

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Name of activity:	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024 - 2029	Date Completed:	01.05.2024		
Directorate / Division responsible for activity:	Housing - Environment & Communities	Lead Officer:	Richard Tomkinson Group Head of Housing, Wellbeing and Communities		
Existing Activity	Y	New / Proposed Activity	Y	Changing / Updated Activity	Y

What are the aims / main purposes of the activity?

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is required by the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), the strategy must be for five years. The Homelessness Act 2002 requires local housing authorities to take strategic responsibility for tackling and preventing homelessness. Each local authority in England must develop a homeless and rough sleeping strategy in line with the guidance set down in Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities (2018 – as amended in February 2024).

Chapter 2 of the Guidance sets out the requirements to conduct a homeless review and to publish a homelessness strategy. The Aim of the Homelessness Review is to establish the extent and characteristics of homelessness and rough sleeping in Arun, identify the likely future levels of homelessness and rough sleeping and to identify what is currently being done and by whom, and identify what resources are available, to prevent and tackle homelessness.

The guidance also requires homelessness reviews and strategies to consider the needs of all groups of people in their district who are homeless or likely to become homeless. Strategies must address prevention of homelessness, provision of housing and provision of support. Strategies must also take account of the needs of those experiencing domestic violence, single people and rough sleepers, families, people in temporary accommodation and other vulnerable groups.

What are the main actions and processes involved?

The Strategy:

- Explains the Council's vision for tackling Homelessness and Rough Sleeping in Arun
- Sets out three overarching aims and how the Council will achieve them and where it wants to be in terms of addressing homelessness and rough sleeping by 2029.

The main activities covered by the strategy relate to the prevention and/or relief of homeless, the provision of housing and support for those in need and tackling rough sleeping. The key objectives of the strategy are:

- a) Prevention of homelessness
- b) Development of more permanent solutions to homelessness
- c) Building on partnership work

Who is intended to benefit & who are the main stakeholders?

The key stakeholders are:

- The Housing Environment and Communities department of the Council,
- West Sussex County Council,
- Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust,
- Private Registered Social landlord,
- Voluntary and charity sector partners,
- The Probation Service,
- Public Health,
- Adult Social Care,
- Childrens Services

- Arun District Council residents and tenants

Beneficiaries of the strategy will be residents of Arun District Council or who have a local connection to Arun who find themselves at risk of, or actually homeless, and those who are at risk of or actually rough sleeping.

Have you already consulted on / researched the activity?

Yes

Extensive consultation and research have taken place – this included:

- Review of data on homelessness, rough sleeping, lettings, housing provision, supported housing (see below for list of data sources)
- Stakeholder interviews – one to one and group interviews as well as two workshops for stakeholders were conducted
- A survey of charity and voluntary sector, Registered Housing Providers and Council homelessness officers to identify the types of homelessness prevention and relief services currently being provided in Arun.
- The views of people experiencing rough sleeping and homelessness were also sought through two days of visits to homeless and rough sleeping services and the hubs at Littlehampton and Bognor Regis.

Impact on people with a protected characteristic (What is the potential impact of the activity? Are the impacts high, medium or low?)

Protected characteristics / groups	Is there an impact (Yes / No)	If Yes, what is it and identify whether it is positive or negative
Age (older /	Yes	Positive

younger people, children)

In Arun the growing demographic is older people and Arun will need to ensure that its future housing mix accommodates the needs of this growing population. The age range of homeless applicants is set out below:

Age ranges of homeless duty applicants

Figure 1.1 Count of applicants in each age group, 2020/21 to Q3 2023/24

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
2020-21	142	170	125	105	41	24
2021-22	166	284	174	157	114	69
2022-23	192	319	257	165	111	85
2023-24	140	215	208	132	72	48
Total	640	988	764	559	338	226

Figure 1.2 Percentage breakdown of homeless applicants age group, 2020/21 to Q3 2023/24

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
2020-21	23%	28%	21%	17%	7%	4%
2021-22	17%	29%	18%	16%	12%	7%
2022-23	17%	28%	23%	15%	10%	8%

2023-24	17%	26%	26%	16%	9%	6%
Total	18%	28%	22%	16%	10%	6%

The largest age group is made up of 25–34-year-olds (28%) followed by 35-44 (22%).

Age ranges of Rough Sleeper Initiative service users

Figure 1.3 Count and proportion of RSI service users by age group

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
All cases	2	10	19	21	9	0
%	3%	16%	31%	34%	15%	0%

The rough sleeping population is older on average than the wider homeless population. The largest age group amongst rough sleepers is 45-54 (34%) followed by 35-44 (31%).

