



NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY 2019-2024

Service Area	Housing & Neighbourhood Services		
Strategy Owner	Head of Housing & Neighbourhood Services		
Introduced	2020	Last Reviewed	n/a
Version	One	Review Date	2024

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1 Introduction

This Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy sets out how the district and borough councils of North Northamptonshire intend to meet the needs of our residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including rough sleeping. It reviews our performance, identifies challenges that we face to the delivery of our service, and describes how we will go about addressing homelessness and rough sleeping in North Northamptonshire.

This Strategy has been prepared and agreed jointly between Corby Borough Council (CBC), East Northamptonshire Council (ENC), Kettering Borough Council (KBC), and the Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW), in co-ordination with services currently provided by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and local health services. Together the area covered by the four above-named district and borough councils (the Councils) is referred to as North Northamptonshire.

2 Strategic Background

2.1 Local Government Reorganisation

North Northamptonshire is one of the two new unitary authorities which will be created by the restructuring of Northamptonshire County Council and the district and borough councils within the Northamptonshire area. This will involve the abolition of the eight current authorities (including the Councils and NCC) and the necessary transformation of the services provided by these authorities, such as housing and homelessness services. As we prepare to become operational as a unitary authority on 1 April 2021, the Councils recognise the increased importance of collaborative working in order to achieve the vision, aims and objectives of this Strategy. This applies equally to our work with partner agencies and the voluntary sector who are a vital part of tackling homelessness in North Northamptonshire.

2.2 Strategic Housing Context

Across the country levels of homelessness are increasing: North Northamptonshire is no exception. Within the housing sector, issues of housing supply and affordability; population growth; and economic circumstances including welfare reforms and provision of funding are all aspects we must take into account when considering our provision for reducing and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping.

With levels of homelessness increasing, what has been largely a hidden problem has become far more visible with many more people living on the streets. The increase in incidences of homelessness can be seen as a symptom of a broken housing market. This varies in nature from place to place but the main factors leading to the breakdown of the housing market are:

- a) A growing population and changing demographics – Northamptonshire's population has grown by 30% over the past thirty years compared to an increase across the country of 16.8%. This has resulted in increasing demand for housing, and the nature of that demand is changing with many more single and elderly people looking for a home.

- b) Too few new homes are being built – the Government estimates that between 250,000 and 300,000 new homes are required every year across the country, but in 2017/18 only 160,000 were actually built. The reasons for this are complex, but key influences are the collapse in house construction following the 2008 financial crisis and cuts in Government grant support for new social housing.
- c) Home ownership is unaffordable for many people – the average house price in Northamptonshire as a whole is £290,209 - home ownership is well out of reach for people on low or even middle-incomes.
- d) Soaring private sector rents – for people who are unable to buy, the alternative of renting privately is scarcely a better option - the average rent in Northamptonshire is £762 per calendar month (pcm). At the bottom end of the market, the average monthly rent for a room in a shared house in Northamptonshire has increased from £378 pcm in January 2016 to £446 pcm in January 2019 - an 18% increase over three years.
- e) Welfare reform and increases in evictions by private landlords – the Government froze Local Housing Allowance for a four-year period before a minor increase in 2019. At a time when private rents are soaring, lower income households are increasingly unable to pay the rents demanded by landlords. Section 21 evictions by private landlords are now the biggest reason for homelessness in Northamptonshire. In Kettering, for example, 54 households became homeless because they lost a private sector tenancy in 2017/18. This contrasts with a figure of 13 households in 2014/15.
- f) Reductions in funding for local authority delivered supported housing – the cessation of the Supporting People programme has resulted in the loss of many units of supported accommodation and valuable ‘floating support’ programmes across the county. This has inevitably disproportionately affected the most vulnerable people in our community and has directly resulted in an increase in street homelessness.

In a broken housing market, many of the housing solutions that are usually available are no longer a realistic option for a wide range of people. In these circumstances, increasing demand from homeless households and longer waiting lists for social housing are the inevitable outcome.

Using the vision from the Government’s Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, in order to address these challenges North Northamptonshire’s focus is on:

1. preventing homelessness and rough sleeping (Prevent);
2. early intervention for those at risk (Intervene); and
3. relief through appropriate accommodation and support services (Recover).

As well as having regard to national initiatives, this Strategy complements the Housing Plan or Strategy and Allocations Policy of each current local authority within North Northamptonshire. The districts and boroughs currently work closely together in relation to housing matters and benefit from shared good practice and collaboration on homeless issues.

3 Legal Context

To be homeless has a wide meaning, beyond the most visible effect of rough sleeping. Various pieces of legislation and guidance, including the recent Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (HRA), set out the full definitions and duties that we owe to those who are homeless, threatened with homelessness, or sleeping rough.

Measures implemented in April 2018 by the HRA place a greater duty on local authorities and legally oblige them to assess and provide assistance to all those who are eligible and homeless, or threatened with homelessness, irrespective of their priority need status. This includes prevention and relief duties, which centre on helping service users to remain in their existing home or secure new accommodation, with a strengthened focus on single people who may be at greater risk of sleeping rough.

Another provision of the HRA to note is the Duty to Refer. This places a statutory duty on specified public authorities to refer a person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local housing authority, with their consent. Specified public authorities include:

- Prisons (public and contracted out);
- Youth offender institutions and youth offending teams;
- Secure training centres (public and contracted out) and colleges;
- Probation services (community rehabilitation companies and national probation service);
- Jobcentre plus;
- Accident and emergency services provided in a hospital;
- Urgent treatment centres, and hospitals in their capacity of providing in-patient treatment;
- Social service authorities; and
- Ministry of Defence.

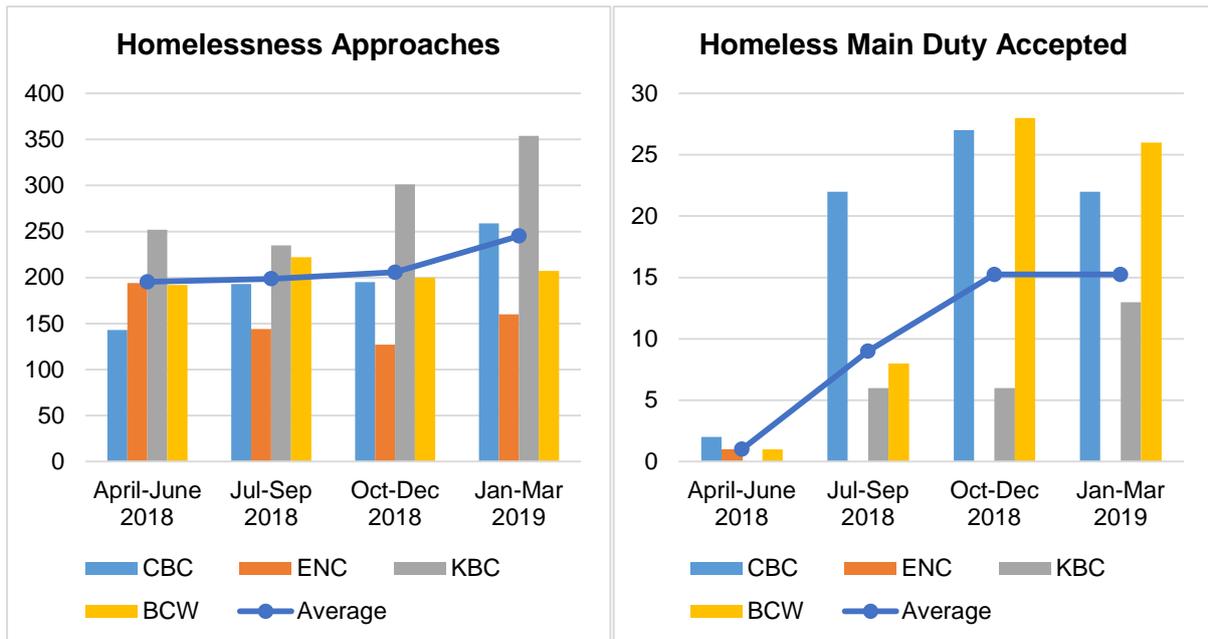
In conjunction with the HRA, the Government has set out a plan of action to significantly reduce the number of people sleeping rough. This includes a number of commitments, support and funding as set out in the national [Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) introduced in August 2018.

