

# Active Inclusion Newcastle

## Newcastle Homelessness Prevention Briefing Q1 2015-16

We want all partners in the city to play a part in preventing homelessness. Our quarterly briefings help to build consensus and a cooperative approach by providing information on:

- **data and narrative that tell us about what works and the causes of homelessness**
- **the perceptions of clients, partners and workers on this data**
- **the outcomes for people supported by homelessness services**
- **new initiatives, policy and legislative changes**

This will help to us to work together to consider how to:

- **make the most of our resources to prevent homelessness and to respond to crisis**
- **build on what is working well to identify and meet our challenges**
- **create opportunities to intervene earlier, build resilience and prevent homelessness**
- **revise the City's statutory Homelessness Strategy action plan**

Our Homelessness Strategy aims to maximise the value of our resources to prevent homelessness. To aid analysis we have created 5 groupings of homelessness:

- **people owed the full homelessness duty**
- **people at risk of homelessness**
- **people living with housing support**
- **young people at risk of homelessness**
- **multiple exclusion and rough sleepers**

We recognise that these groupings have limitations and that people may not exactly fit the definitions but differentiating between the risks of homelessness helps to develop realistic options that include the wider aspects of social and financial inclusion, health and wellbeing. We have found that homelessness is best prevented through coordinated support that provides consistent information, advice and support that enables people to secure:

- **an income**
- **somewhere to live**
- **financial inclusion**
- **employment opportunities**

Our primary challenge is to maintain our high levels of homelessness prevention in the face of the largest public sector and welfare cuts in 60 years. We will work with partners to innovate, reduce duplication, increase prevention and provide more effective responses for vulnerable people. More information is provided in the Newcastle Homelessness Strategy 2014-19 which can be found [here](#).

### Headlines

- **Lowest level of evictions by Your Homes Newcastle since introduction of Sustaining Tenancies Guidance in 2007-8 with 12 in quarter 1 of this year**
- **People moving from supported housing to a social housing tenancy more than doubled this quarter from 19 to 52**
- **Increase in evictions from supported housing this quarter from 56 to 65. Only 7 notifications of notice to quits**
- **There has been a 35% fall in the numbers of individuals sleeping rough**

# 1. People who are owed the full homelessness duty

1a. Table 1 - household types and social needs

Total households	2014- 15	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	14-15	14-15	15-16	15-16	15-16	15-16
Households owed the full duty	161	29	50			
<b>Household type (top 3)</b>						
Lone parent with dependent children	96	17	23			
Couple with dependent children	35	9	16			
Single person household 18+	24	2	6			
<b>Social needs</b>						
Mental health	41	5	17			
Physical health	40	5	5			
Persons from abroad	27	8	16			

Statutory acceptances for quarter 1 of this year have risen by 72% when compared to the previous quarter. The number of acceptances in the corresponding quarter of 2014-15 was 44 so we are currently still within the range of acceptances that has been the norm for the last year.

There was a rise in the number of single person households accepted this quarter and we looked in detail at these cases to see whether this was attributable to the recent Supreme Court ruling, reported on in the last briefing note, that altered the way local authorities must look at vulnerability for the purposes of deciding priority need under homelessness legislation. After looking at the 6 acceptances for this quarter for single people none of these cases were accepted as result of this change and we will continue to monitor in future quarters. We consult each quarter with Shelter and we are confident following our discussions with them that we have not missed any clients for whom this change in the case law would impact upon.