The strategy sets out how the council will reduce homelessness and rough sleeping for all age groups. Stays in Temporary accommodation (TA) have a deleterious effect on children and young people.

An analysis of children within the homeless population was carried out this is set out below:

Children in the homeless population

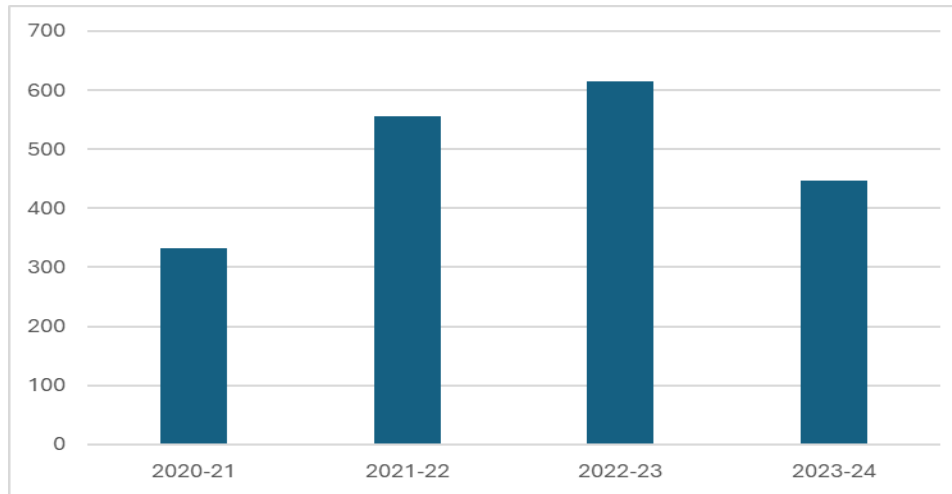
Children of homeless duty applicants

Figure 2.1 Count of households with children by number of children, 2020/21 to Q3 2023/24

	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 children	Total
2020-21	122	53	17	8	2	2	204

2021-22	174	98	41	13	2	0	328
2022-23	177	120	46	10	4	0	357
2023-24	124	74	38	10	3	1	250
Total	597	345	142	41	11	3	1139

