

# Homelessness in Amber Valley: 2013/14 Report

## Introduction

The following report provides an overview of homelessness in Amber Valley which, as a service, is provided on behalf of the Council by Futures Homescape. The report underlines key trends and provides a sense of context through comparison with homelessness data for England. Data is gathered from quarterly P1E statutory returns made to the Department for Communities and Local Government<sup>1</sup> and locally from Futures Homescape.

## Approaches

During the previous financial year 630 households approached the homelessness service in Amber Valley. This is a slight increase on 2012/13 during which 584 approaches were made. Of the 630 approaches in 2013/14 333 (53%) of households had their cases resolved through prevention advice. Although this is a decrease on 2012/13 during which 366 (63%) cases were resolved through prevention the difference is not marked and reflects a generally consistent level of prevention.

## Decisions

Throughout 2013/14 227 households were deemed eligible for assistance and went on to complete a homelessness application. The resulting decisions made by Futures Homescape on these applications are outlined in figures one and three below. A national comparison for England is provided in figure two.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>

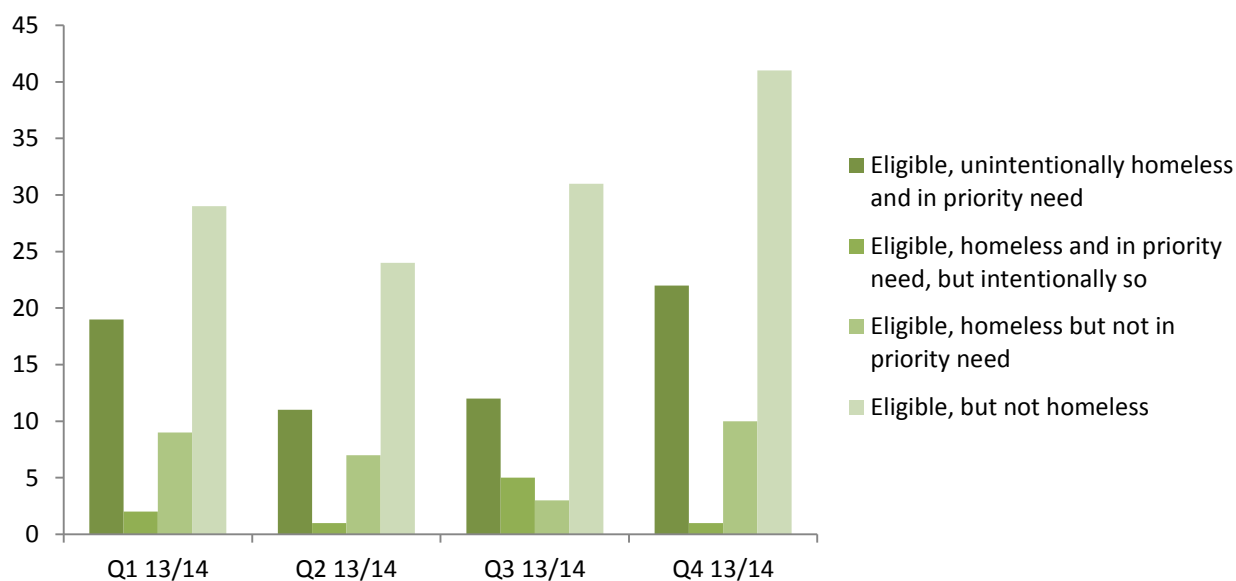
**Figure 1: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households (Amber Valley).**

Decision	Q1 13/14	Q2 13/14	Q3 13/14	Q4 13/14	Total	%	Per 1000 households
Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need	19	11	12	22	64	28.2	1.2
Eligible, homeless and in priority need, but intentionally so	2	1	5	1	9	4.0	0.2
Eligible, homeless but not in priority need	9	7	3	10	29	12.8	0.6
Eligible, but not homeless	29	24	31	41	125	55.1	2.4
<b>Total decisions</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4.3</b>

