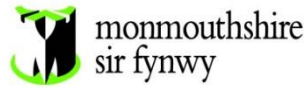


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Notice of meeting

Adults Select Committee

**Wednesday, 2nd March, 2022 at 10.00 am,
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance**

Please note that a pre meeting will be held 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting for members of the committee.

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Public Open Forum. Select Committee Public Open Forum ~ Guidance Our Select Committee meetings are live streamed and a link to the live stream will be available on the meeting page of the Monmouthshire County Council website If you would like to share your thoughts on any proposals being discussed by Select Committees, you can submit your representation via this form Please share your views by uploading a video or audio file (maximum of 4 minutes) or; Please submit a written representation (via Microsoft Word, maximum of 500 words) You will need to register for a My Monmouthshire account in order to submit the representation or use your log in, if you have registered previously. The deadline for submitting representations to the Council is 5pm three clear working days in advance of the meeting.	

If representations received exceed 30 minutes, a selection of these based on theme will be shared at the Select Committee meeting. All representations received will be made available to councillors prior to the meeting.

If you would like to suggest future topics for scrutiny by one of our Select Committees, please do so by emailing Scrutiny@monmouthshire.gov.uk

4. Domiciliary Care	To Follow
To discuss the current challenges faced within the care sector and the Monmouthshire context.	
5. Housing Support Programme Strategy and Homelessness	1 - 174
Scrutiny of the Housing Support Programme Strategy prior to submission to Welsh Government on 31st March. Report to be accompanied by a Homelessness Update.	
6. Budget Monitoring	175 - 216
Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 9.	
7. Confirmation of Minutes	217 - 222
8. Adults Select Committee Forward Work Programme	223 - 224
9. Cabinet, Council and ICMD Forward Work Plan	225 - 238
10. Next Meeting	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ruth Edwards	Llantilio	Welsh Conservative Party
	Crossenny;	
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Roger Harris	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Castle;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Sheila Woodhouse	Grofield;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Monmouthshire Scrutiny Committee Guide

Role of the Pre-meeting

1. Why is the Committee scrutinising this? (background, key issues)
2. What is the Committee's role and what outcome do Members want to achieve?
3. Is there sufficient information to achieve this? If not, who could provide this?
 - Agree the order of questioning and which Members will lead
 - Agree questions for officers and questions for the Cabinet Member

Questions for the Meeting

Scrutinising Performance

1. How does performance compare with previous years? Is it better/worse? Why?
2. How does performance compare with other councils/other service providers? Is it better/worse? Why?
3. How does performance compare with set targets? Is it better/worse? Why?
4. How were performance targets set? Are they challenging enough/realistic?
5. How do service users/the public/partners view the performance of the service?
6. Have there been any recent audit and inspections? What were the findings?
7. How does the service contribute to the achievement of corporate objectives?
8. Is improvement/decline in performance linked to an increase/reduction in resource? What capacity is there to improve?

Scrutinising Policy

1. Who does the policy affect ~ directly and indirectly? Who will benefit most/least?
2. What is the view of service users/stakeholders? Do they believe it will achieve the desired outcome?
3. What is the view of the community as a whole - the 'taxpayer' perspective?
4. What methods were used to consult with stakeholders? Did the process enable all those with a stake to have their say?
5. What practice and options have been considered in developing/reviewing this policy? What evidence is there to inform what works?
6. Does this policy align to our corporate objectives, as defined in our corporate plan?
7. Have all relevant sustainable development, equalities and safeguarding implications been taken into consideration? For example, what are *the procedures that need to be in place to protect children?*
8. How much will this cost to implement and what funding source has been identified?
9. How will performance of the policy be measured and the impact evaluated.

Questions for the Committee to conclude...

Do we have the necessary information to form conclusions/make recommendations to the executive, council, other partners? If not, do we need to:

- (i) Investigate the issue in more detail?
- (ii) Obtain further information from other witnesses – Executive Member, independent expert, members of the local community, service users, regulatory bodies...
- (iii) Agree further actions to be undertaken within a timescale/future monitoring report...

General Questions....

Empowering Communities

- How are we involving local communities and empowering them to design and deliver services to suit local need?
- Do we have regular discussions with communities about service priorities and what level of service the council can afford to provide in the future?

Service Demands

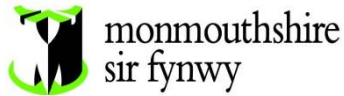
- How will policy and legislative change affect how the council operates?
- Have we considered the demographics of our council and how this will impact on service delivery and funding in the future?

Financial Planning

- Do we have robust medium and long-term financial plans in place?
- Are we linking budgets to plans and outcomes and reporting effectively on these?

Making savings and generating income

- Do we have the right structures in place to ensure that our efficiency, improvement and transformational approaches are working together to maximise savings?
- How are we maximising income? Have we compared other council's policies to maximise income and fully considered the implications on service users?
- Do we have a workforce plan that takes into account capacity, costs, and skills of the actual versus desired workforce?



SUBJECT:	HOUSING SUPPORT PROGRAMME STRATEGY 2022-26
MEETING:	ADULTS SELECT COMMITTEE
DATE:	2ND MARCH 2022
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

- 1. PURPOSE:**
 - 1.1 To consider the proposed Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022-26 and associated documents, as required by Welsh Government.

- 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - 2.1 To consider the draft Housing Support Programme Strategy (**See Appendix 1**) and Action Plan (**See Appendix 2**) in preparation for final approval by Full Council post-Election.
 - 2.2 To consider the findings of the Homeless Need Assessment (**See Appendix 3**) and the current related homeless risks and challenges.
 - 2.3 For Adults Select to annually review progress of the Strategy.

- 3. KEY ISSUES:**
 - 3.1 The Council is required by Welsh Government to produce a Housing Support Programme Strategy by 31st March 2022. The Strategy needs to be a four-year plan to cover the period April 2022 to March 2026, with a mid-point review after two years.
 - 3.2 The Strategy combines the Local Authority's statutory duty to produce a Homelessness strategy and the strategic planning requirement to establish and maintain a Housing Support Grant programme. This is a key but appropriate change from previous arrangements because of the role of housing support in respect of homeless prevention.
 - 3.3 The document provides a single strategic view of the Council's approach to homelessness prevention, housing support service delivery, statutory homelessness functions (delivered by the Housing Options Team) funded through the revenue settlement and non-statutory preventative services funded through the Housing Support Grant programme.
 - 3.4 The Strategy effectively provides updates and replaces the Council's previous Homeless Strategy published in 2018 and the Homeless Transition Plan approved in 2021.
 - 3.5 To inform the Strategy the Council is required to undertake a local Homeless Needs Assessment. It identifies and sets out the key priorities for the Council and its partners. The findings from the Needs Assessment, informed through stakeholder engagement, illustrates:
 - The profile of homeless need and the requirements to meet this need has changed significantly over the last two years;
 - The need for a range of temporary, supported and permanent homeless accommodation has risen significantly, particularly in relation to young people,

single people and those experiencing mental health and substance misuse issues; There is an over reliance on B & B accommodation;

- A high proportion of those needing homeless assistance require medium to high housing support provision;
- Social housing turnover is inadequate and the private rented sector has contracted, impacting detrimentally on low income and vulnerable households. This accommodation issue is creating challenges in moving people on to suitable permanent accommodation;
- Some homeless expenditure is not sustainable e.g. Bed and Breakfast. This is due to high costs and the inability to fully recover costs with housing benefit leading to a budget deficit situation;
- The importance of collaborative and partnership working to increase both the level of existing provision and new and innovative solutions; and
- The importance of supporting staff and appropriate staffing levels

3.6 The proposed strategic priorities to tackle and address the need identified are:

- **Priority One:** To identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely interventions to prevent homelessness occurring;
- **Priority Two:** To provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents particularly for those with high and complex needs;
- **Priority Three:** To Increase access to a range of affordable and suitable housing solutions for homeless households, both temporary and permanent;
- **Priority Four:** To move to a Rapid Re-Housing Approach [as required by Welsh Government];
- **Priority Five:** To maximise and increase the availability and effectiveness of financial, staffing/workforce and collaborative resources available for tackling homelessness.

3.7 The Strategy and Action Plan will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team; Adults Select Committee; the Strategic Housing Partnership and the Children and Communities Grant & Housing Support Grant Executive Board.

3.8 Due to the forthcoming local elections, the Council has received explicit permission from Welsh Government for the Strategy to be approved and adopted retrospectively. Therefore, the pre-approved document will be forwarded to Welsh Government by 31st March 2022 in order to meet the required timescales and will be formally approved by Full Council post election in May 2022. The.

4. **EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

4.1 There are no negative implications with this proposal. **See Appendix 4.**

5. **OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

5.1 The following options are available:

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
Option 1: The recommended option is to agree the proposed Homeless Support Programme Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It sets out the Council's direction and priorities for meeting it's homeless responsibilities and meeting homeless 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no risks associated with the actual development of the proposed Strategy itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be resource implications associated with meeting the priorities of the Strategy and

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
	<p>need in Monmouthshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It enables the Council to create a strategic statement of intent. • It establishes a co-ordinated whole Authority approach • It raises awareness, understanding and importance of homeless need in Monmouthshire • It supports Welsh Government vision and policy to transition homeless services in Wales. • The Strategy supports and contributes to the Council's priorities of delivering additional affordable housing, providing additional homeless accommodation, and town centre regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are, however, risks associated with the current homeless situation in Monmouthshire that the Council is seeking to address. For example, reducing and eliminating the unsustainable use of B & B accommodation. 	<p>delivering individual actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk will be taken into account in respect of any decision making necessary in respect of any individual actions within the report. This would be outside of the consideration needed for this report.
<p>Option 2: Do nothing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no benefits to this option 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council would be in breach of its statutory duty to both have a Homeless Strategy in place and to review that Strategy • The Council would be vulnerable to reputational risk 	<p>This is not considered an option</p>

6.

REASONS:

6.1

The Council has been requested by Welsh Government to establish a Housing Support Programme Strategy. The Strategy meets the Council's statutory obligation under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to establish a Homeless Strategy. It effectively reviews the previous Strategy agreed in 2018.

7

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no resource implications associated with approving the proposed Strategy. There are, however, resource implications associated with the implementation of the Strategy.

7.2 The following are funding sources that will be accessed by the Council subject to any necessary approvals:

Revenue Funding

- Housing Options Team and Housing Support Grant Cost Centres;
- Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship Grant 2020/21 (funded the pre-payment of B & B requirements for 2021/22);
- Welsh Government Housing Support Grant;
- Welsh Government Homeless Prevention Grant;
- Welsh Government National Leasing Scheme;
- Children's Services revenue funding (contributing to the Pobl Young People Supported Housing);
- *Compass and Youth Support Grant*;
- Discretionary Housing Payments;
- Property rental income

Capital

- Social Housing Grant;
- S106 Contributions;
- Potential MCC borrowing (subject to potential Cabinet approval)

8. CONSULTEES:

8.1 To inform the development of this Strategy, the Council has engaged with:

- Current homeless clients;
- Current housing support clients;
- Agencies directly delivering homeless services and agencies indirectly delivering or interfacing with homeless services around the themes of homeless prevention; health; young people and community safety

8.2 Welsh Government have also been consulted on an initial draft. Comments have been received back from Welsh Government which have been incorporated into the current draft. **See Appendix 5.**

8.3 The draft Strategy is currently out to consultation to internal and external stakeholders.

9. **BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Welsh Government, Phase 2 Homeless and Housing Support Planning Guidance, 2021; Welsh Government Local Authority Housing Support Programme Strategy April 2022 - March 2026 Template; Welsh Government, Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans: Guidance for Local Authorities & Partners, 2021

10. **AUTHOR:** Ian Bakewell, Housing & Communities Manager

11. **CONTACT DETAILS:** Ian Bakewell **Tel:** 01633 644479 **E-mail:** ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Monmouthshire County Council

Housing Support Programme Strategy

2022- 2026

1 Introduction:

- 1.1.1 Monmouthshire County Council is required to develop a Housing Support Programme (HSP) Strategy ('the Strategy') every four years, with a mid-point review every two years, outlining the strategic direction of the Council's housing related support services.
- 1.1.2 The Council also has a duty under the Homelessness (Wales) Act 2014 to produce a four-year homelessness strategy. This document, therefore, provides a single strategic view of the Council's approach to homelessness prevention and housing support services within Monmouthshire. The document particularly sets out how the Council will continue to implement the required transformational shift to improve the quality and availability of homeless accommodation, that homeless should be brief and non-recurring and a move to a Rapid Re-housing approach, as determined by Welsh Governments Phase 2 Planning Guidance for Homelessness & Housing Related Support.
- 1.1.3 The development of the Strategy followed a review of homeless data and services and a comprehensive needs assessment that included a series of stakeholder engagement exercises and focus group meetings with both service users and partner organisations.
- 1.1.4 This Strategy sets out the key actions the Council will be working on in the medium term. It provides direction and a sense of what is important for the next four years to tackle the current homeless challenges and transform homeless services in Monmouthshire.

1.2 Purpose of the Strategy

- 1.2.1 This Strategy sets out a single strategic direction for both homelessness and housing support services in Monmouthshire for the next four years (2022 - 2026), and meets the Council's statutory requirements to produce a Homeless Strategy under Part 2, Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The Strategy sets out the homeless priorities for Monmouthshire (See Section 3) for the Council and partner agencies.
- 1.2.2 This Strategy effectively reviews and updates the Monmouthshire dimension of the Gwent Regional Homeless Strategy, established in 2018, which the Council was party to. The Strategy also reviews and reflects the Council's Homeless Transition Plan established in early 2021, as required by Welsh Government's Phase 2 Guidance.
- 1.2.3 The Strategy identifies and sets out key themes and priorities for the Council and its partners to prevent homelessness wherever possible through early intervention: and where we cannot prevent homelessness, it is rare, brief and unrepeated.
- 1.2.4 The Strategy seeks to contribute to the Council's commitment to the vision for Monmouthshire to be:
- an ambitious place full of hope and enterprise
 - a fair place where your family is safe
 - a sustainable place where people care about each other
 - a place you are proud to call home
- 1.2.5 Central to the Council's vision are the principles of social justice. A socially just society is one in which everyone's rights and dignity are equally respected, where all citizens are able to participate fully, and where nobody's life chances are held back for reasons that are beyond their personal control. The Council considers homeless services individually and collectively have an extremely important role to play in this regard.
- 1.2.6 The development of the Strategy ensures that there is full alignment between homelessness and the Council's Housing Support Grant Programme and that the on-going review, development and commissioning of the programme is informed by homeless need in the County. In this regard the Strategy sets out the priorities for the Housing Support Grant programme over the next 4 years.

1.3 Legislative and Policy Context

1.3.1 National context

1.3.2 A number of legislative acts, national plans and policies informed the drafting of the Strategy. The two principle pieces were the following legislative acts,

1.3.3 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

1.3.4 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in order to create a Wales that all want to live in, now and in the future.

1.3.5 The Act requires public bodies to think about the long-term impact of the decisions they make and to better work together to prevent inequality issues such as poverty and ill health. Decision makers should benchmark the decisions they make against the well-being goals introduced by the Act,

- I. A prosperous Wales;
- II. A resilient Wales;
- III. A healthier Wales;
- IV. A more equal Wales;
- V. A Wales of cohesive communities;
- VI. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language; and
- VII. A globally responsible Wales.

1.3.6 Preventing and relieving homelessness has a role in meeting those well-being goals, particularly goals ii to iv, above.

1.3.7 The Housing (Wales) Act 2014

1.3.8 The Act introduced new statutory duties on local authorities to ensure that those at risk of homelessness are able to receive help at the earliest opportunity. Homelessness prevention became a statutory duty under Section 66 and 73 of the Act. The duty to prevent also removed the qualifying criterion of “priority” that had previously excluded many households from accessing any form of assistance. Strengthening homeless prevention and seeking to identify potential issues further ‘up-stream’ is an outcome sought from the strategy.

1.3.9 To enable local authorities to meet their statutory duties the Act allows local authorities to access the private rented sector for suitable accommodation. In this regard, the Council established its Monmouthshire Lettings arms-length branding several years ago. A key outcome is to further develop MLS to encourage more private landlords to make available their properties to the Council.

1.3.10 Other Relevant Legislative Acts and Policies considered in the Strategy's development were the following

- Welsh Government Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2018-20.
- Housing Support Grant Practice Guidance.
- Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.
- The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

1.3.11 Phase 2 - Planning Guidance for Homelessness and Housing Related Support Services

1.3.12 In June 2020 and in relation to the Covid pandemic, Welsh Government published the Phase 2 homeless guidance. Having previously asked all local authorities in Wales to help protect individuals and communities by supporting people facing homelessness into safe and stable accommodation, the Phase 2 guidance requested local authorities to ensure that everyone brought into temporary accommodation is supported into long-term accommodation.

1.3.13 In addition, the Phase 2 guidance articulated Welsh Government's vision for homelessness and homeless policy to transform the whole approach to homelessness provision so that those who present as homeless experience a system focused on prevention and where that fails homelessness is rare, brief and non-repeated. The core of the vision is a move to 'Rapid Rehousing.'

1.3.14 Rapid Re-Housing Guidance

1.3.15 Welsh Government vision is that the prevention of homelessness must remain the primary focus in order to achieve a higher rate of success in relation to keeping people in their own homes.

1.3.16 Where prevention has not worked, Rapid Rehousing is essential to reduce the impact of homelessness and ensure it is unrepeated. The benefits of secure, settled and self-contained housing for people who have experienced or been at risk of homelessness should not be underestimated. The majority of people experiencing homelessness should be provided with such homes as quickly as possible. This will help avoid the effects of prolonged homelessness or prolonged stays in emergency or temporary settings while remaining homeless. (This is a particular challenge for the Council at present). Rapid rehousing is based upon a systematic approach of understanding what housing is required to meet local need, how that housing is going to be funded, developed and allocated to people who find themselves homeless. This approach, when properly applied, means the need for many forms of temporary accommodation will diminish and where it is needed, is for a shorter period than currently.

1.3.17 A priority of the Strategy is to develop a Rapid Rehousing Plan by June 2022.

1.4 Local/Regional context

1.4.1 Gwent Regional Public Service Board Well-being Assessment

1.4.2 The eight statutory members of the Gwent Regional Public Service Board, or GRPSB, are the five local authorities, the Local Health Board, Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales. Other organisations are also invited, these include Gwent Police, Local Housing Associations, Melin Homes and voluntary organisations represented through the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations.

1.4.3 The RPSB must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the area and then agree priorities to address these.

1.4.4 Monmouthshire County Council Corporate Business Plan 2017 / 2022

1.4.5 Sets out a clear direction for the Council and resources required to deliver it. It informs and shapes a whole set of enabling and delivery plans around People; Digital; Economy; Customers, Land and Assets.

