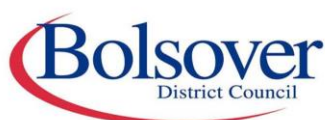




North Derbyshire Homeless Strategy and Homelessness Review

25th January 2016



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Homelessness Strategy

Foreword

I am proud to introduce this strategy for preventing and addressing homelessness across North Derbyshire. Homelessness is the most extreme form of housing need that can have a devastating impact on people's lives and the wider community. Despite the significant financial challenges which the area faces, we remain firmly committed to doing all we can to prevent homelessness through early intervention and targeted support.

This strategy was developed with the intention of the creating the North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum, a body made up of many statutory and voluntary agencies working to prevent and tackle homelessness across North Derbyshire. It is not only endorsed by Chesterfield Borough Council but our neighbouring Local Authorities Bolsover and North East Derbyshire District Councils, who together provide the strategic leadership on homelessness across North Derbyshire. We can assure you of all three council's ongoing commitment to this agenda.

There are of course many causes of homelessness, and effective prevention requires a range of solutions that are not just about providing accommodation. We are also aware that investment in services that prevent homelessness has benefits for the health and well-being of our residents and the prospects of our children and young people. The Homelessness Review developed to inform the Strategy has demonstrated the breadth of services, activities and partners involved in preventing homelessness in North Derbyshire and the value of this work to our residents and wider community.

The 2016-2021 Homelessness Strategy is published at a challenging time for all three councils. As the Review demonstrates homelessness is rising, particularly from the private rented sector, house prices for sale and for rent are increasing, whilst welfare reforms have reduced the amount that low income households can pay, pushing many out of the private housing market. It is within this tough environment that we set ourselves the challenge of improving the quality of private rented and temporary accommodation, tackling rogue landlords, reducing rough sleeping, and continuing to prevent homelessness through early intervention and support.

Over the coming five years of this strategy we will continue to put our energy and resources into preventing homelessness. This commitment has local people at its heart and we will work closely with our partners to continue improving the standard of accommodation and to achieving a truly Gold Standard homelessness service.

Cabinet Member for Housing

1. Introduction

The next five years will be a critical time for homelessness services. The impacts of announcements from the Comprehensive Spending Review in November 2015 are still to be fully understood and there will be further constraints on public spending alongside a broader debate about the role of the state. We will also continue to experience demographic change that will place different demands on homelessness services and public services as a whole.

It is our vision that there is no place for homelessness in the 21st century. With this as a backdrop we are seeking to be ambitious for people who find themselves homeless. Our goals relate to homelessness prevention and providing both responsive and long term, solutions should homelessness occur. This strategy covers the five year period from 2016- 2021. It brings together our vision and beliefs; our mission, values and behaviours; and it describes the actions that we will take to deliver the vision.

The North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy 2016 - 2021 is the first Homelessness Strategy to be developed as a joint strategy through a partnership approach and sets out how we propose to tackle homelessness across Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) areas. It details how the Councils will provide effective access to a range of housing services, support and other opportunities for North Derbyshire residents affected by homelessness to help them rebuild their lives. The Strategy has been shaped by national policy, a thorough review of homelessness and homeless services in North Derbyshire and takes account of stakeholder feedback and partner views.

The three councils recognise that homeless prevention services are delivered more effectively in partnership with a range of partners and agencies both internally and externally. Partnership working is a key theme and strength running throughout the strategy. The strategy outlines a number of initiatives currently being delivered and developed jointly with key stakeholders.

The overall Vision for tackling homelessness in North Derbyshire is:

By working with our partners to prevent homelessness, we will ensure that everyone has access to a place they can call home.

Our approach is to strengthen, sustain, grow and innovate with our partners. We will achieve our vision by delivering the following five strategic objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Develop a robust young person's housing pathway by delivering a range of housing solutions with our partners
- **Objective 2:** Create strong partnerships with all stakeholders to tackle homelessness for all those at risk , including those most vulnerable households
- **Objective 3:** Prevent rough sleeping across the area
- **Objective 4:** Prevent homelessness by tackling and reducing financial deprivation within our communities

- **Objective 5:** Work towards each local authority achieving the Homelessness Gold Standard

All the strategic objectives are underpinned by a combination of influencing work at a national and local policy level and improving local practice to achieve positive change for people who find themselves homeless.

2. Profile of Homelessness in North Derbyshire

To assist in the development of the Homelessness Strategy a comprehensive Homelessness Review was undertaken during 2015. The full review is attached as **Appendix 1** to the Strategy. This section highlights the key findings that informed the development of the Strategy. **Housing Stock Profile**

It is important to understand the housing stock profile across North Derbyshire to inform the Homelessness Strategy and understand availability of stock to house homeless households. Table 1.1 below summarises the social/ affordable housing stock in the three authorities by Local Authority (LA) and Housing Association/ Registered Providers (RP).

Table 1.1 Social Housing Stock

Council	LA stock	RP stock	Total
Bolsover	5,199	1070	6,047
Chesterfield	9,581	1,354	10,935
NEDDC	7,996	973	8,969
Total	22,776	3,175	25,951

Source: LA Data

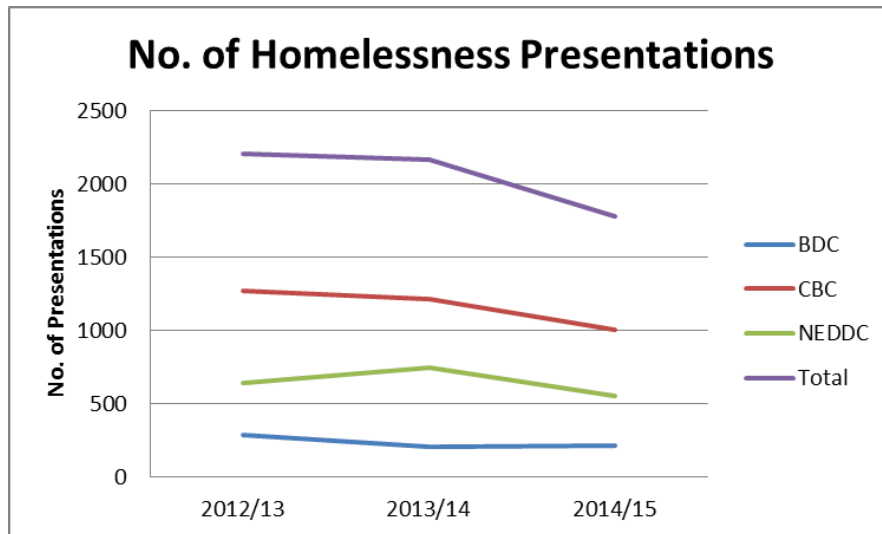
The majority of council housing stock in Bolsover is 2 or 3 bed, with a very small amount of 1 bed accommodation. By contrast, Chesterfield’s 1 bed accommodation is the biggest category, making up 34% of total local authority stock. NEDDC has significantly fewer 1 bedroom properties compared to 2 and 3 bedrooms. One bedroom properties make up 18% of the total council stock, which is just over half the total of 2 bedroom properties. The greatest numbers of properties have 3 bedrooms, representing 44% of the stock.

In all three areas there is a **limited supply of homes in the private rented sector** with some issues around property condition and landlord standards identified.

2.1.2 Number of Homeless Presentations

In Bolsover and Chesterfield the number of homelessness presentations dropped significantly between 2012/13 and 2013/14, and then rose slightly in 2014/15. For NEDDC, the number of presentations rose between 2012/13 and 2013/14, then dropped in 2014/15. Like the other authorities however, **the number of presentations were lower in 2014/15 than they had been in 2012/13.**

Figure 1.1 No. of Homelessness Presentations



Source: P1E Returns

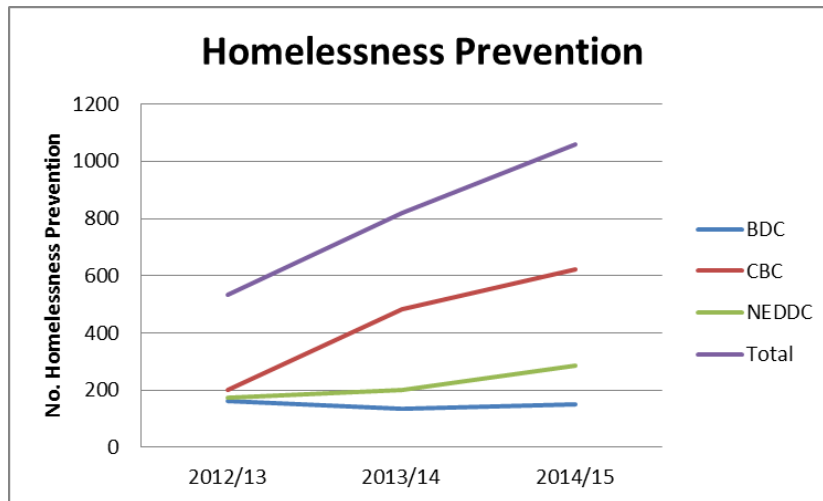
2.1.3 Homelessness Prevention

The proportion of homelessness presentations which resulted in prevention was higher in 2014/15 (69%) than in 2012/13 (55%). This demonstrates an increasing emphasis on prevention. At the same time the proportion of presentations accepted has risen from 16.1% in 2012/13 to 18.6% in 2014/15. In the context of a lower number of presentations than in 2012/13 this suggests continuing, and possibly rising, demand for both accommodation and prevention services. This is in line with findings from the previous homelessness strategies which also identified an increased demand for prevention services.

The number of prevented cases has continued to rise, and prevented cases were 66% higher in 2014/15 than in 2012/13. Again this demonstrates the continuing use of, and need for, prevention activities.

Overall, as is to be expected, **all three authorities show an increased emphasis on preventing homelessness.** NEDDC has seen the biggest proportionate increase in prevention cases, but also has by far the lowest proportion of homeless acceptances.

Figure 1.2 Homelessness Prevention



Source: P1E Returns

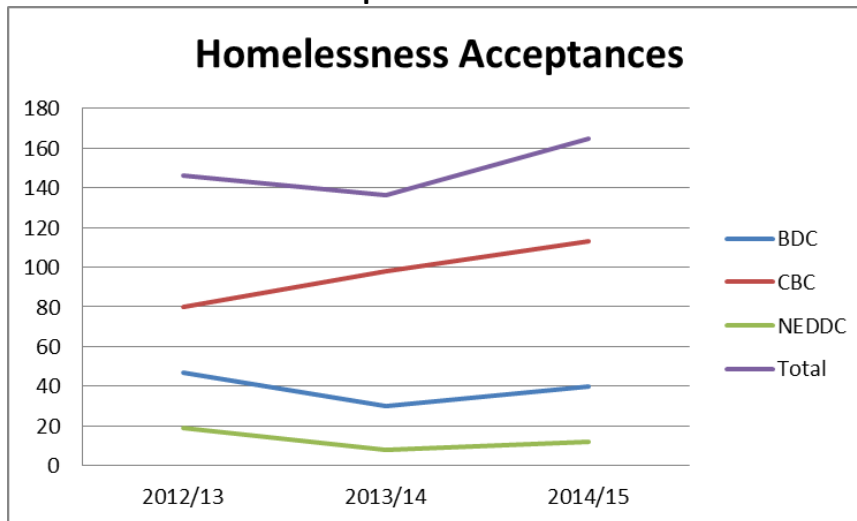
The most common homeless prevention activities in both Bolsover and Chesterfield were assistance to enable households to remain in their social or private rented housing. The other main interventions were around resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector, and resolving housing benefit problems.

Debt advice was the main intervention used by NEDDC, with the number of preventions as a result of this service trebling between 2012/13 and 2014/15. These figures **point to a continuing and growing need for financial and benefits advice, particularly as Universal Credit is introduced**. There is also a need to continue to provide assistance to enable households to remain in their rented homes.

2.1.4 Acceptance of Homelessness

The number of **homelessness presentations which are accepted has risen by 13%** since 2012/13 reaching a total of 165 cases across the three local authority areas in 2014/15. While both Bolsover and North East Derbyshire saw a drop in acceptances during 2013/14 followed by an increase during 2014/15 there has been an overall decrease of 15% in Bolsover and of 37% in North East Derbyshire. However, in Chesterfield there was an increase of 41% over the same period.

