

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Pwyllgor Gwaith
Date:	25.3.2019
Subject:	Approval of the Supporting People Programme Commissioning Strategy and Grant Expenditure Scheme
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Alun Mummery
Head of Service:	Ned Michael
Report Author: Tel: E-mail:	Arwel Jones, Principal Development Officer, Housing Services 01248 752064
Local Members:	

A – Recommendation/s and reason/s
<p>1. To approve the recommendations of the Supporting People Commissioning Plan 2019-20 and,</p> <p>2. To approve the funding allocation for every Service area, as outlined on page 13 of the Supporting People Commissioning Plan.</p> <p>Reasons</p> <p>1.0 Introduction</p> <p>1.1 The Supporting People Programme is a policy framework and funding initiative by the Welsh Government, which provides Housing-related Support for a variety of groups of people who are equally vulnerable. The services do not include the funding of accommodation costs or the provision of health or care costs.</p> <p>1.2 In a letter received from the Welsh Government in December 2018, it was stated that Anglesey’s Indicative Allocation for 2019-2020 would be £2,643,866. This will be operational from 1.4.19.</p> <p>1.3 Following the Welsh Government’s decision to combine the Supporting People Programme Grant, the Homelessness Prevention Grant and the Rent Smart Wales (Enforcement) Grant, all three grants will be provided under the name of ‘Housing-</p>

related Support Grant' from April 2019 onwards. £64,923 is allocated for the Homelessness Prevention Programme and £6,209 for the Rent Smart (Wales) Enforcement Grant. Therefore, the total amount of Housing-related Support Grant for Anglesey during 2019-20 is £2,714,998.

1.4 As well as the Housing-related Support Grant Programme, the Welsh Government have combined another 7 individual grants under the name 'Children and Communities Grant' Programme. From 1st April 2019, this programme will include the following Grants.

- Flying Start;
- Families First;
- The Legacy Fund;
- Communities for Work Plus;
- Promoting Positive Engagement for Young People;
- Childcare and Play;
- St David's Day Fund.

1.4 By transferring 10 individual grants into two specific programmes, which reflect and promote a preventative approach, there is an expectation by the Welsh Government that we as an Authority will work closer across both programmes to meet the needs of some of our most vulnerable and needy individuals and families within our society.

1.5 The 2019/20 financial year is considered to be a transitional year, and consequently the governance procedure and the arrangements for reporting on the Supporting People Programme outcomes, will remain the same for the next twelve months. It is expected that further work will be carried out during the year on the arrangements for implementing the Housing-related Support Programme, which will have a direct impact on the Supporting People Programme and will be operational from April 2020. It is expected that a new Guidance Document will be produced for the Combined Programme, which will be operational from April 2020.

1.6 The Supporting People Programme focuses on the planning, commissioning and monitoring of supported accommodation and floating support services provided by different providers across a variety of tenures including accessible and affordable accommodation, council housing stock, housing associations' stock, private rental, sheltered housing, owner occupiers, supported living, supported tenancies and extra care housing.

1.4 Common types of Housing-related Support provisions include:

- Assisting someone who is homeless or is at risk of homelessness to find somewhere to live, within 56 days of them presenting in such a situation.

- Providing a support package to enable the vulnerable person to maintain a tenancy and mitigate the risk that the tenancy will break down and / or that the person will be evicted from the house.
- Providing support with rent arrears, debt management and budgeting skills.
- Supporting the service user to claim welfare benefits and help and enable the individual to continue to receive the benefits that he or she is eligible to receive and deal with the relevant agencies.
- Supporting service users to keep their accommodation safe, e.g. explain how to lock their property and manage appropriate access.
- Encourage the service user to keep any appointments that are relevant to improving their ability to manage their own accommodation.
- Encourage and stimulating the service user to develop social skills and gain the necessary confidence to feel part of the community and to participate in activities of interest.
- Promoting, encouraging and stimulating service users to develop the necessary life skills such as cooking, cleaning and washing clothes.
- Providing the necessary support to enable service users to access appropriate education, training and / or employment opportunities.
- Providing advice regarding move-on opportunities or opportunities for permanent housing.

1.5 Amongst the Supporting People funding requirements is the need to prepare a Commissioning Plan to inform the Welsh Government and all partners and stakeholders of our commissioning intentions and priorities. In accordance with the Welsh Government's Guidance, the proposed Scheme includes a commissioning cycle for 2018/21 and is reviewed annually.

1.6 Once again the Welsh Government has protected the grant funding levels for the Supporting People Programme for 2019/20 across Wales and has halted the redistribution programme, for the time being, which saw the funding for North Wales decreasing 23% during the previous 6 years. Nevertheless, it is highly likely that a new redistribution programme will be reintroduced in 2020, and this could cause uncertainty for providers in terms of the sustainability of particular schemes and a financial risk to the future of the programme and the Council, at a time where homelessness is increasing significantly. Should there be a further reduction in the grant, it would certainly not be possible to maintain the current provision, and it is likely that we would have to make very difficult decisions on the future of some schemes.

Background

2.0 The Commissioning Plan attached is a reflection of the substantial work that has been carried out since 2012, where the Supporting People Grant Programme was transformed to focus on services that address matters relating to accommodation and preventing homelessness, rather than focusing on services that leaned towards social care. As a result, the Commissioning Plan and the Expenditure Plan is a continuation and consolidation of the previous year, with minor amendments rather than substantial changes in the commissioning and contracting arrangement for meeting needs on Anglesey.

2.1 It can be noted that the changes in the Plan this year, affect Service User Groups as follows:

- **Mental Health** – Increase the expenditure from £183,771 to £225,931. This change will involve moving 5 units from the service area designated for Single People, 25-54 years old requiring support with regard to Mental Health. This provision will still be delivered, as part of the same agreement, namely Housing First by The Wallich, but for the purpose of reporting and submitting the Expenditure Plan to the Welsh Government, it will be recorded under Mental Health service users. One additional unit of Supported Accommodation will be provided in the Llawr Y Dref scheme, Llangefni at a cost of £8,666. The other provision of supported accommodation will be in Heddfan, Llangefni for 8 individuals and one family in Cybi Street, Holyhead and the Floating Support for 50 individuals will remain unchanged.
- **25-54 Year Olds requiring Support** – The amount for this Service Group will reduce from £169,972 to £135,978, due to the change outlined above with regard to increasing the Mental Health provision.
- **Generic Service** – Despite the fact that Housing-related Support can extend to two years, we now have strong evidence that some of our service users remain vulnerable after this period. Therefore, in order to alleviate concerns and avoid such situations becoming crises that require high-level and costly intervention, such as a statutory provision, we now have an additional provision which will be of benefit to our users and more intensive interventions. The Housing Service which already provides a generic service for up to 80 people a week, will also provide this continuous intervention to an extra 60 people. The service will be available to people who have left a previous provision with positive outcomes, no longer than

12 months previously, and who require access to further support. This will enable people to access a service repeatedly for short periods, in order to prevent the risk of a further crisis happening. These arrangements will be monitored through the Single Point of Access in order to ensure that the intervention does not become long-term and does not create a dependence.

- **Community Alarms.** In 2017 the Supporting People Local Planning Group decided to decommission the funding of a community alarms provision using Supporting People funding. This decision was made in order to ensure that we fully complied with the recommendations in the Aylward Review, and in order to redirect money towards Schemes that are specifically related to preventing homelessness. This transition period will come to an end on 31.3.19, and from 1.4.19, users will either have to fund the provision from their own income or receive a benefit or support from Continuing Health Care funding, if they are eligible.

3.0 New Areas for Development

3.1 Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse is viewed as a priority area locally on Anglesey and regionally in North Wales. At present there is a refuge for 4 families, together with a dispersed single refuge, of which the latter can provide emergency supported accommodation for women or men. In addition to this, we commission 6 units of floating support for survivors of abuse, together with an IDVA service for up to 14 people a week. Due to an unfortunate increase in the number of victims/survivors of domestic abuse, we have increased the numbers that receive floating support to up to 30 a week. This means that an additional £31k has been allocated to the provider to enable them to employ another officer.

As we look ahead towards remodelling the current and historical provision, we have already established a Task and Finish Group of key stakeholders, which includes representation from the Children and Adults Services, the Probation Service, North Wales Police, the Community Safety Partnership and the local providers to look at identifying gaps in the existing services. We are working on a multi-agency basis and attempting to bring together resources from the Children and Families Grant and the Housing-related Support Grant programmes, in order to develop a new service that will:

- Be modern and fit for purpose, giving consideration to using the 'safe houses' model;
- Offer different options to families and individuals who are victims or survivors of domestic abuse;
- Offer a holistic service and avoid duplication;

- Provide value for money;
- A 24/7 provision in refuges.

To begin with, we aim to pilot a scheme for 3 months, which will offer an all-inclusive service through intensive intervention on a model that is based on the IFSS Plan (Integrated Family Support Services). We will then compare outcomes and results against the traditional model, and consider options for going out to tender. We hope to invite applications for providing the service through an open tender on the Sell2Wales site, with the aim that the newly-designed service will be operational by 1.10.19.

3.2 The redevelopment of the Sheltered Housing scheme at Llawr Y Dref has provided opportunities to be innovative and inclusive. As a landlord, the Council has already agreed to let two properties for meeting the needs of people with Learning Disabilities, with one additional property for mental health needs. Initial support is provided here for the purpose of moving on to live independently within the community, therefore the turnover figures within these three properties might be higher than for the other units in the Scheme. It is acknowledged that Housing-related Support is a key factor in terms of achieving the objective for vulnerable individuals to be able to maintain their tenancy. Therefore, within this commissioning cycle, following approval by the Supporting People Local Planning Group, it is proposed that Supporting People should contribute towards the cost of the support provision, and that the impact of terminating the floating support funding, as outlined above, is reduced by commissioning support as previously mentioned, up to a value of £26,000, which is commensurate to £8,666 a year for each of the service users.

