

Homelessness Strategy 2009-2014 statistical update

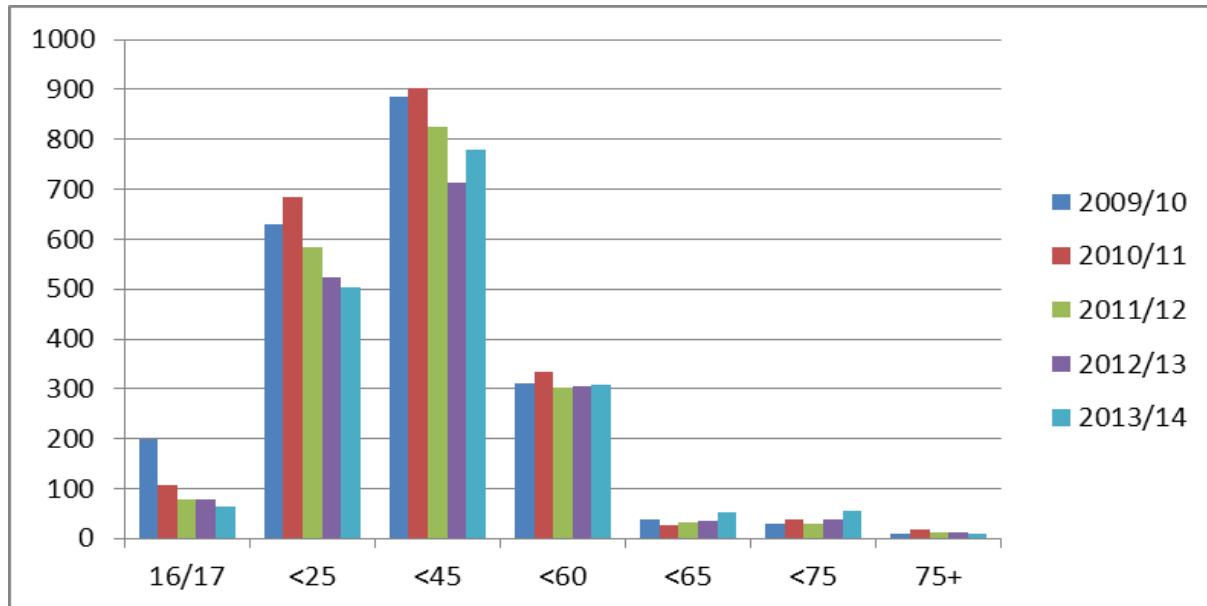
This is an analysis of the key data from over the course of the 2009-2014 Homelessness Strategy. This will feed into the next homelessness strategy which is to be written later this year.

The homelessness service has changed significantly over the course of the 2009-2014 Homelessness Strategy and has changed to a Housing options Team with the emphasis on early intervention and homelessness prevention. In 2012 the staff rota changed to offer more Housing Options appointments. This has enabled the Housing Options Officers to be able to offer housing advice to people before their situation turns into a homelessness issue and therefore reducing the number of homelessness applications.

The table below shows an overview of the Housing Options Service:

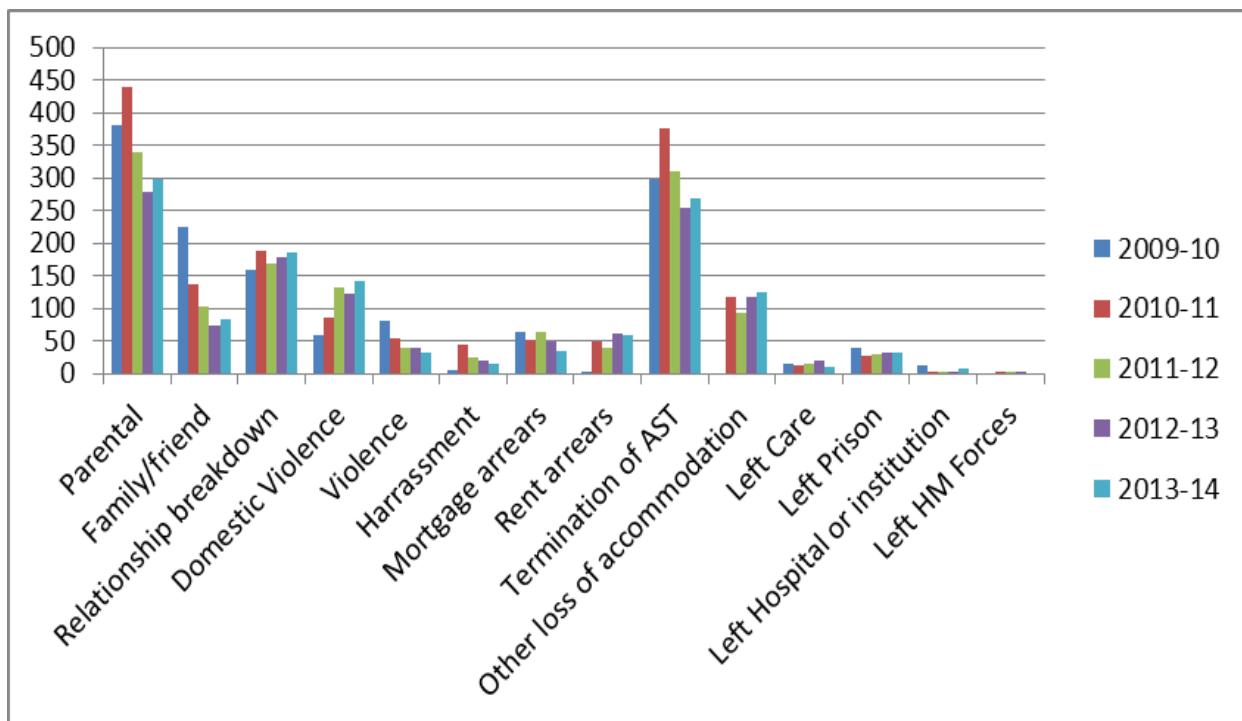
Year	Number of approaches	Housing Advice	Homelessness prevention		Homelessness applications	Homelessness Acceptances
2009/10	2099	1306	593		200	67
2010/11	2110	1461	485		164	75
2011/12	1862	1302	408		152	70
2012/13	1702	1255	337		110	45
2013/14	1774	1231	456		87	24

Housing Options - approaches by age:



The number of approaches and homelessness applications has decreased over the last 5 years. The biggest fall being the number of 16/17 year olds approaching for advice, which has reduced from 198 in 2009-10 to 65 in 2013-14.

Housing Options - approaches by reasons



Parental eviction, loss of assured shorthold tenancies in the private rented sector and breakdown of relationships (non-violent and violent) remain the most common reasons why people approach for housing and homelessness advice.

Although the overall numbers of approaches and homelessness applications have decreased over the last 5 years, the numbers of people approaching for advice regarding domestic abuse has increased from 58 in 2009/10 to 142 in 2013/14.

Homelessness prevention

Homelessness prevention figures have remained quite consistant over the last 5 years, on average preventing homelessness in 23% of homelessness approaches.

The main way homelessness has been prevented is by helping households move to alternative accommodation in the private rented sector with help through our deposit guarantee scheme and discretionary housing payments. Over the course of the last 3 years this has made up 74% of all homelessness prevention cases.

Other main ways we have prevented homelessness have been through assisting households with social housing, referring people to Supported Housing and through the Sanctuary Scheme. The Sanctuary Scheme was set up in 2010 and is referred to in the Homelessness Strategy as a 'Safe at Home Scheme'. For the last 3 years we have assisted (on average) 20 people per year through the Sanctuary scheme which assists high risk domestic abuse victims to remain safely and securely in their home through the installation of free security measures.