

## Health Improvement Board Basket of Indicators for Housing and Health Annual report 2013-14

One of the four Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities the Health Improvement Board has responsibility for is:

### Priority 10: Tackling the broader determinants of health through better housing and preventing homelessness

At the May 2013 Health Improvement Board meeting it was agreed that the following 'basket of housing indicators' would be reported annually to the Board.

The statistics for 2013-14 show the following (see page 6 for full table):-

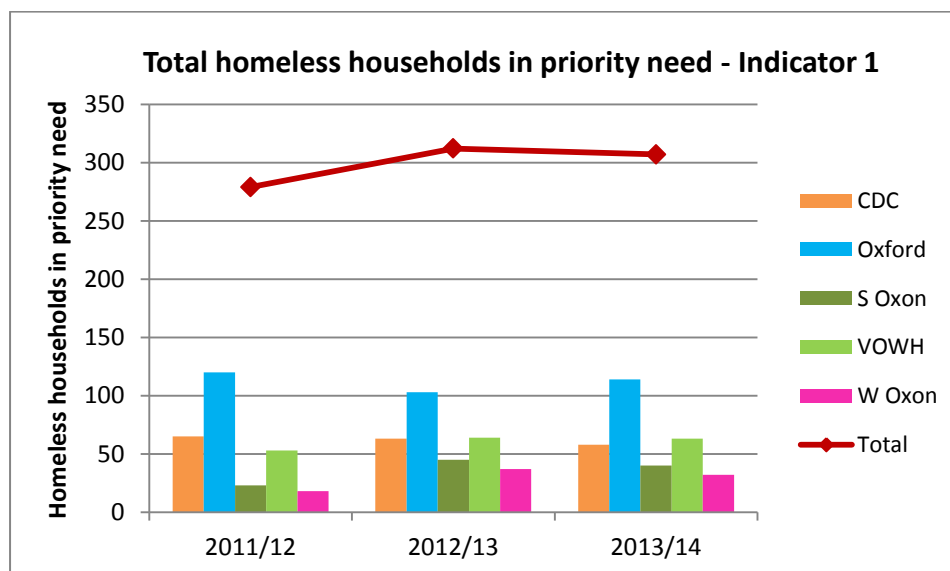
#### Key

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 overall increase in people presenting as homeless, over the County as a whole, from 457 in 2011/12, 476 in 2012/13 compared to 517 in 2013/14.

There has been an increase in people who are presenting as homelessness and are in **priority need** in the County since 2011/12.



The numbers of people found to be **intentionally homeless** has risen also since 2011/12.

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 51 in 2012/13 and 69 in 2013/14. There are considerable variations between the Districts with 24

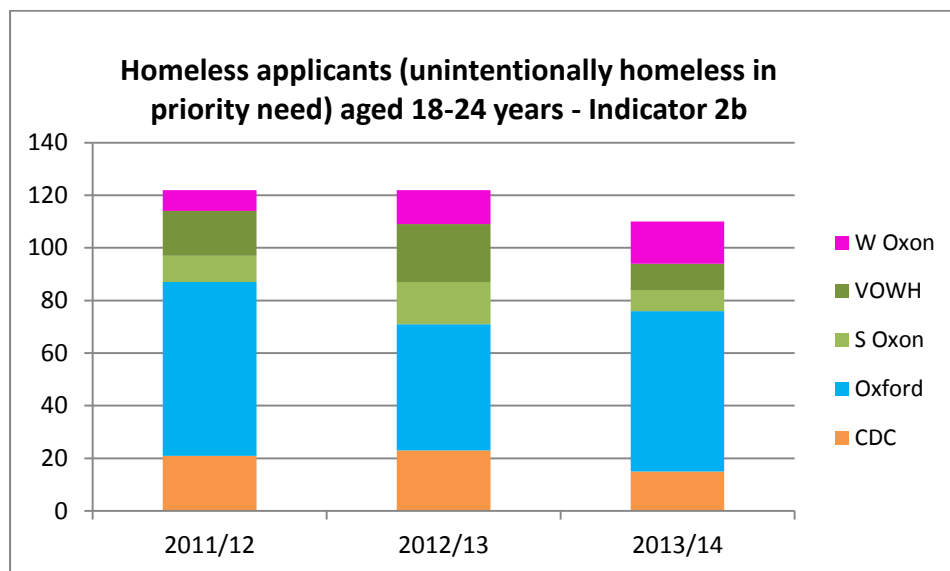
in CDC, 23 in Oxford, 11 in both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and none in West Oxfordshire.

