



Housing Key Facts

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping

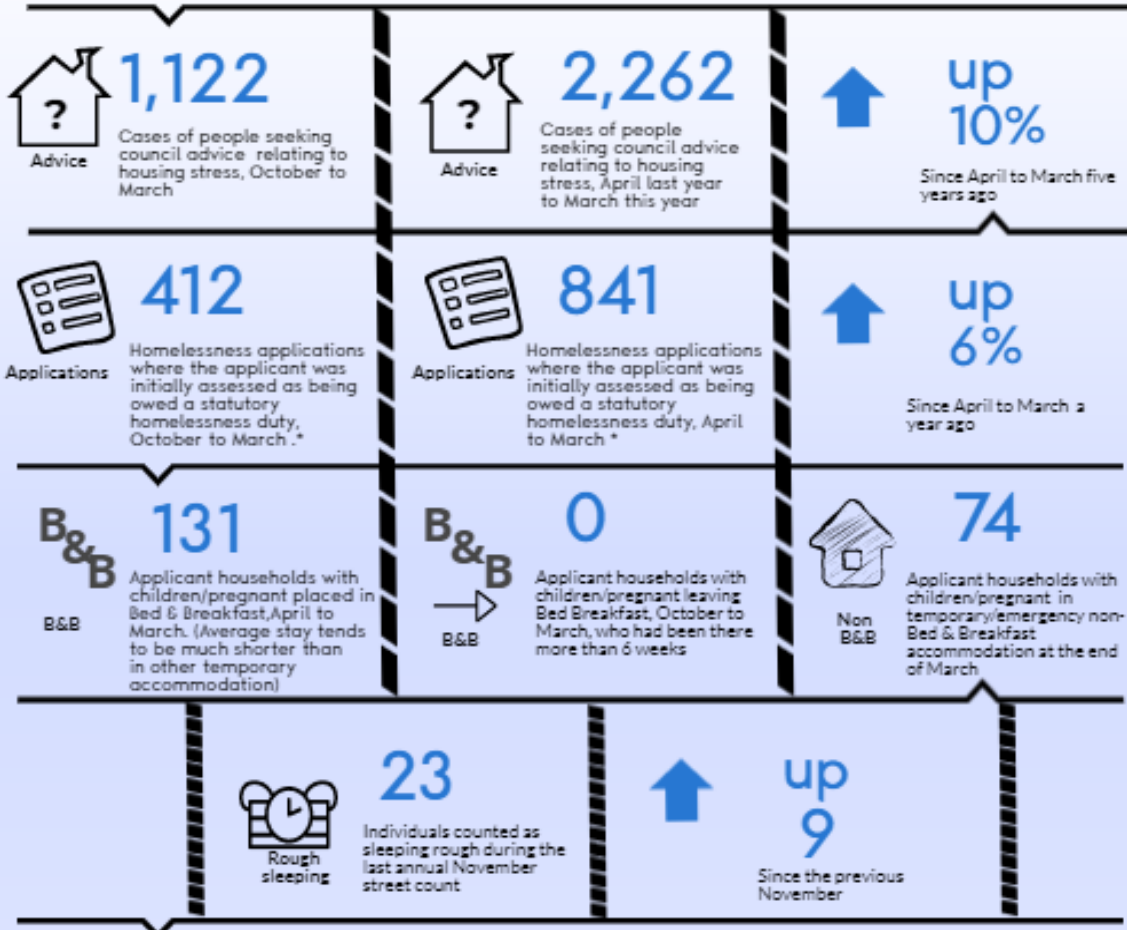
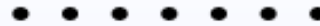
Summary, Commentary & Data Tables

March 2023



Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Summary

March 2023



*See the main body of the report for an explanation on when a statutory homelessness duty applies. Also note that these are just initial assessments, and that some applicants may have made more than one application during the period.



Homelessness & Rough Sleeping: Summary

There were **2,262** cases April to March of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress; **Up around 10%** since April to March a year ago.

