

Homelessness Review

Introduction

The Homelessness Act 2002 requires Local Authorities to carry out a homeless review and publish a Homelessness Strategy by July 2003. The aim of Act is to achieve a shift away from crisis management of homelessness to focus upon prevention of homelessness and providing support to homeless people.

The review is required to identify:

- Current and future levels of homelessness
- Activities undertaken to
 - Prevent homelessness
 - Secure that accommodation is available for homeless people
 - Provide support to homeless people
- Resources available to the Eastbourne Borough Council, social services, other public agencies, voluntary organisations and others for these activities.
- Gap analysis

The findings of the review will inform the Eastbourne Homelessness Strategy which will identify future objective for tackling issues of homelessness in Eastbourne. The strategy must be kept under review and a new strategy published every five years.

Steering Group

The Review process has been guided by a steering group, made up representatives from Eastbourne Borough Council, RSLs, Social Services, Police, Voluntary Agencies and Health.

The Steering Group was established to guide and oversee the review process and contribute to data collect and consolation process. Members of the Steering Group are listed in Appendix A.

Methodology

Data was collected from a number of different sources:

Service Provider Questionnaire – a questionnaire was issued to all service providers

working in the Eastbourne Borough who provided a service to homeless people.

Homeless Snapshot Survey – a 2 week snapshot survey was carried out between 3rd – 14th February 2003 to identify levels of street homelessness and ‘sofa surfing’ in the town. Each record was identified by the persons initials and date of birth to eliminate double counting. Results are listed in Appendix B.

Service Provider Consultation – a consultation afternoon was held to offer an opportunity for all services providers working with homeless people in the town from advice agencies to private landlord, to raise issues that they want addressed in the strategy.

Service user focus-groups – an independent researcher carried out five focus group session to establish the areas of priority for applicants who are or have recently been homeless, and areas of suggested service improvement.

Existing Data – Existing data identifying service provision and levels of homelessness have been collected from agencies operating in the town and EBC PIE returns.

Whilst this data may be considered reliable from individual agencies, it is important to note that in terms of the level of homelessness existing data does not allow for the elimination of double counting. It is reasonable to expect that a number individuals facing homeless are likely to visit more than one agency for advice and assistance.

Levels of Homelessness

Approaches to the Local Authority

Applications

Local Authority applications have fluctuated over the past four years and,

having reduced since 2000/2001, have remained fairly static over the past two years. This trend mirrored by numbers of acceptances of statutory homeless households. Levels of acceptances have remained stable over the past to years at around 250 households.

Whilst we received a slight increase in applications and acceptances in the first quarter following the implementation of the Homelessness Act 2002, this has not had a significant impact to date.

Priority Need

Of the statutory homeless households the percentage falling within each of the priority need

groups remain largely consistent over the past four years.

This may vary in the future in relation to the new priority need groups of 16/17 year olds; 18-21 year old previously in care; vulnerable due to leaving care 21 year olds +, leaving prison, leaving the armed forces or, fleeing violence. As these groups have only been considered priority need since 31st July 2002 there little information on the numbers that are likely to approach Eastbourne Borough Council as homeless. However, early indications from statistics show that the most prevalent of these groups will be the 16/17 year olds.

This graph shows the breakdown by priority need of accepted applicants during 2002/03.

Of the accepted households in priority need due to pregnancy or dependant children, a total 55% of total acceptance, 24% were under 21 years of age. The number of young mothers presenting as homeless has increased steadily over the past 3 years as shown below.

Homeless households who are priority need due to vulnerability have accounted for between 47-36% over the past four years. This has reduced over the past four years to current levels. However, with the introduction of the new vulnerable priority need groups mentioned above it is likely this may increase again in the future, although we have not seen these increases to date. Of the groups shown below mental health is constantly the highest group of vulnerable acceptances.