*\*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 81% (target (10.3) is at least 80%).

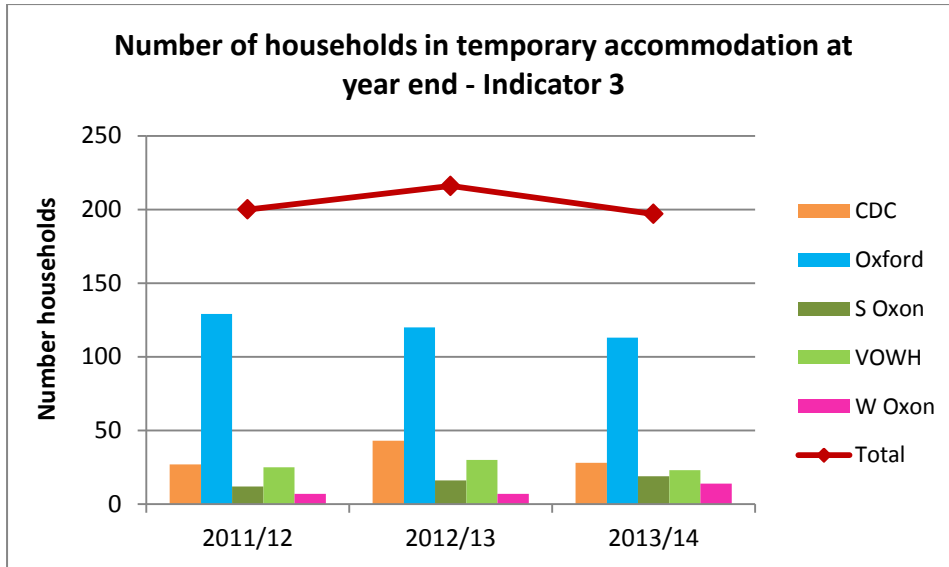
**Homeless applicants who were unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Indicator 2)**

- 116 people age 16 -24 became homeless in Oxfordshire. There were 6 aged 16 or 17 and 110 between 18 and 24 years.
- The number of households who are in priority need because of physical disability or mental illness is moderately low. In 2012/13, there were 15 homeless households where a member had a physical disability and 18 because of mental health.
- An increased number of households have become homeless with the main reason being due to rent arrears, though this number remains low. There were 19 households in 2012/13.



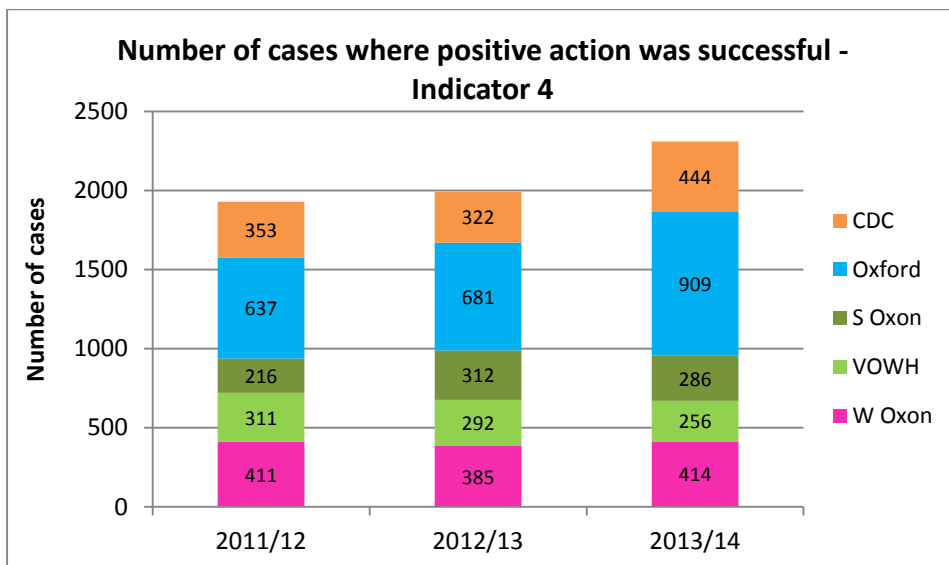
**Number of households in Temporary Accommodation (Indicator 3)**

There were 197 people in temporary accommodation at the end of the financial year 2013/14, a reduction on the previous year's figure of 216 (exceeding target 10.1).