**Figure 2: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households (England).**

Decision	Q1 13/14	Q2 13/14	Q3 13/14	Q4 13/14	Total	%	Per 1000 households
Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need	13,230	13,460	13,330	12,890	52,910	46.9	2.4
Eligible, homeless and in priority need, but intentionally so	2,140	2,140	2,120	2,230	8,630	7.6	0.4
Eligible, homeless but not in priority need	5,160	5,170	5,360	5,190	20,880	18.5	0.9
Eligible, but not homeless	7,750	7,480	7,570	7,710	30,510	27.0	1.4
<b>Total decisions</b>	<b>28,280</b>	<b>28,250</b>	<b>28,380</b>	<b>28,020</b>	<b>112,930</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.1</b>

**Figure 3: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households (Amber Valley).**



In Amber Valley 64 households were considered to be eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. We therefore held a duty to accommodate these 64 households. This is a decrease in comparison to 2012/13 during which 87 households were owed a duty to accommodate. Levels of eligible, unintentional and priority homelessness in Amber Valley stood at 1.2 households per 1,000 households in the borough. This is a relatively low number.

A comparison of homelessness data underlines that 28.2% of the 227 potentially homeless households in Amber Valley were accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need which is notably lower than the 46.9% of comparable decisions made as a national average. It is also worth noting that in Amber Valley 55% of potentially homeless households were found not to be homeless compared to 27% at a national level.

## Reasons for Loss of Last Settled Home

A comparison between Amber Valley and England is provided in figures 4 and 5 showing a breakdown of reasons for the loss of settled accommodation in relation to households who were accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need during 2013/14. In Amber Valley it is clear that a key driver of homelessness was the violent breakdown of relationships which accounted for 34 (53.1%) eligible, unintentionally homeless households who were in priority need. This is very high in relation to England where the comparable figure was 5%. Consideration should be given to relatively low overall numbers of households in Amber Valley however this trend in domestic violence needs to be closely monitored, further understood and acted upon.

In Amber Valley the loss of rented accommodation accounted for 13 (20.3%) of eligible, unintentionally homeless households who were in priority need. This likely reflects the turnover within the private rented sector and the ending of assured shorthold tenancies. Across the rest of England loss of rented accommodation accounts for 30.9% of eligible, unintentionally homeless households who were in priority need. It is also worth noting the low levels of homelessness related to rent or mortgage arrears in both Amber Valley and England. This suggests that household debt is currently less of a homelessness related driver.

**Figure 4: Households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Reasons for loss of last settled home (Amber Valley).**

Accepted households: reason for loss of last settled home	Q1 13/14	Q2 13/14	Q3 13/14	Q4 13/14	Total	%
Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	1	0	3	3	7	10.9
Other relatives or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	0	2	0	0	2	3.1
Non-violent breakdown of relationship with partner	1	1	0	0	2	3.1
Violent breakdown of relationship with partner or associated persons	9	6	6	13	34	53.1
Harassment, threats or intimidation	0	0	0	1	1	1.6
Mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home)	0	0	0	1	1	1.6
Rent arrears	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Loss of rented or tied accommodation	7	1	2	3	13	20.3
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Left an institution or local authority care	0	0	1	1	2	3.1
Other reason for loss of last settled home	1	1	0	0	2	3.1
<b>Total applicant households</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Figure 5: Households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Reasons for loss of last settled home (England).**

Accepted households: reason for loss of last settled home	Q1 13/14	Q2 13/14	Q3 13/14	Q4 13/14	Total	%
Parents no longer willing or able to accommodate	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,100	<b>8,790</b>	<b>16.6</b>
Other relatives or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate	1,790	1,720	1,700	1,710	<b>6,920</b>	<b>13.1</b>
Non-violent breakdown of relationship with partner	720	660	650	590	<b>2,620</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Violent breakdown of relationship with partner or associated persons	1,640	1,510	1,580	1,550	<b>6,280</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Harassment, threats or intimidation	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	<b>N/R</b>	<b>N/R</b>
Mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home)	290	270	250	240	<b>1,050</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Rent arrears	430	420	430	560	<b>1,840</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Loss of rented or tied accommodation	3,840	4,360	4,260	3,880	<b>16,340</b>	<b>30.9</b>
Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	<b>N/R</b>	<b>N/R</b>
Left an institution or local authority care	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	<b>N/R</b>	<b>N/R</b>
Other reason for loss of last settled home	2,300	2,280	2,240	2,250	<b>9,070</b>	<b>17.1</b>
<b>Total applicant households</b>	<b>13,240</b>	<b>13,450</b>	<b>13,340</b>	<b>12,880</b>	<b>52,910</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## **Priority Need**

