

## Health Improvement Board Basket of Indicators for Housing and Health Annual Report 2014-15

One of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities the Health Improvement Board has responsibility for is “Tackling the broader determinants of health through better housing and preventing homelessness” (Priority 10).

At the May 2013 Health Improvement Board, the ‘basket of housing indicators’ that would be reported annually to the Board meeting were agreed. These were then amended and updated slightly at the May 2014 meeting, which agreed the following measures.

The full dataset of statistics for 2014-15, and the previous two years, are shown on the last page of this report.

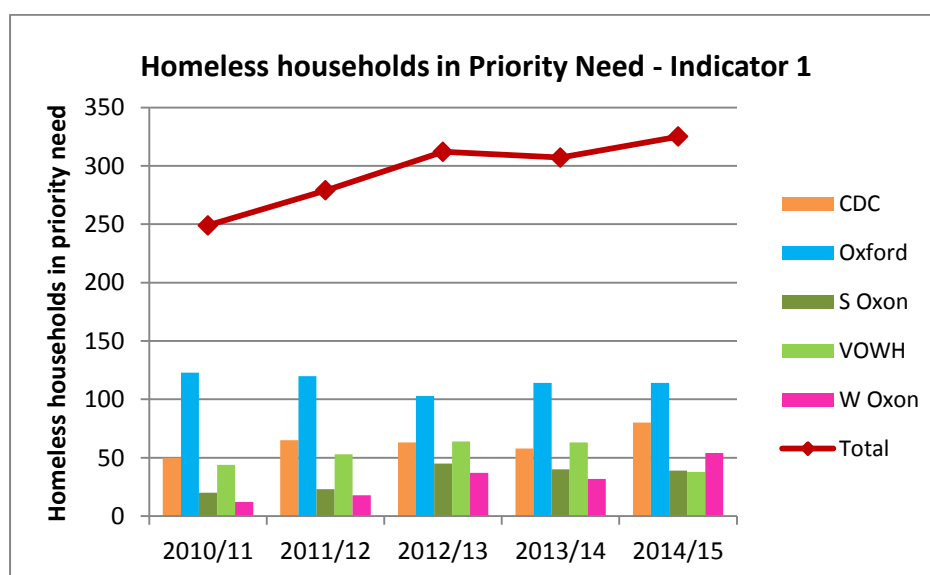
**Key:**

CDC	Cherwell District Council
Oxford	Oxford City Council
S Oxon	South Oxfordshire District Council
VOWH	Vale of White Horse District Council
W Oxon	West Oxfordshire District Council

### Homelessness Presentations (Indicator 1)

There has been an upward trend in people presenting as homeless\*, over the whole County, in the past five years, rising from 411 in 2010/11 to 498 in 2014/15, although the total fell slightly from 517 the previous year. The situation differs across Districts, with some experiencing greater volumes of presentations and some less, over this five year period.

There has been an increase in people who are accepted as statutorily homelessness and are in **priority need** in the County since 2010/11 to 2014/15 (249 to 325 households). There are differences between Districts however. Over the past year, two Councils have seen significant rises (Cherwell and West Oxfordshire); two broad stability (Oxford City and South Oxfordshire); and one with a reduction (Vale of White Horse).



*\* It should be noted that the indicators reported here exclude homeless applicants with a ‘not homeless’ or a ‘not eligible’ decision, so the total figure is not entirely the full number of all homeless presentations*

The numbers of people found to be **intentionally homeless** is broadly static, having risen in 2013/14, but is now at 12/13 levels (111 households deemed intentional in 14/15).

The numbers of people presenting as homeless but **not in priority need\*** are relatively low. Over the County as a whole, the numbers have increased from 50 in 2011/12 to 69 in 2013/14, then to 62 in 2014/15. As in previous years, there are considerable variations between the Districts with most cases recorded in either Cherwell or Oxford City (23 and 29 households respectively).