There were **412** homelessness applications received October to March where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty. *

There were **841** homelessness applications received April to March where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty; **up 6%** since the previous April to March. *

131 applicant households with children/pregnant were placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during April to March; **up 75%** since the previous April to March. (The average stay tends to be much shorter than in other temporary accommodation)

0 applicant households with children/pregnant who left Bed and Breakfast during October to March had been there more than 6 weeks.

There were **74** applicant households with children/pregnant in temporary/emergency non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of March.

23 individuals were counted as sleeping rough during the last annual November street count; **up 9** since the previous November.

*See the main body of the report for an explanation of when a statutory homelessness duty applies. Note also that these are just initial assessments, and that some applicants may have made more than one application during the period.

Homelessness & Rough Sleeping: Commentary

- When people think of homelessness they often think of people sleeping rough, but numbers of people at risk of or becoming homeless who do not end up on the streets are considerably higher.
- Homelessness has always been an issue for Cambridge, but the problem is worsening and is expected to continue to do so.
- There has been a steady increase over the last few years of the number of people approaching the council for advice relating to housing stress, and numbers rose again this year.
- At the same time, the number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless before they were owed a statutory duty (i.e. more than 56 days before they were threatened with homelessness) almost halved this year compared with the previous year. The reasons for this are not currently clear and need to be better understood.
- The number of homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness has also risen over the last two years.
- The number of households in temporary and emergency accommodation is also increasing; with a particularly steep rise over the last year of households with children or pregnant having to be placed in Bed & Breakfast.
- The growing pressures are due to a combination of factors, particularly the cost of living crisis and the growing shortage of private sector accommodation. Although the number of council and housing association homes let through Home-Link increased this year, access to private sector housing at rent levels people can afford, in particular for those on welfare benefits, has become even more challenging than previously.
- Arrangements for accommodating some Ukrainian refugees under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme have also started coming to an end, leading to more households seeking advice or being at risk of homelessness.
- Increases in mortgage rates could also start to see more home-owners in difficulty than in recent years, although as many mortgages are fixed term arrangements the full effects of this may take longer to come through.

- Numbers of rough sleepers counted in the annual autumn street count rose compared with the previous two years, following a national trend. Reasons are complex and not fully understood, but include: a core number of long-term rough sleepers not accepting or maintaining accommodation opportunities; and a steady drift to the street of new rough sleepers, many of whom originate from outside Cambridge but appear to be drawn to the City by services not available in their home area.
 - A number of new initiatives have been implemented over recent years to try to prevent and tackle rough sleeping. Further measures are being put in place, with targeted support provided for people with multiple and complex needs. Although again, the current financial climate could also contribute to a further increase in the number of rough sleepers going forwards.
 - See also the Housing Register Applications & Lettings, Private Rented Housing, and Population Households & Economy sections of Housing Key Facts.
 - For more information on the council's approach to homelessness and rough sleeping see the council's [Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026](#).
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Homelessness Data Tables

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Explanation

This section of Housing Key Facts gives information on households who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness. (This should not be confused with rough sleeping as many homeless people are not rough sleeping and not all rough sleepers are necessarily homeless).

It also, more broadly, shows numbers of recorded where the council has been contacted by or on behalf of a person or household for housing advice because they are in some sort of housing stress . (This excludes those just applying for housing through the Home-Link register). These initial contacts may or may not lead to a homelessness application, depending on the circumstances.

The council owes statutory duties to applicants who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

These duties include:

- A duty to take reasonable steps to prevent someone from becoming homeless by helping them to stay where they are or move to somewhere more suitable, whether or not they are considered to be in priority need. This duty applies to people who are at risk of becoming homelessness within 56 days.
- A duty, where someone has become homeless, to take reasonable steps to relieve their homelessness through helping them to secure suitable accommodation, again whether or not they are in priority need. This duty also lasts for up to 56 days and may, in some cases, include providing temporary accommodation.
- A 'main' duty to find suitable accommodation which is available for 6 months or more, where an eligible applicant who is homeless has received help from the council to prevent or relieve their homelessness but it has not been successful. This applies where the council is satisfied that the applicant is in priority need (e.g. where the applicant has dependent children or is vulnerable) and not intentionally homeless. In some cases temporary accommodation may be provided before more permanent housing can be found.
- The council also helps to prevent homelessness for applicants where no statutory duty is owed because they are threatened with homelessness in more than 56 days' time.