Figure 1.3 Number of Homelessness Acceptances



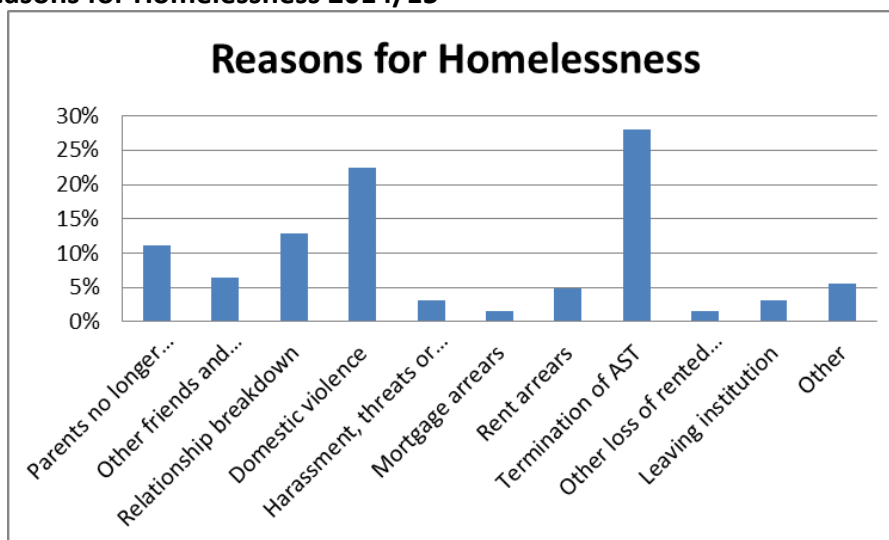
Source: P1E Returns

2.1.5 Reasons for Homelessness

A slightly higher proportion of presentations were accepted as homeless in 2014/15 (18%) than in 2012/13 (16%). The reasons for the homelessness of those accepted during 2014/15 are shown in Figure 1.4 below. The most common reasons were:

- Termination of tenancy (28%)
- Domestic Violence (22%)
- Relationship breakdown (13%)
- Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate (11%)

Figure 1.4 Reasons for Homelessness 2014/15



2.1.6 Outcomes and Accommodation Solutions

For all three authorities, a **Part 6 offer of Local Authority accommodation or a nomination to a Housing Association was the main source of accommodation assistance**. Beyond this, alternative accommodation varied between the authorities; after Part 6 offer/ Housing Association nomination, Bolsover assisted more households in obtaining supported accommodation than any other type, Chesterfield's second most common assistance was private rented accommodation with the landlord incentive scheme. For NEDDC it was accommodation with friends or relatives. It is worth noting that NEDDC's assistance by way of the private rented accommodation with the landlord incentive scheme has reduced over the three years while assistance through private rented accommodation without the scheme has increased.

2.1.7 Repeat Homelessness

Repeat homelessness is defined by Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as:

'More than one case of homelessness for the same person, or family, within two years, where the council has a legal duty to find housing for them.'

Using this definition, **North Derbyshire has very few cases of repeat homelessness** (one case across all three Council areas in the last three years).

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the actual number of people accessing housing options and advice services on repeated occasions is actually higher than this. Repeated patterns of homelessness mean that staff can spend time helping to solve someone's problems, or preventing homelessness, only for them to come back again with the same or another problem at a later date. It also means that housing solutions which have been found may be unsustainable over the longer term (longer than the 2 year definition).

3. Strategic Objectives

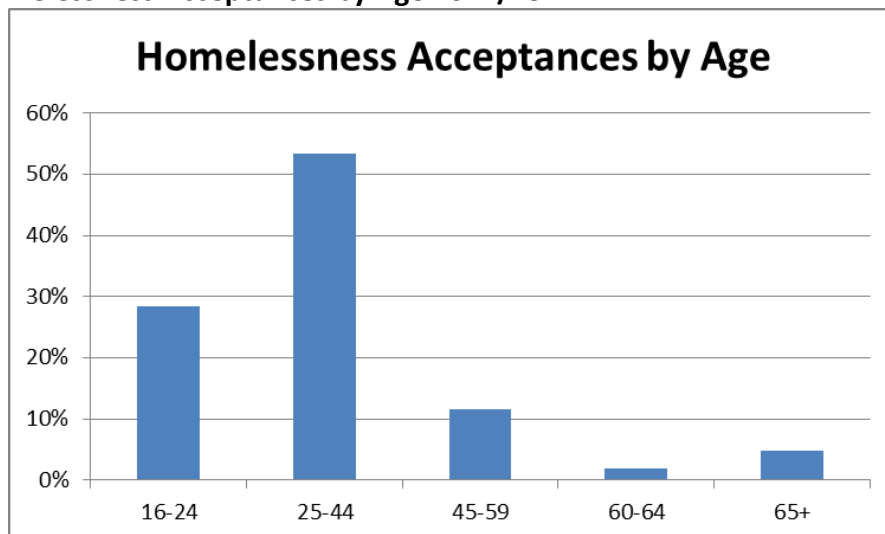
The data and consultation carried out for the Homelessness Review identifies the context for the required objectives, actions and interventions needed for this new strategy. In this section we set out the Strategic Objectives for the strategy, identifying the work we currently do to and the new actions we will take to meet the objectives.

3.1.1 Objective 1: Develop a robust young person’s housing pathway by delivering a range of housing solutions with our partners

Key Issues

Across North Derbyshire there are high levels of young people aged 16 to 24 who present as, and are accepted as homeless. Overall 16 to 24 year olds account for 28% of homelessness acceptances. This is significantly higher than the 8% of the population who are aged between 18 and 24, even once we take into account those aged 16 to 18 this age group is significantly over represented in terms of incidences of homelessness.

Figure 1.5 Homelessness Acceptances by Age 2014/15



Our Commitments

A number of initiatives aimed at preventing youth homelessness are currently underway, including:

- A successful protocol for 16 to 17 year olds with Derbyshire County Council working with multi agency teams providing support and mediation
- A SAFE consortium delivering Young Person’s Supported Accommodation Scheme through Derbyshire County Council Adult Social Care funding
- A Joint package of support for young people around tenancy sustainment, education and life skills being delivered by the Ambition Housing Team

Employability is also a key strand within our approach and our prevention work recognises the link between housing and employment. The Ambition Project which supports 18 to 24 year olds to secure and sustain employment opportunities has been in place since January 2015. The funding covers education, employment and training initiatives and links into the Housing Ambition Project.

Actions to Deliver Our Objectives

In order to deliver this objective we will:

- Look for opportunities and work in partnership to maximise the supply of suitable accommodation for young people
- Complete an external evaluation of Young People’s Pathway and review policies and procedures to ensure continuous improvement and good practice
- Ensure a strong tenancy sustainment programme is in place across all authorities to ensure that young people can maintain tenancies to reduce future incidence of homelessness
- Take advantage of future external funding streams as and when become available
- Develop educational work with young people about housing options, skills required for independent living and the reality of homelessness

3.1.2 Objective 2: Create strong working partnerships with all stakeholders to tackle homelessness for all those at risk

Key Issues

A key objective of this Homelessness Strategy is to create strong partnerships with all stakeholders to tackle homelessness for all those at risk. The three councils recognise that homeless prevention services are delivered more effectively in partnership with a range of partners and agencies both internally and externally. Partnership working is a key theme and strength running throughout the strategy.

The resources available to deliver services in the future will continue to be extremely challenging. Coupled with the further budget reductions projected over the next 3 years at least, there will be significant changes to the Local Government finance regime. This will be compounded by reductions across other public services and the very significant reductions in welfare, and introduction of Universal Credit. Supporting effective partnership working across service boundaries will be critical if we are to manage these changes and deliver better homelessness outcomes for the North Derbyshire area.

This strategy outlines a number of initiatives currently being delivered and developed jointly with its key stakeholders and funders. Our approach will include work to:

- Prevent homelessness amongst the most vulnerable households
- Provide an effective housing options service

- Further develop our partnership working
- Develop the role of the private sector

Our Commitments

Over the last five years the three local authorities have developed a number of responses to the key issues of homelessness, these include:

- **Raising Awareness**
 - This has included joint campaigning locally, using local forums and strategies as a tool to launch campaigns to ensure homelessness features high on key agencies agendas, such as: Local Authorities, Derbyshire County Council , Health and Probation, etc.
 - Raising the profile of homelessness in line with the Homeless Links' Manifesto and the homelessness situation locally
 - Developing greater publicity about services and available support, including the exploration of the development of a directory of services and greater use of social media
- **Reshaping the North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum to incorporate strategic and operational approaches.**
 - There will be two key functions of the Homelessness Forum to incorporate strategic and operational issues. An overarching strategic function will develop the high level approach to homelessness and homelessness prevention across North Derbyshire. Consideration should be given to joint procurement of funding opportunities and commissioning and the coordination of funding strategies to meet identified priorities. This function should be led by senior strategy makers from each of the three local authority areas. This function may include joint commissioning and monitoring of services
 - The second function of the Homelessness Forum should be a forum for local practitioners and service providers to consider service issues, share good practice, be appraised of changes to guidance and legislation, receive and deliver joint training and to consider more operational matters. The operational level forum should incorporate networking and information exchange amongst partners and stakeholders
 - Joint training and awareness raising sessions to be facilitated by Forum
 - Joint procurement of funding opportunities and commissioning through the Forum partners

Actions to Deliver Our Objectives

While these approaches will continue and be progressed further, other actions to deliver our objectives within the lifetime of this Strategy include:

- Establish a North Derbyshire Homelessness Forum to deliver Homelessness Strategy

- Work with Private Sector Housing team to improve the quality and security of tenure in the private rented sector, with stronger expectations of landlords
- Work in partnership with Housing Association partners to ensure appropriate access to accommodation
- Work in partnership with health and social care partners to conduct a Derbyshire wide housing and health audit
- Co-ordinate joint procurement of funding opportunities
- Developing greater publicity about services and available support, including the exploration of the development of a directory of services and greater use of social media
- Identify households most likely to be affected by root causes of homelessness and offer advice before crisis

3.1.3 Objective 3: Commit to prevent Rough Sleeping

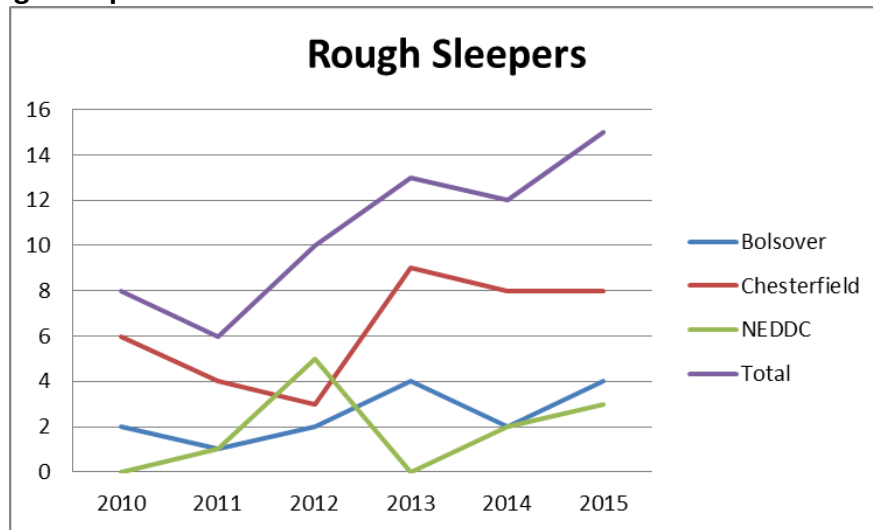
Key Issues

All local authorities carry out an annual rough sleeper count. This involves counting the number of individuals observed sleeping rough on a designated night. In 2015 all Derbyshire authorities carried out the exercise on the same date, to avoid double counting and to provide comparative statistics. The definition of rough sleepers used for the purpose of the estimate is:

- *People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments)*
- *People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations or “bashes”)*
- *It does not include people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes*

There is a fluctuating but low level of rough sleeping for all three authorities. The figures for 2014 were higher for Chesterfield and NEDDC than in 2010. The 2015 figures show an increase in Bolsover and NEDDC since 2014 and are at the highest level since 2010.

Figure 1.6 Rough Sleepers



Source: Rough Sleepers Counts

There were a total of 15 rough sleepers in North Derbyshire on the night of the count in November 2015. This has increased by 53% since 2010. National evidence suggests that 73% of people sleeping rough said better advice could have helped and 84% of people sleeping rough have a physical health need, while 87% reported a mental health problem¹.

Our Commitments

Good Practice indicates that the following approaches need to be in place to tackle rough sleeping²:

- Ensuring the right support is available in every area so that no one has to live on our streets
- Promoting a prevention first approach, incorporating adequate investment and a ‘duty to prevent’ for the NHS, prisons, and other statutory services, with robust monitoring of effectiveness
- Working with the homelessness sector to develop effective housing resettlement so that we can better understand how to help someone sustain a life away from the streets
- Improving the recording of homelessness prevention and interventions, both in terms of people seeking advice and evidence about what works to keep people off the streets

Actions to Deliver Our Objectives

In addition to these commitments, the actions we will take in order to deliver this objective are:

- Continue to work in partnership with Derbyshire Wide Homeless Officers Group through joint ‘No second night out protocol’
- Promote a prevention first approach, developing a duty to prevent for the NHS, prisons, and other statutory services

¹ Homeless Link Manifesto, 2014

² Homeless Link Manifesto, 2014

3.1.4 Objective 4: Prevent homelessness by tackling and reducing financial deprivation within our communities

Key Issues

Financial deprivation and homelessness are closely linked and a key objective of the Homelessness Strategy is to prevent homelessness by tackling and reducing financial deprivation.

Homeless Link research indicates that:

- 80% of people experiencing homelessness want to work, but only 10% are in employment
- Less than 1/5 homelessness agencies report sanctions motivate their clients to find work
- Only 7% of homelessness agencies sanctions improve engagement with Jobcentre Plus
- There has been a 37% increase in the cost of renting a home privately in the last five years
- 1/3 of private rented homes fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard
- Working households claiming Housing Benefit doubled from 11% in November 2008 to 22.5% in May 2014
- Nearly 1/3 of people living in homelessness services are waiting to move on, but cannot as there is no affordable and/or suitable accommodation available

Our Commitments

Our commitments in this area include:

- The development of a joint approach to implementing the under occupancy rules which demonstrates more positive consideration for those most affected by it and better promotion of Discretionary Housing Payments
- The Discretionary Housing Payments Policy has been developed and there will be closer liaison between the Council's Housing Options Team and Revenues and Benefits to ensure homelessness is prevented
- Increased monitoring of the impact of the Allocations Policy on the allocation of social housing through quarterly and annual reports which highlight the impact of welfare reforms on access to housing, under occupation charge rent arrears figures and evictions

In terms of the development of new housing we have worked with developers to reach agreement on the provision of more smaller affordable homes within new developments and negotiations are currently taking place with providers to also identify small supported housing units and Move On accommodation.