*\* Local housing authorities have a duty to secure accommodation for households who are in priority need under homelessness legislation. Categories of priority need are pregnancy, dependent children, vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap, or physical disability or other special reason, homeless as a result of an emergency such as fire or flood, a child aged 16 or 17, vulnerable as a result of having been looked after, accommodated or fostered, as a result of serving in the armed forces or having been imprisoned or ceasing to occupy accommodation because of actual or threatened violence.*

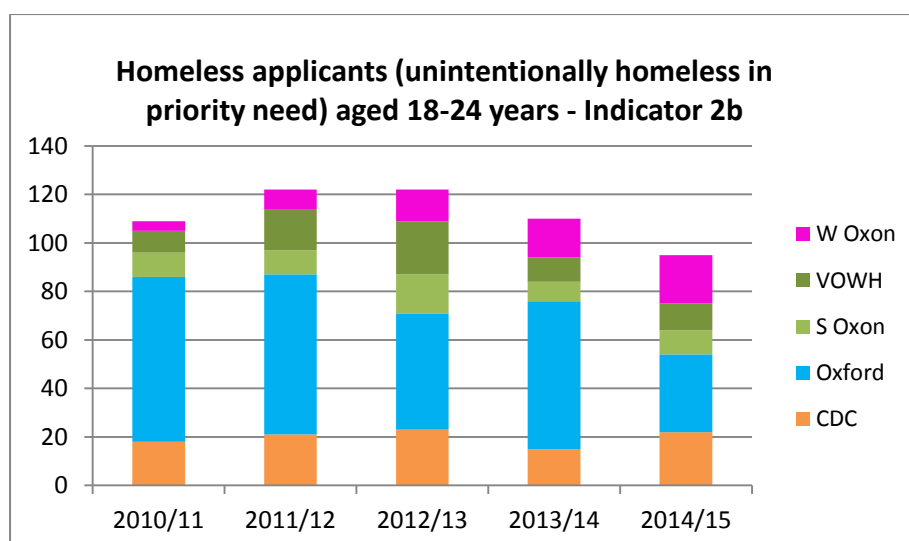
People found to be homeless expressed as a percentage of the number of people of cases where positive action was successful in preventing homelessness was 83%\*. This is above the target (10.3) of 'at least 80%' and an improvement on the 13/14 figure of 81%.  
(\* 2498 preventions/ 2952 homeless applications plus preventions)

## Homeless applicants who were unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Indicator 2)

In 13/14, 116 people aged 16 -24 were accepted as homeless in Oxfordshire. There were 6 people aged 16 or 17 and 110 between 18 and 24 years. In 14/15 that figure fell to 95, the lowest recorded in the past 4 years, with no 16/17 year olds accepted, which must reflect the effective joint work through the Joint Housing Team with Childrens Services.

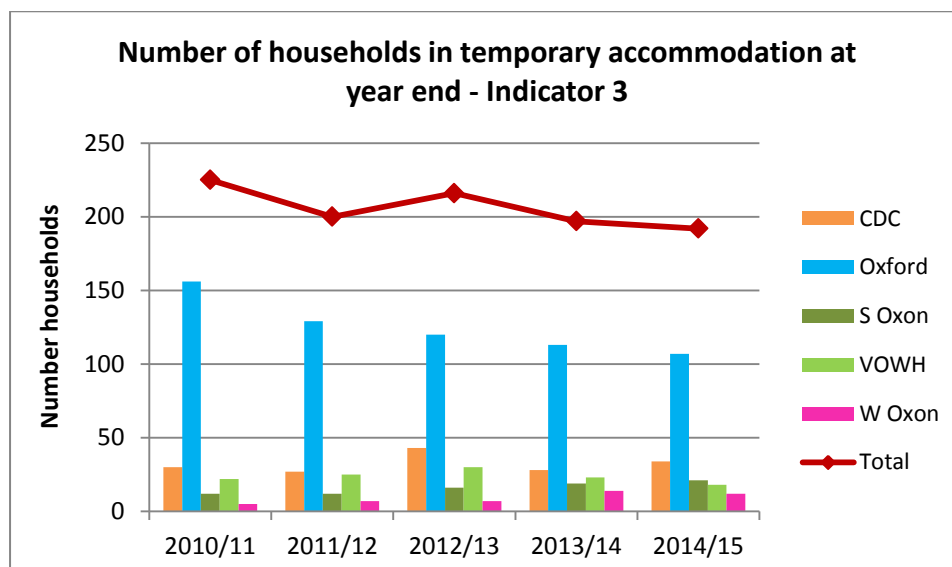
The number of households who are in priority need because of physical disability or mental illness remains moderately low. In 2014/15, there were 15 homeless households where a member had a physical disability and 22 because of mental health.