3.7 We will continue to fund the post of the Single Point of Access Officer, which has existed since October 2017. Between 1st October and 31 December 2018, over 1,200 referrals were received from various agencies, for receiving housing-related support through the Supporting People funding. We have also seen a 77% increase in referrals since 1.1.19, with 159 cases having been referred, and should this trend continue the number of cases will have increased from a monthly average of 60 individuals to 106 for the same period. Although it might be slightly premature to be completely certain, this concerning and high increase should not be disregarded as being due to the introduction of Universal Credit to replace mainstream benefits on the Island since 4.12.18.

3.8 We will also continue to employ the post of the Prison Leavers Rehabilitation Officer within the Housing Service. This scheme has proved successful, and the current officer has built a meaningful relationship with the four main prisons, namely HMP Berwyn, HMP Altcourse, HMP Stoke Heath and HMP Styall. This has meant that:

- a high number of prison leavers have received a homelessness assessment before leaving prison, which has reduced the pressure on housing options officers, by preventing the need for the individual to present at the Council.
- It enabled an earlier decision to establish whether the Housing Service had a duty to accommodate or not.
- The Officer can work with private sector landlords and find a suitable and affordable property, when the individual returns from prison to the community.
- It reduces the risk of reoffending and offers a temporary or permanent address that the police and other criminal justice agencies have also approved.

4.0 Regional Collaborative Committee

4.1 Members of the North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee, which includes Portfolio Holders and Heads of Service or Senior Service Managers (Housing / Social Services) are keen to continue with the regional arrangement of using Supporting People Grant money for the possibility of purchasing some commissioned services on a regional basis within particular fields, such as domestic abuse, or needs relating to offending. In order to achieve this aim, it has been proposed at a Regional Level and approved at Local Planning Group Boards across North Wales that every Local Authority should make a 0.5% contribution directly from the Supporting People annual allocation.

4.2 Based on a contribution of 0.5%, Anglesey's grant for local provision would reduce by £13,219.00.

4.3 The priorities of the North Wales Regional Collaborative Committee for the year are.

- Learning Disabilities
- People Leaving Prison or Those with a History of Offending
- Rough Sleepers
- Domestic Abuse
- Mental Health

5.0 Increase in Number of Referrals to the Supporting People Single Point of Access From 1st January to 28th February 2019

It should be noted that core Supporting People Services, provide core support for 613 service users per week, with 54 additional units currently being provided via Hafan Cymru and Digartref (Slippage Funding). Currently there are only 2 units out of the (667) 613 +54

that are vacant, and it is as a result of being unable to place 2 people within one designated CAIS accommodation, resulting in only one occupying, and that another referral fell through, over the past few days, following re-admission into custody. It is likely that we will have waiting lists for services in the very near future, unless the current trend decreases considerably. The likelihood is that the situation will be further exacerbated, once the impact of Universal Credit take a further grip amongst our most vulnerable citizens.

6.0 Details of Presentations Made to Housing Options Team between 1st April 2018 and 28th February 2019

In addition it should be noted that 670 people have presented to the Housing Service during the current financial year, for either information, advice or direct support.

The 670 presentations noted above, have been disaggregated as follows, and in accordance with the respective Sections of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

- 244 presentations made in accordance with Section 66 of the Act, where there is a duty on the Housing Service to prevent homelessness ('preventative duty') when eligible and at risk of homelessness within 56 days.
- 181 presentations under Section 73, where there is a duty on the Housing Services to assist in finding accommodation, including the Private Sector for the eligible person and homeless at the time of presenting.
- 95 presentations under Sections 73 and 68, where the homeless person needs to be placed in temporary accommodation, which could include bed and breakfast.
- 136 presentations made under Section 60 of the Act, where there is a duty on the Council to provide information, advice and assistance.
- 14 presentations made where the relevant Duty in accordance with the Act is yet to be established .

It should be noted that the information relating to the above presentations are based upon the initial circumstances, and that individual circumstances are likely to change at any time, which subsequently influences which Section within the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, should be applied in each separate case.

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B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?
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The decisions were based on a strategic approach which focused on:

- Eligibility in accordance with the Grant Conditions of the Supporting People Programme
- Strategic relevance in accordance with the Corporate Aims of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's and those of the Housing Services
- Service Quality as verified in the programme of detailed reviews that were undertaken during the past year and the previous three years. Monitoring reports are held every six months and comprehensive service reviews every three years.
- Value for money following a detailed exercise that was undertaken across all providers and the levels of need identified by providers when service users have a range of varying and complex issues requiring support.
- Ensuring that the aims and objectives of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 are satisfied.

The above factors outline the reasoning used in considering various options for reducing funding in particular services, remodelling others and in some cases, fully decommissioning.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?
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It is one of the requirements of the Supporting People Programme Grant Conditions stipulated by the Welsh Government, that the Annual Plan is approved at the level of Local Elected Members.

CH – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Not applicable.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?
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Not applicable – Supporting People is a Welsh Government Grant Programme.

DD – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Agree with recommendations and stating that Supporting People funded Services are a core necessity to meet the needs of vulnerable Anglesey citizens.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	See above
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Include additional data demonstrating the significant increase in referrals to the Supporting People Single Point of Access and presentations to the Housing Services. This data became available following the completion of the spend plan within the required time limit for submission to Welsh Government. – it was felt that including it would make it easier to relate to the report and become more meaningful to the target audience.
4	Human Resources (HR)	No comments
5	Property	Not applicable
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	Not applicable
7	Scrutiny	Not applicable
8	Local Members	Not applicable
9	Any external bodies / other/s	We have consulted with all our providers regarding the proposed plans and developments

E – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)		
1	Economic	It is anticipated that fully decommissioning the alarms will have no economic impact, as it was the capital cost of the monitoring and equipment that was paid from Supporting People funding, which will continue, whether from another source, or self-funded by the service user.
2	Anti-poverty	We do not anticipate any direct impact as a result of changes, although social policy changes, particularly welfare reform, could exacerbate circumstances for some vulnerable individuals and/or chaotic

		individuals and families. A significant increase has been recorded in the number of cases presented during January and February. This is consistent with the experience of other areas and it follows and gives us reason to believe that it could be as a result of the roll-out of Universal Credit into the mainstream system.
3	Crime and Disorder	No direct impact from the strategy. However, an increase in crime and disorder as a result of a change in social policy and increased poverty could mean that demand is greater than supply, leading to an inability to satisfy increasing needs. This could have a significant impact on service users and providers, especially when considering the complex and chaotic needs of some service users who require multiagency support and intervention. Over the past few months we have already seen an increase in the numbers leaving prison who need support, together with an increase in domestic abuse.
4	Environmental	Not applicable
5	Equalities	An Equality Impact Assessment has been included within the Local Commissioning Strategy that was shared previously.
6	Outcome Agreements	Supporting People providers must conform to the mandatory outcomes framework prescribed by the Welsh Government.
7	Other	Not applicable

F - Appendices:
Supporting People Programme Grant – Local Commissioning Strategy Update 2019-20

FF - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to	Pwyllgor Gwaith
Date	25.3.19
Subject	Annual Update Supporting People Commissioning Strategy 2019/20
Head of Service	Ned Michael
Lead Officer(s)	Elliw Llyr Service Manager Policy, Commissioning and Housing Strategy Arwel Jones, Principal Development Officer, Housing Services.
Contact Officer	Arwel Jones, Principal Development Officer, Housing Services Dept,

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this paper is threefold and provides the following:

- A profile of the current expenditure based on the current Supporting People Programme Grant allocation for Anglesey, of £2,643, 866. Currently 99.71% (£2,636,198.79) has been committed and it is anticipated that there will be an underspend of £7,599 which is commensurate with 0.29% of the total grant allocated.
- To provide a proposed spend Plan for 2019/20, based upon the same allocation as the previous 4 years, this being £2,643,866.
- To act as the Supporting People Local Commissioning Plan for 2019/20

2.0 2018/19 Budget.

2.1 A breakdown of current expenditure profile and proposed Spend Plan for 2019/20 can be seen in Appendix1 of this document.

3.0 Service User Needs and other key data

3.1 A breakdown of the needs at the point of presenting for services, as well as other key data relating to demographics, homelessness and other key social factors can be seen in Appendix 2 of this document.

4.0 Service Groups

4.1 Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse, has been identified as both a local and regional priority area for development during 2019/20. Following the introduction of the VAWDASV Act 2015, and subsequent regional North Wales Commissioning and Governance Boards. Work remains on going at national, regional and local levels to remodel services for survivors of domestic abuse, whilst also recognising the need to work across agencies with perpetrators. The following diagram taken from the North Wales Regional Strategic Plan, for 19/20 provides an overview of the recommendations, achievements and progression made at regional level during 2018.

Recommendations agreed at the November 2017 Regional Collaborative Committee:



Achievements / Progression in 2018



RCC Sub Group and Domestic Abuse Colleagues to meet further to discuss the outcomes from the Needs Assessment and gaps identified against current provision available.

•Chair of RCC now a member of the VAWDASV Board, VAWDASV Board now have a Joint Commissioning Task and Finish Group with Supporting People Lead Officers, the VAWDASV Needs Assessment that formed the VAWDASV Strategy has been shared at this group. The Regional Domestic Abuse Coordinator attends the RCC Sub Group. Links have been made and the VAWDASV Strategy has been widely consulted on across the RCC.