Working with the Private Rented Sector is an important area in which to prevent homelessness and financial exclusion. Key aspects of our work to date in this area include:

- Integration of the practice of homeless discharge into the private rented sector as a key component of the Housing Allocation Policy
- Homeless prevention and securing private rented accommodation through the use of the rent deposit scheme and private sector access scheme
- Extension of Landlord Accreditation to increase the number of fully accredited private rented sector landlords
- Facilitation of annual events with private landlords. The focus of past sessions have been affordable warmth, empty properties, housing and council tax benefit, private rented sector leasing

Actions to Deliver Our Objectives

In order to deliver these objectives we will:

- Monitor and maximise the usage of discretionary housing payments
- Improve access to private sector properties
- Signpost to training and employment opportunities for homeless people
- Work with partners to identify and develop new affordable housing options
- Develop better coordination of potential procurement/funding opportunities
- Ensure rent collection processes work efficiently and effectively to reduce likelihood of homelessness
- Liaise and work with local voluntary agencies such as Money Advice and Credit Union
- Target households with financial problems to advice and employment support to prevent homelessness crisis

3.1.5 Objective 5: Working Towards the Homelessness Gold Standard

Key Issues

In August 2012 the Homelessness Working Group produced Making Every Contact Count – A joint approach to preventing homelessness. This focuses on tackling the complex underlying causes of homelessness, preventing homelessness at an early stage for those at risk, and delivering integrated services which support individual recovery. It presents ten challenges to local authorities to achieving its vision and providing a ‘Gold Standard’ service.

Our Commitments

The three local authorities are committed to reaching the Homelessness Gold Standard and are working through the stages to achieve this. The challenge is a local authority, sector led peer review scheme designed to help local authorities deliver more efficient and cost effective homelessness prevention services. The challenge follows a 10 step continuous improvement approach that starts with a pledge for local authorities aspiring to ‘*strive for continuous improvement in front line housing services*’ and culminates in an application for the Gold Standard Challenge. Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire District Councils are all

committed to working towards the Gold Standard and this is set out in their joint Homelessness Strategy.

Actions to Deliver Our Objectives

In order to meet this standard we will strive to:

- Each LA completes self-assessment and is subjected to a Gold Standard Review
- Implementation of any improvement plan recommendations following the review

4. Action Plan

Appendix 1: Homelessness Review

1. Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 placed a legal duty on local Councils to carry out a robust review of homelessness. The outcome of the review was to inform the development of a strategy to prevent and respond to homelessness. The findings from this strategic review have been used to inform the priorities in the new Homelessness Strategy 2016 – 2021. The review considers the effectiveness of work delivered under the previous Homelessness Strategies and examines data around current trends and demand in homelessness services and sets out the economic, demographic and environmental context for the strategy. The review has considered evidence from a range of sources, including data from each Council and other agencies, partners and stakeholders in homelessness and associated areas.

As the causes and effects of homelessness are complex and intertwined a holistic approach to homelessness prevention is vital. Solutions need to be more than the simple provision of accommodation. They need to address the things that go wrong in people's lives - such as poor health, loss of income and relationship breakdown. The strategy recognises the important role that other partners and stakeholders have to play in harnessing skills and delivering sensitive and tailored solutions to some of these issues within our communities.

To inform the review extensive consultation took place:

- Meetings were held with partner organisations, homeless service providers, support agencies, senior managers and operational staff
- A consultation events were held – a Homelessness Forum Strategy event in February 2015
- An online survey to consult all partners across North Derbyshire. From this, we developed the principles to be implemented and embedded through the strategy and identified the key priorities.

The resources available to deliver services in the future will continue to be extremely challenging. Coupled with the further budget reductions projected over the next three years at least, there will be significant changes to the local government finance regime. This will be compounded by reductions across other public services and the very significant reductions in welfare and the introduction of Universal Credit. Supporting a radical reform agenda across public service boundaries will be critical if we are to manage these changes and deliver better homelessness outcomes for the North Derbyshire area.

2. National Policy and Legislation

2.1 The Homelessness Act 2002

The 2002 Act places a legal duty on local authorities to carry out a robust review of homelessness in order to develop a homelessness strategy which will prevent and respond to homelessness.

The **Homelessness Act 2002** was intended to:

- ensure a more strategic approach to tackling and preventing homelessness, in particular by requiring a homelessness strategy for every housing authority
- strengthen the assistance available to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness by extending the priority need categories to homeless 16 and 17 year olds; care leavers aged 18, 19 and 20; people who are vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, the armed forces, prison or custody, and people who are vulnerable because they have fled their home because of violence

The legislation places duties on housing authorities, and gives them powers to meet these aims. It emphasises the need for joint working between housing authorities, social services and other statutory, voluntary and private sector partners in tackling homelessness more effectively.

Under the Act all housing authorities must have in place a homelessness strategy based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their district. The strategy must set out plans for the prevention of homelessness and for ensuring that sufficient accommodation and support are, or will be, available for people who become homeless or who are at risk of becoming so.

2.2 The Localism Act 2011

The Localism Act came into force in November 2012 and supports the improvement of housing options. The main features of the Act in relation to homelessness are:

- Local authorities now have the power to discharge their homelessness duty with an offer of accommodation in the private rented sector³
- Social housing tenure reform allows social landlords to grant fixed term tenancies with limited security of tenure
- Local authorities are now required to produce a Tenancy Strategy setting out their approach
- Local authorities can now set allocation policies appropriate to the local area

2.3 Homeless Link

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. Homeless Link works to make services better and

³ See also the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012

campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness. Homeless Link want a country free from homelessness, where everyone has a place to call home and can expect the support they need to keep it. The Homeless Link Vision and Strategy, are recognised as Good Practice. The Homeless Link strategic priorities for 2015 – 2020 are:

- Advocate an early intervention approach to preventing and ending homelessness
- Ensure that every local area has a personalised, rapid response for people who find themselves sleeping rough
- Champion flexible, good quality services that support people to end their homelessness
- Promote sustainable housing and employment as the most effective route out of homelessness
- Enable services to thrive and be sustainable in the new public service environment
- Create structures and operating processes that ensure we have the right people in the right place to deliver our vision, mission and strategy

2.4 No Second Night Out

The Ministerial Working Group on Homelessness set out its strategy to end rough sleeping: No Second Night Out in 2011. No Second Night Out (NSNO) has five standards:

- New rough sleepers can be identified and helped off the streets immediately
- The public can alert services if they see anyone sleeping rough so they can get help
- Rough sleepers can go to a place of safety where their needs can be assessed and they can get help
- Rough sleepers are able to get emergency accommodation and other services they need
- Rough sleepers from outside their area can be reconnected with their community

2.5 Making Every Contact Count

In August 2012 the Homelessness Working Group produced Making Every Contact Count – A joint approach to preventing homelessness. This focuses on tackling the complex underlying causes of homelessness, preventing homelessness at an early stage for those at risk, and delivering integrated services which support individual recovery. It presents ten challenges to local authorities to achieving its vision and providing a ‘Gold Standard’ service. Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire District Councils are all committed to working towards the Gold Standard and this is set out in their joint Homelessness Strategy.

2.6 Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 introduced a series of changes to the benefits system as part of the approach to reducing welfare spending overall. Reforms have included:

- the reduction of housing benefit for under-occupancy
- extension of the application of Shared Accommodation Rate from single claimants under 25 to single claimants under 35
- The introduction of a cap on the amount of benefits working age people can receive.

- The introduction of Universal Credit, a single benefit which replaces a range of existing benefits including income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Housing Benefit and Child Tax Credit

These are likely to impact on homelessness services as homeless people and those vulnerable to homelessness may have limited budgeting skill and experience.

There were also further announcements impacting on welfare and benefits in the 2015 Budget and the Comprehensive Spending Review, including capping Housing Benefit in the social housing sector to Local Housing Allowance levels. This could have a significant impact on young people and the housing providers operating in areas where the LHA is lower than social rent. There are particular concerns about the potential impact on supported housing where rents and service charges are higher due to the specialist nature of accommodation.

The Comprehensive Spending Review announced additional funding for Discretionary Housing Payments, but the mitigating impact of this is yet to be seen.

The Single Room Rate restriction was extended to claimants up to the age of 35 as of April 2012. This means that single claimants aged 35 and under will only be entitled to claim for the equivalent of a room in a shared home, rather than a one-bedroom flat. Previously this only applied to under 25s. This means that all single, childless adults under 35 in the private rented sector claiming Local Housing Allowance (LHA) will have their LHA substantially cut from the current one bedroom rate to the shared room rate and could significantly impact those renting in the private sector.

At the time of writing the impact and practical roll out of some of the announcements and measures have yet to be realised and the Authorities involved will need to monitor the impact on their services and the number of presentations through the course of the Strategy.

3. Document Review

3.1 Previous Homelessness Strategies

Until now, Bolsover District, Chesterfield Borough and North East Derbyshire District Councils each had separate homelessness strategies. Bolsover's and North East Derbyshire's strategies covered the period 2012-14. The reason for this shorter period was to allow the Councils to assess the impact of various recent and forthcoming legislative and policy developments. These included the Welfare Reform and Localism Acts and the publication of a new National Homelessness Strategy. Chesterfield's strategy covered the period 2008-13, followed by a strategy covering 2014/15 pending completion of the joint strategy. The following summarises the key issues from each Council's previous strategy.

3.1.1 Bolsover District Council

The number of applicants accepted as being homeless and in priority need increased between 2009 and 2010. The majority of applicants who were accepted as being homeless and in priority need in 2010-11 were homeless due to either family no longer being willing to accommodate them or their assured short hold tenancy being terminated. Most of the applicants deemed to be in priority need were accepted on the basis they had dependent children.

There were 1,898 households on the waiting list in February 2012. Sixty one percent of these had "reasonable preference", which is a high proportion, especially when compared to the Housing Market Area (HMA) average of 18%. This high level may be related to the large numbers of households in poor quality private rented accommodation. The previous strategy identified nine key challenges:

- The quality of the private rented sector
- A mismatch between property sizes available and property sizes required
- A relatively high proportion of low skilled or unemployed households coming into the private rented sector from outside the area and subsequently acquiring local connection status
- A high demand for the rent deposit guarantee scheme and subsequent impact on homelessness grant funds
- An impact of funding cuts on the council's ability to undertake Strategic Housing Market Assessment and private sector stock condition surveys
- Funding cuts to supported housing projects and ongoing retendering of services
- Stretched capacity in the private sector renewal and anti-social behaviour teams
- The council's ability to obtain government funding to demolish or sub-divide private sector or other empty properties
- The effects of the ongoing economic downturn

Three strategic objectives were developed as a result. These were:

- Effective housing options service;
- Better use of the private rented sector

- Prevention of rough sleeping.
- A fourth strategic objective, partnership working, cut across the other three objectives.

3.1.2 Chesterfield Borough Council

The strategy noted that the numbers of homelessness applications and homelessness acceptances tended to fluctuate, and this was expected to continue. The main causes of homelessness were identified as: being asked to leave by family and friends; loss of private rented accommodation; and domestic abuse. The strategy also noted a recent increase in homelessness due to assured short hold tenancies ending.

Based on these findings, and taking into account the identified shortage of affordable housing in the Borough, an action plan was developed covering three themes: housing options, homelessness prevention and engaging with the private sector and other agencies. The role of Housing Associations is highlighted as being particularly important in relation to the first two themes.

While these themes are still relevant Chesterfield has now identified new challenges and issues that need to be addressed. Since the announcement of Derbyshire County Council's proposals to end the funding of Housing Related Support. Chesterfield have been working closely with the neighbouring local authorities, NEDDC and Bolsover to look at how working together can make best use of the limited resources available.

3.1.3 North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC)

The strategy identified a fluctuating pattern of homeless presentations between 2008 and 2011, but noted a slight increase overall over the three years. At the same time there were a reducing number of homeless acceptances in the same period, which may be partly explained by ongoing prevention work. It was noted that the number of successful homelessness prevention cases increased during this period, which also suggests an increase in homelessness.

The main reasons for homeless acceptance were: fleeing violence, parental eviction and eviction by friends or relatives. The strategy noted a shortage of smaller, one and two bed accommodation, both in the Council's own stock and in the local private rented sector. There is also a lack of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in the area. These issues were felt to be significant particularly in relation to housing benefit restrictions for under occupancy and the shared room rate for under 35s. The strategy identified the following key challenges:

- Respond to the challenges posed by welfare reforms
- Increase the availability of suitable and affordable housing and ensure that those most in need can access this

- Continue to support young people and ensure that youth homelessness is kept to a minimum. This includes ensuring that there is an increase in the amount of accommodation available to single young people
- Continue to respond to the needs of those fleeing domestic violence and ensure that services are in place to help those who are threatened with homelessness as a result of violence in the home
- Respond to the challenges created by the economic downturn by developing financial inclusion initiatives which help keep people in a home, and which give people the stability and means to access housing
- Continue to assist vulnerable people so that the services we offer meet needs so as to limit the time spent in temporary accommodation and minimise repeat homelessness

These challenges underpinned nine strategic objectives which were developed to enable the Council to deliver its priorities for tackling homelessness. The strategic objectives are:

- Maximise the use of the social housing sector
- Bring empty properties back into use
- Reduce the level of homeless young people
- Improve support available to victims of domestic abuse
- Develop the role of the private sector
- Develop financial inclusion initiatives
- Respond to the impact of welfare reforms
- Assist vulnerable people
- Increase housing provision for homeless people

3.1.4 Common themes

Some common themes emerged from the three Councils' most recent strategies. These included a lack of supply of smaller accommodation (except in Chesterfield where there is an oversupply of one bedroom properties), concern about the impact of welfare reform, cuts to budgets for support services and the prevalence of domestic abuse and being asked to leave by family or friends as reasons for homelessness. All three Councils identified working with the private rented sector and improving housing options/homelessness prevention activities among the range of objectives based on the issues identified in their strategies.

