

Annex 1.1

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2027-2032

Evidence Base (DRAFT V2)

April 2027



**Buckinghamshire
Council**

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Executive Summary

This evidence and statistics review brings together available information on homelessness and rough sleeping in Buckinghamshire. It summarises recorded demand, household characteristics, temporary accommodation use, rough sleeping, housing market pressures, support needs, accommodation supply, partnership activity and current resources.

The review is intended to provide a factual evidence base for the Council's homelessness strategy. It does not set the strategy's priorities or actions. Its purpose is to describe the evidence, identify patterns and gaps, and show the main factors that need to be considered when the strategy and delivery plan are developed.

- Statutory homelessness data, temporary accommodation evidence and rough sleeping information show sustained demand across prevention, relief, accommodation and move-on pathways.
- Housing market evidence shows that high house prices, high private rents and limited affordable housing supply are key contextual factors affecting homelessness risk and housing sustainment.
- Temporary accommodation is a visible indicator of system pressure. Demand, length of stay, suitability and move-on availability affect households and Council expenditure.
- Children and young people appear in the evidence both as members of homeless households and as a group affected by temporary accommodation, insecure housing and family homelessness.
- Recorded support needs include domestic abuse, mental ill health, substance misuse, care experience, disability, multiple disadvantage and institutional discharge.
- Rough sleeping remains a distinct and acute form of homelessness. The evidence links rough sleeping to housing insecurity, trauma, poor health, substance misuse, institutional transitions and limited low-cost accommodation options.
- Bucks Home Choice, registered provider lettings, affordable housing delivery, temporary accommodation management and Disabled Facilities Grants form part of the current resource base.
- The evidence points to connections between prevention demand, relief duties, temporary accommodation, rough sleeping, allocations, affordable housing supply, adaptations and support pathways.

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Purpose

This document is the evidence and statistics review for Buckinghamshire Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2027 to 2032. It brings together relevant local and national evidence on homelessness, rough sleeping, temporary accommodation, housing pressures, support needs and current resources.

The review has been prepared to support the Council's statutory duty to carry out a homelessness review and publish a homelessness strategy at least every five years. Government guidance expects the review to consider current and likely future levels of homelessness, activities to prevent homelessness, accommodation available for people who are or may become homeless, support for people who are or may become homeless, and the resources available across the Council, partners and voluntary organisations.

This review has also been prepared in line with the government toolkit guidance for developing homelessness strategies and action plans, including its emphasis on a robust evidence-based review covering prevention, accommodation, support, partnership working, resources and priority cohorts.

This is an evidence review rather than the strategy itself. It does not make final policy choices or set delivery commitments. Findings are presented as evidence points to inform later decisions, consultation and action planning.

The review uses a range of sources, including statutory homelessness data, temporary accommodation data, rough sleeping information, housing register data, affordable housing delivery information, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment material, local housing market evidence, stakeholder engagement and relevant national legislation and guidance. Where evidence is incomplete, limited or based on a point-in-time snapshot, this is noted in the relevant section.

Toolkit evidence area	Coverage in this review
Prevention	Homelessness demand, causation, prevention evidence, repeat homelessness and resource assessment.
Accommodation	Temporary accommodation, Bucks Home Choice, move-on pathways, affordable housing supply and private rented sector evidence.

Support	Support needs, domestic abuse, care leavers, young adults, institutional discharge, disability, multiple disadvantage and sustainment evidence.
Rough sleeping	National and local rough sleeping data, referrals, outreach, verification, lived experience and accommodation outcomes.
Partnerships and resources	Stakeholder engagement, service provision, funding, resource mapping, partnership arrangements and delivery evidence.
Priority cohorts	Families with children, young people, care leavers, people leaving institutions, domestic abuse survivors, people with support needs and people sleeping rough

The evidence from this review will inform future targets, baselines and trajectories in the associated strategy action plan, including alignment with the Local Outcomes Framework metrics for homelessness and rough sleeping such as households with children in temporary accommodation, families in bed and breakfast over six weeks, prevention and relief outcomes, single-night rough sleeping and long-term rough sleeping.

1.2 Links with Other Strategies and Plans

The Homelessness Code of Guidance states that homelessness strategies should be consistent with other local plans and developed with relevant partners. This evidence base should therefore be read alongside local strategies and plans that influence homelessness risk, housing supply, health, support and community safety.

Relevant links include the Housing Strategy, Buckinghamshire Council Allocations Policy, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse & VAWG Strategy 2024-2027, Community Safety Strategy, Corporate Plan 2026-2031, Tenancy Strategy, Temporary Accommodation Policy, children and young people's plans, adult social care priorities, drug and alcohol and mental health partnership arrangements, local plan evidence, affordable housing delivery evidence and registered provider partnership activity.

2 Background

2.1 Population

Buckinghamshire had a resident population of around 553,100 at Census 2021, an increase of approximately 47,800 people, or 9.5%, since 2011. This growth exceeded both the South East and England over the same period.

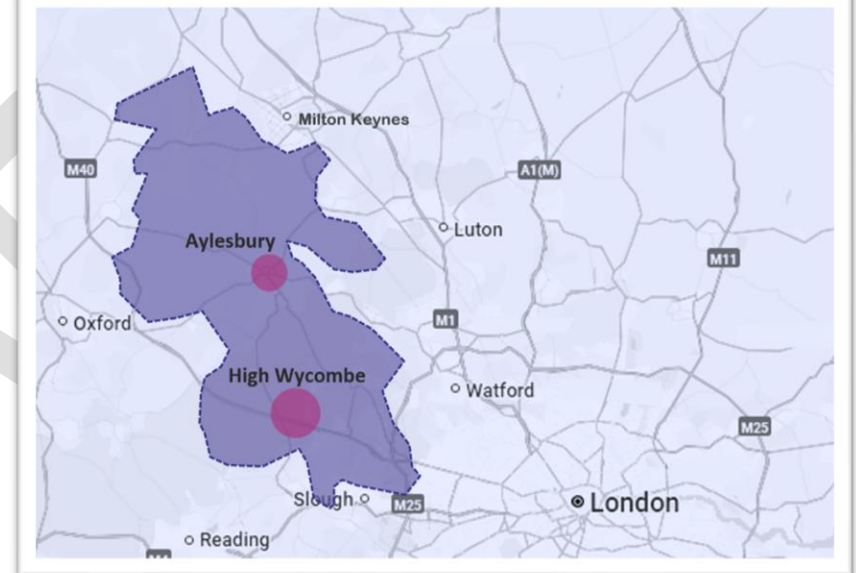
Buckinghamshire's age profile also affects homelessness demand and prevention. Around 23.2% of residents are under 18, 57.8% are of working age and 19.0% are aged 65 and over. The median age increased from 41 to 42 between 2011 and 2021. Growth in older age groups means housing need is likely to intersect more often with health, disability, care and support needs.

Census data also shows increasing diversity within Buckinghamshire's population. In 2021, 77.2% of residents identified as White and 22.8% identified with ethnic minority groups, including 12.4% Asian, 5.0% Black, 3.7% Mixed and 1.7% from other ethnic groups. These patterns vary across the county.

2.2 Local Economy & Deprivation

Buckinghamshire has high employment levels, with unemployment below regional and national averages and resident earnings above average. In the year ending December 2023, the employment rate for residents aged 16 to 64 was 81.2%, compared with 79.3% across the South East, while the unemployment rate was 2.9%.

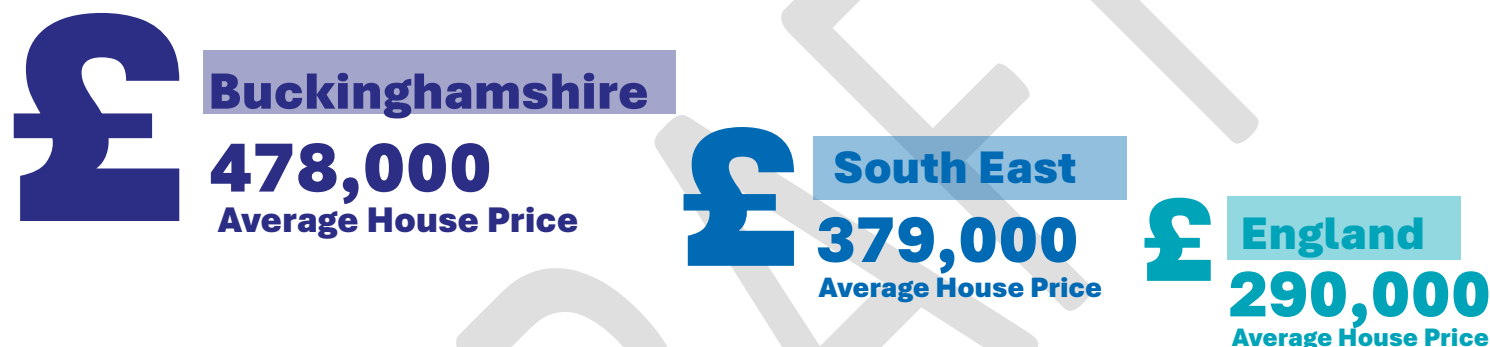
Buckinghamshire



Blue dashed line represents the Buckinghamshire County border; purple bubbles represent scaled population density in the county's two largest towns.

2.3 Buckinghamshire's Housing Market

In February 2026, the average house price in Buckinghamshire was around £478,000, while average private rents reached £1,467 per month in March 2026, following annual growth of 4.7%. Buckinghamshire's housing market is relevant to the homelessness evidence base because affordability affects whether households can access, retain or move on to suitable accommodation. High house prices limit access to home ownership for many lower and middle-income households, while high private rents increase pressure on households with low incomes, insecure employment or reliance on benefits. These conditions form part of the local context for interpreting homelessness demand, temporary accommodation use and move-on pressures.



Sources: Census 2021 population and ethnicity data; Office for National Statistics housing price and rental statistics; Buckinghamshire Council's Housing and Homelessness JSNA 2024; Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy 2024 to 2029; local deprivation evidence; and the Council's Homelessness strategy 2023

The proportion of affordable rent has increased over time following national policy changes since 2011, with new supply increasingly delivered at affordable rent rather than traditional social rent. This matters for homelessness because social rent is generally the most affordable rented tenure for lower-income households, while affordable rent can be set at up to 80% of market rent. A higher proportion of affordable rent within new supply can therefore affect the extent to which new affordable homes meet the needs of households at risk of homelessness or moving on from temporary accommodation.

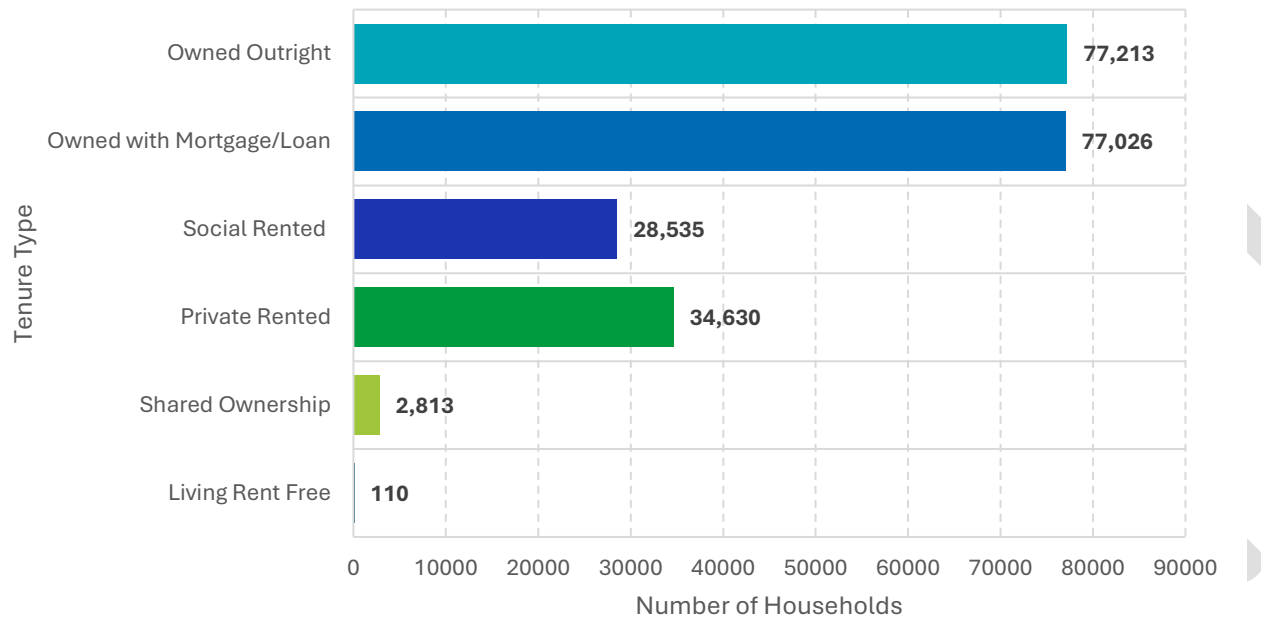
Social Rent

75%

Affordable Rent

25%

Housing Tenure in Buckinghamshire (Census 2021)



Source: Buckinghamshire Census 2021

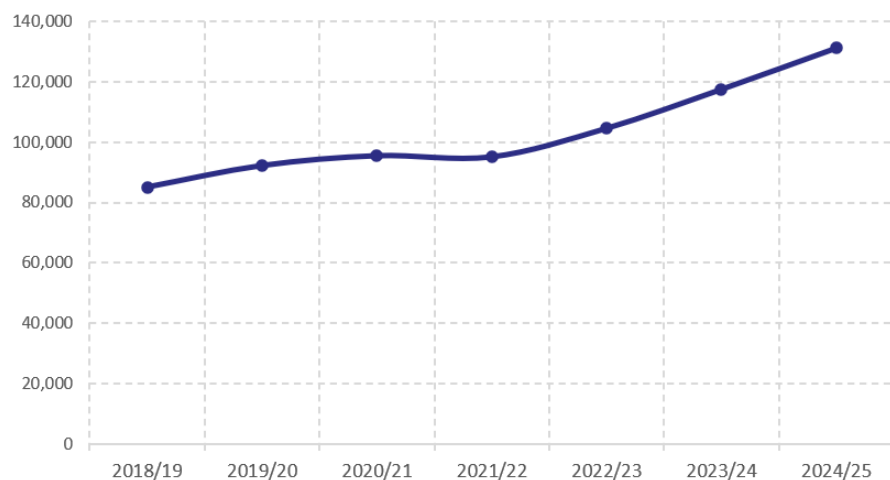
Census data identifies 12.9% of households in Buckinghamshire as living in social rented housing. While the Census does not distinguish between social rent and affordable rent, analysis of national and regulatory data indicates that approximately three quarters of this stock is let at traditional social rent levels, with the remaining quarter let at affordable rent levels (up to 80% of market rent).

3 National Plan to End Homelessness

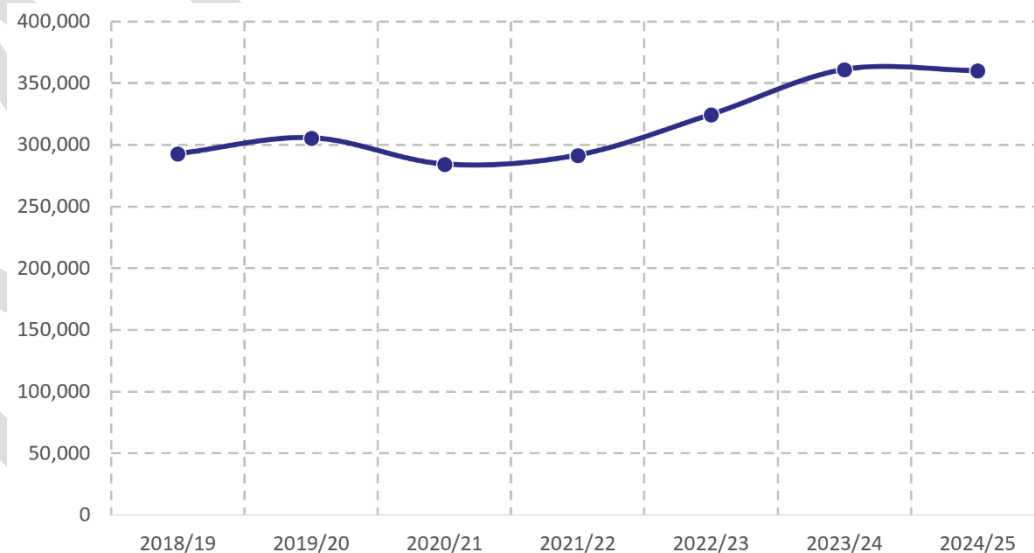
3.1 Overview and Stated Commitments

In December 2025, the Government published *A National Plan to End Homelessness*, the first cross-government homelessness strategy for England. The plan sets out a long-term national vision that homelessness should become rare, brief and non-recurring, and that everyone should have access to a safe, decent and secure home.

Households in Temporary Accommodation in England



Homeless Applications in England



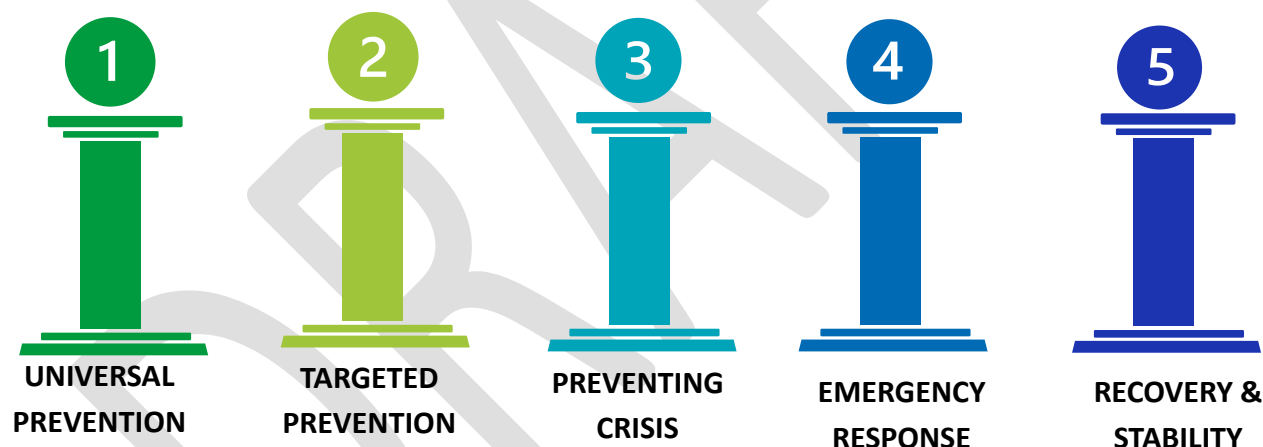
Source: MHCLG homelessness live tables.

The national plan combines long-term structural change with medium-term system reform and immediate action at the point of crisis. Its headline commitments include increasing housing supply, improving affordability, reforming renters' rights, shifting services towards prevention, and strengthening accountability

across government and local systems. It also includes specific targets for this Parliament, including building 1.5 million homes, increasing the proportion of people prevented from becoming homeless or helped to secure alternative accommodation, eliminating the unlawful use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families other than in very short-term emergencies, and halving long-term rough sleeping. Alongside this, the plan places particular emphasis on preventing homelessness for people leaving public institutions and on improving responses to households in temporary accommodation.

3.1 The Pillars

The national plan is structured around five pillars: universal prevention, targeted prevention, preventing crisis, emergency response, and recovery and stability. The plan identifies structural factors such as poverty, insecure tenancies and lack of affordable housing, alongside early identification, temporary accommodation, rough sleeping and longer-term housing sustainment.



4 Homelessness Demand

4.1 Homelessness Approaches

Homelessness demand in Buckinghamshire can be described through statutory homelessness approaches, temporary accommodation use and indicators of hidden homelessness. Under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, councils owe prevention duties to households threatened with homelessness and relief duties to those already homeless. Buckinghamshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment reported that 2,411 households were owed a duty under the Act in 2022/23. Since March 2023, more than 14,022 applications to the Homelessness Service have been assessed. This indicates sustained demand for advice, casework, accommodation support and prevention activity.

Homelessness Assessments Completed by Month

2023 - 2026



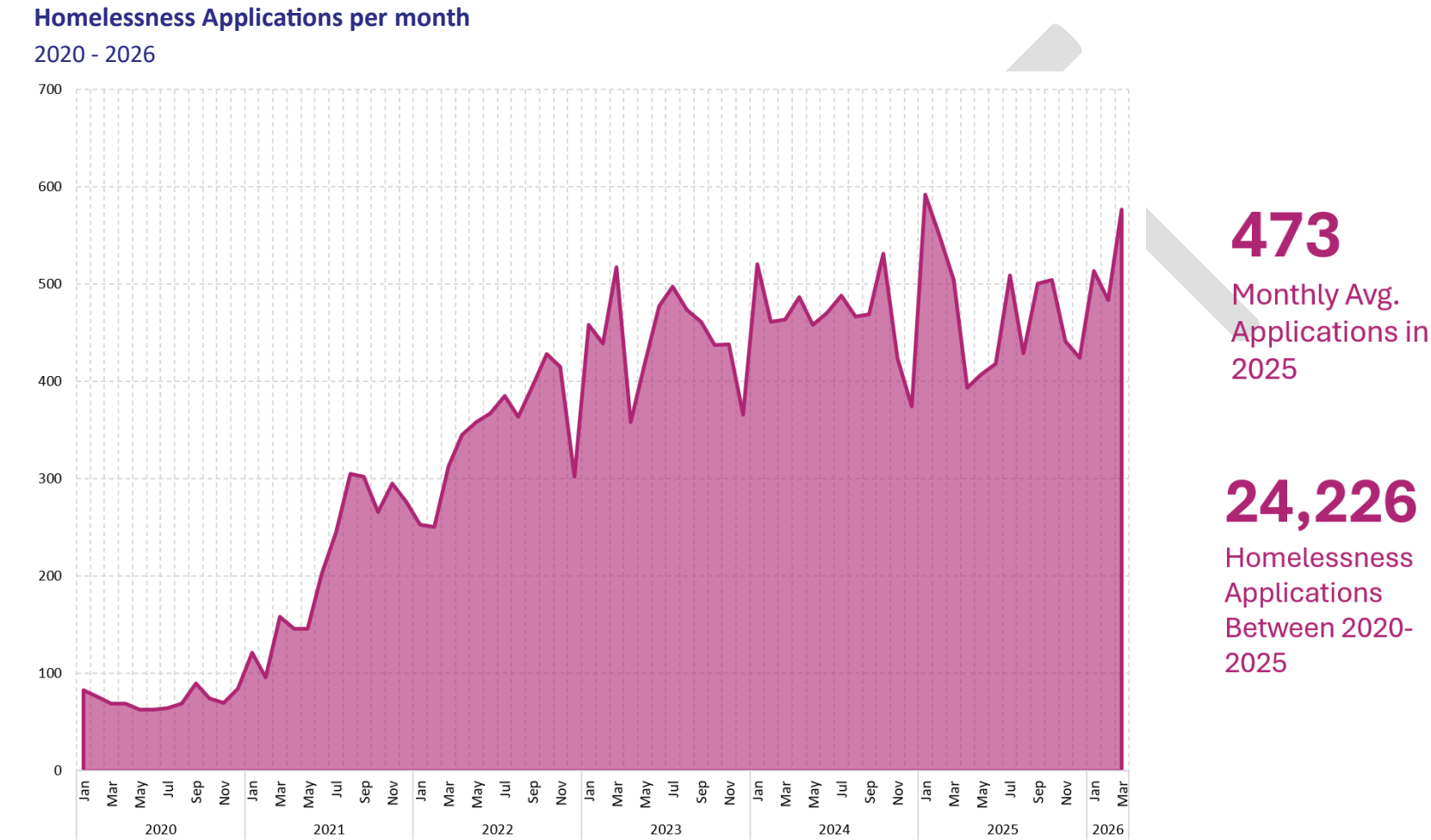
360

Avg. Monthly
Assessments

14,022

Assessed Since
January 2023

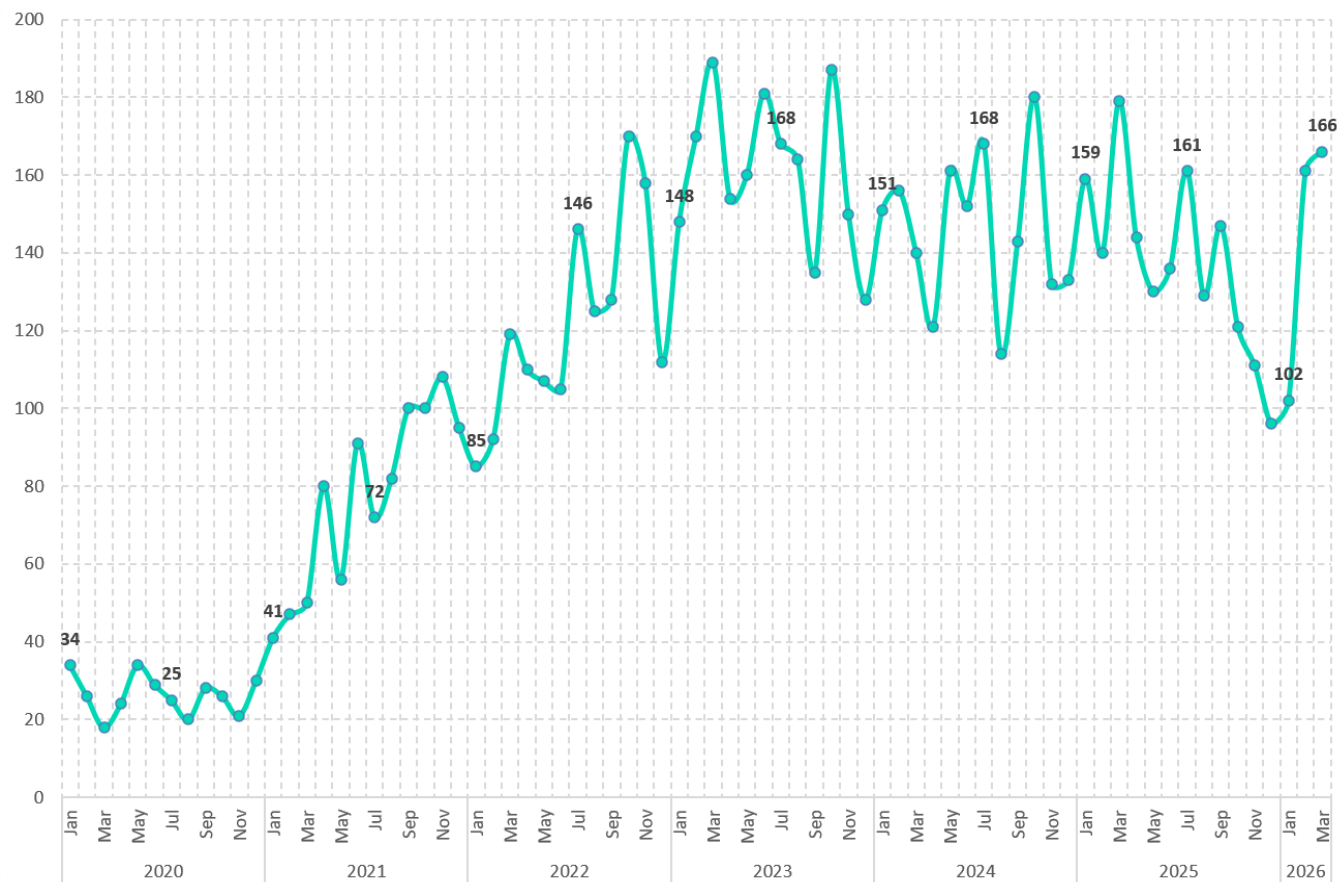
Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.



Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Prevention Duties Owed per month

2020 - 2026



138

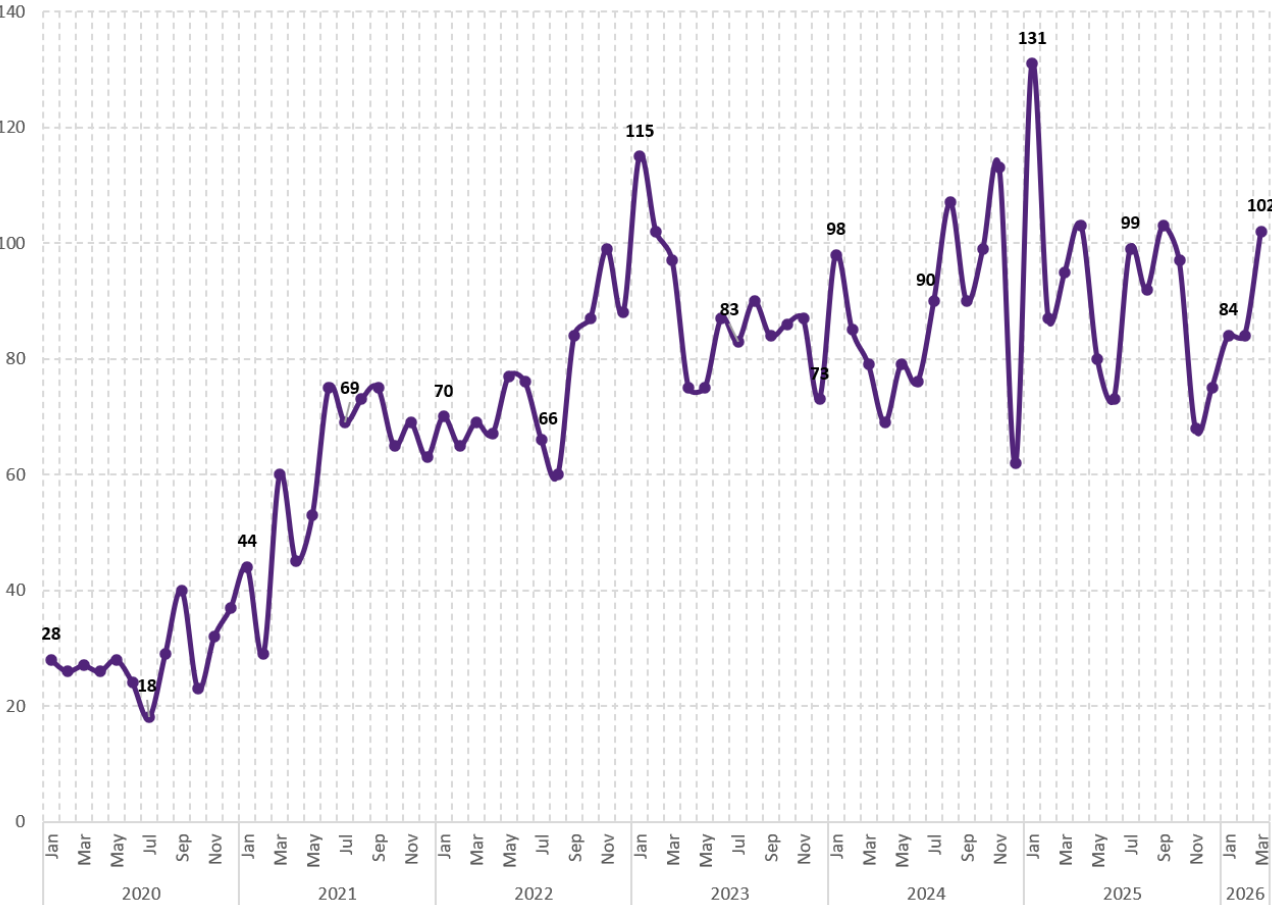
Monthly average
prevention duties owed
in 2025

8,461

Prevention duties owed
between 2020-2025

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Relief Duties Owed per month
2020 - 2026



92

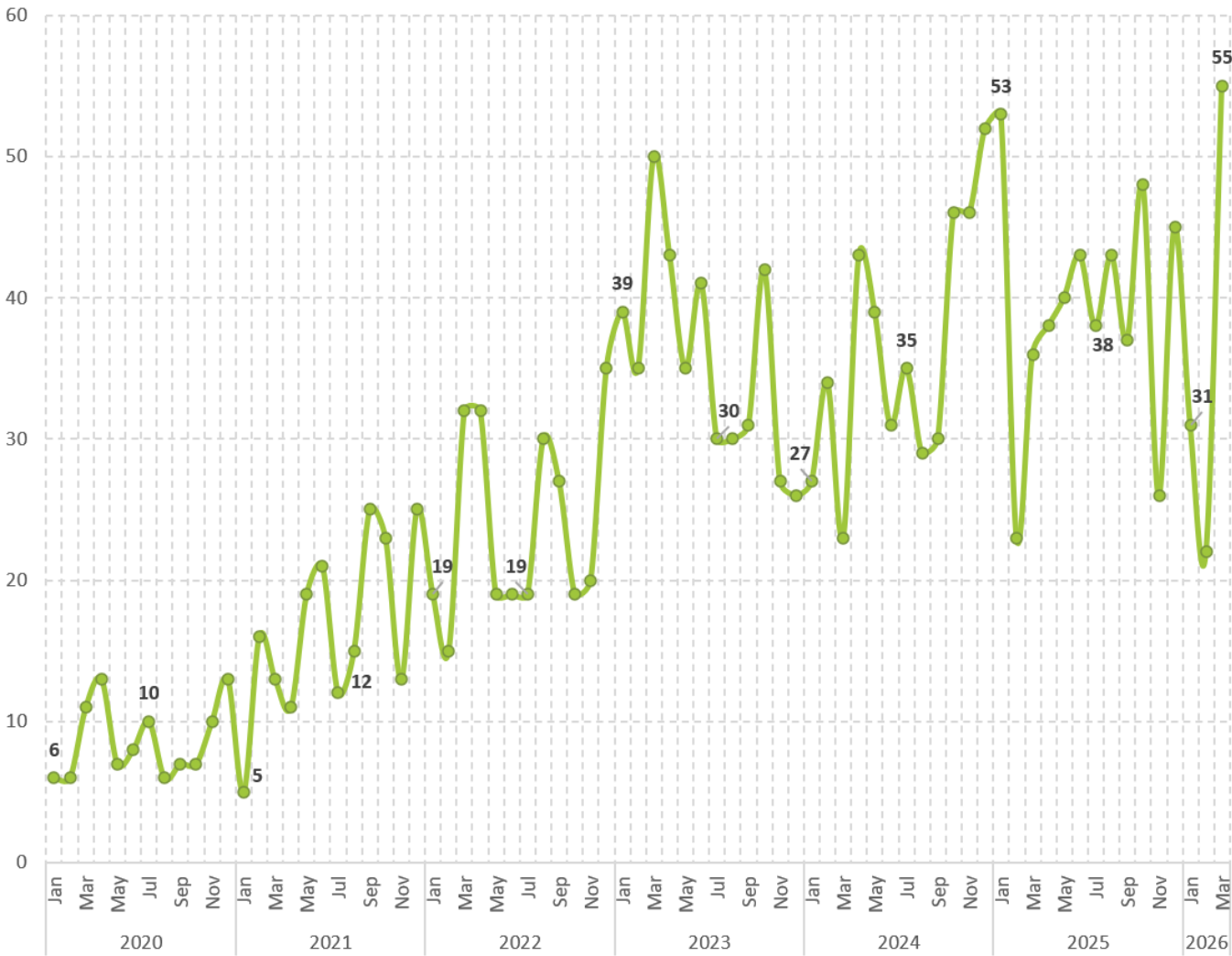
Monthly average relief duties owed in 2025

5,440

Relief duties owed between 2020-2025

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Main Duties Owed per month
2020 - 2026



39

Monthly average main duties owed

2,030

Main duties owed between 2020-2025

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

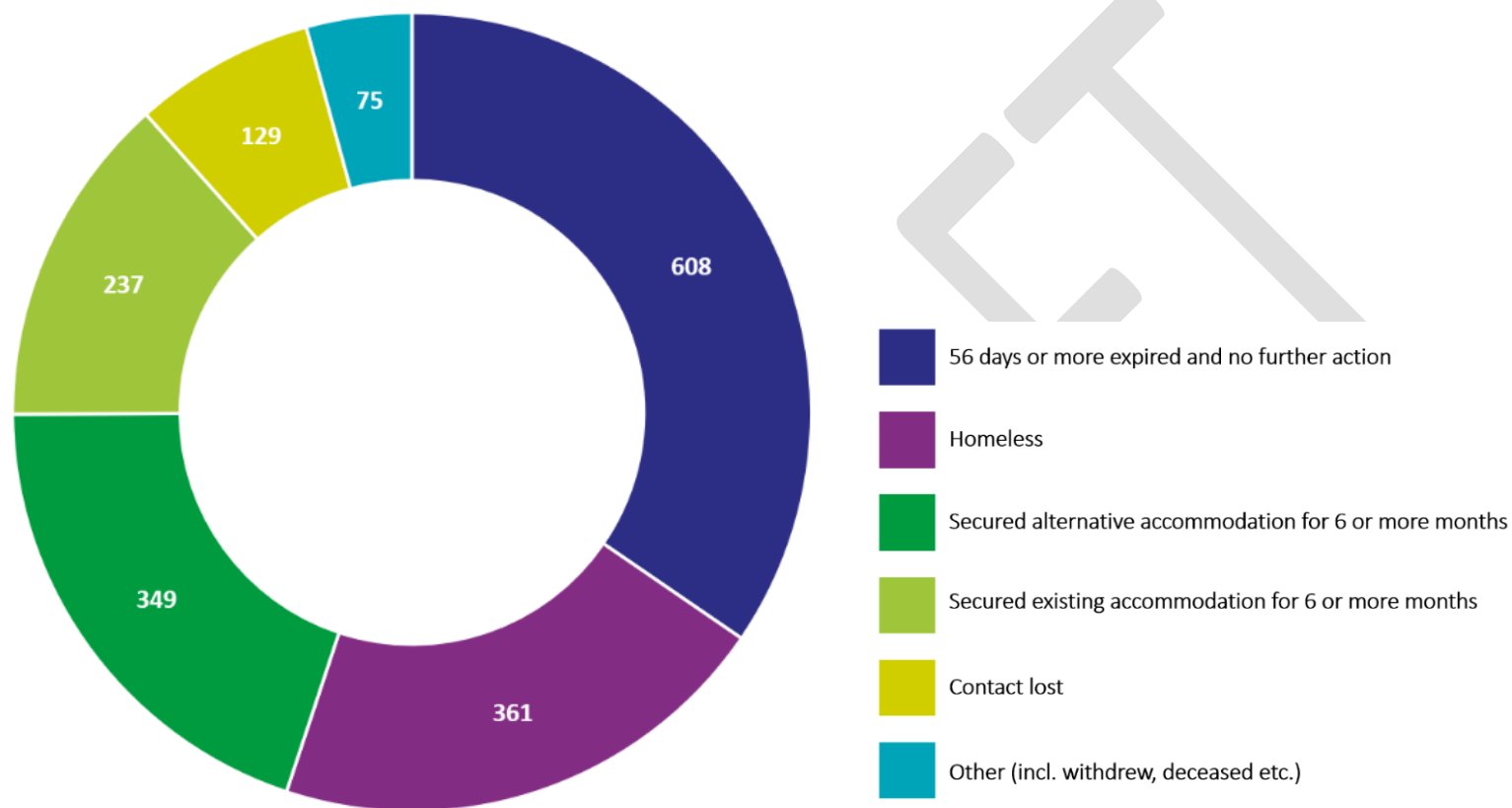
Caution 2020/21 data

When interpreting trends across earlier years, the impacts of Covid-19 should be considered. Pandemic-period restrictions, emergency accommodation responses, changes in household circumstances, labour market disruption and temporary changes in eviction activity may have affected both the level and profile of recorded homelessness demand.

2025 Profile: Most Recent Full-Year Demand Data

The following charts focus on 2025 because it is the most recent complete calendar year available. This provides a current snapshot of applicant characteristics while avoiding partial-year distortion.

Outcomes of Prevention Duty 2025



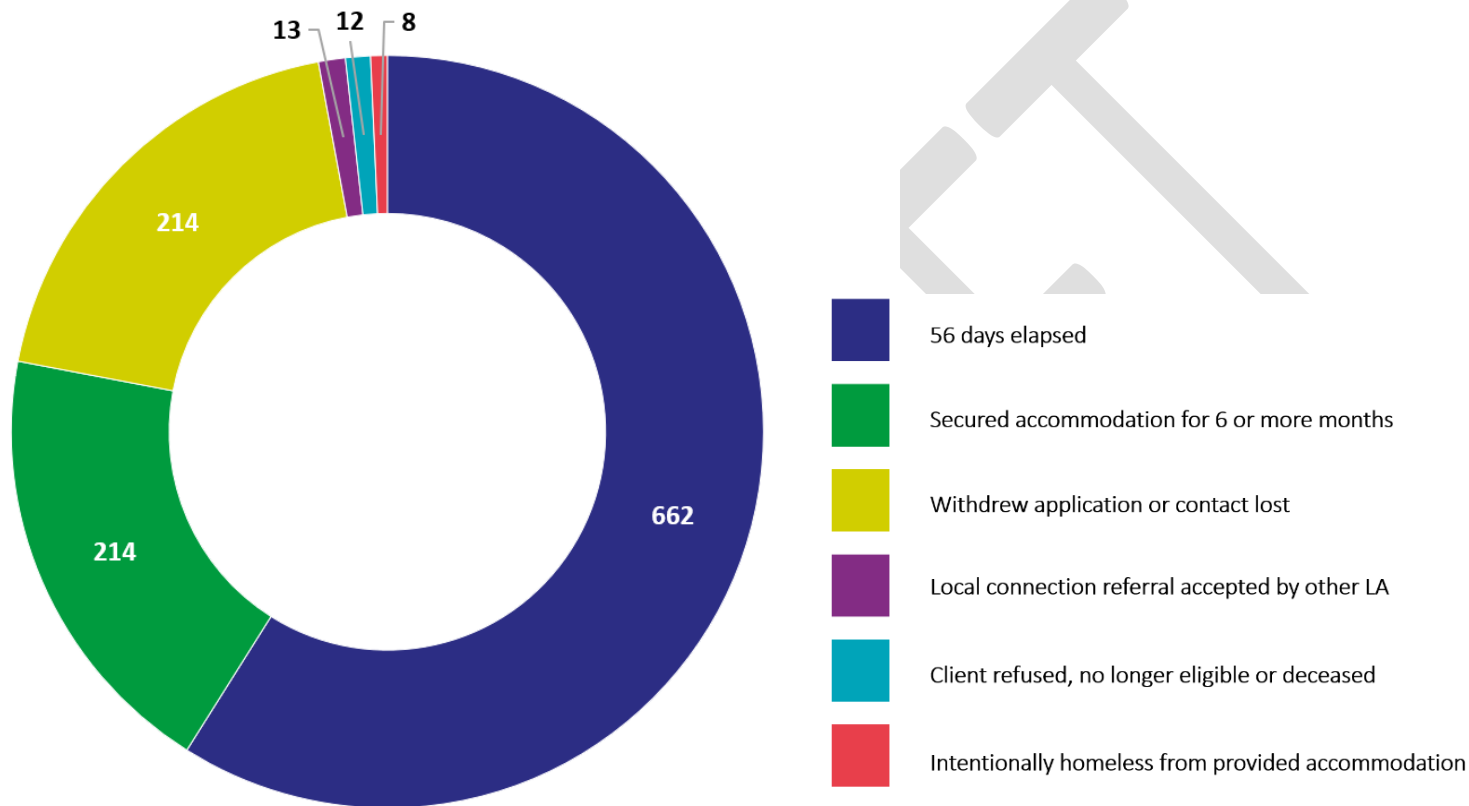
This chart summarises prevention duty outcomes.

Notable metric: the largest recorded outcome is “56 days or more expired and no further action”, at 608 cases.

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Outcomes of Relief Duty

2025



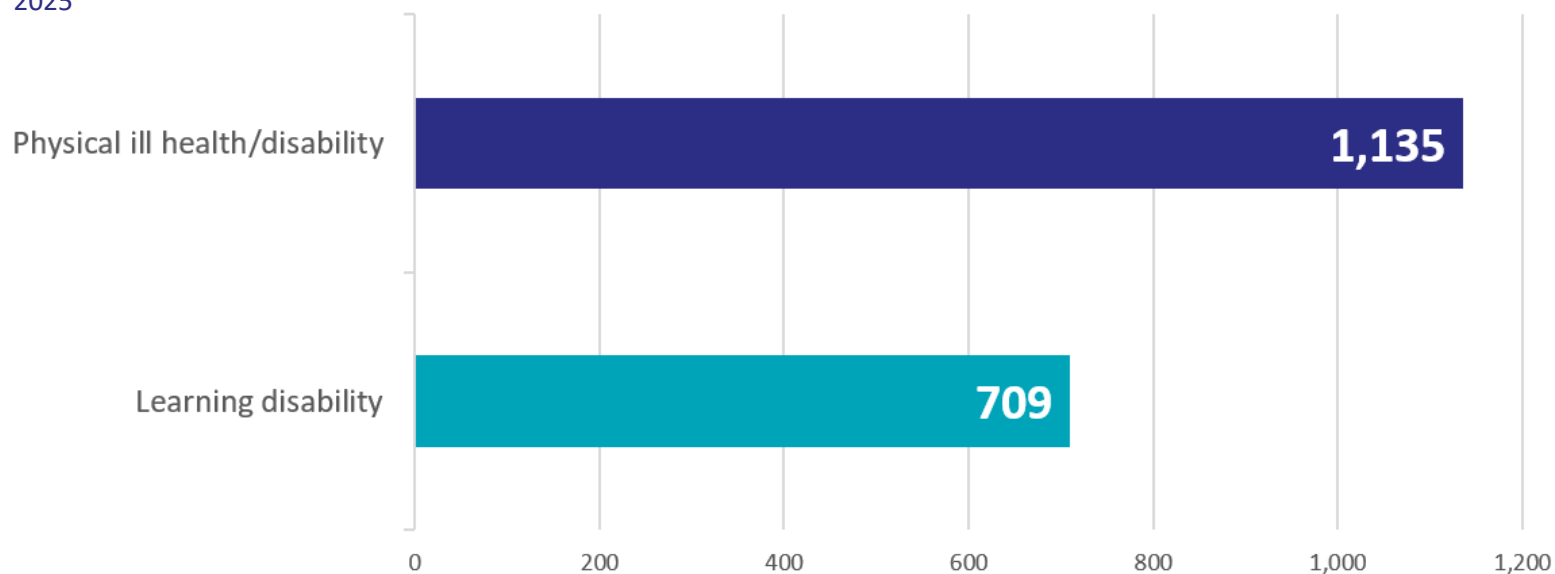
This chart summarises relief duty outcomes.

Notable metric: largest outcome is “56 days elapsed” at 662 cases.

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Disabled Applications by Support Need

2025

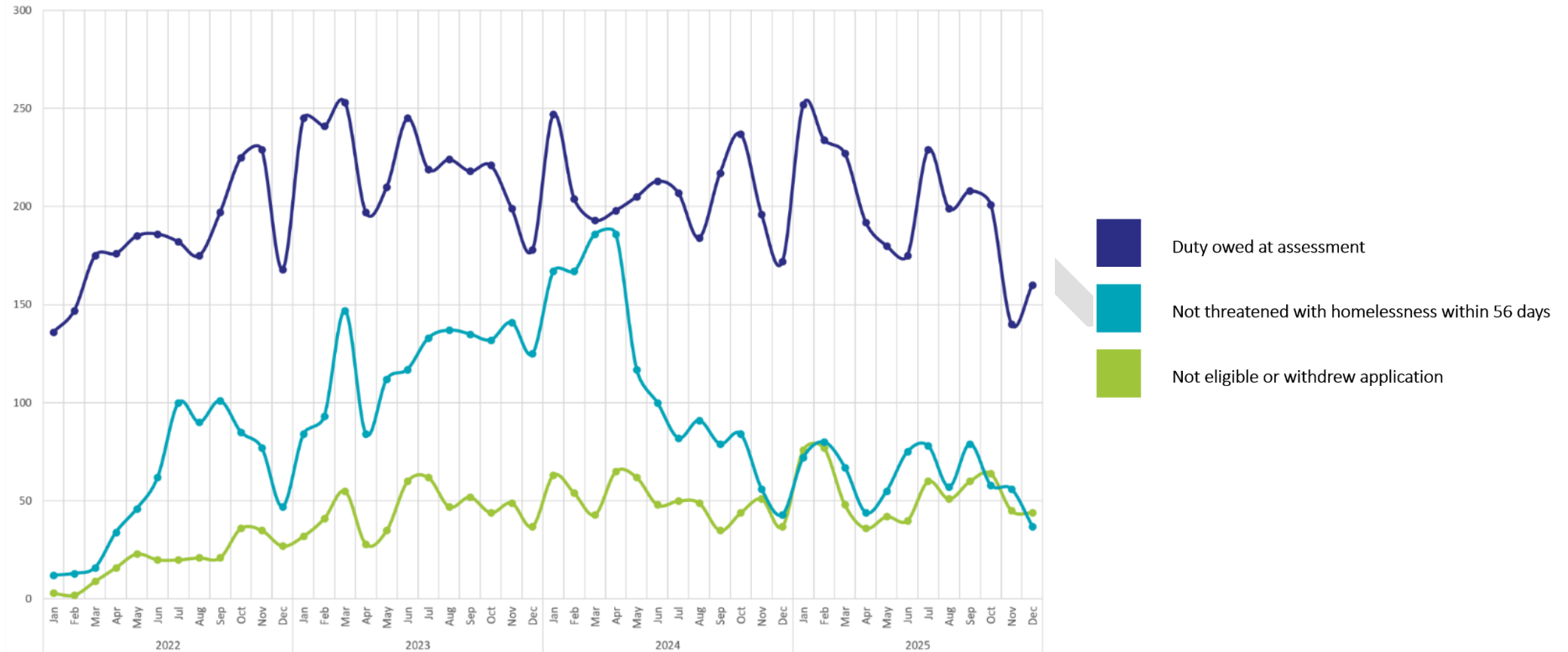


This chart shows applications involving recorded disability/support needs.

Notable metric: Over 270 clients were marked as both having Physical ill health/disability and Learning Disabilities

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Assessment Outcomes (Grouped)



This chart compares assessment outcomes where a duty was or was not owed.

Notable metric: "Not threatened with homelessness within 56 days" peaked in April 2024 at 186. An average of 200 duties were owed at assessment during 2025.

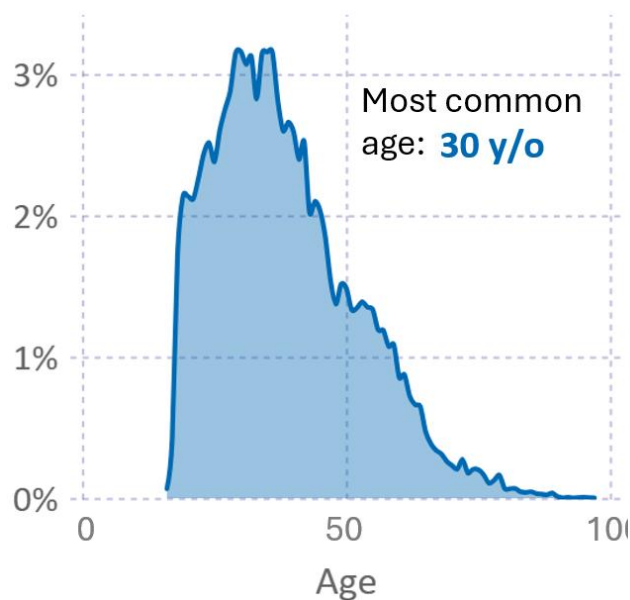
Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

4.2 Who is Experiencing Homelessness?

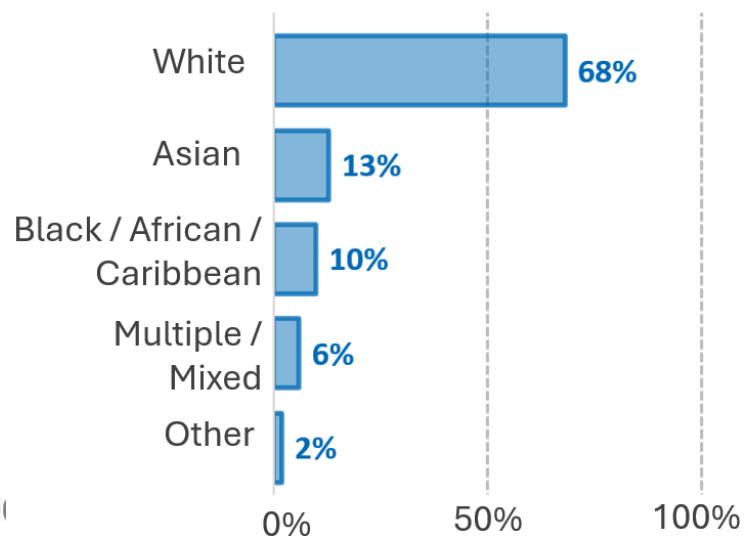
Households experiencing homelessness in Buckinghamshire include families with children, single-person households, young people leaving family homes, people affected by domestic abuse and people leaving institutions. The available evidence identifies high housing costs, relationship breakdown, domestic abuse and limited affordable move-on options as recurring factors linked to homelessness and temporary accommodation use.

Characteristics of Main Applicants

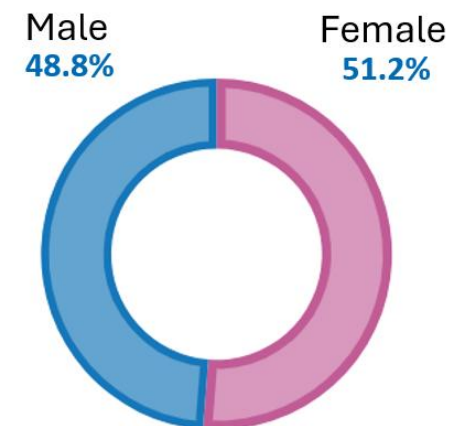
Age of Main Applicant



Broad ethnic group of Main Applicant



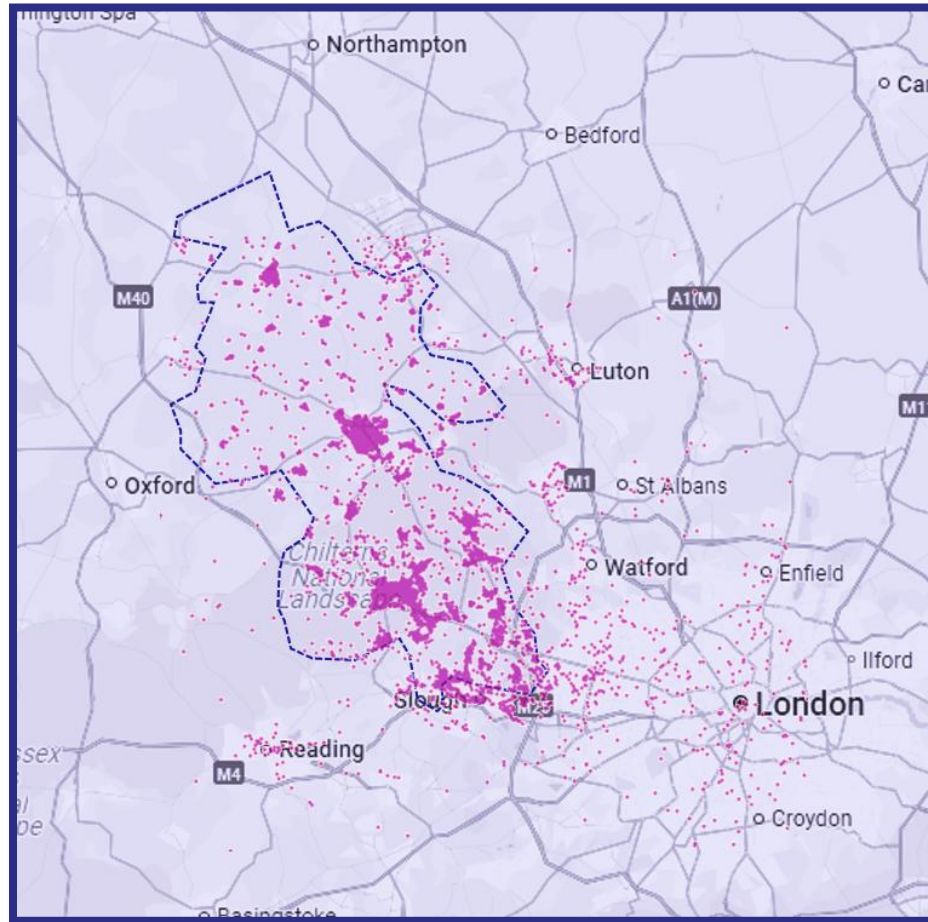
Gender of Main Applicant



Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Geographic Distribution of Main Homelessness Applicants

This heat map shows the geographic distribution of main homelessness applicants. Areas with stronger shading indicate higher numbers of applicants recorded in the homelessness data.



Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

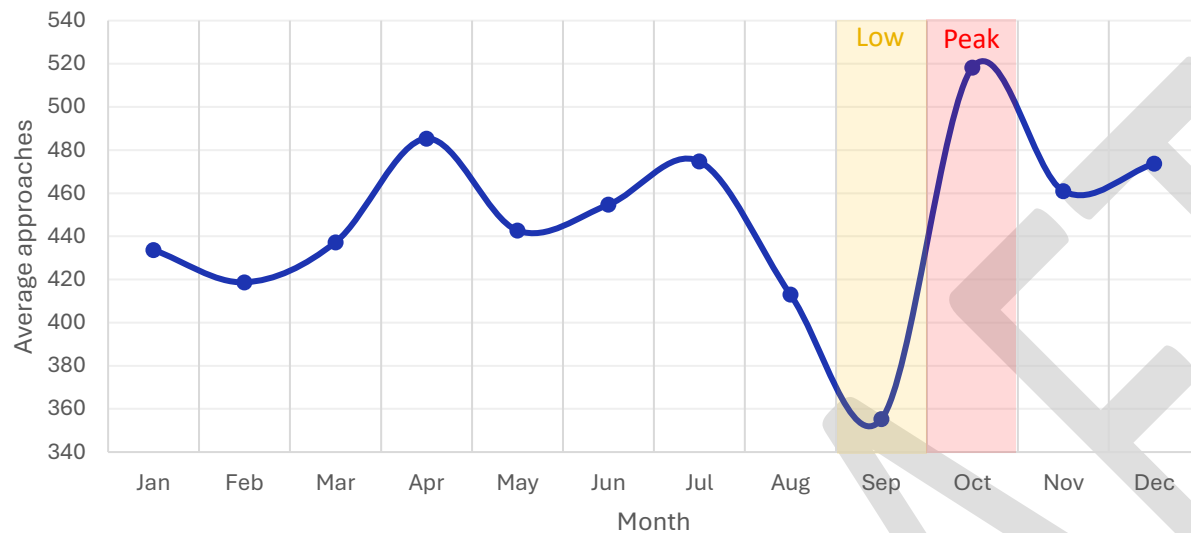
4.3 Seasonality & Trends

Homelessness approaches vary across the year. Factors that can affect recorded monthly demand include tenancy endings, household finances, school and holiday periods, weather-related pressures and the availability of prevention and move-on options.

Analysis of homelessness approaches, opened prevention and relief duties, and temporary accommodation placements across three financial years shows a recurring pattern of within-year variation. Demand is generally stronger in spring and early summer, eases in late summer, and rises again in the final quarter.

Across the three-year average, September is the clearest system-wide low point. Homelessness approaches are highest in October, with further peaks in April, July and December. Prevention activity is strongest in April and July. Relief activity peaks most clearly in October and remains high from May to July. Temporary accommodation placements show the highest average levels in May and December.

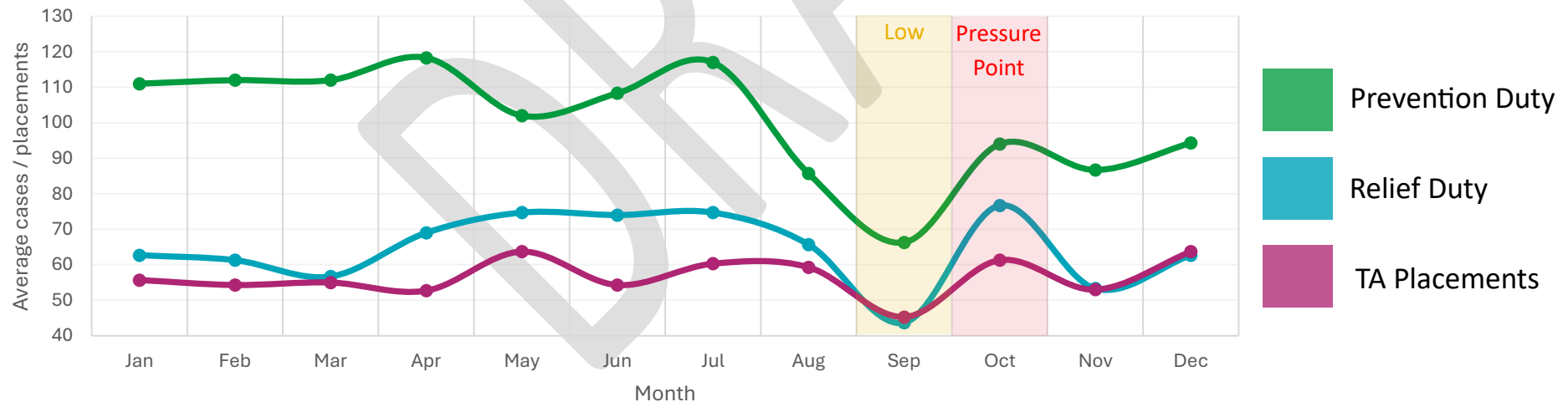
Homelessness Approaches (3-year average)



Key Seasonality Stats

- October is the strongest month for homelessness approaches
- Prevention activity is consistently highest in spring/early summer
- TA placements peak in May and December
- September is the clearest system-wide low point across all measures

Seasonal Pattern in Homelessness Demand (3-year average)



Source: Buckinghamshire Council Homelessness Service monthly management data for 2023/2024, 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. Chart values show three-year averages.