For each local authority to allocate a percentage of Supporting People Programme Grant going forward for any future regional priorities

•Each local authority has committed to allocating a percentage of their Supporting People grant for joint working with the VAWDASV Board, this commitment will be allocated to the Regional IDVA service and target hardening.
•**THIS IS PENDING SP PLANNING GROUPS SIGN OFF**

Regional Independent Domestic Violence Advisors Service – for the RCC to agree for this avenue to be explored further by the RCC Sub Group

•Proportion of Supporting People Grant committed to a Regional IDVA Service and Target Hardening
PENDING AGREEMENT
•Regional IDVA Service set to commence in 2019

Discussions remain ongoing regarding the commissioning of IDVA Services, for which £12,000 is allocated from the Anglesey SP budget. It is anticipated that this service will be provided at regional level during 2019/20. The exact date is yet to be confirmed and any transfer shall be subject to full a procurement process, which will be led the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner North Wales.

From a local perspective, discussions have commenced with key stakeholders, such as Social Services, Education, Health, Probation and 3rd Sector Providers, in terms of remodelling the current services on the Island. It is envisaged that key stakeholders within the Housing Support Grant and Children and Communities Grant will agree to pool funding resulting in a jointly commissioned holistic service, which will encompass both accommodation and support based services, in conjunction with statutory intervention involving child protection work, currently undertaken by our Social Services Colleagues.

Submissions of CID 16's from the Police along with performance management data from Gorwel (see appendix 2), indicate that domestic abuse incidents continue to increase, with a number of cases indicating the existence of complex and challenging needs amongst the survivors. It has been apparent for some considerable time that Gorwel have been delivering in the region of 25 to 30 units of floating support per week, despite being contracted for only six. Slippage funding within the current budget has been granted to Gorwel to employ additional staffing capacity to deal with escalating need. It is anticipated that the number of incidents will further increase during 2019, as a result of escalating socio economic issues, and the high number of families subsequently living below the poverty line on the Island. There is a necessity, to retender this service area during the 2019/20 financial year, both in terms of ensuing that the current service delivery arrangements meet local needs, as well as the legal requirement to comply with European Procurement Rules.

A timetable for the tendering of future provision for domestic abuse services is scheduled to be drafted during Qtr 1 of 2019/20, with the aim of delivering the remodelled delivery from around October 2019. In the meantime, it is recommended that core Supporting People funding for this service area remains unchanged at £162,752 per annum.

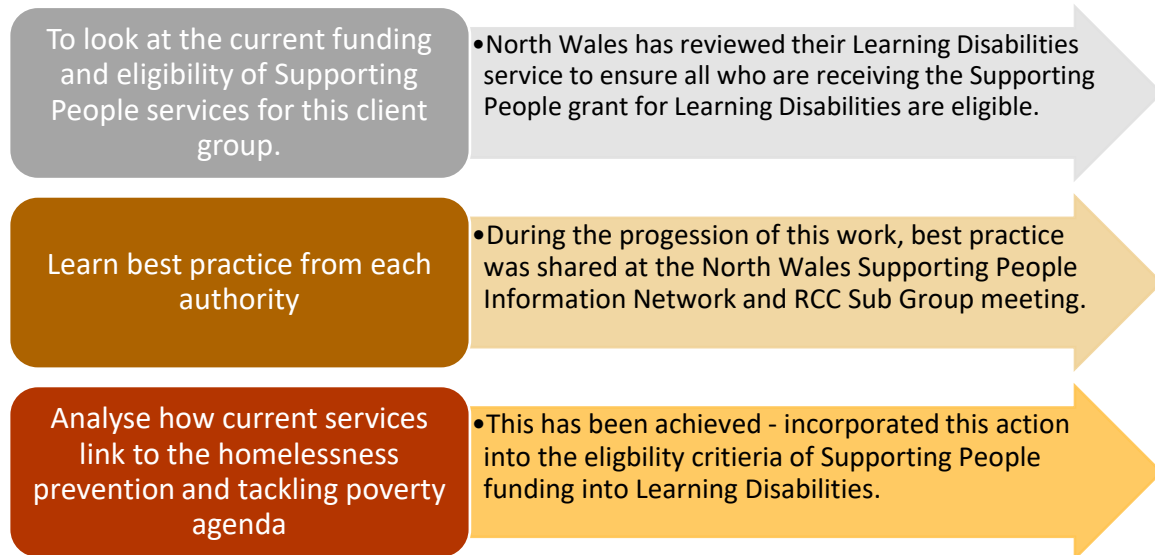
Lead Officer Recommendation – Continue funding arrangements as shown above.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.2 Learning Disabilities

The level of Supporting People investment within Learning Disabilities has been substantially reduced, over the past 5 years. Learning disabilities currently accounts for 18% of the total Supporting People expenditure, compared with 33% 5 years ago.

Despite the considerable work undertaken across the majority of North Wales Local Authorities since 2017 (as shown in the diagram below) Welsh Government remain committed to reviewing the expenditure levels invested within this service group. A new guidance document is expected during the next financial year, which may present further risks of additional reductions being made to Supporting People funded services for people with Learning Disabilities.



Whilst we await further clarification and guidance from Welsh Government, work remains ongoing at a corporate and local level to remodel the existing provision for both internal and external provision for this service user group

At the time of writing, two units of move-on accommodation are currently being refurbished and are near completion, within a council owned sheltered housing scheme, with the intention of being made available to people with learning disabilities to be supported towards independence.

The budget allocated for people with learning disabilities for 2018/19 amounted to £479,266. However, due to one service user being transferred into continuing health care provision, whilst remaining in the supported property, along with reductions in provision for another service user, and the decision by Adult Social Care not to utilise Helidon, resulting in a further 22 hours being de-commissioned, the actual expenditure is expected to decrease by £48,531. This amount will be offset by the two new units at Llawr y Dref, at a combined cost of £17,333. The budget allocated in accordance with current contracts will therefore be £27,996 higher than the current anticipated spend for 2018/19, but will still be less than the sum initially allocated for 2018/19, because of the factors outlined above.

Lead Officer Recommendation – In line with current contractual arrangements and including 2 further units of Supported Accommodation at Llawr y Dref, invest £458,730 for people with Learning Disabilities.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.3 Mental Health

At the time of writing, the designated service for people with mental health related housing support needs is being reviewed as part of a 3 year cycle. The current contract has an option to extend provision for a further 3 years on a year on year arrangement, based upon contract compliance, satisfactory service delivery and available funding.

Monitoring visits undertaken during the past twelve months, along with performance data, have indicated that demand remains extremely high. Indeed needs associated with mental health is the highest recorded reason for referring into the Supporting People SPoA (see appendix2). The service has achieved a number of positive outcomes to its service users, many of which have been as a result of the effective use of Wellbeing Hubs within the community, which are led by the user themselves.

In addition, 5 units of Housing First provision has been transferred from the Services for Single People Aged 25-54 on the Spend Plan to Mental Health, as the former rather than the latter is the designated lead need, despite both being provided by The Wallich as part of the same project. Given the strong correlation between mental health needs and homelessness or risk of homelessness, it remains without doubt, a strategically relevant service area within the homeless prevention agenda.

It was initially agreed that three units of supported accommodation would be made available for People with Learning Disabilities at the soon to be re-opened and refurbished Llawr Y Dref project. Unfortunately, it has only been possible for Social Services to allocate units for two people with Learning Disabilities, therefore following further discussions with Housing and Social Services, it has been agreed to allocate the remaining property for an individual with mental health needs, again for move-on purposes.

Lead Officer Recommendation –

Extend provision for further 12 months pending satisfactory review.

Increase the level of investment shown on the Spend Plan for people with mental health needs from £183, 771 to £225,931 to reflect the 5 units which shall be transferred from the Support Services for Single People aged 25-54 and a further 1 unit of move-on at Llawr y Dref.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.4 Offending / Substance Misuse / Generic

At the time of writing, the designated service for people with Offending, Substance Misuse and Generic housing support needs, is being reviewed as part of a 3 year cycle. The current contract has an option to extend provision for a further 3 years on

a year on year arrangement, based upon contract compliance, satisfactory service delivery and available funding.

Monitoring visits undertaken during the past twelve months have indicated that demand remains high and at a time where the above needs are clearly associated with increasing levels of homelessness. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the service remains strategically relevant. Furthermore, the Prison Resettlement Officer post previously commissioned via the Homeless Prevention Grant has since April 2018, been directly commissioned via the Supporting People Grant. This arrangement has worked well and has enabled CAIS to concentrate on targeted support for those offenders living in the community and at risk of reoffending. In comparison, the Prison Resettlement Officer, who is a Council employee, is able to undertake pre-release work with both the prisons and the offender, and work closely with Housing Options to find suitable accommodation prior to the release date. For further details see paragraph on the Prison Resettlement Officer.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Continue current level of funding as per contractual agreement £48,625.39, £135,065.88, and £102,439.00 for generic provision. Total contract value = £286,130.27. Extend provision for further 12 months pending satisfactory review.

Include the Prison Resettlement Officer Post within the Offending Group Category.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.5 Young People

Following the tender exercise held in November 2017, which determined that the contractual value from 1.4.18 -31.3.2021 will be £487,697.13, the current financial year has been one of further consolidation for this service area. Demand remains extremely high, with anecdotal evidence from SPoA referrals received, indicating that those presenting within this age group, particularly for Supported Accommodation services, appear to be exhibiting increasing levels of multi-complex and needs and challenging behaviour. Substance misuse, mental health and offending history, appear to be the major issues amongst this vulnerable service user group.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Continue to deliver Contract at agreed price £497,697

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.6 Young Vulnerable Single Parents

The vast majority of young vulnerable single parents supported as part of this contract have experienced domestic abuse, which is noted as a secondary need. Given the volume of secondary needs directly linked with domestic abuse, consideration needs to be given to whether or not funding for this service should be merged within a dedicated domestic abuse model.