1.4.6 The plan sets out sets out our five Organisational Goals. These goals incorporate the four Well-being Objectives. The role of homelessness services has an important contribution to make to the majority of below:

- I. The best possible start in life
- II. Thriving and well-connected county
- III. Maximise the potential of the natural and built environment
- IV. Lifelong well-being
- V. Future-focused Council

1.4.7 People, Place Prosperity: A Strategy for Social Justice 2017 – 2022

1.4.8 The Aim of the Social Justice Strategy is ‘To put Social Justice at the heart of what we do’.

1.4.9 The Commitments made in the Strategy focuses on the following:

- Enabling connected and caring communities supporting people to live independently;
- Delivering on social justice, better prosperity and reducing inequality;
- Enabling better local services through supporting volunteers and social action

1.4.10 And has aligned with the Public Service Board priorities and aspirations:

- To reduce inequalities between communities and within communities;
- To support and protect vulnerable people; and
- To consider our impact on the environment.

1.4.11 Gwent Regional Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023

1.4.12 The Gwent Regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023 sets out six Strategic Priorities that will contribute to the pursuit of the prevention of violence and abuse, the protection of victims and the support of all those affected.

1.4.13 Housing Support Grant Programme

1.4.14 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme is an early intervention programme that funds a wide range of housing related support and homelessness services for vulnerable people across Gwent, and supports activity which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation.

1.4.15 The Monmouthshire HSG Programme supports the National vision for the Housing Support Programme, which is:

A Wales where nobody is homeless, and everyone has a safe home where they can flourish and live a fulfilled, active and independent life”.

1.4.16 Furthermore, the Council will participate in the Gwent Regional Housing Support Grant Collaborative Group in order to identify shared needs and deliver on shared goals. The Strategic goals of the Gwent RHSCG are:

- Deliver high quality, effective and responsive services.
- Expand our reach by collaborating & working in partnership.
- Strengthen engagement and accessibility

1.5 The Council's Strategy to Summer 2022 – Looking Ahead, Delivering Now

1.5.1 The Purpose

In December 2021, the Council revised its own Strategy to Summer 2022 and reviewed its purpose. This Strategy contributes to the Council's 'Looking Ahead, Delivering Now Strategy to Summer 2022' whereby the Council wants Monmouthshire to be:

- An ambitious place full of hope and enterprise
- A fair place where your family is safe
- A sustainable place where people care about each other and
- A place you are proud to call home

1.5.2 The Council's Strategy is underpinned by a clear sense of who we are as a local authority. The Council expects people and partner agencies who work with us to share a strong value set and expect that these are evident in the ways we work and engage with our communities. Our values reflect who we are, how we do things and how we are transforming homelessness:

- Openness
- Flexibility
- Fairness
- Teamwork
- Kindness

1.5.3 The Council remains committed to preventing and reducing homelessness, tackling the main causes of homelessness, and supporting those in need. Where we cannot prevent homelessness occurring, we strive to make it rare, brief and unrepeatable.

1.5.4 The Principles

- To deliver an accessible quality service that ensures every person receives good quality advice and assistance at the earliest opportunity to prevent homelessness and protect people from harm.
- To reduce inequality by promoting social and community cohesion.
- To maximise resources by improving partnership working both regionally and locally to deal with homelessness.

2 Needs assessment:

2.1.1 Needs Assessment process.

The needs assessment process consisted of analysing key policy documents, statistical research and information collected during feedback from consultation exercises and a questionnaire.

2.1.2 The Statement of Need focused on the following areas:

- The wider environment that homelessness services operate within;
- The accommodation in place to prevent and alleviate homelessness;
- Demand for homelessness services and trends – past, current, and estimated future levels of homelessness;
- The main causes of homelessness;
- The resources currently in place to prevent homelessness and support those who are homeless and possible gaps;
- Potential areas of improvement; and
- The expected resources the Council has to devote to statutory homelessness services moving forward.

2.1.3 The methods used to inform the Statement of Need were:

- A desktop review of key literature and statistical data;
- Focus groups and group discussions with key staff relevant to the preparation and implementation of homelessness planning);
- Both SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and PESTL (Political, Economic, Social, Technology and Legislation) analyses were used;
- A stakeholder questionnaire feedback from service providers, partners and other stakeholders;
- Surveys with people who have experienced homelessness and related services first-hand;
- Direct engagement with different service user groups;
- Empirical data used to inform the strategy and evidence need included: WHO12 data, LHMA prospectus data, Mental Health data from Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Outcomes data (HSG)

2.1.4 [Click here for access to the Statement of Need](#) (link to be inserted later)

2.2 Key findings

2.2.1 An analysis of the homelessness data for the 4-year period 2017 - 2021 identified the following:

- Applications
 - Total applications have seen a fall of just over 32% over the past 4 years¹;
 - The number of single households remains relatively stable at around 65.5% of total applications²;
 - Around 61% of all single households are males³;
 - Around 39% of all single households are females;
 - Around 29% of applicants have dependent children⁴;
 - 96% of those in Temporary Accommodation (TA) have at least one recorded support need⁵.
- Main Age Range of Applicants
 - Around 25% of applicants were aged between 16 to 24 years old⁶;
 - Around 4% of applicants were 16 - 17 years old⁷.
- Main Causes of Homelessness (S66)
 - 30.6% of all causes was rent arrears⁸;
 - 30.5% of all causes was a loss of private rented sector accommodation⁹;
 - Around 29% of all causes was family and friends no longer able to accommodate¹⁰.

2.2.2 The Needs Assessment Review particularly highlighted Mental Health, Young People, Substance Misuse, a lack of homeless and permanent accommodation as key issues/themes which have been relevant to the development of the Strategy and the future delivery of homeless services in Monmouthshire. These key areas have been adopted as priorities for the Strategy for addressing homelessness in Monmouthshire.

¹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.3.1.1

² (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.3.2.1

³ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.3.2.3

⁴ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); Figure 26

⁵ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 9.3.3.1

⁶ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.3.4.2

⁷ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); Figure 29

⁸ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); Figure 31

⁹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.5.3

¹⁰ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); Figure 34

2.2.3 Mental Health

2.2.4 The Statement of Need demonstrated an overwhelming demand around Mental Health issues for those facing or becoming homeless¹¹. A survey of the support currently provided through HSG funding alongside the quantity and level of need highlights both accommodation and support gaps particularly for those with mental health needs. This supports the anecdotal evidence raised by stakeholders around the barriers to supporting this cohort¹². The data suggests that Mental Health is very likely to be a significant factor in those finding themselves with housing and homelessness issues¹³.

2.2.5 To effectively meet this need Monmouthshire Housing Support Team will need to look at expanding mental health support services accommodation services. Alongside procuring and commissioning services, this will also include forging relationships with local Mental Health teams so people can access the treatment required- something that has anecdotally been raised as a hurdle to providing appropriate support and homelessness prevention.

2.2.6 Young people

2.2.7 For an overall aging population Monmouthshire has an overrepresentation of young people (16-24) within its housing support population, particularly in TA¹⁴. Being a young person of itself is not necessarily a support need, but when mixed with other needs can add a level of complexity and vulnerability, which corresponds to the approach in support, that is required. Monmouthshire currently commissions two services for young people, one being a provision of supported accommodation and the other being Emphasis.¹⁵

2.2.8 Looking at the level of need amongst young people in TA there is a higher proportion of those with High and Intensive needs¹⁶. The current services provided do not have sufficient capacity and are therefore not currently equipped to support those with anything above medium level of needs. The data from the needs assessment shows that Monmouthshire needs to expand the number of units for young people and the capacity of services to support service users with high and complex needs.

¹¹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.2.3, 10.3.3.1, 10.4.1.2

¹² (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.4.1.2

¹³ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.3.1, 10.4.1.2.

¹⁴ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.5.7

¹⁵ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.2.4

¹⁶ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.5.8

2.2.9 Substance Misuse

2.2.10 In the needs assessment for those in TA, Substance Misuse issues as a lead need are overrepresented when compared to the wider support data¹⁷. Monmouthshire Council's HSG is currently recruiting for a GDAS Outreach Worker for TA. The data suggests that those with these issues as a lead need are more likely to find themselves homeless and in need of emergency and temporary accommodation¹⁸.

2.2.11 Similar to young people captured in the TA needs assessment, there is a higher proportion of those with High and Intensive needs amongst those with a lead need of Substance Misuse¹⁹. At present there is no clear housing route for these clients and no supported accommodation equipped to provide appropriate support.

2.2.12 Suitable Accommodation

2.2.13 Monmouthshire has a deficit of housing in relation to those approaching as homeless, which is only widening²⁰. There is a shortage of housing of all types but as explored in the data, over half of all applications are made by single people²¹. This has created unprecedented pressure on one bed properties throughout the county. Monmouthshire Council has and will continue to seek creative solutions to expand stock.

2.2.14 The TA Needs Assessment has also demonstrated a significant minority of homeless applicants with high to intensive support needs where traditional housing routes would not be conducive to a successful tenancy²². Monmouthshire has a Housing First Scheme, but this provision is currently small, and will not be suitable for those with the highest of needs. As was mentioned frequently during stakeholder events, Monmouthshire does not have a high needs/ 24 hour staffed accommodation and it was felt that this is a noticeable gap in services for those who are homeless with high needs in Monmouthshire²³.

2.2.15 Prevention

2.2.16 Available data has shown Monmouthshire Housing Options Team (HOTS) to have a 60% success rate in preventing homelessness suggesting there is room for further improvement²⁴. Monmouthshire has recently invested in additional resources to work directly with those who are at risk of homelessness and in doing so gain further knowledge and experience in prevalent triggers. Monmouthshire County Council will also pursue ways to identify at risk households further upstream before issues become entrenched and unsurmountable.

¹⁷ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.4.2.6

¹⁸ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.4.2.6

2.2.17 It has been stated by stakeholders that information around support and services offered to those at risk of homelessness is not always easy to find or accessible. Monmouthshire County Council is looking to review the way it disseminates this information to reach a larger audience in an easy to follow format.

2.2.18 The need and demand for a range and type of temporary, supported and permanent homeless accommodation has risen significantly, particularly in relation to young people, single people and those experiencing mental health and substance misuse issues, a high proportion of which require medium to high housing support provision beyond what is currently available through HSG. The increase in demand for homeless temporary, supported and permanent accommodation has first highlighted the importance of homeless prevention and identifying scope to further strengthen existing arrangements. In addition, there is a need to identify additional permanent housing solutions both in the social and private rented sector. Lastly there is a need for additional self-contained temporary accommodation, as per Welsh Governments Annex D standard) to facilitate a reduced and eliminated use of B & B and a phasing out of shared temporary housing. These key findings are addressed in the priorities identified for MCC below.

3 Strategic priorities:

3.1.1 Monmouthshire County Council is committed to empowering its residents to lead prosperous, sustainable lives. This starts with stable, appropriate accommodation and effective, timely support for those who need it.

3.1.2 The strategy sets out the four key priorities Monmouthshire County Council has identified, to tackle homelessness and its underlying causes over the next four years and beyond. The objective is to prevent homelessness occurring in the first instance but if it does occur to ensure it is brief and non-repeating.

¹⁹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.5.12

²⁰ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 7.5.3.1, 7.5.7.2, Figure 11

²¹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.3.2

²² (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.4.2

²³ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.4.1.2

²⁴ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.12.1

3.2 Priority One: To identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely interventions to prevent homelessness occurring.

3.2.1 Reason for this priority:

- The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced new statutory duties to prevent or relieve homelessness;
- Amongst others it is a key action of the Council's 'Looking Ahead, Delivering Now' strategy to 2022.
- There is a desire to move to a proactive approach that is able to identify and be responsive to changing housing need rather than to deal with housing need on a reactive basis;
- Monmouthshire's Housing Options Team currently has a prevention success rate of 60% for those who present as threatened with homelessness²⁵;
- There is a disproportionate prevalence of young people experiencing poor mental health and those with substance misuse issues within temporary accommodation²⁶.

3.2.2 What we will do:

- Review of homelessness services information to ensure there is clear and easily accessible information to help prevent homelessness at the earliest possible stage;
- Target households at risk of becoming homeless through partnership working with other support agencies;
- Incorporate Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) approach to our service;
- Work alongside colleagues to promote services available to those who are at risk of homelessness through the Council's emerging Tackling Poverty and Inequality Campaign;
- Make better use of information technology to capture and analyse data to identify opportunities and improve planning;
- Investigate how to increase the number of households accessing the service at an earlier stage thereby reducing the number of households presenting in a crisis;
- Continue to invest to deliver upstream homelessness prevention in places of education including wider family networks;
- Seek to identify funds and invest in resources to directly engage with households considered high risk groups such as:
 - Mental Health.
 - Young Persons.
 - Substance misuse.

3.3 Priority Two: To provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents particularly for those with high and complex needs.

3.3.1 Reason for this priority:

- ‘.....providing support for those who find themselves without a roof over their head’ is a key action of the Council’s ‘Looking Ahead, Delivering Now’ Strategy to 2022;.
- The adoption of a psychologically-informed and trauma-informed approach to commissioning and service delivery as required by Phase 2 Guidance requires support to be flexible and tailored to meet individual needs;
- The survey of support needs conducted by HSG providers highlighted two main priorities for Monmouthshire County Council: mental health and substance misuse²⁷;
- 96% of those in TA were recorded as having at least one support need. 23% of these were described as having High and Intensive needs²⁸;
- Monmouthshire does not have a high and complex needs accommodation provision. Currently there is no clear housing pathway to cater to this cohort. A shortfall of HSG funding means that MCC are unable to rectify this²⁹;
- Stakeholders have described the difficulties in getting clients with high level mental health support needs the appropriate support, and the deterioration of a client’s situation during this time³⁰;
- 31% of those receiving support are identified as having support needs around mental health, and current services for mental health support are oversubscribed³¹;
- Those with identified support needs around Substance Misuse are disproportionately represented in TA, suggesting that this need is a prominent contributing factor to homelessness³². At present HSG commissions an outreach worker from the Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) to provide support, but there is not currently any other specialist service or accommodation provision for this group³³;

²⁵ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.12.1

²⁶ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.5

²⁷ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.5.1.3, 10.5.1.4

²⁸ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.3.1

²⁹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.5.1.3; 10.5.1.4

³⁰ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.1.4.2

³¹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022), Table 46, 10.2.3

³² (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.4.2.6

³³ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.5.13

- There is current demand to expand the existing Housing First scheme. At present there is only one Housing First worker and there are individuals waiting for Housing First support and accommodation³⁴;
- MCC has seen an increase in the proportion of Young People making homelessness applications, a high proportion of which have needs higher than currently funded services can meet;
- The demand for VAWDASV services has seen a steep increase which appears to be a continuing trend³⁵. Services need to be monitored to ensure they continue to embed best practice, implement the National Training Framework and collaborate with key partners and stakeholders to tackle all forms of VAWDASV for citizens across Gwent and Monmouthshire.

3.3.2 What we will do:

- Seek to engage with Welsh Government and other partners to identify additional resources to increase the capacity of the housing support programme and support availability;
- Seek to expand the existing Housing First service to meet unmet demand;
- Seek to expand the Young Persons floating support service and remodel existing shared housing to increase the availability of dedicated young person's accommodation;
- Review and evaluate the newly re-modelled Young Persons accommodation in relation to outcomes achieved for those with higher needs and consider whether there is a need for Young Persons Housing First.
- Increase the supply of accommodation and support for people with complex needs around substance misuse and mental health;
- Review, evaluate and recommission Housing Support Grant services by April 2023.

3.4 Priority Three: To increase access to a range of affordable and suitable housing solutions for homeless households, both temporary and permanent.

3.4.1 Reason for this priority:

- Many households are finding renting and home ownership unaffordable³⁶;
- There is insufficient housing in both the social and private rented sectors to meet demand and therefore limited options to move households out of temporary and emergency accommodation³⁷;

³⁴ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.4.2

³⁵ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.2.2

³⁶ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 7.5.3.1

³⁷ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 7.5.20, 7.5.12.2

- The Council relies on the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation to supplement temporary accommodation provision. Monmouthshire has seen an increase in its use of emergency accommodation in the last 18 months and currently has the highest number of homeless households in B&B³⁸. The use of B & B accommodation is not conducive to the wellbeing of households and is unsustainable from a cost analysis;
- There is a need to ensure the Council fully utilises its Social Housing Grant allocation and it is fully aligned with homeless accommodation requirements;
- There is a need to provide a range of temporary and supported accommodation particularly medium to high need emergency accommodation³⁹;
- S66 Prevention duty ended by placing 37% of applicants in social and 63% in privately rented housing⁴⁰;
- S73 Relief duty ended by placing 30% of applications into social and 28% in privately rented housing⁴¹.

³⁸ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022) 9.1.2

³⁹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 10.3.4.2

⁴⁰ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.6.5.3

⁴¹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 8.6.6.1

3.4.2 What we will do:

- Work with Homesearch partners to operate flexible Housing Register quotas to maximise the number of lettings of social housing vacancies to homeless households;
- Work with Homesearch partners to implement actions to make the 'best use' and maximise occupancy of the stock to facilitate more people to move-on from temporary accommodation;
- Review the use of all forms of temporary accommodation and reduce our reliance on it over the length of the strategy;
- Continue to co-ordinate Monmouthshire's newly established Strategic Housing Partnership with housing association partners to help identify opportunities to develop new affordable housing;
- Continue to factor homeless need into the Council's development and Social Housing Grant Programme;
- Appraise the opportunities for the Council to utilise Council owned assets for homeless purposes;
- Appraise the option of the Council directly developing new homes that can be used as homeless accommodation;
- Appraise the option of directly purchasing properties from the open market for use as homeless accommodation;
- Implement the Empty Property Action Plan to target empty homes and town centre opportunities;
- To seek to establish links with local voluntary organisations and local churches/faith groups to develop new services;
- Review and evaluate Monmouthshire Lettings to identify opportunities to improve the service and encourage further private landlords to make available their properties to the Council;
- Develop a 'rapid rehousing' approach to help people into and sustain permanent housing;
- Further develop the 'Housing First' approach to provide long term housing solutions for people who have been unable to sustain accommodation in the past because of their complex and/or multiple needs.

3.5 Priority Four: To move to a Rapid Re-Housing Approach

3.5.1 Key objectives to meet this priority will include:

- As main priority seeking to continue to identify opportunities to strengthen homeless prevention as the most efficient way of tackling homelessness. Where homelessness can't be prevented:
 - Systematic planning to make settled accommodation available;
 - Move into settled accommodation at the same time as, rather than after, addressing support needs;
 - An improvement in the quality and a reduction in the need for temporary accommodation;
 - Offering a package of assistance and multi-agency support, specially tailored to individual needs where this is required;
 - Rapid Rehousing should be flexible and recognise that people who present as homeless may have different levels of need.

3.5.2 Reason for this priority:

- There is a need to implement Welsh Government policy direction and establish and implement a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan

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4.1 Priority Five: To maximise and increase the availability and effectiveness of financial, staffing/workforce and collaborative resources available for tackling homelessness.