4 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

4.1 Levels of homelessness

In recent years the county of Northamptonshire has seen significant increases in homelessness (with the exception of ENC). From 547 in 2014/15, the number of homelessness acceptances across all local authority areas in the county increased to 1286 in 2017/18 – a rise of 135%.

In North Northamptonshire, the increase in homelessness approaches and overall waiting list numbers reflects a growing demand for affordable housing. Between 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019 CBC and KBC had an approximate 23% increase in active application numbers. During the same period ENC and BCW saw an increase

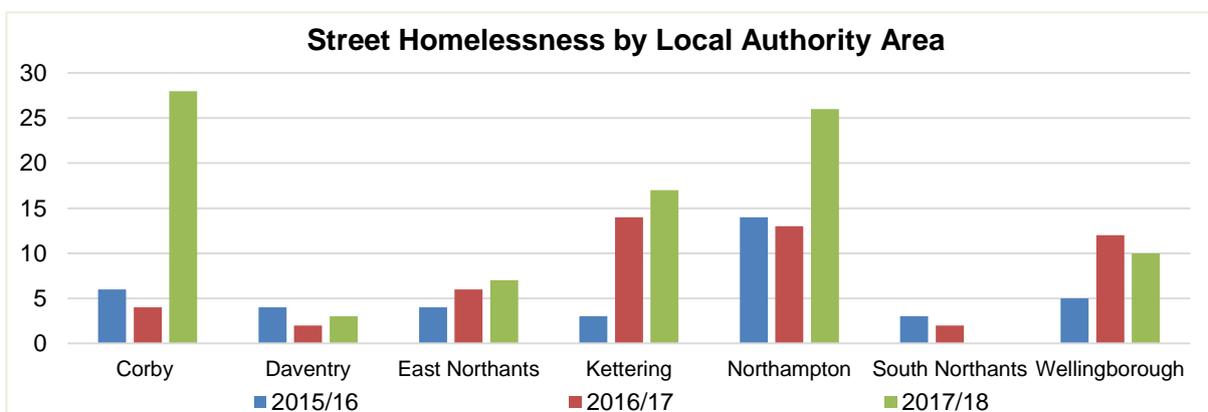


of just under 4%, giving an average increase in active applications across North Northamptonshire of 13.4%.

Since the introduction of the HRA in April 2018 main duty acceptances increased for all Councils except for ENC, and the increase was significant for CBC and BCW over the first three quarters, before numbers decreased slightly in quarter four. The number of homelessness approaches also increased to the end of the year for CBC and KBC, whilst remaining largely consistent for BCW and falling overall for ENC.

4.2 Rough sleeping

Across Northamptonshire there was an increase in street homelessness of 135% over the three years to January 2019. As shown in the following table (taken from a report on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping to the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board in September 2019) CBC, KBC and BCW are particularly under



pressure from increasing levels of rough sleeping between 2015/16 and 2017/18.

Within North Northamptonshire estimates of rough sleeper numbers are carried out periodically. Data from 2018/19 records that approximately 70% of rough sleepers are UK nationals, with EEA nationals a significant part of the remainder. The majority of rough sleepers are single males, with some females and couples. Geographically rough sleeping is primarily an issue in town areas as opposed to rural parts of North Northamptonshire. The main challenges identified amongst the Councils were engagement with this hard-to-reach group, sharing intelligence with partners, language barriers, and ineligibility.

CBC have prepared a rough sleeping offer as part of ongoing engagement work, a copy of which is included at Appendix A. North Northamptonshire will look to adopt a similar offer to assist engagement with customers who are sleeping rough.

The following figures evidence the importance of strengthening ties with partners in order to obtain the most accurate data regarding rough sleeping.

No. rough sleepers	2017	2018 spotlight count / estimate	Updated as at Jan-Feb 2019
CBC	4 (shelter open)	28 (shelter closed)	18 in SWEP 2019, 12 in April 2019, 19 rehoused during Nightlight close down period
ENC	6	7	2 in SWEP 2019
KBC	14	17	3 in SWEP 2019, 27 identified in Jan 2019
BCW	12	10	31 known, 20 identified during Q3 (winter) 2018/19, 11 more in SWEP 2019

SWEP refers to the Councils' Severe Weather Emergency Protocols. These are processes put in place by local authorities to protect those sleeping rough during severe weather, especially during the winter months, by providing emergency accommodation.

Sadly, there have been a few occasions in Northamptonshire when people have died whilst sleeping on the streets or in temporary accommodation. Over the past three years, one person died whilst rough sleeping and four have passed away whilst in temporary accommodation. The Chief Housing Officers Group (CHOG) and Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board have put arrangements in place for investigating such deaths, identifying trends and issues of concern, and agreeing action that can be taken by agencies to reduce the likelihood of any future fatalities.

4.3 Reasons for homelessness

There are a variety of factors that may cause homelessness, many of which can be inter-related, making it a complex issue to tackle. These may be economic reasons such as welfare policy or employment status, factors relating to housing like the supply and affordability of accommodation, interpersonal issues such as relationship breakdown or domestic abuse, and individual aspects like mental health conditions or substance abuse.

The Government commissioned a [feasibility study](#), published in March 2019, which looks in depth at the underlying risk factors and causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

Across North Northamptonshire the primary reasons for homelessness reported by individuals who lost accommodation in 2018/19 (and the average numbers of homelessness assessments associated with each reason) were:

1. End of a private rented tenancy (637);
2. Family / friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (458);
3. Relationship with partner ended, including domestic abuse (290); and
4. Other (202).

KBC identified an increase over three years in family or friends no longer being willing or able to provide accommodation. As shown by the following table (taken from data provided to the CHOG), BCW had slightly higher numbers of cases due to family / friends no longer willing or able to accommodate, in comparison to the end of a private rented tenancy which was ranked in second place. CBC had relatively low numbers of 'other' reasons for homelessness assessments, less than the end of social rented accommodation and eviction from supported housing.

Reason for Homelessness Assessment	CBC	ENC	KBC	BCW
Relationship with partner ended (non-violent breakdown)	42	32	72	43
Domestic Abuse	11	10	41	39
End of social rented	20	15	44	31
End of private rented tenancy (AST)	153	88	155	150
End of private rented tenancy (non AST)	61	7	13	10
Eviction from supported housing	11	14	8	19
Family no longer willing/able to accommodate	89	55	98	141
Friends no longer willing/able to accommodate	21	8	18	28
Fire/flood/other emergency	1	0	3	1
Left HM Forces	2	0	0	1
Left institution with no accommodation available	6	4	20	16
Mortgage repossession	0	0	4	4
Non-racially motivated/other motivated violence or harassment	2	5	7	18
Racially motivated violence or harassment	0	0	1	3
Other	10	36	99	57
Property disrepair	1	0	5	2
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as Asylum Support	0	0	0	0
Total for April - March (2018 / 19)	430	274	588	563

