

## Health Improvement Board Basket of Indicators for Housing and Health Annual Report 2016-17

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 2016-17, and the previous two years, are shown on the last page of this report.

**Key:**

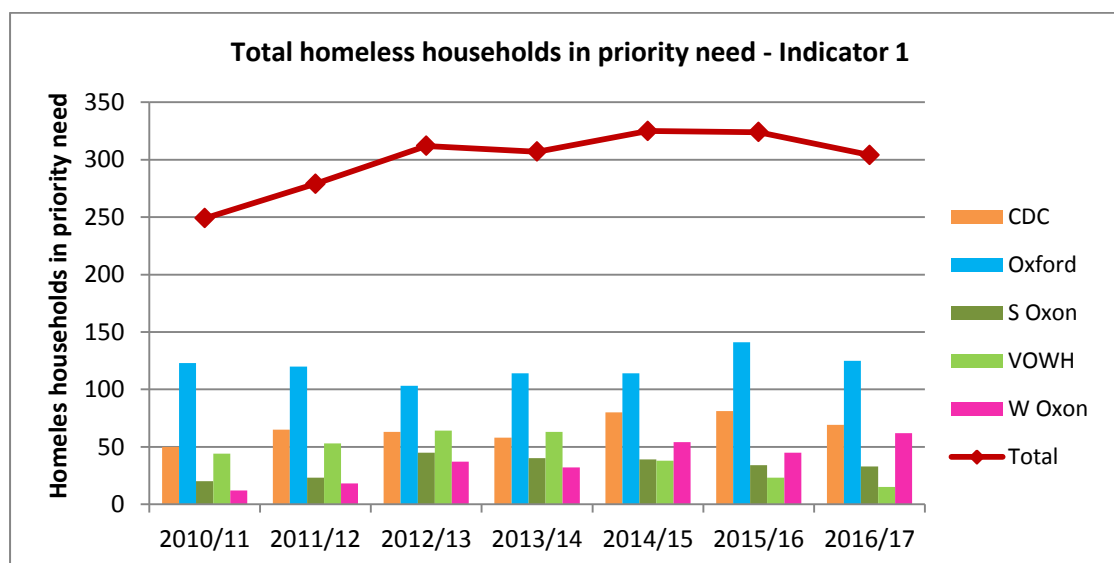
CDC	Cherwell District Council
Oxford	Oxford City Council
S Oxon	South Oxfordshire District Council
VOWH	Vale of White Horse District Council
W Oxon	West Oxfordshire District Council

### Homelessness Presentations (Indicator 1)

There has been an upward trend in people presenting as homeless\*, over the whole County, in the past six years, rising from 457 in 2011/12 to 482 in 2016/17, although the figure has fallen from last year’s figure (2015/16) of 505. The situation differs across Districts, with some experiencing greater volumes of presentations and some less, over this six year period.

The reasons for homelessness presentations are 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 homeless and are in **priority need** in the County since 2011/12 to 2016/17 (279 to 304 households). There was however a reduction in acceptances from 324 in 2015/16. There are differences between Districts however. Over the past year, all Authorities have seen reductions apart from West Oxfordshire.



\* 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 for four years in a row; from a total of 141 in 2013/14 to 94 in 2016/17.

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 85 in 2016/17. As in previous years, there are considerable variations between the Districts with most cases recorded in West Oxfordshire, Cherwell or Oxford City (26, 29 and 27 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.

