

Health Improvement Board Basket of Indicators for Housing and Health Annual Report 2015-16

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 2015-16, and the previous two years, are shown on the last page of this report.

Key:

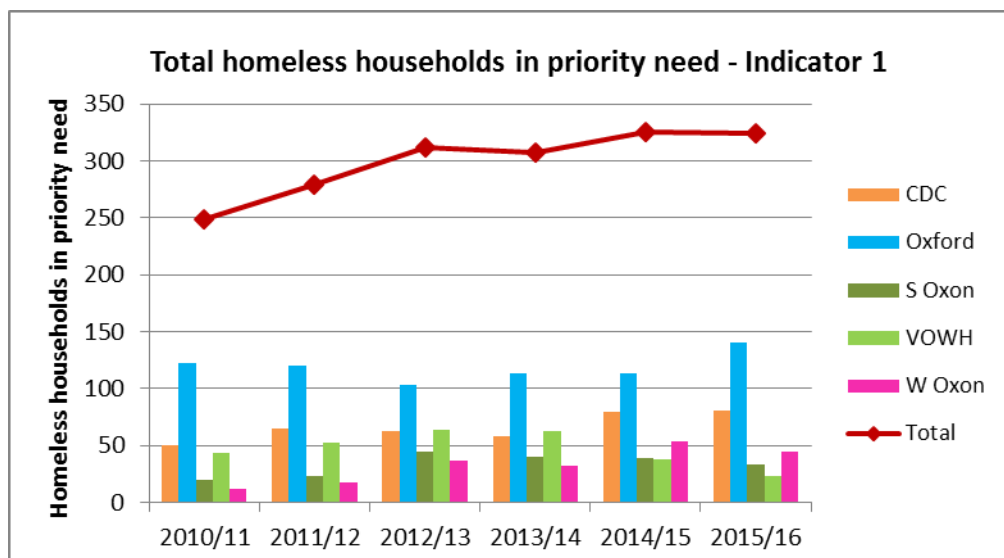
CDC	Cherwell District Council
Oxford	Oxford City Council
S Oxon	South Oxfordshire District Council
VOWH	Vale of White Horse District Council
W Oxon	West Oxfordshire District Council

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 457 in 2011/12 to 505 in 2015/16, although the total has fallen slightly from 534 in 2013/14. The situation differs across Districts, with some experiencing greater volumes of presentations and some less, over this five year period.

The reasons for homelessness presentations is changing. The loss of private rented accommodation is becoming an increasing cause of homelessness and in some Districts has overtaken exclusion by family or friends as the main reason for homelessness.

There has been an increase in people who are accepted as statutorily homelessness and are in **priority need** in the County since 2011/12 to 2015/16 (279 to 324 households). There was however a marginal reduction in acceptances from 325 in 2014/15. There are differences between Districts however. Over the past year, Oxford has seen a significant rise, Cherwell is broadly stable with West Oxfordshire; South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse witnessing a reduction.



** 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** has fallen over the last three years. It has fallen from a total of 141 in 2013/14 to 101 in 2015/16.

The numbers of people presenting as homeless but **not in priority need*** rose during 2015/16. Over the County as a whole, the numbers have increased from 50 in 2011/12 to 80 in 2015/16. As in previous years, there are considerable variations between the Districts with most cases recorded in either Cherwell or Oxford City (25 and 28 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 86%*. This is above the target (10.3) of 'at least 80%' and an improvement on the 14/15 figure of 83%.

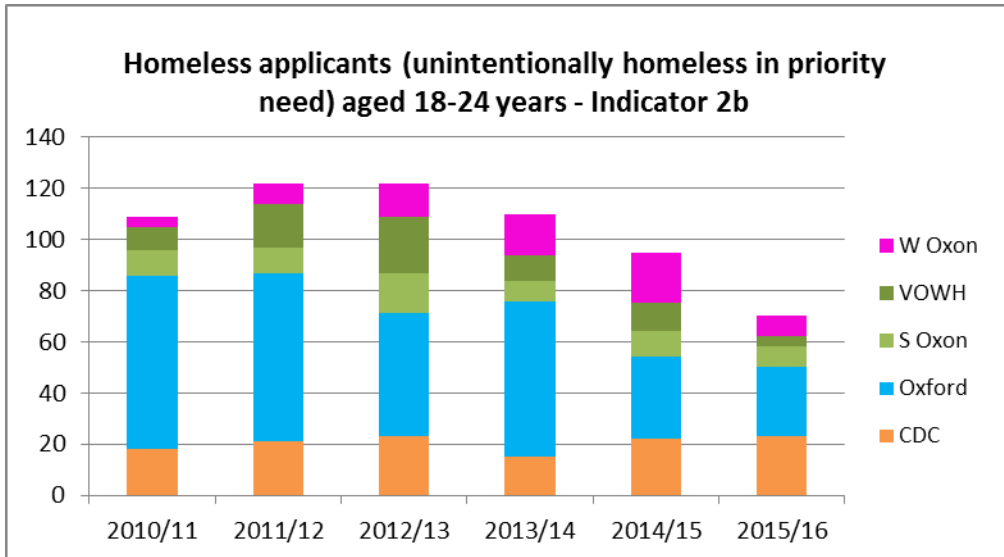
(2992 preventions/ 3497 homeless applications plus preventions)*