4.4 Hidden Homelessness

Not all homelessness is visible in statutory casework, temporary accommodation data or rough sleeping counts. Hidden homelessness can include sofa surfing, overcrowding, unsafe or unsuitable accommodation, insecure informal arrangements, or delaying an approach to the Council until other options have been exhausted. In a high-cost housing market such as Buckinghamshire, recorded homelessness data may not capture all forms of housing insecurity, so this evidence should be read alongside partner insight, community intelligence and wider housing need indicators.

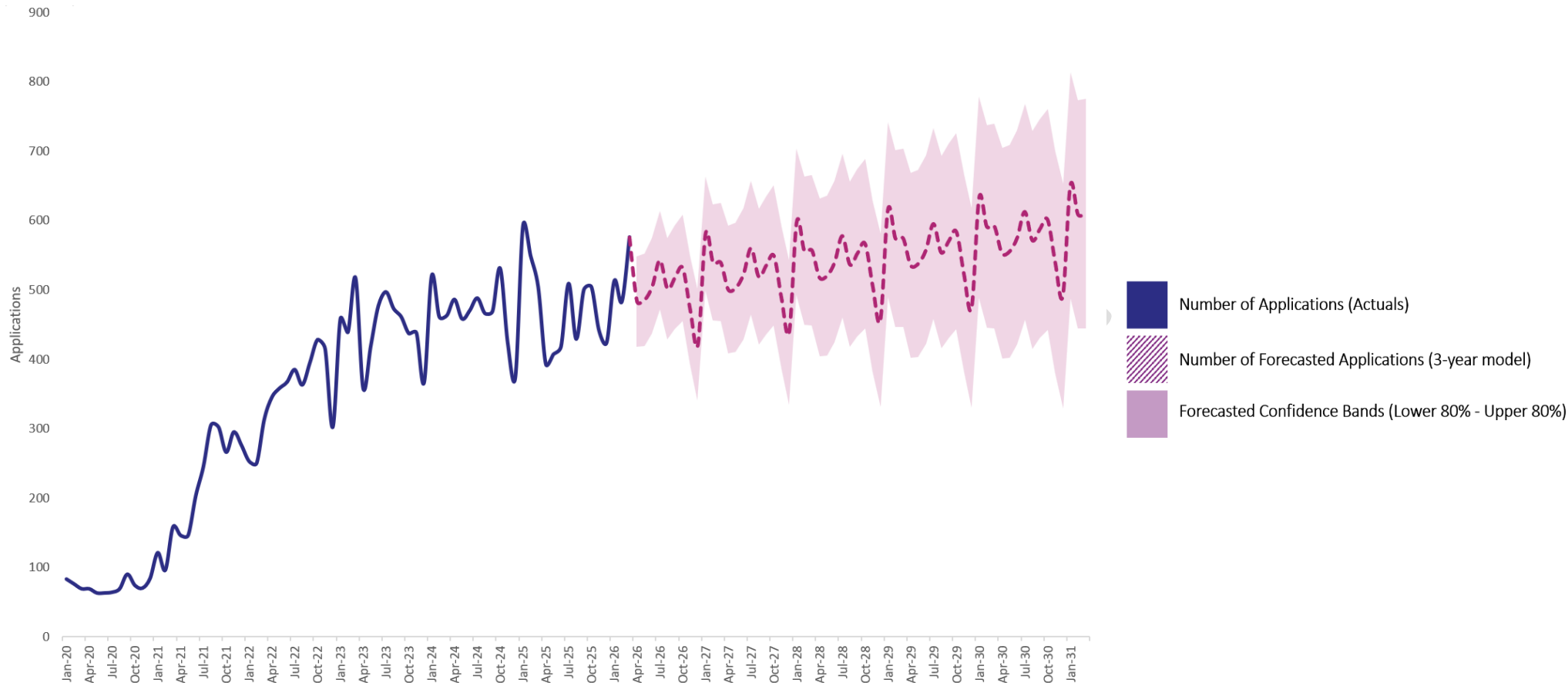
4.5 Likely Future Demand

The Homelessness Code of Guidance expects homelessness reviews to consider likely future levels of homelessness. For Buckinghamshire, the available evidence suggests that future demand is likely to be shaped by high housing costs, private rented sector affordability, limited affordable housing supply, temporary accommodation duration, rough sleeping risk, household support needs and the availability of move-on accommodation.

Forecast demand should be interpreted as a combination of recorded trend data and wider contextual evidence. Recent levels of homelessness applications, prevention and relief activity, temporary accommodation use, rough sleeping referrals, waiting times for affordable housing and support need indicators all point to continuing pressure across the homelessness system. Population growth, an ageing population, the affordability gap between local incomes and housing costs, and constraints in social housing turnover may also affect future levels of need.

The evidence does not support a single numerical forecast within this document. Instead, it indicates a set of demand drivers that should be monitored through homelessness case data, temporary accommodation data, rough sleeping information, allocations data, affordable housing delivery, private rented sector evidence and partner intelligence.

Homelessness Applications 5-Year Forecast – ETS 3-Year Training Model

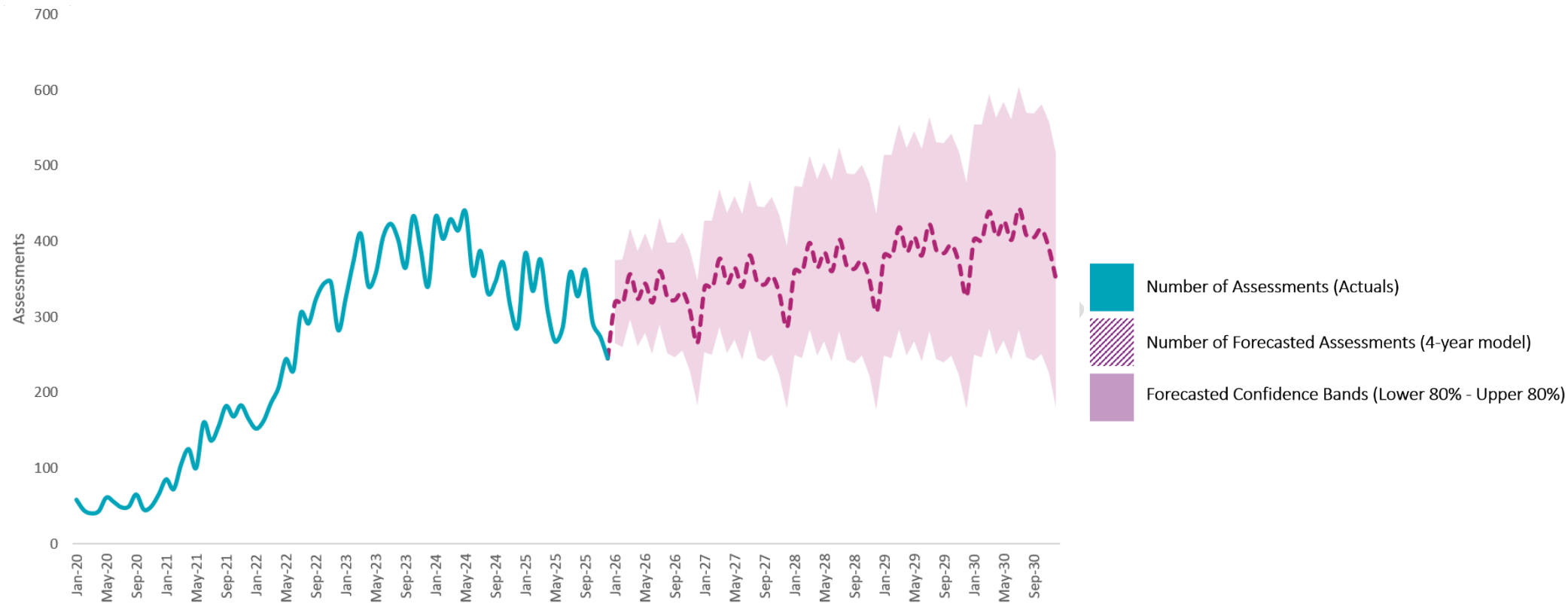


This chart shows actual homelessness applications and forecast demand using an Estimate to Complete forecast model.

Notable metric: the 2026 forecast starts at around 483 applications in July 2026.

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Homelessness Assessments 5-Year Forecast – ETS 4-Year Training Model



This chart shows actual assessment volumes and forecast demand using an Estimate to Complete forecast model.

Notable metric: the 2026 forecast total is 3,899 assessments.

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Notable metric: the prevention duty owed forecast total is 7,690 over five years.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Evidence Base

5 Homelessness Causation

Homelessness in Buckinghamshire is rarely associated with one factor alone. The evidence links homelessness to housing market pressures and household circumstances, including relationship breakdown, domestic abuse, poor health, debt, insecure work and limited support. These factors may act as immediate triggers or may increase vulnerability to homelessness over time.

Homelessness Assessment Outcomes

2023 – 2026

3,815

Family or Friends
no longer willing to
accommodate

2,898

End of Private
Rented Tenancy
(AST)

1,271

Domestic Abuse -
Victim

1,024

Relationship with
partner ended: non-
violent breakdown

918

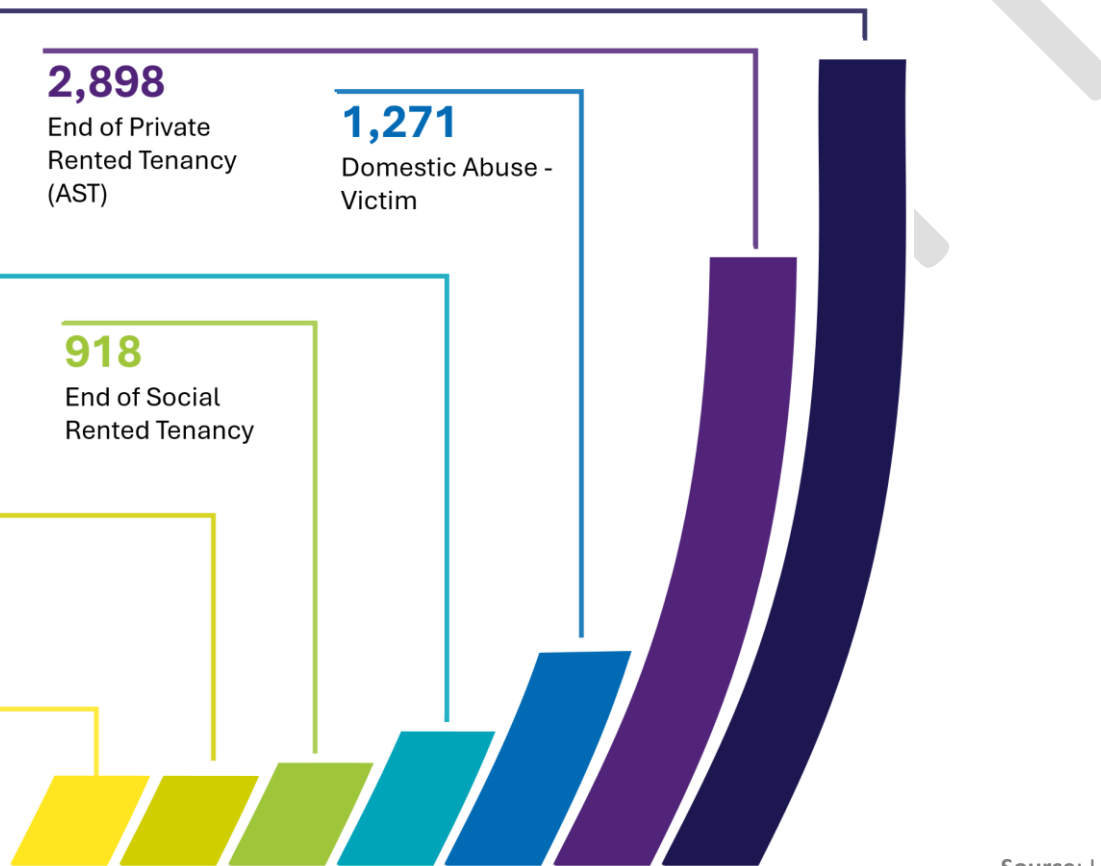
End of Social
Rented Tenancy

772

End of Private
Rented Tenancy
(non-AST)

524

Departure from
Custody

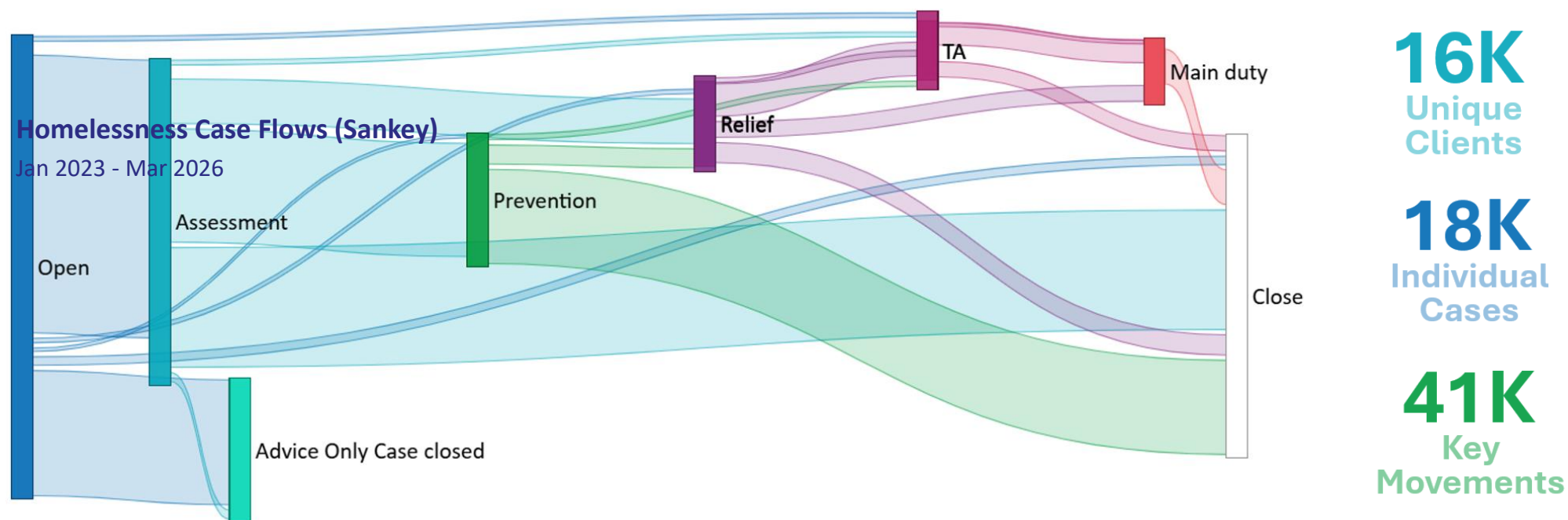


Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service

5.1 Patterns of Homelessness Experience

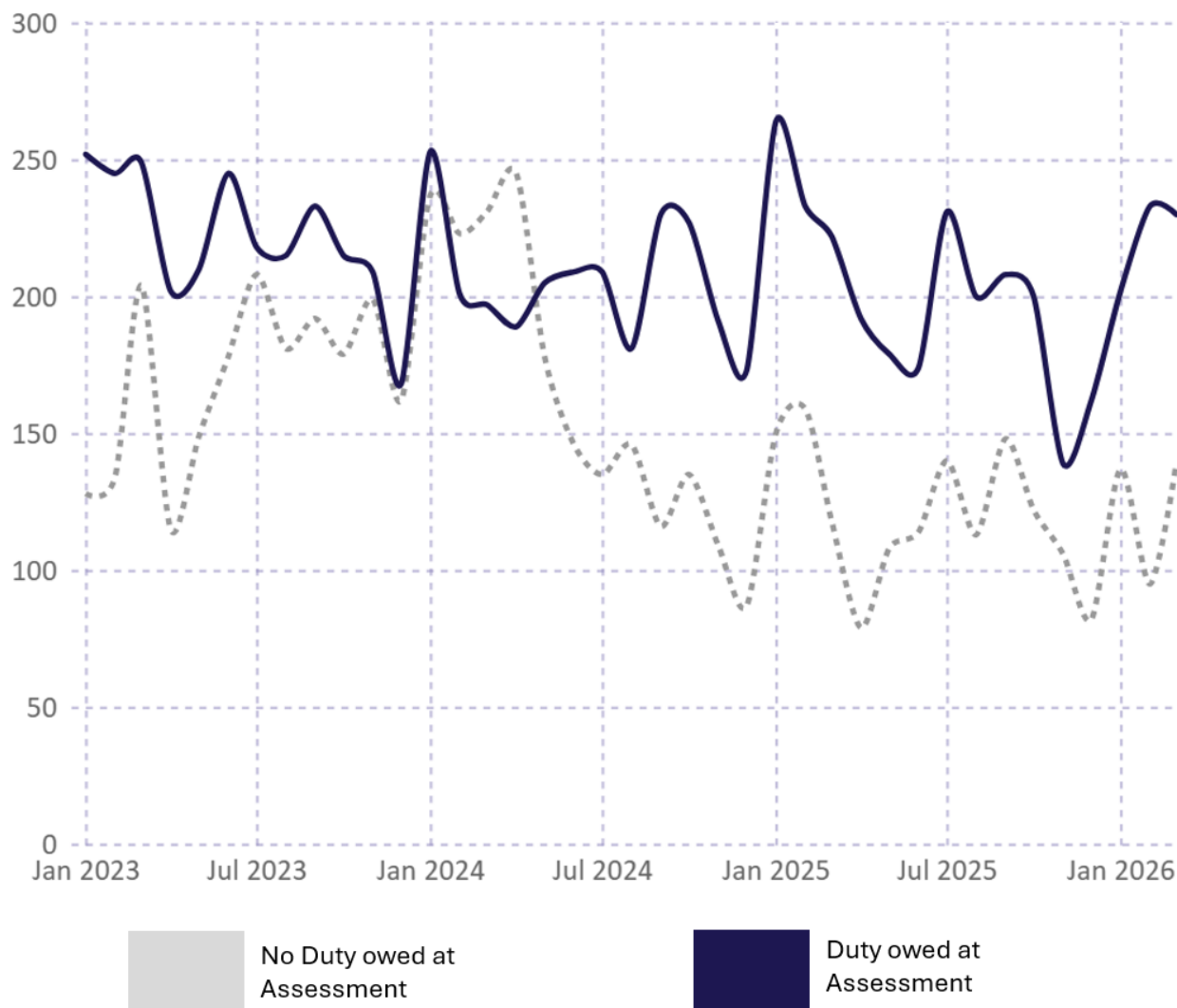
The charts in this section show that people in Buckinghamshire experience homelessness in different ways. Some households are able to resolve their housing crisis quickly through prevention or relief support, while others experience ongoing housing instability and present for assistance more than once before securing a settled home. Repeat presentations may reflect unresolved issues relating to housing affordability, access to suitable accommodation, personal circumstances or support needs.

The evidence also highlights the difference between homelessness that is visible in official data and homelessness that remains hidden. Presentations to the council, the use of temporary accommodation and rough sleeping provide important indicators of need, but they do not capture the full picture. Some households continue to experience housing insecurity while staying with family or friends, living in overcrowded accommodation, remaining in unsafe domestic situations, or moving between short-term and insecure housing arrangements without ever coming to the attention of services.



Assessments Leading to Duty

Jan 2023 - Mar 2026



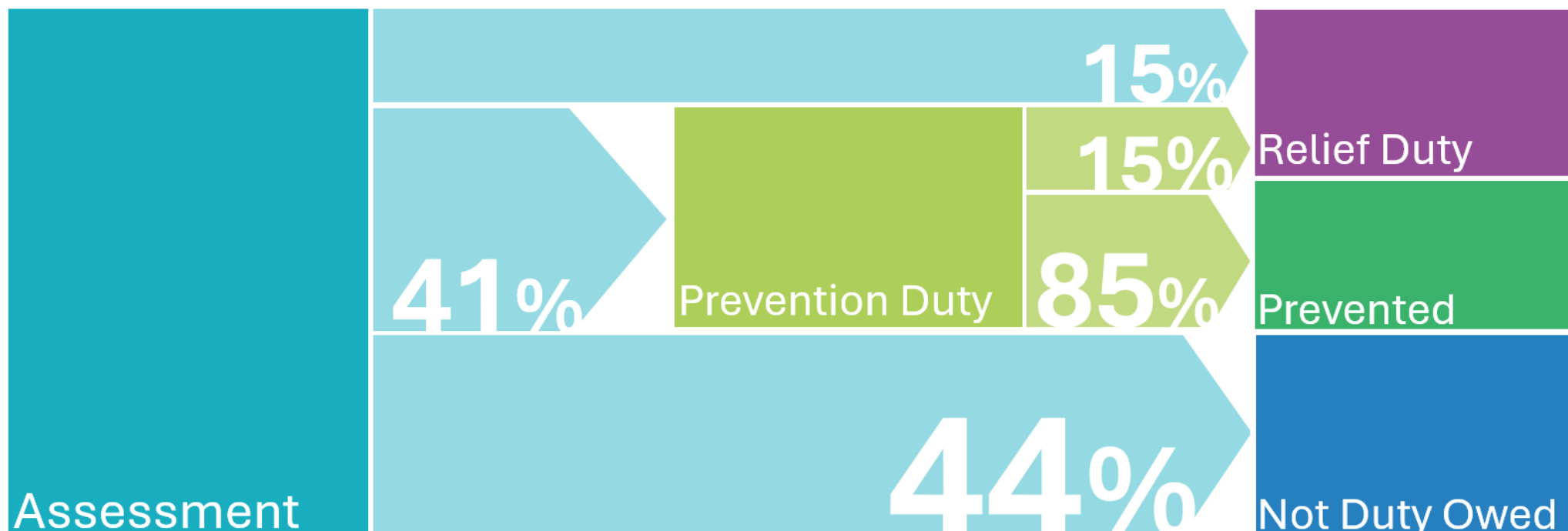
56% of cases assessed were owed a Duty

44% of cases assessed were not owed a duty

Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service Internal Data

Homelessness Case Flows

2023 - 2026



Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service Internal Data

5.2 Barriers to Sustainment and Repeat Homelessness

Repeat homelessness and barriers to sustainment are linked to both housing market conditions and household circumstances. In Buckinghamshire, the evidence points to pressures including the gap between housing costs and incomes, limited access to affordable homes, and the availability of accommodation close to employment, education, children's services or informal support networks. For some households, sustainment is also affected by mental ill health, domestic abuse, substance misuse, debt or previous homelessness. These factors help explain why some households may return to homelessness services after an initial accommodation outcome.

Repeat Homelessness Analysis Tables – By Reason for Homelessness

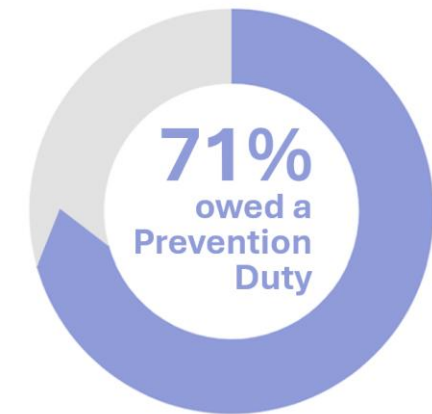
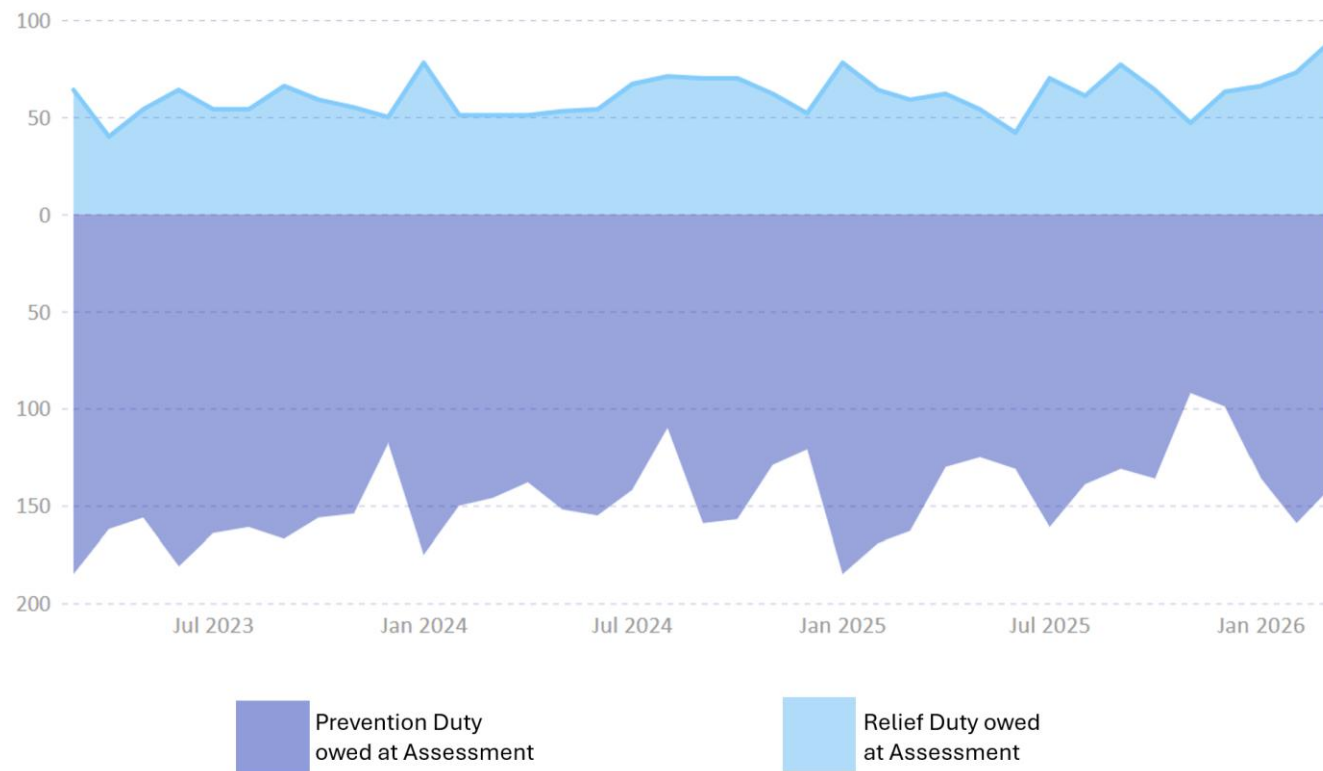
2018 - 2026

Main reason for loss of settled home	Repeat case within 3 months		Repeat case within 12 months	
	Number of cases	% of cases	Number of cases	% of cases
Eviction from supported housing	178	23.6%	288	38.1%
End of social rented tenancy	122	11.9%	281	27.4%
Not known due to last settled accommodation Not known	106	20.7%	177	34.6%
Departure from institution: Custody	146	20.1%	250	34.5%
End of private rented tenancy – assured shorthold tenancy	485	15.4%	979	31.2%
Friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	176	18.4%	324	33.9%
Departure from institution: Hospital (general)	9	14.1%	22	34.4%
Departure from institution: Hospital (psychiatric)	10	19.6%	16	31.4%
Loss of tied accommodation	21	15.4%	41	30.1%
Property disrepair	22	9.8%	53	23.7%
Non-racially motivated / other motivated violence or harassment	60	15.2%	103	26.1%
Family no longer willing or able to accommodate	534	15.0%	975	27.4%
Racially motivated violence or harassment	12	17.1%	18	25.7%
Voluntarily left accommodation to relocate	27	13.6%	51	25.6%
Mortgage repossession or sale of owner occupier property	43	15.9%	70	25.9%
End of private rented tenancy - not assured shorthold tenancy	117	13.4%	212	24.3%
Domestic abuse – alleged perpetrator excluded from property	35	17.2%	55	27.1%
Left HM Forces	4	13.3%	5	16.7%
Domestic abuse – victim	210	13.6%	330	21.4%
Unsuccessful placement or exclusion from resettlement scheme/sponsorship	6	11.1%	9	16.7%
Home no longer suitable due to disability / ill health	47	10.5%	93	20.9%
Fire or flood / other emergency	13	11.8%	21	19.1%
Relationship with partner ended (non-violent breakdown)	118	9.4%	221	17.6%
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	15	13.0%	22	19.1%
Departure from institution: Looked After Child Placement	2	7.4%	2	7.4%
Total	2,518	15.0%	10,477	27.6%

Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service Internal Data

The repeat homelessness evidence shows that, overall, most households do not return within a short period after their case: only 15.0% are repeat cases within 3 months, meaning around 85% do not re-present quickly. While repeat cases rise to 27.6% within 12 months, this data considers all cases including those prior to an official Assessment.

