

One borough; one community; London's growth opportunity



Encouraging civic pride



Enabling social responsibility



Growing the borough

Homelessness Strategy 2016-2021



• What is homelessness?

- **A person is homeless if they have no accommodation available for occupation/threatened with homelessness if they are likely to become homeless within 28 days**
- **Statutory homelessness** – people who have made a homelessness application, met the legislative criteria, accepted by the Council as eligible for assistance, homeless and in priority need
- **Non-statutory/non-priority homelessness** – usually single people/childless couples assessed as not priority need but entitled to ‘advice and assistance’
- **Rough sleepers** – ‘roofless’ and bedded down in the open air, sofa-surfing or ‘hidden’. No statutory duty/non-priority but strong policy ethos to tackle

1. Need for a homelessness strategy

- Homelessness Act 2002 – five yearly review of homelessness trends
- Planning services for the next five years requires an appreciation of the emerging trends, balanced against diminishing resources:

Welfare reform phase 2	Local authority resources squeezed
Loss of PRS, squeezed supply	Prevention initiatives/self-resolution critical
Parental ejection rising	Housing advice services need integrated and creative
Rough sleeping increasing	Resources need to be targeted at most acute circumstances
Priority need lone parent households up	Robust partnerships with external/third sector required
Demand for supported people housing choice	Innovation in housing supply/choice essential