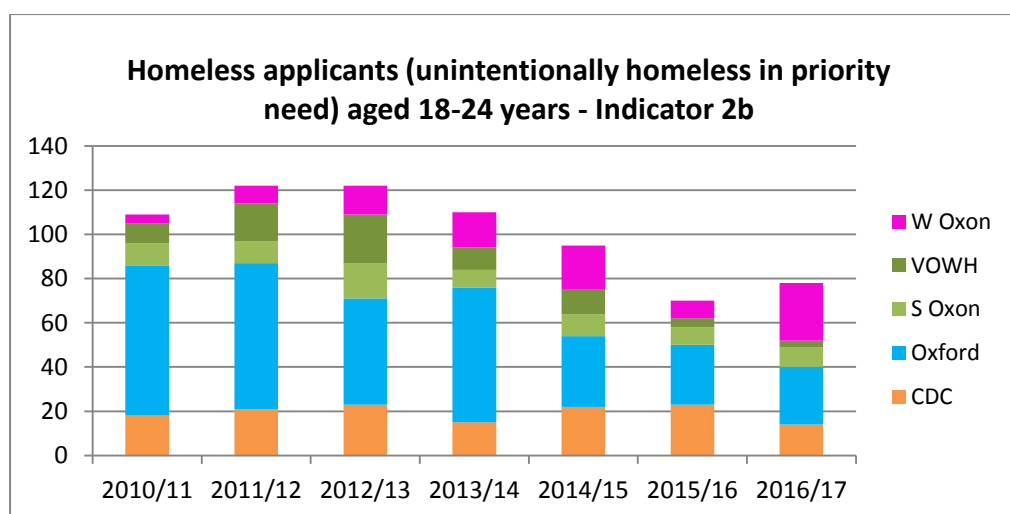
People found to be homeless expressed as a percentage of the number of people of cases where positive action was successful in preventing homelessness was 86%\*. This is above the target (10.3) of 'at least 80%' and exactly the same percentage as was recorded in 2015/16.

(\* 3057 preventions/ 3539 homeless applications plus preventions)

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

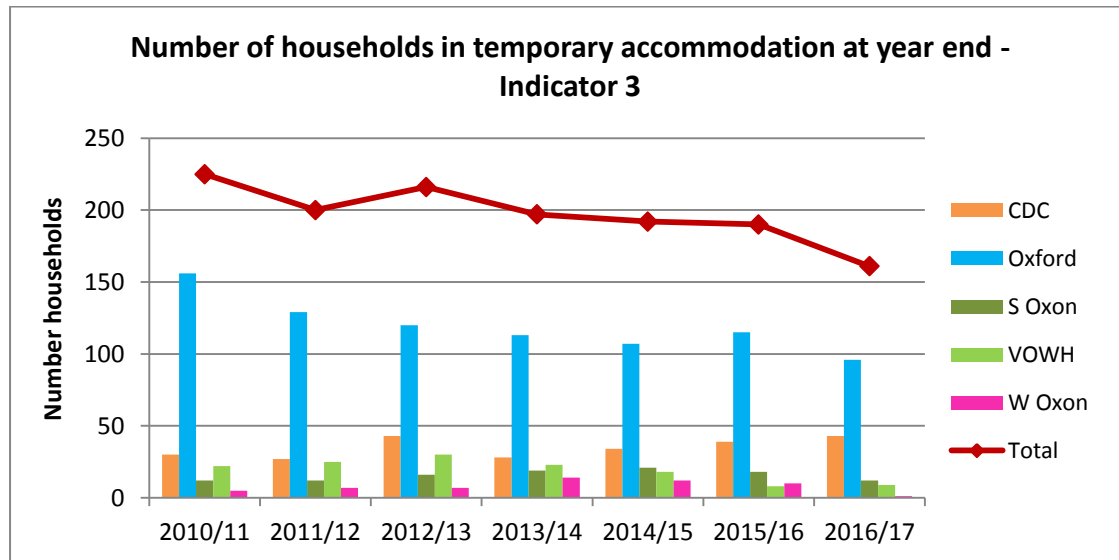
In 2015/16, 70 people aged 18 -24 were accepted as homeless in Oxfordshire. There was no-one aged 16 or 17. In 2016/17 the 18-24 figure rose slightly to 78; however this is still significantly lower than 2011/12, 2012/13 & 2013/14 figures (respectively: 122, 122 & 110).

The number of households who are in priority need because of physical or mental illness remains moderately low. In 2016/17, there were 11 homeless households where a member had a physical disability and 23 because of mental health. In 2016/17 just 13 households accepted as homeless with the main reason being rent arrears (same figure as 2015/16).