3.2 Current Housing Strategies

3.2.1 Bolsover District Draft Economic Development and Housing Strategy 2015

The Bolsover District Draft Economic Development and Housing Strategy is currently in draft form. It does however identify the key housing priorities and challenges in the area. In almost one third of households in the District there is someone with at least one housing related support need and with an ageing population this is likely to increase. In 2014 Derbyshire County Council announced that the Adult Social Care Housing Related Support

budget is to be reduced from £15 million to approximately £6 million. Ensuring that key services continue to be delivered, particularly in the context of welfare reform, will be a particular challenge for the Council.

Key issues highlighted in the draft strategy include:

- 21% of households in Bolsover are in fuel poverty, compared to the Derbyshire average of 13.7%
- Average house prices are below the national average but affordability is an issue; 22% of households across the District are unable to afford market housing
- The highest demand from waiting list applicants is for one-bedroom housing, of which there is very limited availability, and there has been a drop in demand for family-sized housing. This has resulted in increased void rates and associated costs for larger properties
- 46% of the Council's stock is sheltered housing, which makes this accommodation unavailable to many waiting list applicants
- The need for homes suitable for people with physical disabilities is estimated at between 501 and 537 for Bolsover in 2015, rising to 537-656 in 2020
- Although homelessness preventions and acceptances are relatively low, the cases are becoming more complex, which means an increased demand for services
- The Localism Act requires a move towards a self-financing Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This means accommodation must be financially viable, however welfare reform may make this more difficult to achieve

3.2.2 Chesterfield Borough Council Housing Strategy 2013-16

The Chesterfield Borough Council Housing Strategy 2013-16 identified a number of key issues:

- Welfare reform
- Ageing population
- High levels of housing support needs
- Increasing incidence of homelessness
- Low levels of housing delivery
- Affordable housing
- Condition of housing stock: mainly in the private rented sector

As a result of this the Council has developed four strategic priorities:

- Increasing the supply of high quality, sustainable homes
- Making better use of existing stock
- Delivering quality housing and support services
- Encouraging a quality, thriving private housing sector

3.2.3 North East Derbyshire District Council Housing Strategy 2012-15

The key issues emerging from the strategy can be summarised as follows:

- Welfare reform – 400 households will be worse off following the reduction in Local Housing Allowance rates, 46% of NEDDC benefit claimants will lose an “excess payment” and nearly 200 households will experience increased non-dependent deductions from housing benefit and council tax benefit
- Under-occupation – 17,418 households currently under-occupy their accommodation, of which 942 council tenants will have their housing benefit reduced. A lack of smaller accommodation prevents downsizing, which in turn reduces the supply of larger accommodation available for families
- Ageing population and a lack of accommodation specifically for older people;
- High levels of housing support needs
- Shortage of affordable housing – 23.5% of households in the District are unable to afford market housing
- Weak private rented sector
- Decency of the social housing stock
- Impact of the recession, including households being threatened with homelessness due to unemployment or other financial pressures and requiring support

From this the Council identified five core priorities:

- More affordable social homes to rent or buy
- Make better use of existing stock
- Support people to prevent them from becoming homeless
- Increased provision of housing for people in need of support
- Ensure homes are decent and safe

3.2.4 Common themes

Again there are a number of themes which are common to all three housing strategies. These include the lack of affordable housing and the lack of smaller accommodation; an ageing population; welfare reform; high levels of support needs along with cuts to housing support budgets. In summary, some of the key pressures are a mismatch between supply of accommodation and demand in terms of size, affordability and accessibility; cuts to support budgets while the number of people with support needs increases; and the impact of welfare reform.

3.3 North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2013

The SHMA covers Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire District Councils. The statistics quoted do not include figures relating to Bassetlaw unless otherwise stated.

The SHMA identifies a theoretical need for 1,114 affordable homes per year up to 2031. This breaks down as 419 for Bolsover, 212 for Chesterfield and 482 for North East Derbyshire. In

the context of the current funding situation relating to affordable housing and the viability of residential development in some parts of the Housing market Area (HMA), it is not realistic to expect that this level of affordable housing will be delivered. The report suggests that the shortfall between need for affordable homes and the supply of new homes is likely to be met by the private rented sector.

The SHMA recommends that the Councils consider how they can make best use of existing stock in the social rented sector, including reviewing tenancy strategies and closer working with other social landlords.

Given the role of the private rented sector, approximately 430 affordable homes per year are required across the SHMA.

The SHMA reports that the private sector provides 1,300 lettings to households in housing need, i.e. households supported by Local Housing Allowance. The social rented sector provides 2,000 lettings per year. It recommends that the Councils continue to encourage private landlords and work with landlords through the East Midlands Landlord Accreditation Scheme and through enforcing decent homes standards.

The report assesses the full need for housing over the period to 2031 to be as follows:

- Bolsover 235 – 240
- Chesterfield 240 – 300
- NEDDC 270 – 310
- Total 745 – 850

The SHMA suggests the mix of affordable housing need as shown in Table 3.1 below would be appropriate:

Table 3.1 SHMA Recommended Appropriate Mix of Affordable Housing

	Intermediate equity	Affordable rent	Social/affordable rent
Bolsover	5%	30%	65%
Chesterfield	10%	65%	25%
NEDDC	5%	35%	60%

Source: North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw SHMA 2013

The SHMA suggests the size of affordable housing provision as shown in Table 3.2 below would be appropriate:

Table 3.2 SHMA Recommended Appropriate Size Mix of Affordable Housing

	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4+ bedrooms
Bolsover	40-45%	30-35%	10-15%	10-15%
Chesterfield	30-35%	35-40%	15-20%	10-15%
NEDDC	40-45%	35-40%	10-15%	5-10%

Source: North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw SHMA 2013

The SHMA notes the particular housing needs of the older population: 25% of the households in the HMA include at least one older person. The majority (66%) of these are owner-occupiers; however 35% of households in the social rented sector also include at least one older person. Demand for bungalows and specialist housing for older people was identified by the SHMA and, given that the number of households which contain at least one older person is expected to rise by 42% by 2031, this demand is likely to increase along with demand for support services. There is also likely to be an increase in under-occupation as older households are unable to downsize.

In light of the above, the SHMA recommends that the Councils plan for specific provision of older persons housing, including requiring such provision as part of new developments. Councils should also jointly plan for the increasing need for floating support, adaptations and other relevant services.

The SHMA also identified large numbers of single parent households in housing need and recommends that Councils review their allocation policies periodically to ensure that particular groups are not disadvantaged in terms of accessing housing.

3.4 Health and Wellbeing

3.4.1 Bolsover Corporate Plan

The overall vision for Bolsover as articulated in the Corporate Plan 2015-19 is:

To enhance and improve the wealth profile, well-being and quality of life for the communities of Bolsover District.

Within the Corporate Plan there are a number of Corporate Aims, one of which is:

Supporting Our Communities to be Healthier, Safer, Cleaner and Greener

In order to deliver this aim Bolsover District Council is committed to:

- Improving health and wellbeing by contributing to the delivery of Healthy Bolsover priorities
- Increasing participation in sport and leisure activities
- Working with partners to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Increasing recycling
- Ensuring a high standard of environmental maintenance and cleanliness
- Developing attractive neighbourhoods

3.4.2 Chesterfield Health and Wellbeing. Corporate Plan (2015-2019) Item 7

Item 7 of the Chesterfield Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 sets out the plan ‘*To improve the health and well-being of people in Chesterfield Borough*’. The life expectancy of Chesterfield

Borough residents varies significantly between areas, being 10 years lower for men and almost 8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas compared to the least deprived.

Chesterfield is committed to continuing to work with partners to improve all aspects of health, particularly obesity, alcohol abuse and self-harm, where residents are currently less healthy than the national average. A range of factors have an impact on people's health and the objectives have been set to bring additional jobs and better housing that will lead to health improvements. As a council, Chesterfield will also focus on increasing participation in leisure activities through the services it provides and working closely with partners who provide a wider range of services to tackle some of the underlying reasons for poor health.

During the lifetime of the Plan the Council aims to:

- Increase participation in sport and physical activity at facilities provided by the council and promote healthy lifestyles via the Active Derbyshire partnership
- Increase the use of parks and open spaces by delivering a varied programme of events and increasing participation in voluntary activities by 5% each year
- Work with partners to reduce the gap in health outcomes between the most and least deprived parts of the borough, as measured through the annual health profile
- Build capacity in communities to allow groups to take on the management of facilities currently run by the council
- Work with partners to develop and expand the support given to tenants and residents to enable them to live independently

3.4.3 NEDDC Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-19

The strategy recognises that housing is one of many issues which can impact on health and have an effect on health inequalities. The document emphasises a partnership approach but as housing is a Council responsibility it identifies a number of housing-related priorities as part of its core offer.

The Council's Health and Well Being Strategy is now due for renewal and is currently being revised in line with the Corporate Plan. The 2011-2014 Strategy had the following key priorities relating to housing and economic development:

Housing – allocation, standards, adaptations and meeting the needs of vulnerable people

Regeneration – supporting people into work, attracting new jobs and prosperity into the area

The Housing and Economic Development Strategy seeks to reduce health inequalities and to promote of good health and well being through a number of key actions including:

- Prevention of homelessness (Key Strategic Objective: Prevent and reduce homelessness)

- Employment and training initiatives (Key Strategic Objective: Maximise affordable housing to rent and buy through new build and making best use of existing stock)
- Ensuring affordable warmth (Key Strategic Objective: Enable people to live in and sustain healthy homes)
- Developing appropriate housing solutions for people with physical and sensory disabilities (Key Strategic Objective: Enable people to live in and sustain healthy homes)
- Procurement of funding to develop more effective hospital discharge initiatives (Key Strategic Objective: Prevent and reduce homelessness)

These activities are in line with some of the issues previously identified in NEDDC's housing and homelessness strategies and the SHMA. These include under-occupation, demand for housing suitable for older people and people with disabilities and homelessness prevention and housing options.

3.4.4 Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy

All three Councils are covered by the Derbyshire wide Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

This strategy sets out a commitment to make a significant difference to people's lives in Derbyshire. Everyone in Derbyshire has the right to enjoy good health and wellbeing but some groups and communities experience poorer health than others. The Derbyshire shared vision is:

'to improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the county, with a particular emphasis on those who are most vulnerable and who have the poorest health'

The strategy aims to encourage and support local people to make healthier choices in their lives, deliver more integrated and accessible health and social care services and improve the conditions that people in Derbyshire live and work in.

The actions in the strategy are ambitious and challenging and success will depend on close working between local public, voluntary and community organisations.

The strategy sets out five high-level priorities for Derbyshire. These are:

- Improve health and wellbeing in early years – because giving our children the best start in life will help them achieve their full potential and benefit them throughout their lives
- Promote healthy lifestyles – because individuals and communities need the right support in order to make the best choices for their health
- Improve emotional and mental health - because good emotional and mental health is everyone's business and a fundamental building block for individual and community wellbeing

- Promote the independence of people living with long term conditions and their carers – because helping people to manage their condition better can significantly improve quality of life and reduce the need for hospital or emergency care
- Improve health and wellbeing of older people – because giving older people the right support in the right environment will help them enjoy good quality, active, healthy and fulfilling lives

3.4.5 Derbyshire Housing and Health Joint Needs Assessment

There is strong evidence that where you live – your home, housing circumstances and your neighbourhood – can affect your physical and mental health and wellbeing. The vision in Derbyshire is to reduce health inequalities and improve health and wellbeing across all stages of life, working in partnership with our communities. To achieve this the County Council and District Councils would like to know more about the scale and nature of the housing needs in the County, and what action can be taken to address them.

The Countywide Housing and Health Joint Needs Assessment will provide Derbyshire with:

- Intelligence about the scale and nature of the ‘homes and health relationship’ to help inform targeted improvements
- An understanding of the national and local policy framework as it relates to homes and health, and how this could be changed to achieve better outcomes
- Knowledge of ‘what works and for whom’ that is relevant to Derbyshire’s communities, drawing on local promising practice and evidence from elsewhere in the country
- Options to inform local action

The review will consider opportunities to improve health across the life course: starting well; living and working well; ageing well.

4. Housing and Homelessness in North Derbyshire

4.1 Council Housing Stock Profile

It is important to understand the housing stock profile across North Derbyshire to inform the Homelessness Strategy and understand availability of stock to house homeless households. Table 4.1 below summarises the social housing stock profile of the three authorities.

Table 4.1 Social Housing Stock

Council	LA stock	RP stock	Total
Bolsover	5,199	1070	6,047
Chesterfield	9,581	1,354	10,935
NEDDC	7,996	973	8,969
Total	22,776	3,175	25,951

Source: LA Data

Table 4.2 below shows Bolsover's Local Authority stock. The majority is 2 or 3 bed, with a very small number of 1 bed homes, of which 19% is sheltered accommodation.

Table 4.2 Bolsover Council Housing Stock

Bolsover	0 Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	Total
Houses		2	436	1,893	36	2,367
Bungalows		321	1,586	19	0	1,926
Flats	4	119	581	0	0	704
Sheltered	90	105	3	4	0	202
Total	94	547	2,606	1,916	36	5,199

Source: BDC

Table 4.3 below shows Chesterfield's local authority stock. In contrast with Bolsover, Chesterfield's 1 bed accommodation is the biggest category by size, making up 34% of total stock.