4.1.1 Reasons for this priority:

- At present, funding hasn't been identified for a number of actions within the Strategy. Due to these budget shortfalls, there is a need to identify additional short and long-term funding and resources to meet the homeless need identified in the statement of need and to fully fund the priorities and actions within the Strategy. Without this some proposals are not deliverable;
- There is a need to ensure all homeless services are financially sustainable and effectively deliver cost benefits;
- Working with others is a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions is a key principle of the Council's 'Looking Ahead, Delivering Now' Strategy to summer 2022;

- Feedback from the stakeholder events highlighted the potential risk of funding processes for services producing short-term ‘fixes’ rather than long-term sustainable solutions⁴²;
- Tackling homelessness and achieving successful outcomes successfully requires the input of other specialist organisations, skills and knowledge that doesn’t necessarily sit within the Council;
- Many homeless and housing services are already delivered through a partnership approach, such as Monmouthshire Homesearch, the Housing Support Grant Programme and the Housing Intervention Panel. These are platforms that can be further build upon;
- There is a need to ensure there is adequate staff capacity and capability to deliver homeless services and this strategy. Equally, in recognition that delivering homeless services can be highly reactive and demanding for homeless staff, staff need to be supported accordingly.
-

4.1.2 What we will do:

- Identify funding for those aims and objectives where funding currently hasn’t been allocated;
- Transition from short-term arrangements established quickly due to the Covid Pandemic and in response to Welsh Government guidance to more sustainable long-term solutions;
- We will work collaboratively both internally and externally with organisations that offer a broad range of skill sets and knowledge, expertise and experience to address homelessness successfully;
- We will develop further the Housing Support & Homelessness forum;
- We will evaluate the effectiveness and cost efficiency of using data analytics for the prevention of homelessness;
- To continue to monitor existing staff structures of teams delivering homeless services to ensure there is sufficient capacity
- Undertake a training needs audit and establish a programme of training to support staff to deliver and transform services.
- Adopt and maintain a Psychologically Informed Environment/ Trauma informed approach;
- Identify opportunities for increasing collaborative arrangements with Aneurin Bevan Health Board;

⁴² (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.6.2

- Engage with Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association in respect of future funding arrangements to align with homeless need in Monmouthshire;
- Identify opportunities for homeless services and solutions to support wider strategic priorities. For example, Social Care needs, tackling empty properties, Town Centre regeneration and decarbonisation.

5 Stakeholder Engagement

5.1.1 Detailed consultation took place with service users and partner organisations to ensure that the Statement of Need and the development of this strategy is both relevant and current to enable the Council address homelessness within the county⁴³.

5.1.2 One method of consulting with stakeholders would have been in pre COVID times through a consultation event at a venue large enough for representatives to meet in person. However, because of COVID the Council decided that the safest method for stakeholders to participate in the consultation would be through an on-line questionnaire.

5.1.3 The following organisations received the questionnaire for completion:

- Health services
- Social services
- Probation & Community Safety services
- Domestic abuse services
- Substance misuse services
- Registered Social Housing Providers
- Housing advice services
- Service users

5.1.4 In total 45 individuals received the questionnaire.

5.1.5 In addition to the stakeholder questionnaire a number of focus groups sessions took place using video conferencing and covering the following five service areas:

⁴³ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); Chapter 11

- Community Safety & Domestic Violence Services
- Health Services
- Homelessness Prevention Advices Services
- Housing Support Provider Services
- Young Persons Services

5.2 Stakeholder feedback

5.2.1 Feedback received via the above methods were broadly categorised into 6 themes: Communication, Staffing, Accommodation and Support, Transport, Legislation, Policy and Processes and Community.

5.2.2 **Partnership Working:** General consensus that partnership working had improved, largely due to the change in working brought about by the pandemic. There has been more of an appetite for all agencies to work together flexibly and creatively to meet the challenges of the last 18 months. The Housing Intervention Panel (HIP) was mentioned several times as an example of good practice in this area which allows professionals to come together to seek creative solutions, and also serves as a preventative resource. The HOTS team has recently been expanded and they have become more creative in how they approach homelessness and reach solutions⁴⁴.

5.2.3 However, unlike strategic partners, service users felt that there could be an improvement in communication between MCC and partner agencies⁴⁵.

5.2.4 **Communication:** The use of various digital platforms for communicating with service users is a positive advancement, especially for Monmouthshire being a semi-rural area⁴⁶. The increased use of MS Teams has in some ways made collaboration easier between partner agencies. However, this was also raised as a concern by many who also emphasised that it's limitations should also be recognised. As a rural county Monmouthshire does not have consistency in infrastructure with regards to internet and mobile signal and so some people risk becoming isolated from services. Similarly, some residents would have a preference in face to face working to build trust and a relationship with services. All services would like to see a blended approach to communicating with residents to meet individual preferences and needs moving forward⁴⁷.

⁴⁴ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.2.1, 11.1.4.1

⁴⁵ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.2.2.3

⁴⁶ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.2.1

⁴⁷ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.2.2

- 5.2.5 **Accommodation and Support:** The theme that overwhelmingly dominated discussions around weaknesses is resources. It was widely acknowledged that Monmouthshire has a lack of accommodation of all types but in particular participants noted a lack of housing options for those with medium to high needs, as there aren't any provisions suitable to ex-offenders, those with entrenched drug and alcohol misuse issues, and those with medium to high mental health needs. The idea of specialist 24 hour supported hostel provision was raised in a number of the focus groups as support services have identified a larger number of complex cases coming through the system⁴⁸.
- 5.2.6 The Housing Support Grant team conduct exit interviews on a sample size of service users whose support is ending. 83.3% of responders asserted that their experience was positive and had brought changes to their life and 72.9% of responders felt that the support received had increased their ability to live independently⁴⁹.
- 5.2.7 **Policy and Processes:** Services noted that clients are being required to repeat their circumstances and antecedent history which in turn is contributing to a culture of clients becoming retraumatised by having to repeat their issues and challenges every time they move between services. The lack of robustness of the referrals can also do service users a disservice as they may not be allocated to the correct service for their needs and having to go through the system again. Additionally, this contributes to the efficiency of services provided.
- 5.2.8 Service Users did not rate the homelessness process particularly highly, describing what they felt was a convoluted process with a lack of clarity on how their application was being processed. Service users described the process as having a negative impact on mental health⁵⁰. Respondents to a questionnaire however were largely positive when considering the service they received from Housing Options, with 95% of clients being satisfied or very satisfied with the service from Housing Options; and 91% very satisfied or satisfied with allocated temporary accommodation⁵¹.

⁴⁸ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.4.2

⁴⁹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.3.2

⁵⁰ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.2.2.4

⁵¹ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.4.1

5.2.9 **Staffing:** Staffing remains an issue across the sector in line with national trends. Services are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit staff and retention rates are currently poor. The stresses of working during the pandemic was identified as taking its toll on the wellbeing of staff, but also the emerging competition from other sectors luring staff with increases in pay and additional bonuses⁵².

5.2.10 **Funding Policy:** Participants discussed the funding processes for services and identified that this tends to be on a short-term basis which makes it difficult for them to develop long term solutions to issues. Services do not feel that they can work with longevity when funding can be removed or changed regularly⁵³.

6 Impact assessments: [to be completed]

7 Implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Strategy

Working with Partners

7.1.1 The Council recognises that although it has the statutory duty to prevent and alleviate homelessness within the County, it will require many organisations working together in partnership that will deliver the priorities of the Strategy.

7.1.2 We will continue to work with our partners working across the statutory and non-statutory sectors to efficiently utilise resources and deliver effective outcomes.

⁵² (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.3.2

⁵³ (Monmouthshire County Council, 2022); 11.1.6.2

7.2 Funding Sources

To deliver this Strategy, the Council will seek to access and maximise the availability of the following funding streams

7.2.1 Revenue

- Welsh Government Covid Hardship up until 31st March 2022 to support the current reliance on B & B provision and the need to provide a concierge service
- Housing Support Grant - funding prevention and housing support services and supported accommodation
- Housing Options Team Revenue funding including:
 - Homeless Prevention Fund
 - Private Leasing budget
- WG Tenancy Hardship Grant
- WG National Leasing Scheme funding
- WG Empty Property Enforcement Loan funding
- Discretionary Housing Payments to support homeless prevention
- Children's Services revenue to contribute to the provision of low to high needs young persons accommodation
- Rental income from temporary accommodation
- S106 Contributions to support private sector owners

7.2.2 Capital

- Social Housing Grant
- ENABLE disabled adaptation funding
- Potential local authority prudential borrowing
- Potential use of additional local authority capital assets

7.2.3 At the time of adoption, the Council had not identified all of the resources necessary to deliver the provision necessary to meet the identified and projected homeless demand. For example, the revenue to fund Multiple Needs Housing Supported Accommodation. It will, therefore, be a key priority of the Council to continue to identify resources to fund this strategy fully.

7.2.4 The Housing Support Grant provides a wide range of support services. The Statement of Need document provides a detailed analysis of current provision of services in Monmouthshire.

7.2.5 The Council will continue to work with its partners to bid for external funding wherever opportunities arise.

7.3 Monitoring, reviewing and evaluation arrangements

7.3.1 The Strategy and the accompanying Action Plan is the result of a number of consultation exercises with our stakeholder partners, which influenced the Strategy's vision and priorities for tackling homelessness within Monmouthshire.

7.3.2 The Council will utilise a number of channels to monitor Strategy. The main channel will be the Monmouthshire's CCG & HSG Executive Group that will monitor the Strategy and the Action Plan on a quarterly basis to determine progress in achieving actions, and meeting our targets and outcomes⁵⁸. In addition a comprehensive review will take place at the mid-point of its life.

7.3.3 The Action Plan is live document, which means the Executive Group will be able to address any new developments that arise by adding additional actions as and when required.

7.3.4 An additional level of monitoring will be through Monmouthshire's scrutiny structure and the newly established Strategic Housing Forum.

8 Bibliography

Monmouthshire County Council. (2022). *Statement of Need*.

⁵⁸ See Appendix 1: TERMS OF REFERENCE; Children and Communities-Housing Support Executive Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE
Children and Communities-Housing Support
Executive Group

PURPOSE

The Children and Communities-Housing Support Executive Board (CCHSEG) formally undertakes the Public Service Board's (PSB) statutory responsibility in-line with the Social Services and Well Being Wales Act 2014 and Future Generations Act 2015, which includes strategies for Providing Children & Young People with the best Possible Start in Life.

In response to the findings of the previous reviews, wellbeing assessment and countywide objectives, Monmouthshire PSB established a Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) consisting of senior level officers from across multi-agencies organisations. One of the CCHSEG key functions is to support the CYPSP to align all funding sources (statutory, core and grant) to meet the needs of families and children across the county, ensuring that gaps in provision and service are addressed. The Children & Communities Grant and Housing Support Grant will become integral to the work of this partnership, and the broader strategic objectives, in addressing the needs and challenges across the county. The grant will not be used to substitute core or statutory service delivery but rather complement, maximise and enhance public and third sector support for families and children.

Monmouthshire PSB has delegated this responsibility to the 'Children and Communities-Housing Support Executive Group' (CCHSEG).

The CCHSEG fulfils its broad function in supporting the Families, Children and Young People of Monmouthshire by:

- Overseeing specific delivery of Children and Communities grant to address the support needs of the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities through a range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. . It will seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a more equal Wales.
- Overseeing specific delivery of Housing Support grant to address the housing and housing related support needs of the most vulnerable individuals in society through the range of early intervention, prevention and support mechanisms. It will seek to mitigate or remove disadvantage to vulnerable people to enable them to have the same life chances as others, and therefore contribute to a equal Wales. As such, Housing Support Grant will be about accessing and maintaining a home.
- Overseeing financial management of grants to ensure compliance with Welsh Governments Terms and Conditions

- Being a hub of best practice and innovative ideas around Community Engagement to inform long-term vision and delivery of plans in line with overall Wellbeing of Families, Children and Young People and Welsh Governments aspirational 'More equal Wales'.
- Ensuring consistency and the application of statutory responsibilities and agreed standards in partnership working with statutory, private and third sector methodologies
- Ensuring that local community initiatives and interventions are able to demonstrate impact and outcomes
- Working in partnership to reduce families' exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), such as homes experiencing domestic violence or substance or alcohol misuse.
- Overseeing the action plans for the Children and Communities and Housing Support Grants
- Providing leadership and support to all sub-groups that sit under the CCHSEG
- Connection with Welsh Government
- Connection with Monmouthshire C.C. Children & Young Persons (CYP) Strategic Partnership

BACKGROUND

Welsh Government believes the Public Service Board is the heart of local multi-agency working. Given the collaborative leadership role of PSBs, Welsh Government considers them to be the appropriate forum for formulating and reviewing Wellbeing and Future Generations Act priorities.

Monmouthshire PSB has adopted, as one of key objectives to; ***Provide Children & Young People with the best Possible Start in Life.*** This objective provides a broad focus throughout the start of people's lives from conception through to early adulthood.

All grants are delivered across a wide range of partnership agendas under the PSB. The multi-agency partnerships are the main delivery mechanism for the priorities across the county and are overseen by the PSB and PSB Programme Board, ensuring all available resources are targeted effectively and in-line with needs across the county.

The Children & Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (included in landscape) is senior level multi-agency group, with Chief Officer Representation from across Monmouthshire County Council who are currently the responsible officers for both the Children & Communities-Housing Support Grant streams within their respective directorates. This is a key partnership under the PSB that oversees how the wide range of services, (statutory & non-statutory) are shaped. They remain responsive to the challenges across the county; whilst also remaining responsive to new emerging issues as they arise and link to other partnership groups who may be better placed to support, for example, Safer Monmouthshire Group who have the Community Safety function for the county.

Under the direction of the Monmouthshire PSB, the CCHSEG brings together managers and key representatives of the organisations responsible for shaping and delivering CCHSEG actions and initiatives, which contribute, to Wellbeing of Families, Children and Young people in line with the Monmouthshire PSB Priorities.

MEMBERSHIP

DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION
Families First Programme Manager	MCC – Communities & Partnership
Financial Accountant	MCC – Communities & Partnership
Housing and Communities Manager	MCC – Housing and Communities
Supporting People Manager	MCC – Housing and Communities
Flying Start Manager	MCC – Children’s Social Services
Families First/Flying Start Strategic Lead	ABUHB
Childcare and Play Manager	MCC – Children’s Social Services
Communities For Work Plus Manager	MCC – Housing and Communities
Communities and Partnerships Manager	MCC – Communities & Partnership
Children’s Services - Service Manager	MCC – Children’s Social Services

CHAIR: The Chair will be appointed by ‘Children and Communities-Housing Support Executive Group’ membership. A Vice Chair will be appointed annually.

MEETING FREQUENCY

The ‘Children and Communities-Housing Support Executive Group’ meets quarterly. Task & Finish groups will be established to undertake an identified piece of work on behalf of the group.

REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

The ‘Children and Communities-Housing Support Executive Group’ reports directly to the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership quarterly and on an exception basis.

STRATEGIC LINKS

Monmouthshire Public Service Board: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/psb>

Future and Generations Act 2015:

Social Services and Well Being Wales Act 2014:

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Statement of Need

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Consultation Documents:

- Stakeholder Event,
- Service User Survey and Staff Focus Groups
- Service User Survey Report
- Homelessness Strategy

Chapter 1: Summary

- 1.1.1 Monmouthshire is predominantly rural county consisting of the five major towns of Abergavenny and Monmouth in the north of the county: the town of Usk in the centre and Chepstow and Caldicot in the south.
- 1.1.2 Economically it is a county with more people in work with fewer people claiming benefits than other parts of Wales. However those who work in county earn less than those who work out of county.
- 1.1.3 Monmouthshire's housing stock is predominately owner occupier with just under 74% of the market with limited availability of one or two bedroomed properties, which is often the traditional route on to the housing ladder for first time buyers.
- 1.1.4 The rest of housing stock consists of social housing making up just under 14% of stock with 5,721 properties, (4,510 general need stock plus 1,211 older person stock) and shared across three Registered Social Landlords; And the Private Rented Sector (PRS) making up just under 11% of housing stock with 4,817 properties and 3,200 landlords registered with Rent Smart Wales.
- 1.1.5 In terms of affordability and home ownership the average price of a property is just shy of £360,000 with an entry level price of £200,000. To be able to get on the first rung of the housing ladder requires a household income of over £48,000 (3.5 household income multiplier) and deposit of £30,000 (15%). This makes it extremely difficult for first time buyers and those on lower incomes trying to access the housing market in Monmouthshire.
- 1.1.6 In terms of affordability and the private rented sector Monmouthshire as a whole the rental values have seen an average increase of almost 25% on 2010 values. Rental values can vary across the county with rental values for a 2 bed property typically ranging between £634 and £697 per month while for a three bed property typically ranging between £770 and £845 per month.
- 1.1.7 For those receiving housing benefit, Monmouthshire has one single rate for each bedroom category. For 2020 -2021 the rates for a 2 bed and 3 bed properties is £549 and £648 respectively. For many households on benefits this discrepancy between the housing benefit rate and the actual rental payment renders the private rented sector a non-viable housing option,
- 1.1.8 Accessing accommodation can be a challenging experience for households threatened with homelessness both in the private rented sector (PRS) and the social housing sector (SHS).
- 1.1.9 Monmouthshire's Housing register, Homesearch, has seen an increase of just over 38% on the total number of applicants registered since 2018 with a 26% increase of applicants registering a recognised need. For homelessness and our duty to accommodate this translates to an increase of almost 95% on the March 2018 figure and a 54% increase since March 2020. The number of lets through Homesearch has decreased by almost 26% since 2016 impacting on "move on" options (Section 7).
- 1.1.10 For the PRS the data shows that Monmouthshire has a contracting market with the number of available properties decreased by almost 50% since 2010. Conversely, rental values have seen an increase of nearly 25% over the same period (Section 7, paragraphs 7.5.16 – 7.5.17).

1.1.11 A contracting market with high rental values and a stagnated Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rate means that between 2010 and 2019 only 5.75% of all available properties fell within the LHA rate. In addition data from Housing Benefit shows that over 800 households are currently in receipt of LHA. This could suggest that the market has reached saturation in terms the number of properties that would ordinarily fall within the LHA rate applicable to the bedroomed property type without intervention either at a national level, that is, increase the LHA rates, or at a local level by offering substantial landlord incentives (Section 7, paragraphs 7.5.14 - 7.5.19).