### Positive action preventing homelessness (Indicator 4)

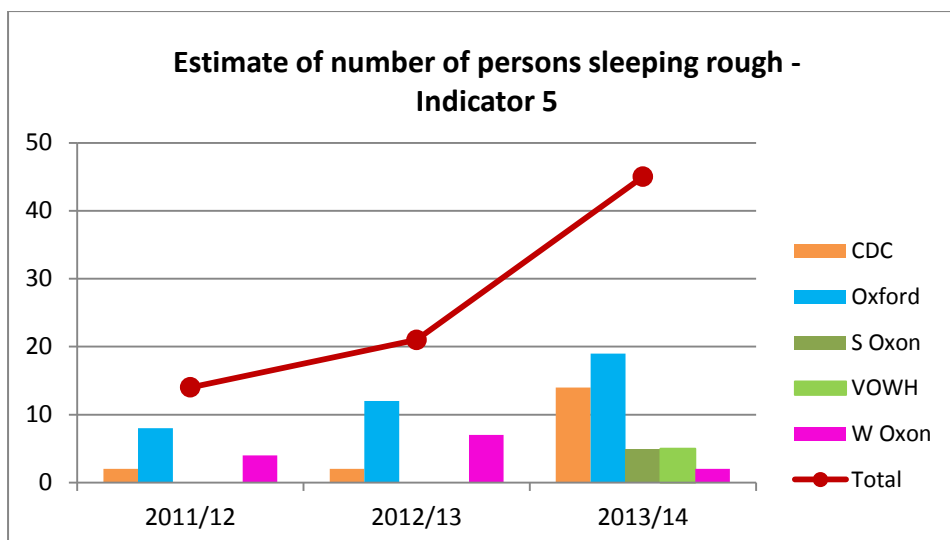
There were 2298 cases recorded where positive action prevented homelessness, compared to 1992 in 2012/13. Positive action covers securing accommodation with a housing association or in the private rented sector as well as a result of the provision of advice, support or other intervention.



### Rough-Sleeping (Indicator 5)

The estimated number of people rough sleeping is 45 compared to 21 in 2012/13. Oxford City Council carry out street counts quarterly in order to monitor the level of rough sleeping in the city. The nature of the other districts means that a count is not practicable and an estimate is made by the Council using intelligence from partner agencies. The count and estimates are reported to Central Government.

The estimate has risen in Cherwell, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, which has been attributed to better information arising from the commissioning of an Outreach team.



### Removal of Spare Room Subsidy

Full data on the number of Housing association and Council tenancies affected by the Removal of Spare Room Subsidy\*\* is not available. 2084 have been 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.

*\*\*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*

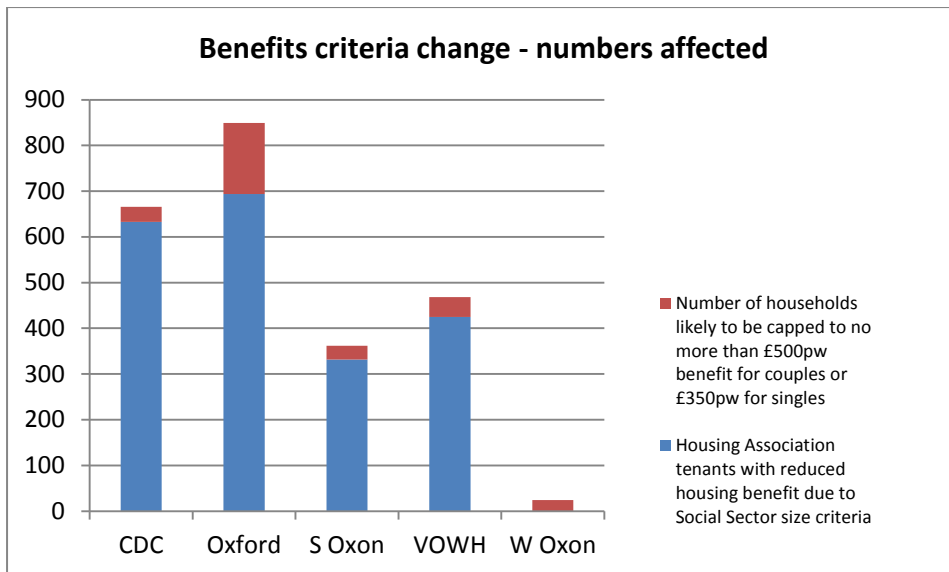
- *each adult couple*
- *any other person aged 16 or over*
- *two children of the same sex under the age of 16*
- *two children under the age of 10 regardless of their sex*
- *any other child*
- *a carer (who does not normally live with the tenant) if the tenant or their partner needs overnight care.*