Table 4.3 Chesterfield Council Housing Stock

Chesterfield	0 Bed	1 Bed	2 Bed	3 Bed	4 Bed	Total
Bungalow	23	939	367	61	0	1,390
Flat	66	2,297	837	23	1	3,224
House	0	51	1,694	2,893	269	4,907
Maisonette	0	1	55	4	0	60
Total	89	3,288	2,953	2,981	270	9,581

Source: CBC

Table 4.4 below shows NEDDC's Local Authority stock. One bedroom properties make up 18% of the total council stock, which is just over half the number of 2 bedroom properties. The greatest number of properties are those with 3 bedrooms, representing 44% of the stock.

Table 4.4 North East Derbyshire Council Housing Stock

NEDDC	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	Total
Houses	0	1351	3525	107	4983
Maisonettes	0	28	10	0	38
Flats	552	519	6	0	1,077
Bungalows	864	976	6	0	1846
Sheltered	41	11	0	0	52
Total	1457	2885	3547	107	7996

Source: NEDDC

4.2 Registered Provider Housing Stock Profile

Table 4.5 Registered Provider Housing Stock Bolsover

Bolsover	0 bed	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed	Total
Flat	0	207	47	3	0	0	257
Bungalow	0	14	204	9	0	0	227
House	0	20	206	343	2	15	586
Shared	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	241	457	355	2	15	1070

As shown in Table 4.6 below, 2 bedroom properties account for just over 50% of Chesterfield's Housing Association/ Registered Provider stock.

Table 4.6 Registered Provider Housing Stock Chesterfield

Chesterfield	0 bed	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5+ bed	Total
Flat	16	315	52	2	0	0	385
Bungalow	0	21	316	20	0	2	359
House	0	2	319	258	13	0	592
Shared	0	12	2	0	0	4	18
Total	16	350	689	280	13	6	1354

Source: CBC

Table 4.7 below shows that, as with Chesterfield, just over 50% of NEDDC's RP stock has 2 bedrooms.

Table 4.7 Registered Provider Housing Stock North East Derbyshire

NEDDC	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	Bedsits	Single room	Total
Houses	3	203	175	11			392
Maisonettes		1					1
Flats	136	54					190
Bungalows	2	124	2	3			131
Sheltered/extra care	92	108			28		228
Rooms in supported accommodation						31	31
Total	233	490	177	14	28	31	973

Source: NEDDC

4.3 Council Housing Re-lets

There has been a general upward trend in the number of Council housing relets in Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire between 2009/10 and 2014/15. This indicates an increase in tenancy turnover across North Derbyshire.

Table 4.8 Council Housing Re-lets

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Bolsover	460	363	531	522	588	488
Chesterfield	1,002	1,054	999	966	1,073	956
NEDDC	647	525	650	502	570	804

Source: LA data

4.3.1 Council Housing Bids Per Property

During 2014/15 Bolsover advertised a total of 488 social rented properties for relet, which accounts for around 9% of the stock. A total of 5,642 bids were made, which is average of 11.5 bids per property.

During 2014/15 in Chesterfield a total of 12,106 bids were made, which is around 19% of the social housing stock. A total of 12,106 bids were made, which is an average of 6.5 bids per property.

Between 24 June 2014 and 24 June 2015 NEDDC advertised 824 properties for let, representing just over 10% of the total stock. A total of 10,627 bids were made, which is an

average of 11.6 bids per property. The lowest number of average bids per property was two. The highest number of average bids per property was 36.

4.4 Homelessness Service Organisational Structure

Bolsover Homelessness service sits within the Housing Needs section. Four Housing Needs Officers deal with homelessness preventions, homeless applications and housing advice. They also deal with applications for Council accommodation and are supported by one administrative assistant. Bolsover do not operate a bond scheme formally but there is the option to provide a bond through funding from Homeless Prevention Grants.

Chesterfield's Homelessness Prevention Team is managed by the Housing Solutions and Homelessness Manager and comprises a team of an Assistant Homelessness Manager, three Homelessness Caseworkers and two Homelessness Prevention Officers. The service provides advice and support on all housing issues with a focus on homelessness prevention and delivering the Council's statutory homelessness duty, alongside access to the Council's Bond Guarantee scheme as well as referrals for other accommodation and support. The service offers 28 appointments each week.

NEDDC's Homelessness Service is part of Housing Strategy. The team consists of the Private Rented Sector and Housing Options Manager, two Housing Options Officers (Prevention) and a Housing Options Officer (Homelessness). The team provide advice and support on all housing issues with a focus on homelessness prevention and delivering the Council's statutory homelessness duty. It also handles access to the Council's Bond Guarantee scheme as well as referrals for other accommodation and support.

An out of hours service is delivered Derbyshire wide, with initial contact made via Call Derbyshire, Derbyshire County Council from where the call is transferred to South Derbyshire District Council careline who assess if the applicant requires placement into Bed & Breakfast accommodation. Thereafter the applicant is then referred to the local Council.

Table 4.9 Out of Hours Service Usage

Area	2012		2013		2014	
	Phone Advice	Placed in Interim Accom.	Phone Advice	Placed in Interim Accom.	Phone Advice	Placed in Interim Accom.
Bolsover					2	2
Chesterfield	5	10	11	6	21	6
NED	6	6	3	3	1	1

Source: LA data

Table 4.8 above shows the number of people who received advice by telephone and those who were placed in temporary accommodation by the out of hours service between 2012 and 2014.

4.5 Provision of Support

There are a wide variety of support services for homeless individuals and households available across North Derbyshire. These services include provision of accommodation, floating support, advocacy, advice and legal advice, and provision of food. Tables 4.9 to 4.12 below provide a comprehensive list of available support services across North Derbyshire:

Table 4.10 Provision of Accommodation

Scheme	Provider	Area	No. Units	Type	Level Of Support	Agreement Type	Max. Stay	Access
Newbold Court, Newbold, Chesterfield	SYHA	CBC/BDC/ NEDDC (referral via LA homeless team only)	18	Self contained bedsit	Monthly meeting with key worker, staff available during office hours	Licence	n/a	Age 16 +. LA duty to accommodate only (s.184 / s.193 duty)
Chatsworth Road, Chesterfield	SAFE (Stonham)	CBC/BDC/ NEDDC	16	Self contained	4 ½ hours / week with key worker. Office on site and overnight security	AST	2 yrs	18 – 24. Referral via Framework CAP
Troughbrook House, Staveley	SAFE (Stonham)	CBC/BDC/ NEDDC	7	Self contained	4 ½ hours / week with key worker. Office on site and overnight security	AST	2 yrs	18 – 24. Referral via Framework CAP
Lime Grove Walk, Matlock	NCHA / SAFE	DDDC	4	Self contained	4 ½ hours / week with key worker. Office on site (Mon, Wed, Fri – SAFE) & Sat & Sun (NCHA).	Licence	2 yrs	18 – 24. Referral via Framework CAP
Sustainable Tenancies Project	Action	CBC ONLY	26 + more	Self contained / shared	Weekly appointments with support worker	AST		18+ Via CBC homeless
Brockhill Court	Bristol	Any	40	Self	Usually referral			18+ (single or family)

	Foundati on Housing		approx	contained	via Pathways (see below)		on ESA.
Highfield Road, Chesterfield	Adullam	Any (care leavers only)	5			1 year	In care or Leaving Care
North Wingfield	Adullam	Any (care leavers only)	4			1 year	In care or Leaving Care

Table 4.11 Provision of Floating Support

Provider	Area	Units	Time	Criteria	Referral
SAFE (Framework)	CBC / BDC / NEDDC	58	3 ½ hour / week	18 - 24 either in accommodation or on SAFE waiting list to assist with finding accommodation	Referral via Framework CAP
SAFE (Adullam)	DDDC & HPBC	32	3 ½ hour / week	18 - 24 either in accommodation or on SAFE waiting list to assist with finding accommodation	Referral via Framework CAP
Rethink				Diagnosed mental health problem	Rethink referral form

Table 4.12 Provision of Other Support/ Advocacy/ Advice/ Legal

Provider	Location	Area	Type	Who	Service	Referral
Pathways	120 Saltergate, Chesterfield,	CBC / BDC / NEDDC	Day centre	18+ single / couples / families	Housing Support by appointment only. Key worker x 2, mental health	Referral form to Pathways

	S40 1NG				nurses x 2 (job share), meals, assistance finding accommodation, podiatrist, massage therapy, optician. Will only engage those who are willing to work towards housing and only these people can access the services.	
SAFE	Various (TBC)	CBC / NEDDC / BDC / DDDC	Drop in	18+ single homeless	Housing, benefits & budgeting advice	Drop in
Derbyshire Law Centre	1 Rose Hill East, Chesterfield, S40 1NU	CBC / BDC / NEDDC / DDDDC	Legal advice / advocacy	Anyone – level of assistance is means tested	Legal advice on a wide range of subjects; housing & homelessness, employment, debt, immigration & asylum, hate & harassment	Phone or drop in to make an appointment
NED CAB	Unit 1 Bridge Street, Clay Cross, S45 9NG + other locations	NEDDC & BDC	Advice / advocacy	Anyone	Advice on a wide range of subjects; benefits, consumer issues, debt, employment, housing & homelessness	Phone / email / drop in
Chesterfield CAB	6-8 Broad Pavement, Chesterfield, S40 1RP	CBC	Advice / advocacy	Anyone	Advice on a wide range of subjects; benefits, consumer issues, debt, employment, housing & homelessness	Phone / email / drop in
Derbyshire Districts CAB	26 Spring Gardens,	DDDC	Advice / advocacy	Anyone	Advice on a wide range of subjects; benefits, consumer	Phone / email / drop in

	Buxton, SK17 6DE				issues, debt, employment, housing & homelessness	
Derbyshire Unemployed Worker's Centre	1 Rose Hill East, Chesterfield, S40 1NU	CBC / BDC / NEDDC / DDDDC	Advice / advocacy	Anyone	Welfare benefits advice, assistance with claim forms, appeals and tribunals. Liaison with DWP, HMRC, LA. Redundancy advice.	Drop in or phone
Unit 10	Council House, Saltergate, Chesterfield	CBC / BDC / NEDDC	Advice & support	Age 13 – 25s	Unit 10 offers a 'one stop shop' providing information, support and advice on a range of issues for young people. We are a drop- in service, so no appointment needed.	Phone / email / drop in
DDVSAS	Children & YP outreach service, 6 Fairfield Road, Chesterfield, S40 4TP	CBC / BDC / NEDDC	Advice & support	Children (up to 18) who are living with or who have experienced DV	Helpline – 01246 540444 / 08000 198668 Chesterfield (07845 933 719) NED (07787 151 246) Bolsover (07787 151 248)	Drop in or phone
DDVSAS	Drop in centre - 6 Fairfield Road, Chesterfield, S40 4TP	CBC / BDC / NEDDC	Advice & support	Anyone experiencing domestic abuse	Helpline – 01246 540444 / 08000 198668. Advice and support including access to refuge spaces, solicitors	Drop in or phone
Integrated Offender	Bay Heath House, Rose	CBC / BDC / NEDDC	Drop in	18+ for people with offending	Drop in advice on employment and accommodation	Drop in

Management (IOM) (Action)	Hill West, Chesterfield, S40 1JF	history
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Table 4.13 Provision of Food

Name	Location	Type	Opening Times	Other
Chesterfield Foodbank	St Michael & All Angels Parish Hall, Church Street, Brimington	Trussell Trust	Monday 11am – 1pm	Referral only; (awaiting list of organisations who can issue vouchers)
	The Gates, South Street, Chesterfield	Foodbank	Tuesday 1pm – 3pm (Also Framework Housing Surgery for 16 – 24yr olds)	
	Loundsley Green Community Centre, Cutholme Road, Loundsley Green		Friday 1pm – 3pm	
Clay Cross Foodbank	St Bartholemew’s Church, High Street, Clay Cross	Trussell Trust	Tuesday 7pm – 8pm	Referral only; including Local Authority Housing Options, Rykneld Homes, Job Centres, Social Care, MAT teams, police, DDVSAS, Schools, Pathways, Children’s Centres, CAB, Community MH teams, Action Housing, Framework
	Bridge Street Methodist, Bridge Street, Pilsley	Foodbank	Wednesday 6pm – 7pm	
	Community of Christ, Thane Street, Clay Cross		Friday 1pm – 2pm	
New Hope Foodbank	Unit 3 Norwood Industrial Estate, Rotherham Close, Killamarsh, S21 2JU (07939 950713)	Foodbank	Food parcels are dropped off to the recipient asap	Referral only; including LA’s, Sure Start, MAT teams, CAB, Children’s Centres, Rykneld Homes
Living Hope Food Bank	Tibshelf Road, Holmewood, S42 5TP (01246 856587)	Foodbank	Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30pm	Referral preferred from local agency but can be flexible
South Normanton	St Michaels and All Angel’s	Trussell	Tuesday 2pm – 3pm	Referral only; LA, Social Care, MAT teams,