1.1.12 An analysis of the homelessness data for the 4-year period 2017 2021 identified the following (Section 8, below):

- Applications
 - Total applications has seen a fall of just over 32% over the past 4 years (paragraph 8.3.1).
 - The number of single households remains relatively stable at around 65.5% of total applications (paragraph 8.3.2).
 - Around 61% of all single households are males (paragraph 8.3.2.2).
 - Around 39% of all single households are females (paragraph 8.3.2.2).
 - Around 29% of applicants have dependent children (paragraph 8.3.3).
- Main Age Range of Applicants
 - Around 25% of applicants were aged between 16 to 24 years old (paragraph 8.3.4.2).
 - Around 4% of applicants were 16 - 17 years old.
- Main Causes of Homelessness (S66)
 - 30.6% of all causes were rent arrears (paragraphs 8.5)
 - 30.5% of all causes was a loss of private rented sector accommodation
 - Around 29% of all causes was family and friends no longer able to accommodate
- The Prevention Duty (S66 Housing (Wales) Act 2014)
 - Just under 64% of households owed a S66 duty have their threat of homelessness prevented either through preventing their loss of their current accommodation or through securing alternative accommodation (paragraph 8.6.1.6).
 - The most successful prevention intervention is debt and financial advice followed by mediation and conciliation services.
 - The most successful intervention of securing alternative accommodation is securing accommodation in the private rented sector (63% of households) followed by the social sector Housing (37% of households) (paragraph 8.6.5.4,)
- The Relief Duty – Help to Secure (S73 Housing (Wales) Act 2014)
 - Just under 57% of households owed a S73 duty have their threat of homelessness relieved through securing alternative accommodation (paragraph 8.6.1.7)
 - The most successful intervention was helping to secure alternative accommodation in the Social Housing Sector (51% of households)

followed by securing accommodation in the Private Rented Sector (49% of households).

- The Accommodate Duty (S75 Housing (Wales) Act 2014)
 - There has been a steady decline in the number of households being owed a S75 duty
 - The three main priority reasons for a s75 being awarded is
 - Household with dependent children;
 - Households where there is a vulnerability and
 - A person fleeing domestic violence.
- Support Needs
 - 1042 people were supported by HSG funded services in the period April-September 2020 and 98.8% achieved positive outcomes (**Error! Reference source not found.** 10.4.3.1)
 - Managing Accommodation was the most successful positive outcome, followed by Managing Money (Table 49, paragraph 9.4.3.3).
 - There was a 65% decrease in those either homeless or threatened with homelessness following engagement with HSG support services during this period (Table 50, paragraph 9.4.3.4).
 - There is overwhelming demand for mental health support- 23% of those in TA and 33% of those engaged with HSG services were recorded as having Mental Health issues as a lead need (paragraph 9.3.3.1, Table 46, paragraph 9.4.2.1).
 - There has been a significant increase in referrals to Domestic Abuse support services since 2020, and this is reflected in Domestic Abuse being the second highest lead need amongst the HSG support population (Figure 50, paragraph 9.2.2.3, Table 46, paragraph 9.4.2.1).
 - There is an overrepresentation of young people and those with substance misuse issues in TA, and an underrepresentation of over 55s (paragraphs 9.3.5.7, 9.4.2.6, 9.4.4.2).
 - Of the support needs captured for those in TA young people and those with substance misuse issues had the highest proportion of High-Intensive needs recorded (paragraphs 9.3.5.8, 9.3.5.12, 9.5.1.4).

Chapter 2: Introduction

2.1.1 Preventing and addressing homelessness remains a high priority for the Welsh and Local Government in Wales.

2.1.2 The Statement of Need analyses the nature and extent of homelessness and housing support in Monmouthshire. It focused on the following areas:

- The wider environment that homelessness services operate within
- The accommodation in place to prevent and alleviate homelessness
- Demand for homelessness services and trends – past, current and estimated future levels of homelessness.
- The main causes of homelessness.
- The resources currently in place to prevent homelessness and support those who are homeless and possible gaps.

- Potential areas of improvement.
- The expected resources the Council has to devote to statutory homelessness services moving forward.

Chapter 3: Research Methods

3.1.1 Key policy documents, research and statistics were referenced throughout this document – to provide an overview of the wider environment that homelessness services operate Monmouthshire.

3.1.2 In addition the Statement of Need relied on information collected during feedback from consultation exercises and a questionnaire.

3.1.3 The following exercises informed the Statement.

- A desktop review of key literature and statistical data
- Focus groups and group discussions with key staff relevant to the preparation and implementation of homelessness planning using both SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and PESTL (Political, Economic, Social, Technology and Legislation) analyses.
- A stakeholder questionnaire feedback from service providers, partners and other stakeholders
- Surveys with people who have experienced homelessness and related services first hand
- Direct engagement with different service user groups.

Chapter 4: Definitions

4.1.1 As a general overview, under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (Section 55), a person is homeless where:

- They have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere, which is available for them to occupy*.
- They do have accommodation but can't secure entry into it.
- The accommodation is a moveable structure (e.g. caravan) but someone has nowhere to place it to reside in.
 - *If it is not considered reasonable for someone to continue to occupy accommodation, then they would also be treated as having no accommodation.
- Someone is threatened with homelessness where they are likely to be homeless within 56 days.

4.1.2 A large amount of detail is contained within the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and Welsh Government's Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness 2016 Code of Guidance, both of which include a number of definitions in relation to homelessness. There are other definitions connected to the statutory homeless data that local authorities submit to the Welsh Government on a quarterly basis as well.

4.1.3 The use of the broader definition of homelessness covering people:

- Owed statutory homelessness duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 (i.e. sections 66, 68, 73 and 75).
- Sleeping rough (e.g. living on the street).
- Living in insecure/temporary accommodation – excluding assured/assured shorthold tenancies (e.g. private sector property leased by a council).
- Living in short-term accommodation (e.g. bed and breakfast or a direct access hostel).
- Who are hidden homeless (e.g. someone 'sofa-surfing with friends, relatives or squatting).
- Who are unable to remain or return to their home (e.g. relationship breakdown or domestic abuse).
- Who are leaving an institution, without a home to go to (e.g. hospital or prison).

Chapter 5: Context: Strategic Links

For the purposes of the Statement of Need, the following strategic documents are key:

5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

5.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 seeks to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in order to create a Wales that all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act sets out seven well-being goals:

1. A prosperous Wales;
2. A resilient Wales;
3. A healthier Wales;
4. A more equal Wales;
5. A Wales of cohesive communities;
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language; and
7. A globally responsible Wales.

5.1.2 The provision of sufficient good quality housing for people's needs, including affordable housing is a cross-cutting theme that will help deliver many of the well-being goals, including a more equal Wales, a Wales of cohesive communities, a prosperous Wales and a healthier Wales.

5.2 Monmouthshire Public Service Board Well-being Assessment

5.2.1 The eight statutory members of the Gwent Regional Public Service Board, or GRPSB, are the five local authorities, the Local Health Board, Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales. Other organisations are also invited; these include Gwent Police, Local Housing Associations, Melin Homes and voluntary organisations represented through the Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations.

5.2.2 The PSB must prepare and publish an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in the area and then agree priorities to address these.

5.2.3 Monmouthshire County Council Corporate Business Plan 2017 / 2022

Sets out a clear direction for the Council and resources required to deliver it. It inform and shapes a whole set of enabling and delivery plans around People; Digital; Economy; Customers, Land and Assets.

The plan sets out sets out our five Organisational Goals. These goals incorporate the four Well-being Objective

1. The best possible start in life
2. Thriving and well-connected county
3. Maximise the potential of the natural and built environment
4. Lifelong well-being
5. Future-focused Council

5.3 People, Place Prosperity: A Strategy for Social Justice 2017 – 2022

5.3.1 The Aim of this Social Justice Strategy has always been 'To put Social Justice at the heart of what we do' and over the past two years the Strategy has set out a broad programme of work to help to make a real difference to the lives of local people by working in partnership.

5.3.2 The Commitments made in the Strategy have therefore focussed and continue to focus on the following:

- Enabling connected and caring communities supporting people to live independently;
- Delivering on social justice, better prosperity and reducing inequality; and
- Enabling better local services through supporting volunteers and social action

5.3.3 All of this has aligned with the Public Service Board priorities and aspirations:

- To reduce inequalities between communities and within communities;
- To support and protect vulnerable people; and
- To consider our impact on the environment.

5.3.4 The Community Partnership and Development Team have also been the ‘Engine Room’ for the Social Justice movement in Monmouthshire ‘the Bridge between community needs and aspirations and the wider strategic priorities of the Council and its PSB partners’.

5.4 Gwent Regional Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023

5.4.1 The Gwent Regional Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy 2018-2023 sets out six Strategic Priorities that will contribute to the pursuit of the prevention of violence and abuse, the protection of victims and the support of all those affected.

- Strategic Priority 1: Increase awareness and challenge attitudes of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence across Gwent.
- Strategic Priority 2: Increase awareness in children and young people of the importance of safe, equal and healthy relationships and that abusive behaviour is always wrong
- Strategic Priority 3: Increase focus on holding perpetrators to account and provide opportunities to change their behaviour based around victim safety
- Strategic Priority 4: Make early intervention and prevention a priority
- Strategic Priority 5: Relevant professionals are trained to provide effective, timely and appropriate responses to victims and survivors
- Strategic Priority 6: Provide victims with equal access to appropriately resourced, high quality, needs led, strength based, gender responsive services throughout the region.

5.4.2 Ensuring regular engagement by people who have been affected by VAWDASV has been essential for identifying the Strategic Priorities. Involvement and engagement will continue to be an essential requirement for informing the Partnership Board on the effectiveness of its on-going work.

5.5 Gwent Housing Support Grant Regional Collaborative Group Statement 2021-2022

5.5.1 The Housing Support Grant (HSG) Programme is an early intervention programme that funds a wide range of housing related support and homelessness services for vulnerable people across Gwent, and supports activity, which prevents people from becoming homeless, stabilises their housing situation, or helps potentially homeless people to find and keep accommodation.

5.5.2 The vision for the Housing Support Programme is:

“A Wales where nobody is homeless and everyone has a safe home where they can flourish and live a fulfilled, active and independent life”.

5.5.3 The Strategic goals of the Gwent RHSCG are:

- Deliver high quality, effective and responsive services;
- Expand our reach by collaborating & working in partnership
- Strengthen engagement and accessibility

5.6 National Policies

5.6.1 Strategy for Preventing and Ending Homelessness

5.6.2 Sets out the strategic approach the Welsh Government is taking to prevent and address homelessness in Wales. It's vision is for "A Wales where everyone has a safe home that meets their needs and supports a healthy, successful and prosperous life. A Wales where we work together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented ensure it is rare, brief and unrepeated".

5.6.3 Other Relevant Legislative Acts and Policies considered in the Strategy's development were the following

- Welsh Government Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2018-20.
- Housing Support Grant Practice Guidance.
- Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016.
- The Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014.
- Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.

Chapter 6: Context - Population, Health, Poverty and Income

- 6.1.1 This section gives a broad picture of the social and economic conditions for the County of Monmouthshire. The areas looked at in this section are only intended to be an overview to show the environment that homelessness services operate within the County
- 6.1.2 Monmouthshire is a predominantly rural county and is noted for its rich and diverse landscape. It covers an area of approximately 88,000 hectares and shares a border with the neighbouring counties of Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent and Powys in Wales and Gloucestershire and Herefordshire in England. The estimated population is 94,950 (Source: ONS, April 2020). The main towns in the county are Abergavenny, Monmouth, Chepstow and Caldicot.

6.2 Demography

- 6.2.1 In terms of age demography, Monmouthshire has a median age of 49 years, a significantly higher proportion of older age adults (65+) and a lower proportion of younger age adults (16-44) compared to the Welsh average (ONS).
- 6.2.2 Life expectancy for people in Monmouthshire is the highest in Wales, By 2039 the population aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 61% and, more significantly, the number of people aged 85 and over will more than double.
- 6.2.3 These headline figures mask some variations with those living in the least deprived areas of the county expected to live longer than those in the most deprived areas.
- 6.2.4 **The ethnic identity of the County is that 97% of residents self-identified as white with 3% self-identifying as Black, Asian and minorities¹.**
- 6.2.5 In terms of Gypsies and Travellers the 2011 census shows that six households identified themselves as Gypsy and Irish Traveller, 0.006% of the population.

6.3 The Economy

- 6.3.1 A common perception of Monmouthshire is that it is affluent with a high proportion of people of working-age that are economically active than most other parts of Wales and with less people claiming out-of-work benefits.
- 6.3.2 Again these headline grabbing statements mask some clear disparities. The wages on offer in Monmouthshire are 10% below the UK average and only marginally above the average for Wales. 34% of our working population commute out of the county to earn a living.
- 6.3.3 Average earnings for those who work in Monmouthshire are £570 per week or £29,640 per annum. This is above the Wales average of £535 per week or £27,820 per annum. The average earnings of people who live in Monmouthshire and travel to work elsewhere are higher at £694.60 per week or £36,119.20 per annum. This is above the Wales average of £540.70 or £28,116.40.

Source: ONS - Annual survey of hours and earnings (2019 figures)

¹**<https://stats.wales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Ethnicity/Ethnicity-by-Area-EthnicGroup>**

6.3.4 Economically the county appears to fare well compared to the rest of Wales with no areas in the most deprived 20%. However, social deprivation and in particular poor access to services is widespread across much of rural areas of Wales including Monmouthshire.

6.4 Health

6.4.1.1 For Monmouthshire the general consideration is that the general health of its population is healthier than other parts of Gwent.

6.4.1.2 However mental health and substance misuse issues are often an extremely significant problems for homeless people (HAVGHAPs).

6.4.2 Mental Health

6.4.2.1 The below graphs demonstrate the number of admissions of Monmouthshire residents to inpatient treatment for Mental Health (Adult and Older Adult) and Learning Disability. The data has been provided by the Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

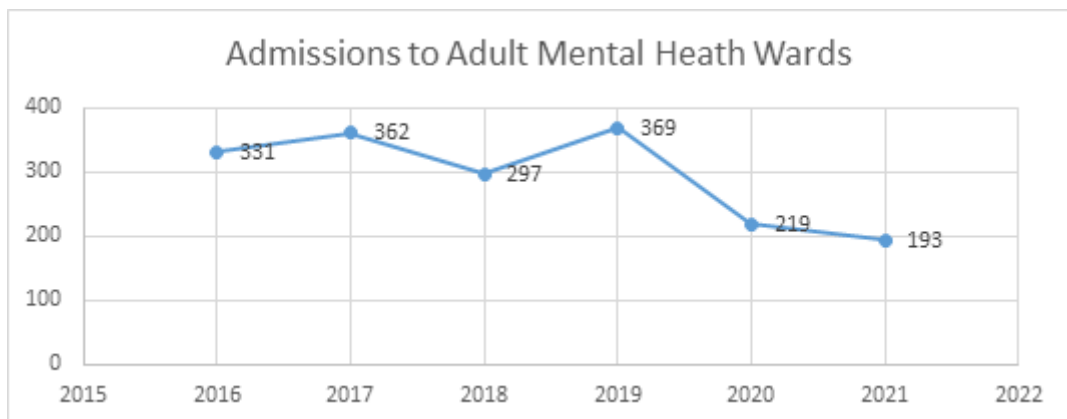


Figure 1: Adult Mental Health Admissions

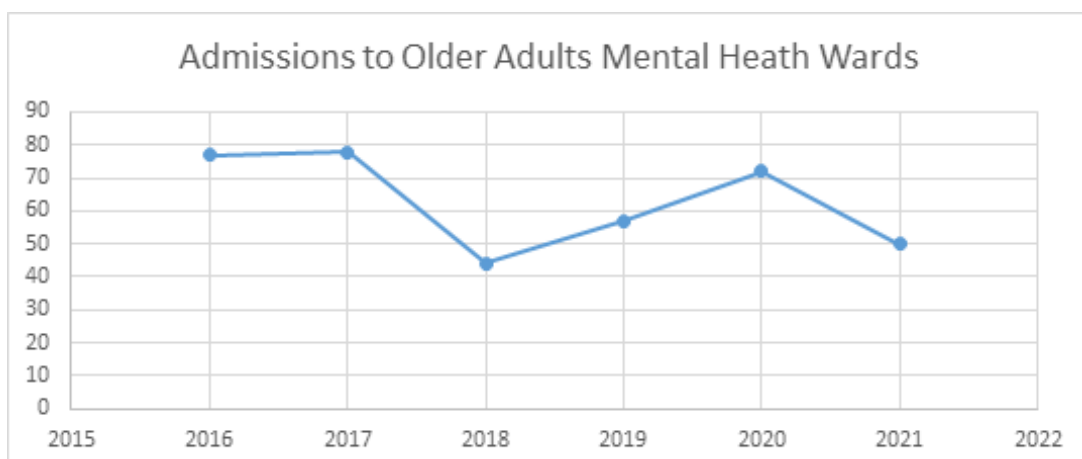


Figure 2: Older Adults Mental Health Admissions for patients with a Monmouthshire postcode, 2015-2022

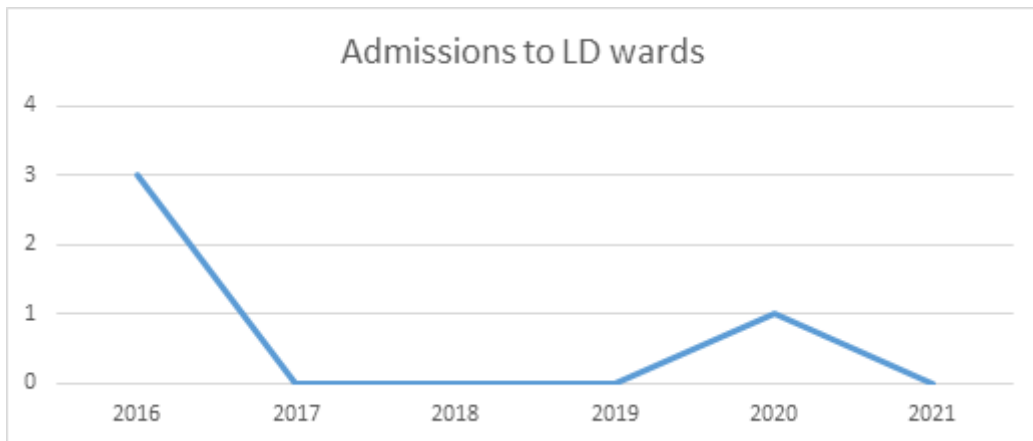


Figure 3 Figure 3: Learning Disability admissions for patients with a Monmouthshire postcode, 2015-2021

6.4.2.2 Numbers of residents admitted to Learning Disability wards is consistently low in Monmouthshire across the 5-year time span. Admissions to both Adult and Older Adults Mental Health wards have seen a decrease in numbers, both dipping in 2018 and 2021. Admissions to Adult wards has been in decline since 2019.

6.4.2.3 Figure 4, below, shows the gender breakdown of admissions shows a trend of more males than females for Adult, and this reversed for Older Adults.

