

(CCC) Homelessness

- Does the Council use the power under s206(2) Housing Act 1996 to charge homeless people for temporary accommodation?
- Does the Council hold any policies or internal guidance documents relating to charges for temporary accommodation, including on what constitutes a 'reasonable' charge in relation to s206(2) Housing Act 1996. If so, what is the content of the policies of guidance?
- If the Council has charged homeless people for temporary accommodation, please provide information on the following for the past calendar year:
 - The number of people charged.
 - The total income received by the Council from any charges.
 - How many people paid such charges directly to the Council, rather than via charges taken directly from Universal Credit or other social security entitlements.
 - What, if any, is the total outstanding debt owed to the Council for temporary accommodation charges currently owed?

Response

- Does the Council use the power under s206(2) Housing Act 1996 to charge homeless people for temporary accommodation?
It really depends on the accommodation. There is a charge on all temporary accommodation but in many cases the bulk of this charge will be covered by Housing Benefit. It depends on household income. However, all of our own temporary accommodation comes with a service charge which isn't covered by Housing Benefit. And bed and breakfast accommodation always include a charge.
- Does the Council hold any policies or internal guidance documents relating to charges for temporary accommodation, including on what constitutes a 'reasonable' charge in relation to s206(2) Housing Act 1996. If so, what is the content of the policies of guidance?
The council does not have a written policy.
- If the Council has charged homeless people for temporary accommodation, please provide information on the following for the past calendar year:
 - The number of people charged.
 - The total income received by the Council from any charges.
 - How many people paid such charges directly to the Council, rather than via charges taken directly from Universal Credit or other social security entitlements.
 - What, if any, is the total outstanding debt owed to the Council for temporary accommodation charges currently owed?For the calendar year of 2021 we had:
 - 308 placements which were charged for their temporary accommodation.
 - All placements paid their charge for accommodation/service charge direct to the Council (not through Universal Credit)
 - Our current rent arrears are £22,307.We haven't been able to obtain a figure of our income from Housing Benefit or our income in total.