

Improving Places Select Commission

24 October 2023

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2023 -2026

The Problem

- Homelessness is worsening across the country - 79,840 households faced homelessness in England between January and March 2023, the highest number on record, households living in temporary accommodation, up by 10% from last year.
- Homelessness is rising in the South Yorkshire region and is getting worse

The Challenges

- Lack of understanding of the signs of homelessness and where to get help.
- Continuing the shift to a prevention focused service.
- Growing complexity of need.
- Wider housing market pressures – causing more presentations and less move on.
- National staffing retention and recruitment challenges.

New cases

699

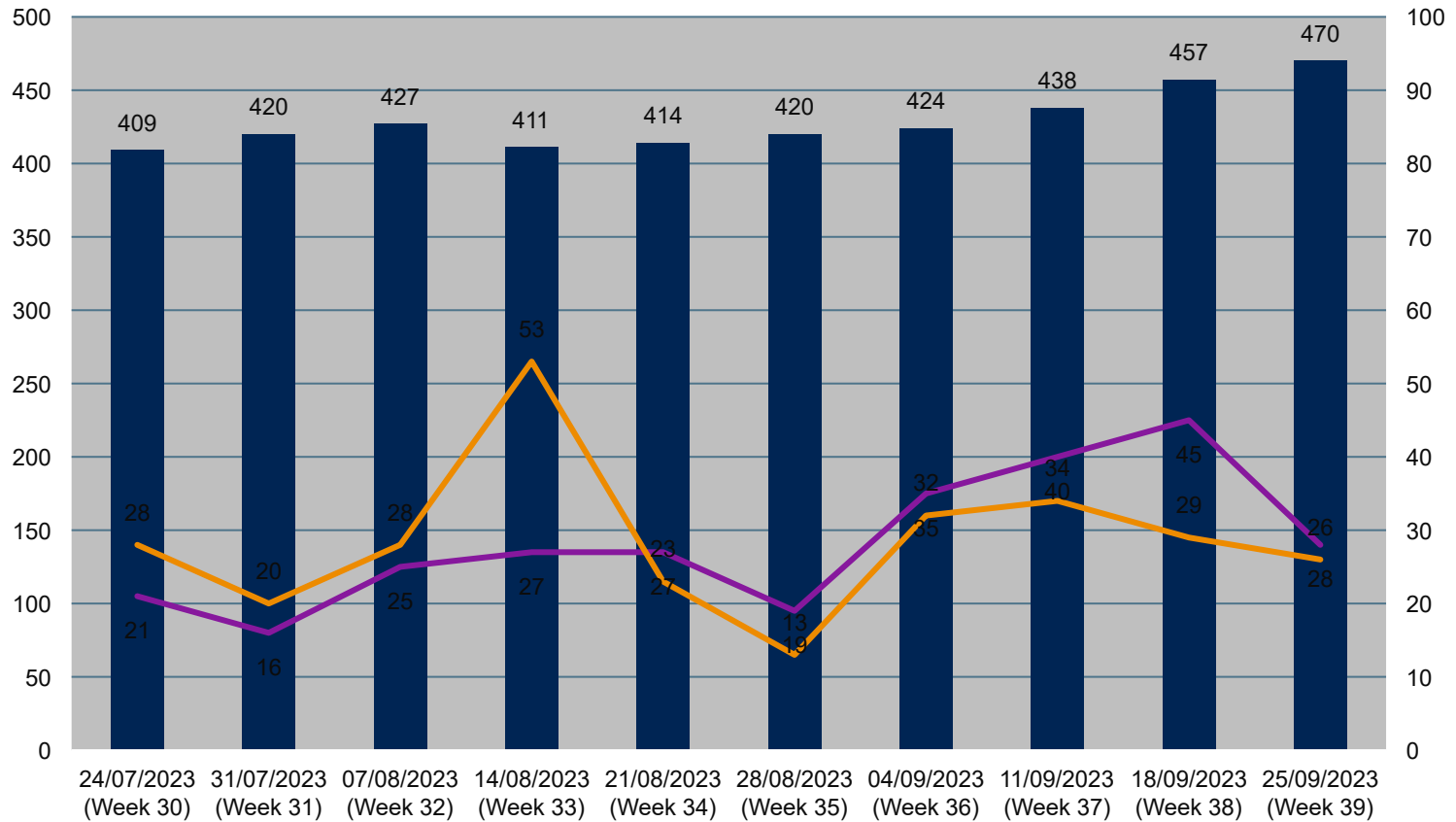
Closed

737

Open cases

470

Homelessness cases



Highest reasons for presentations



Family and friends no longer able to accommodate

221

(32% of cases)