Where short-term accommodation is provided this may be in the form of emergency Bed and Breakfast, or other temporary or emergency types of accommodation.

Households are usually only placed in Bed and Breakfast for one or two nights, although stays can be longer if no other suitable accommodation is available. There is a statutory requirement that no household with a pregnant mother or with

dependent children should remain in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks.

It will sometimes be necessary to place households in Bed & Breakfast accommodation outside of Cambridge if nothing suitable is available within the City. Placements in a hotel in north Cambridge, just south of the A14, whilst technically in South Cambridgeshire are counted as being in Cambridge.

Caution

Backdated changes are occasionally made to some data; for example due to time lags or occasional errors in reporting. Please use the most up to date version available.

Figures may not necessarily tie up exactly with those reported through government returns or internal performance figures as reporting criteria may be slightly different and/or backdated changes may have to be made here if figures change after a return has been submitted.

Data source

Internal homelessness data

Cambridge Outreach Team – rough sleeping figures

Housing Advice cases

Table 1: Housing advice cases, October to March

Date	Housing advice cases
October 2022-March 2023	1,122

Table 2: Housing advice cases, last five years

Date	Housing advice cases
April 2018-March 2019	1,649
April 2019-March 2020	1,874
April 2020-March 2021	1,938
April 2021-March 2022	2,047
April 2022-March 2023	2,262

Figure 1: Housing advice cases, last five years



Homelessness applications where a statutory duty is owed

Table 3: Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, October last year to March this year.

Date	Duty to prevent	Duty to relieve	Main' duty to rehouse
October 2022-March 2023	135	191	86

Figure 2: Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, October last year to March this year

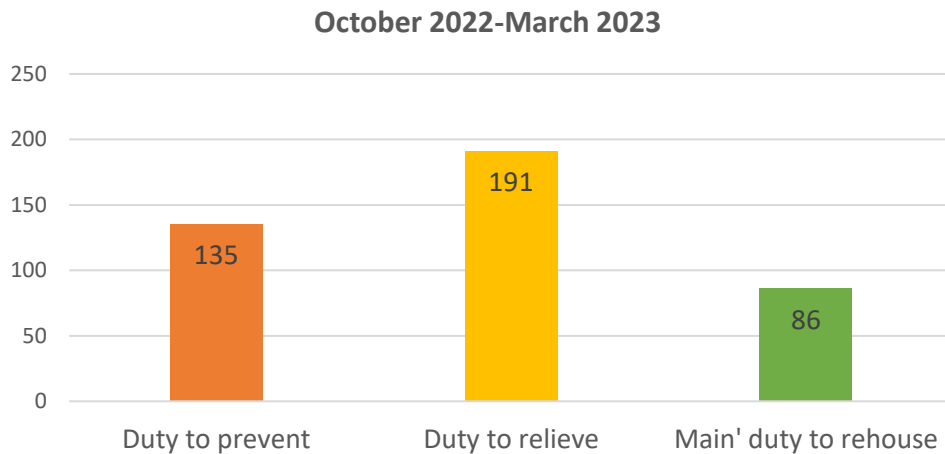


Table 4: Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, last five years

Date	Duty to prevent	Duty to relieve	Main duty
April 2018-March 2019	300	394	91
April 2019-March 2020	236	480	214
April 2020-March 2021	174	463	150
April 2021-March 2022	264	349	180
April 2022-March 2023	244	404	193

Tables 3 & 4 and Figure 1 above show initial assessment that a statutory duty may be owed. The assessment may change over time, for example as further information comes to light, but these figures give an indication of demand for the service.