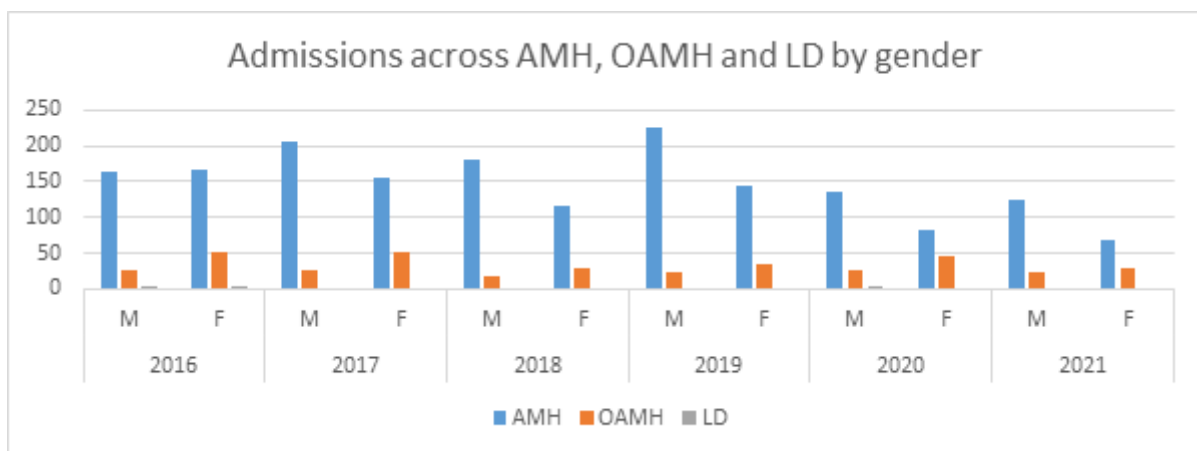


Figure 4 Figure 4: Admissions across Adult, Older Adult and Learning Disability wards by gender for patients with a Monmouthshire postcode, 2016-2021

6.4.2.4 From figure 5 below, when looking at the age breakdown of all admissions those between the ages of 20 and 29 are most frequent, though people aged between 30-39 and 40-49 also make up a significant number of admissions.

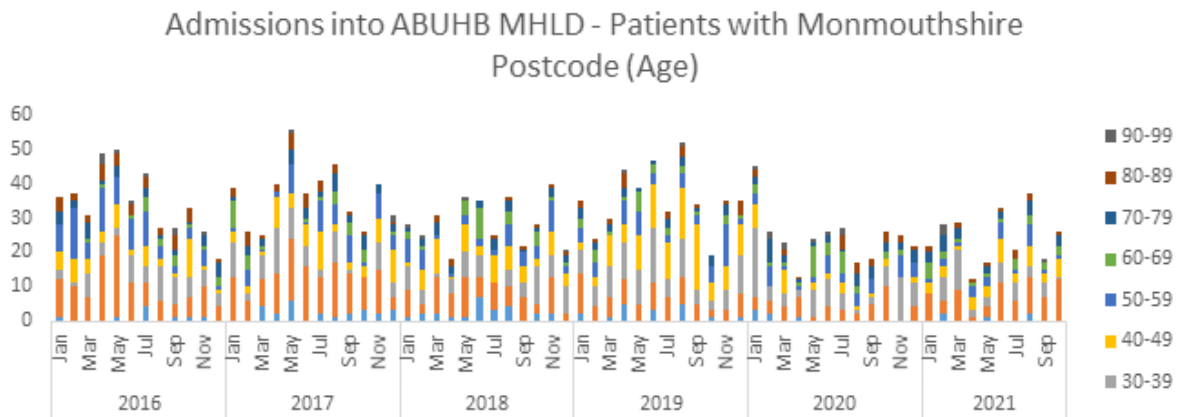


Figure 5: Admissions across Adult and Learning Disability Mental Health by age for patients with a Monmouthshire postcode, 2016-2021

6.4.3 Substance Misuse

6.4.3.1 The below table shows the number of referrals made to the Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) for treatment for residents of Monmouthshire between the years 2017-2020.

Year	Gwent referrals	Monmouthshire referrals	As a % of Gwent total
2017	1105	48	4.34
2018	1455	83	5.70
2019	1365	89	6.52
2020	869	53	6.10

Table 1: Referrals of Monmouthshire residents made to Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) for treatment

6.4.3.2 As a proportion of Gwent wide referrals, Monmouthshire makes up a small percentage, however, there has been a general trend of referral numbers increasing. In the first two quarters of 2021 GDAS has received 737 referrals across Gwent, 32- or 4.34%- of which came from Monmouthshire. If this trend continues to the end of 2021 it will be the first year that a marked decrease in referrals will have been recorded.

Chapter 7: Housing Market

7.1.1 It is possible to split Monmouthshire into 3 distinct housing market areas following the 2011 census travel to work areas as detailed in Figure One below:

- Chepstow Housing Market Area (Newport Travel to Work Area);
- Monmouth Housing Market Area (Cinderford and Ross-on-Wye Travel to Work Area);
- Abergavenny Housing Market Area (Merthyr Tydfil Travel to Work Area)

7.2 Tenure

7.2.1 At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 38,233 households in the borough with almost a quarter of residents owning their home. Figure 6 shows the tenure of residents in Monmouthshire.

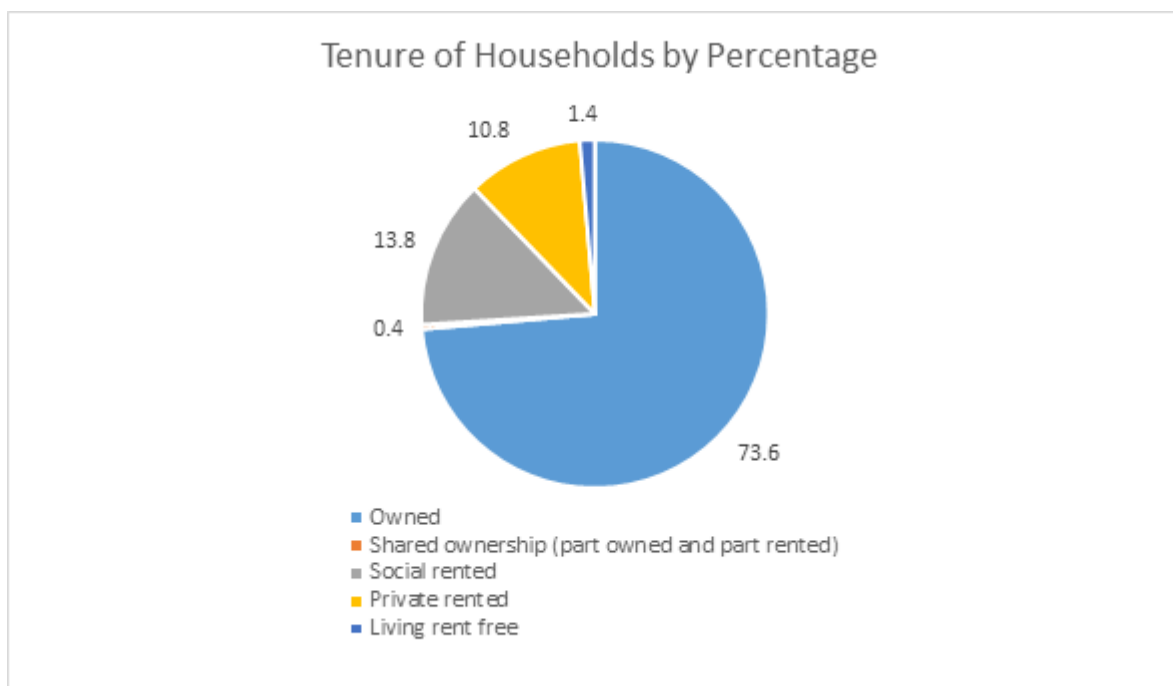


Figure 6: Tenure of residents in Monmouthshire

7.3 Home Ownership

7.3.1 Figure 7 below illustrates the average price of each property type in Monmouthshire. This is important to acknowledge as it impacts on the availability of suitable accommodation for first time buyers and those on lower incomes trying to access the Monmouthshire Housing Market. Of particular note, the average price of a flat, maisonette or apartment in Monmouthshire (£124,666) exceeds the average price of all property types in Blaenau Gwent (£112,619), and the average price of a terraced home in Monmouthshire (£222,814) exceeds the average price of all property types in Torfaen (£174,670) or Newport (£204,283).

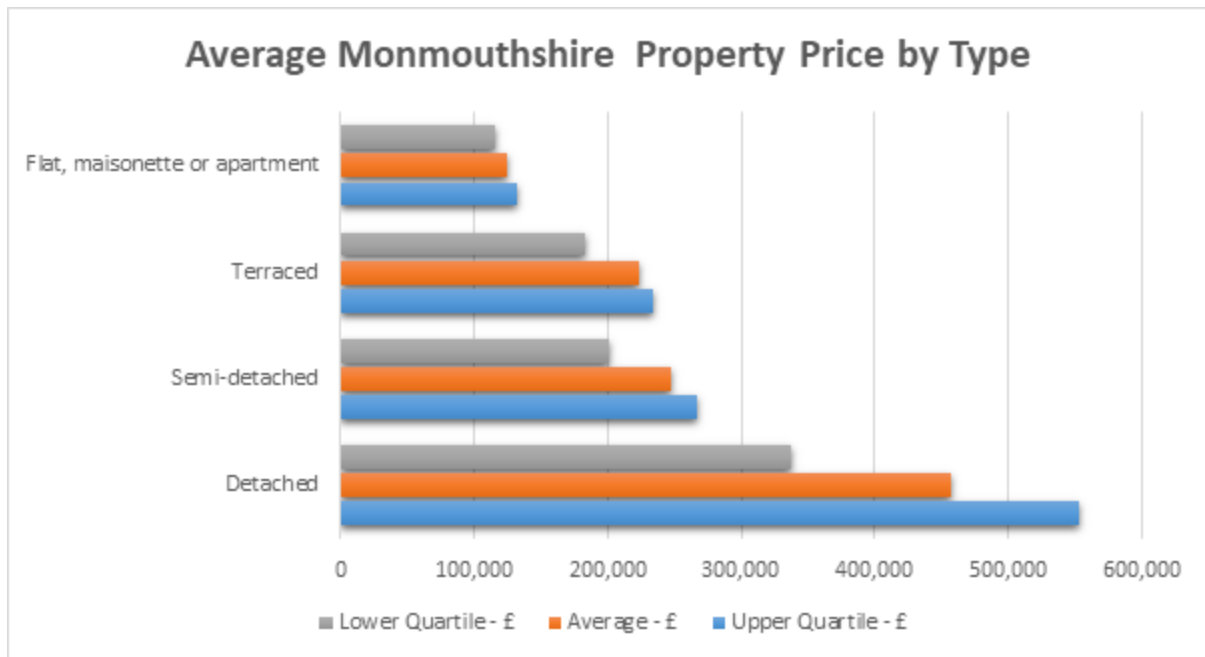


Figure 7: Average property price in Monmouthshire by type

7.4 Property Type

7.4.1 The majority of properties in the county borough are detached homes (44.01%) with next most popular property type being semi-detached (28.33%) properties.

7.4.2 In Monmouthshire, there is limited availability of terraced homes or apartments which are often a traditional way of people taking their first step into homeownership.

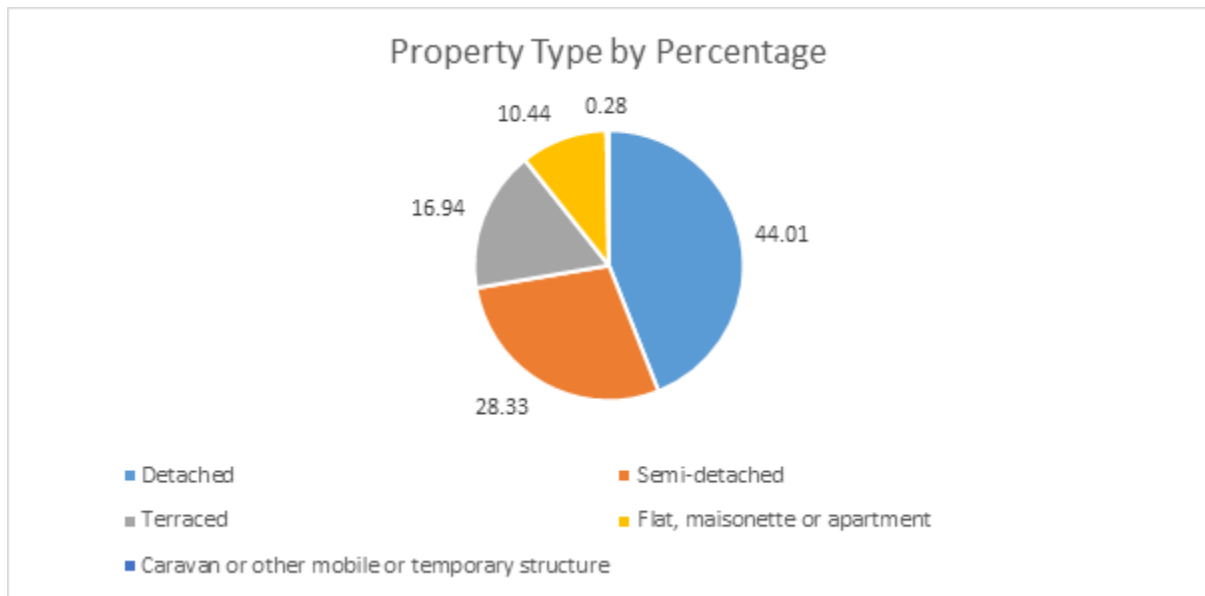


Figure 8: Breakdown of Property type in Monmouthshire

7.4.3 Data obtained from Hometrack (August 2021) shows the current average price of a home in Monmouthshire is £359,159, based on sales and valuations up to June 2021, compared to £336,760 up to September 2020 as identified in the Local Housing Market Analysis (LHMA), 2020. The rise in house prices is likely due to increased demand as households look to move to larger properties in more rural areas, influenced by the increased ability to work from home due to COVID-19 and an increased focus on quality of life.

7.4.4 The entry level house price for Monmouthshire is £200,000. This figure is the lower quartile price of a semi-detached house in Monmouthshire, based on sales and valuations. As seen from figure 8 above, Semi-detached properties account for just under 30% of all housing in Monmouthshire, so they are widely available in all areas of the county whereas terraced houses which would normally be considered “entry level housing” elsewhere in Wales only accounts for 17% of stock.

7.4.5 In terms of affordability, the house price to income ratio for Monmouthshire is 8:1 but levels vary across the county, the rural north between Abergavenny and Monmouth has the highest ratio at 11.5:1 (source: Hometrack).

7.4.6 Therefore to be able to access home ownership in Monmouthshire, with an entry level price of £200,000, after allowing for a 15% deposit of £30,000 a household’s income would need to be over £48,500 based on a typical mortgage offer at 3.5 times the household income.

7.5 The Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA)

7.5.1.1 The LHMA provides a snapshot of the housing market at a particular point in time, which is projected forward 5 years with a review the data within every two years.

7.5.1.2 Monmouthshire’s LHMA for the period 2020 – 2025 estimates a net need of 468 additional affordable homes per annum up until 2025.

7.5.2 Social Rented Sector

7.5.2.1 Monmouthshire Housing Association, Melin Homes and Pobl own and manage the majority of affordable housing stock. There are around 5700 units of affordable housing across Monmouthshire (LHMA, 2020) as detailed in Tables 2 and 3 below:

Submarket Area	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	5 bed	6 bed	8 bed	Total
10.Abergavenny	354	463	621	59	2	0	0	1,499
Chepstow	536	788	861	69	1	1	0	2,256
Monmouth	158	257	322	17	0	0	1	755
Total	1,048	1,508	1,804	145	3	1	1	4,510

Table 2: Existing Housing Stock – General Needs

Submarket Area	Bedsit	1 bed	2 bed	3 bed	4 bed	Total
Abergavenny	20	289	148	9	0	466
Chepstow	0	322	156	2	1	481
Monmouth	0	208	54	2	0	264
Total	20	819	358	13	1	1,211

Table 3: Existing Housing Stock – Older Person's Housing

7.5.3 Housing Need and Demand

7.5.3.1 The LHMA carried out in 2020 estimated a shortfall of 468 affordable homes per annum between 2020-2025 with the majority to be provided as Social Rent (68%), followed by Low Cost Home Ownership (25%) and finally Intermediate Rent (7%). Further analysis of the data allows for the shortfall to be broken down across the three housing market areas, as shown below.

Area	Social Rent	LCHO	IR	Total
Abergavenny	94	39	13	146
Chepstow	183	59	17	259
Monmouth	43	17	3	63
Total	320 (68%)	115 (25%)	33 (7%)	468

Table 4: Affordable housing need and tenure per housing market area per annum

7.5.4 Affordable Housing Completions

7.5.4.1 Table 5 below shows the total number of additional affordable housing completions delivered & planned.

	Delivered 19/20	Delivered 20/21	Planned 21/22

Affordable housing completions	113	146	81
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Table 5: Number of additional affordable housing completions

7.5.5 Monmouthshire's Common Housing Register (Homesearch)

7.5.5.1 Monmouthshire operates a choice based lettings scheme for social housing, known as Homesearch. Households requiring social housing apply to join a waiting list and are placed into bands representing their level or priority of need for an allocation of a property.

7.5.6 Level of Need / Band Priority

- Band 1 - Applicants registered in this band are those who have an exceptional / urgent need to move, such households being decanted.
- Band 2A: Applicants registered in this band are those who have a high housing need.
- Band 2B & Band 3B: Applicants registered in these bands are subject to Homelessness intervention. Band 2B is awarded for applicants that have been awarded a section 75, homeless duty.
- Band 3: Applicants with a medium housing need are placed in this band.
- Band 4: Applicants registered in band 4 have a low housing need. Most applicants in band 4, are applicants who are adequately housed in the private rented sector who have a local connection to Monmouthshire.
- Band 5: Applicants in band 5 have no housing need. The majority of housing waiting list applicants have no housing need or who have no local connection to the county

7.5.7 Waiting List Data

7.5.7.1 The table and graph below show the number of applicants registered on the waiting list at the year end for years 2017 – 2021.