This service was reviewed as part of a three yearly cycle prior to deciding future commissioning arrangements. Following the recommendations of the Reviewing Officer, the number of units delivered per week, have been increased from 12 to 15, at no extra cost to the SP Programme, whilst the number of supported accommodation remains as 4 units.

A decision will however need to be made during Quarter 1 and 2 of 2019, as to whether or not we continue with a dedicated service for young vulnerable single parents, or if we redistribute part or all funding into domestic abuse provision and/or other services.

In the meantime it is recommended that the 2019/20 spend plan includes the current levels of funding and unit provision for this service user/ group.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Continue to deliver the service at the current agreed contract price of £74,189.00, until the domestic abuse model is finalised. This may result in either re-commissioning re-modelling or full decommissioning of this service during the 2019/20 financial year.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.7 Support for Single People Aged 25-54 via Housing First Delivery Model –

The Housing First service was re-awarded to the Wallich from April 2018, for a period of 3 years at £169,972.44 per annum. A total of 25 units of support is provided.

Since its introduction, Housing First has demonstrated its value in ensuring that the single people aged 25 -54 presenting with support needs are assisted and encouraged to maintain their tenancies, with 79% from a sample of the first 119 people supported, recorded as living independently post cessation of support. Such was the success of the model -in enabling highly vulnerable individuals to succeed within their accommodation and not re-present as homeless- that delivery has now been extended to support people with mental health as a lead need. A total of 5 units from the 25 delivered per week are now designated for people with mental health needs. Although, the Wallich receive one monthly payment for all 25 units delivered, it is necessary that the 2019/20 Spend Plan, be amended, to reflect the additional resources invested in mental health with a corresponding decrease in the number of single people aged 25-54 receiving support.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Decrease the level of investment shown on the Spend Plan for services for Single People Aged 25-54 by £33,994 and transfer to the Mental Health category.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.8 Older People –

At the time of writing, plans are underway to commence the three yearly review of the tenure neutral service for older people. Pending a satisfactory outcome to the review, the current arrangements can be extended for a further three years, on a year on year basis, subject to contract compliance, available funding and provision of a quality service. Since commissioning this service to replace the previous warden service which was exclusive to council tenants only, the project has grown in popularity, offering equal access to any person or couple over 55 years old and in need of support to live independently or are at risk of homelessness. The service has also allowed equal access and added value to other social activities such as a vegetable allotment, craft and sewing club projects as well as promoting access and signposting to the 3 Age Well Clubs located in Llangefni, Amlwch and Brynsiecyn. The project is commissioned to deliver two hours targeted support for a minimum of 150 people per week. However, due to the demand and varying levels of need, it has been established from performance management information received from the SPoA that in excess of 180 people have been supported per week for a sustained period of time.

Following a service review of the Clwyd Alyn, Sheltered Housing Schemes at Bro Trehinon, Amlwch and Min-Yr Afon, Benllech, it was recommended in the Reviewing Officer's report that these services be decommissioned, from 1.4.19, on the grounds that neither scheme met the eligibility criteria for Housing Related Support and was delivering a service which was more housing management orientated. A saving of £8,877 to invest in alternative service provision has been noted.

Lead Officer Recommendation -

1. Pending a satisfactory service review, extend period of funding for the targeted support for people over 55 years old for a further 12 months initially as per contractual agreement for the sum of £340,853,59.

2 As previously agreed at the SP Planning Group, complete decommissioning process for the Clwyd Alyn Warden Service, thus reducing investment in this service user group by £8,877.00

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.9 Generic Services –

A new Generic On-going Service has been commissioned from 1.11.18 and is provided by the internal Housing Service. In addition to the 80 unit core generic tenancy related support, provided by Housing, the new on-going support will offer support for a further 50 people who are deemed as vulnerable, following cessation of their designated lead need period of support. In addition, service users can access this new service, should a trigger occur, providing they have been supported by this service, or other housing related provider during the previous 12 months. Such early intervention at this point may result in preventing escalation into a situation of crisis and costly statutory intervention.

A further 34 units of housing related support is provided by CAIS as part of their flexible contract to meet the needs of people with substance misuse, and or those with a criminal offending history, and /or generic tenancy need.

The total combined cost of the generic provision, including the ongoing support amounts to £403,990

Lead Officer Recommendation - Continue funding arrangements as per above.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.10 Alarms – The Aylward Review determined that all Supporting People services should be based on need rather than tenure. All direct support provision is now compliant with this requirement. However, in some properties, community alarms ‘remain’ live where there is no requirement, and consequently a charge is levied by Galw Gofal for the Call Monitoring Fee and a maintenance charge which is not eligible for SP funding is paid to Tunstall.

Following discussions with key stakeholders including Senior Managers from the Housing Service, it has been agreed that the Supporting People Programme Grant **should not** be utilised to subsidise what in effect is an ineligible service. As part of the 2018/19 it was recommend and agreed that an incremental reduction be implemented from April 2018. It is therefore recommended that a reduction of 50% be introduced from April 2018 and the remaining 50% subsidy abolished from 2019/20. The agreed recommendation provided a 12 month period to undertake the necessary consultation and engagement with service users who would be impacted upon and allow sufficient time to manage the change in arrangements, for implementation of a service charge. Notification of the intention to withdraw funding has previously been shared in writing with the Head of Housing Services, Head of Adults Services, Grŵp Cynefin Officials and Tenants in respect of Penucheldre and Llys Mair, Y Gilfach and Pont Y Brenin.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Reduce contract by a further £56,749.92, thus ending all SP investment in Community Alarms and any other Telecare equipment.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.11 Single Point of Access (SPoA) – The SPoA service has been operational since 1st October 2017. The effectiveness and success of the SPoA can be highlighted by the fact that there have been no waiting lists, as well as low to nil level of voids across all providers for both floating support and supported accommodation projects during the year. Furthermore, given the increased complexities of the number of referrals received, it is testament to the effectiveness of the project, that there have been only two complex needs panels convened, despite the number of referrals exceeding 1,200.

In addition we have witnessed lower eviction rates, quicker access to services and have also been able to cease the need for providers to complete monthly performance management data, which can now be captured and analysed via the SPoA database. In addition, the project has succeeded in raising the profile of housing related support and the Supporting People Programme Grant in particular, and now generates referrals from agencies such as DWP, Education, and some Health related disciplines who were previously unaware of the grant's existence. A monitoring exercise of the SPoA was undertaken during Oct 2018, with the subsequent report highlighting the effectiveness of this project, as noted above.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Continue to fund the SPoA Officer's post as a Supporting People project. (£35,432.27).

SPPG Decision:

4.12 Prison Resettlement Officer (PRO) – As previously mentioned the role of The Prison Resettlement Officer has been funded via the Supporting People Grant since April 2018, having previously been part of the Homeless Prevention Grant (S180) allocation.

The designated officer for this post is directly employed by the IoACC and is directly accountable to the Team Leader of the Generic Housing and On-going Support provided in House. A key part of the role is to develop working relationships with Prisons, namely, HMP Berwyn (Wrexham), HMP Altcourse, (Liverpool) HMP Styal, (Manchester) and HMP Stoke Heath (Young Persons) to facilitate details of discharge and to undertake support and pre-tenancy work with those due to leave prison, well prior to release. This is seen as a key aspect of the role, where the homelessness assessment will have been completed and shared with housing options prior to the date of discharge, enabling housing options to decide whether or not there is a duty to accommodate. Unfortunately, this does not occur in all cases, particularly those serving short sentences of three months or less, where prison leavers may present as homeless, at the local authority prior to the notification of

discharge being received. Discussions are continuing with the various prisons to improve arrangements around timely information sharing, and it is hoped that this will also have positive impact in reducing the need for placement in temporary and costly accommodation such as bed and breakfast.

At the time of writing, the post-holder was supporting in excess of 30 people. In most cases the officer will support on average for a period of up to twelve weeks, before either closing the case or transferring to another designated provider, which more often than not will be CAIS, given the nature of lead needs for which they provide support.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Continue to fund the Post via the Supporting People Programme Grant at an annual cost of £35,432.27

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

4.13 Regional Funding Pot (0.5%) – Circa April 2017, the Regional Collaborative Committee agreed that all six North Wales Local Authorities should contribute 0.5% (£13,219 for Ynys Môn) of its annual funding, in order to facilitate opportunities for enhanced joint working with a view to increasing regional and or sub regional commissioning arrangements. An example of this included the commissioning of the report detailing services available to Prison Leavers. It is envisaged that some of the funding in 2019 will be used for regional domestic abuse purposes, which may include focussing on establishing a regional service for male victims of domestic abuse.

Lead Officer Recommendation – Agree to a ‘top- sliced’ contribution of 0.5% (£13,219) towards the Regional Pot, which shall be administered by the North Wales RCC.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

5.0 Proposed New Funding Arrangements –

5.1 Learning Disability – Llawr y Dref Project.

The redevelopment of Llawr Y Dref, Sheltered Housing Scheme has provided opportunities for innovation and inclusion. The Council’s Housing Services as landlords have agreed to make 3 properties available for supported accommodation purposes. Initially all 3 properties were intended for people with Learning Disabilities to be supported to live independently within the community. However, it will now only be possible to allocate two properties for this purpose, whilst the other following agreement with Housing Services, will be allocated for people with mental health needs, with all three being for move on purposes towards permanent accommodation. It is recognised that Housing Related Support will be a key factor in reaching the objective of a vulnerable person’s ability to maintain his or her tenancy. It is therefore proposed that Supporting People contribute towards the cost of

support, and that the cost will be cost neutral to the programme, following identified savings in other areas as noted above.