Figure 2.2 Count of children, 2020/21 to 2023/24

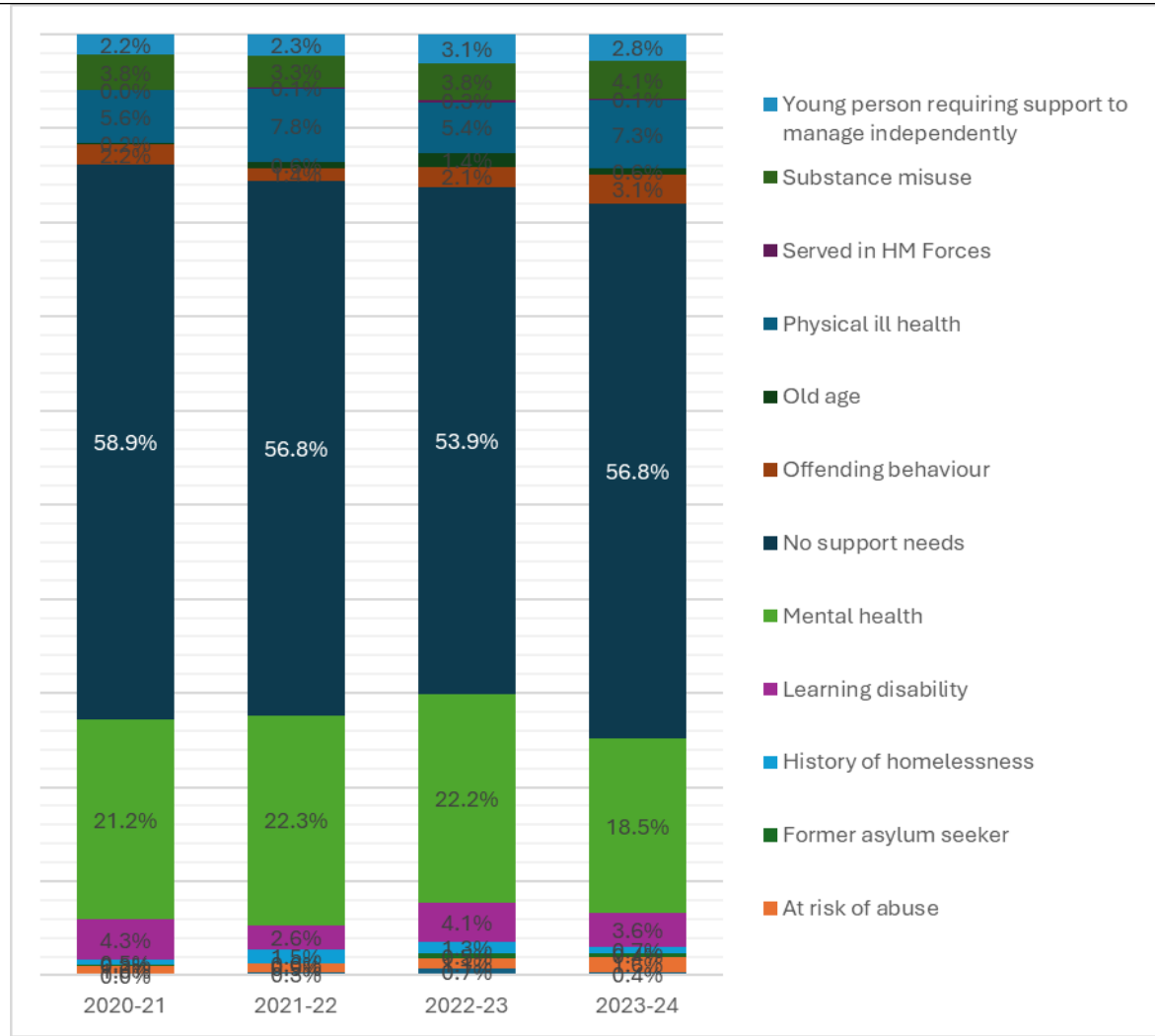


There was a total of 1,139 households with children who applied for a homeless duty in Arun between 2020/21 and Q3 of 2023/24. This included 55 households with more than 3 children. In total, there were 1,950 children belonging to households who applied for a homeless duty in Arun over this period.

This is the equivalent of 7% of all children in Arun (29,085 as per 2021 ONS census), or approximately 1 in every 15 children. This number has been increasing since 2020/21.

The strategy seeks to reduce the impact, as well as to reduce the use of TA and to identify more sustainable housing options for families and children.

		It also addresses the needs of care leavers and young people at risk of homelessness and rough sleeping.
Disability (people with physical / sensory impairment or mental disability)	Yes	Positive An analysis of the support needs of the duty applicants has been carried out, this identified that 43% had a mental health support need, 17% had a physical ill health issue, and 8% had a learning disability. Other applicants had a variety of support needs <p style="text-align: center;">Primary support needs of homeless duty applicants, 2020/21 to 2023/24</p>



Source: HCLIC source data 2024 (Arun DC)

The primary support needs of duty applicants have remained relatively consistent over the last four years, though there has been an increase in those with physical ill health (+32%).

The homelessness and rough sleeping strategy aims to ensure that people who require support due to

		disability or mental ill-health in addition to housing are able to receive that support. This includes joint working with the County Council, Public Health and the Local Health Trust to provide suitable housing options and mental health/ physical disability related support and suitable housing.
Gender reassignment (the process of transitioning from one gender to another.)	No	No negative impact has been identified While there is no specific impact on this group arising from the strategy and action plan. People who are in the process of transitioning and who are homeless will be able to access advice support temporary housing etc in line with any other individuals experiencing homelessness, and in line with wider council equalities strategies, policy and statutory guidance.
Marriage & Civil Partnership (Marriage and registered civil partnerships)	No	No negative impact has been identified While there is no specific impact on this group arising from the strategy and action plan. People who are in civil partnerships or married and who are homeless will be able to access advice support temporary housing etc in line with other individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as in line with statutory requirements and regulations on homelessness and in line with wider council equalities strategies and policy. Couples do not qualify for main duty assistance unless there are other reasons linked to health, disability or other homelessness priority, They are however entitled to assistance under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018 which places duties on Arun DC as a housing authority to intervene earlier to prevent homelessness and to take reasonable steps to relieve homelessness for all eligible applicants, not just those that have priority need under the Act.
Pregnancy & maternity (Pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant & maternity)	Yes	No negative impact has been identified While there is no specific impact on this group arising from the strategy and action plan. Women who are pregnant or have children and who are homeless do have priority for assistance under homeless legislation and will be able to access advice support temporary housing and the Council has a duty to house.