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

In 2014/15, 95 people aged 16 -24 were accepted as homeless in Oxfordshire. There was no-one aged 16 or 17. In 2015/16 that figure fell to 70, the lowest recorded in the past 5 years, with no 16/17 year olds accepted. This figure reflects the effective joint work through the Joint Housing Team with Childrens Services.

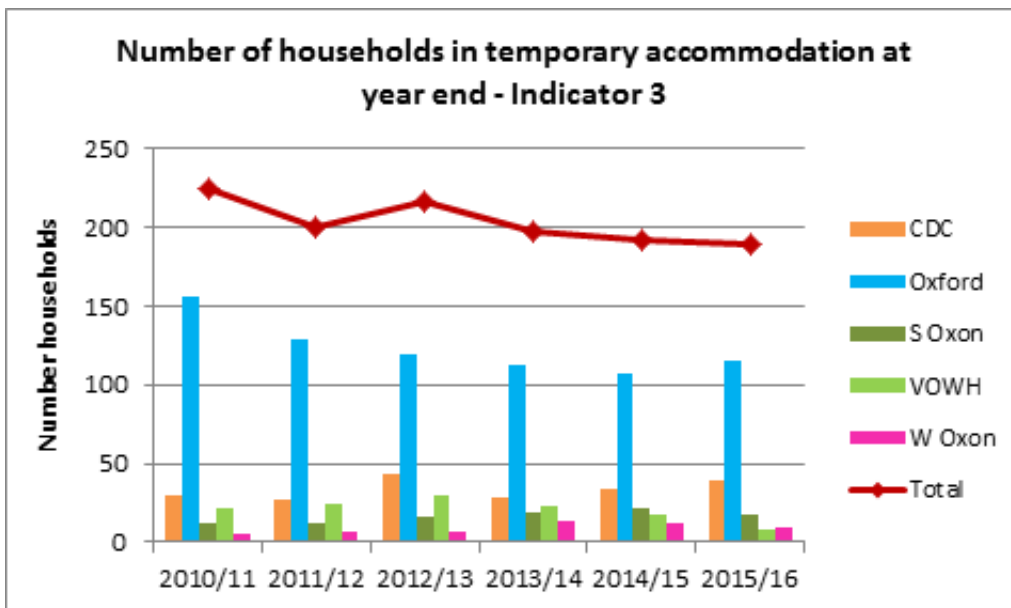
The number of households who are in priority need because of physical disability or mental illness remains moderately low. In 2015/16, there were 20 homeless households where a member had a physical disability and 21 because of mental health.

In 2015/16 there was a marginal increase in the in the number of households accepted as homeless with the main reason being due to rent arrears, from 12 in 2014/15 to 13 households in 2015/16.



Number of households in Temporary Accommodation (Indicator 3)

There were 190 households in temporary accommodation at the end of the financial year 2015/16, a reduction of 2 from the previous year (exceeding target 10.1). There are some local variations within Districts.