Lead Officer Recommendation - Utilise Grant to fund a minimum of 3 Units of Support to the value of £26,000 pa.

SPPG Decision: Recommendation approved

6.0 Conclusion

The Supporting People Programme continues to be surrounded with uncertainty, and despite the assurances of the Grant being ring-fenced until May 2021, the future of the programme beyond the current term of government remains unclear. The decision by the Welsh Government to merge ten grants into two programmes rather than one, was generally welcomed, with the former focussing on children and community needs and the later concentrating on housing and Support and in particular homeless prevention.

Moving forward, it is now a requirement from Welsh Government, that as Housing practitioners, our homeless prevention Strategy is reflected within our Supporting People Programme and vice versa. Furthermore as strategic commissioners, we must work in partnership with colleagues and stakeholders who commission and provide Services via the Children and Communities Grant, to ensure that we provide strategically relevant quality services, which offer value for money and reduce unnecessary duplication.

At the time of writing, we await a revised outcomes framework which will apply across both the Housing Support and the Children and Communities Grant and will be based upon the goals of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015. It is anticipated that the implementation of this new outcomes framework will reduce the bureaucratic burden in terms of reporting mechanisms for service commissioners from ten separate grants into two specific targeted programmes. Local Authorities, should consequently be granted greater autonomy to plan and commission services to meet the needs of its most vulnerable citizens, which should in turn enable us to adopt a joint approach to meet our corporate goals of:

- Creating the conditions for everyone to achieve their long-term potential
- Support vulnerable adults and families and keep them safe, healthy and as independent as possible

Arwel Jones
Principal Development Officer
Housing Services
Isle of Anglesey County Council

11.1.18.

Appendix 1

SP Budget Proposal "2019/20

Total Budget Allocation for Year = £2,643,866

Service Area	Actual Spend 2017/18	Budget 2018/19	Proposed Funding 2019/20	Adjustment
Domestic Abuse	£191,317	£162,752	£162,752	Nil
Learning Disabilities	£493,030	£479,266	£458,730	−£20,536
Mental Health	£204,956	£183,771	£225,931	+£42,160
Offending	£48,625	£83,698	£83,698	Nil
Substance Misuse	£135,066	£135,066	£135,066	Nil
Young People	£504,645	£497,697	£497,697	Nil
Vul Single Parents	£74,189	£74,189	£74,189	Nil
Housing First	£122,670	£169,972	£135,978	−£33,994
Older People	£349,179	£349,731	£340,854	−£8,877
Generic F/S	£284,544	£284,535	£403,990	+£119,455
Alarms	£114,160	£54,178	Nil	−£54,178
SPOA Service	£39,782 (including Set up)	£35,532	£35,532	Nil
Regional Contribution 0.5%	£13,219	£13,219	13,219	Nil
Virement Mon CF	£18,000	£0.00	Nil	Nil
Prison Resettlement Officer	£0.00	Nil	Nil (£35,432.27 Included in Offending)	Nil
Ongoing Floating Support	Nil	£33,459	Nil (included in Generic above)	Nil
Slippage Projects	Nil	£113,196	Nil	
Totals	£2,593,382	£2,636,267	£2,643,866	
Underspend	£50,484	£7,599.	£76,331	N/A

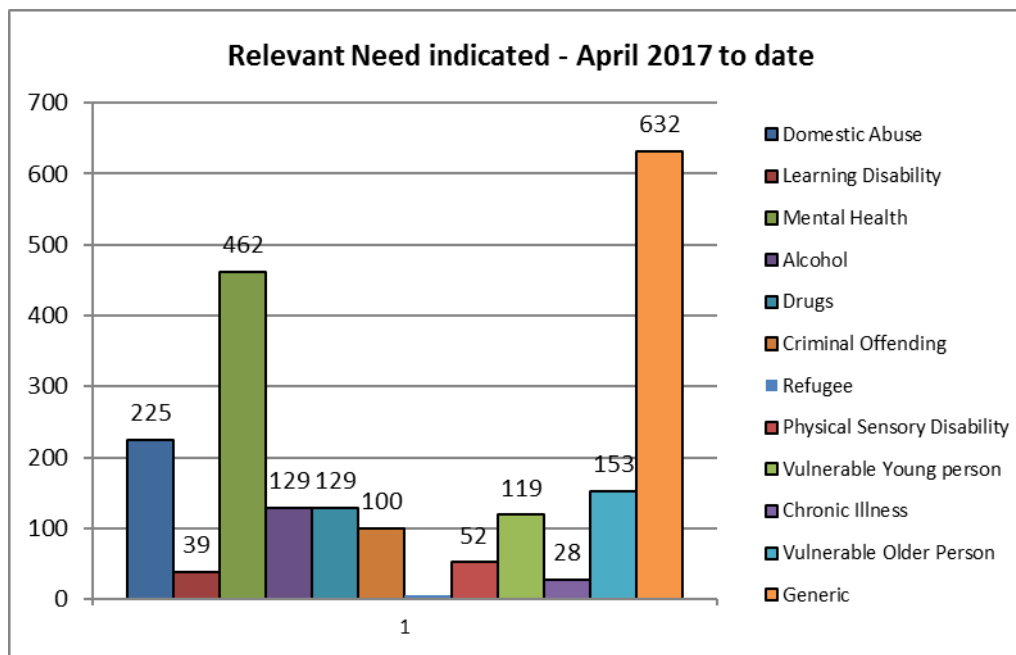
Appendix 2

NMEs input online for year 2017-2018

Prepared 20.04.2018

Analysis completed of a total of **1157** NMEs input online for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018:-

Relevant Needs indicated



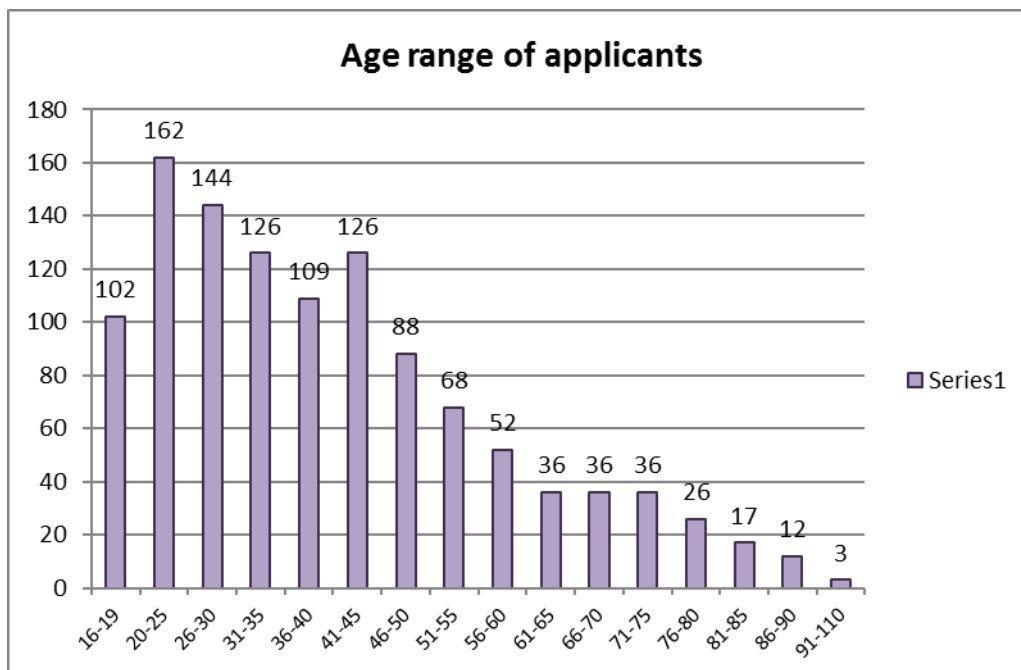
- For of the year to date the “Generic” category has the highest recorded number of “Relevant Need” at 632 (30%) followed by “Mental Health” 462 (22%) with “Domestic Abuse” as the third highest recorded at 225 (11%) over this period. *

Lead Needs



- Overall the highest “Lead Need” is recorded as being “Generic” at 471 (41%), followed by “Mental Health” 192 (17%) and “Domestic Abuse” 171 (15%).
- There remains a number of NMEs (18) which have no recorded Lead need although some will have indicated a number of “relevant needs” on the form without specifying which is actually the lead need.

Age Range of Applicants



- Over the period the age range with the highest number of applicants is the 20-25 year olds **162** which represents 14% of the total NMEs input.