5.3 Prevention Evidence



Source:

Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service Internal Data

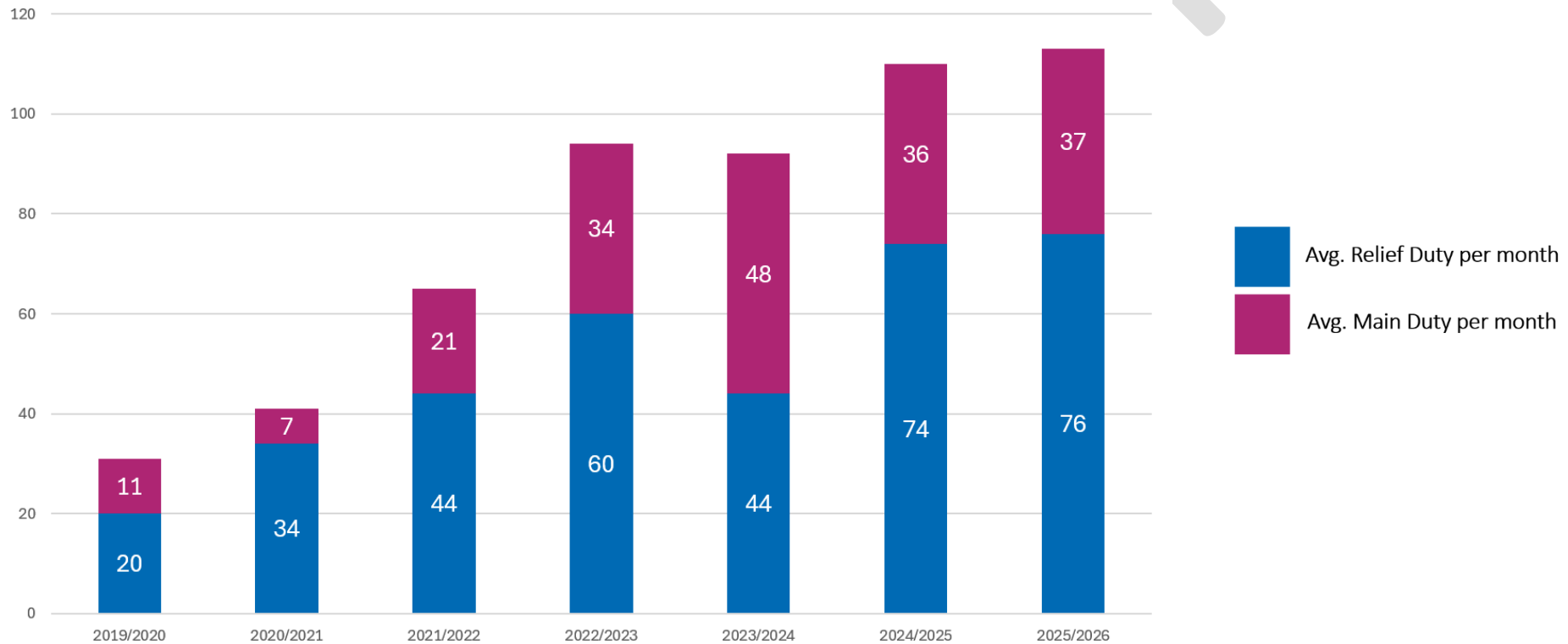
The evidence suggests that prevention activity is relevant to levels of crisis intervention and temporary accommodation use. In Buckinghamshire, recorded risk points include tenancy loss, family breakdown, domestic abuse, institutional discharge and financial stress. These points appear across homelessness, support needs and temporary accommodation evidence.

6 Temporary Accommodation

Temporary accommodation is a visible indicator of pressure within Buckinghamshire’s homelessness system. This section considers why households enter temporary accommodation, patterns of demand, length of stay, suitability and the availability of move-on options. Households may enter temporary accommodation where no suitable alternative is immediately available, and length of stay is affected by accommodation supply, household needs, case progression and access to settled move-on routes.

Average Monthly Relief Duty/Main Duty Opened

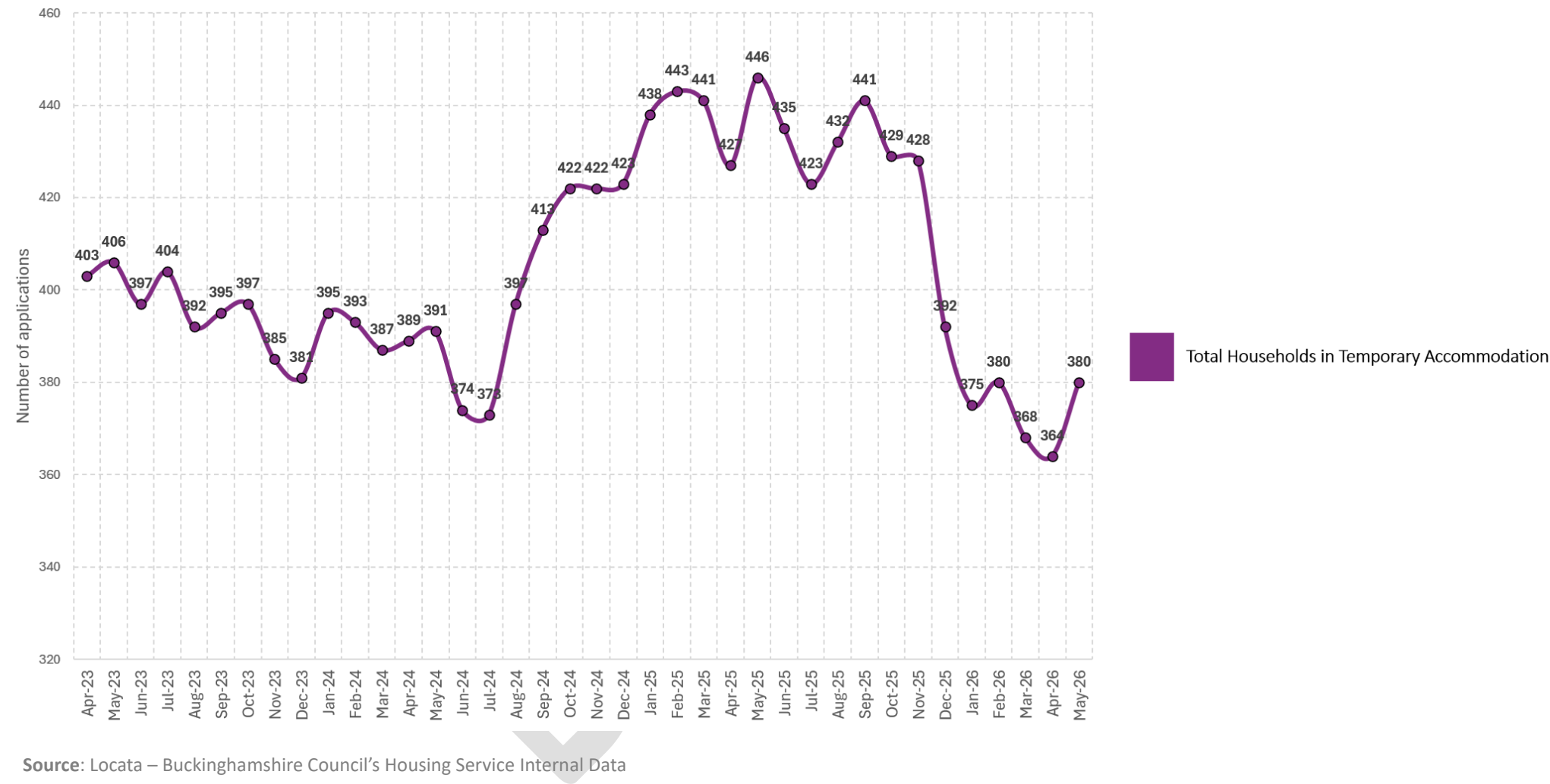
2019 - 2026



Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

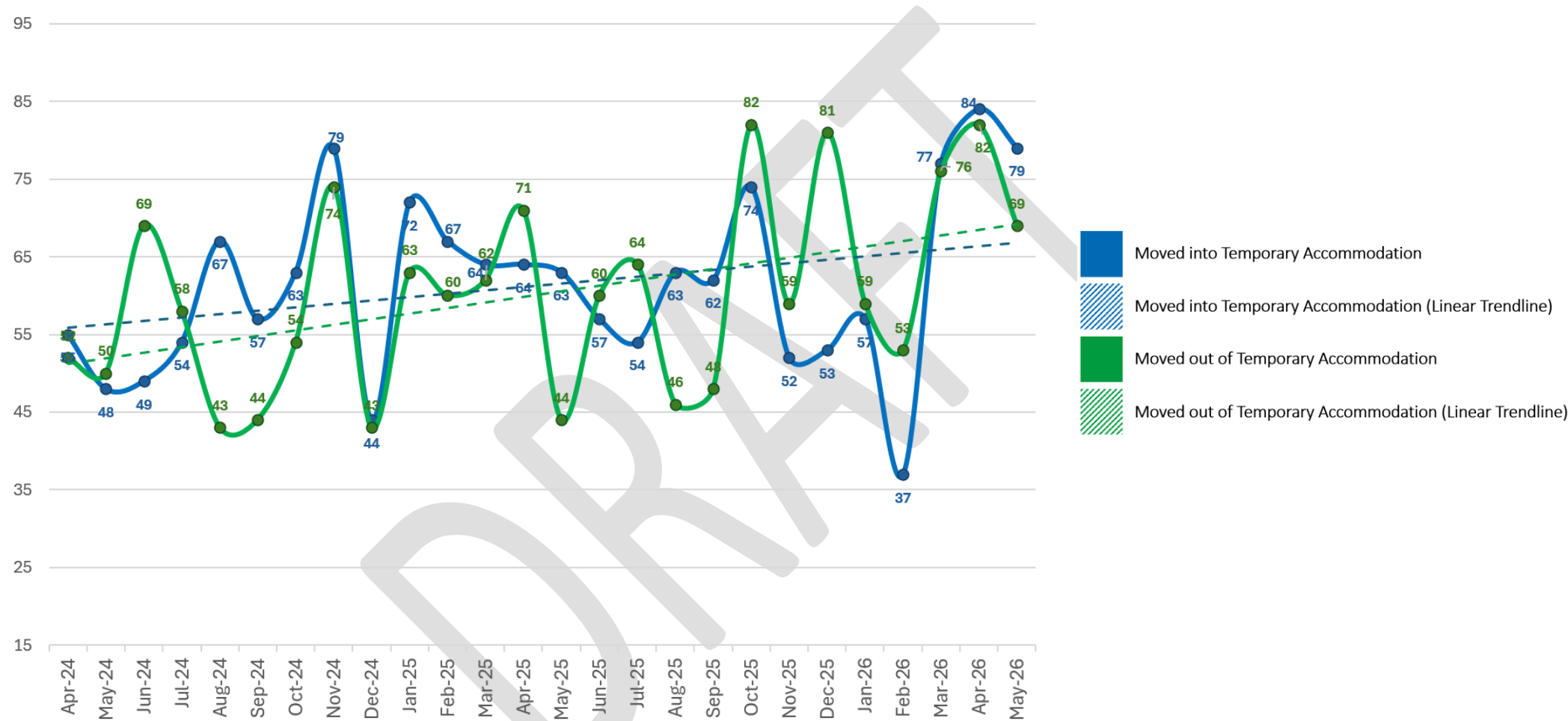
Households in Temporary Accommodation

2023 – 2026



Households Placed-in vs Moved-on from Temporary Accommodation

2024 - 2026



Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

406

total households in Temporary Accommodation



206

average number of days spent in Temporary Accommodation



57% of households in Substantive TA



49% Male



36% With Children



51% Female



15% Disability

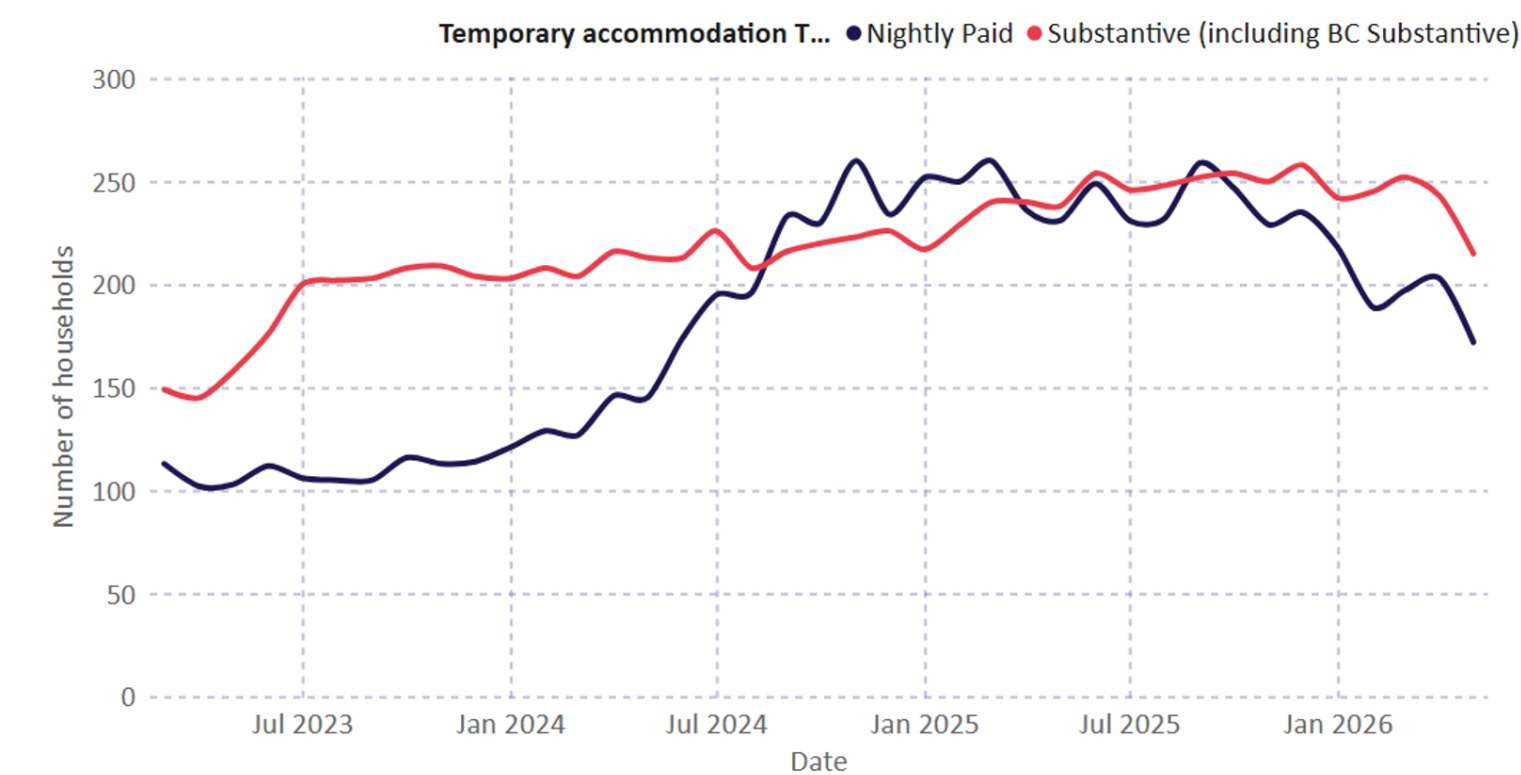


Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

This snapshot shows the position in July 2026 and provides a point-in-time view of families in temporary accommodation. It is included to show the scale and profile of family temporary accommodation at a recent point in time, rather than a full-year trend.

Temporary Accommodation – Nightly Paid vs Substantive

2023 - 2026



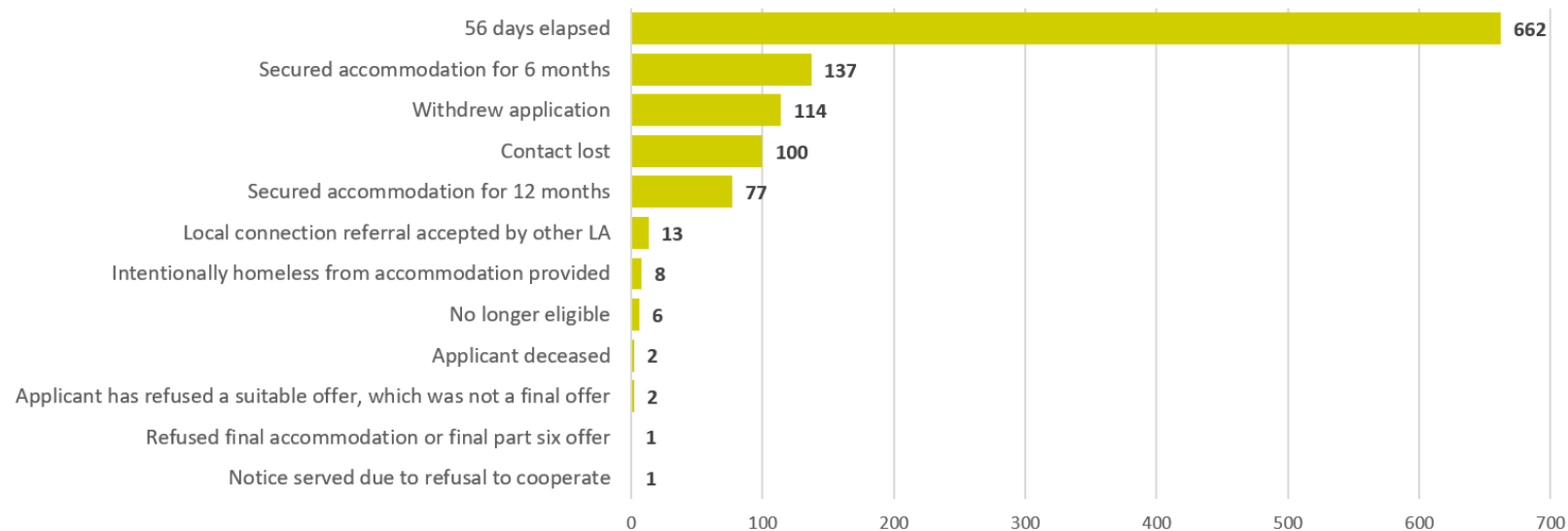
Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

6.1 Relief Duty

The relief duty applies when a household is already homeless and the Council must take reasonable steps to help secure accommodation. Relief activity is affected by the availability of suitable accommodation, private rent levels, affordable housing supply and household circumstances. In Buckinghamshire, high private rents and limited affordable supply are relevant contextual factors when interpreting relief outcomes.

Reasons Relief Duty Ended

2025



Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

The evidence shows that the highest reason for Relief Duty ending is because 56 days had elapsed, followed by cases where accommodation was secured for 6 months (137). In terms of accommodation outcomes, the largest group moved into temporary accommodation provided by the local authority (462 cases), while 212 cases had no recorded outcome. Smaller but important numbers were placed in supported housing/hostels (82), private rented accommodation, or stayed with family/friends.

6.2 Growth in Temporary Accommodation Demand

Growth in temporary accommodation demand is an indicator of housing system pressure in Buckinghamshire. It may reflect increased homelessness demand, longer stays, limited affordable settled homes and difficulty securing private rented accommodation that households can sustain.

The length of time households spend in temporary accommodation is a measure of system pressure and household experience. Longer stays can indicate restricted move-on housing, delays in case progression, or a shortage of homes that are suitable in size, location or affordability.

Demand for temporary accommodation remains persistently high, with 380 households in temporary accommodation in May-26, compared with 278 households in June-20. This highlights a substantial long-term increase in the number of households requiring temporary accommodation and continued pressure on local accommodation supply.

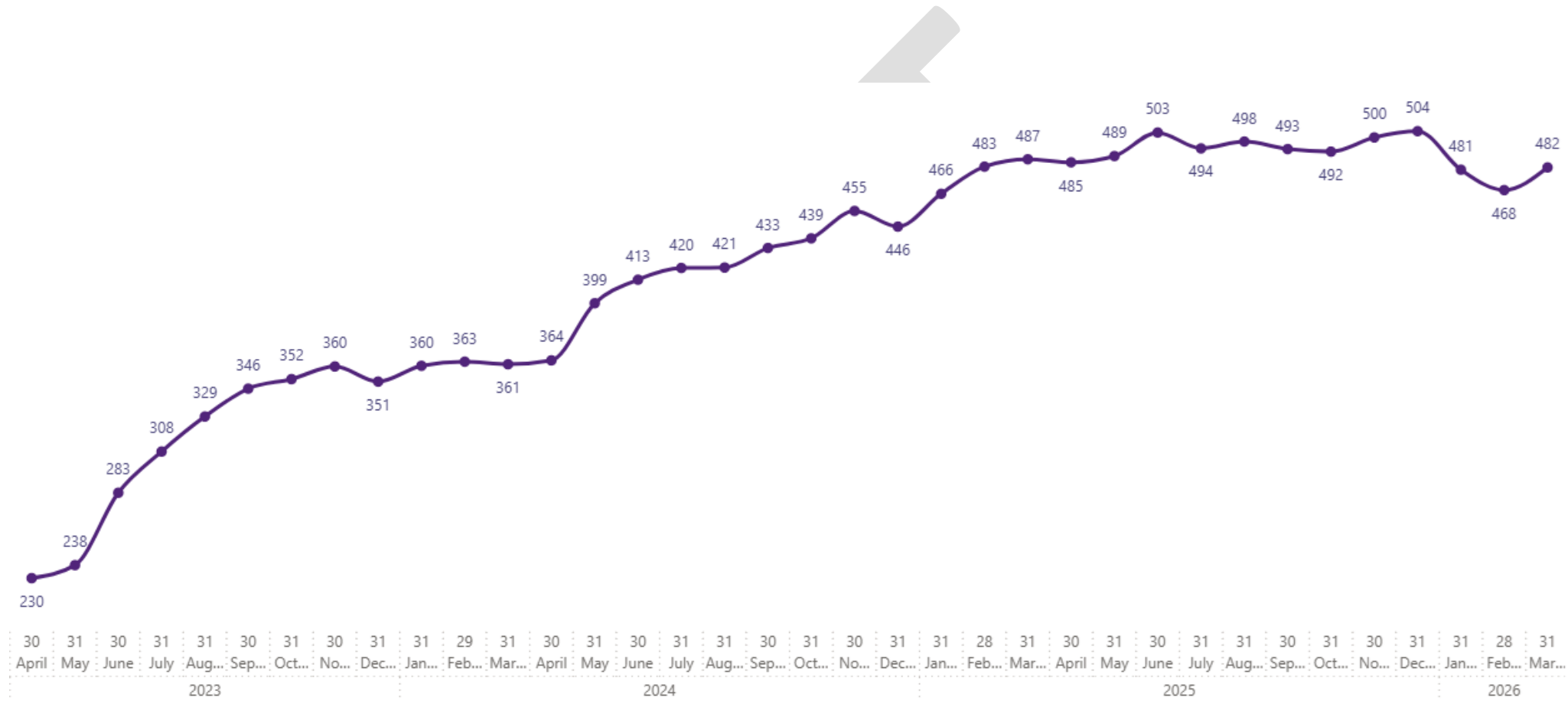
7 Children, Young People and Family Homelessness

7.1 Family Temporary Accommodation Duration

The evidence indicates continuing pressure on families with children in temporary accommodation, both in terms of the number of children affected and the length of time some households remain in temporary accommodation before move-on is secured.

Families make up a significant proportion of homelessness demand, with 64% of homelessness assessments since 2023 involving families. This is reflected in temporary accommodation pressures, where households with dependent children spent an average of 220 days in temporary accommodation during Q1 2026/27.

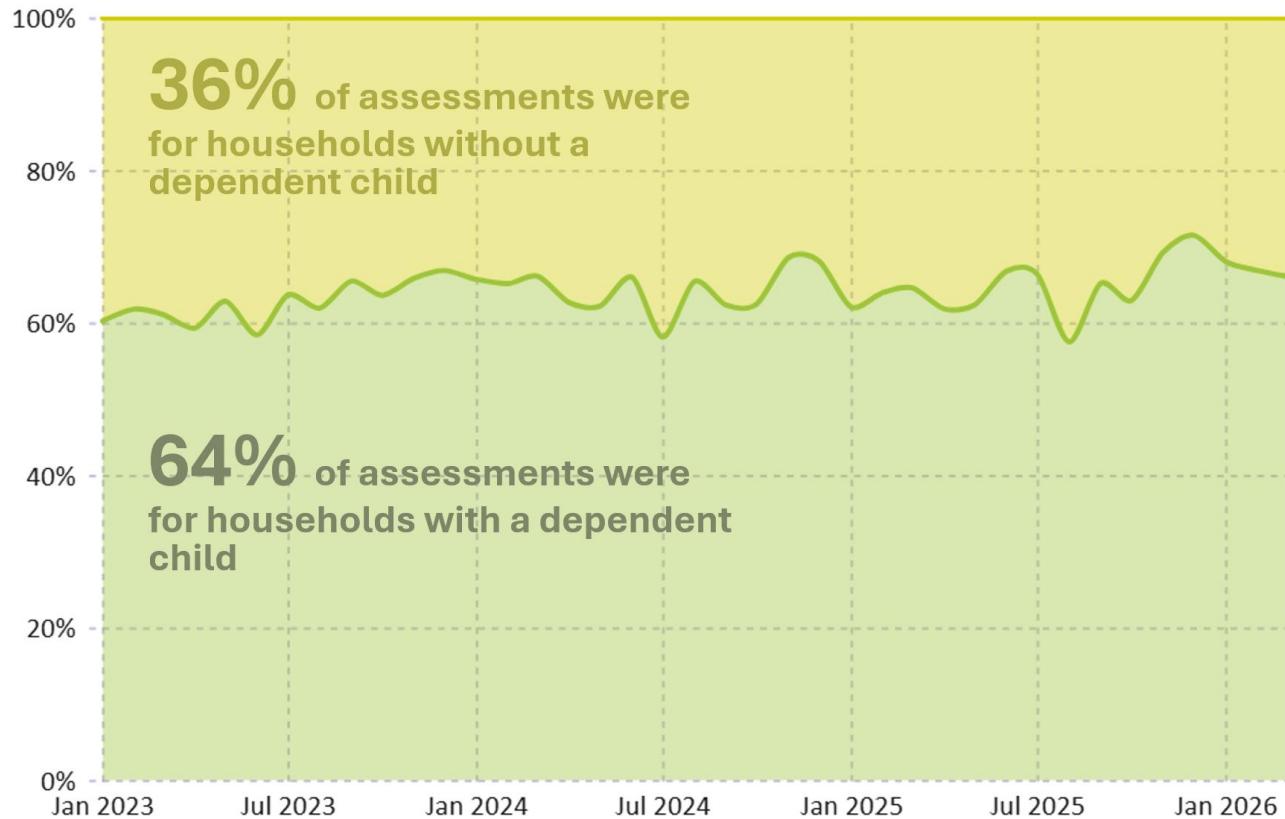
Monthly Average Number of Children in Temporary Accommodation
2023 - 2026



Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Percentage of Homelessness Assessments Involving Dependent Children

2023 - 2025

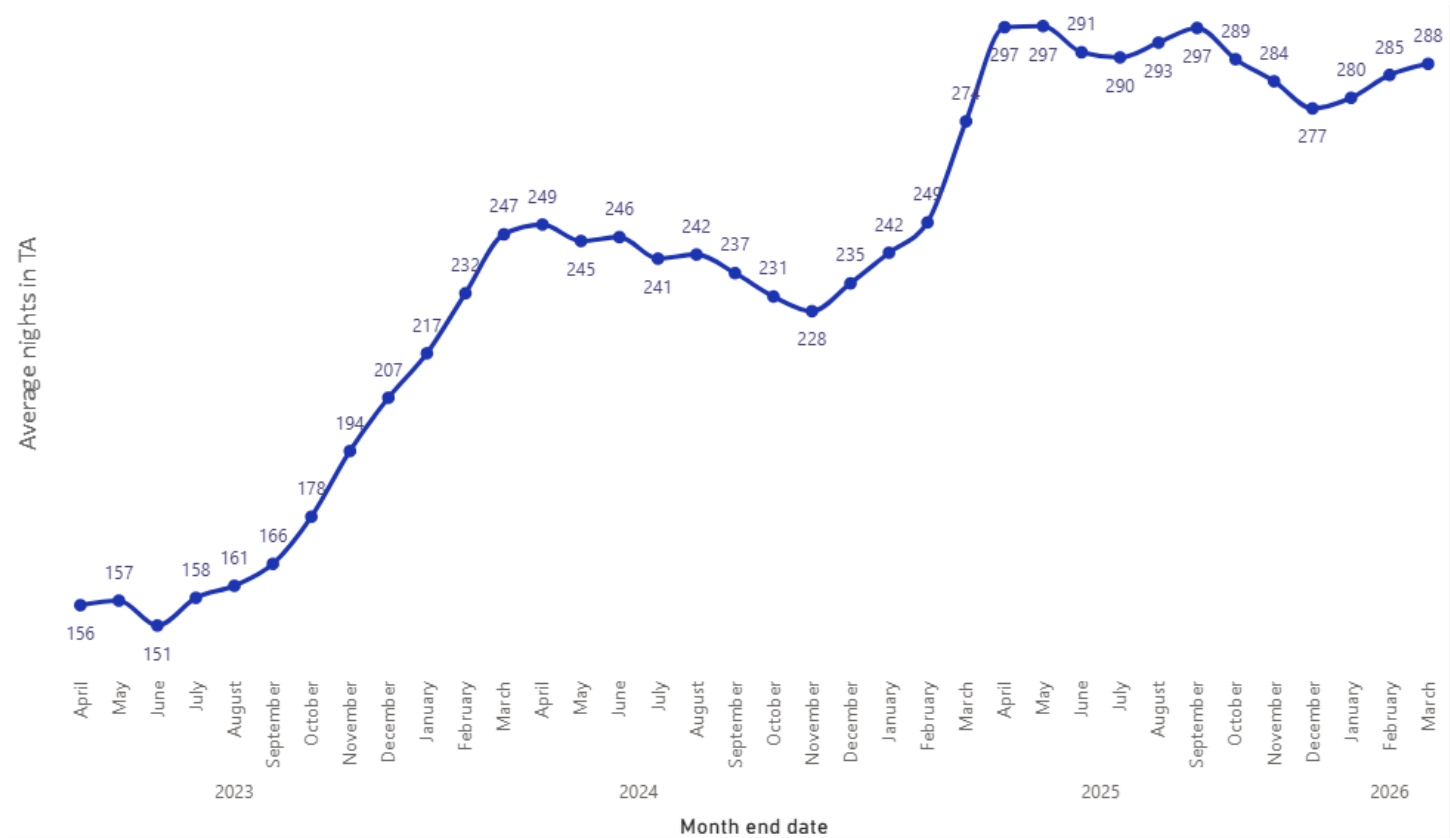


0.7 Average number of children per household assessed

1.9 average number of children per household with dependent children assessed

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

Average Nights In Temporary Accommodation – Households with Children 2025 - 2026



Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

8 Support Needs and Risk Factors

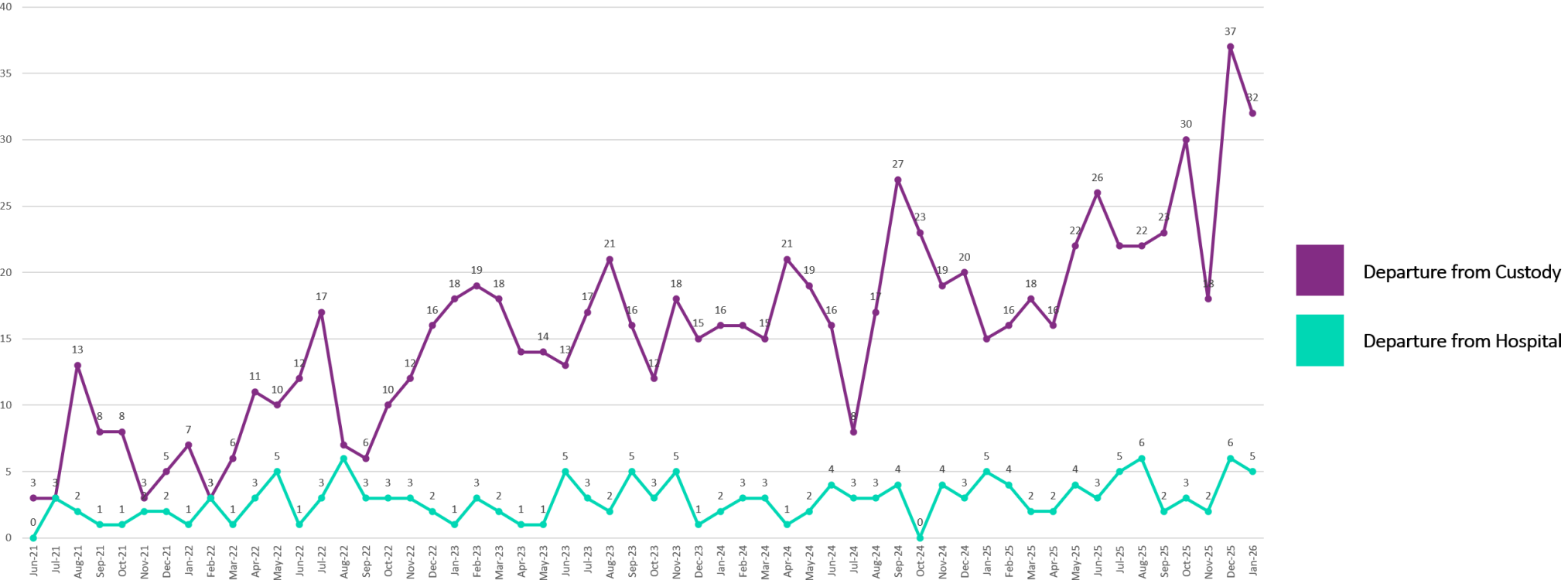
Homelessness in Buckinghamshire is also associated with support needs that can increase vulnerability to housing instability or make it harder to secure and sustain accommodation. The evidence identifies mental ill health, substance misuse, domestic abuse, learning disabilities, physical health needs, trauma, and transitions from care, prison or hospital as relevant factors. For some households these needs are recorded as direct causes of homelessness; for others they interact with affordability, housing supply and informal support networks.