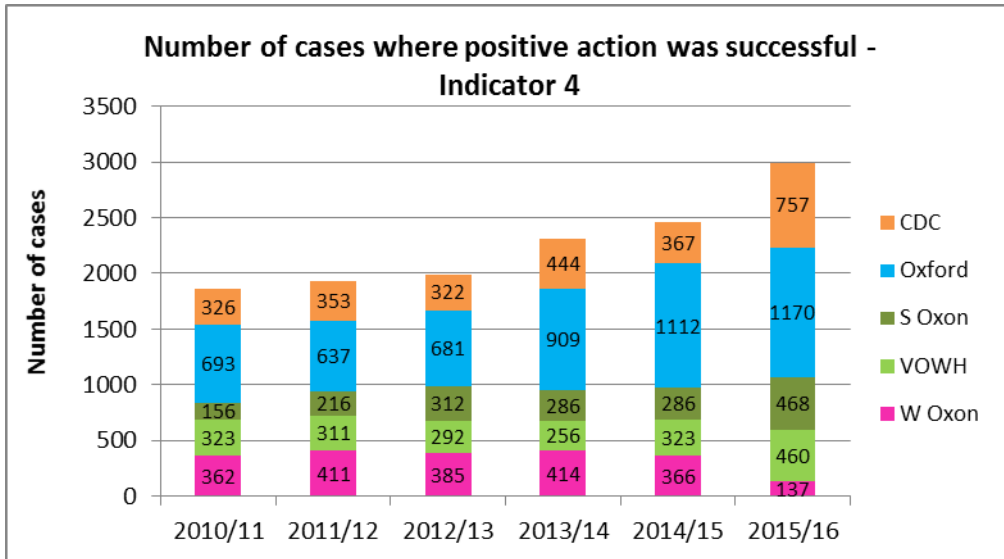


Number of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation (New indicator)

As at the 31st March 2016, 8 households in Oxfordshire, out of the 190 indicated above, were in bed and breakfast (non-self-contained style) accommodation. This was the same figure as 2014/15.

Positive action preventing homelessness (Indicator 4)

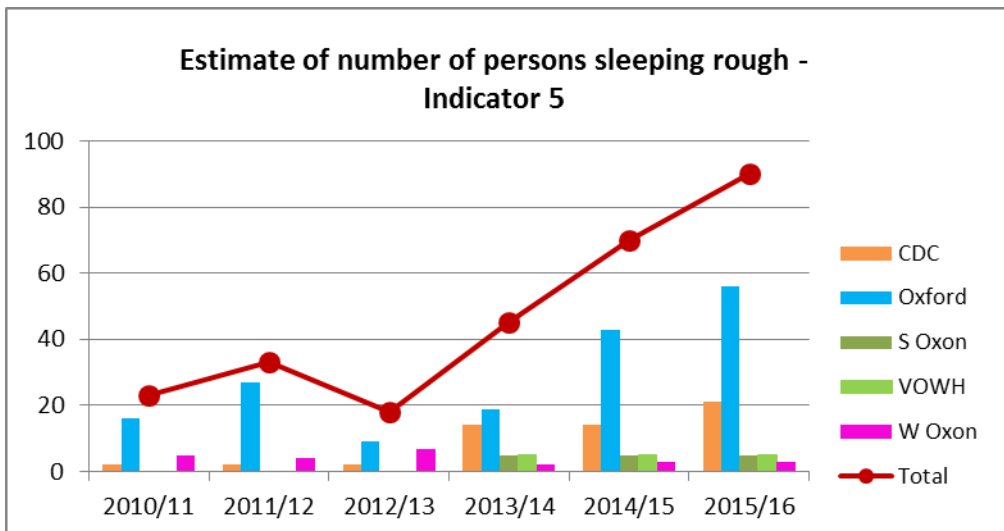
There were 2,992 cases recorded where positive action prevented homelessness, compared to 2,454 in 2014/15. Positive action covers securing accommodation with a housing association or in the private rented sector as well as a result of the provision of advice, support or other intervention.



Rough-Sleeping (Indicator 5)

The estimated number of people rough sleeping in 2015/16 is 90, showing an increase from 70 persons in 2014/15. The rise in rough sleeping occurred in Cherwell and Oxford City.

The rise in rough sleeping reflects a national increase in this indicator. The autumn 2015 England Rough Sleeper Count increased 30% compared to the previous year. (DCLG)



Removal of Spare Room Subsidy

In 2015/16, the number of households who found that their housing benefit has been reduced because of the Social Sector size criteria** was 2,154. This is a reduction from 2,304 households in 2014/15.

***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*

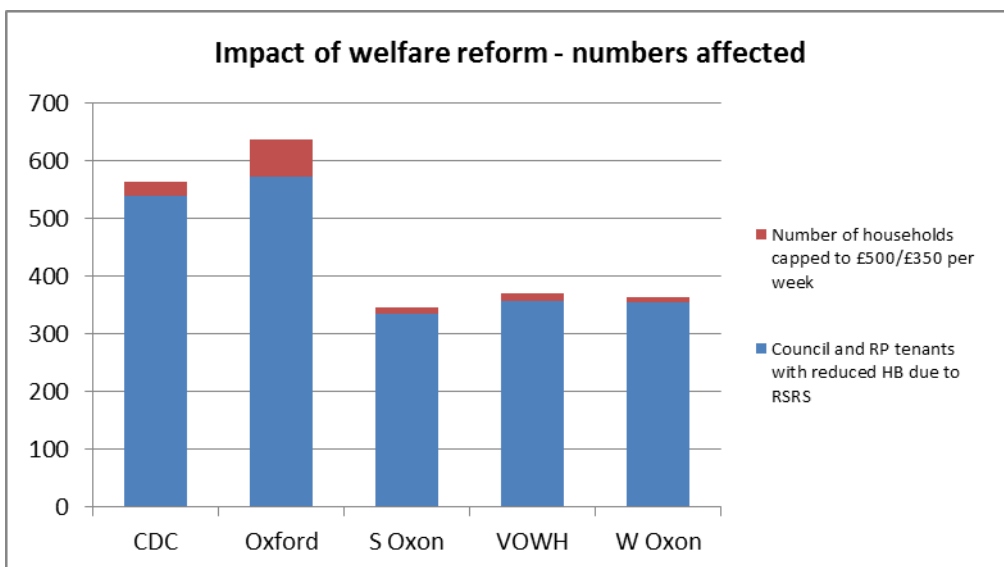
- *each adult couple*
- *any other person aged 16 or over*
- *two children of the same sex under the age of 16*
- *two children under the age of 10 regardless of their sex*
- *any other child*
- *a carer (who does not normally live with the tenant) if the tenant or their partner needs overnight care.*