Geographically the following areas have the highest number of applications recorded:-

Holyhead – 409 (35.78%)

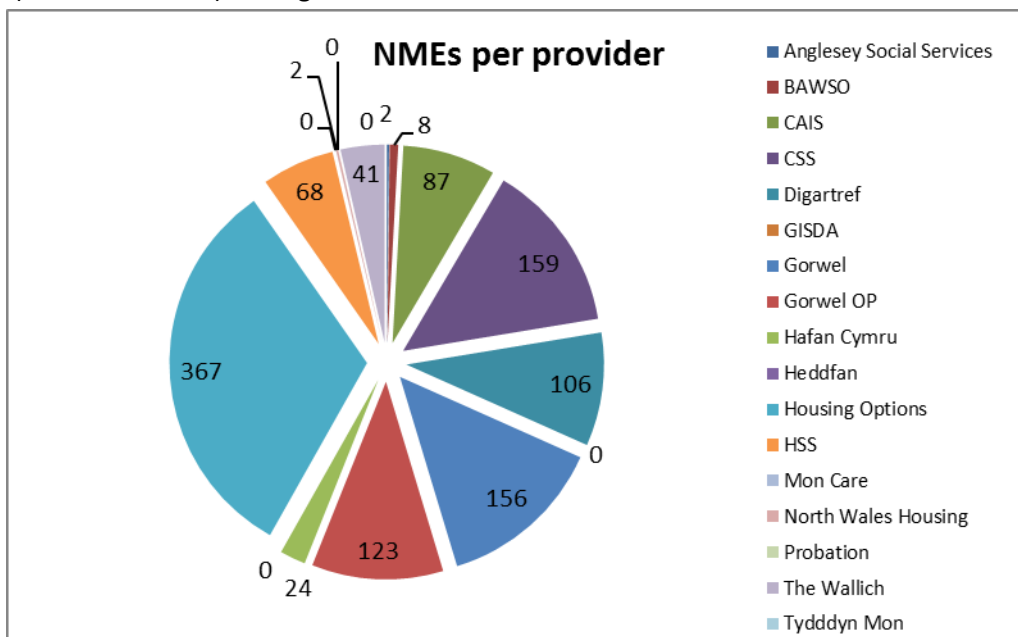
Llangefni – 113 (9.89%)

Amlwch– 49 (4.29%)

Menai Bridge – 47 (4.11%)

Provider Input numbers

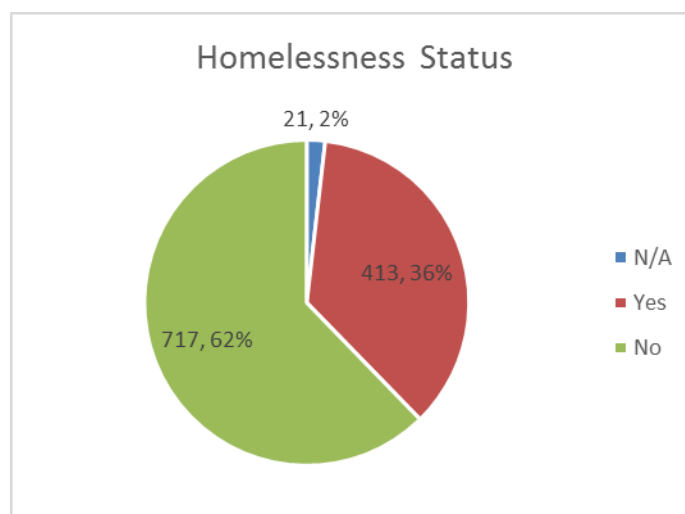
- The numbers of NMEs input per provider are displayed below, in line with the high Relevant and Lead needs indicated; Housing Options (Generic) and CSS (Mental Health) and Gorwel (Domestic Abuse) are highest.



Homelessness Status of people presenting:-

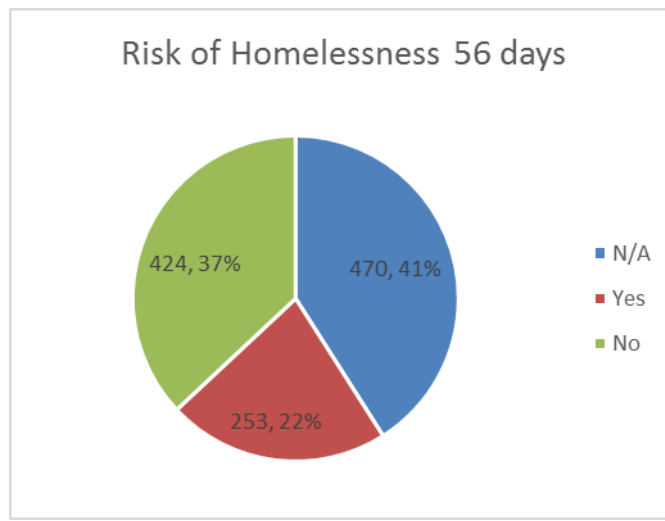
Analysis of all submissions

Homelessness Status



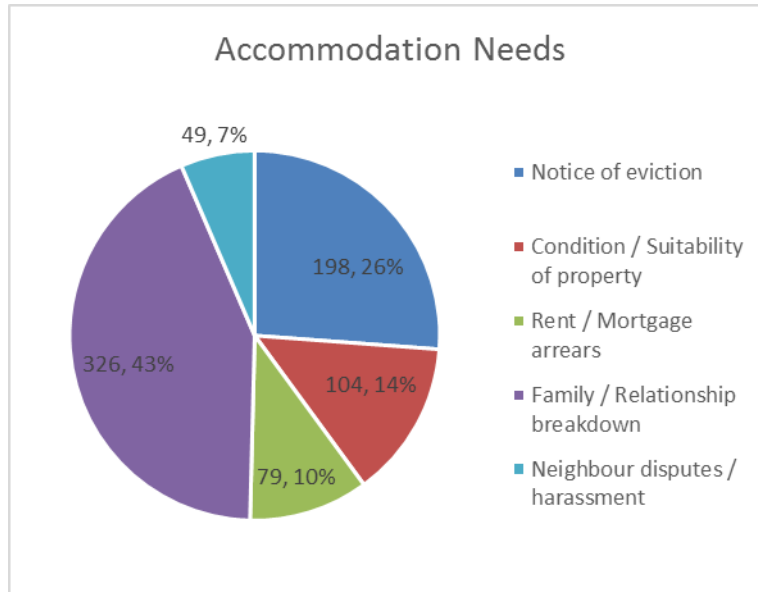
- From the **1157** persons presenting the homelessness status was recorded as
21 – Not applicable
413 – as being homeless
717 – were not homeless.
6 – Did not have a homelessness status recorded.
- Out of the **413** presenting as homeless, **122** had no place to stay that night (**30%** of those presenting as homeless had no place to stay that night).

At Risk of Homelessness 56 days



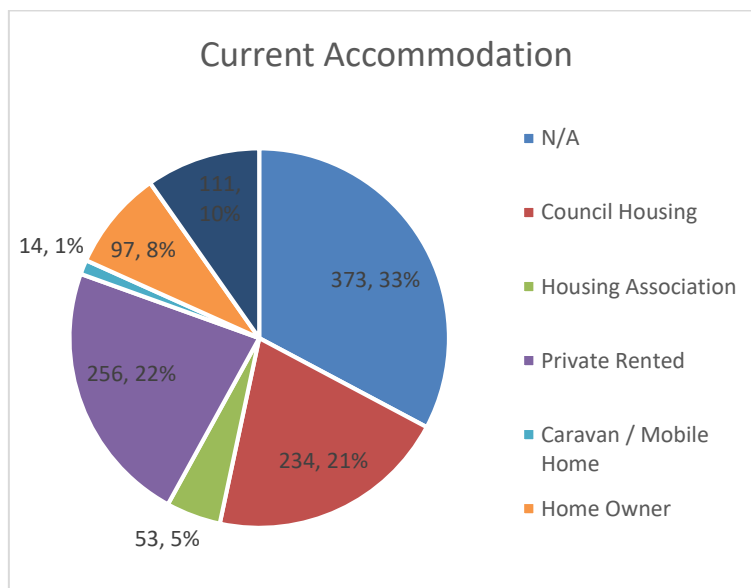
- From the **1157** persons presenting their risk of homelessness was:
470 – N/A (**413** of those would be homeless already)
253 – At risk of being homeless within 56 days
424 – Not at risk of being homeless within 56 days
- Out of the **424** not at risk of being homeless within 56 days, **109** were at risk of homelessness in the long term. (10% at risk of homelessness in long term, 27% at no risk of homelessness)

Accommodation Needs



- The Accommodation needs were recorded as above, the highest need was recorded as being due to “Family / Relationship breakdown” with a total of **326 (43%)** of all submissions.

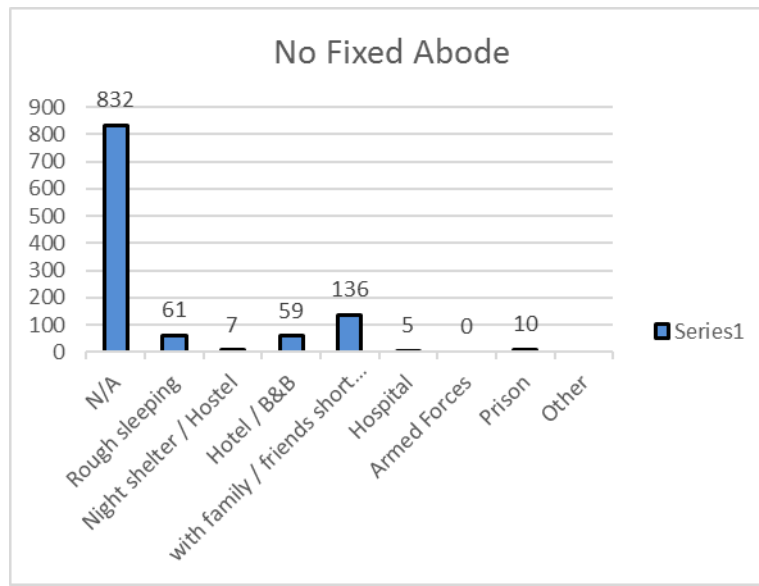
Current Accommodation



- 33% (373)** of submissions are recorded as Not Applicable, this may be due to the fact that some providers were not completing the homelessness data on the input forms, and accordingly the remaining categories may have been understated.
- 256 (22%)** of the submissions are for people currently in private rented accommodation and **234 (21%)** in Council Housing

There are **142** people recorded as living in the home of family or friends on a long term basis.