In Amber Valley during 2013/14 the violent breakdown of relationships and having dependent children were the two main reasons that households were accepted as being in priority need. 29 (45.3%) households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need were related to domestic violence and 28 (43.8%) household acceptances were related to dependent children. Clearly the issue of homelessness related domestic violence in Amber Valley is reflected in the 45.3% of households who were fleeing home because of acts or threats of violence. Again this figure needs to be monitored, better understood and acted upon. In comparison with the rest of England far fewer households were placed in priority need due to domestic violence, the figure stood at 2.9%. The proportion of people accepted as priority need in relation to dependent children was higher in the rest of England at 64.8%.

**Figure 6: Households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Priority need category (Amber Valley).**

<b>Accepted households by priority need category</b>	<b>Q1 13/14</b>	<b>Q2 13/14</b>	<b>Q3 13/14</b>	<b>Q4 13/14</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Applicant who is homeless because of emergency (fire, flood, storms, disaster, etc. )	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Applicant whose household includes dependent children	14	5	3	6	28	43.8
Applicant is, or household includes, a pregnant woman and there are no other dependent children	1	1	2	2	6	9.4
Applicant aged 16 or 17 years old	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Applicant formerly "in care", and aged 18 to 20 years old	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Old age	0	2	0	2	4	6.3
Physical disability	0	0	1	0	1	1.6
Mental illness or disability	2	1	3	3	9	14.1
Drug dependency	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Alcohol dependency	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Former asylum seeker	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Other (e.g. leaving armed forces or care)	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
Having fled their home because of violence/threat of violence	3	2	6	18	29	45.3
<b>Total applicant households</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Figure 6: Households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. Priority need category (England).**

Accepted households by priority need category	Q1 13/14	Q2 13/14	Q3 13/14	Q4 13/14	Total	%
Applicant who is homeless because of emergency (fire, flood, storms, disaster, etc. )	50	40	40	50	<b>180</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Applicant whose household includes dependent children	8,490	8,790	8,650	8,350	<b>34,280</b>	<b>64.8</b>
Applicant is, or household includes, a pregnant woman and there are no other dependent children	1,180	1,080	1,080	1,020	<b>4,360</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Applicant aged 16 or 17 years old	420	380	370	370	<b>1,540</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Applicant formerly "in care", and aged 18 to 20 years old	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Old age	190	190	210	200	<b>790</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Physical disability	920	910	940	930	<b>3,700</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Mental illness or disability	1,060	1,170	1,130	1,130	<b>4,490</b>	<b>8.5</b>
Drug dependency	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Alcohol dependency	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Former asylum seeker	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/R
Other (e.g. leaving armed forces or care)	520	530	520	450	<b>2,020</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Having fled their home because of violence/threat of violence	410	370	400	370	<b>1,550</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Total applicant households</b>	<b>13,240</b>	<b>13,460</b>	<b>13,340</b>	<b>12,870</b>	<b>52,910</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Rough Sleeping

The levels of rough sleeping in Amber Valley are based on an annual multi-agency rough sleeper count that takes place in November. As of November 2013 there were an estimated 6 rough sleepers in Amber Valley equating to 0.11 people per 1,000 households in the borough. This level is in line with the rest of England<sup>2</sup> where there were an estimated 2,414 rough sleepers in November 2013 equating to 0.11 people per 1,000 households. As a caveat, rough sleeping figures are always difficult to ascertain as a lot of street homelessness goes unseen particularly as the rough sleeper population tends to be transient.

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<sup>2</sup>[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/284024/Rough\\_Sleeping\\_Statistics\\_England\\_-\\_Autumn\\_2013.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284024/Rough_Sleeping_Statistics_England_-_Autumn_2013.pdf)