The graph on page 4 (Priority Need) shows trends in the levels of vulnerable acceptances since 1999 as one of the categories of the priority need. The graph above (Vulnerability) shows the percentage breakdown of groups within the vulnerability category of acceptances in 2002/03.

Ethnicity

According to the 2001 Census data White British people make up 97% of Eastbourne Borough's population. The graph below shows the population breakdown by ethnicity.

Homeless applications received by Eastbourne Borough Council by Ethnicity are shown

below. The inner ring represents 2000/2001, middle ring 2001/2002 and the outer ring 2002/2003.

The graphs show that the percentage of applications for housing from ethnic minorities are disproportionately high compared to the percentage of the ethnic minorities as a part of the total population up of the Borough. This would indicate the difficulties of poverty and homelessness that affect this section of the community.

Asylum Seekers

Asylum seekers are not eligible for assistance from the Local Authority and are assisted by NASS. We have currently been unable to establish how many households NASS have placed in Eastbourne, but we are aware that placements are made in the area and aim to collect further information in this area.

Once an asylum seeker has been granted exceptional or indefinite leave to remain or refugee status they may then seek assistance from the local authority. During 2002/03 there were 4 homeless acceptances from former asylum seekers who had been granted status which allowed eligibility to receive public funds. This equates to 1.6% of acceptance for the year.

Street homelessness/no fixed abode

A 'snapshot' survey was carried out across the Borough by all agencies providing services to homeless people to identify levels of rough sleeping and 'sofa surfing' over a 2 week period.

During this period 29 people were identified as sleeping rough or sofa surfing in Eastbourne. Of these the majority are unsurprising single adults, who are unlikely to be considered in priority need. A cyclical trend is also shown with 58% of the people in this survey having previously been homeless at least once.

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Reason for homelessness

The reasons behind statutory homelessness in Eastbourne are mirrored by those included in the snapshot survey. The majority of homelessness is caused by relationship breakdown either with family or partner which accounts for 23% of acceptances and the ending of assured shorthold tenancies/licences which accounts for 29% and relationship breakdown, accounting for 19%. These three categories account for 71% of statutory homelessness in Eastbourne.

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The key reasons for homelessness found for statutory homeless households are mirrored in the snapshot survey results for street homeless and sofa surfing. The same three groups accounting for 68% with affordability also being a significant factor.

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Voluntary Agencies

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In addition to the local authority, a number of agencies in the town are approached by people who are threatened with, or have become homeless, for advice and assistance in securing accommodation.

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The graph above shows percentages which relate to the number of approaches made and therefore may include multiple approaches made by individuals and include double counting with other agencies and EBC statistics. The numbers of approaches do not exclude double counting and information/advice sought is not identifiable from existing data, therefore numbers have not been quoted.

Additional Factors

Out of Borough Placements

When considering levels of homelessness it is also worth noting that a number of Local Authorities place homeless people into B&B accommodation in Eastbourne. This is due to the availability of low cost accommodation in the area and the lack of such accommodation in their own local authority area. It is difficult to identify accurate numbers of people who are placed in the borough, and even more difficult to ascertain how many of these do not receive a full housing duty from the placing authority.

Of eight Authorities asked in East and West Sussex six stated that they do place homeless people in Eastbourne with an approximate total of 125 placements per annum. In addition we are aware that London authorities have also placed in Eastbourne and have already referred to NASS placements above.

Court Possessions Actions

Eastbourne County Court have received fewer mortgage possession action requests in the past year which reflects low interest rates for mortgages. However the number of rent possession actions have increased in the past twelve months, and are again reaching levels seen in 2000. This is likely partially due to increases in rent levels in the private rented sector in excess of the HB local reference rent level although this does need to be further explored.

The number of Bailiff warrants executed, while still lower than in 2000, are again increasing, indicating an increase in affordability problems which is expected in the light of the current booming housing market.

Eastbourne County Court takes applications from Eastbourne Borough and part of the Wealden Borough.