	31 st March 2018	31 st March 2019	31 st March 2020	31 st March 2021
Total number of Applicants registered	2295	3164	3316	4043
Applicants with a recognised housing need (i.e. bands 1-4)	2052	2143	2237	2588

Table 6: Number of applicants on Homesearch Waiting List

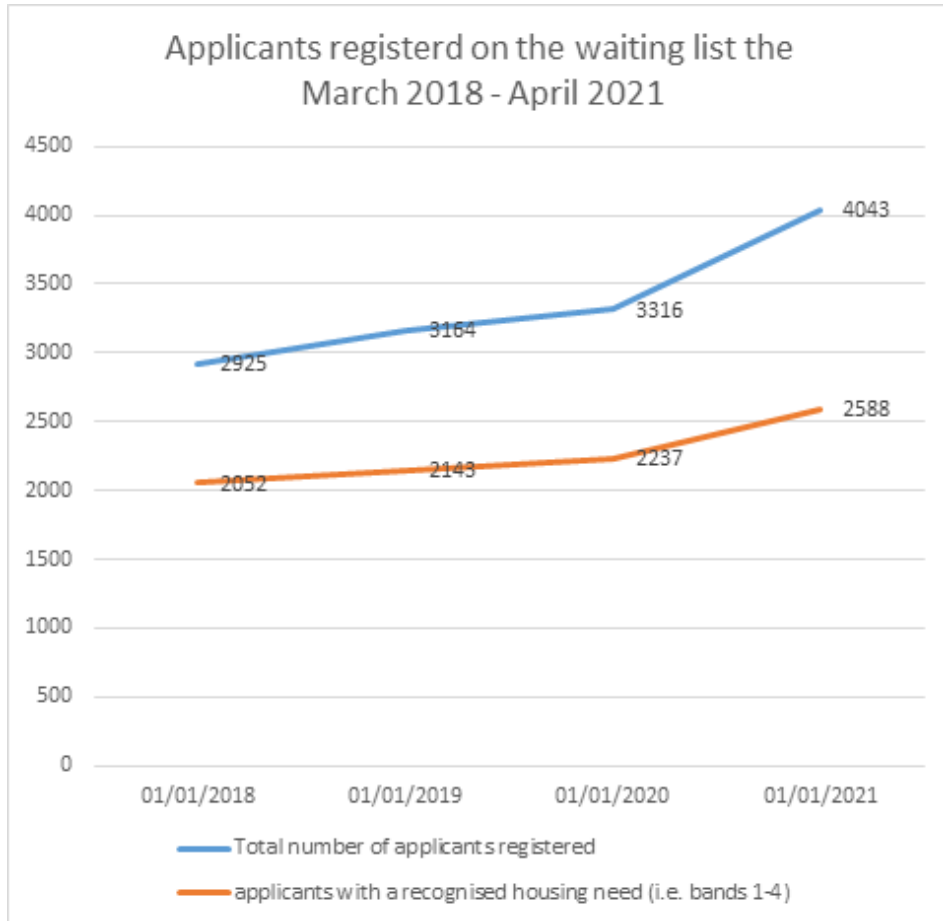


Figure 9: Number of applicants on Homesearch Waiting List 2018-2021

7.5.7.2 The above table and graph shows that there has been an increase of just over 38% on the total number of applicants registered on the waiting list across all bands (1 to 5) and a corresponding increase of just over 26% of applicants with a recognised need (bands 1 to 4). The majority of the increase occurs in band 5 (applicants with no need).

7.5.8 *Banding*

7.5.8.1 Although there has been an increase across all the bands, band 2b (the homelessness band) has seen an increase of almost 54% since March 2020 and is up almost 95% on the March 2018 figure (see figure 10, below).

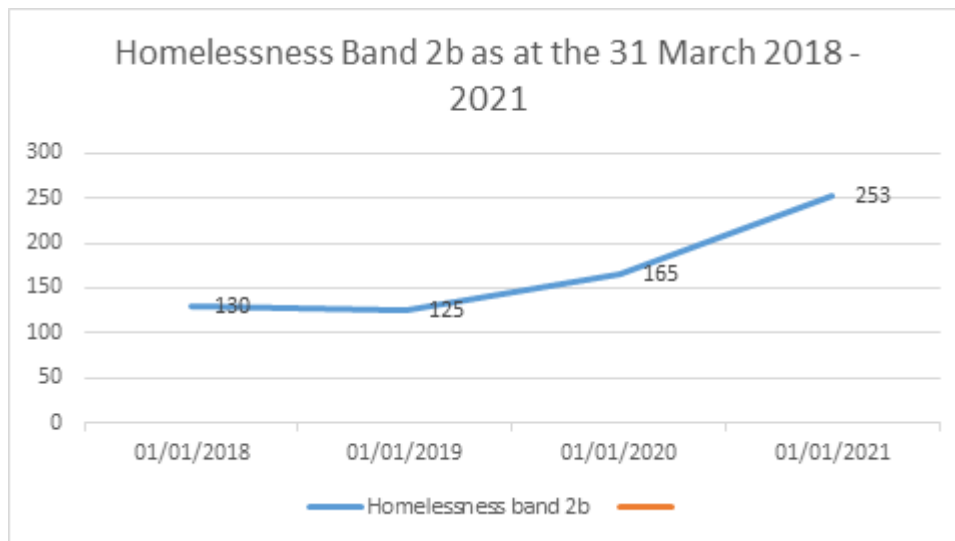


Figure 10: Number of applicants in Band 2b 2018-2021

7.5.9 *Number of Properties Let during years 2017 to 2021*

7.5.9.1 The following table shows the number of lets during the years 2017 to 2021.

2017 / 2018	412
2018 / 2019	486
2019 / 2020	481
2020 / 2021	355

Table 7: Number of lets per year 2017-2021

7.5.9.2 The figure below shows the trend over the period and represents almost a 14% reduction in the number of lets available since 2017/18 and almost 26% reduction over the previous year 2019/20

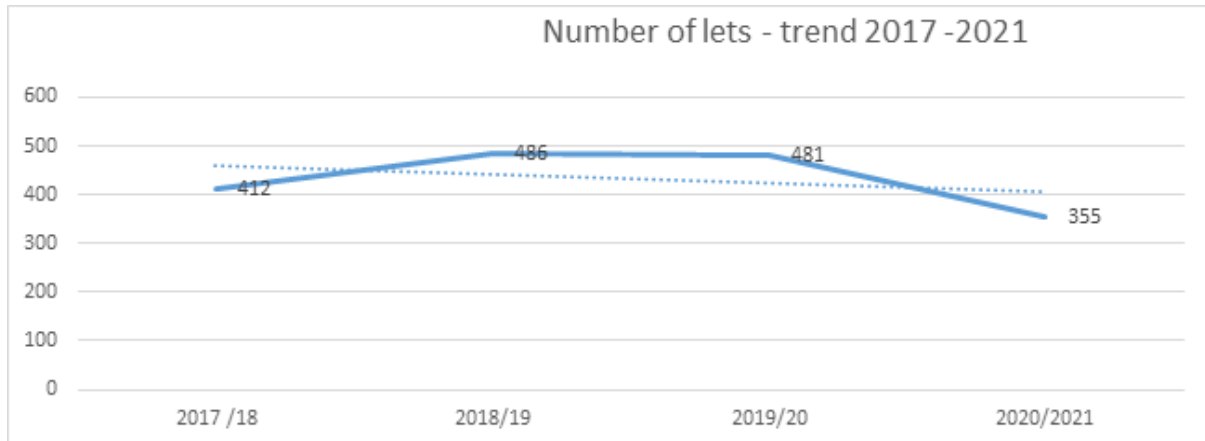


Figure 11: Number of Homesearch Lets 2017-2021

7.5.10 Number of lets per band

7.5.10.1 The figure 12 below show the number of lets per band 2017 to 2021.

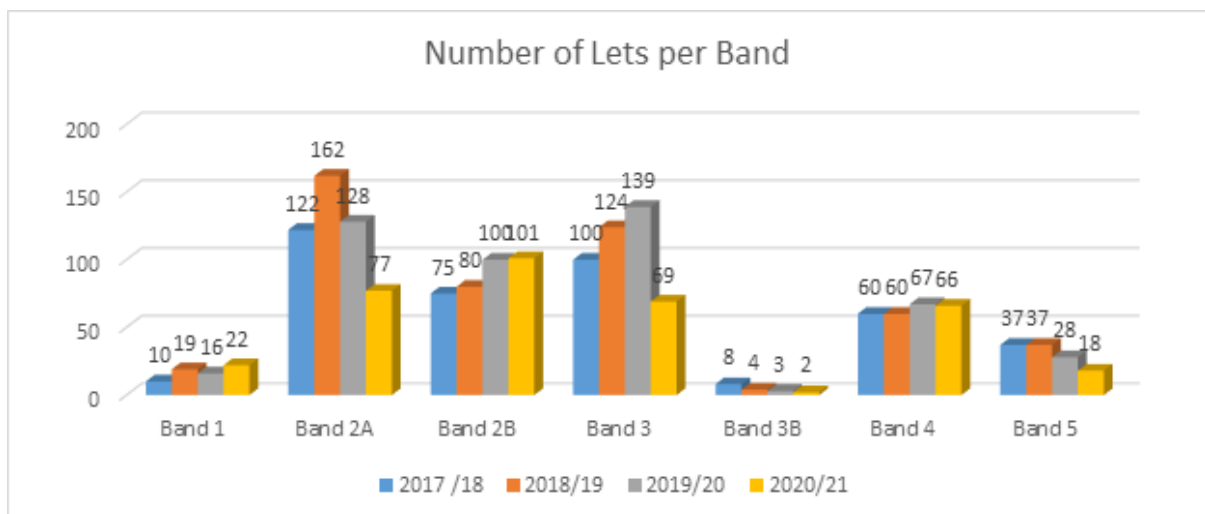


Figure 12: Number of Homesearch lets by band 2017-2021

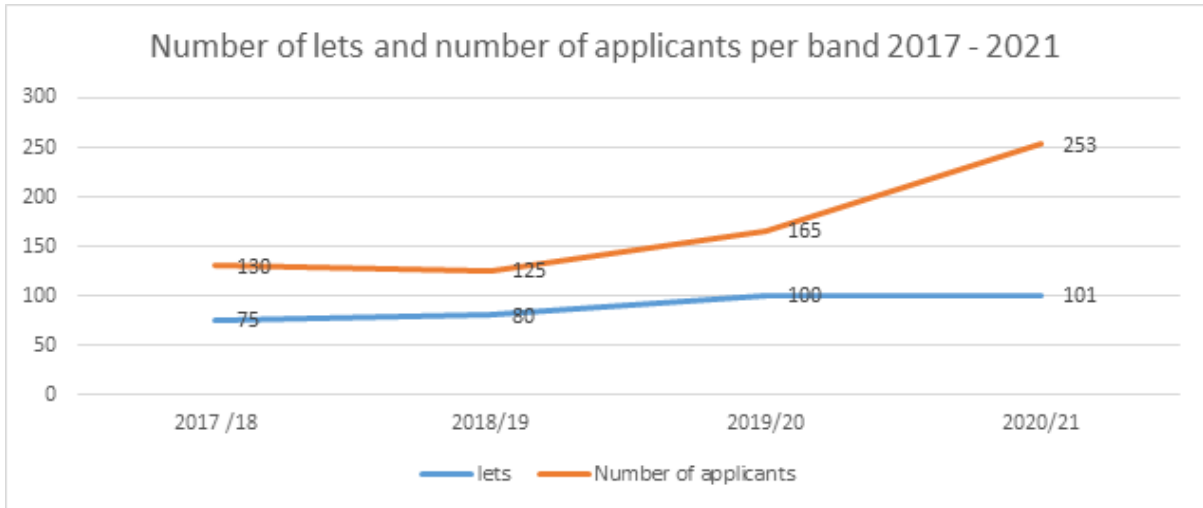


Figure 13: Number of Lets and number of applicants 2017-2021

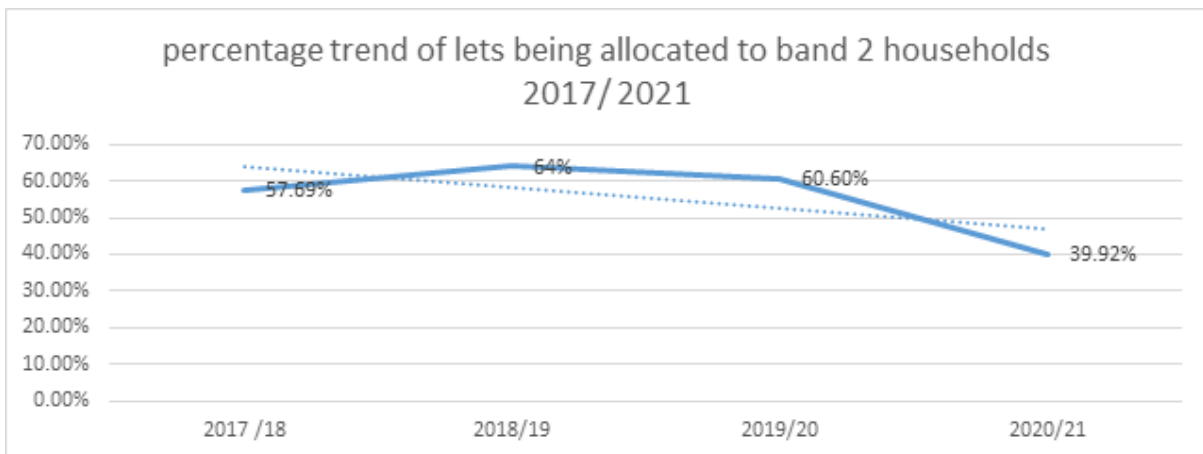


Figure 14: Percentage of all Lets being allocated to Band 2 2017-2021

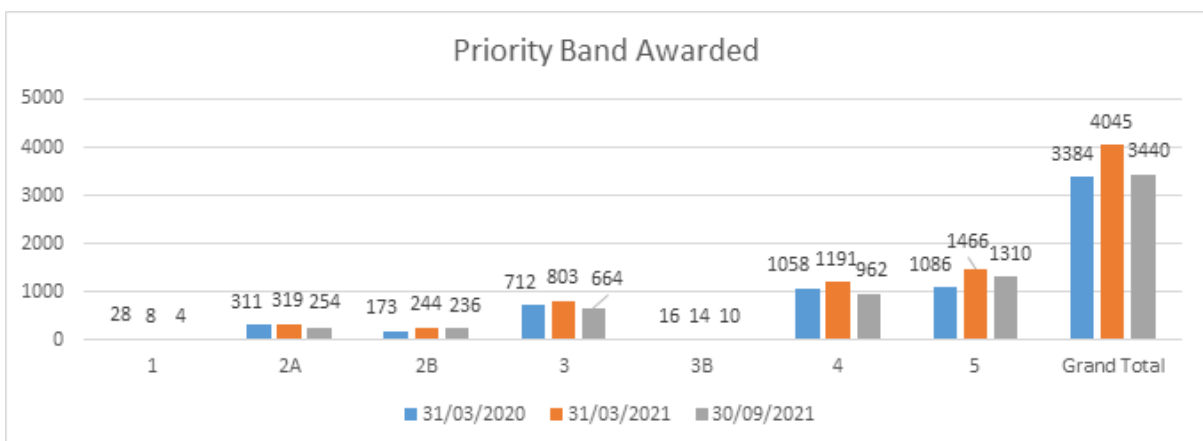


Figure 15: Number of applicants allocated to each band 2020-2021

7.5.11 Monmouthshire Homesearch Data

7.5.11.1 The lead reason for applying during the previous two financial years was “Homeless or in danger of losing your home”:

Lead Reason	2019/20	2020/21
Homeless or in danger of losing your home	50 (16.6%)	147 5.0%)

Table 8: Number of applicants with lead reason of ‘Homeless or in danger of losing your home’ 2019-2021

7.5.12 Social Rent Lettings

7.5.12.1 Past letting trends were analysed over the previous 4 years – 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Year	Number of Lets
2017/18	412
2018/19	486
2019/20	481
2020/21	355

Table 9: Lettings Data 2017 - 2020

7.5.12.2 The number of lets has seen a decrease of almost 26% between 2019/20 and 2020/21. This could be attributed to successful preventative measures being undertaken by RSL’s for their own tenants and would translate into limited “move on” options for those experiencing homelessness and being accommodated in temporary forms of accommodation See figure 16 below.

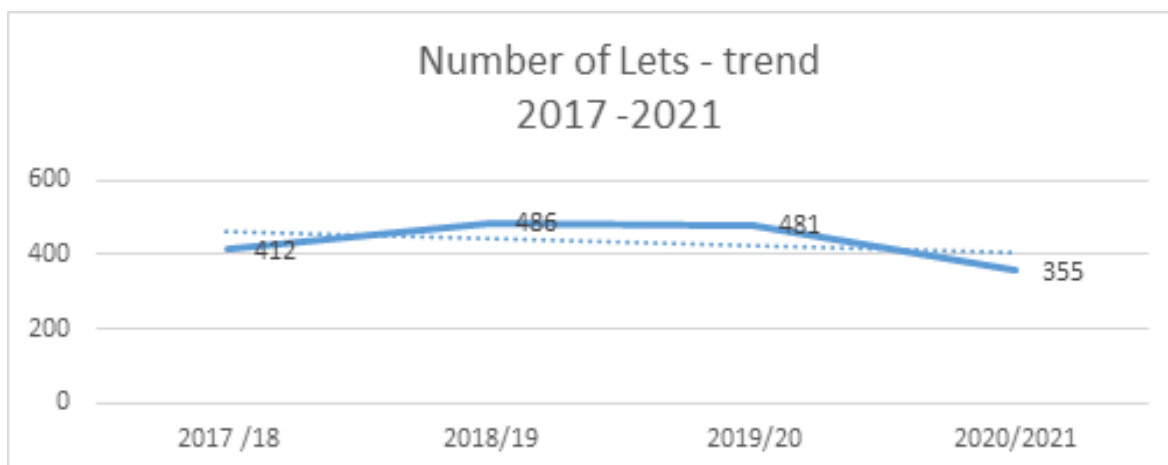


Figure 16: Number of Social Rent Lets 2017-2021

7.5.13 Private Rented Sector

7.5.13.1 The private rented sector is important in meeting the housing requirements of those who are in housing need but cannot access social rented housing and those who cannot afford to purchase on the open market. Since the change in legislation allowing local authorities to utilise the private rented sector to house homeless applicants it has become an increasingly important sector for Monmouthshire.

7.5.13.2 During July 2020, a desktop study of the residential rental market was undertaken. The study was an historical analysis of rental activity from 2010 to 2020 using Hometrack's comprehensive database of properties advertised to let and looked at the following:

- Rental market and activity within Monmouthshire
- Distribution of properties and rental values by bedroom category
- Rental values and Local Housing Rates
- Affordability

7.5.13.3 This section reflects the study but the following statements caveat the findings:

- The collation of information and data on private rental activity, costs and affordability is not as reliable as collating data on housing sales due to the lack of data currently available. As a result the data is not robust and, therefore, only for a very broad analysis of the rental market in Monmouthshire.
- The data does not differentiate between rents for furnished/unfurnished properties, nor for whether utility bills and council tax are included/not included within the value of rent.
- The study concentrates on properties where the bedroom category is known as this demonstrates the issue of affordability especially when referring to Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates.

7.5.14 Private Rental Market and Activity

7.5.14.1 As of July 2020 there are 3,200 Landlords registered with Rent Smart Wales representing 4,817 properties spread throughout the five rental areas of Monmouthshire, which are, Abergavenny and Monmouth in the north of the County, Usk in the centre and Chepstow and Caldicot in the south. It should be noted that these five areas relate to postcode areas in the county and the Hometrack system provides a breakdown only for these areas below the county as a whole. It was therefore not possible to correlate the rental analysis with the three housing market areas for Monmouthshire.