Evidence from homelessness and outreach services indicates that accommodation outcomes can be affected by access to mental health, drug and alcohol, tenancy sustainment and specialist support. Care leavers, prison leavers, people leaving hospital and survivors of domestic abuse also appear in the evidence as groups where transitions between services can affect homelessness risk.

8.1 Leaving Institutions

People leaving institutions, particularly hospitals and prisons, are recognised nationally and locally as being at increased risk of homelessness if accommodation and support arrangements are not in place before discharge or release. Transitions from institutional settings can be complex, with individuals often facing multiple and interconnected needs relating to physical health, mental health, substance use, finances, employment, family relationships, or access to suitable housing. Housing evidence on institutional discharge should therefore be considered alongside health, criminal justice, safeguarding and support service data.

Leaving Institution Leading to Homelessness – Custody and Hospital 2021 - 2025



This chart shows homelessness linked to leaving institutions. Hospital discharge combines general hospitals and psychiatric institutions.

Notable metric: Custody accounts for 917 applications since 2021.

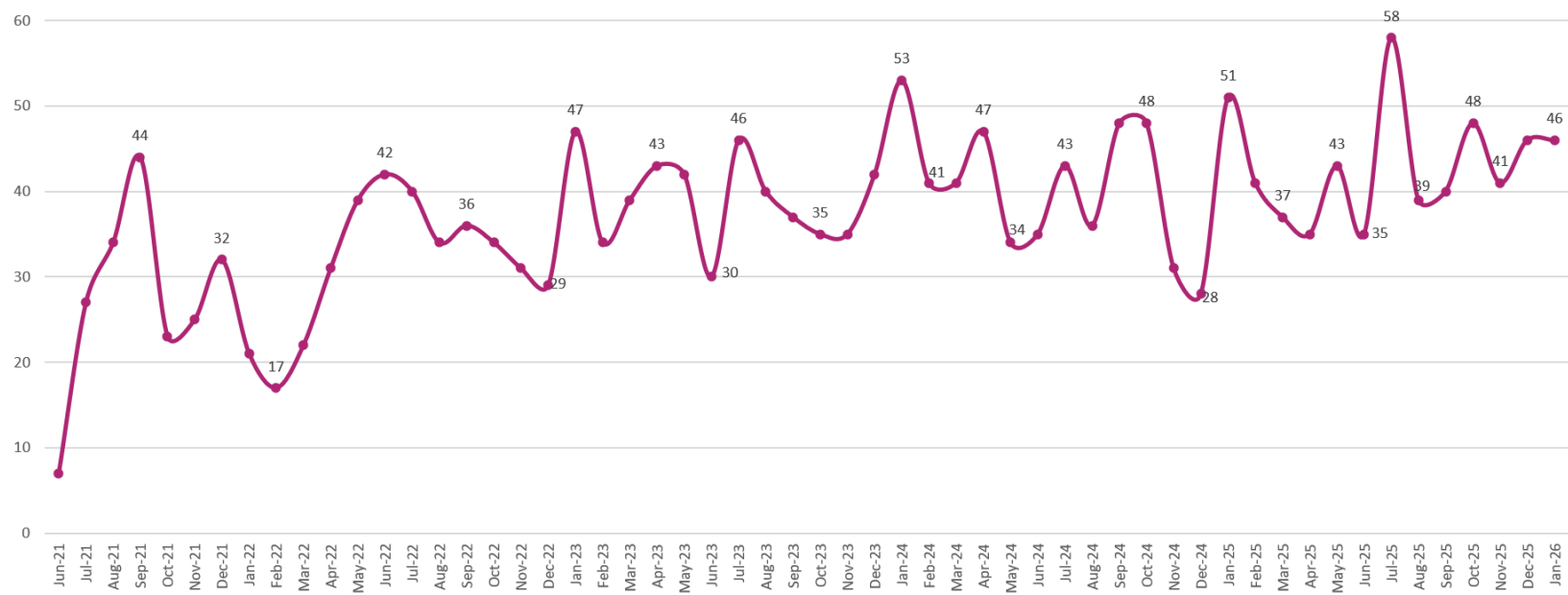
Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

8.2 Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is recorded nationally and locally as a cause of homelessness and a factor that can affect housing safety and stability. Survivors may need to leave home quickly, often with limited access to finances, documents or planned accommodation. Housing evidence on domestic abuse should therefore be read alongside safeguarding, community safety and specialist domestic abuse data.

Buckinghamshire benefits from a strong and established network of domestic abuse and sexual violence services. This includes refuge provision, a 24/7 access point, outreach support, specialist advocacy, and dedicated services for children and young people.

Domestic Abuse Leading to Homelessness – Victim/Survivor
2021 - 2025



This chart shows domestic abuse victim/survivor homelessness applications.

Notable metric: Peak monthly applications was during July 2025 (58).

Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

2,188

Victims/Survivor of
Domestic Abuse
Applications

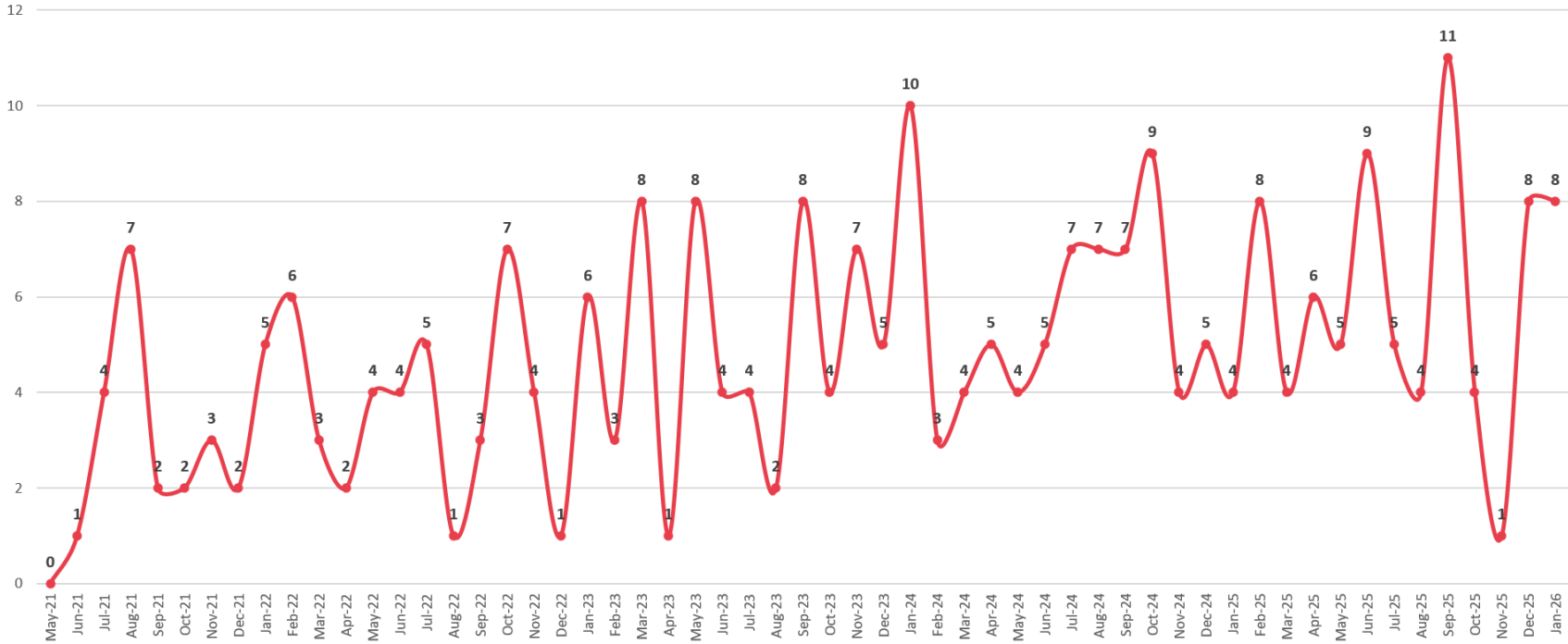
21%

Of All Reasons for Loss of
Settled Home Since 2021
(Victim Only)

+160%

Increase in Instances of
Domestic Abuse Related
Homelessness Since 2021

Domestic Abuse Leading to Homelessness – Alleged Perpetrator
2021 - 2025



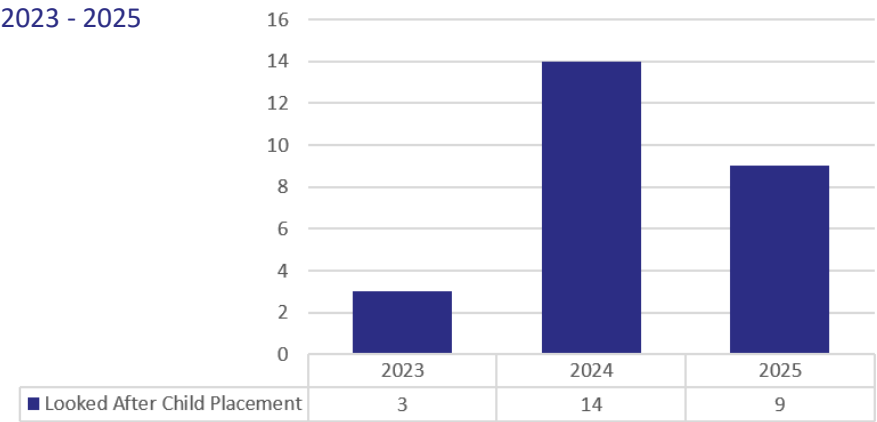
Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

8.3 Care Leavers

Care leavers are identified in national homelessness evidence as a group at increased risk during the transition to adulthood. Local evidence shows a care leaver population of 523 in Buckinghamshire, using data from the Placement and Homes Strategy for Children and Young People 2026 to 2030. Accommodation evidence for children placed as of September 2025 included in-house foster care, independent fostering agencies, residential placements, supported accommodation and parent and child placements. This indicates a range of accommodation pathways before and during transition to independence.

Leaving Care Leading to Homelessness – Looked After Child

2023 - 2025



This annual chart shows homelessness applications where the main reason for loss of settled home was linked to leaving care. **Notable metric:** total shown is 28 applications across the last 3 years.

Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council’s Housing Service Internal Data

Bucks Home Choice data extracted on 7 July 2026 shows care leaver demand within the housing register, including 44 live Band B applications and 10 under offer, alongside 38 live Band D applications. Under the Buckinghamshire Housing Allocations Policy, care leavers may be placed in Band D before age 18 to build priority time, with Band B priority available when they are 18 or older and ready for independent living. This provides evidence of a formal allocations route for care leavers, while also indicating ongoing demand for settled housing.

Joint working evidence includes a care leaver protocol between Housing and Children's Services, which is currently being updated, and a bi-weekly Children and Housing Care Leavers Panel. The panel monitors bidding and housing outcomes for Band B care leavers and identifies barriers that may affect access to social housing.

8.4 Young Adults

Young adults can face homelessness risks linked to family conflict, insecure work, low incomes, limited tenancy history and the affordability gap between entry-level earnings and market rents. In Buckinghamshire, high private rents, deposit requirements, guarantor requirements and Local Housing Allowance shortfalls are relevant factors when considering young adult housing insecurity.

The evidence suggests that young adult homelessness is linked to both housing affordability and transition points, including family, education, employment and support arrangements.

9 Equality and Protected Characteristics

Equality and protected characteristics are relevant to the homelessness evidence base because recorded needs and outcomes vary across different groups. In 2025, 1,572 applications recorded either a learning disability or physical ill health/disability support need, including 709 with a learning disability need and 1,135 with physical ill health/disability. Domestic abuse is also a recorded homelessness factor, with 2,188 victim/survivor cases recorded, rising from 198 in 2021 to 514 in 2025.

The evidence also shows wider vulnerability across homelessness pathways. National rough sleeping data shows 4,793 people sleeping rough in 2025, of whom 82% were male and 86% were aged 26 and over. Locally, relief duty data shows 662 cases ended after 56 days, 462 resulted in temporary accommodation provided by the local authority, and 76 ended with no fixed abode. These figures indicate the importance of monitoring outcomes by protected characteristics and support need.

9.1 Assessment Characteristics Tables

Data on initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed forms part of the Council's equality evidence base. Reviewing outcomes by protected characteristic helps identify patterns in the needs and circumstances of different groups. The tables below show breakdowns of key assessment characteristics.

Age of main applicants owed a prevention or relief duty ⁷ :		
16-17	0	0.0%
18-24	54	11.0%
25-34	141	28.7%
35-44	134	27.2%
45-54	78	15.9%
55-64	52	10.6%
65-74	25	5.1%
75+	8	1.6%
Not known	0	0.0%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Accommodation at time of application for those owed a prevention duty:		
Private rented sector	124	38.4%
Living with family	87	26.9%
No fixed abode	3	0.9%
Social rented sector	51	15.8%
Living with friends	19	5.9%
Homeless on departure from institution	15	4.6%
Rough sleeping	0	0.0%
Owner-occupier / shared ownership	10	3.1%
Temporary accommodation	9	2.8%

National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation	0	0.0%
Refuge	1	0.3%
Other / not known	4	1.2%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Household type of households owed a prevention duty ⁷ :		
Households with children (Families)	136	42.1%
Households without children (Single Households)	187	57.9%
Single parent with dependent children - Male	7	2.2%
Single parent with dependent children - Female	76	23.5%
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	0	0.0%
Single adult - Male	109	33.7%
Single adult - Female	55	17.0%
Single adult - Other / gender not known	0	0.0%
Couple with dependent children	45	13.9%
Couple / two adults without dependent children	17	5.3%
Three or more adults with dependent children	8	2.5%
Three or more adults without dependent children	6	1.9%
Not known	0	0.0%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Accommodation at time of application for those owed a relief duty:		
Private rented sector	12	7.1%
Living with family	29	17.2%
No fixed abode	31	18.3%
Social rented sector	11	6.5%
Living with friends	7	4.1%

Homeless on departure from institution	21	12.4%
Rough sleeping	37	21.9%
Owner-occupier / shared ownership	5	3.0%
Temporary accommodation	4	2.4%
National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation	2	1.2%
Refuge	4	2.4%
Other / not known	6	3.6%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Household type of households owed a relief duty ⁷ :		
Households with children (Families)	47	27.8%
Households without children (Single Households)	122	72.2%
Single parent with dependent children - Male	4	2.4%
Single parent with dependent children - Female	30	17.8%
Single parent with dependent children - Other / gender not known	0	0.0%
Single adult - Male	80	47.3%
Single adult - Female	38	22.5%
Single adult - Other / gender not known	2	1.2%
Couple with dependent children	11	6.5%
Couple / two adults without dependent children	2	1.2%
Three or more adults with dependent children	2	1.2%
Three or more adults without dependent children	0	0.0%
Not known	0	0.0%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Employment status of main applicants owed a duty ⁷ :		
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Registered unemployed	114	23.2%
Not working due to long-term illness / disability	81	16.5%
Full-time work	79	16.1%
Part-time work	39	7.9%
Not seeking work / at home	35	7.1%
Not registered unemployed but seeking work	27	5.5%
Retired	26	5.3%
Student / training	5	1.0%
Registered employed off work	17	3.5%
Working irregular hours	21	4.3%
Other	20	4.1%
Not known	28	5.7%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Sexual identification of main applicants owed a duty ⁷ :		
Heterosexual	390	79.3%
Homosexual (Gay/Lesbian)	4	0.8%
Bisexual	10	2.0%
Other	2	0.4%
Prefer not to say	86	17.5%
Not known	0	0.0%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Ethnicity of main applicants owed a prevention or relief duty ⁷ :		
White	322	65.4%

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	52	10.6%
Asian / Asian British	62	12.6%
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups	30	6.1%
Other ethnic groups	8	1.6%
Not known	18	3.7%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Support needs of households owed a prevention or relief duty ⁷ :		
History of mental health problems	134	27.2%
Physical ill health and disability	113	23.0%
At risk of / has experienced domestic abuse	58	11.8%
Offending history	47	9.6%
History of repeat homelessness	35	7.1%
Drug dependency needs	33	6.7%
History of rough sleeping	42	8.5%
Alcohol dependency needs	25	5.1%
Learning disability	72	14.6%
Young person aged 18-25 years requiring support to manage independently	8	1.6%
Access to education, employment or training	27	5.5%
At risk of / has experienced abuse (non-domestic abuse)	20	4.1%
At risk of / has experienced sexual abuse / exploitation	10	2.0%
Old age	14	2.8%
Care leaver aged 18-20 years	4	0.8%
Care leaver aged 21-24 years	2	0.4%
Care leaver aged 25+ years	7	1.4%
Care leaver aged 21+ years (retired option)	0	0.0%

Young person aged 16-17 years	5	1.0%
Young parent requiring support to manage independently	2	0.4%
Former asylum seeker	2	0.4%
Served in HM Forces	1	0.2%
Victim of modern slavery	3	0.6%
Difficulties budgeting	34	6.9%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

Households assessed as a result of a referral, including under the Duty to Refer		
Total households assessed as a result of a referral	190	100.0%
Total households referred under the Duty to Refer	102	53.7%
Adult Secure Estate (prison)	2	1.1%
Youth Secure Estate	0	0.0%
National Probation Service	51	26.8%
Community Rehabilitation Company	0	0.0%
Hospital A&E, Urgent Treatment Centres or in-patient care	10	5.3%
Mental Health in-patient care	5	2.6%
Jobcentre Plus	13	6.8%
Adult Social Services	7	3.7%
Children's Social Services	13	6.8%
Children's Early Help Services/Children's centres	1	0.5%
Nil Recourse Team	0	0.0%
Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the armed forces	0	0.0%
Not Known	0	0.0%
Households referred by an agency (not subject to the Duty to Refer)	88	46.3%
Households referred by another local authority	0	0.0%

Source: Detailed local authority level tables October to December 2025; MHCLG

10 Renters' Rights and Homelessness Evidence

10.1 The Renters' Rights Act

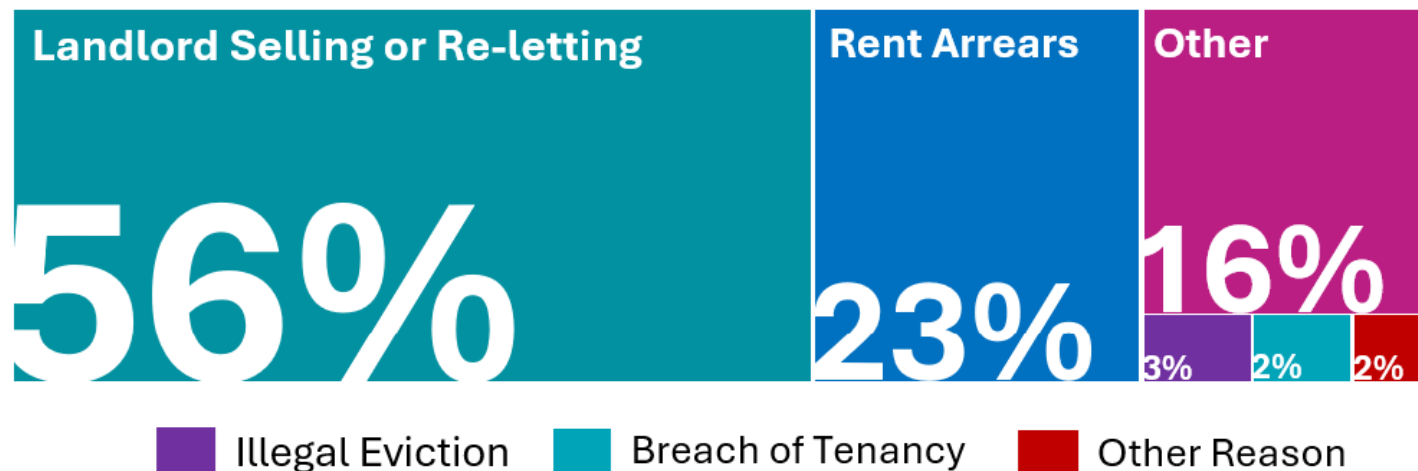
The Renters' Rights Act 2025 is relevant to this evidence base because the private rented sector is an important part of Buckinghamshire's housing system. The Act received Royal Assent in October 2025, with major tenancy reforms taking effect from 1 May 2026. Its main changes include the abolition of section 21 'no fault' evictions, the end of assured shorthold tenancies, and a move to a system in which most private tenancies are periodic. It also reforms possession grounds, limits rent increases to a statutory process, restricts rent in advance, bans rental bidding wars, strengthens protections against discrimination towards households with children or in receipt of benefits, and gives tenants a stronger basis to challenge poor practice without fear of retaliatory eviction.

10.2 Relevance to Homelessness Evidence

From a homelessness evidence perspective, the Act is relevant because it changes the legal framework for tenancy loss in the private rented sector. In Buckinghamshire, where high rents and limited affordable alternatives mean many households rely on private renting, the abolition of section 21 may reduce some forms of tenancy loss. However, lawful possession routes remain, including rent arrears, anti-social behaviour, sale of the property and landlord occupation. The reforms therefore sit alongside, rather than remove, wider affordability pressures.

10.3 Potential Impact on Homelessness Evidence

The potential impact of the Renters' Rights Act in Buckinghamshire is likely to vary by household and market segment. The abolition of section 21 may reduce some tenancy-loss presentations, but the Act does not remove affordability pressures or prevent all lawful possession action. In a high-cost rental market, households may still lose accommodation because of arrears, sale of the property, landlord occupation or inability to absorb rent increases.



883

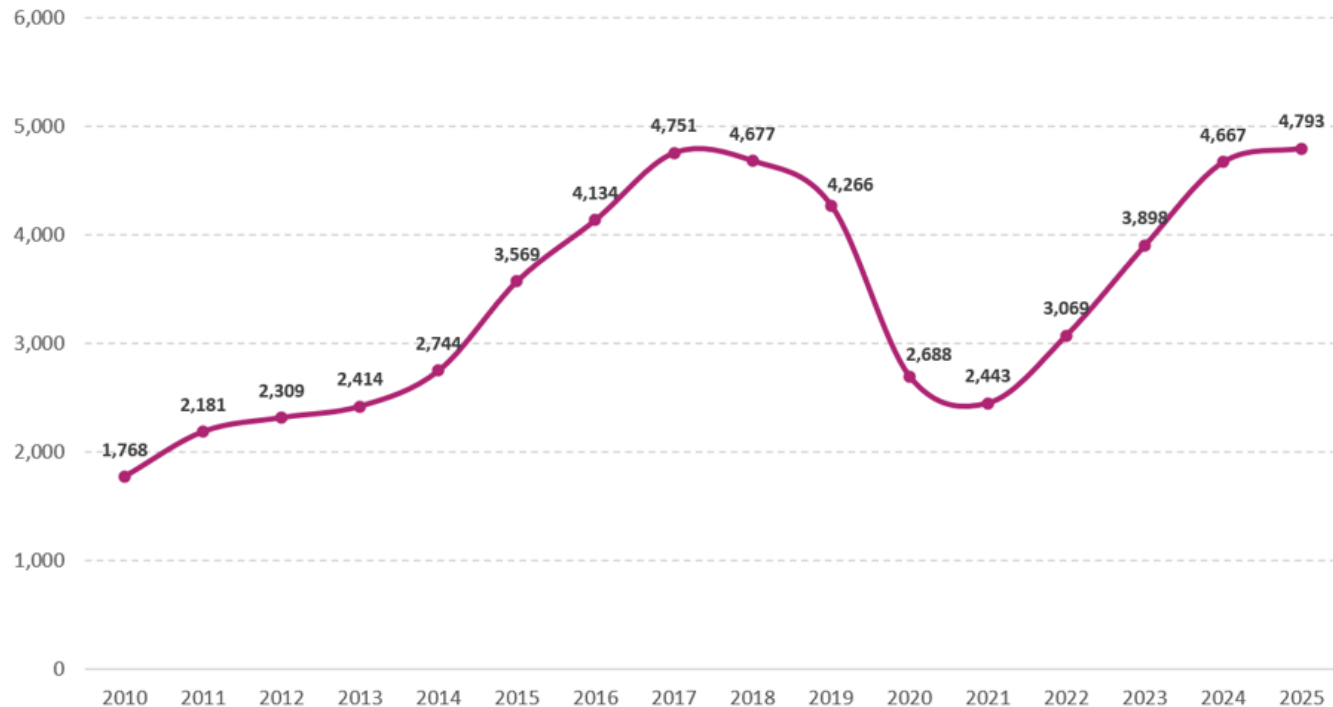
Average number of loss of
Assured Shorthold Tenancy
per year

11 Rough Sleeping

Rough sleeping is the most visible and acute form of homelessness, but it is only one part of the wider homelessness system in Buckinghamshire. The number of people sleeping rough on any one night is lower than the number experiencing other forms of homelessness, but rough sleeping carries significant risks for health, safety and long-term wellbeing. Local evidence includes outreach, emergency accommodation, reconnection, specialist support and move-on activity.

People Sleeping Rough in England – Autumn Snapshot

2010-2025



This line chart shows the official MHCLG autumn rough sleeping snapshot for England.

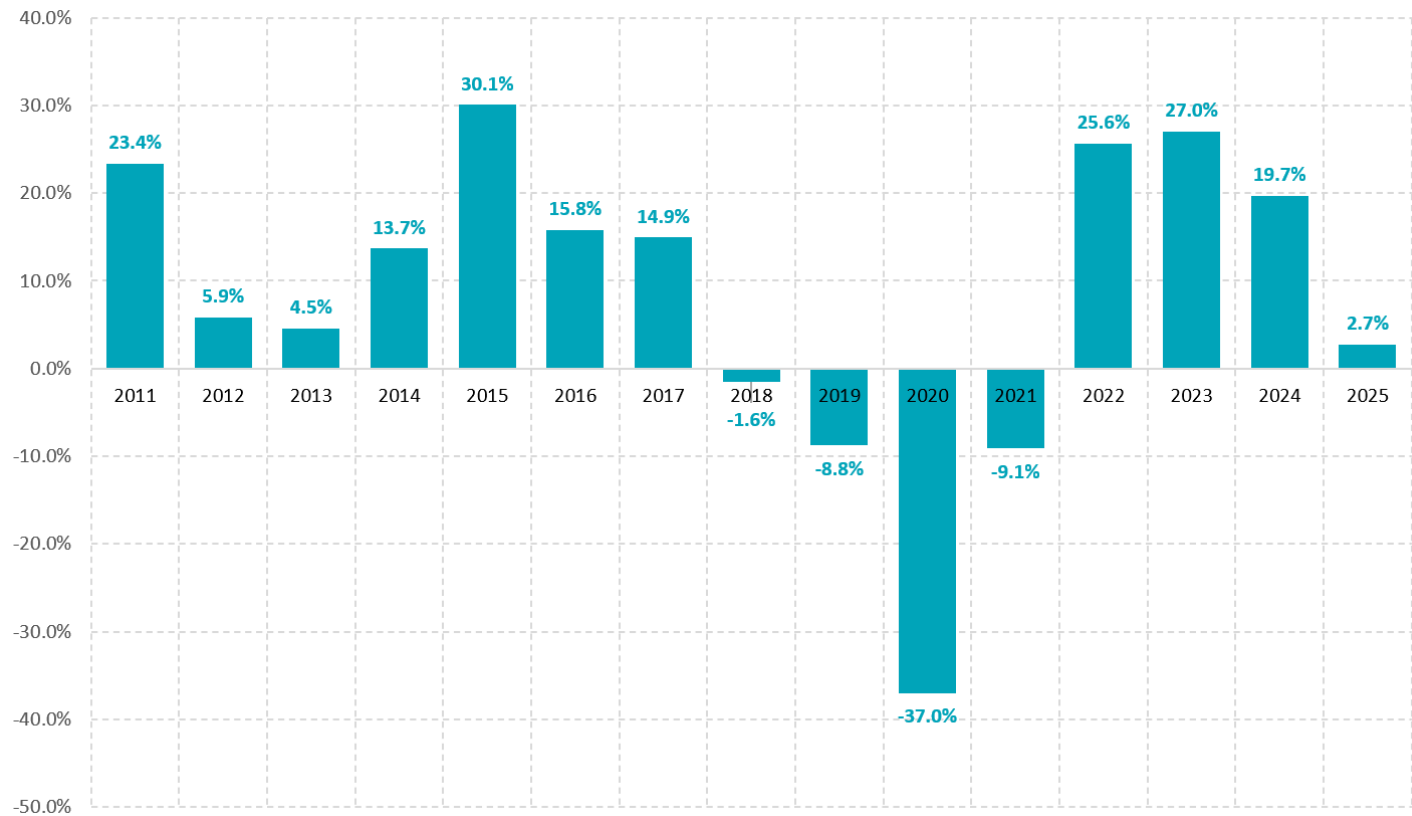
Notable metric: 2025 reaches 4,793 people, the highest point in the series.