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

There were 161 households in temporary accommodation at the end of the financial year 2016/17, a reduction of 29 from the previous year (exceeding target 10.1). There are, of course, local variations within Districts.

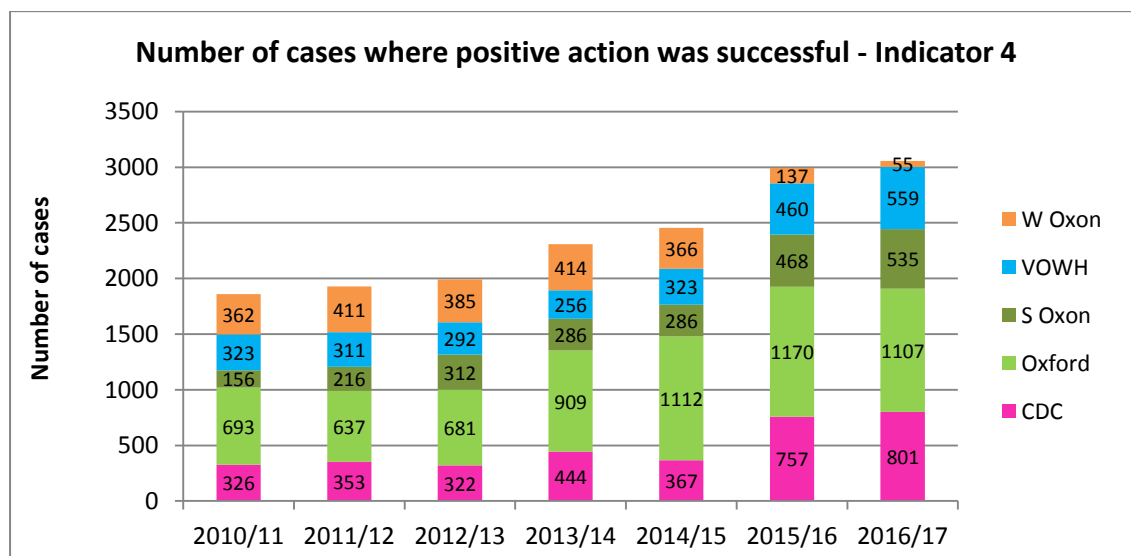


### Number of households in Bed and Breakfast accommodation (New indicator)

As at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, 5 households in Oxfordshire, out of the 161 indicated above, were in bed and breakfast (non-self-contained style) accommodation. This was a decrease on the 2015/16 figure of 8 households.

### Positive action preventing homelessness (Indicator 4)

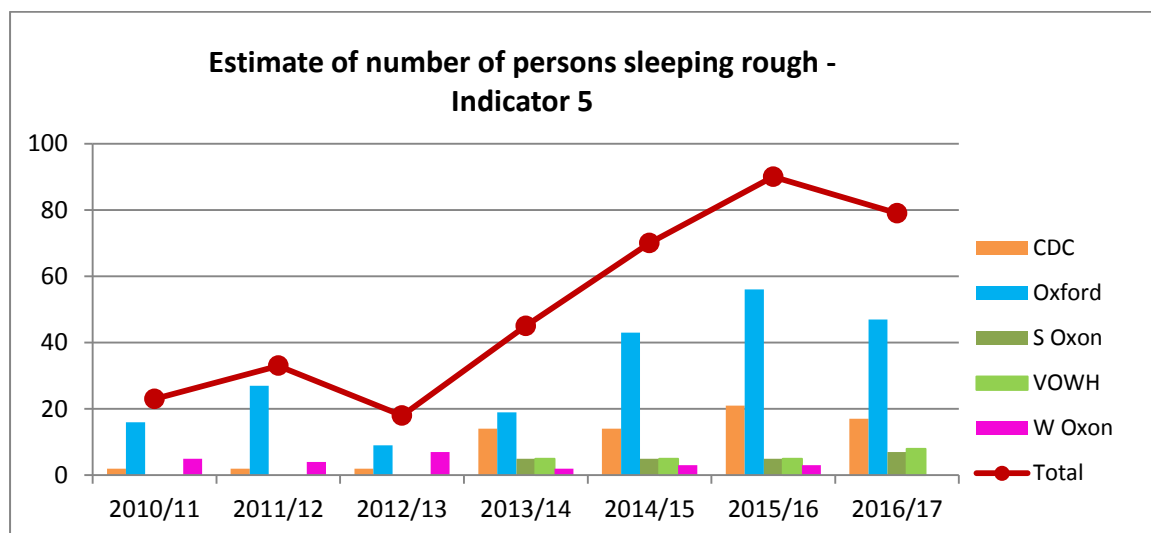
There were 3057 cases recorded where positive action prevented homelessness, compared to 2992 in 2015/16. In fact, 3057 is the highest figure recorded over the six year period. Positive action covers securing accommodation with a housing association or in the private rented sector as well as a result of the provision of advice, support or other intervention.