They show the number of applications, not number of people or households; some households may make more than one application if their circumstances change, or move from one duty to another, so figures cannot be added together.

(2018-19 to 2021-22 figures here are different to those previously reported in Key Facts. Duty to relieve figures in particular are higher than previously reported as the methodology has changed to give a more accurate picture).

Preventing homelessness

Table 5: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory prevention duty, October last year to March this year

Date	Prevention duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where prevention duty ended
October 2022-March 2023	82	58%

Table 6: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory prevention duty, April to March, last five years.

Date	Prevention duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where prevention duty ended
April 2018-March 2019	131	52%
April 2019-March 2020	122	50%
April 2020-March 2021	108	59%
April 2021-March 2022	130	56%
April 2022-March 2023	148	58%

Note that in Tables 5 & 6 above, not having secured accommodation by the end of the prevention duty period means the applicant may have become homeless but not necessarily. For example, their circumstances may have changed and/or they may have withdrawn their application.

Table 7: Cases where homelessness was prevented where no statutory duty was owed, October to March

Date	Homelessness prevented - no prevention duty owed
October 2022-March 2023	40

Table 8: Cases where homelessness was prevented where no statutory duty was owed, April to March, last five years

Date	Homelessness prevented - no prevention duty owed
April 2018-March 2019	insufficient data
April 2019-March 2020	85
April 2020-March 2021	148
April 2021-March 2022	162
April 2022-March 2023	80

Relieving homelessness

Table 9: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory relief duty, October last year to March this year

Date	Relief duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where relief duty ended
October 2022-March 2023	97	44%

Table 10: Cases where accommodation was secured under a statutory relief duty, April to March, last five years

Date	Relief duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where relief duty ended
April 2018-March 2019	124	41%
April 2019-March 2020	188	38%
April 2020-March 2021	189	42%
April 2021-March 2022	155	38%
April 2022-March 2023	151	38%

Note that in Tables 9 & 10 above, not having secured accommodation by the end of the relief duty period may mean the applicant has become homeless, but not necessarily. For example, their circumstances may have changed and/or they may have withdrawn their application.

Main homelessness duty

Table 11: Cases where homelessness was not relieved and a 'main' duty to rehouse was accepted, October last year to March this year

Date	Decisions made - 'main' duty to rehouse	Decisions made - no 'main' duty to rehouse	Total main duty decisions made	Main duty accepted as a percentage of all main duty decisions made
October 2022-March 2023	56	30	86	65%

Table 12: Cases where homelessness was not relieved and a ‘main’ duty to rehouse was accepted, April to March, last five years.

Temporary and Emergency accommodation

Table 13: Households with children or pregnant placed in emergency Bed & Breakfast accommodation, October last year to March this year

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant <u>placed</u> in Bed & Breakfast	Of which placed outside of Cambridge City	Number leaving B&B who had been there more than six weeks
October 2022 - March 2023	47	9	0

Table 14: Households with children or pregnant placed in emergency Bed & Breakfast accommodation, last five years.

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant <u>placed</u> in Bed & Breakfast	Of which placed outside of Cambridge City	Number leaving B&B who had been there more than six weeks
April 2018-March 2019	36	12	0
April 2019-March 2020	87	18	0
April 2020-March 2021	43	16	2
April 2021-March 2022	75	26	0
April 2022-March 2023	131	31	0

Table 15: Households with children or pregnant in temporary or emergency accommodation other than Bed & Breakfast at the end of March

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-B&B at the end of March
March 2023	74

Table 16: Households with children or pregnant in temporary or emergency accommodation other than Bed & Breakfast, end of March, last five years

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-B&B at the end of March
March 2019	31
March 2020	46
March 2021	34
March 2022	58
March 2023	74

Tables 15 & 16 show numbers who are in temporary/emergency Non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of the period. Note that this is a snapshot at the end of the quarter/period and so some households may appear more than once. Some may also appear in the Bed and Breakfast figures if they moved from one to another.

