

Youth Homelessness in the North East 2019 LAs

Page 1: Introduction

Dear All

Thank you for taking part in YHNE's regional survey of youth homelessness 2019. This is the eighth annual survey of its kind. The research has proven highly useful in developing our understanding of the nature of youth homelessness and experiences of young people in our region over time, as well as informing policy responses. Each year, the survey explores:

- The nature, extent and primary causes of youth homelessness in the North East;
- The impact of the wider social, economic and political context on the experiences of young people; and
- Changes to the nature and levels of service provision for homeless young people in our region.

The survey should take approx. 15 minutes to complete. It refers to young single people aged 16-24. Where questions relate to young people aged 16-17 and care leavers, it may be useful to liaise with Children's Services and combine your figures. In order to provide clarity of data, please ensure that only one person from your organisation completes the survey.

Most of the questions in the survey ask for actual numbers of young people. Please estimate these figures if you cannot provide accurate numbers.

All of the individual responses provided will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Please remember to click the 'Finish' button once you have submitted your responses.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Sharon Brown, YHNE Director, Sharon@yhne.org.uk

Page 2: About You

1. Please indicate the name of your local authority (This is to help identify any duplication of responses)

- Darlington
- Durham
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Newcastle
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- Redcar and Cleveland
- South Tyneside
- Stockton
- Sunderland
- Region-wide

Page 3: Homelessness Presentations and Advice

2. How many people of all ages presented as homeless in February 2019?

3. How many young single people between the ages of 16-24 who presented to the local authority were accepted as homeless in February 2019?

4. How has the overall number of young people presenting as homeless changed since February 2018?

- Increased
- Decreased
- No change
- Don't know

5. What was the age breakdown of the young people who presented in February 2019?

16-17 years old	<input type="text"/>
18-20 years old	<input type="text"/>
21-24 years old	<input type="text"/>

6. Of the young people who presented in February 2019, what was the gender split?

Male	<input type="text"/>
Female	<input type="text"/>
Transgender	<input type="text"/>
Unknown	<input type="text"/>

7. How many young people presenting as homeless in February 2019 were in the following categories?

Looked after young people aged 16-17	<input type="text"/>
Young parents / pregnant young people	<input type="text"/>
Care leavers	<input type="text"/>
Offenders	<input type="text"/>
LGBT	<input type="text"/>

8. How many young single people aged 16-24 were given housing advice and support in February 2019?

<input type="text"/>

9. How has the number of young people seeking housing advice and support changed since February 2018?

<input type="radio"/> Increased

- Decreased
- No change
- Don't know

9.a. If the number of young people presenting as homeless or in need of housing advice and support has changed since February 2018, what factors do you think account for this?

Page 4: Causes of Homelessness

10. How many young people presenting as homeless in February 2019 became homeless for the following reasons? (Young people may have become homeless for several reasons. Please include ALL of these reasons in your answers)

Parents / caregivers no longer able or willing to accommodate	<input type="text"/>
Other relatives or friends no longer able or willing to accommodate	<input type="text"/>
Non-violent relationship breakdown	<input type="text"/>
Abuse or domestic violence	<input type="text"/>
Overcrowded housing	<input type="text"/>
Eviction or threat of eviction as a result of rent arrears	<input type="text"/>
Eviction or threat of eviction as a result of ASB	<input type="text"/>
End of tenancy (social housing)	<input type="text"/>
End of tenancy (private rented sector)	<input type="text"/>
Leaving institutional care	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

11. For those young people that experienced homelessness because their parents were no longer able or willing to accommodate them, what were the main reasons for this? (Please rank in order of prevalence, with 1 being most common and 7 being least common).

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Breakdown in relationship with parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Breakdown in relationship with stepparent or other family member	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial reasons	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overcrowding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Violence/abuse perpetrated by the young person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse by young people	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Young people's sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 5: Support Needs

12. How many young people presenting as homeless in February 2019 reported sleeping rough immediately prior to presenting at your local authority?

12.a. How has the number of young people who reported sleeping rough immediately prior to presenting as homeless changed since February 2018?

- Increased
- Decreased
- No change
- Don't know

12.b. How many young people presenting as homeless in February 2019 had the following support needs? (Some young people may have multiple support needs. Please report on ALL of their needs separately)

Substance misuse (illegal substances)	<input type="text"/>
Alcohol misuse	<input type="text"/>
Use of legal highs	<input type="text"/>
Mental health problems	<input type="text"/>
Learning disability	<input type="text"/>
Physical health problems	<input type="text"/>
Lack of independent living skills	<input type="text"/>
Lack of literacy and numeracy skills	<input type="text"/>
Lack of relationship skills	<input type="text"/>

Not in education, employment or training	<input type="text"/>
Offending history	<input type="text"/>
English as a second language	<input type="text"/>
LGBT	<input type="text"/>
Other	<input type="text"/>

12.c. How has the number of young people presenting with complex needs (defined as three or more needs) changed since February 2018?

- Increased
- Decreased
- No change
- Don't know

12.d. How has the complexity of young people's needs changed since February 2018?

- Increasing
- Decreasing
- No change
- Don't know

13. To what extent do you consider the welfare reforms of recent years to be continuing to impact upon the daily lives of homeless young people in your area?

