

**Committee:** Housing Board  
**Title:** Homelessness Update  
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## Summary

1. This report is to brief members on:-
  - The homelessness figures for the first 2 quarters of 2018/19 and an update on the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act

## Recommendations

2. That the Housing Board notes this report

## Financial Implications

3. None

## Background Papers

4. None

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	N/A
Community Safety	N/A
Equalities	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A
Human Rights/Legal Implications	N/A
Sustainability	N/A
Ward-specific impacts	N/A
Workforce/Workplace	N/A

**Situation**

6. The table below shows the comparative homelessness statistics for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

	Q1 and Q2 2017/18	Q1 and Q2 2018/19
Homelessness Presentations	60	72
Homelessness Preventions	31	25

- 7. The increase in number of homelessness applications being taken is partly due to the new Homelessness Reduction Act legislation which means that people can now come to us for statutory assistance within 56 days on being homeless or threatened with homelessness, whereas previously it was 28 days
- 8. The main reasons for homelessness continues to be the ending of private rented tenancies, parental/friend evictions and relationship breakdowns
- 9. The number of active prevention cases that the Housing Options Team are currently dealing with is 41. These are cases where they are actively working with clients to prevent homelessness or relieve homelessness. These clients have personalised housing plans that they have agreed with their case officer, who then works with the client to prevent homelessness or to find them an alternative sustainable housing solution. Many of these clients have complex needs such as mental health problems and alcohol and drug addictions. Many also have debt issues.
- 10. The Homelessness Reduction Act has increased the workload of the team particularly with the increase in data that has to be collected and recorded for each case and returned to government. The council has therefore decided to use some of the grant money received from government to help with the implementation of Act to employ another homelessness prevention officer, initially on a two year fixed term contract.
- 11. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 other statutory agencies have had a duty to refer any clients that they are coming into contact with who are at risk of homelessness within 56 days to the local authorities housing options service. The team have a dedicated email address for agencies to use and this has been discussed at the council’s homelessness partnerships meetings.

12. The situation remains difficult as far as finding alternative housing for people is concerned, which is why the homelessness prevention figure has not increased in the first half of this year.

13. The private rented sector continues to be unaffordable within this area for most of the people we are seeing. It is therefore essential that the supply of affordable housing is maintained, as for many this is the only housing option that is realistically affordable and sustainable for them.

## Risk Analysis

14.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Lack of affordable housing within the district	2	3	Ensuring that 40% affordable housing target is met on all Section 106 sites

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.