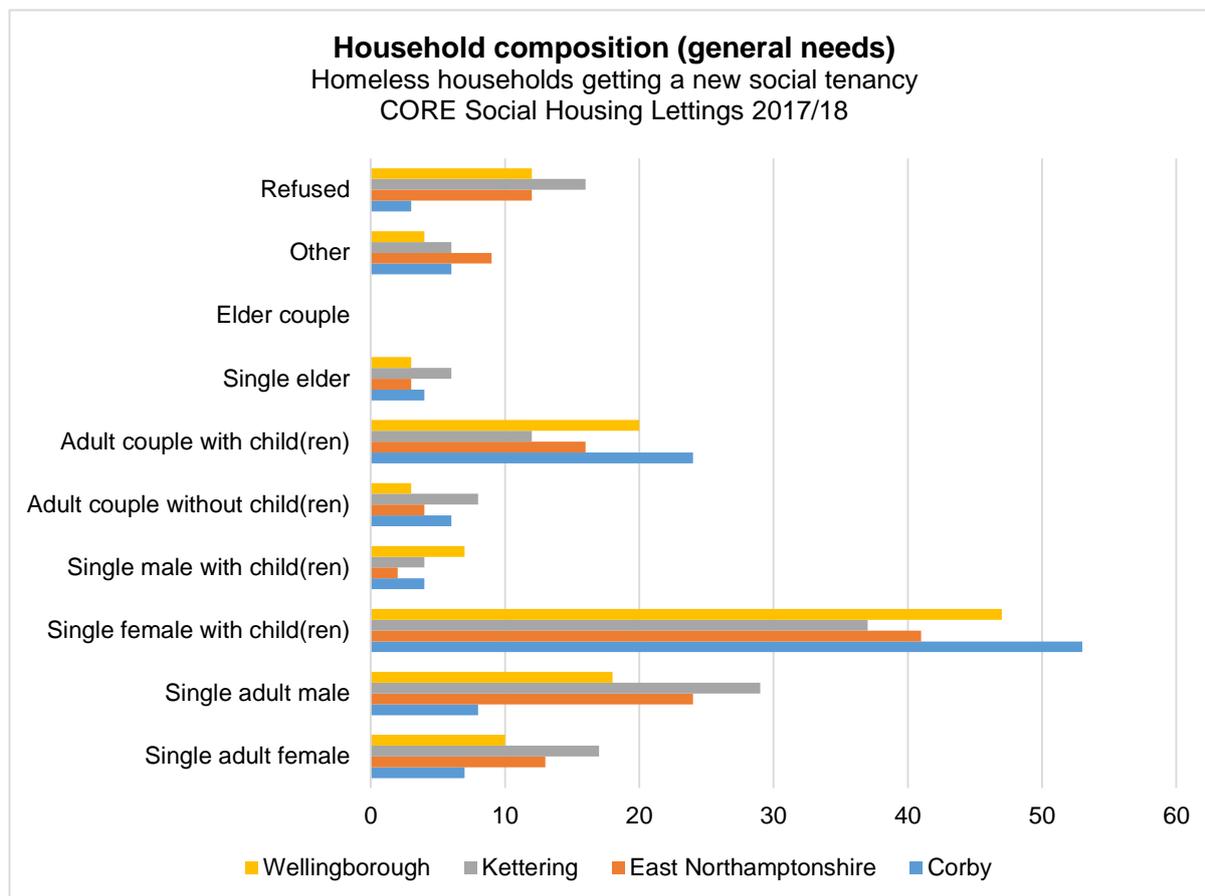
4.4 Characteristics

Although there is some variation in the data collected, all the Councils collate basic data on the characteristics of those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Data taken from KBC and BCW in 2017/18 shows the majority of service users are White British and aged between 26-40 years. KBC reported the most common priority need being a household with children, followed by physical or mental health / disability. They had an increase in homeless single person households (mostly

male) to 2018 and found the majority of support needs were a history of mental health problems, followed by physical ill health / disability.

CORE lettings data for 2017/18 (displayed in the chart below) shows the most common household composition across North Northamptonshire was 'single female with child / children' (36% of the total number of homeless households getting a new social tenancy), followed by 'single adult male' households (16%), then 'adult couple

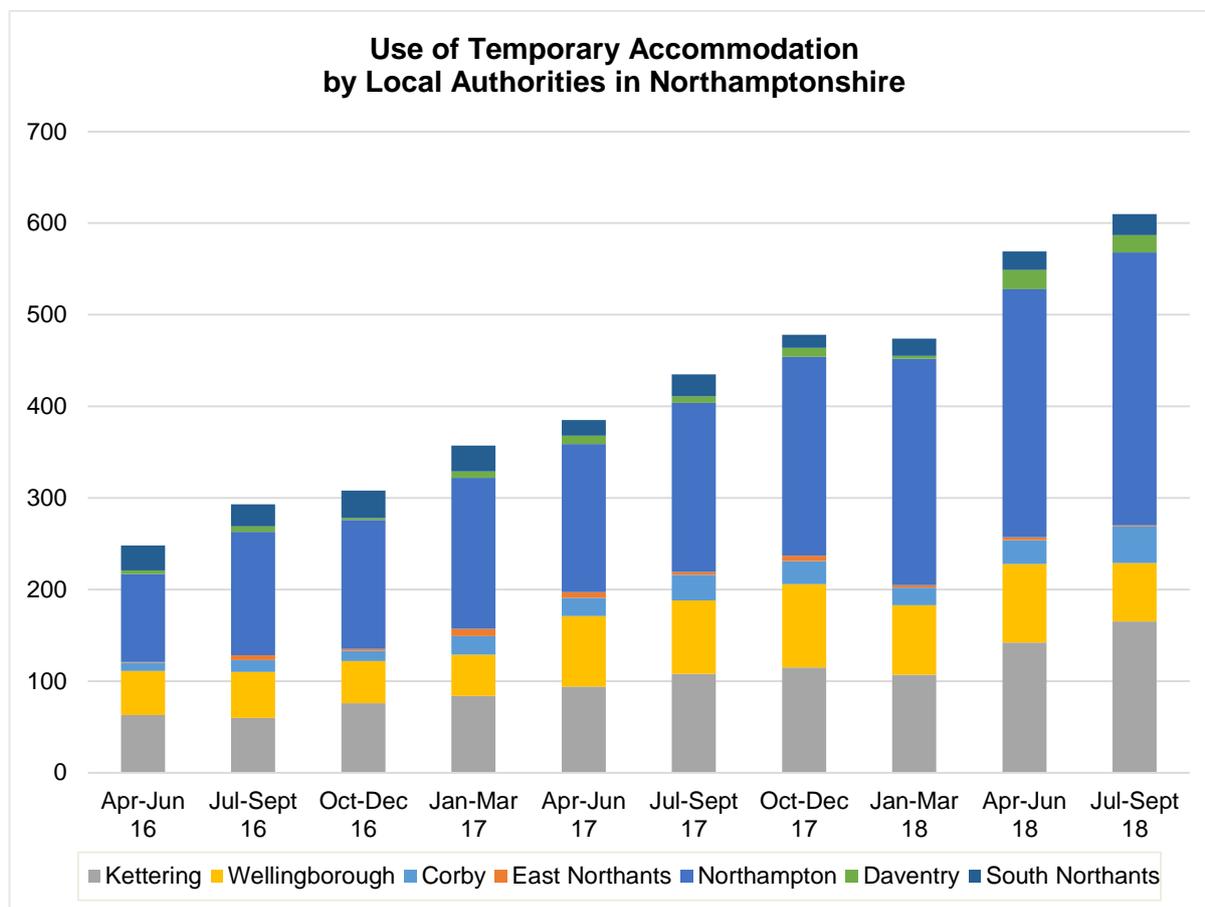


with child / children' (14%).