Source: MHCLG rough sleeping tables.

11.1 Rough Sleeping National Picture

National rough sleeping in England remains very high: 4,793 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in autumn 2025, up 126 (+2.7%) from 2024 and 171% higher than 2010. London and the Southeast accounted for 43% of the national total, with London alone representing 27%. Most people recorded were aged 26 and over (86%), male (82%) and UK nationals (65%), highlighting sustained and concentrated pressure across the homelessness system.

Annual Change in Rough Sleeping in England – Autumn Snapshot
2011-2025

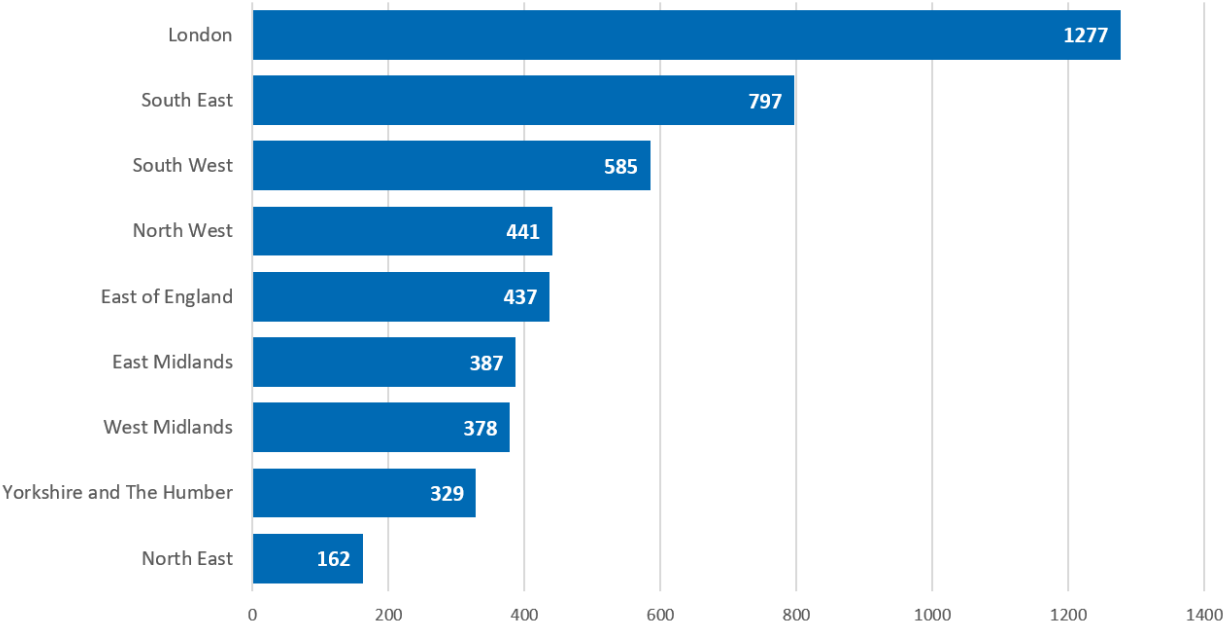


This chart shows annual change in the national rough sleeping snapshot.

Notable metric: +126 people from 2024 to 2025 (+2.7%).

Source: MHCLG rough sleeping tables.

Regional Distribution Rough Sleeping in England – Autumn Snapshot
2025



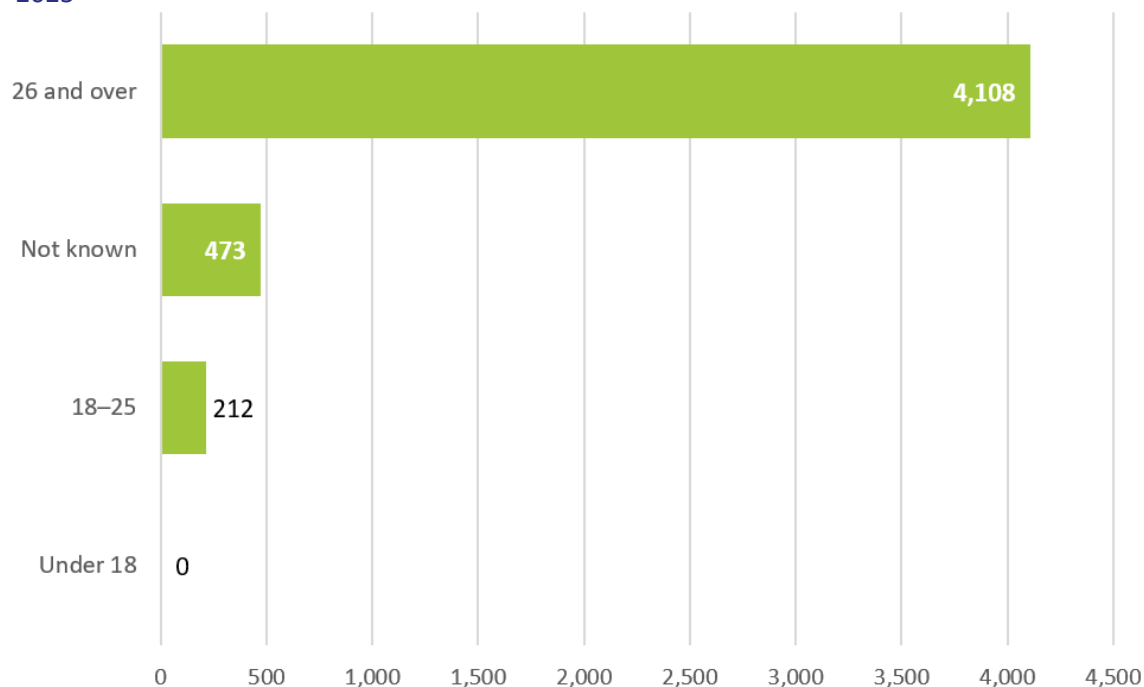
This chart shows regional change from 2024 to 2025.

Notable metric: North West had the largest increase at +74 people and the South East remains second highest to London.

Source: MHCLG rough sleeping tables.

People Sleeping Rough by Age - in England

2025



KEY STATISTICS

- **Age:** 86% were aged **26+** (4,108 people).
- **Young adults:** 4% were aged **18-25** (212 people).
- **Under 18:** 0 recorded.
- **Age not known:** 10% (473 people).
- **Gender:** 82% were **male** (3,938 people).
- **Female:** 15% (733 people).

People Sleeping Rough by Gender - in England

2025

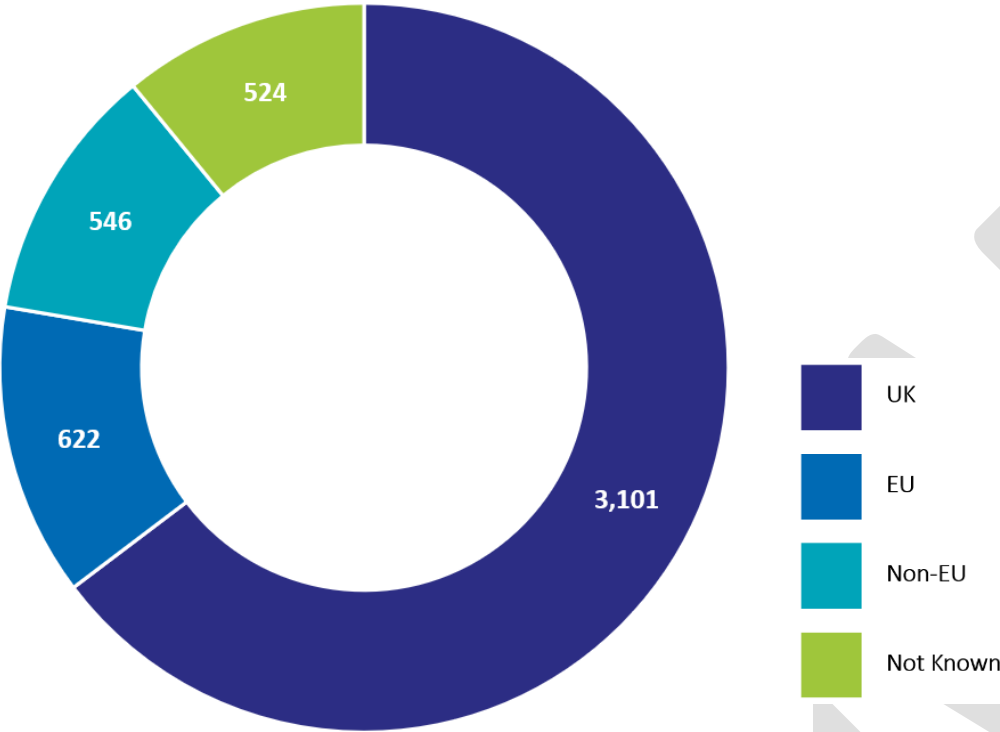


This chart shows recorded gender profile.

Notable metric: 3,938 people, or 82%, were recorded as male.

Source: MHCLG rough sleeping tables.

People Sleeping Rough by Nationality - in England
2025



This chart shows nationality breakdown.

Notable metric: UK nationals form the largest group at 3,101 people, or 65%.

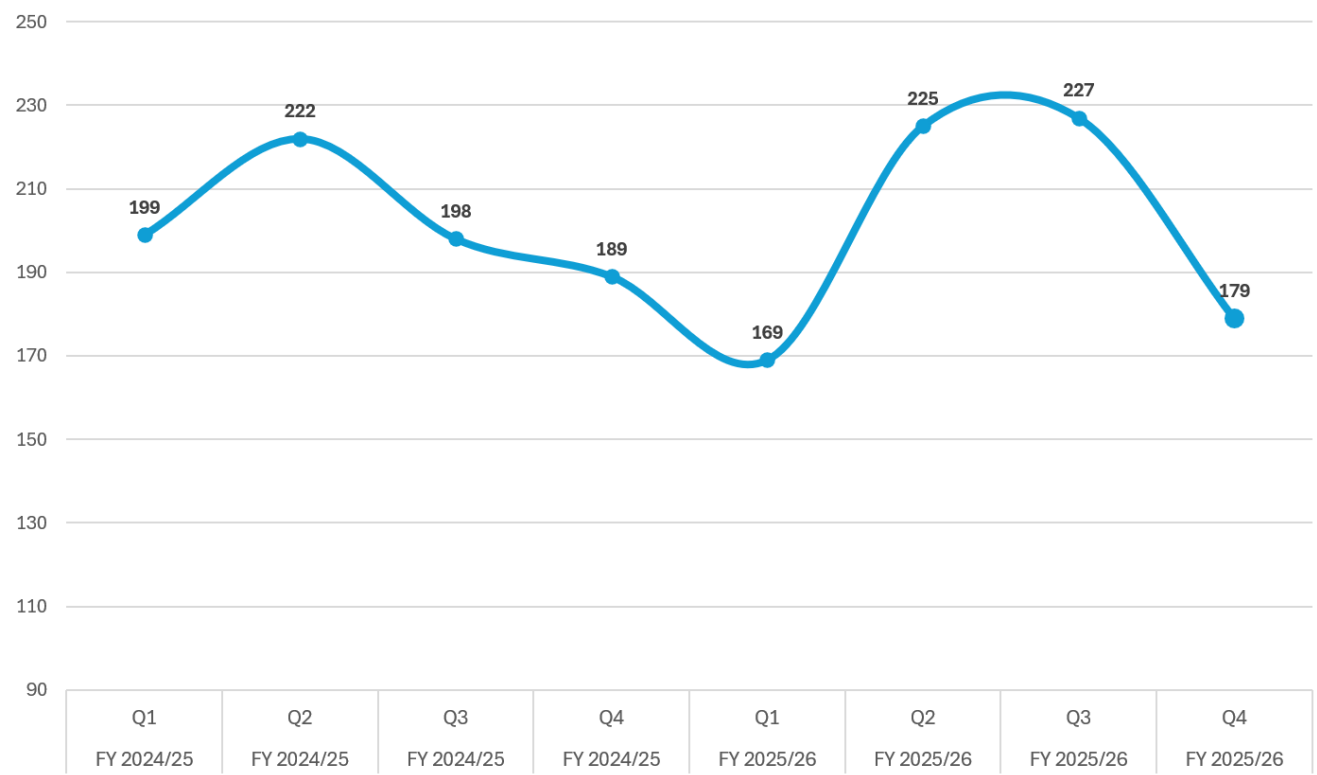
Source: MHCLG rough sleeping tables.

Overall, the 2025 national snapshots show rough sleeping remains a significant and persistent issue in England, with 4,793 people recorded sleeping rough — 171% higher than in 2010. The profile is predominantly adult and male, with 86% aged 26 and over and 82% male. Geographically, pressures are concentrated in London and the South East, which together account for 43% of the national total.

11.2 Rough Sleeping Referrals

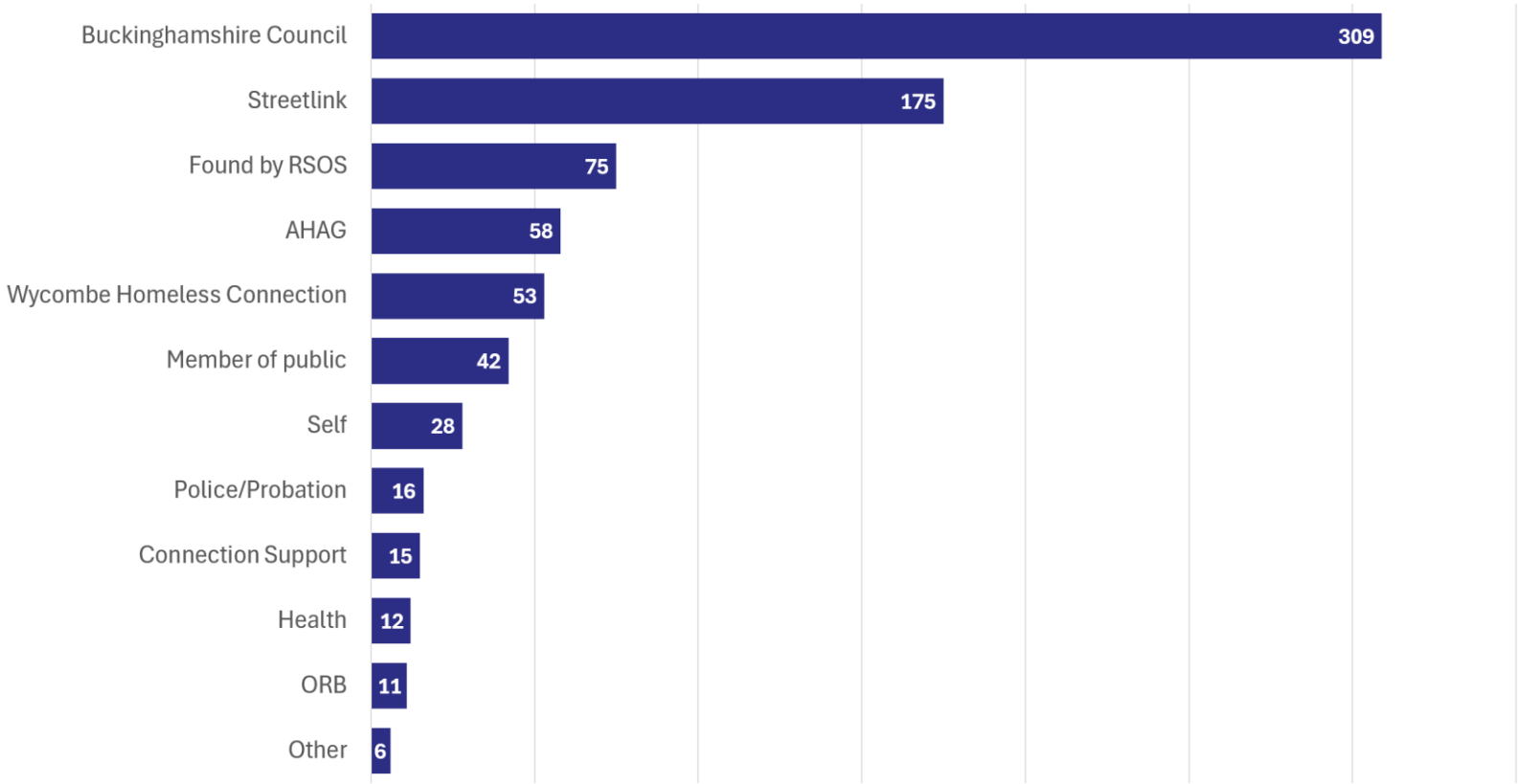
Rough sleeping referrals provide an indicator of visible street homelessness, public concern and the use of local reporting routes such as StreetLink, partner referrals and public reporting. Referral numbers should be interpreted carefully. A higher number may reflect increased rough sleeping, better public awareness, stronger outreach engagement, seasonal pressures, or repeated referrals for the same individuals. Referral data is most useful when read alongside verification outcomes, accommodation offers, repeat rough sleeping and longer-term sustainment.

Number of Referrals to Buckinghamshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Service
FY24/25 – FY25/26



Source: Connections outreach data, compiled through outreach activity and internal case management.

Source of Referrals to Buckinghamshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Service
2025/2026



Source: Connections outreach data, compiled through outreach activity and internal case management.

Rough sleeper referrals in FY 2025/26 show sustained demand across the year, with total referrals peaking in Q3 at 227 and remaining high in Q2 at 225. Wycombe recorded the largest annual volume of referrals, followed by Aylesbury and then Chiltern & South Bucks. Verification activity continued throughout the year, with 247 total verified cases overall.

National evidence links rough sleeping to relationship breakdown, institutional discharge, poor mental health, trauma, substance misuse and insecure accommodation. In Buckinghamshire, these factors should be considered alongside local affordability and low-cost accommodation constraints.

Evidence note: lived experience evidence should be reviewed alongside this section where further qualitative evidence is available.

11.3 Lived Experience and Local Picture

Engagement was undertaken with people who had lived experience of homelessness, rough sleeping or temporary accommodation. Feedback was gathered through voluntary and anonymous questionnaires, shared through third-sector organisations that provide homelessness and rough sleeping advice, guidance and support, and within Council-owned temporary accommodation. This approach provided a confidential and accessible way for people to share their experiences.

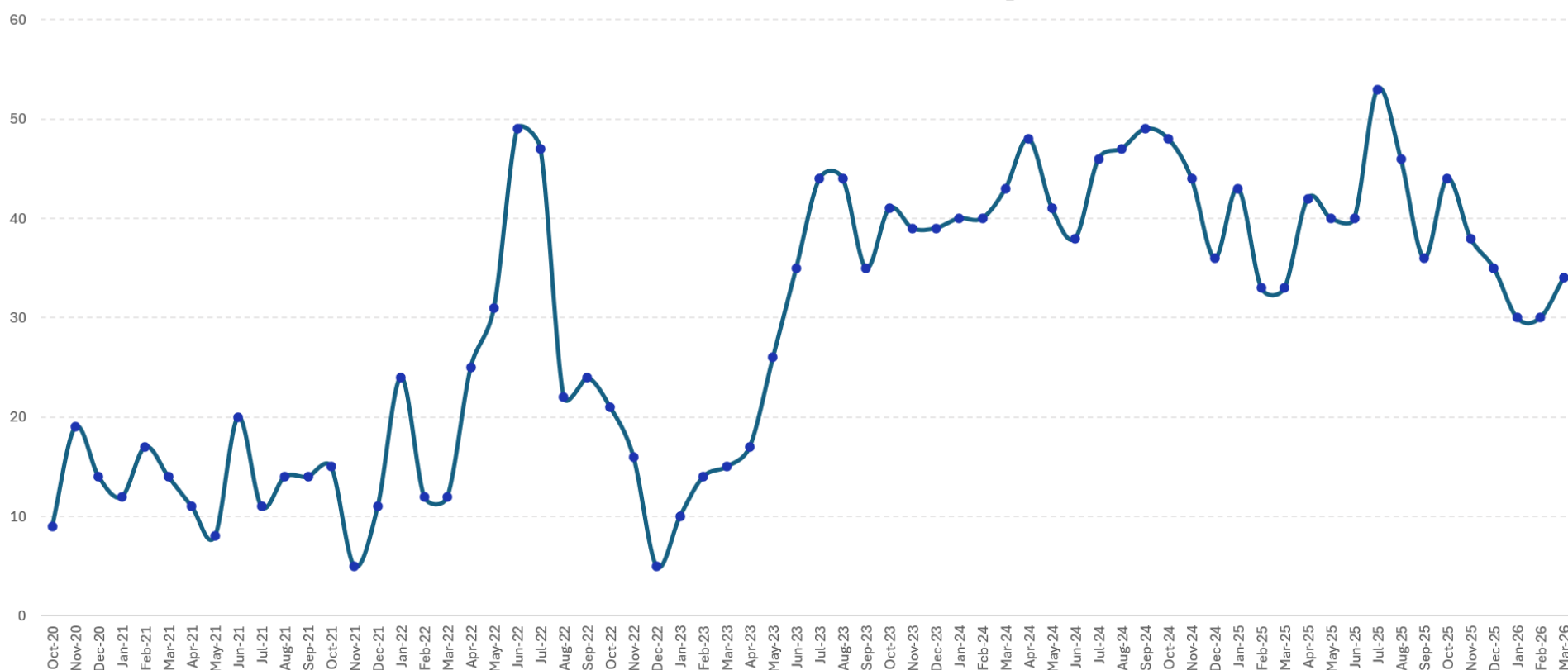
20 responses were received from the intended audience. Given that people affected by homelessness may face practical, personal or trust-related barriers to taking part in engagement activity, these responses provide valuable qualitative insight. Respondents identified issues relating to support access, temporary accommodation, housing options services and wider support networks. Feedback referred to supportive and approachable staff, alongside challenges relating to communication, service consistency and support tailored to individual circumstances. This evidence should be read alongside the wider quantitative data presented within this review.

Overall Experience	
Overall Satisfaction with the Homelessness and Housing Services	88% satisfied or very satisfied
Communication	
Communication	80% found information clear
Next Steps Explained	95% understood next steps

Communication Speed	85% satisfied
Response and Resolution	
Service Response	85% positive response
Timeliness	85% timely
Case Progression	75% progressed effectively
Information, Advice & Signposting	
Advice Received	80% right advice
Rights and Options	90% informed
Empathy & Understanding	
Staff Listening	90% felt listened to
Staff Empathy	90% positive
Dignity and Respect	92% positive
Temporary Accommodation (if applicable)	
Accommodation Suitability	80% satisfied
Accommodation Safety	100% safe/very safe
Needs Considered	90% yes/partly

People Recorded Rough Sleeping Rough During the Month - in Buckinghamshire

2020 - 2026

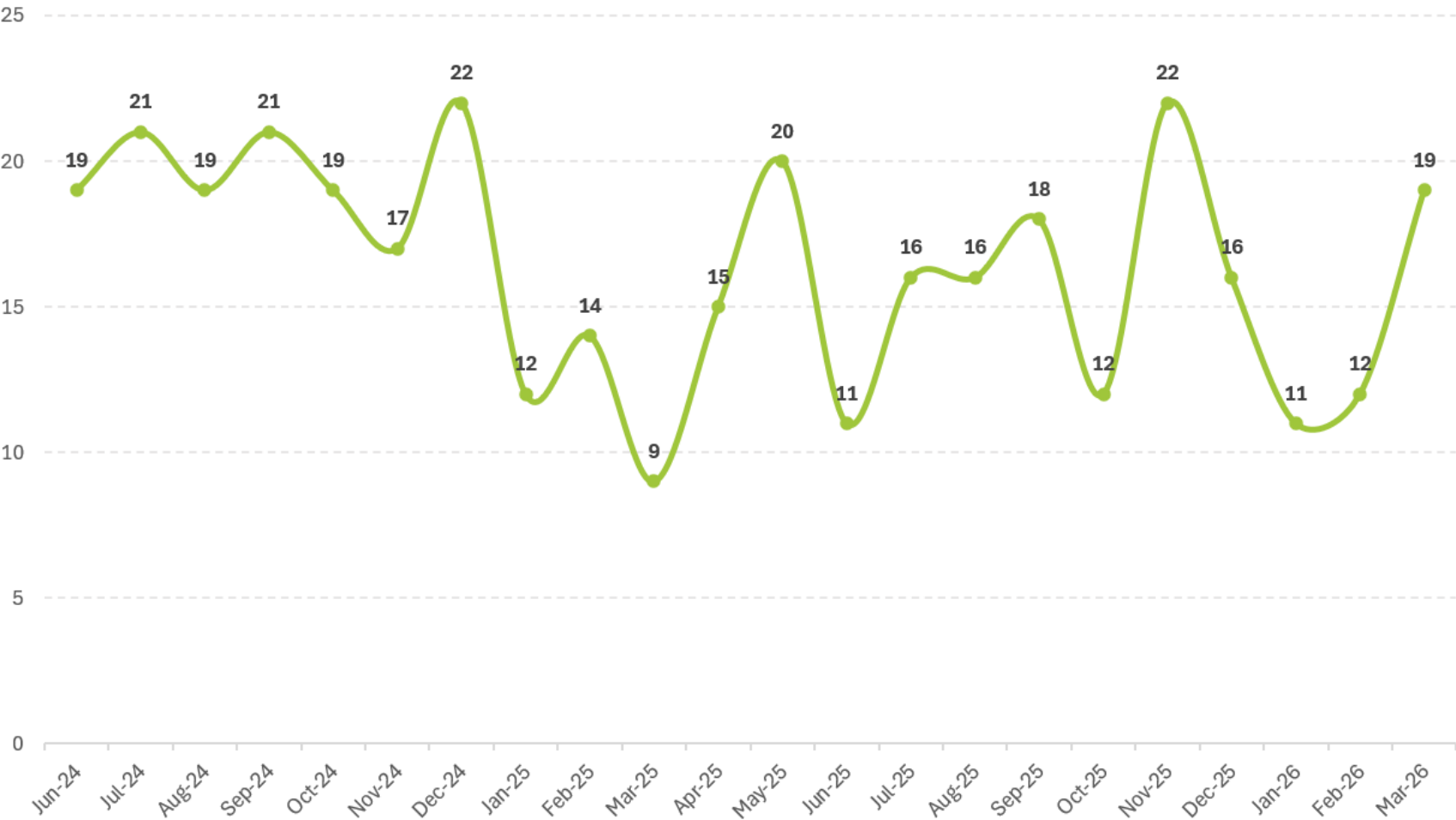


Source: MHCLG rough sleeping live tables.

In March 2026, 34 people were recorded sleeping rough in Buckinghamshire over the course of the month. This is below the recent 12-month average of 39, and lower than the peak of 53 in July 2025. Monthly counts have generally sat in the 30–50 range, showing that rough sleeping is relatively small in absolute numbers but persistent over time. The single-night figure was 14 in March 2026, which is lower than the over-month count because it captures only those sleeping rough on one specific night rather than everyone recorded during the month.

People Recorded Rough Sleeping on a Single Night - in Buckinghamshire

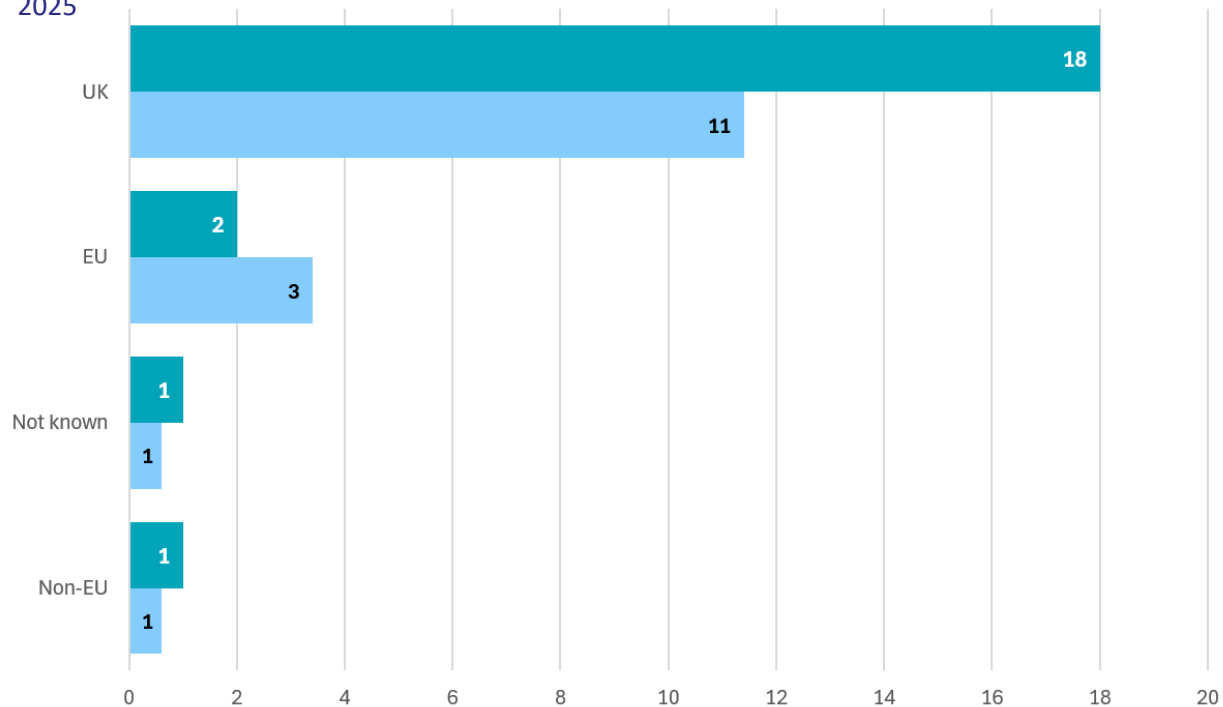
2024 - 2026



Source: MHCLG rough sleeping live tables.