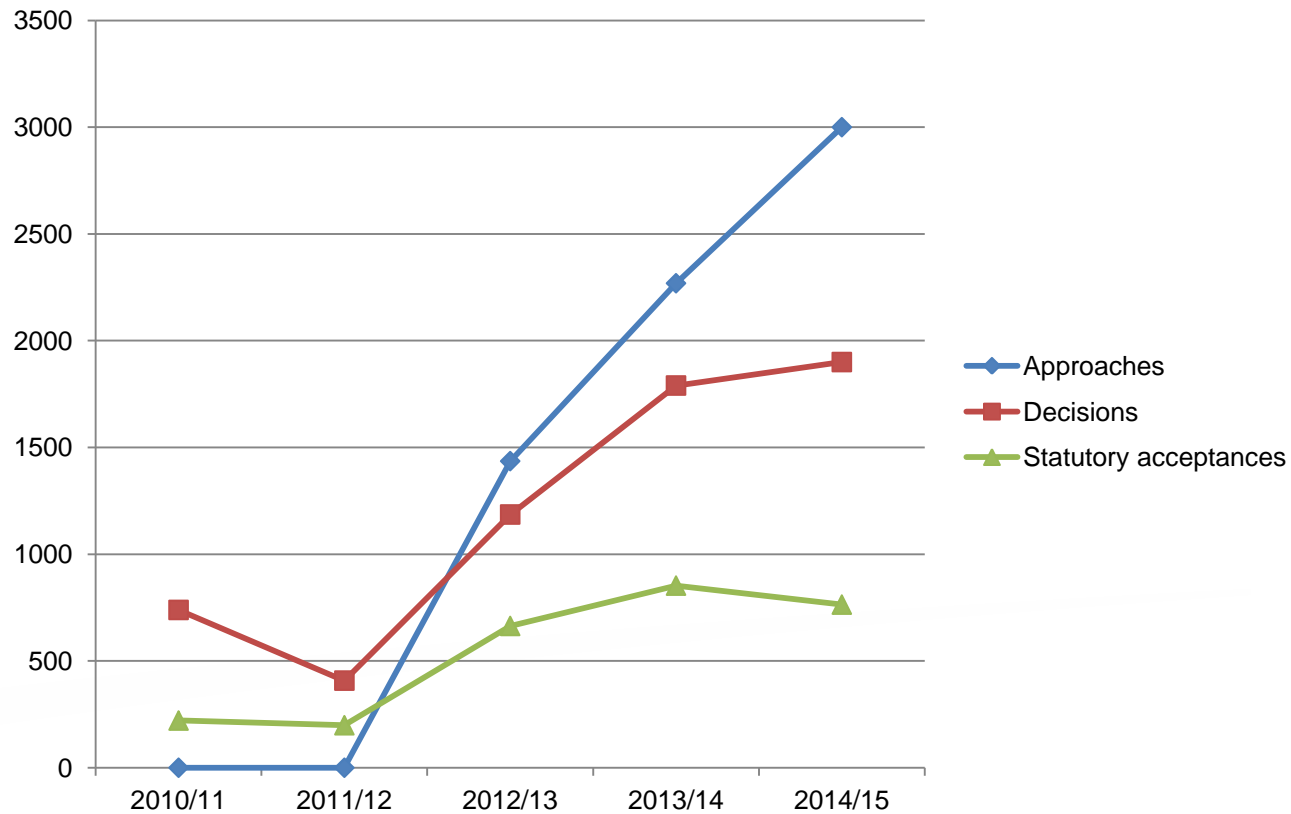
2. The Policy Context

- **No Second Night Out 2011, Cost of Homelessness Report and Making Every Contact Count 2012** – improving/integrating services
- **Welfare reforms** – impact on ability to pay rent
- **Localism Act 2011** – allocations policy and discharge of duty into PRS
- **Local strategies and corporate programmes**

3. Homeless Review

- Impact of welfare reform, public funding reductions and challenging housing market have heightened demand for housing advice services from 2012 onwards
- **Approaches** to John Smith House doubled in 2015 to 3,000
- **Decisions on** homelessness increased from 1,790 to 1,900 in 2014/15
- **Acceptances** for homelessness fell from 853 to 764 in 2014/15
- **Preventions** fell from 2,181 to 1,947 in 2014/15

4. Approaches, decisions and acceptances



5. LBBD key figures – Homelessness reasons

Reasons	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Parental/familial/friend breakdown	122	77	277	207	316
Violence	24	27	62	48	44
Harassment	1	2	7	7	1
Mortgage arrears/repossession	5	4	16	20	6
Rent arrears (LA/RP/PRS)	9	12	45	23	10
Loss of rented accommodation	42	59	193	341	357
Left care/hospital/custody	10	1	24	32	22
Other loss of settled home	8	18	40	25	8
	221	199	664	853	764

6.Homeless prevention

2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
516	724	1,856	2,181	1,947

- Resolving housing benefit issues a major intervention in between 62%-80% of cases
- Other interventions by the Housing Options Service:
 - mediation/conciliation
 - debt advice and tenancy sustainment/HART team
 - Sanctuary scheme for domestic violence
 - mortgage arrears interventions/rent deposit
 - employment and skills support
 - fostering personal responsibility and self-reliance

Obj.1: Reducing demand through prevention

Outcomes:

- Homelessness prevented through housing support, advice and initiatives for vulnerable/at risk households
- Encouraging self-resolution of housing crises
- Co-ordinated multiagency interventions to assist households affected by welfare reform
- Increased access to employment support for families and young people

Obj.2: Enabling pathways away from homelessness

Outcomes:

- Re-established Homelessness Forum
- Successful partnership with voluntary sector and external providers supporting those suffering homelessness
- Greater tenancy sustainment across all tenures
- More effective identification of hidden homelessness, in particular rough sleepers and LGBT person
- Utilised external partnerships to support vulnerable single persons who are homeless

Obj.3: Creating integrated services at first contact

Outcomes:

- Gold Standard accreditation for housing options service
- Co-ordinated 'single pathways' protocols, processes and mapping between services
- Development of one-stop shop approach to housing services such as HousingPlus model
- Joint commissioning of services to provide seamless housing options to all clients

Obj.4: Provide appropriate accommodation

Outcomes:

- Creation of new affordable housing supply
- Maximised use of own assets for temporary accommodation
- Reconfigured portfolio of hostel accommodation
- Professional private sector solutions including a local lettings agency
- Increased housing choice for supported people