refers to the period after the birth)																																						
Race (ethnicity, colour, nationality or national origins & including gypsies, travellers, refugees & asylum seekers)	Yes	<p>No negative impact has been identified</p> <p>No proposal in this strategy will disproportionately affect any specific ethnic group, or race or by virtue of national origins.</p> <p>The largest group presenting as homeless is White British at 82%, followed by 12% who were of any other white background such as Eastern European. Other minority groups were 5% of applicants. The largest minoritised ethnic group across the four years between 2020/21 and 2023/24 has been Black Africans, accounting for 1% of all applicants, followed by any other ethnic group (1%), and any other Black background (1%).</p> <p>Gypsies and/or Irish Travellers have accounted for just 0.2% of applications since 2020/21, with a total of 8 applicants from this ethnic group across the four years.</p> <p>The demographic profile of homeless households in Arun does not indicate a particular need for specific services tailored to any one ethnic group such as in other areas where for instance a dedicated eastern European engagement worker has been needed.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="591 1011 2123 1367"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="591 1011 1438 1067">Ethnicity</th> <th data-bbox="1438 1011 1585 1067">2020/21</th> <th data-bbox="1585 1011 1727 1067">2021/22</th> <th data-bbox="1727 1011 1872 1067">2022/23</th> <th data-bbox="1872 1011 2018 1067">2023/24</th> <th data-bbox="2018 1011 2123 1067">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="591 1067 1438 1129">Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British: African</td> <td data-bbox="1438 1067 1585 1129">6</td> <td data-bbox="1585 1067 1727 1129">4</td> <td data-bbox="1727 1067 1872 1129">9</td> <td data-bbox="1872 1067 2018 1129">6</td> <td data-bbox="2018 1067 2123 1129">25</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="591 1129 1438 1192">Any other ethnic group</td> <td data-bbox="1438 1129 1585 1192">2</td> <td data-bbox="1585 1129 1727 1192">9</td> <td data-bbox="1727 1129 1872 1192">7</td> <td data-bbox="1872 1129 2018 1192">4</td> <td data-bbox="2018 1129 2123 1192">22</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="591 1192 1438 1254">Any other Black/African/Caribbean background</td> <td data-bbox="1438 1192 1585 1254">0</td> <td data-bbox="1585 1192 1727 1254">6</td> <td data-bbox="1727 1192 1872 1254">12</td> <td data-bbox="1872 1192 2018 1254">0</td> <td data-bbox="2018 1192 2123 1254">18</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="591 1254 1438 1316">Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background</td> <td data-bbox="1438 1254 1585 1316">1</td> <td data-bbox="1585 1254 1727 1316">1</td> <td data-bbox="1727 1254 1872 1316">6</td> <td data-bbox="1872 1254 2018 1316">7</td> <td data-bbox="2018 1254 2123 1316">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="591 1316 1438 1367">Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean</td> <td data-bbox="1438 1316 1585 1367">2</td> <td data-bbox="1585 1316 1727 1367">3</td> <td data-bbox="1727 1316 1872 1367">6</td> <td data-bbox="1872 1316 2018 1367">4</td> <td data-bbox="2018 1316 2123 1367">15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Ethnicity	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total	Black/ African/Caribbean/Black British: African	6	4	9	6	25	Any other ethnic group	2	9	7	4	22	Any other Black/African/Caribbean background	0	6	12	0	18	Any other Mixed/Multiple ethnic background	1	1	6	7	15	Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	2	3	6	4	15
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Religion & belief (religious faith or other group with a recognised belief system)	No	<p>No negative impact has been identified</p> <p>These groups are not specifically covered by the strategy and where necessary specific actions to address homelessness and rough sleeping amongst those groups are addressed as part of a housing assessment. Official data collection via HCLIC does not collect data on religion or faith.</p>																																																						
Sex (male / female)	Yes	<p>Positive</p> <p>An analysis of the gender of homeless applicants is set out below</p> <p>Figure 3.1 Count of homeless duty applicants by gender, 2020/21 to 2023/24</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>280</td> <td>322</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Male	Female	2020-21	280	322																																																
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2021-22	465	482													
2022-23	517	594													
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Total	1671	1795													
<p>Sexual orientation (lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual)</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No negative impact has been identified</p> <p>While there is no specific impact on this group arising from the strategy and action plan. LGBTQ people who are homeless will be able to access advice support temporary housing etc in line with other individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as in line with statutory requirements and regulations on homelessness and in line with wider council equalities strategies and policy.</p> <p>An Analysis of homeless data in relation to sexual orientation is set out below: Figure 4.1 Count of homeless duty applicants by sexual preference, 2020/21 to 2023/24</p>													