7.5.14.2 The following figures (17 & 18) show the distribution of rental properties by bedroom count and rental area.

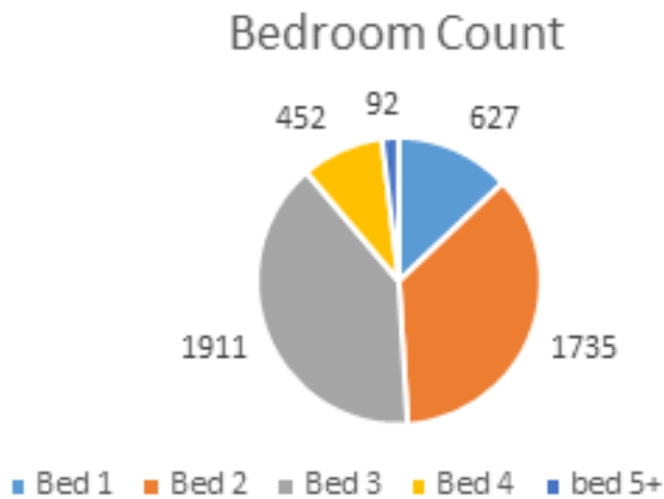


Figure 17: Number of Properties by Bedroom Count

Source: Hometrack

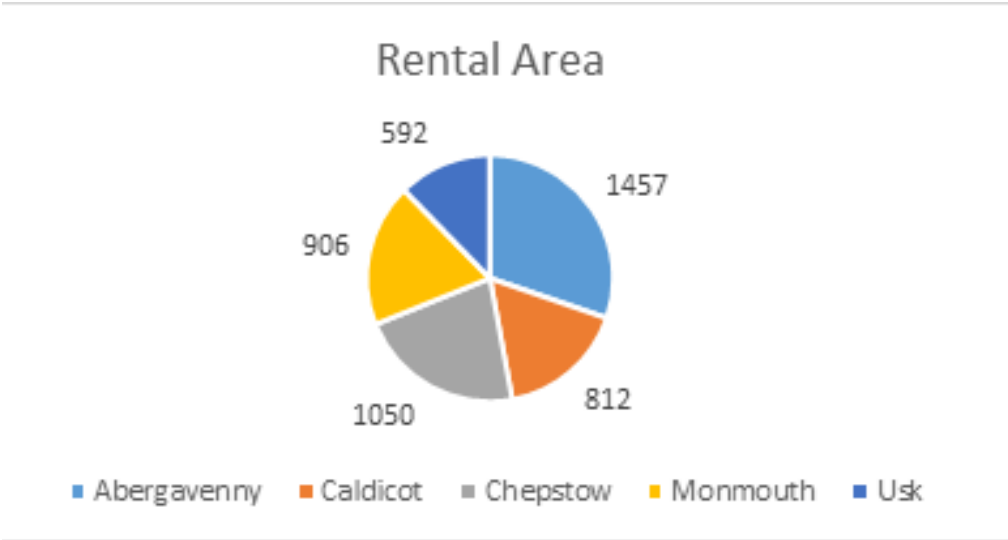


Figure 18 Number of Properties by Rental Area

Source: Hometrack

7.5.15 Historical Market Activity

7.5.15.1 The following paragraphs analyse market activity over the last ten years 2010 to 2020 using Hometrack’s comprehensive database of properties advertised, which is a sample size of 5,844 properties.

7.5.15.2 The following graphs (19 & 20) shows the spread of the properties within the five main rental areas of Monmouthshire and by bedroom count.

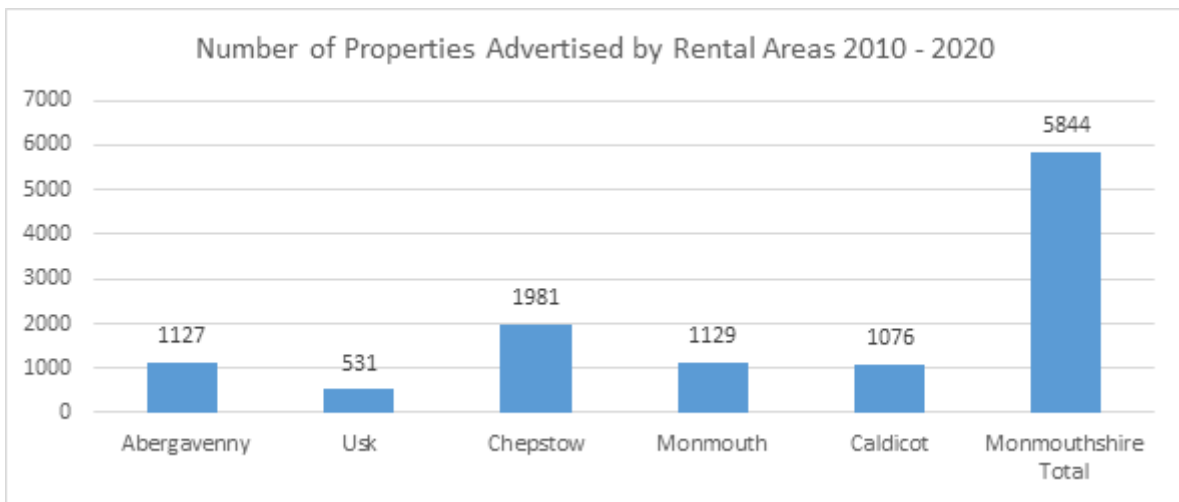


Figure 19: Number of Properties Advertised by Area 2010-2020

Source: Hometrack

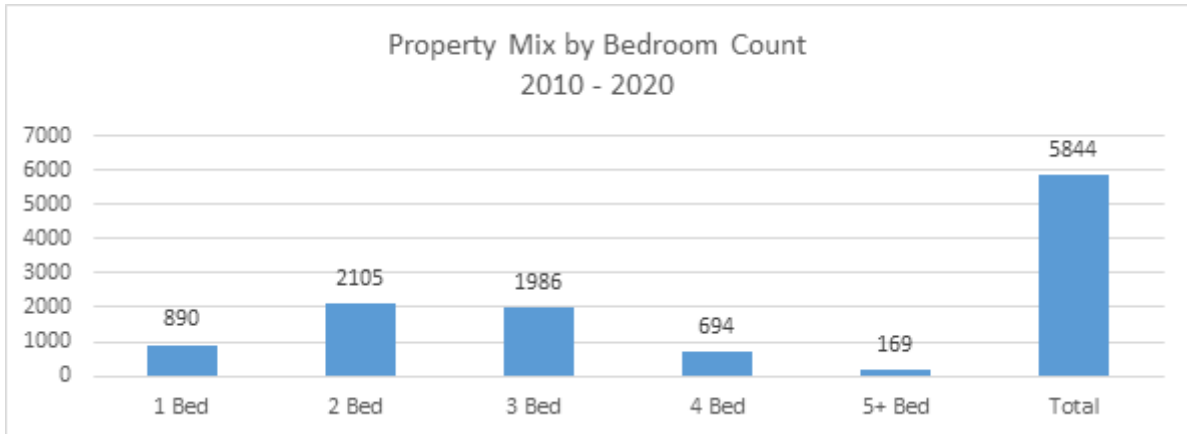


Figure 20: Property Mix by Bedroom Count 2010-2020

Source: Hometrack

7.5.15.3 Figure 15 below shows the mix of rental listings over the last 12 months by bedroom count. The largest share was two-bedroom properties with 36%, followed by three-bedroom properties with 34%. One, four and five bedroom properties made up 3%, 12% and 15% of the share respectively.

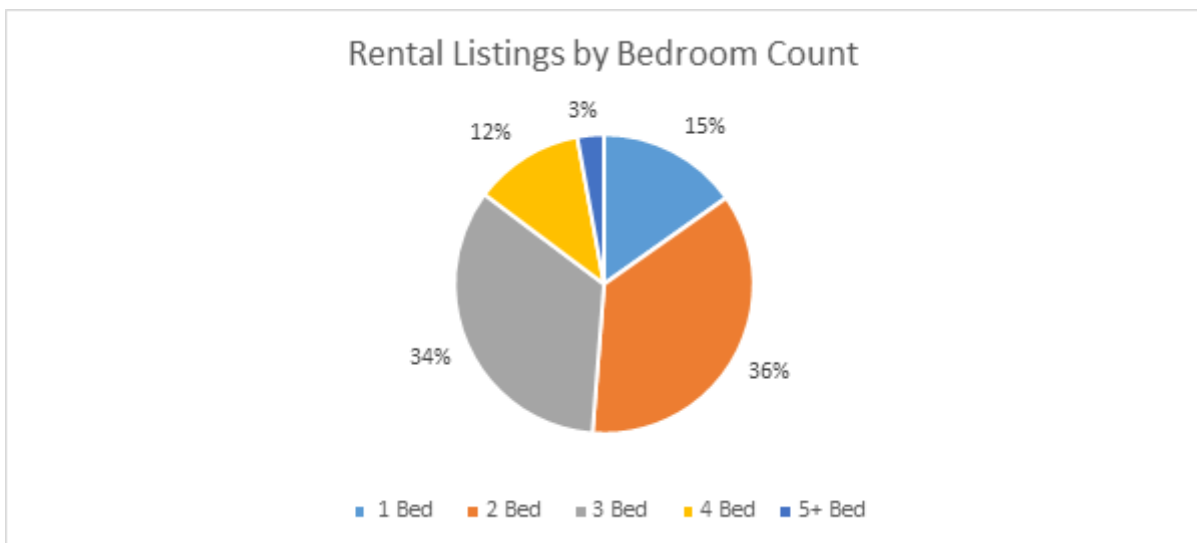


Figure 21: Rental Listings by Bedroom Count

Source: Hometrack

7.5.16 Market Activity

7.5.16.1 The data for this section includes only full years from 2010 – 2019.

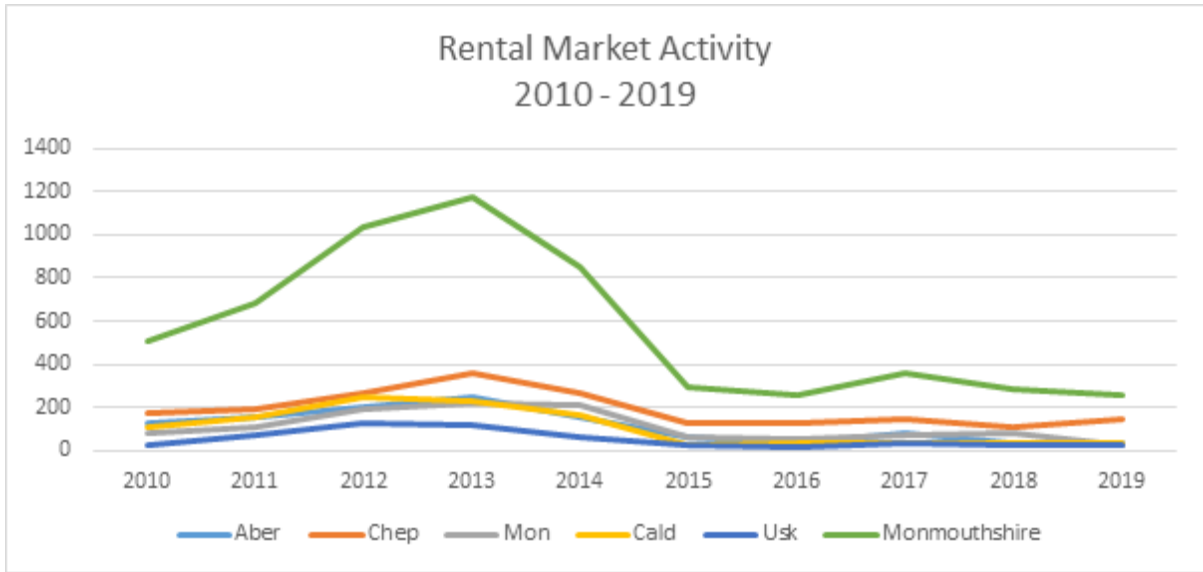


Figure 22: Rental Market Activity in Monmouthshire 2010-2019

Source: Hometrack

Market Activity by Rental Area 2010 - 2019

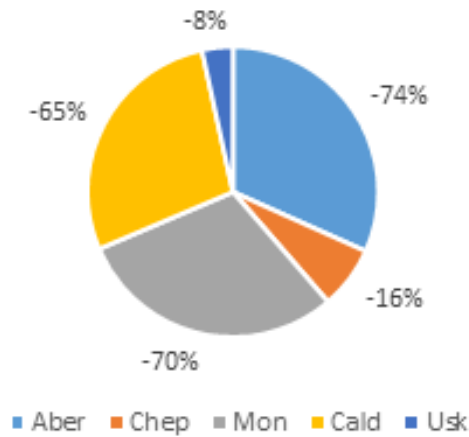


Figure 23: Market Activity by Rental Area in Monmouthshire 2010-2019

Source: Hometrack

7.5.16.2 Figure 23 shows the market activity has contracted quite considerably in the five rental areas and Monmouthshire as a whole the rental market contracted by almost 50% between 2010-2019.

7.5.17 Market Rental Value Growth

7.5.17.1 For this section, only data between one and four bedrooms was used due to the lack of available data five bedrooms.

Percentage Increase / Decrease of Monthly Rents		
2010 - 2019		
Rental Area	Number of bedrooms	Average Rent Price Increase Since 2010
Abergavenny	1 Bed	22%
	2 Bed	16%
	3 Bed	22%
	4 Bed	11%
Usk	1 Bed	13%
	2 Bed	19%
	3 Bed	17%
	4 Bed	-1%
Chepstow	1 Bed	34%
	2 Bed	26%
	3 Bed	28%
	4 Bed	43%
Monmouth	1 Bed	30%
	2 Bed	25%
	3 Bed	19%
	4 Bed	13%
Caldicot	1 Bed	34%
	2 Bed	26%

3 Bed	19%
4 Bed	46%

Table 10: Percentage Increase/ Decrease in monthly rental amounts across 5 areas of Monmouthshire 2010-2019

Source: Hometrack

7.5.17.2 Other than the Usk rental area, the other rental areas have seen a significant rise in monthly rental values over the past ten years. For Monmouthshire as a whole the rental values have seen an average increase of almost 25% on 2010 values.

7.5.18 Current Rental Values

7.5.18.1 Table 11 below illustrates the monthly rental values for the five rental areas as at Summer 2020. For example, the rental value for a one-bed property in Abergavenny ranges from £815 (highest value) to £295 (lowest value) with an average value of £513 and a median value of £475, based on a sample size of 192 properties.

	Bedroom Category	Sample Number of Properties	Highest Current Monthly Rent	Lowest Current Monthly Rent	Average Current Monthly Rent	Median Current Monthly Rent
Abergavenny	1 Bed	192	£815	£295	£513	£475
	2 Bed	444	£925	£330	£634	£638
	3 Bed	347	£1,200	£405	£771	£755
	4 Bed	109	£2,195	£390	£1,070	£965
	5 + Bed	35	£3,535	£600	£1,649	£1,535
	Total	1127				
Usk	1 Bed	61	£710	£360	£535	£535
	2 Bed	178	£870	£398	£663	£660
	3 Bed	211	£1,190	£476	£805	£783

	4 Bed	65	£1,735	£424	£1,047	£960
	5 + Bed	16	£3,020	£1,100	£1,896	£1,818
	Total	531				
Chepstow	1 Bed	350	£770	£285	£559	£565
	2 Bed	650	£1,030	£485	£697	£695
	3 Bed	677	£2,055	£475	£845	£830
	4+ Bed	236	£2,380	£685	£1,295	£1,215
	5+ Bed	68	£3,165	£1,055	£1,663	£1,553
	Total	1981				
Monmouth	1 Bed	191	£710	£350	£529	£560
	2 Bed	450	£925	£410	£664	£665
	3 Bed	297	£1,545	£470	£836	£820
	4+Bed	151	£2,185	£700	£1,243	£1,170
	5+ Bed	40	£3,535	£1,065	£1,902	£1,813
	Total	1129				
Caldicot	1 Bed	96	£970	£250	£512	£520
	2 Bed	383	£885	£460	£655	£665
	3 Bed	454	£1,105	£535	£775	£770
	4+Bed	133	£1,515	£790	£1,051	£1,015
	5+ Bed	10	£2,010	£420	£1,450	£1,503
	Total	1076				

Table 11: Monthly Rental Values across 5 areas of Monmouthshire summer 2020

Source: Hometrack

7.5.19 Local Housing Allowance Rates (LHA)

7.5.19.1 Monmouthshire has one single rate for each bedroom category (maximum bedroom rate of four bedrooms for the county). Table 12 illustrates the details for 2020/2021.

Shared Allowance	£329
1 Bed	£414
2 Bed	£549
3 Bed	£648
4+Bed	£779

Table 12: Local Housing Allowance Rates for Monmouthshire 2020/2021

7.5.19.2 The following table illustrates the number of available properties that are affordable to those in receipt of the appropriate LHA rate for their bedroom category.

Rental Area	Bedroom Count	Sample Number of Properties	Monthly LHA Rate	Number of properties at or below LHA rate	Percentage of properties at or below LHA
Abergavenny	1 Bed	192	£414.00	24	12.5%
	2 Bed	444	£549.00	81	18.2%
	3 Bed	347	£648.00	38	11.0%
	4 Bed	109	£779.00	5	4.6%
Usk	1 Bed	61	£414.00	0	0.0%
	2 Bed	178	£549.00	21	11.8%
	3 Bed	211	£648.00	15	7.1%

	4 Bed	65	£779.00	3	4.6%
Chepstow	1 Bed	350	£414.00	14	4.0%
	2 Bed	650	£549.00	9	1.4%
	3 Bed	677	£648.00	5	0.7%
	4+ Bed	236	£779.00	1	0.4%
Monmouth	1 Bed	191	£414.00	22	11.5%
	2 Bed	450	£549.00	41	9.1%
	3 Bed	297	£648.00	5	1.7%
	4+Bed	151	£779.00	4	2.6%
Caldicot	1 Bed	96	£414.00	8	8.3%
	2 Bed	383	£549.00	19	5.0%
	3 Bed	454	£648.00	11	2.4%
	4+Bed	133	£779.00	0	0.0%

Table 13: Number of Properties at LHA Rate in Monmouthshire

Source: Hometrack

7.5.19.3 Table 14, below, details the number of properties that came within the LHA rate applicable to their bedroom count is 326, which equates to 5.75% of the total number of available properties. This data shows that it is highly unlikely that recipients of local housing allowance could afford to rent a property at market rent. Data from Housing Benefit shows that over 800 households were in receipt of LHA of which 253 households were having their payments made directly to the Landlord (156) or were receiving DHP (97).

Total by Rental Properties	5675	Total Number of Properties at LHA Rate	326	Percentage	5.75%
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Table 14: Total number of properties in Monmouthshire within the LHA rate

7.5.20 Affordability

7.5.20.1 A comparison between the median net annual household income and the median rental values for each property type by area determined whether a household could afford to rent privately.

7.5.20.2 In addition there is an assumption that a maximum of 35% of net income is spent on renting and that net income is 74% of gross income (accounting for tax and NI contributions). The calculation method and assumptions are in line with guidance on calculating affordability issued by the Homes and Communities Agency.

7.5.20.3 Table 15 below shows the net median family income required to meet the median rental values of each bedroom count. Note that the median wage has two values. This represents those residents that work “in county” and those that work “out of county”. This latter category represent 40% of the total work force.