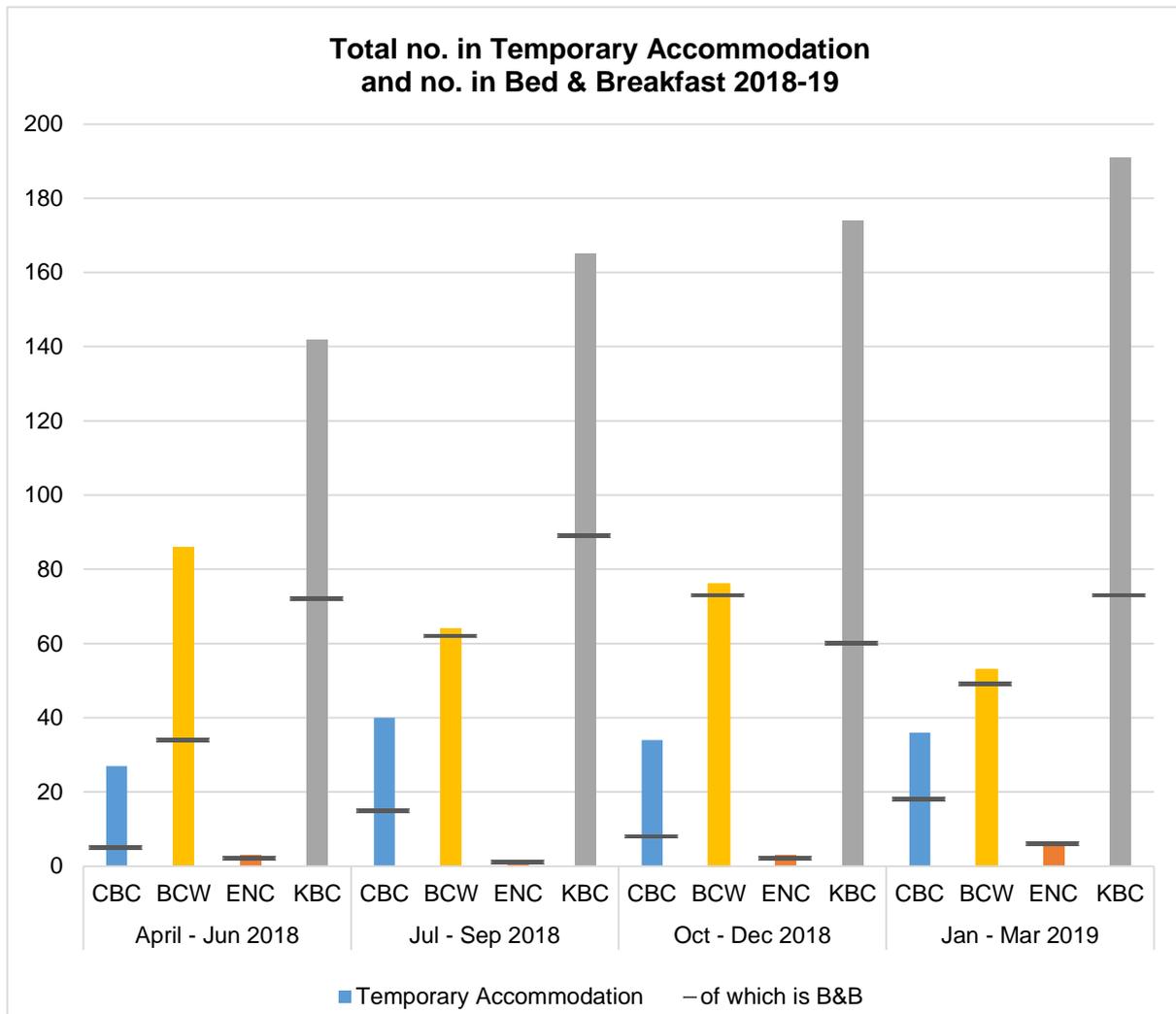
The HRA states that local authorities' homelessness service must meet the needs of persons in the district or borough who have certain characteristics, including: care leavers, persons released from prison or hospital, those who have experienced domestic abuse, former members of the regular armed forces and persons suffering from a mental illness or impairment. Whilst other health and wellbeing factors such as substance misuse are not specifically listed in the legislation, the HRA also provides that services must meet the needs of any other group of people that the authority identifies as being at particular risk of homelessness. In order to meet these needs it is important that data on specific and locally relevant characteristics is both collated and used by the Councils to inform services.

4.5 Temporary accommodation

Across Northamptonshire the number of households in temporary accommodation has more than doubled between the second quarters of 2016/17 and 2018/19 (table taken from a report on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping to the Northamptonshire Safeguarding Adults Board in September 2019).



In North Northamptonshire, both the total numbers in temporary accommodation (TA), and, out of that total, the number in bed & breakfast accommodation (B&B) in 2018/19 varies throughout the year and between authorities (as shown in the following chart). The clearest trends can be seen in the total numbers in TA, with KBC's increasing throughout the year and BCW's decreasing. Out of the quarterly totals the proportion in B&B for KBC reduces in quarters three and four, and increases for BCW in quarters two to four. For CBC and ENC the total numbers in TA vary, but overall increase during the year. The numbers in B&B, as a proportion of the total number in TA, in BCW increased significantly in quarter two and remained higher for the remainder of the year.



The average length of time spent in TA fluctuates from eight weeks (reported by CBC), to eight months for KBC, and between six and nine months for BCW. Therefore it can be misleading to rely on averages to analyse the length of time spent in TA. For example within KBC's average of eight months, just under a 1/3rd of cases were temporarily housed for up to three months, and only three cases spent three years or more in TA.

All local authorities across North Northamptonshire are seeking to increase the supply of TA in response to rising demand. However, ultimately, the Councils wish to reduce their reliance on TA and develop short term accommodation options which are more flexible, less costly and better meet the changing needs of homeless households.

4.6 Population

North Northamptonshire has a growing population. CBC, currently the smallest, aims to double its population by 2031 and has a projected increase in the number of households of 39% from 2014 to 2039. This would be the largest percentage increase in Northamptonshire during this time period: KBC has a projected 26%

increase, ENC 24% and BCW 21%. To put this into context, the national projected increase is 23% (MHCLG's [2014-based household projections](#), live table 425).

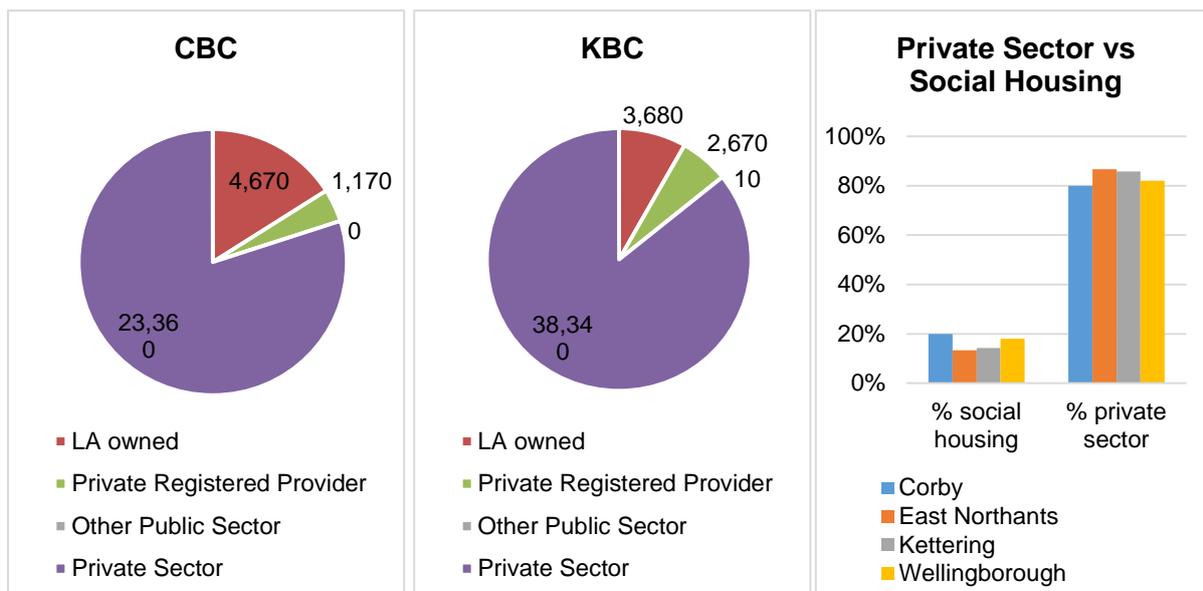
All the Councils have a projected increase in the number of households aged 75+ years above the national average (save for CBC in the 85+ age group). ENC particularly is projected to have a significant increase in households within these age groups. At the other end of the scale, CBC, KBC and BCW all have an increase in households under the age of 25 which is higher than the rest of England, especially so for CBC. The greatest divergence can be seen between the percentage changes in East Northamptonshire (where households aged 25-54 years are either predicted to decrease more, or increase less, than the rest of the country, to 2039) and Corby, reflecting the more rural nature of ENC's area.

No. households in 2014 (thousands)								
MHCLG's 2014-based household projections – live table 414								
Area	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
England	792	3,145	4,071	4,572	3,685	3,299	2,254	928
Northamptonshire	10	42	55	63	48	43	26	11
Corby	1	5	5	6	4	3	2	1
East Northamptonshire	1	4	6	8	6	6	4	1
Kettering	1	6	8	9	6	6	4	2
Wellingborough	1	4	6	7	5	5	3	1

Percentage change in no. households 2014-2039								
based on MHCLG's 2014-based household projections – live table 414								
Area	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-84	85+
England	11.6%	-7.2%	5.7%	12.3%	19.6%	29.0%	70.1%	143.7%
Northamptonshire	21.1%	-2.9%	2.6%	11.8%	17.4%	34.3%	100.0%	184.8%
Corby	75.4%	8.7%	27.2%	29.0%	35.6%	52.0%	94.9%	142.3%
East Northamptonshire	6.8%	-15.1%	-13.5%	-0.9%	8.6%	38.6%	114.6%	234.2%
Kettering	31.4%	3.3%	-3.3%	15.5%	15.2%	30.7%	92.7%	168.7%
Wellingborough	19.2%	-7.5%	-3.8%	7.5%	12.3%	23.4%	89.6%	166.8%

4.7 Housing supply

North Northamptonshire is facing a rising demand for affordable housing, as could be expected from the increasing population. An example of this is an increase in the number of applications on the Keyways waiting list of 23% between 1 April 2018 and 1 April 2019 for CBC and KBC. The highest demand overall is within the town areas, although ENC also reports pressure on their affordable supply in rural areas, where prices are generally higher and supply lower.