Nationality of People Rough Sleeping in 2025 vs 5-year Average - in Buckinghamshire

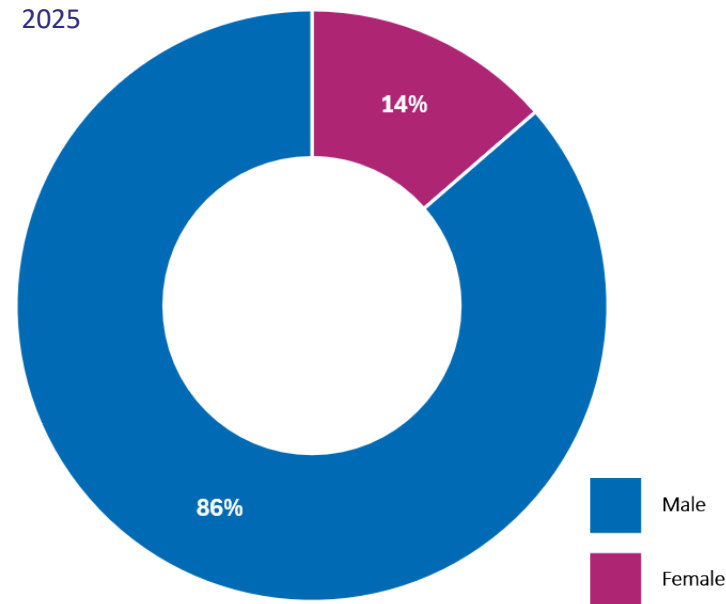
2025



Source: MHCLG rough sleeping live tables.

Gender of People Recorded Rough Sleeping - in Buckinghamshire

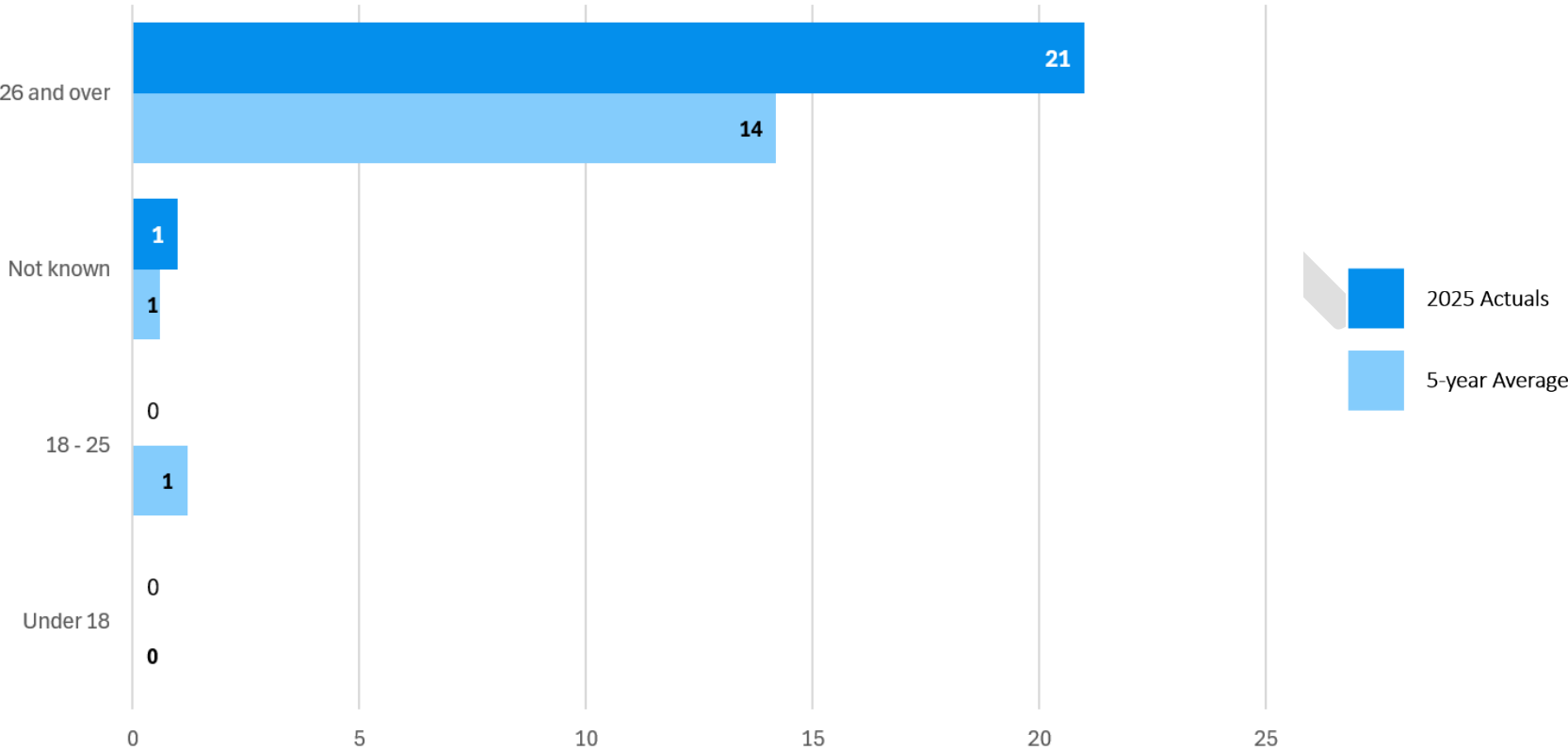
2025



KEY STATISTICS

- Latest rough sleeping over-month count: 34
- 12-month average: 39
- 12-month peak: 53
- Rough Sleepers Accommodated, Mar-26: 12
- Long-term rough sleeping, Mar-26: 9
- Returning to rough sleeping, Mar-26: 1
- Mar-26 nationality: 31 UK, 1 EEA, 2 Non-EU

Age of People Rough Sleeping in 2025 vs 5-year Average - in Buckinghamshire
2025



This chart compares the 2025 age profile of people sleeping rough with the average annual count across 2021–2025.

Notable metric: 26 and over: 21 people in 2025, compared with a 5-year average of 14.2.

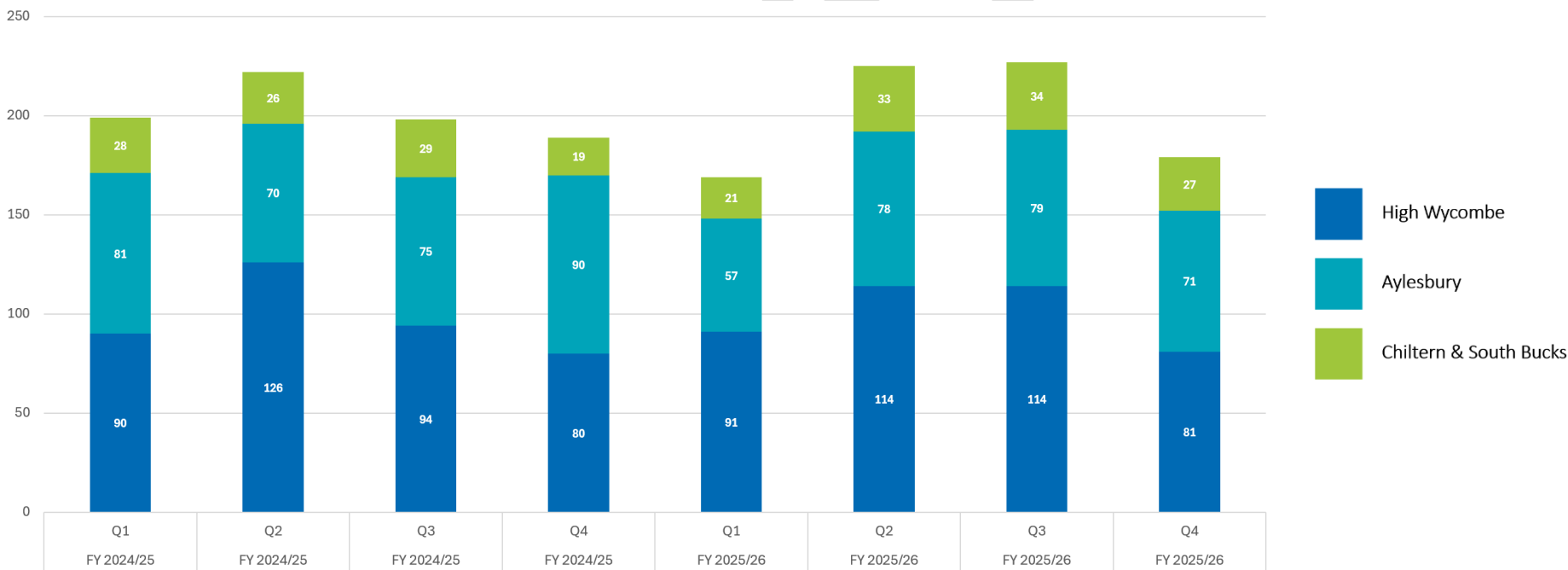
Source: MHCLG rough sleeping live tables.

11.4 Key Drivers and Risk Factors

People who sleep rough rarely do so for a single reason. The evidence points to a combination of structural and personal factors, including unaffordable housing, relationship breakdown, institutional discharge, poor mental health, trauma, substance misuse, insecure immigration or financial circumstances, and repeated exclusion from mainstream services. In Buckinghamshire, high housing costs and limited low-cost accommodation can intensify these risks, particularly for single adults with limited access to family or formal support.

Referral sources show most demand coming from Buckinghamshire Council services (309) and StreetLink (175), followed by cases found by the Rough Sleeper Outreach Service (75). This indicates that rough sleeping risk is identified through statutory routes, public reporting and outreach activity. Lower referrals from health, self-referral and police/probation may indicate lower levels of identification through these pathways.

Location of Referrals to Buckinghamshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Service
FY24/25 – FY25/26



Source: Connections outreach data, compiled through outreach activity and internal case management.

11.5 Outreach, Verification and Engagement

Outreach provides direct contact with people sleeping rough or believed to be sleeping rough. It supports verification, risk assessment, engagement and connection to accommodation, health care, safeguarding and longer-term support. In Buckinghamshire, outreach evidence may include referral volumes, verification rates, repeat contact, accommodation outcomes and barriers to engagement.

Connections provides an extended outreach service that identifies and engages people sleeping rough. Outreach workers conduct early morning visits to known sleep sites and make initial contact, offering immediate support and linking individuals into relevant services. The service maintains records to inform system coordination and provide housing officers with up-to-date information for statutory duties.

The outreach team also gathers information to support assessments and contributes to multi-agency working through Rough Sleeper Initiative meetings, providing case insight and supporting coordinated responses.

Buckinghamshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Statistics
FY25/26



Source: Connections outreach data, compiled through outreach activity and internal case management.

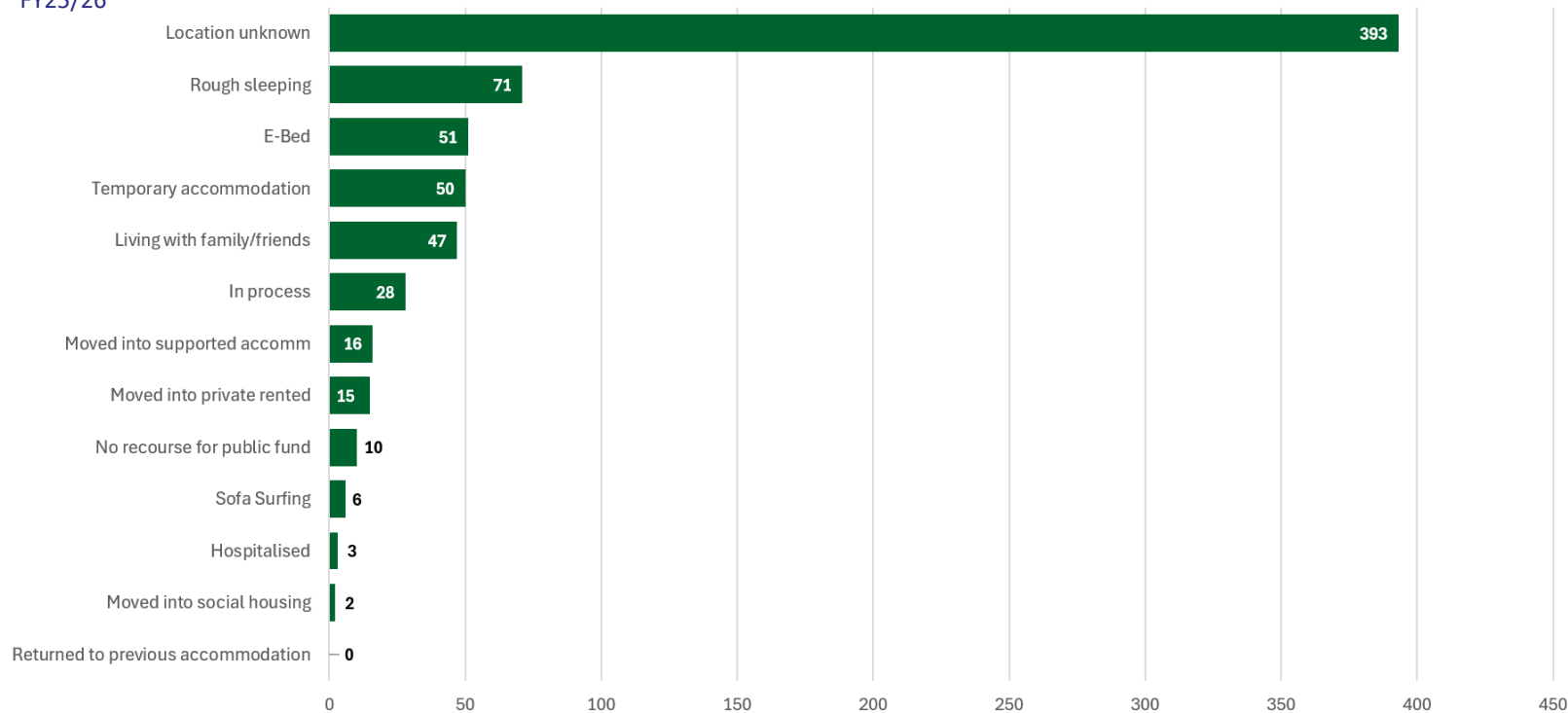
11.6 Accommodation and Move-On Evidence

Accommodation and move-on evidence is relevant to rough sleeping because street exits do not always indicate sustained housing outcomes. Factors affecting sustainment include the suitability and safety of accommodation, access to support, mental health and substance misuse needs, offending history, income, and availability of longer-term move-on options.

Move-on evidence shows recorded accommodation outcomes including temporary accommodation (50), living with family or friends (47), and emergency beds (51). Location unknown (393) and rough sleeping (71) remain significant recorded categories. The data shows a mixed picture of accommodation outcomes and unresolved cases.

Outcome of Referrals to Buckinghamshire Rough Sleeping Outreach Service

FY25/26



Source: Connections outreach data, compiled through outreach activity and internal case management.

12 Bucks Home Choice and Move-On Pathways

Bucks Home Choice is Buckinghamshire Council's choice based lettings scheme for allocating social and affordable housing across the county. Because the Council does not hold housing stock directly, the scheme operates through partnership with registered providers and is the main route through which eligible applicants can access most affordable rented homes. It is relevant to the evidence base because allocations affect move-on from temporary accommodation, access to settled housing and the availability of prevention and relief options.

The effectiveness of choice-based lettings is constrained by the underlying supply of affordable housing in Buckinghamshire. Council guidance notes that demand for social housing is very high, not everyone will qualify to join the register, and many applicants can expect to wait several years for an offer, particularly larger families. Recent changes to the Housing Allocations Policy have also affected eligibility and priority for some homelessness-related groups, including households in temporary accommodation and those with assessed homeless need.

Table 1: Overall housing register position

Reporting point	Live applications	Applications under offer	Quarter	Source
July 2026	5,060	336	Q1 2026/27	Locata Application Based Report, pulled Q1 26/27

Table 2: Housing register applications by band / priority

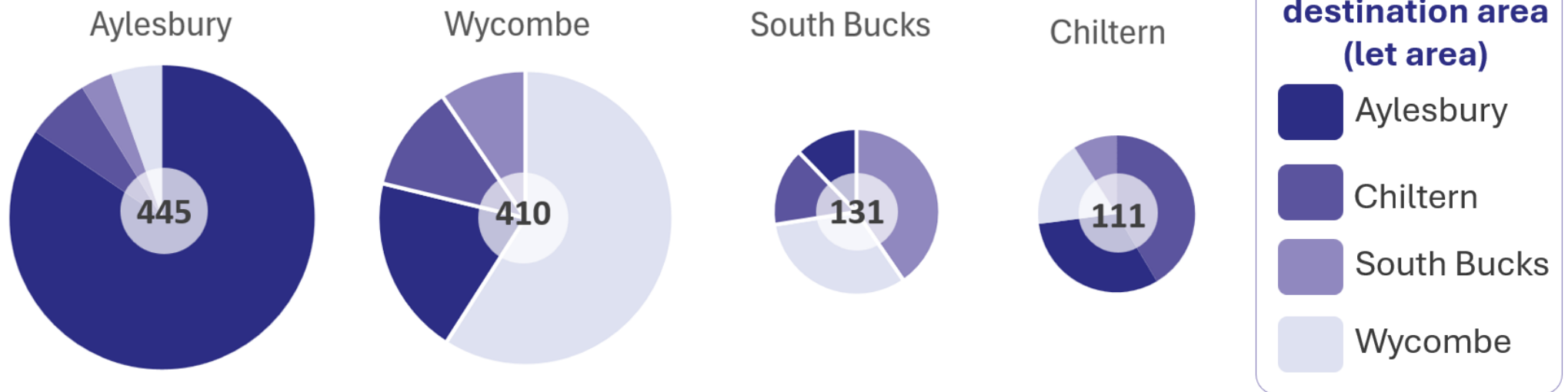
Band / priority	Live applications	Applications under offer	Total
Band A	276	48	324

Band B	1,941	170	2,111
Band C	646	90	736
Band D	901	9	910
Band E	1,295	17	1,312
Awaiting band assessment	1	2	3
Total	5,060	336	5,396

Table 3: Homeless households on the housing register			
Measure	Count	Definition / note	Source
Homeless households on BHC	415	Households in Band B, live or under offer, due to being owed a homelessness duty	Locata Application Based Report, Q1 26/27

To Note: There are limitations to the historical data available through Locata, as changes made to the system during the 2024 Allocations Policy review and subsequent re-registration process affect the extent to which data can be reliably accessed and compared over time.

Bucks Home Choice new lets by client's original housing area

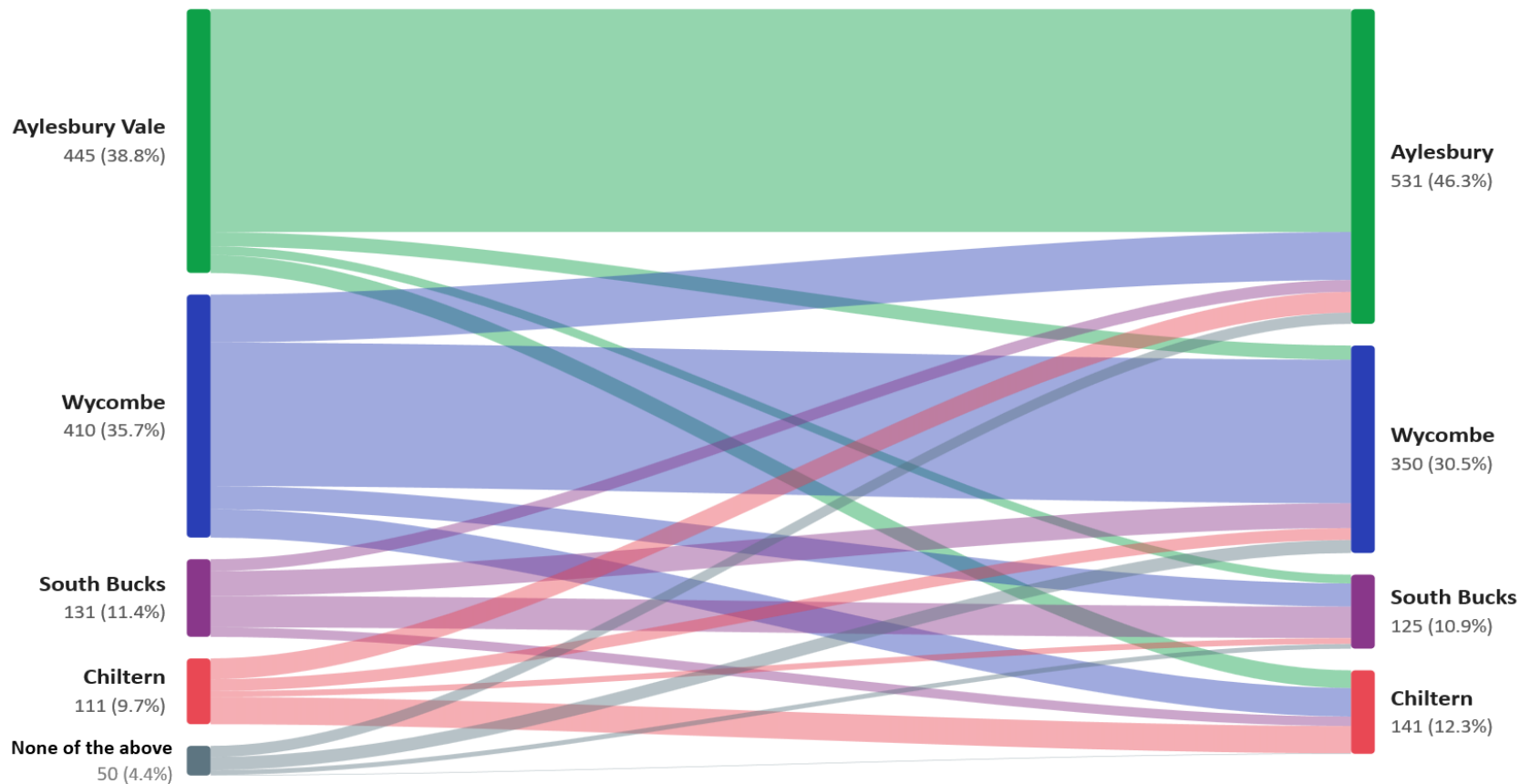


This infographic displays the geographical movement from the client's original address to their new let location. This shows geographic fluidity in multiple areas of Buckinghamshire.

Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service Internal Data

Sankey Diagram: BHC Application Location - Secured Housing Location

BHC Lettings FY25/26



Source: Locata – Buckinghamshire Council's Housing Service Internal Data

12.1 The Role of Bucks Home Choice in the Homelessness System

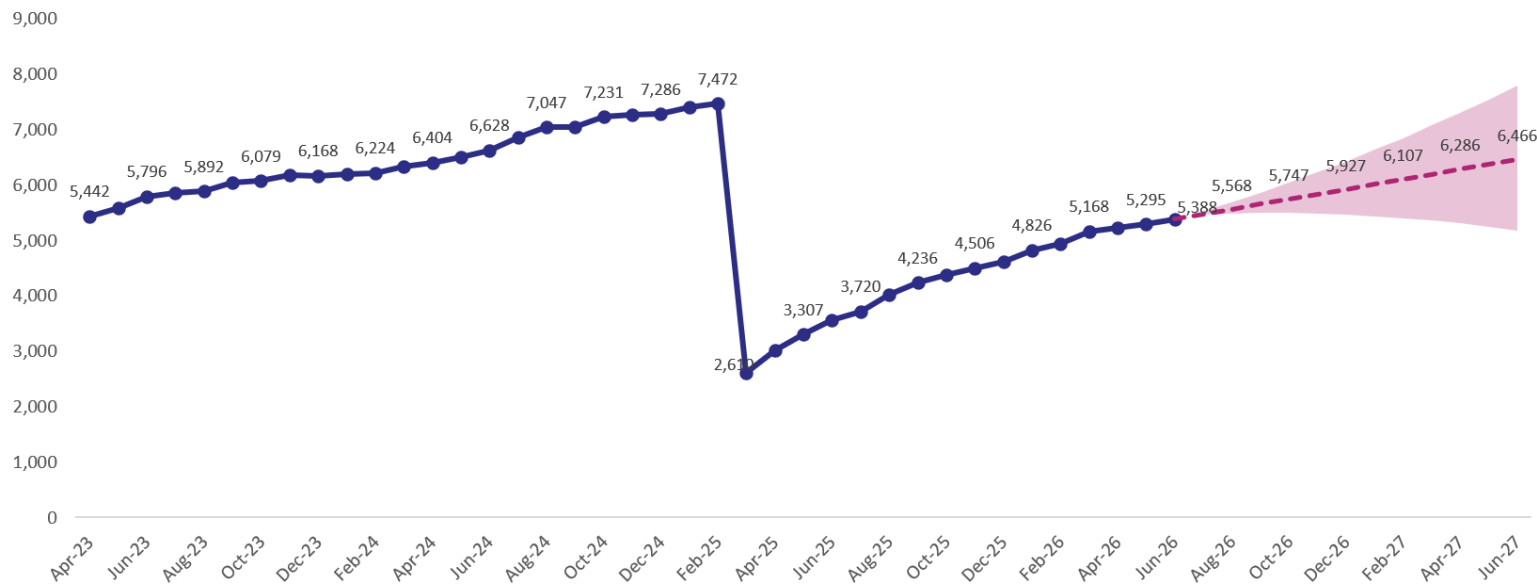
Choice based lettings is one of the mechanisms through which households move from homelessness or housing insecurity towards settled accommodation. Its relevance to this evidence base lies in access to scarce social and affordable homes, waiting times, bidding outcomes and the realism of move-on routes for

households in temporary accommodation. Where access is limited or waiting times are long, pressure can be seen elsewhere in the system, including temporary accommodation and the private rented sector.

12.2 Access, Waiting Times and Household Experience

For many households, the experience of choice based lettings is shaped by waiting time and the availability of suitable homes. Applicants may wait months or years before securing an offer, particularly where they require larger family accommodation, accessible homes or properties in specific locations. During this period, households may remain in temporary accommodation, continue to sofa surf, or occupy homes that are unaffordable or unsuitable. The housing register also indicates continuing pressure, with 5,388 people on the BHC Register in June 2026 and forecasts suggesting this could rise to around 6,466 by June 2027, pointing to growing future demand.

Bucks Home Choice Housing Register 1-Year Forecast – ETS 1-Year Training Model



This chart shows actual households on the housing register and forecast demand using an Estimate to Complete forecast model. It includes all bands, including Band E.

Notable metric: the 2026 forecast total is 3,899 assessments.

Source: Locata, Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data.

12.3 Evidence Links with Prevention and Move-On

Bucks Home Choice is linked to homelessness evidence because allocations, temporary accommodation, private rented sector access and affordable housing supply interact. The availability and timing of social housing offers affects move-on from temporary accommodation and the extent to which homelessness duties can be resolved through settled accommodation. The evidence should therefore be read alongside temporary accommodation duration, household size, property type, nominations and affordable housing delivery data.

13 Affordable Housing and Homelessness Evidence

Access to affordable homes is a long-term factor in homelessness prevention, relief and move-on in Buckinghamshire. Demand for social and affordable rented homes remains high, while the number of properties becoming available each year is limited. This affects waiting times, temporary accommodation duration, move-on options and reliance on the private rented sector.

Where affordable housing supply is constrained and turnover is low, households may remain longer in temporary accommodation, rely on private rented options where affordability is weaker, or remain in overcrowded or insecure arrangements. Affordable housing evidence is therefore relevant to the wider homelessness evidence base, particularly where it relates to property size, location, tenure and nominations.

13.1 Supply, Turnover and the Scale of Constraint

The central evidence issue is the relationship between demand for affordable homes and the flow of homes becoming available. Supply constraints arise from both new delivery and turnover in existing stock. Larger family homes, accessible homes and lower-cost rented products are often particularly scarce. Where supply remains constrained, this is reflected in longer temporary accommodation stays, reduced move-on options and greater reliance on the private rented sector.

13.2 Affordable Housing and Homelessness Evidence

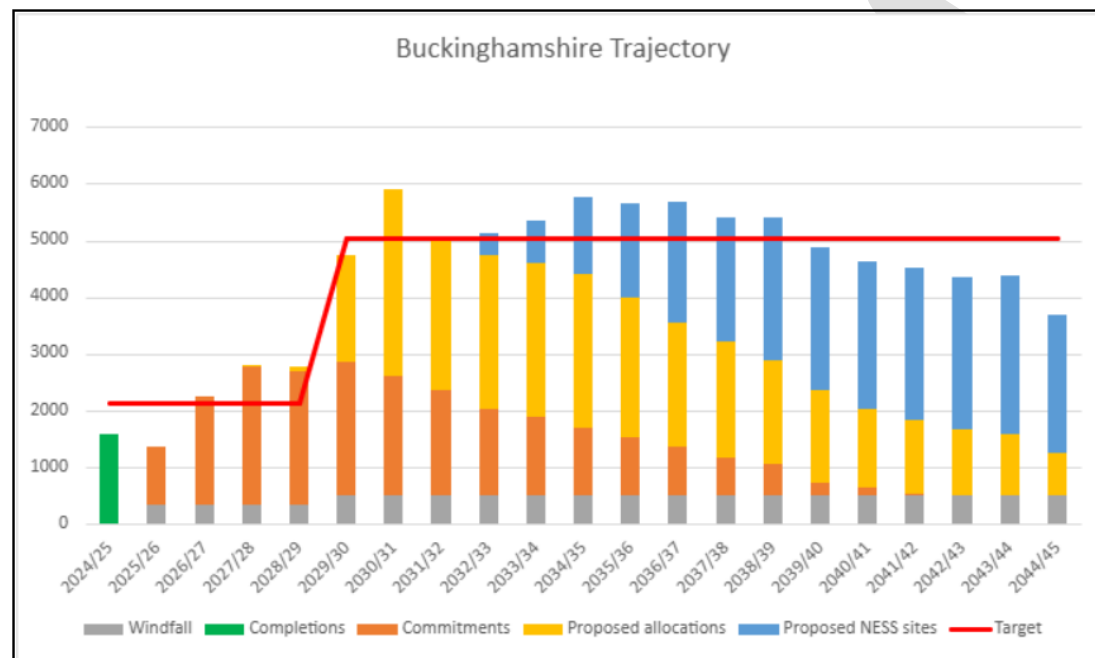
Affordable housing is relevant to homelessness evidence because it provides lower-cost housing options for households unable to access or sustain market housing. Affordable housing can support prevention where it helps households avoid crisis, and it can support move-on where households are already in homelessness services. In Buckinghamshire, high market rents and house prices increase the importance of lower-cost rented options within the overall housing evidence base. Buckinghamshire Council relies on registered provider partners to deliver new affordable homes.

Affordable homes delivered by year and tenure (social rent, affordable rent, shared ownership and other tenures):

	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	Shared Ownership	Total
20/21	51	325	157	533
21/22	16	568	175	759
22/23	39	264	159	462
23/24	47	278	227	552
24/25	30	178	83	291
25/26	46	168	98	312

Source: GOV.UK live tables on affordable housing supply.

Pipeline of affordable housing delivery and expected delivery over the strategy period, showing the trajectory for all housing delivery:



Source: Buckinghamshire Local Plan trajectory and five-year housing land supply, 2026.