1b. Table 2- causes of homelessness and outcomes

Causes of homelessness	2014- 15	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	14-15	14-15	15-16	15-16	15-16	15-16
Loss of private rented	48	12	12			
Relatives / friends asked to leave	18	3	3			
Parents asked to leave	17	0	10			
Non-violent relationship breakdown	11	1	1			
Violent relationship breakdown	17	2	10			
Violence from others	12	1	4			
Required to leave NASS	11	3	6			
<b>Outcomes</b>						
Re-housed by YHN	112	25	27			
Re-housed by housing assoc'	7	2	5			
Re-housed in private rented	6	1	2			
Refused offer	3	2	2			

Loss of private rented accommodation continues to be the main reason for homelessness for those that we accept a statutory duty for. However there was a rise in 'parents asked to leave' and 'violent relationship breakdown' as reasons for homelessness. For these cases there are no simple early intervention indicators. The former category doesn't just include young people being asked to leave the family home it also covers those situations where adult children, and often with their children, are asked to leave. We will look closely at whether there is more we can do to identify those households that are under pressure in this way. The development of the Active Inclusion 'offer' helps to facilitate partners to identify issues and helps them with referral routes to advice and support to help prevent homelessness.

### 1c. Table 3 – use of temporary accommodation

Statutory use temporary accommodation	2014-15	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
		14-15	15-16	15-16	15-16	15-16
Cherry Tree View (CTV)	181	48	55			
Other accommodation	138	36	44			
Domestic violence refuges	19	4	6			
Other Cherry Tree View placements	84	15	14			

Table 3 shows a slight rise in the use of Cherry Tree View (CTV) in the last quarter which reflects in part the rise in the number of households for whom we have accepted a statutory duty. CTV continues to provide an important service in offering accommodation outside of those cases where a statutory duty is owed demonstrating its central role as a 'Prevention Hub' in helping to prevent homelessness in the city.

### 1d. Ongoing delivery

- Quarterly review of all acceptances.
- Procedures changed to reflect the change in vulnerability case law following the Supreme Court ruling in Hotak v Southwark LBC, Kanu v Southwark LBC and - Johnson v Solihull MBC

### 1e. What we are doing next

- The new data base for statutory cases will increase opportunities to identify service co-dependencies and to target support services to increase homelessness prevention opportunities.
- We will work with colleagues in the Family Insight project to improve our learning from crisis homelessness admissions to CTV where there is existing Council funded support.

## 2. People at risk of homelessness

Table 4 (below) shows a fall in the numbers of casework clients that the Housing Advice Centre (HAC) have taken on in this quarter. There has been a rise in the numbers of households with children at the same time as the presentations from single people have fallen. The majority of these households are being dealt with before a statutory homeless presentation is made demonstrating the value of early interventions in supporting households to avoid a crisis homelessness presentations.

**2a. Table 4 – people at risk of homelessness receiving casework interventions at HAC**

<b>People at risk of homelessness</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
HAC casework	2,221	564	535			
<b>Household type (top3)</b>						
Single male 18+	1,191	284	265			
Household with dependent children	471	114	132			
Single female 18+	402	102	90			
<b>Social needs (top 3)</b>						
Offending	674	168	168			
Mental health	717	171	164			
Physical health	565	139	124			

Table 5 (below) shows that presentations from private rented tenancies remains the biggest driver for people seeking to access advice and support from HAC and has increased by 33%.

**2b. Table 5 – causes of homelessness and outcomes for people at risk of homelessness receiving casework interventions at HAC**

<b>Reasons for presenting (top 3)</b>	<b>2014- 15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Loss of private rented	292	69	92			
Relatives/ friends asked to leave	287	89	58			
Parents asked to leave	196	58	53			
<b>Outcomes</b>						
Advice – to remain in accommodation	623	153	118			
Rehoused to supported housing	468	92	100			
Rehoused to YHN	289	58	46			
Rehoused to private rented	64	21	14			

In consultation with Shelter we looked at the numbers of people who presented to their service and who were at risk of homelessness. In quarter 1 Shelter saw 46 individuals with a Newcastle connection, 25 of whom were single people without dependent children. This quarter they saw a rise in the numbers of people who were presenting from private rented accommodation and a slight fall in those living in social housing. Those who presented from private rented accommodation were in the main seeking advice after a notice had been served and the issues faced by this group reflect the lack of statutory protection for private tenants and the limitations of the responses that are available to prevent homelessness for these tenants.