## Rough-Sleeping (Indicator 5)

The estimated number of people rough sleeping in 2016/17 is 79, showing a decrease from 90 persons in 2015/16.

The reduction in Oxfordshire bucks the National trend; as there was a 13% increase in rough sleeping, nationally, between autumn 2015 to autumn 2016 (based on most recent DCLG statistics).



## Removal of Spare Room Subsidy

In 2016/17, the number of households who found that their housing benefit has been reduced because of the Social Sector size criteria\*\* was 2,053. This is a reduction from 2,154 households in 2015/16.

*\*\*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.*

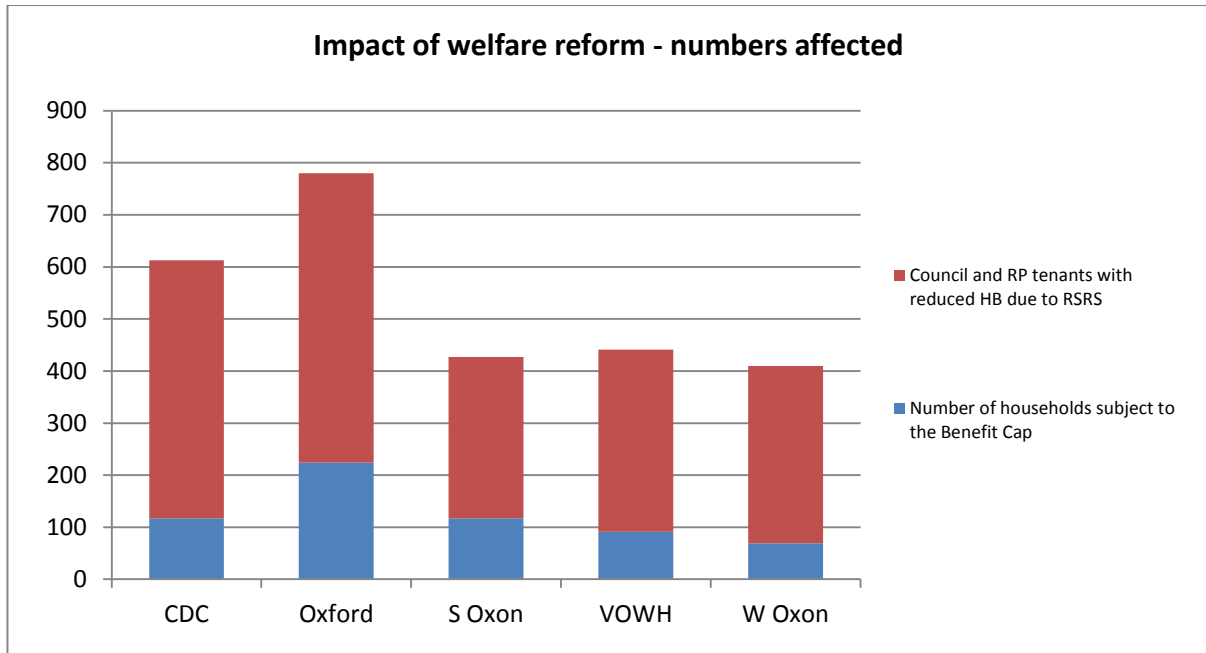
*Tenants who are under occupying by one bedroom, have their benefit reduced by 14% of eligible rent, and tenants who are under occupying by two or more bedrooms have their benefit reduced by 25% of eligible rent.*