*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

255 households in the County excluding West Oxfordshire are affected by the benefit cap\*\*\*.

*\*\*\*£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.*



## Going Forward:-

### Opportunities for joint working

On 12<sup>th</sup> May, the Housing Minister Kris Hopkins wrote to all Local Authority Leaders urging them to work through Health and Wellbeing Boards to cooperate with Health and Care services saying:-

“Often, unsuitable or poor quality housing and housing support can have as much of an impact on health and wellbeing as illness. Homeless people and rough sleepers often have the highest health needs and can require greater levels of access to health services compared to the general population. The ageing population means that there is an increasing number of older people, and people with disabilities, living in properties that they consider unsuitable for their needs, or requiring support to continue to live independently and avoid the need for more costly care... The development of the Better Care Fund will offer further opportunities for joint work by housing, health and care services... This summer, the Homes and Communities Agency and the Greater London Authority will be publishing a prospectus inviting organisations to bid for £40m Department of Health funding for homelessness hostel refurbishment and shared accommodation for vulnerable young people. The move of hostels funding to the Department of Health recognises that homelessness and housing are tightly bound to issues of healthy living, primary care and hospital admission.”

### Recommendations for indicators 2014-2015

It is recommended that the existing indicators are retained with the following clarifications:-

- **Number of rough sleeper to be the November count or estimate figure submitted to Department for Communities and Local Government**
- **Number of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation to be separated out from number of households in temporary accommodation**
- **Report on Indicator 3 (number of households in temporary accommodation, performance target 10.1) six-monthly instead of annually**

	2011/12						2012/13						2013/14					
<b>Indicator 1 Homeless households</b>																		
	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	65	120	23	53	18	279	63	103	45	64	37	312	58	114	40	63	32	307
(1b) intentionally	27	71	8	11	11	128	30	46	13	15	9	113	34	67	13	14	13	141
(1c) no priority need	10	29	1	4	6	50	11	26	7	6	1	51	24	23	11	11	0	69
	102	220	32	68	35	457	104	175	65	85	47	476	116	204	64	88	45	517
<b>Indicator 2 Homeless applicants who were unintentionally homeless and in priority need who were/had</b>																		
	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	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	3	6	0	0	0	1	5	6
(2b) aged 18 to 24	21	66	10	17	8	122	23	48	16	22	13	122	15	61	8	10	16	110
(2c) physical disability	4	4	1	4	0	13	3	3	3	1	3	13	3	3	2	6	1	15
(2d) mental illness	2	7	1	6	2	18	2	4	5	6	2	19	1	5	7	5	0	18
(2e) rent arrears	5	2	1	0	0	8	1	3	2	2	0	8	0	15	0	2	2	19
<b>Indicator 3 Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of year</b>																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
Indicator 3	27	129	12	25	7	200	43	120	16	30	7	216	28	113	19	23	14	197
<b>Indicator 4 Number of households where positive action was successful in preventing homelessness</b>																		
	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total	CDC	Oxford	S Oxon	VOWH	W Oxon	Total
Indicator 4	353	637	216	311	411	1928	322	681	312	292	385	1992	444	916	268	256	414	2298
<b>Indicator 5 Rough Sleeping</b>																		
	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	2	8*	0	0	4	14	2	12*	0	0	7	21	14	19*	5	5	2	45
<b>Impact of Welfare Reform</b>																		
Council and RP tenants with reduced HB due to RSRS													633	694	332	425	Not available	2084
Number of households capped to £500/£350 per week													33	155 *	30	43	24	255

\*Count rather than estimate

\*\* (47 social housing, 108 private rented)