Table 6 (below) shows a fall in the number of homelessness preventions this quarter compared to the preceding quarter. There has been a small fall in the numbers of preventions carried out by YHN Advice and Support workers. Table 6 also shows that the number of evictions from YHN continues to fall, with 12 evictions in the last quarter in which demonstrates YHN's commitment that an eviction is the last resort

## 2c. Table 6 - homelessness prevention activity

Homelessness prevention activity	2014- 15	Q4 14-15	Q1 15-16	Q2 15-16	Q3 15-16	Q4 15-16
Total preventions	4,192	984	881			
Homelessness prevented	3,901	952	851			
Homelessness relieved	291	32	30			
<b>Prevention activities (top 3)</b>						
HAC	1,595	355	333			
YHN Advice & Support	1,504	350	321			
Commissioned services via Gateway	503	103	136			
<b>Use of DHP</b>						
DHP awards	244	100	19			
<b>Social housing evictions</b>						
YHN evictions	62	21	12			

It is also worth highlighting the fall in Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) awards shown in table 6, which is due to the need to maximise the spend at the end of the financial year. The challenge we face in relation to DHP going forward is managing the transition of those households who are in receipt of their third or fourth round of DHP and for whom this is not a sustainable position.

## 2d Prison and hospital discharges

### 2e. Table 7 - hospital discharge referrals (direct from hospital)

Hospital discharge referrals	Q4 14-15	Q1 15-16	Q2 15-16	Q3 15-16	Q4 15-16
Total number of referrals	14	20			
General (RVI and Freeman)	8	12			
Mental health	6	8			
<b>Outcomes</b>					
Accommodation secured	7	11			
Returned to friends and family	1	0			
Returned to own tenancy	1	2			
Admit to CTV	2	2			
Homeless	0	0			
Out of area case – referred back	3	5			

Table 7 shows a rise in referrals being made in relation to people who are being discharged from hospital, the majority coming from the RVI and Freeman hospitals. No-one became homeless as a result of hospital discharge. We agree weekly with staff in the hospitals cases of concern where delays are impacting upon when a client can be discharged.

Table 8 (below) shows a fall in the numbers of cases presenting to the Housing Advice Centre from custody. These figures come with the caveat that they relate to those where leaving prison is the direct reason for their presentation. We accept that there will be others can present weeks after their release where the reality is that the release from prison was the catalyst for the issue they actually present with. Our recording systems are not currently sophisticated enough to always reflect this.

## 2f. Table 8 - prison release referrals

Prison release referrals	Q4 14-15	Q1 15-16	Q2 15-16	Q3 15-16	Q4 15-16
Number of referrals to HAC	22	12			
<b>Outcomes</b>					
Accommodation secured	16	5			
Out of area case -referred back	2	1			
Refused accommodation offer	3	5			
Recalled to prison	-	1			

## 2g. Ongoing delivery

- As part of the Active Inclusion Newcastle 'offer' and to support the spectrum of advice on housing and homelessness we will be offering quarterly homelessness prevention training. You can find out more about these sessions on our website, [here](#).

## 2h. What we are doing next

- We will build on the learning from the Universal Credit Triage Trial to better target support to those who will be impacted on by upcoming Welfare Reform changes.
- We will pilot formalising the alignment of support with the DHP review process.

## 3. People living with housing support

### 3a. Table 9- number of supported accommodation admits, reason for admission and social needs

Supported accommodation admissions	2014-15	Q4 14-15	Q1 15-16	Q2 15-16	Q3 15-16	Q4 15-16
Total admits	1,435	263	363			
Emergency bed admits	-	-	38			
Total number of individuals	946	234	304			
<b>Reason for admission</b>						
Not recorded / not known	221	22	20			
Lost existing accommodation	180	7	17			
Relationship breakdown	443	83	125			
Moved from other hostel	132	83	117			
<b>Social needs</b>						
Offending	358	87	93			
Drugs	185	38	53			
Mental health	204	43	62			
Alcohol	136	33	23			

Table 9 shows a rise in the numbers of admits to supported accommodation and a rise in the number of individuals that this relates to. The additional 100+ admits between the two quarters are due to increased turnover system-wide, but is predominantly in the crisis accommodation provision with an increase of 62 admits. There have been no reports from providers that provision is unusually stretched by demand and in Q3 of 2014-15 there were 360 admits.