Connexions

A report produced by Sussex Connections in January 2003 identified that 17 people between the ages of 13 – 19 years in the Eastbourne Borough considered themselves to be in housing crisis.

Affordability

The cost of flats and maisonettes rose by over 36% between March 2000 and March 2002. This increase is nearly 20% higher than the national average and house prices generally in the Eastbourne area have continued to rise.

Property type	Average purchase price	Average weekly rent
Flat	£94,882	£96

Terraced house	£107,282	£110
Semi detached house	£119,903	£125
Detached house	£190,210	£135

As at January 2002 - Source Housing Strategy 2003-2008

Eastbourne is known as a low pay area and salaries generally are £3,000 per annum less than the average for the South East Region. The average income for working people in Eastbourne is £19,000, but over 33% earn less than £13,000 per annum.

Annual household Income	% Eastbourne households	% households nationally
Below £10,000	28.8	33.4
£10,000 - £15,000	22.3	14.1
£15,001 - £20,000	14.1	13.1
£20,001 +	34.8	39.4

As at January 2002 - Source Housing Strategy 2003-2008

The majority of residents are unable to rent privately without significant assistance from housing benefit. The table below shows the percentage of households in Eastbourne who are unable to access the housing market without subsidy.

Property type	% of households unable to pay rental cost	% of households unable to pay purchase costs
Flat	65	72

Terraced house	69	75
Semi detached house	75	83
Detached house	81	94

Calculations assume a maximum of 30% of nett income spent on housing costs

As at January 2002 - Source Housing Strategy 2003-2008

The housing needs survey carried out in 2000 also showed that over 1,700 concealed households will be seeking housing by 2006. The majority of these, round 96% will be childless with 66% under the age of 24 and a further 31% between 24 and 44 years old.

Whilst 78% will aspire to home ownership around 26% will require affordable housing. To cater for this demand supply of new affordable units would have had to increase from the current average of 50 per annum to 456 per annum from 2000 to 2006. In addition, Right to Buy sales have steadily increased over the past 3 years from 69 units in 2000/1 to 76 units during 2001/2 to 89 units during 2002/3.

Future levels of homelessness

There are a number of factors to take into account when trying to assess future levels of homelessness. These include:

- Current levels and past trends in statutory homelessness
- Current levels and past trends in intentional homelessness
- Current levels and past trends of street homelessness
- Current levels and past trends of non statutory homelessness
- Levels of affordability
- Shortfalls in affordable development starts & RTB sales
- Levels of migration
- Housing costs – owner occupation & private rent
- New priority need groups
- Number of new forming households

From the information available levels of both statutory and non-statutory homelessness have remained relatively constant over the past two years.

This is during a period of rapidly rising house prices and rental costs. RTB sales have increased and affordable housing starts have remained constant, added to the predicted number of new forming households there is a predicted shortfall of at least 400 units of affordable accommodation being developed per annum.

Assuming the housing market stabilises or declines and mortgage interest rates remain constant, it is unlikely that levels of homelessness will rise significantly. This is also assuming that the new priority need groups will continue to have little impact upon levels of homelessness.

However, should house prices and rent levels continue to rise it is likely that this will have an impact upon homelessness. Should mortgage interest rates increase it is likely that levels of homelessness will increase. With reported record levels of borrowing interest rates could have a significant impact upon homelessness.

Whilst it is unlikely that levels of homelessness will reduce in the current housing climate, it is possible that this could happen should house prices and rent level reduce significantly, allowing people easy access to accommodation. However, it is unlikely that this would have a beneficial impact for under 25s in receipt of housing benefit or for people requiring support for whom difficulty in accessing accommodation is not purely financial.

Therefore based upon the empirical evidence available we would expect levels of homelessness to remain static or moderately increase, should external factors remain constant.

Activities undertaken to prevent homelessness

Whilst most agencies are involved, in varying degrees, in attempting to prevent homelessness there is currently a lack of statistical data collected to identify how successful this is.

