Services – no further action is required.
 - Road improvements at Avon Mill/Hunters Lane – it is anticipated that Warwickshire County Council will engage with the Council as the project progresses.
 - Warm Banks – the topic was covered as part of the cost of living work carried out by the previous committee and no further action is required.

3. CURRENT REVIEWS

- 3.2 With the exception of the Digital Exclusion topic which will be incorporated

under the overall Customer Service Journey workstream, it is proposed that all current reviews be discontinued and any task and finish groups that were formed are disestablished.

4. MOTIONS FROM COUNCIL

- 4.1 The Motions from Council, as listed in the work programme, were all considered and actioned by the previous committee. Following the disestablishment of the task and finish groups there are no ongoing workstreams. Any new Motions from Council will be included on the agenda of the next meeting of the Committee.

5. FORWARD PLAN

- 5.1 The topics currently listed in the Forward Plan for the period December 2024 to March 2025 are available to download via the website - [Forward Plan](#).

6. HISTORIC ITEMS

- 6.1 There is one item carried over from 2020/21 on the topic of Health and Wellbeing and it is proposed this be removed from the work programme as the work is no longer required.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The committee is asked to consider and agree the future work programme.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 19 November 2024
Subject Matter: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY YES NO

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Meeting	Item	Description
All meetings	Motions referred to scrutiny	Motions from Council to be included on the next available meeting agenda.
All meetings	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	Long-term rolling work programme.
All meetings	Forward work programme and potential scrutiny topics	To discuss potential scrutiny topics and agree the work programme.

Items to be scheduled

Item	Report Description/Notes
Telephony System	Update on the purchase of a new telephony system. <u>Include within the Customer Service Journey topic</u>
Performance and holding the Executive to Account	Discussions with individual portfolio holders.
Crime and Disorder	Annual overview to scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken, by the responsible authorities that make up the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in connection with the discharge of their crime and disorder functions. <u>Included on the agenda at item 4.</u>
Annual Performance Report Progress on the Corporate Strategy Action Plans	The item will include an update on the strategies and action plans that feed into the delivery of the Corporate Strategy. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to attend.
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	An overview of the work carried out by scrutiny during 2023/24.
Annual review of Member training and development	Annual overview.
Review of Communication	To include internal and external communication. <u>Include within the Customer Service Journey topic</u>
Provision of Youth Services	A response from the Portfolio Holder at WCC was circulated by email. Links to the review of Young People in the Borough.

Road improvements at Avon Mill/Hunters Lane	Overview item. Warwickshire County Council has agreed to attend a future meeting.
Warm Banks	Monitoring of warm banks.

Current Reviews

Item	Report Description/Notes
Development of a Landlord Forum	The review work is ongoing.
Review of Access to Emergency Health Care Provision	The review report is included as a separate item on the agenda.
Digital Exclusion	The review work will commence once a task and finish group has been established. <u>Include within the Customer Service Journey topic</u>
Live Music Scene	The review work is ongoing.
Young People in the Borough	The review work is ongoing.
Community Supermarket	The review work is ongoing.

Motions from Council

Topic	Progress/Notes
Cost of Living—Reducing Fuel Poverty Cost of Living—Impact of Increases Cost of Living—Impact of the Energy Price Cap	The motions were addressed in a report to the meeting held on 14 November 2022 which identified a number of workstreams. A small sub-group of the committee was formed, made up of one Member from each political group to support the workstreams identified, to feedback to their own political group and to update the committee. A report on the outcomes and additional actions was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023.
Cost of Living—Impact on Children	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. No further immediate action was required.
Business Hubs	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. No further scrutiny was required.

Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. No further scrutiny was required.
Survey of Young People/Young People in the Borough	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. A task and finish group has been established.
Landlord Forum	A report was considered by the Committee on 30 January 2023. A task and finish group has been established to carry out research on successful examples of Landlord Forums and inform the next steps and terms of reference.
Rugby's Live Music Scene	A report was considered on 11 September 2023 and a task and finish group has been established.
Digital Exclusion	A report was considered on 20 November 2023 and a task and finish group is being established. <u>See comment in the table above.</u>
Community Safety	Council on 25 October 2023 referred a motion to Scrutiny Committee. A report was considered on 20 November 2023. No further scrutiny was required. An overview would be maintained.
Community Supermarket	A report was considered on 29 January 2024 and a task and finish group has been established.
Monitoring of Engagement of Consultation Exercises	A report was considered on 5 March 2024.

Work programme Items carried over from 2020/21. The Committee may decide whether to remove these from the work programme

Topic	Timescale	Notes
Health and Wellbeing	To be agreed	Linked to recovery of the Covid-19 pandemic. A place-based Health and Wellbeing Strategy had initial conversations between the Chief Officer for Leisure & Wellbeing and Chief Officer Communities & Homes to outline the development of the new strategy. The situation is a significantly different picture to when this topic was originally tabled. The Chief Executive chairs the Rugby Health and Wellbeing Partnership working with a broad range of partners to identify new priorities for the group going forward. The group is made up of representatives from Public Health, the Strategy team and UHCW and GP's. There is also pilot work being carried out around area-based action plans.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Item	Description	Meeting Date
Motions referred to scrutiny	Motions from Council to be included on the next available meeting agenda.	All Meetings
Forward work programme and potential scrutiny topics	To discuss potential scrutiny topics and agree the work programme.	All Meetings
Crime and Disorder	Annual overview to scrutinise decisions made, and actions taken, by the responsible authorities that make up the Rugby Community Safety Partnership in connection with the discharge of their crime and disorder functions.	September 2025
Corporate Strategy Action Plans	The strategies and action plans that feed into the delivery of the Corporate Strategy. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council to attend.	January 2026
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	An overview of the work carried out by scrutiny during 2024/25.	March 2025
Annual review of Member training and development	Annual overview.	March 2025
People Strategy	To review the People Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet.	8 January 2025
Customer Service Journey	Customer Engagement and Consultation Strategy Telephony System Digital Exclusion Communication	TBC TBC TBC TBC
Local Plan	Overview of progress and timescales of the production of the next Local Plan	TBC
Homelessness Strategy	To review the Homelessness Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet.	TBC
Budget Setting Process	Fees and Charges	8 January 2025
Town Centre Regeneration	Overview of progress of town centre regeneration workstreams Economic Strategy	TBC
Finance and Performance	Review of quarterly finance and performance reports prior to consideration by Cabinet	Q2 – 8 January 2025