			Applicant Prefers not to say	Heterosexual / Straight	Other sexual orientation	Gay / Lesbian
		2020-21	108	477	12	6
		2021-22	399	542	1	11
		2022-23	486	615	1	13
		2023-24	451	350	1	5
		Total	1444	1984	15	35
		<p>57% of homeless duty applicants identify as heterosexual, whilst 42% prefer not to say. Just 1% of homeless duty applicants since 2020/21 have identified as Gay/ Lesbian, comprising of 35 applicants. <1% of applicants have an 'Other sexual orientation', comprising of 15 applicant.</p>				
Whilst Socio economic disadvantage that people may face is not a protected characteristic; the potential impact on this group should be also considered	Yes	<p>Positive The activities set out in the strategy document will enable the Council to support those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage to avoid becoming homeless, by focussing activities on prevention and partnership working with agencies and individuals. Work to identify individuals and families at risk of homelessness is set out and measures to offer support through advice, Discretionary Housing Payments, onward referral to other agencies and other means to enable people to sustain their housing are included in the strategy and action plan.</p>				

What evidence has been used to assess the likely impacts?

H-CLIC data 2021 – 2024 – published and raw data held by the Council has been analysed
 DELTA returns related to rough sleeping, and raw data held by the Council has been analysed
 Continuous Recording of Lettings data (CoRE data)
 Local Authority Housing Statistics Data set 2022-2023
 Census data 2021
 West Sussex JSNA data pack April 2023
 Statistical Data Return (SDR 2023) – for information on private registered housing providers
 Crisis Homelessness Monitor 2023
 Specific survey developed by Campbell Tickell and completed by 8 local providers of housing, advice and support services to homeless people in Arun
 Stakeholder interviews with Arun Council officers, West Sussex County Council officers, Sussex Partnership Foundation Health Trust, private registered providers, voluntary sector organisations and charities working with the homeless and rough sleepers in Arun and two face to face workshops with stakeholders
 Interviews and discussions with people experiencing rough sleeping and homelessness in Arun

Decision following initial assessment

Continue with existing or introduce new / planned activity	Y	Amend activity based on identified actions	Y
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Action Plan			
Impact identified	Action required	Lead Officer	Deadline
Impact of living in TA for children and young people, particularly for young children. Extended stays in TA can have negative impact on babies and children's development stages and education.	<p>Ensure that stays in TA are kept to an absolute minimum and stays in B&B is avoided wherever possible or kept to the minimum.</p> <p>Develop more Private Sector Leasing options</p> <p>Work more in partnership with private landlords and Registered Providers (housing associations) to increase the supply of affordable housing available</p>		
Impact of homelessness on those with physical, or mental disabilities, or complex needs	<p>Ensure that Arun DC works closely with the County Council and local voluntary sector providers to ensure people's support needs are fully assessed and addressed.</p> <p>Identify and work with housing developers and providers to develop or adapt accommodation to suit the needs of those with physical disabilities.</p> <p>Ensure that recommissioning activity by the County Council takes into account the need to provide accommodation and support to those with mental health issues, particularly low-level ongoing needs and high needs as these are two areas identified as gaps in provision by stakeholders.</p>		
Impact on young people and older people	<p>Ensure that family mediation services are in place to prevent youth homelessness.</p>		

	<p>Ensure that information and advice on the realities of housing access and homelessness is made available to young people through schools and other agencies to assist with preventing homelessness.</p> <p>Work with the County Council to ensure its commissioning plans take account of the support needs of young people and care leavers and work jointly with Arun to address these needs.</p> <p>Arun's general demographic is older than the national average those over 65 make up 28% of Arun's population, 10% above the national average, and the older population 85+ is set to grow.</p> <p>The Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy has limited impact on older people, although a proposed remodeling and refurbishment of sheltered accommodation and proposals to increase extra care provision will support the council's ability to provide suitable housing options to older homeless people.</p>		
<p>Impact on people with socio economic disadvantage</p>	<p>Homelessness is as much an issue of poverty as an issue of housing provision. Arun's homelessness and rough sleeping strategy focusses on improving prevention activity. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making better use of Discretionary Housing Payments Providing budgeting, money management and other related advice to support people into jobs or to maximise their income Provision of services at the hubs that are supporting 		

	<p>homeless people who are in work to retain their jobs and address their homelessness</p> <p>Bringing together insights and data from across the council and with its partners to be able to identify households at risk and take pre-emptive action to prevent them becoming homeless.</p>		
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Monitoring & Review	
Date of last review or Impact Assessment:	2020
Date of next 12-month review:	September 2025
Date of next 3-year Impact Assessment (from the date of this EIA):	September 2028

Date EIA completed:	01.05.2024
Signed by Person Completing:	Jayne Knight