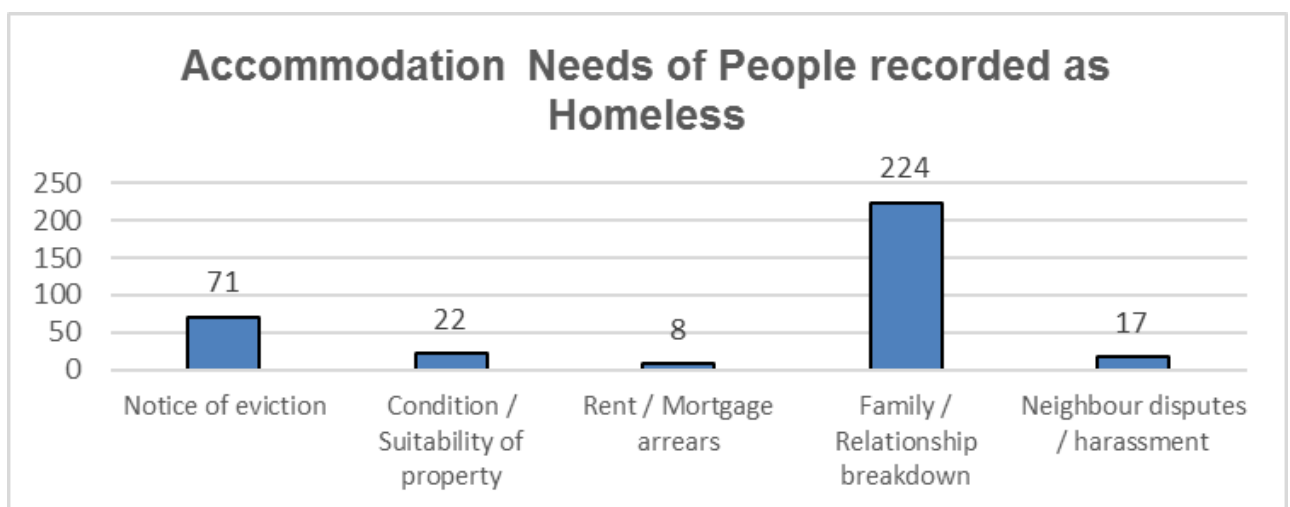
No Fixed Abode



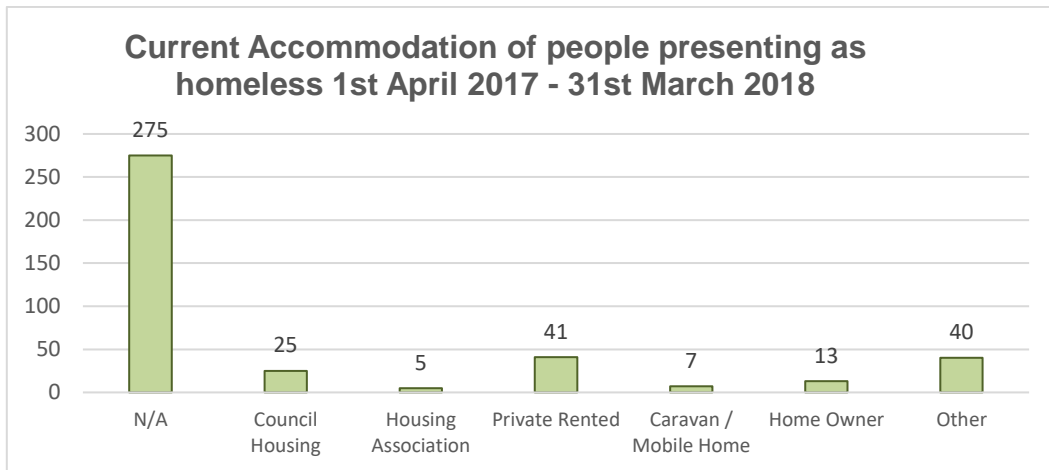
- As with the “Current Accommodation” section above a high proportion of the submissions have been recorded as “Not Applicable”. This may be correct if this category does not apply to the applicants or may be the case that providers have not completed this section; there may therefore be a degree of understatement in the remaining categories.
- Only 278 people were described as being of “No Fixed Abode” despite 407 people having been listed as “Homeless”.
- 136 people are staying with family and friends on a temporary basis
- 61 people are recorded as “Rough Sleeping”
-

Breakdown of applicants presenting as being homeless.

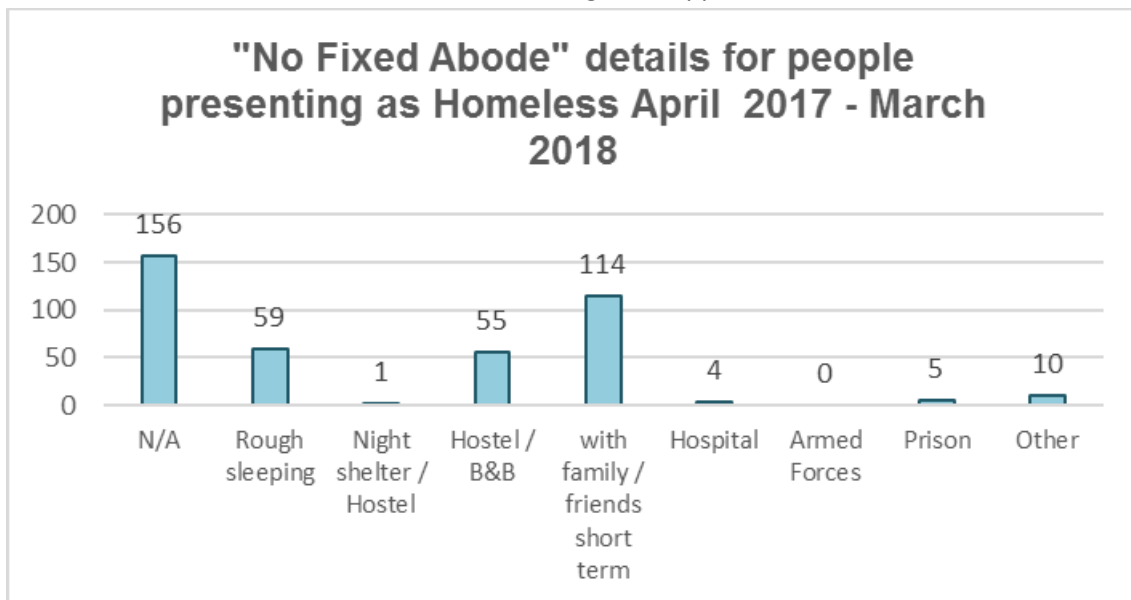
Of the 407 people Recorded above as being Homeless 119 of these indicated that they had no place to sleep that same night.



- **55.04% (224)** of presentations as homeless were as a result of Family / Relationship breakdown.



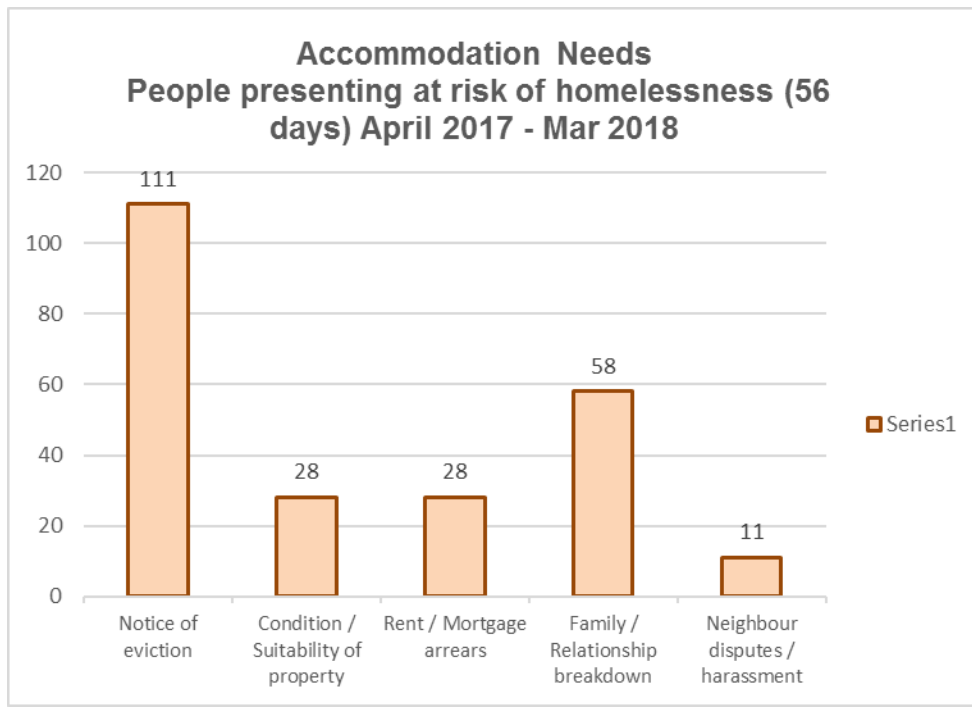
- **275** record current accommodation as being “Not Applicable”...