In 13/14, an increase in the number of households accepted as homeless with the main reason being due to rent arrears, was reported, although the number was low (19 households). This has dropped to 12 households in 2014/15.



### Number of households in Temporary Accommodation (Indicator 3)

There were 192 households in temporary accommodation at the end of the financial year 2014/15, a reduction of 5 from the previous year (exceeding target 10.1). There are some local variations within Districts – although these are small when considered annually.

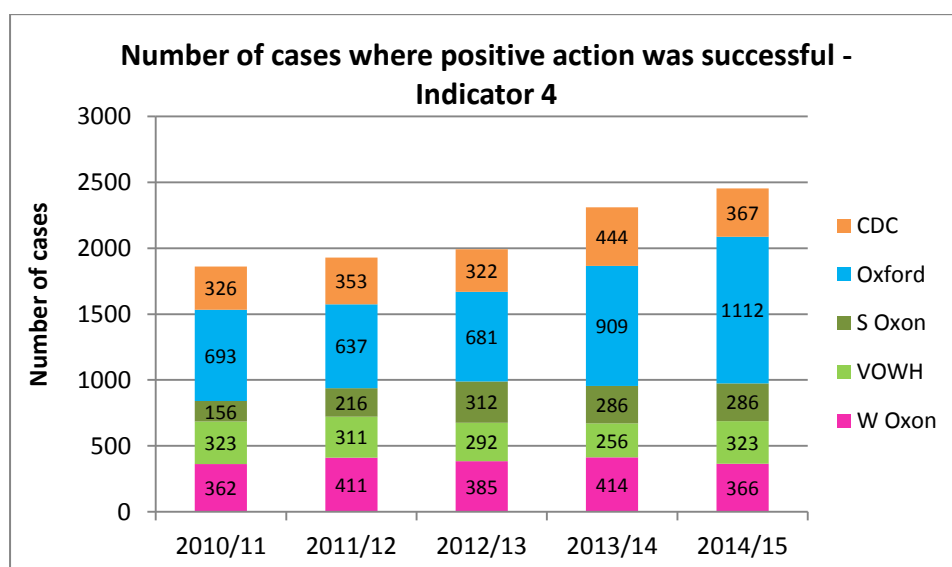


### Number of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation (New indicator request)

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, 8 households in Oxfordshire, out of the 192 indicated above, were in bed and breakfast (non-self-contained style) accommodation.

### Positive action preventing homelessness (Indicator 4)

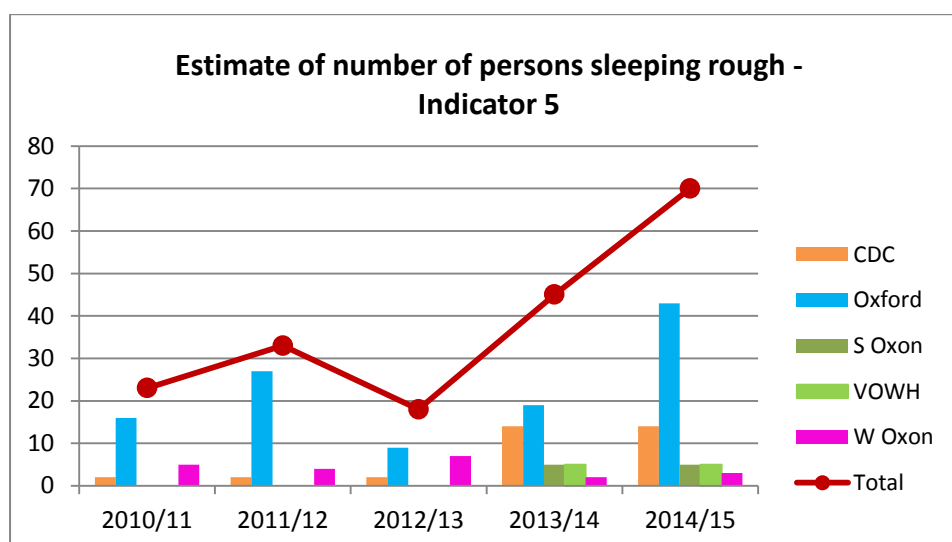
There were 2,454 cases recorded where positive action prevented homelessness, compared to 1992 in 2012/13. Positive action covers securing accommodation with a housing association or in the private rented sector as well as a result of the provision of advice, support or other intervention.