## Benefit Cap

The number of households affected by the Benefit Cap across the County increased significantly in 2016/17 to 618; from 125 in 2015/16. This is because of the reduction in Benefit Cap levels during 2016/17. In November 2016, levels were reduced as follows:

- The maximum level for single adults who don't have children or whose children don't live with them fell from £50.00 per week to £257.69 per week, and

- The maximum level for couples (with or without children living with them) and single parents whose children live with them fell from £500.00 per week to £384.62 per week.



## **Joint Working in 2016/17**

There have been a number of areas of joint working over the 2016/17 year, between the County Council, District Councils, and other statutory partners such as the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and health. This has included:

- Implementation of new Government-funded initiative working with offenders, led by Cherwell District Council.
- Review and re-commissioning of Housing Related Support for single adults with complex needs; following the reducing funding announcement in 2016.
- On-going review of Domestic Abuse services across the County.
- A broad agency review of the Hospital Discharge policy.
- Formation and submission of a Trailblazer funding bid to DCLG.

## **Going Forward – Opportunities for joint working in 2017/18**

Joint working will be further built upon in 2017/18. Areas of joint work already identified include:

- Continued review and development of services around Housing Related Support, Hospital Discharge and Domestic Abuse.
- Collaboration around the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Bill.
- Implementation of the resources and processes resulting from the successful Trailblazer funding bid. This aims to put in place homelessness prevention actions much earlier in the process; with particular attention being given to Hospital Discharge and Prisoner Release.

Annual 'Housing Basket of Indicators' report, for end of year HIB meeting (June 2017)

	2014/15						2015/16						2016/17					
<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	80	114	39	38	54	<b>325</b>	81	141	34	23	45	<b>324</b>	69	125	33	15	62	<b>304</b>
(1b) intentionally	25	51	13	11	11	<b>111</b>	25	43	9	14	10	<b>101</b>	27	46	11	4	6	<b>94</b>
(1c) no priority need	23	29	2	5	3	<b>62</b>	25	28	5	11	11	<b>80</b>	29	27	1	2	26	<b>85</b>
	128	194	54	54	68	<b>498</b>	131	212	48	48	66	<b>505</b>	125	198	44	21	94	<b>482</b>
<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	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
(2b) aged 18 to 24	22	32	10	11	20	<b>95</b>	23	27	8	4	8	<b>70</b>	14	26	9	3	26	<b>78</b>
(2c) physical disability	2	7	1	3	2	<b>15</b>	6	5	3	1	5	<b>20</b>	0	4	4	2	1	<b>11</b>
(2d) mental illness	2	7	5	6	2	<b>22</b>	2	8	1	3	7	<b>21</b>	3	10	2	2	6	<b>23</b>
(2e) rent arrears	0	7	2	1	2	<b>12</b>	1	10	2	0	0	<b>13</b>	0	9	0	0	4	<b>13</b>
<b>Indicator 3 Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of year (10.1 in JHWS)</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
	34	107	21	18	12	<b>192</b>	39	115	18	8	10	<b>190</b>	43	96	12	9	1	<b>161</b>
<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
	367	1112	286	323	366	<b>2454</b>	757	1170	468	460	137	<b>2992</b>	801	1107	535	559	55	<b>3057</b>
<b>Indicator 5 Rough Sleeping (10.5 in JHWS)</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	14	43	5	5	3	<b>70</b>	21	56	5	5	3	<b>90</b>	17	47	7	8	0	<b>79</b>
<b>Impact of Welfare Reform</b>																		
Council and RP tenants with reduced HB due to RSRS	603	622	332	389	358	<b>2304</b>	538	571	334	357	354	<b>2154</b>	496	556	310	350	341	<b>2053</b>
Number of households subject to the Benefit Cap	20	144	22	29	42	<b>257</b>	25	66	11	13	10	<b>125</b>	117	224	117	91	69	<b>618</b>