Table 9 also shows that the number of admissions where the reason for admission is not known or not recorded has continued to fall and a closer inspection of those 20 cases shows that they are predominantly for placements that weren't initially referred through the Gateway and include those specialist provision services such as Action Housing (refugees) and AKT Outpost (LGBT) for whom referrals are often made via routes other than Gateway.

Five beds of emergency accommodation are now offered across the city which are direct access short term placements and from which the client will be moved on to more appropriate accommodation in short space of time. The aim being that an individual can be accommodated outside of normal working hours. This process began in April 2015 and table 9 shows 38 admits in to this provision in quarter 1. This demonstrates the value of the supported accommodation sector in helping the city to respond to homelessness and to allow the Council to meet its duties to those for seeking accommodation.

### 3b. Table 10 – snapshot of move on assessments completed by end of each quarter

Move on assessments	Q4 14-15	Q1 15-16	Q2 15-16	Q3 15-16	Q4 15-16
Number of 'red' (likely to require long term ongoing support)	95	99			
Number of 'amber' (further intervention or support required)	230	229			
Number of 'green' (ready to move to independent living)	80	79			

Table 10 shows us the number of 'move on assessments' that were completed for clients in supported accommodation by the end of the reporting quarter. This traffic light system combined with a monthly move on meeting allows us to monitor the readiness to move on of those living in our commissioned supported accommodation.

### 3c. Table 11 - outcomes for people leaving supported housing

Move-on destinations	2014- 15	Q4 14-15	Q1 15-16	Q2 15-16	Q3 15-16	Q4 15-16
No forwarding address	336	72	82			
Other supported accommodation	418	75	99			
Independent tenancy	261	42	77			
• YHN	109	15	38			
• Private rented	74	17	17			
• Housing association	31	4	14			
<b>Evictions</b>						
Evicted	296	56	65			
NTQ recorded on Gateway	-	2	7			

Table 11 shows an 83% increase this quarter in the numbers of people moving to an independent tenancy, with the vast majority taking up a YHN tenancy. There has also been a rise in those moving to a social landlord's property in the city with the numbers opting for private rented remaining static. We can also see in table 11 that there was a rise of 32% in the numbers of people who moved on to another form of supported

accommodation, this ties in with the point made above in relation to the increase in admits generally this quarter.

Of concern is the rise in the number of evictions and of particular concern is the lack of notice to quits (NTQ) recorded on the Gateway system. That they aren't doesn't necessarily mean that clients aren't receiving this notice but without the record on Gateway we are unable to report that residents in supported housing are being the afforded the minimum of rights.

### 3d. Table 12 – floating support admits, reason for admission and social needs

<b>Floating support admissions</b>	<b>2014- 15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Total admits	562	142	138			
Total number of individuals	542	139	168			
<b>Reason for admit</b>						
Not recorded / not known	340	60	31			
Move from other support setting	103	31	33			
Discharge from institution	43	26	43			
Relationship breakdown	48	13	13			
<b>Social needs</b>						
Offending	39	16	7			
Drugs	24	5	9			
Mental health	62	20	17			
Alcohol	19	3	3			

Table 12 shows that there continues to be an improvement in the recording of the reason for the clients need to receive floating support with a 48% increase from the last quarter where reason for admit was either not recorded or not known.

There has been a rise in the number of admits to a floating support service where 'discharge from an institution' was the reason given. The Council commissions a number of specialist floating support for people leaving hospital, drug treatment and asylum accommodation, all of which are covered by this definition so a higher number demonstrates the preventative value of these services. The 'move from other support setting' refers to people leaving supported housing and floating support. This support can be crucial in ensuring that we are not setting people up to fail in their tenancies.