- Very significantly
- Singificantly
- Moderately
- Infrequently

13.a. If relevant, please explain which aspects of welfare reform are continuing to adversely affect the experiences of homeless young people and in what ways.

Page 6: Homelessness Prevention

14. What was the total number of cases where positive action was successful in preventing youth homelessness during February 2019? (Prevention occurs when someone avoids homelessness and is assisted to obtain alternative accommodation or remain in their existing home)

15. What was the total number of cases where positive action was successful in relieving youth homelessness during February 2019? (Relief occurs when youth homelessness cannot be prevented but the young person is supported to secure accommodation even though the local authority is under no obligation to do this)

16. Which prevention initiatives were most effective in your area in February 2019? (Please tick up to FOUR options)

- Family mediation
- Conciliation including home visits for family/friend threatened exclusions
- Financial payments from a homeless prevention fund
- Resolving Housing Benefit problems
- Resolving rent or service charge arrears in the social or private rented sector
- Sanctuary scheme measures for domestic violence
- Crisis intervention providing emergency support
- Negotiation or legal advocacy to ensure that someone can remain in accommodation in the private rented sector
- Children's Services Use of Section 17 for short term financial support for a 16/17 year old

- Education work in schools or other youth provision
- Partnership working with the local Troubled Families programme
- Other

17. How effective is joint working between Housing departments and Children's services in your area?

- Very effective
- Effective
- Ineffective
- Very ineffective

17.a. Please explain your answer.

18. Did you have an adequate range of prevention services available in your area to meet the needs of young people at risk of homelessness in February 2019?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

18.a. Please explain your answer.

19. How has the prevention fund grant been used to support young people in your area, over the past 12 months?

+ More info

- Crisis payments
- Rent arrears
- Rent deposits
- Core funding/staffing
- Other

19.a. Are young people who have been in care given the option of longer-term support from the local authority after leaving the care system in your area?

+ More info

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

19.a.i. If yes, please provide further detail, where possible.



The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

20. Based on your observations of the first 12 months of its operation, what impact do you think the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 has had on levels of youth homelessness in your area?

[+ More info](#)

- Highly positive
- Positive
- No impact
- Negative impact
- Don't know

20.a. Please explain your answer.



21. What impacts (positive developments and challenges) have the first 12 months of implementation of the HRA 2017 had on homelessness practice in your area?



Page 7: Emergency Accommodation

22. Has the provision of the following types of emergency accommodation in your area changed since February 2018? (Emergency refers to temporary, short stay accommodation without waiting lists)

	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know
Crash pad beds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth specific assessment centre/short stay supported accommodation <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All age emergency hostels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No Second Night Out <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supported lodgings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B&B <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other short stay accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22.a. If applicable, what do you think are the key reasons for changes in the availability of emergency accommodation for young people in your area?

22.b. Do you use B&Bs to accommodate homeless young people in your area?

- Yes, often (we usually have young people in B&Bs)
- Yes, occasionally (we use B&Bs from time to time)
- Rarely (it's very unusual but it does happen)

- Never
- Don't know

22.b.i. How has the use of B&B accommodation for young people changed in your area over the past 12 months?

- Increased
- Decreased
- No change
- Dont know

22.b.i.a. Please explain your answer.

Page 8: Accommodation Options

23. How has the availability of the following longer term supported housing options in your area changed since February 2018? (Supported housing combines accommodation with support services that help to maintain independence)

	Increased	Decreased	No change	Don't know
Hostels / foyers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supported lodgings □	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared housing with floating support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-contained units with low or no support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharing housing for those in education, training or employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other non short stay accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24. In February 2019, what was the main type of accommodation that young homeless people moved on to in your area?

- Private rented sector
- Local authority owned housing
- Housing association owned housing
- Return to family or friends
- Other

24.a. Please explain your answer.

25. To what extent are you confident that young people who present as homeless are supported to move on to accommodation:

	Highly confident	Confident	Unconfident	Very confident	Don't know
Housing with adequate facilities, security and locks on doors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Secure permanent accommodation they can call their own rather than moving between temporary accommodation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Housing in an area they know, feel safe, where they are aware of available facilities and services, where to go for help, what the transport links are and close to training and employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Where they want it, housing in an area close to family, carers, friends and other support networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25.a. Please explain your answers.

26. Which of the following access schemes for move on accommodation are available in your area? (Please tick ALL that apply)

- A social lettings agency which can assist young people to find accommodation
- A rent deposit or a cashless bond scheme which young people can access
- Relationships with private sector landlords willing to consider young people as tenants
- A private lettings agency which can assist young people to find accommodation in the private rented sector
- Shared accommodation options developed with private landlords for young single people

27. Does your local authority have any specific strategy on youth homelessness?

- Yes, it is outlined within our overall homelessness strategy
- Yes, it is outlined in a specific youth homelessness strategy
- No
- Don't know

Page 9: Final Comments

28. What are the biggest gaps or challenges for young people / young people's services in your area?



29. We would welcome your comments and feedback on the following areas: the Homelessness Reduction Act; Changes to housing benefit and the affect on young people's ability to access the housing in your area; Concerns over issues of asylum / refugees; Good practice in your area.