## Rough-Sleeping (Indicator 5)

The estimated number of people rough sleeping is 70, showing a substantial increase from 45 persons in 13/14, although it should be noted that up to 14/15, Oxford City Council recorded the actual figure from quarterly street counts, while due to the nature of the other districts, a count was not practicable and an estimate was made by the Council using intelligence from partner agencies. The autumn count and estimates were reported to Central Government.

Whilst Oxford City still undertakes quarterly street counts, it has been agreed that it will conduct an estimate (using the same approved and verified methodology as the Districts) annually in the autumn, and report this figure into the HIB. This makes the data comparable across all the District Councils in Oxfordshire. The result of this change is that the recorded figure for Oxford City has more than doubled, and the recorded change is due to this. The estimates in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire are based on better information arising from the commissioning of an Outreach team from 13/14 on, but are broadly stable from that year to 14/15.



## Removal of Spare Room Subsidy

Full data on the number of Housing Association and Council tenancies affected by the Removal of Spare Room Subsidy\*\* was not available in 13/14, but 2,084 were reported in the County excluding West Oxfordshire. These households have found that their housing benefit has been reduced because of the introduction of the Social Sector size criteria.

That number is now recorded as 2,304 across all Oxfordshire, but this increase is due to the inclusion of data from West Oxfordshire, and has generally fallen from 13/14.

*\*\*This affects households where the tenants are of working age and do not fall within one of the exception categories and they are assessed as having one or more bedrooms than they require according to the following formula of one bedroom for*

- each adult couple
- any other person aged 16 or over
- two children of the same sex under the age of 16
- two children under the age of 10 regardless of their sex
- any other child

- a carer (who does not normally live with the tenant) if the tenant or their partner needs overnight care.

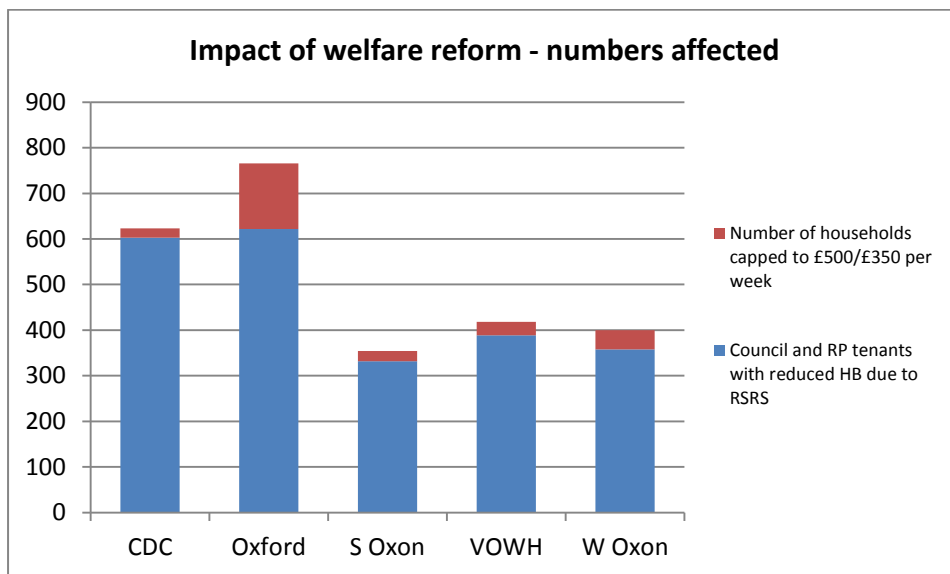
*Tenants who are under occupying by one bedroom, have their benefit reduced by 14% of eligible rent, and tenants who are under occupying by two or more bedrooms have their benefit reduced by 25% of eligible rent.*

### **Benefit Cap**

257 households in the County are affected by the Benefit Cap<sup>\*\*\*</sup>.

Overall this is static, but the recorded numbers have tended to fall in most districts, whereas West Oxfordshire has seen a significant increase.