The housing advice centre provides prevention advice and assistance to people who may be facing homelessness. However, at present it is not possible to identify how effective this is. Prevention methods include negotiation with the landlord, negotiation with friend/family members where the applicant is staying, advice to tenants on housing law, advice on welfare benefits available and signposting to welfare benefit advice, information regarding available housing options, signposting to specialist housing advisors.

Prevention of homelessness is a key aim of some of the advice agencies operating in Eastbourne. The main providers of prevention services are:

- **Eastbourne Housing Aid and Legal Centre – Housing advice, accommodation service and advocacy services to all**

client groups.

- Youth Accommodation Service – Housing advice, outreach and support to under 26 years olds.
- Citizens Advice Bureau - General housing advice to all client groups.
- Open Door – Housing advice and advocacy services to under 25 year olds.

It is not currently possible to ascertain exact levels of provision of these services by client numbers, nor the outcomes as current monitoring systems do not allow comparison of data. However some agencies were able to provide some information, although it is not possible to rule out double counting between agencies.

Figures recorded between 1st April 2002 – 31st December 2002

Prevention methods include negotiation with the landlord, court advocacy, negotiation/advocacy with friend/family members where the applicant is staying, advice on housing law, advice on welfare benefits, information regarding available housing options, assistance with to access housing.

Landlords of affordable housing in Eastbourne provide prevention advice to their tenants, to prevent loss of tenancies usually through rent arrears or nuisance.

Figures recorded between 1st April 2002 – 31st December 2002

Activities to secure that accommodation is available to homeless people

Unsurprisingly, owner occupation makes up 75% of housing in the Eastbourne area. The graph below shows the breakdown of tenure in the town.

Permanent Accommodation

HomeChoice is the lettings system used to allocate the majority of affordable rented homes in Eastbourne. Properties are currently let through three bandings which reflect applicants housing need. Statutory Homeless households are registered as ‘Urgent’ along with households who “have an urgent need for housing on social, medical or welfare grounds” which may distort the waiting times for homeless households.

Non statutory homeless are predominantly registered in the 'Live' band.

Property type	Waiting time Urgent band	Waiting time Live band
Flats	1 – 2 years	3 – 4 years
Houses	1 – 2 years	5 – 6 years
Sheltered	6 months	1 – 2 years

There were 430 vacancies allocated through Eastbourne Borough Council during 2002/3. These include all Eastbourne Borough Council vacancies and a percentage of RSL vacancies, which range from 100% to 50% of RSL total vacancies according to individual agreements on an estate basis. Of these vacancies 106 were allocated to homeless households, equivalent to 24% of vacancies.

The current targets for lettings within each band are shown above which are to be reviewed as part of the HomeChoice review. The actual lettings by banding relate to the period from the pilot implementation in July 2002 to 31st March 2003.

The total number of tenancies shows tenancies granted in respect of true voids only. Therefore this figure does not include the households where non-secure tenancies had been granted and have been replaced by secure tenancies (shown in yellow) but does include the homeless households (shown in red).

Other forms of affordable housing available in the Eastbourne area include Homebuy and Shared ownership.

The Homebuy scheme allows people to purchase an equity share in a property of their choice. This is a small scheme which has 5 units purchased 2001/02 and 2 units in 2002/03. There is an allocation for 5 units to be purchased within this scheme in 2003/04.

Shared ownership also allows people to part purchase a property, and rent the remaining equity share at a sub-market rent. There are currently 192 shared ownership properties in Eastbourne. However, it is rarely suitable for homeless households as it has a minimum income threshold, which is often not achievable for individuals.

Private Rented Sector

The private rented sector provides 10% of housing in the Borough. However it can be difficult for homeless people to access this type of accommodation. Discussions with the Southern Private Landlords Association (SPLA) have indicated that this is predominantly due to the buoyancy of the sector at present.