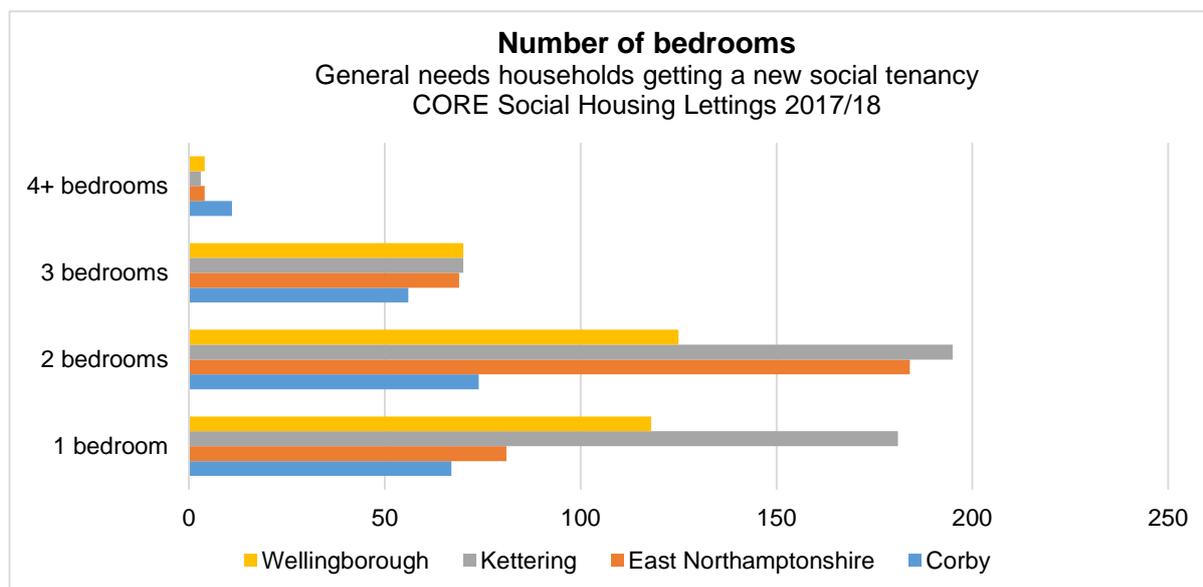
The housing supply as at 1 April 2018 (taken from the MHCLG's [live data table 100](#)) shows the tenure breakdown between the smallest and largest stock retaining Council areas. The third chart above illustrates the split between the private and social housing sectors across North Northamptonshire.

The Councils report an increase in the size of the private rented sector, for example CBC from 6.3% in 2001 to 16.6% in 2011, KBC from 15% in 2011 to 20% in 2017 and ENC recorded 12% of households renting privately in 2011. This increase has been tempered by the changes in 'buy to let' law for landlords.

In order to meet demand each local authority area needs to target gaps in supply within their action plans. Below are some of the headline gaps for each area:

LA	Gaps in supply
CBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supported housing, particularly for permanent support issues. Short period without a permanent homeless shelter (new facility opening winter 2019). Smaller-sized properties (especially one and two beds).
ENC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller-sized properties, particularly in rural areas. Potential shortage of specialist accommodation for older persons. Affordable accommodation in rural areas.
KBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger family accommodation (particularly four or more beds). Disabled adapted accommodation. Recent loss of supported accommodation (for young people / teenage parents / mental health). Comparative decrease in new properties for social rent since the introduction of affordable rent. No permanent homeless shelter.
BCW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest demand is for two bed properties, then one bed self-contained accommodation. No permanent homeless shelter.

The numbers of social housing units newly let to general needs households in 2017/18 provides a representation of demand. The table below shows those lettings



based on the number of bedrooms in the dwelling.

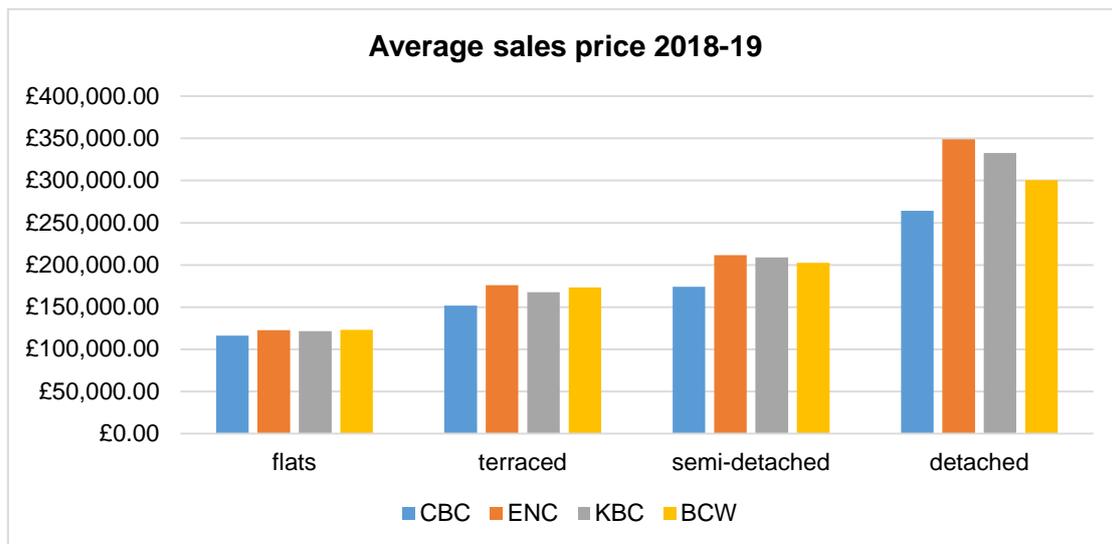
Development of new affordable housing varies between the Councils and is achieved through development programmes, s106 opportunities and close work with Registered Provider partners. For example BCW has a target of 90 units per annum (despite funding provision being prohibitive at times), CBC's development and regeneration programme has delivered 48 new social / affordable rented homes in 2017/18 and 38 in 2018/19 (plus 3 and 26 new homes respectively provided by registered social landlords in the Corby borough), and KBC completed 137 social / affordable rent units in 2017/18 and 63 in 2018/19. Registered Providers in ENC's area produced 101 new affordable homes in 2017/18 and 64 in 2018/19.

The two authorities which retain housing stock, CBC and KBC, both encourage the release of properties to reduce homelessness by means of incentives to move, such as to downsize or to release a disabled adapted property.