Foodbank	Church, Church Street, South Normanton, DE55 2BT The Junction 28 Church, The Common, South Normanton, DE55 2EP	Trust Foodbank	Friday 2pm – 3pm	Police, Probation, GP etc
Jigsaw Foodbank	Riverside, Unit 4, Olde English Road, Matlock, DE4 3RR	Foodbank	Wednesday 2pm – 4pm or by appointment	Referral only
Bolsover Foodbank	Bolsover Methodist Church, Hill Top, Bolsover, S44 6NN	Foodbank	Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri 9am – 5pm, Sun 10am – 12pm	Referral only via local agencies
Church on the bus	Chesterfield Town Hall, Rose Hill Chesterfield Matlock station car park (near Sainsburys, Cawdor Way Matlock)		6:30 – 8:00pm (Monday & Thursday) 7:00 – 8:00pm Tuesday	Free cold food provision / support
Grace Chapel	Markham Road, Chesterfield (opposite next on retail park)		6:00 – 7:00 pm Tuesday & 7:30 – 9:30pm Friday	Free soup kitchen
M.A.D Meal (Lifehouse Church)	New Square, Chesterfield (outside Dents Chemist)		6:00 – 7:00pm Wednesday	Free food provision
Church in the Peak	New Street Centre, New Street, Chesterfield, S40 2JZ		6:00 – 7:00pm Saturday	Free food provision

4.6 Demographic Profile

4.6.1 Population by age

The population of North Derbyshire is around 279,000. Under 25's make up 28% of the population across the area. Those aged 60 account for 27% of the population overall. There is a higher proportion of younger people in Bolsover and a higher proportion of older persons in North East Derbyshire

Table 4.14 Population by Age

	Bolsover	%	Chesterfield	%	NED	%	North Derbyshire	%
Total	75,866		103,788		99,023		278,677	
< 18	15,630	20.6%	20,940	20.2%	18,795	19%	55,365	20%
18-24	6,032	7.9%	8,211	7.9%	7,259	7.3%	21,502	8%
25-44	19,728	26%	26,617	25.6%	22,826	23.1%	69,171	25%
45-59	15,660	20.6%	21,773	21%	21,570	21.8%	59,003	21%
60-65	5,032	6.6%	6,956	6.7%	7,655	7.7%	19,643	7%
65-74	7,537	9.9%	10,105	9.7%	11,679	11.8%	29,321	11%
75 +	6,247	8.2%	9,186	8.8%	9,239	9.3%	24,672	9%

Source: Census 2011

4.6.2 Ethnicity

Table 4.15 below shows that the vast majority of the population of North Derbyshire, and of all three Council areas is white.

Table 4.16 below shows that Bolsover has seen the largest increase in NINo registrations (year to June 2015) and most of these have been from the EEA countries.

More recent analysis of Electoral Registration data for Bolsover (December 2015) shows that more than 1% of the Bolsover population is Polish, rising to 1.4% for all Eastern Europeans. The figure itself is likely to under represent migrant workers which is a growing number. The vast majority of this increase is as a result of the relocation of Sports Direct UK Distribution Centre to Shirebrook following the introduction of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 and subsequent amendments of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Table 4.15 Population by Ethnicity

	Bolsover	%	Chesterfield	%	NED	%	North Derbyshire	%
All ethnic groups	75,866		103,788		99,023		278,677	100%
White	74,386	98%	100,167	96.5%	97,014	98%	271,567	97.4%

Gypsy/Traveller/ Irish Traveller	66	0.10%	5	<0.1%	70	<0.1%	141	0.1%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	518	0.70%	1,094	1.10%	786	0.80%	2,398	0.9%
All Asian/ British	612	0.80%	1,592	1.50%	795	0.80%	2,999	1.1%
Black/ African/ Caribbean/ Black British	267	0.30%	782	0.70%	236	0.20%	1,285	0.5%
Other Ethnic Group	17	<0.1%	148	0.10%	122	0.10%	287	0.1%

Source: Census 2011

Table 4.16 NINo registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the UK by Region / Local Authority and world region - registrations year to June 2015

	TOTAL	European Union EU15	European Union EU8	European Union EU2	European Union Other	(Non EU) Other Europe
Bolsover	714	20	594	76	..	6
Chesterfield	329	98	73	89	..	12
North East Derbyshire	133	25	33	36	..	5

Source: Stat-Xplore, DWP, National Insurance Number Registrations to June 2015

4.6.3 Deprivation

When we look at the Indices of Multiple Deprivation which rank the most deprived area as 1 and the least deprived local authority in England as 326, we see that across the three authorities, North East Derbyshire has the least deprivation (ranked 190). Bolsover is, relatively, the most deprived of the three although its position has improved between 2010 and 2015.

Table 4.16 Rank in Indices of Multiple Deprivation

	2010	2015
Bolsover	43	61
Chesterfield	91	85
NEDDC	176	190

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

4.6.4 Employment and Earnings

There are relatively high levels of overall employment in the three Council areas in North Derbyshire ranging from 75.9% in NEDDC to 61.7% in Bolsover. Table 4.16 below shows that while employment levels increased for Chesterfield and NEDDC between 2011 and 2015, employment fell by 5.3% in Bolsover.

Table 4.17 Levels of Employment

	2011	2015
Bolsover	67%	62%
Chesterfield	68%	72%
NEDDC	68%	76%

Source: NOMIS, 2011 and 2015

While remaining higher than the figure for Derbyshire as a whole, unemployment rates fell for all three authorities, despite Bolsover recording a fall in employment rates.

Table 4.18 Levels of Unemployment

	2011	2015
Bolsover	6.9%	5.0%
Chesterfield	7.8%	5.3%
NEDDC	6.1%	4.2%
Derbyshire	6.5%	4.0%

Source: NOMIS, 2011 and 2015

Average gross weekly earnings range from £468.50 in Chesterfield to £421.90 in Bolsover. For all three authorities, average gross weekly full-time earnings fell between 2011 and 2015. Bolsover saw the smallest reduction.

Table 4.19 Gross Weekly Earnings

	2011	2014
Bolsover	£422.50	£421.90
Chesterfield	£490.60	£468.50
NEDDC	£454.30	£439.20

Source: Annual survey of hours and earnings 2011 and 2014, Office for National Statistics.

4.7 P1E Homelessness Returns

4.7.1 Homelessness Acceptances by Age

The table below shows that nearly 56% of those accepted were in the 25-44 age group. The proportion of acceptances of 45-59 year olds had declined from 8% in 2012/13 to less than

8% in 2014/15. Meanwhile, there has been a rise in the proportion of 65-74 year olds from 2% in 2012/13 to 10% in 2014/15.

Table 4.21 Bolsover Homelessness Acceptances by Age

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
16-24	7	5	10	22
25-44	29	18	20	67
45-59	9	6	3	18
60-64	4		2	6
65-74	1	1	4	6
75+			1	1
Total	50	30	40	120

Source: BDC

In Chesterfield, the majority of applicants accepted (almost 57%) were aged between 25 and 44, 28% were between 16 and 24, and this number has increased significantly over the period. Just over 2% of homeless acceptances are from applicants aged 60 and over.

Table 4.22 Chesterfield Homelessness Acceptances by Age

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
16-24	23	28	30	81
25-44	44	57	65	166
45-59	10	15	14	39
60-64			1	1
65-74	2		1	3
75+	1		2	3
Total	80	100	113	293

Source: CBC

In NEDDC during 2014/15, the majority of applicants accepted, around 58%, were aged between 16 and 24, 25% were between 24 and 44, and the remainder (17%) were aged 45-59. The number of acceptances from people aged 24 to 44 has reduced over the three years 201/13 to 2014/15.

Table 4.23 NEDDC Homelessness Acceptances by Age

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
16-24	8	4	7
25-44	7	3	3
45-59	3	1	2
60-64	1		
65-74			
75+			
Total	19	8	12

Source: NEDDC

4.7.2 Reasons for acceptance

Table 4.24 below shows that in 2012/13 the most common reasons for acceptance were termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancies (AST) and parents not willing to accommodate, together accounting for 36% of the total. By 2014/15 termination of AST and loss of rented accommodation combined made up over 37% of the reasons for acceptance, with relationship breakdown accounting for a further 20%.

Table 4.24 Bolsover Acceptance of Homelessness – Reasons for Homelessness

Bolsover	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	8	4	5	17
Other friends and relatives no longer willing or able to accommodate	3	1	2	6
Relationship breakdown	5	2	8	15
Domestic violence	6	9	5	20
Harassment, threats or intimidation	1	1	3	5
Mortgage arrears	3	2	1	6
Rent arrears	5	3	1	9
Termination of AST	9	5	7	21
Other loss of rented accommodation	4	2	8	14
Leaving institution	2			2
Other	1	1		2
Total	47	30	40	117

Source: BDC

Table 4.26 below shows that, in Chesterfield, termination of AST (nearly 26%) and other loss of rented accommodation (6%) were the reasons for acceptance in nearly 32% of cases. Domestic violence is next most significant, accounting for almost 35% of acceptances. Termination of ASTs as a reason for acceptance has risen from 20% in 2012/13 to almost 31% in 2014/15. Although accounting for just under 11% of cases, relationship breakdown has also increased as a proportion of the total, from nearly 9% in 2012/13 to 20% in 2014/15.

Table 4.25 Chesterfield Acceptance of Homelessness – Reasons for Homelessness

Chesterfield	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	4	11	9	24
Other friends and relatives no longer willing or able to accommodate	10	5	8	23
Relationship breakdown	7	10	15	32
Domestic violence	15	30	26	71
Harassment, threats or intimidation	5	1	4	10
Mortgage arrears	5	4	1	10
Rent arrears	6	3	6	15

Termination of AST	16	24	35	75
Other loss of rented accommodation	9	7	2	18
Leaving institution	1	3	2	6
Other	2	2	5	9
Total	80	100	113	293

Source: CBC

While more than half of all acceptances were on the basis of fleeing domestic abuse in 2012/13, by 2014/15 the main reason for acceptance was parental eviction, which accounted for almost 42% of all acceptance reasons. However this is in the context of a small and reducing number of acceptances; by 2014/15 the number of acceptances had reduced by 37%, to 12.

Table 4.26 NEDDC Acceptance of Homelessness – Reasons for Homelessness

NEDDC	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	4 (21%)	2 (25%)	5 (41.7%)
Left care	1 (5.2%)		2 (16.6%)
Relationship breakdown	4 (21%)	2 (25%)	1 (8.3%)
Evicted from Coach House			1 (8.3%)
Domestic violence	10 (52.6%)	2 (25%)	2 (16.7%)
Left hospital			1 (8.3%)
Other relatives and friends no longer willing or able to accommodate		2 (25%)	
Total	19	8	12

Source: NEDDC

4.7.3 Priority need

In Bolsover the most common reason for priority need was 'dependent children' with 76 cases (64%), this has fluctuated over the years from a low of 18 in 2013/14 (although this still accounted for 60% of priority need cases during that year).

Table 4.27 Bolsover Reasons for Priority Need

Bolsover	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Emergency – fire, etc.	2	0	0	2
Dependent children	33	18	25	76
Pregnancy		2	1	3
Care leaver 18-20	2	0	1	3

Old age	0	1	6	7
Physical disability	6	2	4	12
Mental illness	4	2	2	8
Domestic violence	2	2	1	5
Other violence	0	2	0	2
Vulnerable (drugs)	0	1	0	1
Total	49	30	40	119

Source: BDC

In Chesterfield a similar picture emerges with 55% of priority need cases in priority need because of dependent children in the household. This reason has also increased slightly as a proportion of all priority need categories per year, from 50% in 2012/13 to over 58% in 2014/15.

Table 4.28 Chesterfield Reasons for Priority Need

Chesterfield	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Emergency – fire, etc.	0	0	2	2
Dependent children	40	56	66	162
Pregnancy	1	0	7	8
Care leaver 18-20	6	6	2	14
Old age	4	0	1	5
Physical disability	8	8	8	24
Mental illness	16	22	16	54
Domestic violence	4	7	11	22
Other violence	0	0	0	0
Vulnerable (drugs)	1	0	0	1
Vulnerable (custody/remand)	0	1	0	1
Total	80	100	113	293

In NEDDC, again in the context of a small and reducing number of acceptances, physical (over 15%) and mental health (almost 13%) issues are the reason for a significant number of households awarded priority need. It is notable that while children were the reason for accepting priority need in almost 36% of cases, this category appears to be reducing from over 47% of the acceptances in 2012/13 to less than 17% in 2014/15.

Table 4.29 NEDDC Reasons for Priority Need

NEDDC	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Emergency – fire, etc.				
Dependent children	9	3	2	14
Pregnancy	2		1	3
16 or 17 years old		1	2	3
Care leaver 18-20	2		2	4
Old age				

Physical disability		2	4	6
Mental illness	3	2		5
Domestic violence	3		1	4
Other violence				
Vulnerable (drugs)				
Vulnerable (custody/remand)				
Total	19	8	12	39

Source: NEDDC

4.7.4 Number of Homeless Presentations

In Bolsover the number of homelessness presentations dropped significantly between 2012/13 and 2013/14, and then rose slightly in 2014/15. Prevented cases and homelessness acceptances followed a similar pattern, with a decrease in 2013/14 followed by an increase in 2014/15. Presentations, preventions and accepted cases are still however below 2012/13 levels.

A slightly higher proportion of presentations were accepted as homeless in 2014/15 (18%) than in 2012/13 (16%). The proportion of homelessness presentations which resulted in prevention was higher in 2014/15 (69%) than in 2012/13 (55%). This demonstrates an increasing emphasis on prevention. At the same time the proportion of presentations accepted rose from 16.1% in 2012/13 to 18.6% in 2014/15. In the context of fewer presentations, this suggests continuing and possibly rising demand in the future for both accommodation and prevention services. This is in line with the findings from the previous homelessness strategy, which also pointed to an increased demand for prevention services.