Eastbourne Housing Aid and Legal Centre currently work closely with private sector landlords to maximise the use of this accommodation for homeless people and they aim to expand upon this provision.

In addition, to improve the accessibility of this sector for homeless people, we are currently working jointly with Wealden and Lewes District Councils and the SPLA to establish an accreditation scheme for private landlords. Through this work it has been shown that incentives that aim to minimise risk to landlords may also assist, such as financial guarantees against loss and damage and additional tenancy support.

Temporary Accommodation

Temporary accommodation for statutory homeless has been steadily increased in years, with emphasis on individual needs groups.

The graph above shows the percentage breakdown of temporary accommodation by client group. The use of this accommodation is shown in more detail.

Landlord	No units	Type/size	Client grp	No. lets 02/3	Ave length stay
EBC hostels	14	10 x 1 bd 3 x 2 bd 1 x studio	General needs	41	17 weeks
EBC dispersed	15	11 x 1 bd 3 x 2 bd 1 x 3 bd	General needs	24	16 weeks
Southern Horizon psl		14 x 1 bd 43 x 2 bd 53 x 3 bd 3 x 4 bd	General Needs	25	Approx 3 years
Carr Gomm assessment	2	2 x 1 bd	Mental health	8	13 wks assessment

Carr Gomm St Aubyns	9	8 x studio 1 x 1 bd	Support	N/a	Opened Feb 2003
Warden assessment	6	6 x studio	Under 25s	N/a	Opened Nov 2002
YMCA	17	11 x studio 6 x 1 bd	Under 25s	N/a	Opened fully Feb 03
Turnaround	6	2 x 1 bd 4 x rooms	Substance misuse	N/a	Opened March 2003
Refuge	8	8 x rooms	Domestic violence Ó2;	TBA	TBA

Use of B&B

Whilst we are actively working to reduce the use of B&B and to meeting the Government's target of for 0 families in B&B for more than 6 weeks, it is important to take into account the levels usage of this type of accommodation.

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Activities undertaken to provide support to homeless people

Supporting People is a new programme aimed at improving the quality and effectiveness of housing-related support, which was introduced in April 2003. The Supporting People strategy has identified support requirements for East Sussex following a comprehensive mapping exercise of both existing services and need. Supporting people funding has been secured in Eastbourne to assist homeless people to sustain their new tenancy, improve living skills and reduce the risk of cyclical homelessness.

Support linked to accommodation

YMCA - support to the 17 tenants at the 16-25 year old scheme

Warden – 6 units for under 21s

Foyer – 30 units for under 26 yrs

Refuge – support to the 8 tenants of the refuge

Southdown Housing Association – 50 through the Independent living scheme and 9 at the Enys Road scheme - tenants with mental health problems

Southern Horizon – 113 homeless families/singles in temporary accommodation

EBC – 29 homeless households in temporary accommodation

Turnaround – 6 spaces substance misuse scheme

Carr Gomm – 17 permanent support Hyde gardens, mental health

Carr Gomm – 11 temporary units support mental health

Carr Gomm – shared houses mental health and learning disabilities 8 bedspaces spaces

Floating support

Eastbourne Housing Plus – for all types of households, up to 105 clients, possibly to increase to 130 clients

Southdown Housing Association – for people with mental health problems for up to 10 clients

Youth Accommodation Service – provide floating support to under 26s year olds.

Refuge – floating support to victims of domestic violence

NCH - provide support through the PASS scheme to (age group)

Resources 2003/4

The following summarises available resources for homeless services that have been identified to date.

Homeless prevention and advice

YAS – £30,000 Young people

Open door – £17,500 Young people

EHALC - £18,500 Private sector accommodation

EHALC - £45,000 All groups esp. non-priority single persons

EBC – £92,000 Priority groups (families, vulnerable)

EBC – 6 FTE staff

Tenancy support services (floating support scheme)

YMCA - £63,000

EBC - £55,000

Refuge Outreach - £50,000

EHALC - £281,690

Accommodation provision

Housing Development - £4,385,000

Home ownership grant - £150,000

New Homeless Initiatives

EBC - £10,000

ODPM - £41,000 *

*other ODPM funding for voluntary sector schemes is included in prevention and advice.