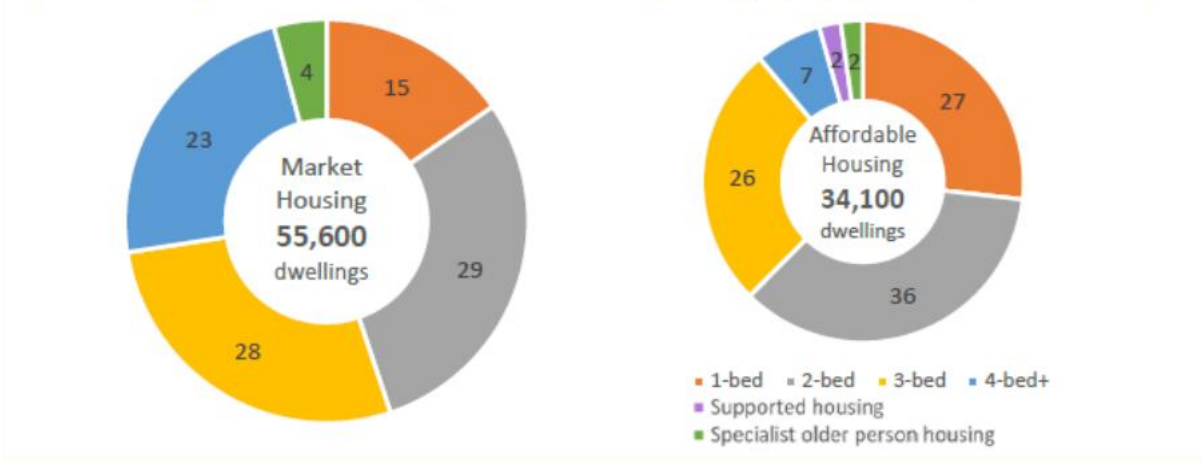
There are c.38k affordable homes projected to be delivered during the plan period (existing commitments 21,600 houses; recently approved schemes c.1,700 on large spec schemes; and allocations 14,800). This roughly equates to 38% of the total housing need.

Year	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Total Delivery Trajectory	2,788	2,785	4,729	5,901	5,016
Affordable Housing*	1,059	1,058	1,797	2,242	1,906

The detailed projection is not available for affordable housing, this is based on taking a straight 38% against the requirement.

Bedroom size mix - Percentage mix of affordable housing and Market Housing by property type and size

Figure 7: Percentage mix of Market Housing and Affordable Housing need by property type and size (Source: ORS Model)



Source: Future need from the LHNA

Accessible/adapted homes delivered:

2024/25	26 M4(3) homes
2025/26	23 M4(3) homes

Source: Buckinghamshire Council Housing Service internal data collection.

Proportion available for nominations:

Buckinghamshire's standard nomination agreement provides 100% nomination rights for first lets and 75% nomination rights for subsequent lets.

Private rented sector

Average rents by property size and locality:

Figure 31: House prices and weekly rent thresholds in Buckinghamshire (Source: Price Paid Data, HM Land Registry; House Price Statistics, Price Index of Private Rents, ONS; Statistical Data Return, Regulator of Social Housing)

House Prices and Rents	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4+ bedrooms
HOMEOWNERSHIP				
Lower quartile house price for existing dwellings	£188,343	£271,827	£381,497	£638,811
Lower quartile house price for newly built dwellings	£279,869	£387,888	£422,116	£586,786
Equity based on 50% of house price for newly built dwellings	£139,934	£193,944	£211,058	£293,393
WEEKLY RENT				
Lower quartile private rent	£206.60	£250.99	£302.61	£392.64
Affordable Rent	£168.15	£204.86	£241.79	£300.81
Social Rent	£127.24	£139.15	£152.69	£174.25

Source: Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) 2025

Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates compared with market rents:

Most of Buckinghamshire is covered by two Broad Rental Market Areas: Aylesbury and Chilterns.

BRMA	Shared (£/wk)	1 Bed (£/wk)	2 Bed (£/wk)	3 Bed (£/wk)	4 Bed (£/wk)
Aylesbury	101.87	184.11	228.99	306.08	379.73
Chilterns	120.82	195.62	253.15	333.70	460.27

The Local Housing Needs Assessment notes that there are notable geographic variations in the nature of the private rented sector across Buckinghamshire. Wycombe (in Chiltern BRMA) is characterised by a high concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and its LHA rates are more closely aligned with market rents. In contrast, Aylesbury tends to offer more two-bedroom and family-sized homes; however, lower LHA rates in the area make affordability more challenging for benefit-dependent tenants.

Number/proportion of properties affordable within LHA:

New s106 agreements have rents capped to LHA rates for affordable housing for rent.

- PRS eviction/notice data:

Measure	Buckinghamshire
Households repossessed by county court bailiffs following a Section 21 ("no-fault") eviction notice in the 12 months to June 2025	64 households
Accelerated possession claims made by landlords under Section 21 in the same period – not all resulted in eviction	205 claims

Source: Bucks Herald, "Dozens of no-fault evictions by bailiffs reported in Buckinghamshire".

Affordability for low-income working households:

Figure 32: Annual household income thresholds for housing options in Buckinghamshire by number of bedrooms

(Note: Calculated based on the house prices and rents set out in Figure 31)

Annual Household Income Affordability Thresholds	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4+ bedrooms
ANNUAL INCOME TO AFFORD TO OWN <i>based on 10% deposit and 3.5x mortgage multiplier</i>				
Market Home Ownership	£48,431	£69,898	£98,099	£164,266
Affordable Home Ownership	£35,983	£49,871	£54,272	£75,444
ANNUAL INCOME TO AFFORD TO RENT <i>based on 35% of gross income (without housing benefit)</i>				
Market Rent	£30,800	£37,418	£45,114	£58,536
Affordable Rent	£25,068	£30,541	£36,046	£44,845
Social Rent	£18,969	£20,745	£22,763	£25,978

Source: Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) 2025)

14 Resource Assessment

This section maps current service provision, partnership arrangements and recorded delivery evidence relevant to Buckinghamshire's homelessness and rough sleeping system. It also identifies areas of pressure against current provision when considered alongside forecast demand. The purpose is to describe the existing resource base and identify evidence of pressure or gaps.

14.1 Current Service Provision

Buckinghamshire Council delivers statutory homelessness and rough sleeping functions within the framework of the Housing Act 1996, the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The service provides advice and information, homelessness assessment, prevention and relief casework, Personal Housing Plans, temporary accommodation placement and management, move-on support, rough sleeping response links and access to wider housing options. This provision covers the main statutory stages of homelessness prevention, crisis response and move-on.

The service works with households at different stages of housing insecurity. This includes households threatened with homelessness, households already homeless, households in temporary accommodation, people sleeping rough or at risk of rough sleeping, and households needing support to secure or sustain accommodation. Recurring homelessness, life skills, employment, health, debt, family support and tenancy sustainment are also relevant service considerations.

Temporary accommodation is part of the current resource base and is used where households are owed statutory assistance and no suitable alternative is immediately available. Current activity includes work to manage temporary accommodation demand, improve move-on and reduce reliance on higher-cost nightly paid provision.

14.2 Current Housing and Homelessness Service Provision

The Housing and Homelessness Service was restructured in August 2025. The current structure provides the staffing and functional resource used to respond to homelessness demand, including prevention and advice, statutory assessment, temporary accommodation placement, housing options, complex casework, allocations and move-on support.

The service is structured around the homelessness pathway, with teams aligned to different points of demand and casework activity.

Housing Officers provide casework across prevention, relief, assessment, temporary accommodation and move-on pathways. The service structure provides evidence of the current staffing and functional resource available to respond to homelessness demand.

Prevention and Advice Team – focuses on early intervention to prevent homelessness wherever possible. The team provides debt and financial inclusion support, addresses rent arrears, works with landlords, attends court where appropriate, and helps residents access Discretionary Housing Payments and other financial assistance to sustain accommodation and avoid crisis.

Assessment and Placements Team – delivers statutory homelessness assessments, Personalised Housing Plans and temporary accommodation placements. The team manages Council-owned temporary accommodation alongside partner provision, assesses placement requirements and supports move-on into settled housing through dedicated resettlement activity.

Housing Options Team – manages Bucks Home Choice and the allocation of social housing in line with the Council's allocations policy. The team maintains the housing register, assesses applications, advertises properties, and supports access to longer-term housing. This includes work with private landlords through the Bucks Let schemes to increase private rented housing opportunities and close working with registered providers.

Housing Complex Cases and Specialist Team – provides intensive support for households with multiple or complex needs. Working closely with partner agencies, the team coordinates support, manages high-risk cases, reduces barriers to accommodation, and helps people achieve sustainable housing outcomes.

Performance information is monitored through a homelessness dashboard covering demand, outcomes, temporary accommodation use and expenditure. This provides evidence for operational oversight, resource monitoring and the assessment of service pressures over time.

14.3 Resource Map

Area of provision	Current resource	Evidence of pressure or gap
Prevention and Relief	Prevention and Relief activity is delivered through the Housing and Homelessness Service using an operating model based on an average caseload of around 40 prevention and relief cases per officer.	Forecast demand, case complexity and the mix of high-support and lower-risk cases may affect capacity.
Temporary Accommodation	275 listed units, alongside use of a Temporary Accommodation Framework for nightly paid accommodation.	Demand, cost, suitability, length of stay and move-on constraints remain key pressure points.
Supported Housing	Supported accommodation and emergency bed spaces across commissioned and partner provision.	Pressure is linked to rough sleeping, complex needs, young people, move-on and sustainment.

Disabled Facilities Grants and adaptations	DFG activity includes 271 completions in 2025/26 and 294 grants approved in 2024/25.	Demand is affected by Occupational Therapy waiting times, ageing population pressures, disability-related housing need and scheme complexity.
Partnership support	Commissioned services, voluntary and community sector provision, Homelessness Forum activity and links with health, social care, domestic abuse, probation and registered providers.	Pressure relates to coordination, capacity, early identification and access to specialist support.
Allocations and move-on	Bucks Home Choice, registered provider nominations, private rented sector routes and affordable housing delivery.	Waiting times, supply, turnover, property size, affordability and accessible housing availability affect system flow.

14.4 Funding

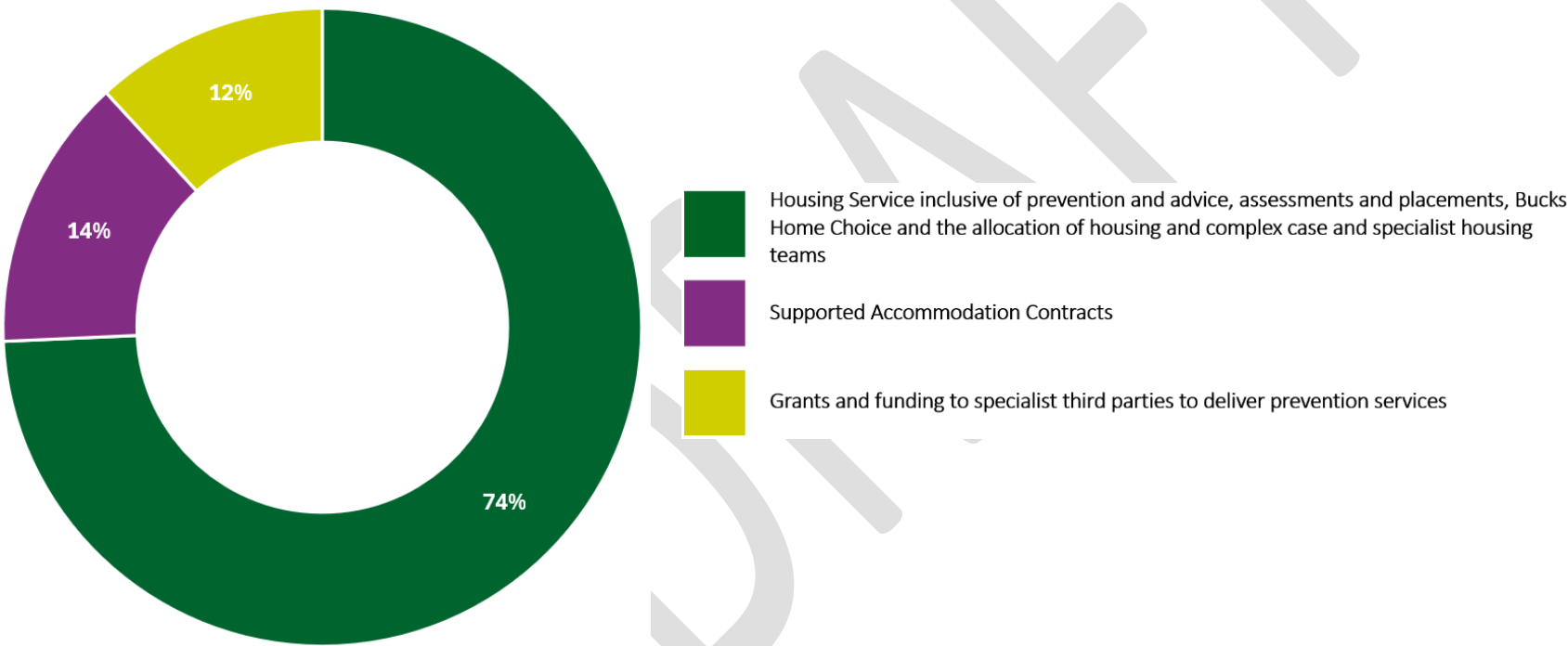
Homelessness and rough sleeping services in Buckinghamshire are supported through a combination of government grant funding, council investment and partnership resources. National funding streams, including targeted homelessness and rough sleeping grants, sit alongside council resources used to commission and provide outreach, prevention, accommodation support and access to the private rented sector. Partner organisations also contribute specialist expertise, frontline capacity and additional support across the local system.

The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant awarded to Buckinghamshire provides multi-year funding linked to homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse safe accommodation activity. This funding forms part of the current resource base considered within this evidence review.

Year	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping, Domestic Abuse Grant TOTAL	Funding for homelessness and rough sleeping	Funding for Renters' Rights Act 2025 New Burdens	Funding for Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant
Financial year 2026/27	£5.4m	£4m	£240k	£1.1m

Financial year 2027/28	£5.5m	£4.1m	£120k	£1.2m
Financial year 2028/29	£5.6m	£4.3m	£0	£1.2m
Total Allocation Financial Years 2026–29	£16.5m	£12.5m	£360k	£3.7m

Housing Service Spend
2026/2027



14.5 Temporary Accommodation and Supported Housing Provision

The following overview maps current Housing and Homelessness Service functions against the main homelessness pathway, including prevention and advice, statutory assessment, temporary accommodation, housing options, complex casework and move-on support. It is included to show the current resource base and how existing provision aligns with the main points of demand identified in this evidence base.

The Prevention and relief activity is delivered through the Housing and Homelessness Service, with staffing and casework capacity kept under review against demand, case complexity and forecast pressures. The operating model is based on an average caseload of around 40 cases per officer, recognising that caseloads include a mix of complex, high-support cases and lower-risk cases requiring less intensive intervention. This caseload assumption relates to Prevention and Relief duties only and does not include households owed the Final or Main Housing Duty. It provides a useful benchmark when considering whether current staffing capacity is aligned with forecast prevention and relief demand.

Buckinghamshire Council has an established Temporary Accommodation Framework through which nightly paid accommodation is procured. The framework provides flexibility to respond to fluctuations in demand by increasing or reducing provision as required. Accommodation procured through the framework is assessed for suitability, with input from Environmental Health where appropriate, including consideration against the Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

Site	Units
Griffin Place (Council owned, RP lease)	100
Bridge Court (Council owned and provided)	54
Registered Provider dispersed stock	44
Saunderton Lodge (Council owned and provided)	34
Tom Scott House	20
Walters Court (Council owned and provided)	14
Winton Cottage (Council owned and provided)	2
Langtons Meadow	2
Saunderton Bungalow 1 (Council owned and provided)	1
Saunderton Bungalow 2 (Council owned and provided)	1

Queen Street (Council owned and provided)	1
Withycroft	1
Coles Avenue	1
Total	275

Supported Housing

Supported accommodation provides a housing option for residents who require additional support to maintain accommodation or move towards independent living. It forms part of the local homelessness system by providing accommodation and support pathways for people at risk of homelessness, people sleeping rough and people with support needs.

Supported Accommodation (council funded)	Bed spaces
Bearbrook Place	36 beds in total: • 12 beds for 18-25yr olds • 24 beds for 18-65yr olds
One YMCA	53 beds
Old Tea Warehouse	60 beds in total: • 42 beds: high need • 18 beds: medium
Young Person's Service (Reedham House and 6 Chesham flats)	15 beds in total: • 9 bed hostel at Reedham House • 6 move on flats in Chesham
Coombe Lodge	42 beds in total: • 28 high needs • 14 medium needs

Emergency Beds (E-Beds)	13 beds in total

The Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act 2023 is relevant to this evidence base because it introduces national standards, licensing arrangements and greater local authority oversight for supported housing. The Act may strengthen local understanding of supported housing provision, including quality, suitability and the relationship between supported accommodation and longer-term housing stability. Buckinghamshire Council is also undertaking a Housing Needs Assessment for supported accommodation provision.

Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

DFG waiting times for adults via occupational therapists (OT) is approximately 6 months in Buckinghamshire. In 2025/2026 a total number of 271 completions were achieved.

Grant delivery by key stages		
Stage 2 delivery	Average (mean) number of working days for stage 2 in 2024-25: from identification of the relevant works (usually receipt of an assessment/referral from an Occupational Therapist or Trusted Assessor) to submission of the grant application.	204
Stage 3 delivery	Average (mean) number of working days for stage 3 in 2024-25: from submission of the grant application to grant approval	10
	Total number of grants approved in 2024-25	294
	Number of grants approved in 2024-25 where payment was deferred (under section 36 of the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996)	0

Grant delivery by key stages		
Stage 4 delivery	Average (mean) number of working days for stage 4 in 2024-25: from grant approval to the certified date of the completed works	140

Prevention and Front-Line Specialist Services

A range of frontline prevention and specialist services operate across Buckinghamshire. These services provide early advice, housing-related support and tailored assistance to individuals and households at risk of homelessness. They form part of the current prevention and support resource base considered in this review.

Service (Frontline And Prevention)	Provider	Summary of service
Rough Sleeper Outreach Service	Connections Support	• Make contact with rough sleepers in the Buckinghamshire Council area • Provide effective early intervention • Early morning verifications • Assess the needs of each individual and offer them options for support and accommodation services
Homelessness Prevention and Advice support service	Wycombe Homeless Connection and Aylesbury Homeless Action	• Emergency shelter and housing assistance • Early advice and guidance for those at risk of homelessness • Access to food and clothing • Supporting people to access healthcare services • Supporting people to access counselling and mental health support • Supporting people to access Employment and job training programs • Advocacy and legal support

Service (Frontline And Prevention)	Provider	Summary of service
Young People Homeless Advice and Support Service (13-25)	Youth Concern	• Supporting young people to access emergency accommodation • Supporting young people to access counselling and mental health support • Supporting young people to access education and training programs • Supporting young people to access employment support • Advocacy and legal support
Homelessness support for those fleeing domestic abuse	Wycombe's Women's Aid	• Provision of a women's refuge • Practical and emotional support services • 1:1 support sessions • Counselling services • Homelessness advice • Group work sessions
Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme	Wycombe Rent Deposit Scheme	• Support households across Buckinghamshire in accessing private rental accommodation • Comprehensive support to ensure successful tenancy and housing stability

Homelessness Forum

Partnership working is established across Buckinghamshire and forms part of the local resource base for homelessness and rough sleeping. The Homelessness Forum meets quarterly and brings together frontline homelessness services, voluntary and community sector organisations and elected members. Chaired by an external homelessness service and supported by Buckinghamshire Council, the forum provides evidence of regular information sharing, local issue identification and partnership engagement across homelessness and rough sleeping activity.

14.6 Consultation and Engagement Evidence

Engagement with internal and external stakeholders from statutory, non-statutory and voluntary sector organisations has taken place to inform the evidence base. The findings are presented as evidence of stakeholder views, service pressures, available resources and perceived gaps.

An external stakeholder workshop was held on 13 April 2026, bringing together partner organisations including public sector services (such as the NHS, prison and probation services), voluntary and community sector organisations, and housing providers. The workshop provided valuable insight into current housing issues, emerging challenges, service provision, gaps in support, and the experiences of organisations working directly with residents across Buckinghamshire.

A second workshop took place on 15 April 2026 with internal teams including Housing, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environmental Health, Domestic Abuse, SEND, Customer Services, and Asylum and Migration, alongside frontline practitioners and commissioners. The session explored housing-related needs, service pressures, barriers to accessing suitable accommodation and evidence of cross-service links.

To complement the workshops and enable consistent and comparable feedback, surveys were distributed to both internal and external stakeholders. A total of 41 responses were received from internal stakeholders and staff members, and 11 from external partners. The survey findings identified themes, trends and challenges, and mapped services, resources and support available to residents through organisations involved in housing, homelessness and rough sleeping across Buckinghamshire.

Additional engagement was undertaken through established partnership forums, including the Registered Provider Forum, Development Forum, and Landlord Forum. These forums provided further opportunities to gather views from housing providers, developers and landlords on local housing needs, market conditions, service pressures and partnership working.

Internal engagement findings indicate increased pressure, with sustained demand, increasingly complex cases and workforce capacity affecting the balance between planned prevention and crisis response. Staff across services were described as committed and experienced, with partnership working and existing interventions identified as areas of strength. Reported challenges included shortages of suitable accommodation, delays in move-on, pathway bottlenecks and variation in service consistency.

External engagement findings indicate established partnership working between organisations, alongside increasing demand, more complex needs and housing market pressures. Commonly raised issues included shortages of suitable and affordable accommodation, mental health, substance use and trauma-related needs, and gaps in system coordination, pathways and communication. Partners also identified collaboration, person-centred support and prevention and support services as existing strengths within constrained resources.

Findings from engagement activity have been analysed alongside local demographic, housing and homelessness data, as well as relevant national policy and legislative developments.

14.7 Activities to Secure Accommodation

Current activities to secure accommodation include temporary accommodation placement and management, move-on casework, access to Bucks Home Choice, registered provider nominations, private rented sector options, affordable housing delivery and links to supported or specialist accommodation where this is available. These activities are relevant to households who are homeless, threatened with homelessness, in temporary accommodation, sleeping rough or unable to sustain current accommodation.

The evidence indicates that accommodation access is affected by the availability, affordability, size, location and suitability of homes. Move-on from temporary accommodation and rough sleeping is also affected by the availability of settled housing, support needs, household composition and the supply of low-cost rented options.

Bucks Home Choice is also part of the housing resource base. It provides the main route through which eligible households can access most social and affordable rented homes in Buckinghamshire. Almost 8,000 households have been matched to new homes through Bucks Home Choice over the past five years, averaging around 1,600 new tenancies each year.

Disabled Facilities Grants and housing adaptations form part of the wider prevention and housing stability picture. More than 700 Disabled Facilities Grant-funded adaptation projects have been completed over the last four years, averaging around 175 per year. This is relevant because suitable and accessible housing can help residents remain safely in their homes.

14.8 Support Provision and Sustainment Activity

Support provision is relevant to the homelessness review because some households need more than an accommodation offer to prevent or relieve homelessness. Current support activity includes links with domestic abuse services, rough sleeping outreach and engagement, mental health and substance misuse services, hospital discharge and prison release pathways, care leaver accommodation planning, tenancy sustainment support and voluntary and community sector support.

The evidence suggests that sustainment activity is particularly relevant where homelessness is associated with trauma, domestic abuse, poor mental health, substance misuse, debt, institutional transitions, disability, family breakdown or previous homelessness. Support pathways are therefore considered alongside prevention, accommodation access and move-on evidence.

When mapped against the wider evidence in this document, current provision is concentrated around statutory assessment, prevention casework, temporary accommodation, rough sleeping response, allocations, adaptations and partnership coordination. These are the main resource areas available to respond to forecast demand. The evidence on housing affordability, temporary accommodation use, support needs, rough sleeping and constrained move-on suggests that demand pressures are likely to continue across each part of the pathway.

14.9 Resource Mapping Against Forecast Demand

The evidence base identifies forecast or likely future demand pressures across prevention, temporary accommodation, rough sleeping, support needs, move-on and affordable housing supply. Current provision maps to these areas, but not all parts of the system have the same level of flexibility to absorb further demand.

- Prevention provision is in place through housing advice, assessment, Personal Housing Plans and prevention casework. Forecast demand indicates continued pressure from affordability, private rented sector instability, domestic abuse, family breakdown and financial stress.
- Temporary accommodation provision is in place through placement activity, management and move-on work. Forecast demand indicates continued pressure if prevention demand remains high, affordable move-on options remain limited, or households spend longer in temporary accommodation.
- Rough sleeping provision is in place through outreach links, referral routes, verification, accommodation responses and specialist support. Forecast demand indicates continued pressure where single adults experience housing insecurity, support needs, institutional transitions or barriers to sustaining accommodation.
- Move-on provision is in place through Bucks Home Choice, registered provider lettings, private rented sector options and affordable housing delivery. Forecast demand indicates pressure where social housing supply, turnover and affordability do not keep pace with need.
- Support provision is delivered through partnership arrangements with health, social care, domestic abuse services, community safety, probation, voluntary sector partners and other services. Forecast demand indicates that support needs will remain relevant where homelessness is linked to mental ill health, trauma, substance misuse, care experience, disability, hospital discharge or prison release.
- Adaptations and housing stability provision is in place through Disabled Facilities Grants and wider housing adaptations. Forecast demand indicates potential pressure from an ageing population, disability-related housing need and unsuitable accommodation.

This mapping shows that Buckinghamshire has resource coverage across the main homelessness pathways, but the evidence also indicates areas where demand may place pressure on capacity, supply, coordination or service model.

14.10 Partnership Arrangements

Homelessness and rough sleeping are whole-system issues, with evidence linking housing need to wider services and support. Current partnership arrangements involve council services and external partners across housing, health, social care, criminal justice, registered housing providers, the voluntary and community sector, community safety, domestic abuse services, probation, customer services and the Department for Work and Pensions.

Current partnership activity is informed by partners and by the lived experience of people who have experienced homelessness. This provides evidence of a broad partnership base across service design, prevention, delivery and review.

The Homelessness Forum is a partnership mechanism for services supporting residents at risk of homelessness. It provides a place to share intelligence, identify local issues and review homelessness and rough sleeping activity.

Partnership working is also reflected through registered providers and Bucks Home Choice. Because Buckinghamshire Council does not hold housing stock directly, move-on from homelessness and access to settled affordable housing depend on registered provider lettings, nominations, allocations and affordable housing supply.

The wider partnership evidence links homelessness prevention with domestic abuse, community safety, health, adult social care, children's services, probation, employment and skills support, and the voluntary and community sector. These links are relevant because homelessness is often associated with multiple causes and support needs, including family breakdown, domestic abuse, poor mental health, substance misuse, debt, institutional discharge and insecure employment.

14.11 Performance and Delivery Evidence

Recorded delivery evidence includes activity across prevention, temporary accommodation, allocations, affordable housing delivery and housing adaptations.

Recorded outputs include:

- Annual homelessness preventions were 37% higher in 2025 than in 2020.
- More than 580 people were prevented from becoming homeless in the last year.
- 3,034 affordable homes were delivered over the previous six financial years, averaging 506 per year against a target of 500.
- Temporary accommodation cost reduction measures have reduced nightly paid spend. Current demand costs around £4,000 less per night than it would have cost under previous rates, with efficiencies meaning spend is approximately £1.5 million lower in-year than it would otherwise have been.
- A new Housing Allocations Policy was implemented in March 2025.

- Almost 8,000 households were matched to new homes through Bucks Home Choice over the past five years, averaging around 1,600 new tenancies each year.
- More than 700 Disabled Facilities Grant-funded adaptation projects were completed over the last four years, averaging around 175 per year.

These figures indicate an established resource base across prevention, temporary accommodation, allocations, affordable housing delivery, adaptations and partnership working. They also show measurable outputs in a context of sustained housing demand, affordability pressure and constrained move-on supply.

The evidence should be read alongside the wider demand and housing market sections of this review. Recorded outputs show areas of delivery activity, but they do not remove the underlying pressures identified elsewhere in the document, including high housing costs, limited affordable supply, temporary accommodation demand, rough sleeping risk and support needs.

14.12 Resource Pressure Points

The evidence does not indicate a single resource gap. Instead, it identifies the following resource pressure points when current provision is compared with forecast demand.

- Prevention capacity is a pressure point when considered against forecast demand from private rented sector affordability, tenancy loss, family breakdown, domestic abuse and financial stress.
- Temporary accommodation provision is a pressure point when considered against expected placement levels, length of stay, suitability, cost and move-on constraints.
- Move-on resources are a pressure point where affordable housing supply and turnover, private rented sector availability, household size, accessibility needs and support needs affect system flow.
- Rough sleeping resources are a pressure point when considered against referral patterns, repeat rough sleeping, verification outcomes, accommodation sustainment and access to specialist support.
- Support pathways are a pressure point where homelessness is linked to mental health, substance misuse, domestic abuse, trauma, institutional discharge, care experience or multiple disadvantage.
- Partnership capacity is a pressure point where prevention depends on earlier identification and coordinated activity across housing, health, social care, community safety, probation, registered providers and voluntary sector partners.
- Data and performance arrangements are a pressure point where forecast demand, service activity, outcomes, repeat presentations, temporary accommodation duration and move-on need to be monitored consistently.

These points should be read as evidence findings rather than final recommendations. They identify where resource pressures may require further assessment before delivery planning is finalised.

14.13 Resource Findings

The resource assessment shows that Buckinghamshire has an established homelessness and rough sleeping service, active partnership arrangements and recorded delivery outputs. It also shows that current provision is operating in a context of forecast demand pressures, particularly around prevention, temporary accommodation, move-on, rough sleeping, support needs and affordable housing supply.

For the purpose of this evidence base, the key resource findings are:

- The homelessness service provides statutory assessment, prevention, relief, temporary accommodation and move-on functions.
- Partnership working is embedded across council services, registered providers, public services and the voluntary and community sector.
- Bucks Home Choice, temporary accommodation management, affordable housing delivery and Disabled Facilities Grants are important parts of the wider housing resource base.
- Recorded delivery outputs include increased prevention activity, affordable housing completions, temporary accommodation cost reduction, allocations policy change, Bucks Home Choice lettings and completed Disabled Facilities Grant-funded adaptations.
- Current resources are delivering measurable outputs, but forecast demand and housing market constraints continue to affect system flow.
- The evidence identifies areas where current provision may require further assessment, including prevention capacity, temporary accommodation supply and cost, move-on routes, support pathways, partnership capacity and performance monitoring.