Loss of private rented accommodation

92

(13.1% cases)

58 of these are due to the landlord selling their property

Temporary Accommodation

Date	Hotels single	Hotel families	Total households in hotels	RMBC Temporary	Non RMBC Temporary	Total Temporary accommodation	Overall total (hotels + temp)
31 March 2022	80	16	96	92	14	106	202
31 March 2023 New baseline	45	5	50	80	10	90	140 (-62)
30 September	51	10	61	75	5	95	161 (+-21)

Families in hotels 28/4/2023 = length of stay

Up to 7 days	Up to 14 days	Up to 21 days	Up to 28 days	Up to 35 days	Up to 42 days	Total
5	2	3				10

Placements in September

96
(396 cumulative)

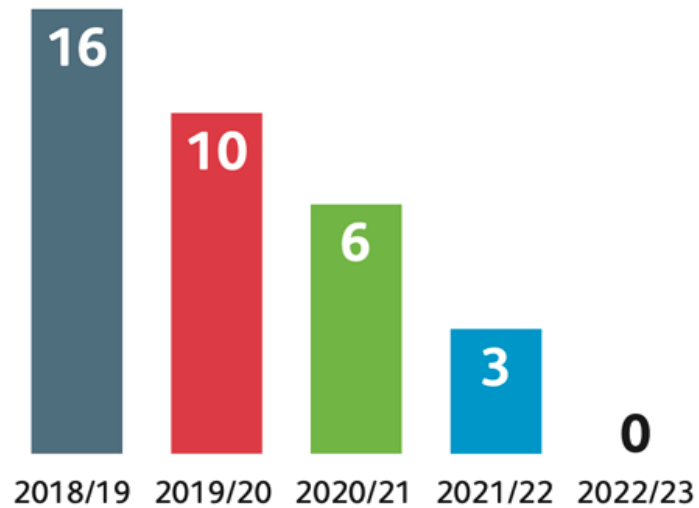
Lettings and Move On for Homeless Households

April to September 2023	Total number of Lettings	Of these the number of Direct Lettings
Percentage of Direct lettings = 12.04%	722	87

April to Sept	Council	Supported	RSLs	Private Rented	TOTAL
	179	24	44	122	369

Ending Rough Sleeping

Rough sleeping counts



Current numbers



3 (Sept)

Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy

1. Make homelessness a rare occurrence by focusing on prevention and early intervention.

So that that homelessness is prevented

3. Increase access to affordable housing options

So that we increase access into settled accommodation

5. Support people with complex needs.

So that we increase access for households with complex needs into settled accommodation

2. Minimise the use and improve the quality of temporary accommodation and end the use of hotels.

So that everyone has a quality safe and suitable place to live

4. Improve access to housing support, employment, and health services

To create financial resilience, more options to access work and training

6. End rough sleeping in Rotherham.

So that no one sleeps rough

Progress against actions (Year 1)

- The Council's homeless webpage refreshed, providing a dedicated page on homeless prevention, which encourages people to seek help early is currently being finalised by the Digital Team.
- A video has been developed and is on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/-Cvk5dyOg7c>
- A homelessness prevention leaflet has been created and will be added as a downloadable option on the new webpage
- All new tenants have a meeting with the Financial inclusion team and undertake a tenancy ready course provided by Rush House.

Progress against actions (Year 1)

- A light touch review of the Housing Allocation Policy has been completed. A full review will commence in November 2023
- The Housing Related Support services has been reviewed to create one single pathway for homelessness Households
- The RSI team and partners have started to undertake weekly 6am outreach walks as opposed to 1 per month

The background of the slide is a dense, overlapping collage of small, rectangular paper scraps in various colors including shades of blue, purple, green, and brown. Each scrap features a dark blue question mark. The overall effect is a textured, busy pattern of questions.

ANY QUESTIONS?