*\*\*\*£350 per week maximum of benefits covered for single adults who don't have children or whose children don't live with them and £500 per week maximum for couples (with or without children living with them) and £500 a week for single parents whose children live with them.*



## **Joint Working in 2014/15**

There have been a number of areas of joint working over the 14/15 year, between the County Council, District Councils, and other statutory partners such as the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and health. This has included:

- Continued engagement with the Health Notification protocol for homeless families placed in temporary accommodation
- Successful joint commissioning of the young person pathway (new contracts live from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015)
- Continued joint engagement in the commissioning of the adult homeless pathway following the budget reductions to this (preparing for new contracts in Feb 2016)
- A successful bid for two year funding to central government (lead by Cherwell DC) to undertake new initiatives working with offenders
- A health round-table event in Oxford City that can be used to improve communications and develop better linkages with regard to some hospital discharges

## **Going Forward – Opportunities for joint working in 2015/16**

It is hoped that this work will be further developed and built on going forward in 2015/16. Areas of joint work already identified include:

- Continued engagement with the commissioning of the Adult Homeless pathway
- A review of the impact of cuts to the Floating Support service (one year review)
- Review of the Domestic Abuse services
- Developing work and initiatives in relation to Complex Needs

## **Recommendations for indicator changes in 2015/16**

It is recommended that the existing indicators are retained, plus the additional information regarding households in B&B accommodation (requested in May 14 for April 15 on), as well as total households in temporary accommodation.

No additional indicators are proposed for the forthcoming year, however, the Housing Support Advisory Group proposes that it develops some key indicators in relation to the contract management and performance outcomes of the following service areas, and monitors these. It proposes that it will report any issues in relation to these, to the Health Improvement Board, going forward, on an exception basis, where performance is not meeting targets by more than a 5% margin (i.e. flagged Red in RAG status reports).

It is proposed that this could include the following service areas:

- Adult Homeless Pathway
- Young Persons Pathway
- Floating Support
- Domestic Abuse
- Substance Misuse (Housing Related Support)

## Annual 'Housing Basket of Indicators' report, for end of year Health Improvement Board

	2012/13						2013/14						2014/15					
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
<b>Indicator 1 Homeless households</b>																		
(1a) in priority need	63	103	45	64	37	<b>312</b>	58	114	40	63	32	<b>307</b>	80	114	39	38	54	<b>325</b>
(1b) intentionally homeless	30	46	13	15	9	<b>113</b>	34	67	13	14	13	<b>141</b>	25	51	13	11	11	<b>111</b>
(1c) no priority need	11	26	7	6	1	<b>51</b>	24	23	11	11	0	<b>69</b>	23	29	2	5	3	<b>62</b>
Total	104	175	65	85	47	<b>476</b>	116	204	64	88	45	<b>517</b>	128	194	54	54	68	<b>498</b>
<b>Indicator 2 Homeless applicants who were unintentionally homeless and in priority need who were/had</b>																		
(2a) aged 16/17yrs	2	0	0	1	3	<b>6</b>	0	0	0	1	5	<b>6</b>	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
(2b) aged 18 to 24	23	48	16	22	13	<b>122</b>	15	61	8	10	16	<b>110</b>	22	32	10	11	20	<b>95</b>
(2c) physical disability	3	3	3	1	3	<b>13</b>	3	3	2	6	1	<b>15</b>	2	7	1	3	2	<b>15</b>
(2d) mental illness	2	4	5	6	2	<b>19</b>	1	5	7	5	0	<b>18</b>	2	7	5	6	2	<b>22</b>
(2e) rent arrears	1	3	2	2	0	<b>8</b>	0	15	0	2	2	<b>19</b>	0	7	2	1	2	<b>12</b>
<b>Indicator 3 Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of year (10.1 in JHWS)</b>																		
Households in Temp Accom.	43	120	16	30	7	<b>216</b>	28	113	19	23	14	<b>197</b>	34	107	21	18	12	<b>192</b>
<b>Indicator 4 Number of households where positive action was successful in preventing homelessness</b>																		
Homeless Preventions	322	681	312	292	385	<b>1992</b>	444	916	268	256	414	<b>2298</b>	367	1112	286	323	366	<b>2454</b>
<b>Indicator 5 Number of Persons Rough Sleeping (10.5 in JHWS)</b>																		
Estimate/count of persons sleeping rough	2	12*	0	0	7	<b>21</b>	14	19*	5	5	2	<b>45</b>	14	43	5	5	3	<b>70</b>
<b>Impact of Welfare Reform</b>																		
Council & RP tenants with reduced HB due to RSRs							633	694	332	425	N/A	<b>2084</b>	603	622	332	389	358	<b>2304</b>
Number of households capped to £500/£350 pw							33	155 *	30	43	24	<b>255</b>	20	144	22	29	42	<b>257</b>