### 3e. Table 13 - outcomes for people leaving floating support

<b>Discharges and outcomes – people leaving floating support</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Total discharges	677	156	120			
<b>Outcome</b>						
Maintain independent tenancy	436	102	69			
Move to other supported	88	17	21			
Family / friends	71	19	8			
Custody	2	1	-			
No information given	63	13	16			
Other	17	4	6			

Table 13 shows us that fewer people have left a period of floating support in this quarter but again for those that did we can see that the majority ended that support at a point when they were able to maintain an independent tenancy without a programme of support which is positive and was the ultimate aim when the support began.

### **3f. Ongoing delivery**

- Quarterly Sanctions briefings – We are continuing to work in partnership with Jobcentre Plus (JCP) to reduce the number of benefit sanctions awarded in Newcastle through these quarterly briefing sessions.

### **3g. What we are doing next**

- We will present the first stage of our process to review the Supported Housing Move On protocol at the next contract managers meeting in October
- We will look in detail at those cases where people are moving from supported accommodation to the private rented sector and the reasons for it.
- We will look to develop a stronger alignment with drug and alcohol treatment providers.
- We will work with the DWP to align the requirements of the Claimant's Commitment with support planning.
- We will be reviewing support planning arrangements to respond to the demands of welfare reform.

## **4. Young people at risk of homelessness**

In our last briefing note we included information on young people at risk of homelessness. We initially began this work by just including the work that the YHN Young People's Service (YPS) do in supporting young people aged 16-24 who have been or are at risk of homelessness and again we have asked them to contribute information on their work for this briefing note. We have added to this in this briefing with a breakdown of supported housing services that are commissioned for 16-24 year olds. This information is included below with the caveat that the other commissioned crisis and supported accommodation services also accommodate 18-24 year olds.

### **4a Homeless Prevention (16-17yr olds)**

The YPS work with all young people aged 16-17 who present in housing need either in crisis at HAC, who submit an application for social housing through Tyne and Wear Homes or who are referred by another agency.

The primary aim of the YPS is to support young people and their families so that the young person is able to remain living in the family home, where it is safe to do so

The numbers of 16-17 year olds presenting has remained consistent over the last couple of quarters, with an almost equal spread between those who present at HAC and those who submit applications to Tyne and Wear Homes. Table 14 shows that the most likely outcome is that the client is able to remain in their existing accommodation this is obviously a positive result for the young person and avoids for them the disruption of a move in to supported accommodation.

**4b. Table 14 - 16-17 year olds presenting in housing need (YHN YPS homelessness prevention)**

<b>Young People presenting in housing need</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Total Presentations	312	80	78			
<b>Presentation source</b>						
Applications via Tyne and Wear Homes	130	33	31			
Presenting at the Housing Advice Centre	108	34	29			
Other referral sources	74	13	18			
<b>Outcomes (Top 3)</b>						
Remained in existing accommodation	51	12	17			
Referred to supported accommodation	50	9	14			
Under 18 care leaver – floating support	-	-	14			

For the purposes of clarity this quarter did see a 16 year old present and be accepted under our statutory duty, however they were part of a couple with a dependent child and as per the recording guidelines from Government their priority was obtained by virtue of this and not as a result of their age.

The outcome in table 14 for ‘under 18 care leavers floating support’ relates to the work that the YPS do in partnership with Children’s Services, 16+ Team to support young people who are preparing to leave the care system. These figures have only been counted separately from non-care leaver referrals to floating support from this quarter hence us not being able to report on this outcome for 2014-15.