In addition RSLs and EBH have resources within their staffing structure to support tenancies and prevent homelessness, mainly through housing management staff. These are not specifically from homeless households, although there will be homeless households who benefit from these services.

Gap Analysis

Consultation was carried out with service users and service providers. As part of this consultation and the service provider questionnaire, participants were asked to identify the gaps they felt existed in the services. Clearly these responses are anecdotal and relate to individual's experiences, this said they give a clear indication of areas where improvement in provision could assist in elevating homelessness. There were a number of areas of overlap between the service user and service provider priorities.

Service Providers

Accommodation

Accommodation is generally difficult to access for all client groups and of all accommodation types. The main difficulties are:

- Lack of affordable accommodation
- Limited access to private rented sector
- Lack of emergency/direct access accommodation

- Review Foyer access criteria (Crowbridge Model) possible limited emergency access
- Access to a rent deposit for all groups
- Single room reference rent
- Private landlords distrust of/delays in HB processing
- Increase RSL assistance in housing homeless
- Change of use of 'hard to let' affordable stock (sheltered)
- More joint working with Planners at strategic level to increase affordable housing gain
- Compulsory purchase of empty homes
- Room to let register
- Re-evaluate use of EBC & RSLs stock to reduce use of B&B
- Hostel accommodation on licence as alternative to B&B whilst under investigation

Client groups that are most difficult to accommodate include:

- Non-statutory single homeless
- Under 18 year olds
- Mental health

Prevention

- Floating support to vulnerable private sector tenants
- Education of young people
- Inter-generation mediation to reduce parental eviction
- Speed of processing and lack of discretion when backdating HB
- Improved signposting for advice

Support

- Floating support for young people
- Families with low level support needs, no social services involvement
- Out of hours support service

- Clear demarcation of services between all agencies services
- Quality standards audit of support services
- Agreement between support provider and SS on remit of each in terms of support or individual client

Additional gaps

- Multi-agency approach and information sharing
- Housing Benefit improvements in private sector – quicker payment
- Strategic direction for voluntary sector to avoid duplication of service
- Client centred working protocols between agencies
- Flexible approach required to changing need (local and individual)
- Comparable statistical information collection (eliminating double counting)
- Political will to address emergency access
- County wide agreement on out of borough placements

Service Users

_Priorities identified by service users during focus group sessions.

Accommodation

- Information about available accommodation
- More information about how to get help finding a deposit together once they have found somewhere to rent
- Provide separate information about bed and breakfast willing to take people under 25
- Provide information about landlords who have already agreed to accept tenants on housing benefit
- Quicker system for dealing with homeless people
- Applications for housing and housing benefit get lost in the system
- Reduce time taken for landlord to receive 1st HB rent payment (up to 9 wk)

- pre-tenancy determination takes too long - landlords won't wait
- Emergency accommodation suitable for people under 19
- a lack of available housing for the under 25s
- bed and breakfast accommodation will not accept under 25s
- Substance misuse service users felt there was a need for more short-term emergency accommodation for people with children in safe environments away from areas of the town known to be predominantly populated by drug dealers
- Better vetting of landlords (checks of accommodation, food provision and other tenants)
- Create a stronger homeless unit and a hostel

Prevention

- Information about agencies is patchy

Support

- Help required linking in with opportunities for getting into work or training
- More support workers who can guide people through the process and enable people to maintain a link with one worker throughout a claim
- Provide more supported housing for vulnerable young people like that of NCH