Rough Sleeping Data

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Explanation

Rough sleeping and homelessness are not necessarily the same thing. Not all people who are homeless will be sleeping rough, and some rough sleepers may not be homeless

Data here is based on two different methods of assessing numbers of rough sleepers:

- a) The estimated number of people sleeping rough on one single night between 1st October and 30th November each year. All councils are required to report their 'snapshot' street count figures to government.
- b) The number of individuals verified as sleeping rough by the Street Outreach team each month.

As the methods for collecting each are different they cannot be directly compared.

Caution

Backdated changes are occasionally made to some data; for example due to time lags or occasional errors in reporting. Please use the most up to date version available.

Data source

Number of rough sleepers counted on one night during 1st October & 30th November – internal data

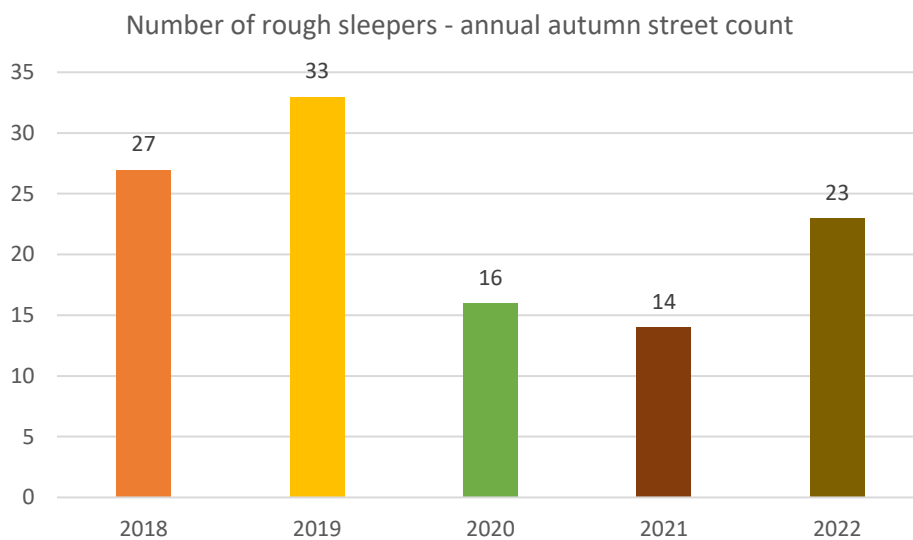
Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough – Cambridge Street Outreach Team.

Annual rough sleeping snapshot, last five years

Table 17: Number of rough sleepers counted during the annual autumn street count, last five years

Year	Number of rough sleepers counted
2018	27
2019	33
2020	16
2021	14
2022	23

Figure 3: Number of rough sleepers counted during the annual autumn street count, last five years



Historic data for all authorities in England is available in the Rough Sleeping Snapshot in England table found on the government's [Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Research and Statistics page](#).

Individuals verified as sleeping rough

Table 18: Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough, October last year to March this year

Month	Number of rough sleepers verified
October	113
November	74
December	77
January	55
February	37
March	66

Table 19: Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough, April to March, last five years

Date	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2018-2019	22	31	51	37	47	36	41	41	28	37	28	28
2019-2020	32	26	40	35	37	43	37	27	23	29	29	32
2020-2021	17	22	30	47	46	49	21	50	46	62	41	35
2021-2022	28	34	43	50	33	48	40	50	42	44	33	33
2022-2023	67	108	77	73	122	71	113	74	77	55	37	66

The Street Outreach Team will engage and assess anyone regularly sleeping rough in Cambridge. However, there may be some rough sleepers who have been seen but not assessed; those individuals will not show in the above figures to avoid the risk of double-counting.

Note that the figures cannot be added together as some individuals will be included in more than one month's figures. They can also not be compared directly with the snapshot figure above as they are counted differently.