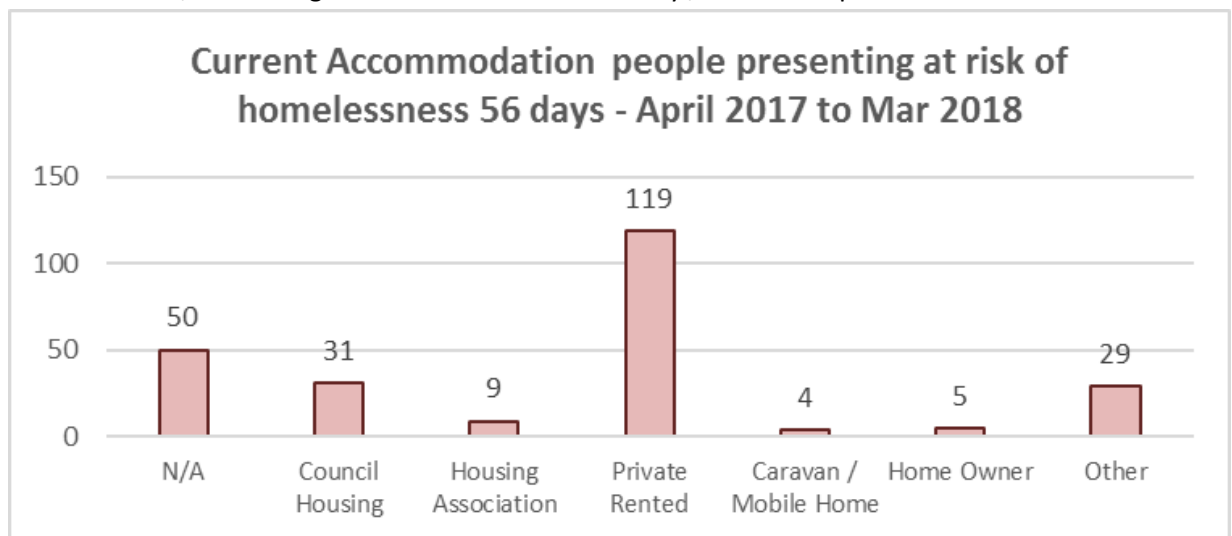
- There are **114** people recorded as living with family / friends on a long term basis which accounts for some of the number recorded in the Not Applicable category. An additional **50** are with family / friends on a short term basis.
- There are **59** people recorded as rough sleeping

Breakdown of applicants presenting as potentially being homeless within 56 days.

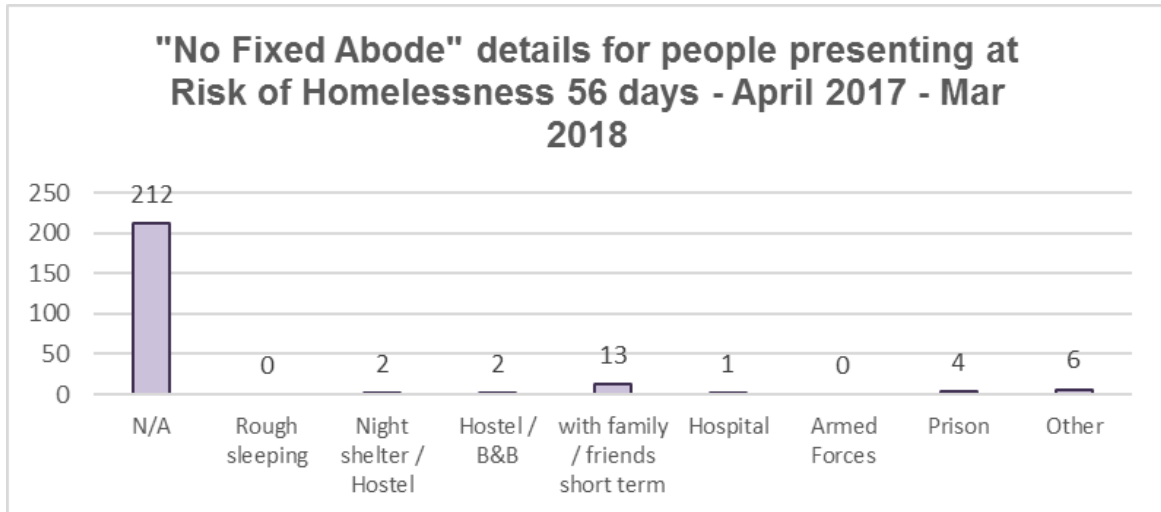
There are **248** people recorded as being at Risk of Homeless within 56 days (**3** of these had also been recorded as being Homeless)



- The majority of people at risk of homelessness within 56 days are at risk as a result of Notice of Eviction, second highest recorded is due to Family / Relationship breakdown.



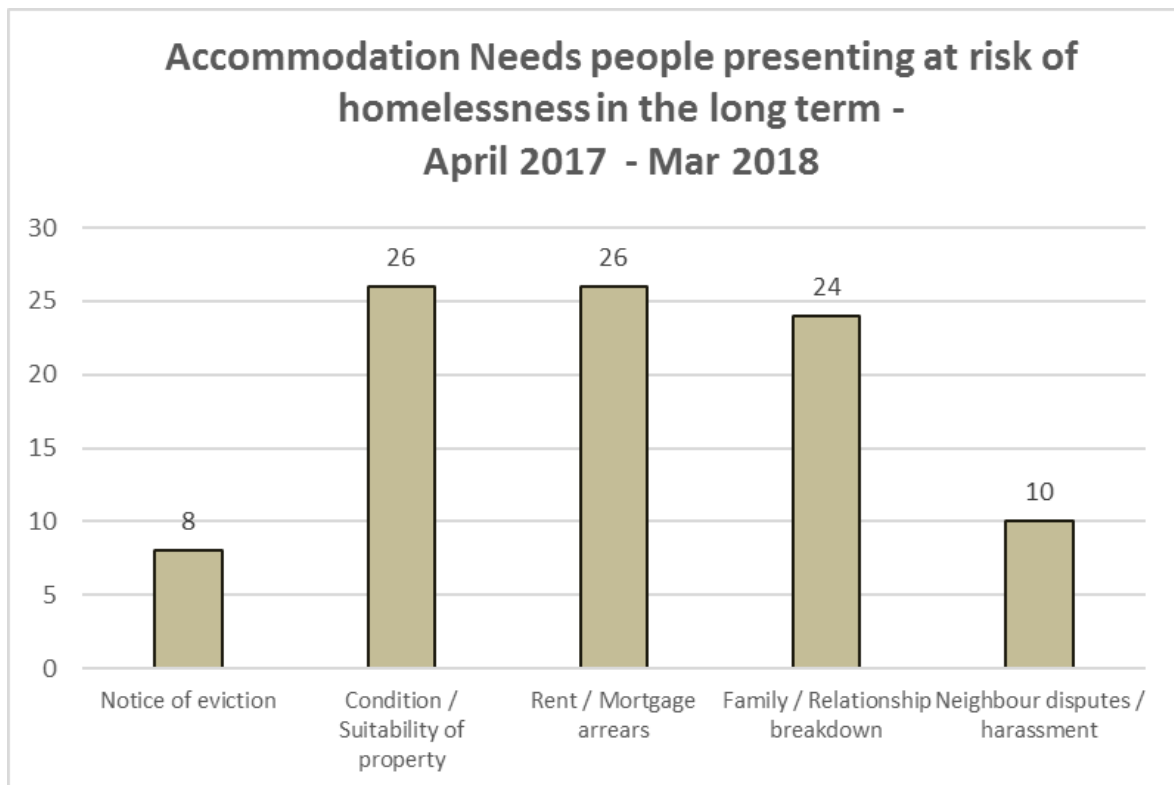
- **44** people are recorded as living with family / friends on a long term basis
- The majority at risk of homelessness within 56 days are in private rented accommodation.



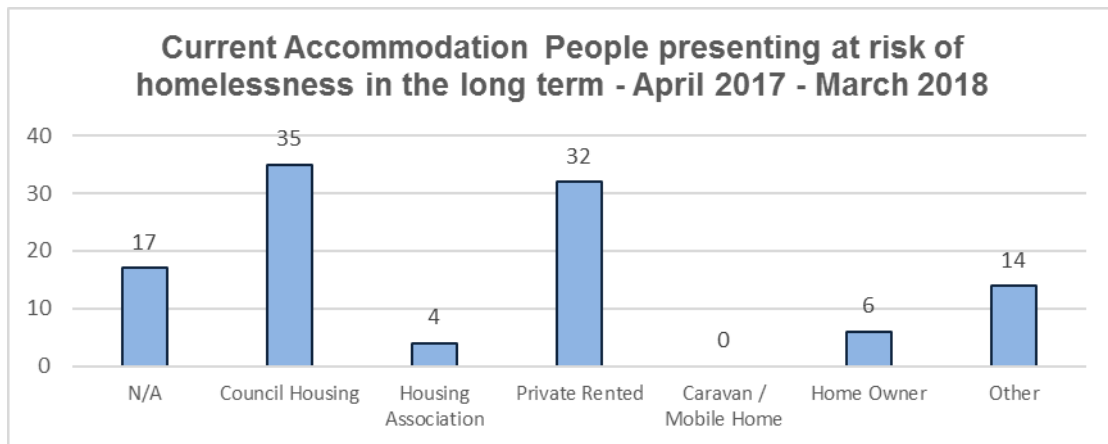
- No Fixed abode accounts for the majority of these applicants, this could be that the clients are currently in accommodation but are at risk of becoming homeless.

Breakdown of applicants presenting as potentially being homeless in the long term.

There are **101** people recorded as being at Risk of Homeless in the Long Term.



- The majority of people at risk of homelessness in the long term is due to Rent / Mortgage arrears and Condition / Suitability of property.



- Most of the people at risk of homelessness in the long term are in Private Rented or Council accommodation.