For NEDDC, unlike Bolsover and Chesterfield, the number of presentations rose between 2012/13 and 2013/14, then dropped in 2014/15. Like the other authorities however, presentations were lower in 2014/15 than in 2012/13. Over this period the number of prevented cases continued to rise, and prevented cases were 66% higher in 2014/15 than in 2012/13. Again this demonstrates the continuing use of, and need for, prevention activities.

The number of homelessness presentations overall is higher than in the period reviewed by the previous homelessness strategy (2008-11), as is the number of prevention cases. The overall pattern is similar to that found in NEDDC's previous homelessness strategy covering 2008-11, in which there was also a fluctuating pattern of presentations, an increase in preventions and an overall reduction in acceptances. This suggests that while there has been an increase in demand for, and provision of, prevention services, there has been no significant change in patterns of homelessness.

Overall, all three authorities show an increased emphasis on preventing homelessness. NEDDC has seen the biggest proportionate increase in prevention cases, but also has by far the lowest proportion of homeless acceptances.

Table 4.30 Number of Presentations

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Bolsover			
Homeless presentations	292	206	215
Prevented cases	161	136	149
Accepted as homeless	47	30	40
Chesterfield			
Homeless presentations	1270	1217	1010
Prevented cases	201	483	624
Accepted as homeless	80	98	113
NEDDC			
Homeless presentations	645	745	555
Prevented cases	172	202	285
Accepted as homeless	19	8	12

Sources: DCLG and local authorities`

4.7.5 Prevention

Tables 4.32 to 4.33 below provide more detail on the nature of the prevention activities carried out by the three authorities. Bolsover's main activity in both 2012/13 and 2014/15 was conciliation (30%) and provision of assistance to enable households to remain in their social or private rented housing (29%).

Like Bolsover but on a greater scale, Chesterfield's most significant activity in 2014/15 was providing assistance to enable households to remain in social or private rented housing, with 352 households assisted in this manner. The other main interventions over the three years were in resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector, and resolving housing benefit problems.

Debt advice was the main intervention used by NEDDC, with the number of preventions as a result of this service trebling between 2012/13 and 2014/15. As with Chesterfield, the next highest number of interventions were resolving rent or service charge arrears and resolving housing benefit problems.

The figures for Chesterfield and NEDDC point to a continuing and growing need for money and benefits advice. There is also a need, based on Bolsover and Chesterfield's activities, to continue to provide assistance to enable households to remain in their rented homes. It may be worth exploring further the nature of assistance provided.

Table 4.31 Homelessness prevented – households able to remain in existing home as a result of intervention

Bolsover	2012/13	2013/14*	2014/15	Total
Mediation		1		1
Conciliation including home visits for family or friend threatened	11	6	8	25

exclusions				
Assistance enabling household to remain in private or social rented sector	15		9	24
Debt advice		4	4	8
Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector		2	5	7
Negotiations or legal advocacy enabling household to remain in the private rented sector		3	6	9
Mortgage arrears intervention or mortgage rescue		2		2
Resolving HB		1		1
Providing other assistance		6		6
Total	26	25	32	83
Chesterfield	2012/13	2013/14*	2014/15	Total
Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector	46	65	88	199
Crisis intervention providing emergency support	23			23
Negotiation or legal advocacy enabling household to remain in the private rented sector	15	14	15=	44
Assistance enabling households to remain in private or social rented sector	48	29	352	429
Mortgage arrears interventions or mortgage rescue	8	11	15=	34
Resolving housing benefit problems		245	31	276
Debt advice			16	16
Total	140	364	517	1021
NEDDC	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Debt advice	20	40	64	124
Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector		18	48	66
Resolving housing benefit problems		29	24	53
Mortgage arrears interventions or mortgage rescue	13	16	13	42
Assistance enabling households to remain in private or social rented sector	20	20	6	46

Crisis intervention providing emergency support	13			13
Negotiations or legal advocacy enabling household to remain in the private rented sector	15			15
Total	81	123	155	359

Source: DCLG

The tables below show that, for all three authorities, a Part 6 offer of local authority accommodation or nomination to Housing Association was the favoured source of alternative accommodation assistance. Beyond this the nature of alternative accommodation varied between the authorities; after Part 6 offer/ Housing Association nomination Bolsover assisted more households in obtaining supported accommodation than any other type. Chesterfield's second most common assistance was for private rented accommodation with the landlord incentive scheme. For NEDDC it was accommodation with friends or relatives. NEDDC's assistance by way of the private rented accommodation with the landlord incentive scheme has reduced over the three years while assistance through private rented accommodation without the scheme has increased.

Table 4.32 Homelessness prevented or relieved – household assisted to obtain alternative accommodation, in the form of (top 5)

Bolsover	2012/13	2013/14*	2014/15	Total
Hostel or HMO		7		7
Private rented with landlord incentive scheme	17	4	8=	29
Private rented without landlord incentive scheme	13	6	13=	32
Accommodation arranged with friends or relatives		11	25	36
Supported accommodation	23	8	13=	44
Social housing – part 6 offer of LA accommodation or nomination to RSL	46	27	44	117
Social housing – management move of existing LA tenant	15		8=	23
Total	114	63	111	288
Chesterfield	2012/13	2013/14*	2014/15	Total
Private rented with landlord incentive scheme	22	10	13	45
Private rented without landlord incentive scheme		4	2	6
Accommodation arranged with friends or relatives		4		4
Supported accommodation	5	7	13	25
Social housing – part 6 offer of LA accommodation or nomination to RSL	15	50	49	114

Social housing – management move of existing LA tenant		13	13	26
Total	42	88	90	220
NEDDC	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Private rented with landlord incentive scheme	20	18	10	48
Private rented without landlord incentive scheme	9	15	19	43
Accommodation arranged with friends or relatives	15	12	38	65
Supported accommodation	0	9	6	15
Social housing – part 6 offer of LA accommodation or nomination to RSL	31	15	42	88
Total	75	69	115	259

Source: DCLG and P1E

4.7.6 Outcomes/accommodation solutions

The table below shows the immediate outcome for applicants accepted as owed a duty by Bolsover. Over the three year period the most common outcome was the acceptance of a Part 6 offer, with over 52% of accepted households taking this route. It is notable that nearly 17% refused a private rented sector offer and just one household accepted a private sector tenancy. With less than 13% of accepted households being placed in temporary accommodation, remaining in their current accommodation or making their own temporary accommodation arrangements, it would seem that Bolsover tends to move quickly to make an offer of public, and to a lesser extent, private rented accommodation.

Table 4.33 Outcomes/ Accommodation Solutions

Bolsover	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Applicant placed in temporary accommodation	5	1	1	7
Remaining at home or making other temporary arrangements	8	0	0	8
Accepted AST or private rented	1	0	0	1
Applicant refused private rented	10	9	10	29
Accepted Part 6 offer	26	17	28	71
LA regards duty as ended		3	1	4
Total	50	30	40	120

Source: DCLG and Bolsover P1E returns

For Chesterfield, 164 (57%) households remained in their current accommodation or made other temporary arrangements, while 121 (42%) were placed in temporary accommodation. Only one household accepted a Part 6 offer, and a further one household accepted a private rented tenancy.

Chesterfield has advised that most of the households accepted as homeless were rehoused in local authority tenancies.

Table 4.34 Outcomes/ Accommodation Solutions

Chesterfield	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Applicant placed in temporary accommodation	40	15	40	95
Remaining at home or making other temporary arrangements	39	27	72	138
Accepted AST or private rented	1			1
Applicant refused private rented				
Accepted Part 6 offer				
LA regards duty as ended				
Total	80	96*	112	288

Source: DCLG

Table 4.36 below shows that, for NEDDC all accepted households were either placed in temporary accommodation, remained in their current accommodation or made their own temporary arrangements during the quarter in which their application was made.

Table 4.35 Outcomes/ Accommodation Solutions

NEDDC	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Applicant placed in temporary accommodation	17	8	11	36
Remaining at home or making other temporary arrangements	2		1	3
Accepted AST or private rented	0	0	0	0
Applicant refused private rented	0	0	0	0
Accepted Part 6 offer	0	0	0	0
LA regards duty as ended	0	0	0	0
Total	19	8	12	39

Source: DCLG

For all three authorities the figures show a higher number of total applicants than immediate outcomes, possibly suggesting that other outcomes have not been recorded, or an under-recording of outcomes.

4.7.7 Interim Accommodation

Interim accommodation is accommodation provided by the local authority pending their decision as to what duty, if any, is owed to the applicant under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 if they have reason to believe that the applicant is homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need⁴.

⁴ Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, DCLG, 2006

Applicants who are not able to remain in their own accommodation while investigations are carried out are provided with interim accommodation. If a duty is accepted, the interim accommodation becomes temporary accommodation, which includes bed and breakfast, domestic violence hostel, an interim Council tenancy, or Housing Association-managed temporary accommodation. Offers of permanent tend to be made within weeks.

In North East Derbyshire there are four homeless units: two 3-bed houses and two 1-bed flats. These are provided from NEDDC’s own stock and are managed by the Housing Options Team. If these properties are all occupied and additional temporary accommodation is required, NEDDC will make use of bed and breakfast accommodation provided by one of three businesses in the Chesterfield Borough Council area.

The table below shows that while the number of households provided with interim accommodation in 2014/15 has increased slightly compared with 2012/13, the average stay has reduced over the same period by 17%.

Table 4.36 No. of households housed in interim accommodation/ Average length of stay

NEDCC	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Numbers housed in interim accommodation	61	60	65
Average length of stay	54.98 days	48.77 days	45.66 days

Source: NEDDC

4.7.8 Temporary Accommodation

Temporary accommodation is accommodation provided by the local authority after a decision has been made where a full homeless duty is owed under Part 7 of the Act but pending settled and secure accommodation being obtained. Temporary accommodation is also used in cases where the decision is of intentional homelessness and is provided for usually 28 days to enable the applicant to find their own accommodation⁵. Neither Bolsover nor Chesterfield Councils have any designated temporary accommodation.

4.7.9 Repeat Homelessness

Repeat homelessness is defined by CLG as:

‘More than one case of homelessness for the same person, or family, within two years, where the council has a legal duty to find housing for them.’

Using this definition, North Derbyshire has very low levels of repeat homelessness (1 case across all three Council areas in the last three years).

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the actual number of people accessing housing options and advice services on repeated occasions is actually higher than this. Repeated patterns of

⁵ Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities, DCLG, 2006

homelessness mean that staff can spend time helping to solve someone’s problems, or preventing homelessness, only for them to come back with the same or another problem at a later date. It also means that housing solutions which have been found may be unsustainable over the longer term (longer than the 2 year definition).

4.8 Rough Sleepers

All local authorities carry out an annual rough sleepers count. This involves counting the number of individuals observed sleeping rough on a designated night. In 2015 all Derbyshire authorities carried out the exercise on the same date, to avoid double counting and to provide comparative statistics. The definition of rough sleepers used for the purpose of the estimate is:

- *People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments).*
- *People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations or “bashes”).*
- *It does not include people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes.*

Table 4.38 shows a fluctuating but low level of rough sleeping for all three authorities. The figures for 2014 were higher for Chesterfield and NEDDC than in 2010. The 2015 figures show an increase in Bolsover and NEDDC since 2014 and are at the highest level since 2010.

Table 4.37 Rough Sleepers

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Bolsover	2	1	2	4	2	4
Chesterfield	6	4	3	9	8	8
NEDDC	0	1	5	0	2	3
Total	8	6	10	13	12	15

Source: DCLG

4.9 Bond Scheme

The NEDDC Council’s bond guarantee scheme allows households and individuals to access private rented accommodation. It is a paper bond which underwrites damage/repairs up to a limit of £500 for couples and £350 for single people, although there is some flexibility on these limits. During the first six months of the tenancy tenants are expected to use the local credit union to save the value of the bond in order to replace it. The paper bond can be extended after the initial six months. Any claims against the bond are reclaimed from the tenant by the Council. The scheme has been managed by the Housing Options Team since 2013-14.

Chesterfield Council operates a similar scheme and provided 14 Bonds during 2012/13, 7 Bonds during 2013/14 and 8 Bonds during 2014/15.

Bolsover do not operate a bond scheme formally but there is the option to provide a bond through funding from Homeless Prevention Grants.

4.10 Move on Protocols

Move on Protocols (MOP) are in place in each local authority area to enable transition from supported accommodation into mainstream tenancies. In each area applicants will be subject to the individual Council's allocation policy.

When a resident moves into supported accommodation they should register with the appropriate housing provider as soon as possible by filling in an application and attaching a MOP form and returning it with appropriate identification. The application will then be processed and a bidding number issued to the applicant. At the time of application, someone living in supported accommodation will have their application suspended. This means the applicant can't bid on any properties. When the applicant is ready to move-on, the support worker will notify the housing provider and the application will be made live. This means they will be able to bid for properties. In Chesterfield applicants are required to have a local connection to the area. This means that they will have to have been living in Chesterfield for six months prior to their move into supported accommodation. In Chesterfield and NEDDC the applicant is required to provide a 5 year address history, in Bolsover a 10 year address history is required.

The review above has set out the main findings around access to and use of homeless services across the three local authority areas as well as a review of relevant strategy and policy. This review has been used in the development of the Homelessness Strategy for North Derbyshire and its aims and objectives.

5. Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder consultation is a key element of any Homelessness Review. In this section we present the key themes from extensive stakeholder consultation which encompassed meetings with partner organisations, including homeless service providers and support agencies, senior managers and operational staff to gain an understanding of the issues they face on a daily basis. A consultation event was held – a Homelessness Forum Strategy event in February 2015 and an online survey to consult all partners across the North Derbyshire area. The Homelessness Strategy draws key themes from the consultation to develop the principles embedded through the strategy and a number of key priorities to be delivered.