**4c. Table 15 - floating support provided by YHN YPS, referrals and outcomes**

<b>Floating support referrals</b>	<b>2014- 15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Total referrals	228	51	63			
<b>Referrals by age of client</b>						
16 and 17 year olds	66	15	27			
18-21 year olds	131	33	30			
22 -24 year olds	31	4	6			
<b>Outcomes</b>						
Tenancy sustained	206	46	37			
Tenancy not started	21	21	14			
Move to other supported	-	-	8			

Table 15 shows us information on the YHN YPS floating support delivered to 16-24 year olds. We can see from this that there the majority of their support is delivered to those aged between 16 and 21, with the rise in support delivered to 16 and 17 year olds linking in with the work being done with the 16+ team to prepare young people for independent living.

Table 15 also shows that the majority of those who are supported by the YPS do sustain their tenancy which is a positive outcome. In relation to the outcome ‘tenancy not started’ this is where the YPS homelessness prevention team have carried out pre tenancy preparation work with clients and it is determined that a tenancy is not the best option for the client.

#### 4d – Table 16- admits to supported housing (16-24 year olds)

<b>Admits to supported housing (16 – 24 year olds)</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Total admits	72				
<b>Reasons for admit (top 3)</b>					
Not recorded / not known	2				
Moving from other support setting	8				
Relationship breakdown (parents / family)	45				
<b>Social needs</b>					
Offending	17				
Drugs	3				
Mental health	8				
Alcohol	1				

From this quarter we are including information on all of the provision commissioned for 16-24 year olds. Table 16 shows us the number of admits and top three reasons for admission. The breakdown of this information by age has only been available from the start of this reporting year, hence there not being reciprocal data from 2014 -15 in the table.

The main reason for admission in to these services is as a result of a relationship breakdown with parents or family members. The low level of not recorded / not known for admission to these services is positive though we would still seek to see this number reduced to zero.

#### 4e – Table 17- outcomes from supported housing (16-24 year olds)

<b>Outcomes from supported housing (16-24 year olds)</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Total discharges	66				
<b>Move on destination</b>					
No forwarding address	5				
Family or friends	18				
Other supported accommodation	24				
Independent tenancy	15				
• YHN	8				
• Private rented	5				
• Housing association	2				

Table 17 shows the discharges for quarter 1 and that the most likely move from this accommodation is to another supported accommodation placement. The low level of moves to no forwarding address is also a positive.

#### 4f Ongoing delivery

- YHN YPS are working closely with the Gateway team to develop and maintain a structured reporting regime
- Joint support planning and delivery with Children's Services to deliver support to those moving on from the care system

#### 4g What we are doing next

- We are developing a citywide approach to preventing homelessness for young people that includes looking at the opportunities for improving outcomes through considering the commissioning requirements for young people currently managed separately by adults and children's services. We are hosting a young people's transitions to independence seminar on 4 November 2015 that will include the start of a consultation on a market position statement.
- We will work with colleagues from the Family Insight and NEET projects to identify opportunities to prevent the homelessness of disadvantaged young people.

## 5. Multiple exclusion and rough sleeping

### 5a. Table 18 - numbers of rough sleepers

<b>Rough sleepers</b>	<b>2014- 15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Average per night	6	5	6			
Individuals	274	77	50			
• Stock	105	36	20			
• Flow	141	39	25			
• Return	28	2	2			
NSNO eligible / compliant	36/36	7/7	2/2			

Table 18 shows that there has been a 35% fall in the number of individuals sleeping rough, with this figure representing the core group of individuals with multiple support needs. We have continued to meet our obligations under No Second Night Out this quarter.

### 5b. Table 19- reasons for rough sleeping and outcomes

<b>Reasons for rough sleeping</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>
Evicted / abandoned accommodation	108	42	22			
Unknown	78	15	15			
Relationship breakdown	22	9	4			
Custody release	16	6	4			
<b>Outcomes</b>						
Accommodation secured	49	14	11			
No further contact /disappeared	91	25	24			
Returned to existing accommodation	42	16	4			

As with previous reporting periods the main reason given for rough sleeping, is leaving accommodation through abandonment or eviction. The figure for unknown has remained constant over the last two quarters and this is noted with the recognition that this information is often difficult to obtain from people who are found bedded down.