Additional gaps

- Services should be more 'welcoming'
- amount of time they had to wait to be seen by a first contact in an agency was too long
- Simplify forms so that they are written in basic English and provide support to fill them out
- Young people felt not enough agencies working for them with a housing focus
- Young people want a service set up like the Young People's Centre in Brighton
- Provide more, regularly updated, information on housing – possibly to be presented in a 'pack' that facilitates self-referral and self-help
- Encourage agencies to share information and publicise all available services

Findings

The key areas identified where emphasis is required to address issues of homelessness in Eastbourne are as follows:

Prevention

- Mediation services to reduce parental eviction
- Early access to a deposit bond for all client groups
- Effective procedures to prevent illegal eviction
- Establish clear processes for assessing effectiveness of prevention
- Well publicised effective advice and advocacy services

Accommodation

- Increase temporary accommodation for families and singles to reduce use of B&B
- Improve access to private rented accommodation for all groups
- Hostel accommodation providing direct access for people in housing need
- Increase provision/access to accommodation for under 25s
- Increase provision of affordable housing units
- Increase choice to enable access to accommodation in other areas
- Provide supported accommodation for teenage mothers/under 21 years

Support

- Access to support for private sector tenancies
- Support for teenage mothers
- Joined up approach to support between agencies (multiple needs)

Information/Other gaps

- Comparable data collection from agencies within the Borough
- Client targeted information packs
- Accurate information for agencies to effectively signpost
- Improve Housing Benefit service to both claimants and landlords
- Service agreements and monitoring of agency services
- Client centred protocols between statutory agencies

Appendix A

Steering Group Members

Nigel Hussey	Healthy Eastbourne Co-ordinator Eastbourne Borough Council
Graham Lindfield	Victim Services Officer Sussex Police
Matthew Hanson-Khan	Supporting People Project Officer East Sussex County Council
Sue Vaughan	Project Manager Youth Accommodation Service
Tim Bower	Project co-ordinator Open Door
Keith Young	Manager Probation Services
Helen Wilson	Area Manager South East North British Housing Association

Harry Tedstone	Solicitor EHALC
Gillian Dart	Area Manager Southern Horizon Association
James Mark	Area Manager Raglan Housing Association
Chris Jenions	Operations Manager Social Services Children & Families
Sue Dean	Manager Social Services Supported Accommodation Team
Councillor Leggett	Eastbourne Borough Council
Mike Opreshko	Area Manager – East Sussex Southdown Housing Association
Adrian Channon	Tenancy Services Manager Eastbourne Borough Council
Arjan de Jong	Shelter
Julia Osman	Youth Offending Team
Alan Etheridge	Leaving Care Team
Councillor Elkin	Eastbourne Borough Council

Appendix B

Snapshot Survey Finding - Roofless 3.2.03 - 14.2.03

Agencies

17 agencies were asked to participate in the snapshot survey.

To date 10 agencies have returned their results.

Results

No. of Roofless

29 people considered themselves to be roofless

12 had slept rough

17 had 'sofa surfed' (6 stated yes to both slept rough and 'sofa surfed')

3 staying temporarily with family/friends

1 self accessed B&B

1 sleeping in car

Age

Under 16 0

16-17 1

18-25 12

26-50 12

50+ 2

Not stated 2

Length of time

Slept rough – 14 nights - longest stated period, 1 night – shortest stated period

Sofa Surfing – 3 months – longest stated period, 1 night – shortest stated period

Advice

4 had approached more than one agency for advice

Town of last settled address

Eastbourne	21
London	2
Manchester	1
Suffolk	1
Dundee	1
Halifax	1
Exeter	1
Not stated	1

Previous homelessness

No	12
Once	6
Twice	4
3 times	3
4 times	1
Not stated	3

Reason for homelessness

Relationship breakdown	5
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Asked to leave by family	9
Eviction	5
Dispute with landlord	1
Affordability	5
Landlord selling property	1
Return from abroad	1
Had to leave area	1
Leaving prison	1