The key themes expressed through this consultation were around:

- The impact of welfare reform
- Funding and Budgetary pressures
- Future Challenges
- Gaps in Service Provision

Stakeholders were also asked about their future priorities, and how they thought agencies could work together moving forward. Summaries of the responses under all of these themes are summarised below.

5.1 The Impact of Welfare Reform

Stakeholders described the increased number of sanctions on welfare benefits which have had an effect on household budgets which in turn has an impact on tenancy sustainability, increased homelessness and poverty. Consultees described a sharp reduction in household incomes which leads to a build up of debt and households having to make difficult choices, such as whether to buy food or pay household bills. Particular welfare reforms such as limiting benefits to those under the age of 25; the shared room rate; changes to disability benefits, changes to local housing allowance; under occupancy charges; reduction in Council Tax support for people of working age, reduction in Tax credits and changes to Social Fund grants were all thought to have had significant impact.

Stakeholders also said that the rising cost of living has resulted in; increased debt, people struggling with low and fixed incomes, an increase in payday loans to meet normal household costs, people finding themselves in crisis situations without money and reliant on the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund.

Advice provided by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) is vital, but stakeholders described the scale of the problem as ‘frightening’ and indicated that in addition to the normal provision of services they are also trying to adopt a more preventative approach by producing/distributing payday lending survival kits, newsletters encouraging people to get advice at an early stage and by working with Pathways homeless project, Probation and Women’s Aid to help support people to avoid debt and homeless problems.

Stakeholders indicated that they have contributed to multi-agency approaches to mitigate the effect of issues caused by Welfare Reform including involvement in welfare reform strategy groups/health strategy groups; working with other agencies, including Public Health, to reach out to deprived and isolated parts of the area by taking multi-agency advice/support directly into those communities.

5.2 Funding and Budgetary Pressures

Many stakeholders felt that they were, as yet, unable to assess the full impact of funding and budgetary pressures. It was considered likely that downward pressure on budgets and subsequent reductions in service provision will have a clear impact on the amount of service users that require support. Stakeholders felt that this would lead to more issues regarding homelessness or insecure housing situations and that this would be particularly evident amongst young single people. Overall it was considered that there would be increased demands on services and potentially an increase in homelessness and rough sleeping with the added risk of an increase in re offending. It was acknowledged that the services which may be subject to funding cuts are important services which help to sustain and develop people's ability to live independently.

5.3 Future Challenges

A number of key challenges were identified through the stakeholder consultation. These were:

- Awareness Raising
 - To raise the issues and impacts of homelessness locally – particularly amongst politicians, Senior Management particularly in large statutory agencies and potential funders
 - Better engagement with Health and other larger statutory services
- Reduced resources and funding
 - Impact of Housing Related Support cuts – reduction in length and intensity of support
 - District Councils' lack of control over housing related support budget – need to have more influence on impact locally
 - Better coordination of potential procurement/funding opportunities
 - Increase in complex needs cases coming through the door, including mental health
- Availability of affordable housing
 - Lack of affordable and appropriate housing options and solutions for under 25s
 - Affordability in Private Rented Sector and delays in Housing Benefit payments from some Authorities

- Lack of one bed units
- Improving the Private rented sector as an effective source of affordable housing
- Greater publicity re landlords willing to accept people on benefits
- Surplus of larger properties – how can we best utilise them? Sharing opportunities
- Lack of move on accommodation
- Welfare Reforms and financial inclusion
 - Better coordination between Housing Benefit departments and Housing Options in relation to Discretionary Housing Payments spend
 - Increase in debt/financial inclusion issues for young people
 - Increase in mortgage repossessions and end of mortgage rescue scheme
 - Increase in sanction cases
 - Introduction of Universal Credit
- Rough Sleeping and temporary accommodation
 - Increase in rough sleeping in Chesterfield, including hidden rough sleepers
 - Lack of direct access hostel provision locally
 - 16/17s
- Clarity on homeless 16/17 year olds
 - Where does the duty to house lie? - Social care or housing?
- Domestic Abuse
 - Consistent approach needed across the Authorities to accommodating households affected by Domestic Abuse, including move on from refuge.

5.4 Gaps in Service Provision

Stakeholder consultation revealed a number of gaps in current service provision. These included:

- Specialist offender services
- Instant access accommodation, hostel accommodation, temporary accommodation, and interim accommodation
- Joint treatment/accommodation provision for substance misuse, including dual diagnosis and homelessness
- Provision of suitable (foyer type) accommodation for under 25s and shared accommodation for under 35s
- More practical one to one help offered to families in prioritising and managing their household budgets
- Affordable accommodation for young people who are not able to live with family but are not particularly vulnerable and do not need / want to be looked after by the LA
- A more coherent strategy about tackling the effects of welfare reform for the most vulnerable clients

5.5 Future Priorities

When asked to consider what the future priorities for homelessness service provision in North Derbyshire should be stakeholders highlighted:

- The need for a Joint Homelessness Strategy which is standardised and consistent across all three local authorities
- Homelessness prevention and to reduce the level of homelessness
- To develop a joint approach and strategy to respond to the challenges of welfare reform
- The needs of young people and the provision of affordable accommodation for under 25s and tenancy sustainment initiatives to minimise tenancy failure and repeat homelessness
- Greater emphasis on joint working on substance misuse in homeless clients

5.6 Developing a Proactive Partnership Approach

Stakeholders were very supportive of increased partnership working and developing a proactive partnership approach. Stakeholders felt that by working and communicating together, more could be achieved than by competing individually. Good joint working was identified generally.

Helping local authorities improve their housing stock by supporting service users to gain skills, such as building and decorating, which will improve the local area and help homeless people become part of the community was an approach widely supported by stakeholders.

Some stakeholders highlighted difficulties around how support is identified for young people who are unable to live with their family.

Within this, stakeholders recognised the need for a better understanding of the key responsibilities of different agencies and what they can and cannot do. The need for regular forums for all agencies concerned in tackling homelessness, to meet both at a strategic and operational level, was identified.

Some stakeholders identified the need to develop a single referral form, improve information sharing via a protocol, improve internal communication with tenancy management, rent and benefit teams, improve communication with Derbyshire County Council.

Similarly, it was thought that there should be regular communication between all agencies who are involved. Smaller groups could be formed to develop strategies using different case studies, and used as baseline information to inform wider issues and ensure best practice through collaborative working.

5.7 Communication

Communication was highlighted as a key area for future delivery of homelessness services across North Derbyshire. Stakeholders recognised the need to ensure that agencies are aware of the priorities of their partners and to develop a more joined up approach.

Many stakeholders acknowledged that current communication is good, while also making suggestions for improvement including:

- Having a single point of contact for agencies and applicants to talk to
- To improve the links between strategies
- To share the agreed outcomes of the various groups that meet
- To timetable meetings to check agreed priorities are being addressed
- To develop a consistency of approach in relation to claimant vulnerability issues
- To introduce more discussion over individual case studies in smaller groups in order to develop partnership strategies
- Greater publicity about services and support available – possible directory of services , greater use of social media
- Joint campaigning locally – use Forum/strategies as tool to launch any campaign to ensure high on key agencies agendas such as Local Authorities – including the County Council , Health and Probation
- Raise the profile/campaign to implement Homeless Link’s Manifesto and homelessness situation locally

5.8 Homelessness Forum

It was considered by many that there should be two key functions of the Homelessness Forum to incorporate strategic and operational. The first an overarching strategic function should develop the high level approach to homelessness and homelessness prevention across North Derbyshire. At this level consideration should be given to joint procurement of funding opportunities and commissioning and the coordination of funding strategies to meet identified priorities. This function should be led by senior strategy makers from each of the three local authority areas. This function may include joint commissioning and monitoring of services.

The second function of the Homelessness Forum should be to allow local practitioners and service providers to consider service issues, share good practice, be appraised of changes to guidance and legislation, receive and deliver joint training and consider more operational matters. The operational level forum should incorporate networking and information exchange amongst partners and stakeholders.

There is keen interest among a wide range of agencies to be involved in the Homelessness Forum and this avenue should be open to wide number of interested partners, stakeholders and their staff. The Homelessness Forum could also act as a mechanism for service user feedback with service users also invited to forum events.

It was clear that a multi-agency approach to the Homelessness Forum is supported and efforts should be made to ensure representatives from Health and Social Care are integral members of the Forum. Similarly Homelessness practitioners should be represented on corresponding Health and Social Care fora.

Three quarters of stakeholders thought that the Homelessness Forum should be held every three months.

6. Conclusion

The next five years will be a critical time for homelessness services. In national policy terms, the context for addressing the needs of homeless households is very challenging. General cuts to local authority finances, welfare reforms and savings, changes through the Comprehensive Spending Review and the developing Housing and Planning Bill will all impact on households who are vulnerable and in need of support.

Across the three authorities, as in many areas, presentations are decreasing and preventions are increasing but cases are becoming ever more complex and involve a variety of services and funding sources. There is a growing reliance on the private rented sector to accommodate homeless households and this relies on the sector to continue to grow and work closely with housing authorities to support new tenancies. The Authorities will also continue to experience population growth and demographic change that will place different demands on homelessness services and public services as a whole in the future.

The number of homelessness presentations overall is higher than in the period reviewed by the previous homelessness strategy, as is the number of prevention cases. A slightly higher proportion of presentations were accepted as homeless in 2014/15 (18%) than in 2012/13 (16%). The proportion of homelessness presentations which resulted in prevention was higher in 2014/15 (69%) than in 2012/13 (55%). This demonstrates an increasing emphasis on and effectiveness of prevention work by the Local Authorities.

At the same time the proportion of presentations accepted rose from 16.1% in 2012/13 to 18.6% in 2014/15. In the context of fewer presentations, this suggests continuing and possibly rising future demand for both accommodation and prevention services, in line with the findings from the previous homelessness strategy.

The review evidence highlights some areas where the Homelessness Strategy should focus its objectives and develop action to tackle arising from these.

Younger and single person households make up the bulk of homelessness groups and this has been exacerbated by the introduction of the single room rate for those under 35 and Universal Credit. This group face the biggest challenges associated with welfare reform; high levels of support needs in tandem with cuts to housing support budgets. As the impact of these will fall predominantly on the young it is important that the Homelessness Strategy directly focuses an objective on this age group:

- **Objective 1:** Develop a robust young persons housing pathway by delivering a range of housing solutions with our partners

The stakeholder consultation identified a desire among local agencies to work together including establishing a Homelessness Forum. A forum should cover both the strategic - being led by senior strategy makers from each of the three local authority areas and exploring options such as joint commissioning and monitoring of services and also be

operational to allow local practitioners and service providers to consider service issues, share good practice, be appraised of changes to guidance and legislation, receive and deliver joint training and consider more operational matters.

It was also clear that a multi-agency approach to the Homelessness Forum is supported and efforts should be made to ensure representatives from Health and Social Care are integral members of the Forum. Similarly Homelessness practitioners should be represented on corresponding Health and Social Care fora. The authorities should consider a second objective to capture this desire to work collaboratively across the area:

- **Objective 2:** Create strong partnerships with all stakeholders to tackle homelessness for all those at risk, including those most vulnerable households

Overall, there is a fluctuating but low level of rough sleeping in all three authorities. The figures for 2014 were higher for Chesterfield and NEDDC than in 2010. The 2015 figures show an increase in Bolsover and NEDDC since 2014 and are at the highest level since 2010. With the changes to welfare and support housing that could trigger a rise in number rough sleeping the Homeless Strategy should have a third objective:

- **Objective 3:** Prevent rough sleeping across the area

Common themes also emerged from the three Councils' most recent homelessness strategies that this new strategy will replace. These included a lack of supply of smaller accommodation (except in Chesterfield where there is an oversupply of one bedroom properties), concern about the impact of welfare reform, cuts to budgets for support services and the prevalence of domestic abuse and being asked to leave by family or friends as reasons for homelessness. All three Councils identified working with the private rented sector and improving housing options/homelessness prevention activities among the range of objectives based on the issues identified in their strategies. These issues all present challenges to the provision of affordable housing and housing support. In addition there are wider accommodation pressures and the SHMA undertaken for all three Local Authorities has identified a need for approximately 430 new affordable homes per year across the area.

Those identified as in priority need are generally those with dependent children and this may impact on the ability to support young, single homeless people. The aging population across the area is also an emerging issue, which may present in an increase in older households requiring support to prevent homelessness.

Both the causes, and solutions to, homelessness are varied and take many forms and it is important that the Councils take the opportunity to consider what impact other services they provide to their communities can have in preventing homelessness and seeking to ensure that the roles of the services is utilised. The role that these play in reducing homelessness should be an objective within the Homelessness Strategy.

- **Objective 4:** Prevent homelessness by tackling and reducing financial deprivation within our communities

In August 2012 the Homelessness Working Group produced 'Making Every Contact Count' – A joint approach to preventing homelessness. This focuses on tackling the complex underlying causes of homelessness, preventing homelessness at an early stage for those at risk, and delivering integrated services which support individual recovery. It presents ten challenges to local authorities to achieving its vision and providing a 'Gold Standard' service. The local authorities should set an objective of working to achieve this standard.

- **Objective 5:** Work towards each local authority achieving the Homelessness Gold Standard

The stakeholder feedback coupled with the detailed review of homelessness set out above, have both informed the development of the joint Homelessness Strategy and the identification of the vision, aims and objectives and the actions in the Action Plan. The review can be used as a tool to measure the effectiveness of the delivery of the Action Plan and to enable comparisons to be made with previous strategy periods and performance in homelessness prevention