### 5c. Table 20 - Housing First

<b>Housing First admissions</b>	<b>Q4 14-15</b>	<b>Q1 15-16</b>	<b>Q2 15-16</b>	<b>Q3 15-16</b>	<b>Q4 15-16</b>	<b>2015-16</b>
Number of admits to Housing First	7	6				
<b>Reason for admission</b>						
Not known / not recorded	5	4				
Moving from a hostel	2	1				
Crisis / rough sleeping	-	1				
<b>Social needs</b>						
Offending	1	1				
Alcohol	2	1				
Drugs	3	1				
Mental health	3	1				
No confirmed needs	2	3				

Information in table 20 relates to Housing First admissions held by the Newcastle Gateway. The numbers of admits where the reason for admission was not recorded or not know was high for a service commissioned to respond to multiple exclusion.

### 5d. Ongoing delivery

- Housing First – we are continuing to work with Changing Lives to improve the reporting on this service.
- Ongoing dedicated street outreach service

### 5e. What we are doing next

- We are developing our multiple exclusion reporting process to ensure that future reporting demonstrates the needs and demands of the client group and better matches the available resources to those needs
- The learning from the High Risk Complex Needs Task and Finish Group will continue to inform our strategic approach to reducing multiple exclusion.
- We will continue to review the efficacy of our hostel progression model and how this relates to the Housing First offer with the aim of reducing the number of people locked into cycles of hostels and rough sleeping. We will link to this through our ongoing review of supported housing move on
- ‘Sounding Off: Placing Homelessness in Context’ – This project builds upon, but also extends, an earlier ESRC Festival of Social Sciences project– *Imaging Homelessness in a City of Care* – which mapped the spaces and places of homelessness in Newcastle. You will have an opportunity to hear more about this at the next Newcastle Homelessness Prevention Forum on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## 6. Issues to consider

- Reducing Sanctions – proposal for joint working with DWP to align claimant comment and support planning. How can we best work together?
- Review of supported housing move on – What would be your stages of preparation to support someone to move on to independence?
- Is there an explanation for the low level of ‘notice to quits’ being issued and recorded on the Gateway?
- What should be included in the ‘Sounding Off: Placing Homelessness in Context’ project

## 7. Active Inclusion Newcastle

The Newcastle Homelessness Prevention Forum is part of the Active Inclusion Newcastle (AIN) partnership approach that responds to the growth in demand for information, advice and support to promote social and financial inclusion and to reduce the risk of homelessness with reduced resources. AIN facilitates partners at the following levels:

**Primary prevention activities** – to support making prevention ‘everybody’s business’ AIN has the following primary prevention ‘offer’ to support partners:

- Consultancy advice for professionals and volunteers
- Information for staff and public – financial inclusion examples online: [here](#)
- Briefing sessions for professionals and volunteers
- Spectrum of advice
- Training for professionals and volunteers
- Protocols and policies, e.g. Sustaining Tenancies
- Recording information, monitoring and reporting
- Regular performance reviews

**Secondary prevention activities** – specialist advice and accommodation services that community based primary services can turn to when they need help

**Crisis activities** – these services support people when community and preventative support fails to prevent crisis. These acute services support people facing destitution.

## 8. How to get involved.

Please feel free to discuss the issues raised in this briefing with your residents and services users. Staff from the Active Inclusion Unit would be happy to attend team meetings / service user groups you have if there are any specific issues that people would like to raise or discuss in more detail. You can contact Sarah Blakey (Active Inclusion Officer) on 0191 277 1733 or email [activeinclusion@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:activeinclusion@newcastle.gov.uk) to arrange this.

You can comment on the Homelessness Strategy action plan and our progress towards the actions and on the protocols and procedures we have developed with partners to tackle homelessness by contacting [activeinclusion@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:activeinclusion@newcastle.gov.uk) and copies of the action plan and the protocols and our governance arrangements can be found [here](#).

**Sarah Blakey - August 2015**

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