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

The number of households affected by the Benefit Cap*** across the County fell significantly from 257 households in 2014/15 to 125 households in 2015/16.

****£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 2015/16

There have been a number of areas of joint working over the 2015/16 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 implementation of the new Young Person Pathway from April 2015.
- Successful implementation of the new adult homeless pathway following the budget reductions with new contracts issued in February 2016.
- Implementation of new Government-funded initiative working with offenders, led by Cherwell District Council.
- Housing Related Support workshops to manage the reduction in Oxfordshire County Council funding.

Going Forward – Opportunities for joint working in 2016/17

Joint working will be further built upon in 2016/17. Areas of joint work already identified include:

- Continued engagement with the development of the Adult Homeless pathway
- Input into a review of the Domestic Abuse services
- Developing work and initiatives in relation to Public Health and Complex Needs
- Review of the Hospital Discharge policy
- Development of plans for Housing Related Support provision

Recommendations for indicator changes in 2016/17

A new indicator for the number of homeless households accommodated in emergency B&B was introduced in 2015/16.

During 2015/16 it was also agreed that the supplementary housing indicators report presented at HIB will be reviewed at HSAG quarterly meetings. This has now been added as a standing agenda item for the next HSAG meeting. HSAG will also inform HIB of any concerns over service provision in relation to housing related support.

A new indicator for 2016/17 is being proposed at the July HIB meeting. The new measure is “at least 70% of young people leaving supported housing services will have positive outcomes in 16-17, aspiring to 95%”. This indicator will be provided by Oxfordshire County Council Children, Education and Families Directorate.

Annual 'Housing Basket of Indicators' report, for end of year Health Improvement Board meeting																		
	2013/14						2014/15						2015/16					
Indicator 1 Homeless households																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
(1a) in priority need	58	114	40	63	32	307	80	114	39	38	54	325	81	141	34	23	45	324
(1b) intentionally	34	67	13	14	13	141	25	51	13	11	11	111	25	43	9	14	10	101
1c) no priority need	24	23	11	11	0	69	23	29	2	5	3	62	25	28	5	11	11	80
	116	204	64	88	45	517	128	194	54	54	68	498	131	212	48	48	66	505
Indicator 2 Homeless applicants who were unintentionally homeless and in priority need who were/had																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
(2a) aged 16/17yrs	0	0	0	1	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
(2b) aged 18 to 24	15	61	8	10	16	110	22	32	10	11	20	95	23	27	8	4	8	70
(2c) physical disability	3	3	2	6	1	15	2	7	1	3	2	15	6	5	3	1	5	20
(2d) mental illness	1	5	7	5	0	18	2	7	5	6	2	22	2	8	1	3	7	21
(2e) rent arrears	0	15	0	2	2	19	0	7	2	1	2	12	1	10	2	0	0	13
Indicator 3 Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of year (10.1 in JHWS)																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
	28	113	19	23	14	197	34	107	21	18	12	192	39	115	18	8	10	190
Indicator 4 Number of households where positive action was successful in preventing homelessness																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
	444	916	268	256	414	2298	367	1112	286	323	366	2454	757	1170	468	460	137	2992
Indicator 5 Rough Sleeping (10.5 in JHWS)																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
Estimate/count of persons sleeping rough	14	19	5	5	2	45	14	43	5	5	3	70	21	56	5	5	3	90
Impact of Welfare Reform																		
Council and RP tenants with reduced HB due to RSRS	633	694	332	425	Not available	2084	603	622	332	389	358	2304	538	571	334	357	354	2154
Number of households capped to £500/£350 per week	33	155	30	43	24	255	20	144	22	29	42	257	25	66	11	13	10	125