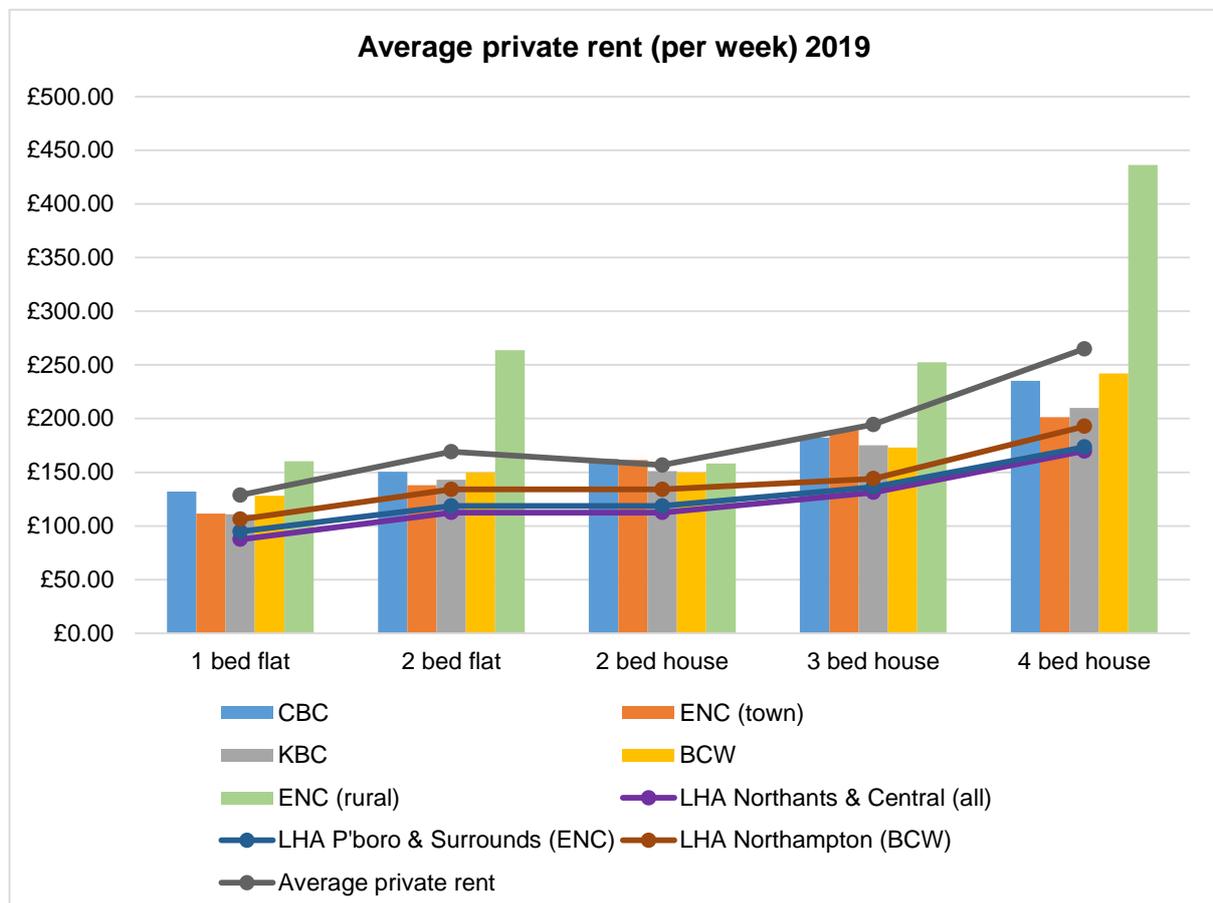
In addition to their separate arrangements for temporary accommodation, CBC, ENC and KBC together provide the Turning Point Project. The Project's objective is to prevent homelessness of single people with complex needs, for example by providing support for the transition from institutional to independent living.

4.8 Affordability

Various factors have contributed towards an increase in demand for affordable housing in North Northamptonshire. Average property prices have been rising in the long run and have continued to increase steadily throughout 2018, supported by a shortage of housing supply.



The affordability of renting in the private sector is under pressure from a gap between private rents and the Local Housing Allowance (LHA), making private rentals inaccessible for those on lower incomes. This is a significant issue and compounds the demand for affordable housing as the private rented sector grows in size as a proportion of overall housing supply. The gap is seen throughout the country as the [Chartered Institute of Housing reported](#) (in conjunction with the launch of [Crisis' Cover the Cost campaign](#)) that in 97% of England the LHA barely covers a fifth of



private rents.

Welfare reform poses a substantial challenge to housing affordability as Universal Credit continues to be rolled out in North Northamptonshire. Although alternative payment arrangements (a Managed Payment to Landlord) are available in some cases, the change from direct housing payments has particularly affected those seeking accommodation in the private rented sector and escalates the inaccessibility of this sector experienced by lower income households.

All the Councils offer schemes to assist households with the affordability of rented accommodation. CBC and BCW also run deposit bond schemes.

4.9 Resources and ongoing response

North Northamptonshire has had mixed success in securing Government grant funding towards homelessness and rough sleeper services. Where an application is unsuccessful the Councils seek feedback to inform future applications.

Budgets are necessarily robust and tightly managed. The key importance of an experienced and skilled Housing Options / Housing Advice function is acknowledged by all the authorities.

At the time of writing joint resources include:

- A sub-regional Keyways CBL scheme and IT system shared by CBC, KBC and BCW (ENC has similar policy headings and bandings in their CBL scheme); and
- The Turning Point Project which is provided across CBC, ENC and KBC's areas, following a joint bid to MHCLG's Help for Homeless fund which secured £181,300 in 2015/16.

The introduction of the HRA has transformed the way in which local authorities provide support for households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Emphasis is placed on prevention at an early stage rather than dealing with homelessness at the point of crisis. The Councils have provided training to partner agencies on how to make referrals via an online portal, to support their compliance with the HRA's Duty to Refer.

Across Northamptonshire all local authorities are taking action to improve homelessness services and take a more preventative approach, comprising the following strategies:

- Building new homes – a key reason for the ongoing housing crisis is an insufficient supply of affordable homes. In North Northamptonshire CBC and KBC are building new council housing, and the councils across Northamptonshire are working with Homes England and housing associations to build new affordable rented and shared ownership housing. Overall in 2017/18, 884 new affordable homes were built within the county.

- Working with private landlords - over the past twenty years the private rented sector has quadrupled in size. Despite issues covered earlier in this strategy, the sector represents a valuable housing resource. Financial incentives for landlords and the provision of support services for vulnerable tenants are two examples of initiatives being developed to encourage private landlords to let to households on low incomes.
- Improving the quality of temporary accommodation – the councils are working to reduce the use of poorer quality, high cost accommodation such as bed and breakfast hotels and instead place households in self-contained accommodation within easy reach of family and support networks.
- Preventing homelessness through tenancy support – to assist an increasing proportion of tenants who are vulnerable the councils are offering practical support to help tenants to successfully maintain their tenancies. This includes specialist tenancy support workers, a regime of intensive contact during introductory tenancies, welcome meetings prior to tenancies starting, and life skills training.
- Providing focussed homelessness prevention schemes – an example of the schemes provided by the councils is a One-Off Payment Scheme to assist households to maintain their current accommodation or access new accommodation by making small one-off payments. This contributes towards reducing the need for TA and other social costs which arise through homelessness.
- Developing specialist housing with support for rough sleepers – the councils are taking advantage of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to develop a range of schemes to provide transitional housing and intensive support for people who are street homeless.

5 Performance

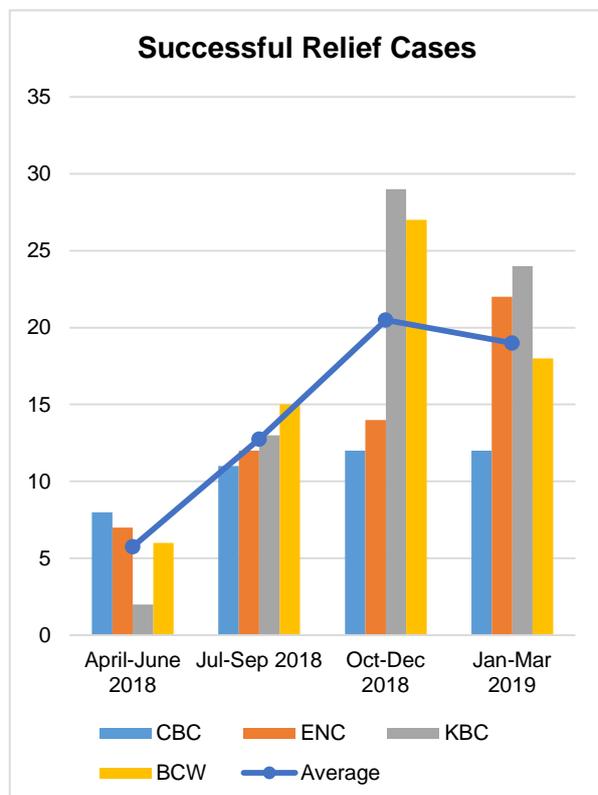
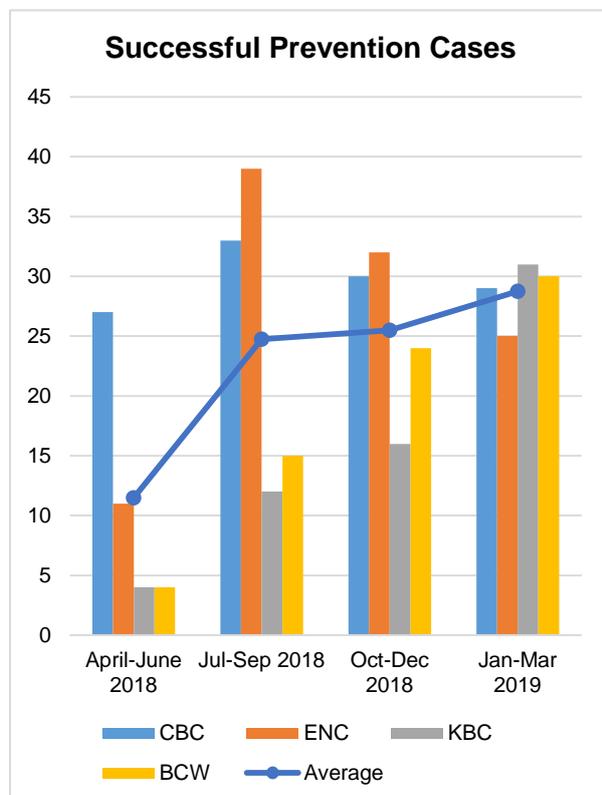
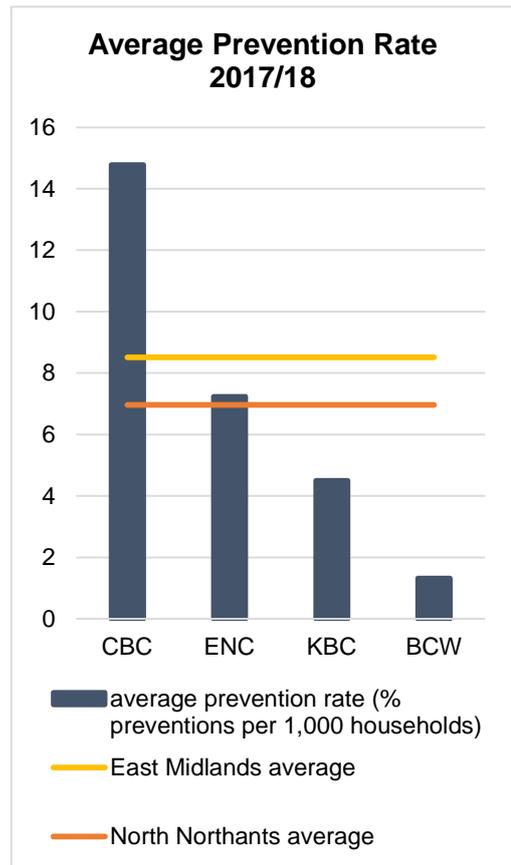
In North Northamptonshire the headlines for homelessness are:

- levels of homelessness are increasing;
- numbers of rough sleepers are increasing;
- affordable housing supply is under pressure from rising costs (e.g. in the private rental sector, and a shift from social towards affordable rent levels);
- success in securing Government funding has been affected by tight submission timescales and previous uncertainty over local Government reorganisation; and
- the high demand vs. capacity of for example social services, permanent support, mental health, alcohol and substance misuse, and money and debt advice services are particularly affecting more vulnerable households.

A reduction in local Government funding in recent years has had an impact across England on the availability of non-statutory social support services, which are vital in addressing some the risk factors for homelessness and rough sleeping. This has been further compounded in Northamptonshire by NCC's financial position requiring a rapid realignment of budgets to bring spend in line with the reduction in core funding.

Average prevention rates (the percentage of homelessness preventions per 1,000 households) during 2017/18 varied between the Councils and were (except for CBC) below the East Midlands average. During the process of North Northamptonshire becoming a unitary authority, working collaboratively to improve our homelessness service is essential to achieve a higher average rate of prevention across the Councils as they currently operate.

In 2018/19 the numbers of successful prevention cases and relief cases in North Northamptonshire both increased on average. CBC and ENC's number of prevention cases share a similar trend, rising to a peak in quarter two before decreasing to the end of the year, whilst the number of prevention cases recorded by KBC and BCW increases steadily throughout the year. The numbers of relief cases in CBC and ENC remained well below the numbers of prevention cases during the year, indicating efforts to prevent homelessness were having a positive outcome. In comparison, the numbers of relief cases in KBC and BCW were the same or higher than the successful prevention cases in quarters two and three.



6 Strategic Vision, Aims, and Objectives

VISION for HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY
“Working collaboratively across North Northamptonshire to end homelessness.”

Themes	Aims	Objectives	Actions	Targets/Measures
PREVENT: preventing homelessness and rough sleeping	Increase access to safe and decent housing	ensure a sufficient supply of affordable housing is in place	work with housing associations to implement an affordable housing development programme in response to local needs KBC	short
			build 78 new council houses and flats including larger homes for families with disabled children KBC	short
			continue the Hidden Homes programme to develop new housing in existing council housing estates KBC	short
			increase the supply of shared housing for people under 35 KBC	medium
		increase accessibility of private rented accommodation	recruit private landlords to use rent assistance and bond schemes through new Tenancy Sustainment Officer roles BCW	June 2019
			develop tools to enable access such as deposit schemes/rent advances ENC	short/medium
			work actively with landlords through the provision of incentives (access Government funding) ENC / CBC	medium / from September 2019
			develop 'Private Rent Plus' which will provide incentives to private landlords to work with the Council in meeting local needs KBC	medium
			explore opportunities to provide market rented properties at LHA rent levels ENC	medium/long
			ensure clients with learning disabilities are able to access homelessness prevention and rehousing advice ENC	short
	Reduce and prevent homelessness amongst all groups at risk	understand the reasons for and characteristics of homelessness	provide training for staff and volunteers on learning disabilities and other special needs ENC	short
			undertake periodic rough sleeper counts throughout winter 2019/20 KBC	short
			improve data collection on the characteristics of clients at risk of homelessness and use this to inform bespoke pathways for prevention (for example care leavers / prison leavers / survivors of domestic abuse) ALL	31 March 2021
			continue partnership working with MAPPA and review the leaving prison discharge protocol ALL	ongoing/short
			seek information and perspectives from partner organisations through the Kettering Homeless Action Partnership KBC	medium
			increase provision of tenancy support in partnership with accommodation providers, particularly for high risk clients in supported housing, including pre-tenancy support ENC	medium/long
			explore potential to increase supply of supported accommodation, including leasehold arrangements to make use of existing schemes/units ENC	medium/long
			research the causes of rough sleeping and identify opportunities to improve its prevention, including the roles and suitability of emergency and temporary accommodation CBC / ENC	ongoing
		mitigate the impact of welfare reform	maximise access for customers to support services provided by partner organisations such as CKCAS, Accommodation Concern and the Social Inclusion Team KBC	short
			extend tenancy support projects for council tenants to include tenants in the private rented sector KBC	medium
consider setting up a social letting agency ENC	medium			
set up a protocol for early identification of clients at risk of eviction, e.g. assistance through the DWP Alternate Payment Arrangement ENC	medium			
Take account of national and local housing priorities	meet local housing need	review the Allocation Policy to ensure that it supports this Strategy BCW	September 2019	
		ensure that the Housing Strategy remains relevant and takes account of Government initiatives such as the social housing green paper and the white paper on the 'broken housing market' KBC	ongoing	

Themes	Aims	Objectives	Actions	Targets/Measures
INTERVENE: early intervention for those at risk	Follow the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative commitment to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it by 2027	identify support needs of rough sleepers	research the needs of rough sleepers (e.g. ask service users/primary research) ENC	short
			work closely with Safe Until Daylight to identify the support needs of individual rough sleepers using the night shelter KBC	short
			increase access to mental health, alcohol and drug support provision, and health services ENC / CBC	short / ongoing
			promote a positive message to the public about the best way to help a rough sleeper, and raise awareness of the difference between street based activity and those who are homeless CBC	from October 2019
			review annual national two week data gathering exercise to ensure appropriate details are collected CBC	by November 2019
			adopt a 'Housing First' protocol through the night shelter/supported housing facility CBC	from November 2019
			develop continuous monitoring systems to improve the measurement of rough sleeping, and enable the recording and assessment of work on an individual level, to produce data which can be shared within our partnership with stakeholders CBC / ENC	by March 2020
			open Night Shelter BCW	by October 2020
			review night shelter provision and foodbank, and look at potential for day centre provision ENC	medium
			investigate options for a 'Housing First' scheme ENC	medium
			monitor numbers and characteristics of rough sleepers ALL	ongoing
			regular liaison with outreach workers and partner agencies to identify housing and support needs of rough sleepers KBC	ongoing
			review severe weather plans to ensure they offer appropriate protection for rough sleepers, and proactively help them to access more suitable housing and support ALL	ongoing
			endeavour to engage with rough sleepers	
	encourage the early referral of new rough sleepers to local authority and other public services CBC / ENC	by end of 2019		
	use a case management framework and appropriate IT system to provide assertive and accessible outreach services to help each rough sleeper secure accommodation and support, including supporting those who wish to return to areas where they have strong connections CBC / ENC	from September 2019		
	promote emergency housing arrangements (through Dorking House project), and support a 'no second night out' approach CBC	from October 2019		
	engage with and promote work to reduce the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including training for Rough Sleeper Outreach Worker in trauma informed practice and related skills CBC	by December 2019		
	promote services to build the skills and confidence of rough sleepers, and assist access to training/employment CBC	by December 2019		
	encourage development of peer support, including training for peer mentors CBC	31 October 2020		
	appoint an outreach worker for rough sleepers using Cold Weather Funding and Rough Sleeper Initiative funding ENC	short		
	consider coaching opportunities provided by DWP work coaches – training ENC	short		
	identify two council move-on flats which will be used for an intensive training and support project for rough sleepers KBC	short		
	investigate the feasibility of providing a 24/7 accommodation and support hub for rough sleepers at Wellington House KBC	medium		
	investigate Government funding opportunities		develop projects to take advantage of funding when available ENC	short
			bid for resources from the 'Cold Weather Fund' and Rough Sleeper Initiative when opportunities arise KBC / ENC	short
	Increase the advice and support available to those at risk of homelessness	improve accessibility of advice and support services	explore options for providing accessible drug and alcohol support services without the need for clients to travel ENC	short
investigate services available to those at risk of or fleeing domestic abuse and work collaboratively to ensure sufficient provision ENC			short	

			undertake home visits to help clients to sustain their tenancies through new Tenancy Sustainment Officer roles BCW	June 2019
			explore options for providing assistance with transport costs for clients to access services ENC	medium
			investigate the feasibility of providing support and advice services for vulnerable homeless households with partner agencies at Wellington House KBC	medium
			pilot development of bespoke services for clients who are single and homeless/rough sleeping, working with partners and voluntary agencies, e.g. short term lets to assist clients with tenancy management skills BCW	ongoing
		ensure clients with mental health, drug and alcohol needs can access appropriate support	investigate the provision of a Clean Needle Exchange, in association with local NHS ENC	short
			investigate options for increasing the provision of mental health services ENC	medium
			investigate options for providing a Day Centre facility offering one to one support ENC	medium
			work with Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Accommodation Concern and Safe Until Daylight to develop specialist services for vulnerable customers KBC	medium

Themes	Aims	Objectives	Actions	Targets/Measures
RECOVER: relief through appropriate accommodation and support services	Address temporary accommodation housing needs	make best use of temporary accommodation	investigate ways to speed up void process, fast track works and improve communication on individual cases ENC	short
			investigate ways of increasing move on accommodation ENC	short
			improve move-on to release bed spaces CBC	from November 2019
			improve settled housing pathways, and encourage the application of Housing First principles, through work with private/social landlords and support networks to deliver tailored, affordable and sustainable outcomes for rough sleepers CBC	from November 2019
			continue to implement Temporary Accommodation Strategy to ensure that placements are responsive to customer needs and cost effective KBC	ongoing
		ensure temporary accommodation is well located and of good quality	eliminate use of bed and breakfast accommodation ALL	ongoing
			continue to implement Temporary Accommodation Strategy to ensure that placements are responsive to customer needs and cost effective KBC	ongoing
		increase supply of good value, self-contained temporary accommodation	ensure emergency accommodation with appropriate support services is available to rough sleepers throughout the year CBC	from November 2019
			investigate potential to increase supply of supported accommodation ENC	medium
			consider adoption of a Phase housing (or similar) model to provide accommodation and support options for drug/alcohol dependent clients ENC	medium/long
			investigate options for increasing supply of smaller properties across all tenures for use as TA or move on accommodation ENC	medium/long
			continue to acquire temporary accommodation on the open market and reduce the use of bed and breakfast hotels and nightly paid accommodation KBC	ongoing
PUBLIC SERVICES	Provide excellent Public Services	good value for money	report key outcomes and achievements to partners and the public appropriately ALL	31 March 2021
			establish processes to monitor outputs and outcomes to help steer the review of the strategy ALL	31 March 2021
		risk management	monitor and reflect objectives in annual service plans ALL	31 March 2021
			understand risks to achieving action plans and put in place appropriate mitigation ALL	31 March 2021
	common working practices	regularly report progress against action plan to SMT/members/multi-agency partners ALL	31 March 2021	
		work collaboratively between statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure sufficient services are available ENC	short	
		provide information to and promote responsibilities of external agencies and partners ALL	31 March 2021	
		review Keyways and Homes Direct allocation schemes ALL	medium	
strengthen pathways between services (local authority/voluntary/health) to ensure staff can appropriately signpost and assist rough sleepers to access support services CBC	ongoing			

			work with partners to strengthen the development of good practice in helping rough sleepers, including through events, workshops and websites CBC	ongoing
		demonstrate corporate commitment	ensure Elected Members and Senior Managers are kept aware of and engaged with local homelessness issues BCW	ongoing
		use consultation to inform services	analyse feedback to identify gaps/improvement opportunities ALL	31 October 2020
		ensure housing staff have sufficient skills and competencies	update homelessness prevention toolkit to incorporate pathways for specific customer groups and new processes KBC	short
			continue to implement housing options service improvement plan KBC	short
			reflect key actions and objectives in staff annual appraisals and monitor via meetings/1to1s ALL	ongoing
			provide and maintain relevant and up-to-date training for officers, and identify joint training opportunities, to ensure service standards are consistently high CBC	ongoing
			review staff resources and team structure to ensure they are fit for purpose in light of the HRA and local Government reorganisation BCW	ongoing
			ensure all staff are fully trained on the Homeless Reduction Act, and to engage with clients, landlords and partners to resolve housing issues BCW	June 2019 & ongoing
			succeed in internal and external funding bids	understand and be able to evidence local housing need ALL
			co-ordinate strategic approach between areas to strengthen bids ALL	ongoing
			seek feedback on any unsuccessful funding bids to ensure the reasons are understood ALL	as required

Key:

ALL – all local authority areas within North Northamptonshire

CBC – Corby Borough Council

KBC – Kettering Borough Council

ENC – East Northamptonshire Council

BCW – Borough Council of Wellingborough

Timescales:

SHORT – within years 1-2 of plan (by 2021)

MEDIUM – years 2-3 of plan (by 2022)

LONG – years 3-5 of plan (by 2024)

7 Partnerships

North Northamptonshire's homelessness service is provided in conjunction with a number of Registered Providers, other partner agencies, and voluntary organisations. Some of these are common between the Councils, including local health services and pre-unitary NCC services. Reviewing homelessness across North Northamptonshire in preparation for this Strategy highlights the importance of interagency working and of strengthening ties not only between the local and county authorities which will become the unitary authority of North Northamptonshire, but in general between all homelessness service providers within the area in order to achieve the aims and objectives of this Strategy.

8 Related Strategies, Policies and Resources

Of each district or borough council including:

- Local Plan
- Housing Strategy
- Allocation Scheme
- Tenancy Strategy
- Rough Sleeper Policy
- Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

Legislation and guidance includes the:

- [Housing Act 1996](#)
- [Homelessness Act 2002](#)
- [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#)
- [Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities](#) (2018)
- [MHCLG Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) (2018)

9 Review and Monitoring

This Strategy will be reviewed when required by legislative or regulatory changes. If staff become aware of any problems with effective operation of the Strategy or the associated action plans, they should report this to the Strategy Owner in the first instance, or the owner of the relevant Action Plan. This feedback will be incorporated into the review process.

Progress on the priorities in this Strategy will be monitored through the appropriate channels within each district or borough council making up North Northamptonshire.



ROUGH SLEEPING OFFER 2019

Corby Borough Council aims to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end it by 2027.

We will:

1. Be aware of anyone who is sleeping rough.
2. Let the public know what they can do to help.
3. Know our customers and respond to them.
4. Make somewhere to stay a priority.
5. Connect our customers with the support services they need.
6. Provide support to stay in housing.
7. Help our customers to get back in touch with people they know.
8. Consider housing options in a familiar area.
9. Work together with other groups who help people sleeping rough.
10. Keep a list of all the services available.
11. Protect our customers from the most severe weather.
12. Do everything we can to prevent deaths from rough sleeping.
13. Apply for funding to improve our services.