Rental Area		Sample Number of Properties	Highest Current Monthly Rent	Lowest Current Monthly Rent	Median Current Monthly Rent	Rent as a percentage of Median Monthly Wage (In County)	Rent as a percentage of Median Monthly Wage (Out of County)	In County Median Net Wage.	Out of County Net Wage.
Abergavenny	1 Bed	192	£815.	£295.	£475.	26.0%	30.6%	£1,828	£2,085
	2 Bed	444	£925.	£330.	£638.	34.9%	30.6%		
	3 Bed	347	£1,200	£405.	£755.	41.3%	36.2%		
	4 Bed	109	£2,195.	£390.	£965.	52.8%	46.3%		
	5 + Bed	35	£3,535.	£600.	£1,535.	84.0%	73.6%		
	Total	1127							
Usk	1 Bed	61	£710.	£360.	£535.	25.7%	25.7%		
	2 Bed	178	£870.	£398	£660.	36.1%	31.7%		
	3 Bed	211	£1,190	£476.	£782.	42.8%	37.5%		
	4 Bed	65	£1,735	£424	£960.	52.5%	46.1%		

	5 + Bed	16	£3,020.	£1,100.	£1,817.	99.4%	87.2%
	Total	531					
Chepstow	1 Bed	350	£770.	£285.	£565.	30.9%	27.1%
	2 Bed	650	£1,030.	£485.	£695.	38.0%	33.0%
	3 Bed	677	£2,055.	£475.	£830.	45.4%	40.0%
	4+ Bed	236	£2,380.	£685.	£1,215.	66.5%	58.0%
	5+ Bed	68	£3,165.	£1,055.	£1,552.	84.9%	74.0%
	Total	1981					
Monmouth	1 Bed	191	£710.	£350.	£560.	30.6%	26.9%
	2 Bed	450	£925.	£410.	£665.	36.4%	31.9%
	3 Bed	297	£1,545.	£470.	£820.	44.9%	39.3%
	4+ Bed	151	£2,185.	£700.	£1,170.	64.0%	56.1%
	5+ Bed	40	£3,535.	£1,065.	£1,812.	99.2%	87.0%
	Total	1129					
Caldicot	1 Bed	96	£970.	£250.	£520.	28.5%	25.0%
	2 Bed	383	£885.	£460.	£665.	36.4%	31.9%
	3 Bed	454	£1,105.	£535.	£770.	42.1%	36.9%
	4+ Bed	133	£1,515.	£790.	£1,015.	55.5%	48.7%

5+ Bed	10	£2,010.	£420.	£1,502.	82.2%	72.18%		
Total	1076							

Table 15: Affordability – Net Median Wage Based on Median Rents by Bedroom Category

Source: Hometrack

7.5.20.4 With the net monthly median earnings for people residing and working in Monmouthshire being £1,828 and for people residing in Monmouthshire but working outside the county being £2,085, accessing properties in the private rental sector in Monmouthshire remains a challenge for a large number of households (Source: Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics).

7.5.20.5 Although average wages have increased over the last two years for Monmouthshire residents, the high house prices in Monmouthshire still puts owning a home beyond the reach of many families who live and work in Monmouthshire.

7.5.20.6 Average earnings for those who work in Monmouthshire are £570 per week or £29,640 per annum. This is above the Wales average of £535 per week or £27,820 per annum. The average earnings of people who live in Monmouthshire and travel to work elsewhere are higher at £694.60 per week or £36,119.20 per annum. This is above the Wales average of £540.70 or £28,116.40.

Source: ONS - Annual survey of hours and earnings (2019 figures)

7.5.21 Higher Managerial Socio-economic Status

7.5.21.1 Monmouthshire's economically active population can be broken down by occupation, 51.5% of residents are recorded as working in Higher Managerial or Professional positions and this compares to a Wales average of 42.6%. The house purchasing ability of this socio-economic group is far greater than local people on local incomes, and is one of the reasons why house prices, especially in rural areas are so unaffordable. With the removal of Severn Bridge tolls at the end of 2018, it is quite likely that there will be further counter-urbanisation from Bristol into Monmouthshire with both house prices and rental values in the private rented sector being pushed up even higher.

Source: ONS - Annual survey of hours and earnings (2019 figures)

7.5.22 *Entry Level Property Price*

- 7.5.22.1 The entry level house price for Monmouthshire is £200,000.
- 7.5.22.2 There are cheaper properties available to buy in the county, but this figure reflects the market evidence of where the majority of first-time buyers access home ownership in Monmouthshire.
- 7.5.22.3 The £200,000 figure is the lower quartile price of a semi-detached house in Monmouthshire, based on sales and valuations. The reason it is based on sales and valuations is with far fewer sales taking place in 2020, combining it with valuation data gives a more up-to-date and robust figure.
- 7.5.22.4 Semi-detached properties account for just under 30% of all housing in Monmouthshire, so they are widely available in all areas of the county, as opposed to terraced properties which account for only 17% of the housing stock and detached properties which account for nearly 45% of the stock. Detached properties are significantly more expensive and therefore not considered entry level.
- 7.5.22.5 Although there are obvious differences between housing markets within Monmouthshire, the differences in semi-detached prices is not significant. The most recent market data shows the figure for Abergavenny to be the cheapest for semi-detached at £175,000, with Caldicot being the most expensive area at £210,000. Although the figure for Abergavenny does appear low, using sales only data the lower quartile figure is then £210,000, but this is based on a property count of only seven properties.
- 7.5.22.6 To be able to access home ownership in Monmouthshire, with an entry level price of £200,000, after allowing for a 15% deposit of £30,000 a household's income would need to be over £48,500 based on a mortgage offer at 3.5 times the household income.
- 7.5.22.7 According to the latest Hometrack data, the current Monmouthshire average house price to average income ratio is 7.23:1. In other words, people living in Monmouthshire would need over seven times their income to be able to afford an averaged priced property. That ratio increases to 9:1 for someone on a lower quartile income.
- 7.5.22.8 Rural house prices in Monmouthshire usually attract a significant premium and with the majority of housing being detached a separate entry level price for the rural parts of the country was not considered to be necessary.

Chapter 8: Profile of Homelessness : Use of Statutory Homelessness Services

8.1.1 Section 8 considers the profile of homelessness in Monmouthshire. The section incorporates quantitative data, such as household characteristics, causes of homelessness and reoccurring themes and considers future trends. This data consists of locally collated data and statutory data sourced from Welsh Governments WHO 12.

8.2 Background

8.2.1 The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 sets out the legal definition of homelessness. As recommended by the Welsh Government and for the purpose of this strategy the following broader definition of homelessness is used.

8.2.2 Section 55 of the Act set out the meaning of homeless and threatened homelessness:

- A person is homeless if there is no accommodation available for the person's occupation, in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, which the person—
 - is entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in it or by virtue of an order of a court,
 - has an express or implied licence to occupy, or
 - occupies as a residence by virtue of any enactment or rule of law giving the person the right to remain in occupation or restricting the right of another person to recover possession.
- A person is also homeless if the person has accommodation but—
 - cannot secure entry to it, or
 - it consists of a moveable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no place where the person is entitled or permitted both to place it and to reside in it.
- A person is not to be treated as having accommodation unless it is accommodation, which it would be reasonable for the person to continue to occupy.
- A person is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that the person will become within 56 days.

8.2.3 In its revised Code of Guidance for Allocations and Homelessness (2016) Welsh Government provided a broader definition and describes homelessness as:

8.2.4 'Where a person lacks accommodation or where their tenure is not secure'. This will include people who are:

- Sleeping rough
- Living in insecure/temporary housing (excluding assured/assured short-hold tenants)
- Living in short term hostels, night shelters, direct access hostels
- Living in bed and breakfasts
- Moving frequently between relatives/friends
- Squatting
- Unable to remain in, or return to, housing due to poor conditions, such as
 - overcrowding,
 - affordability problems,

- domestic violence,
- harassment,
- mental, physical and/or sexual abuse,
- unsuitability for physical needs or learning disabilities, sensory impairments or mental health conditions
- Threatened with losing their home and without suitable alternative accommodation for any reason, e.g. domestic abuse
- Leaving hospitals, police custody, prisons, the armed forces and other institutions or supported housing without a home to go to,
- Required to leave by family or friends or due to relationship breakdown,
- Facing possession proceedings or threat of eviction within 56 days of the end of tenancy.

8.2.5 In addition the Act introduced several new duties in relation to homelessness for local authorities with particular emphasis on prevention.

8.3 What is the data telling us about homelessness and prevention in Monmouthshire?

8.3.1 Initial presentation to the Council’s Housing Options Team is the starting point of determining the overall demand on the service of households seeking housing-related advice.

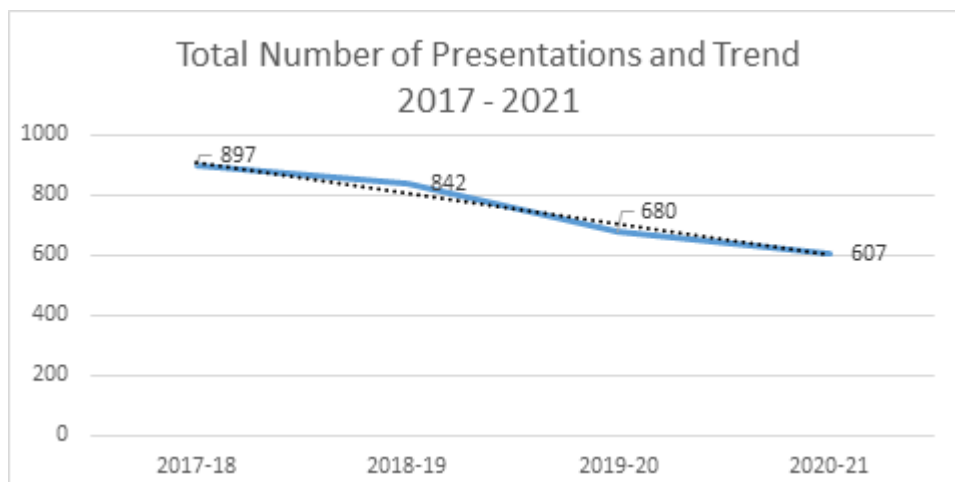


Figure 24: Number of presentations to Monmouthshire County Council’s Housing Options Team 2017-2021

8.3.1.1 The graph (Figure 24) shows that presentations have fallen over the past 4 years, from a high of 897 presentations in 2017/18 to 607 presentations in 2020/21 a fall of 32.33%.

8.3.2 Single Households

8.3.2.1 The following table shows the percentage of single household presentations as a percentage of the total number of presentations. This has remained relatively stable over the past 4 years fluctuating between 62% and 68%.

2017-18	65.77%
2018-19	62.7%1
2019-20	64.12%
2020-21	68.86%

Table 16: Number of single presentations as a percentage of total

8.3.2.2 Figure 25 and Table 17 shows the breakdown between male and female presentations.

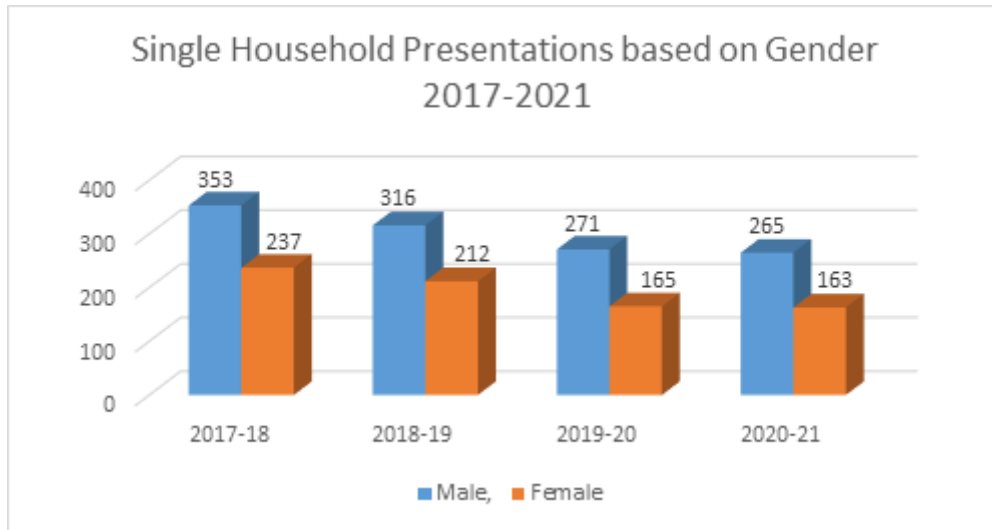


Figure 25: Breakdown of single household presentations by gender 2017-2021

2017-18	59.83%
2018-19	59.85%
2019-20	62.16%
2020-21	61.91%

Table 17: Male single households as a percentage of total single household presentations 2017-2021

8.3.2.3 Again the percentage of male to female presentations remains relatively consistent across the 4-year period with males making up almost 61% of all presentations.

8.3.3 Households with Dependent Children

8.3.3.1 The figure below shows that the number of presentations of households with dependent children fell by around 50% over the same period.

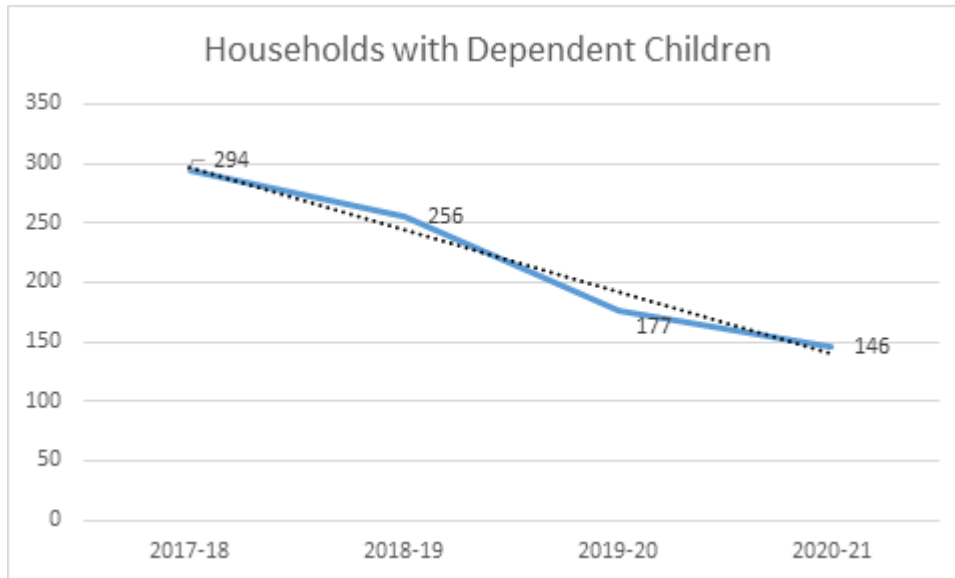


Figure 26: Number of households presenting to Monmouthshire Council Housing Options Team with Dependent children 2017-2021

8.3.4 Young Persons: 16/ 17 year olds and 18 to 24 year olds

8.3.4.1 Figure 27 below displays the number of young person households presenting April 2017 to March 2021.

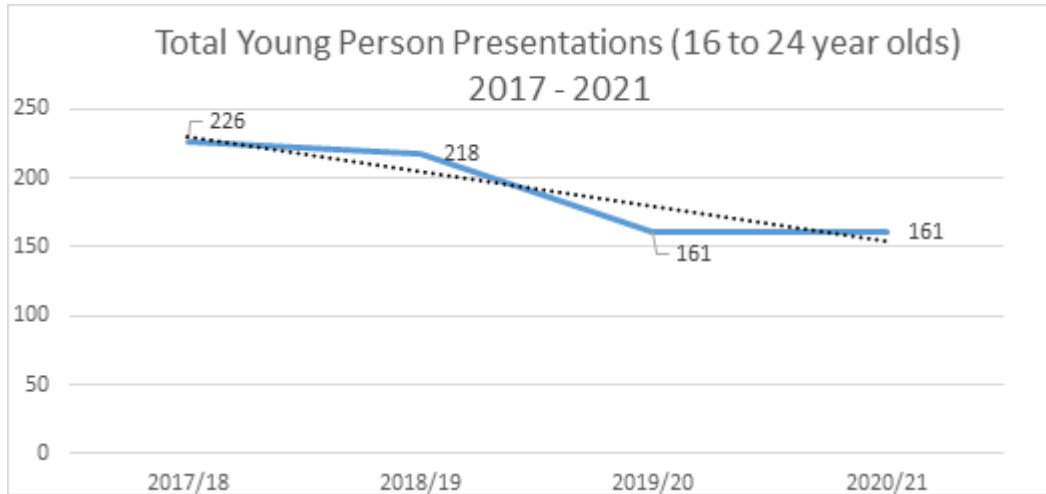


Figure 27: Number of Young Person presentations to Monmouthshire County Council Housing Options Team 2017-2021

8.3.4.2 The total number of presentations from young persons (16 – 24 olds) has followed almost the same line as the total number of presentations – a fall of 28.76%. Young people make up 25% of all applications.

8.3.4.3 In terms of gender the Figure 28 below shows a fall in presentations across the genders with females making up 57.44% percentage of presentations over the four-year period (2017 – 2021)

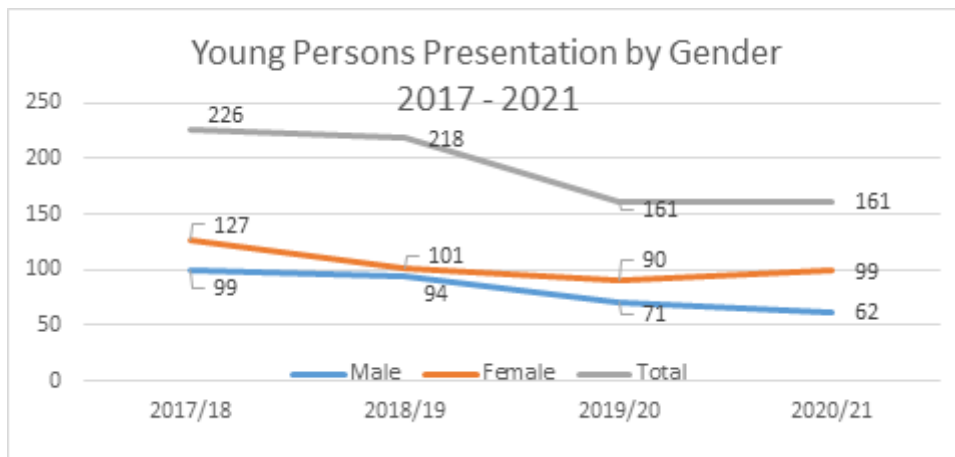


Figure 28: Young Person presentations broken down by Gender

8.3.4.4 Young persons are divided into two age cohorts 16 and 17 year olds and 18 to 24 year olds, Figure 29 below shows there was a spike in presentations during 2018 – 19 for 16 and 17 year olds and that the trend has fallen since then. However overall the trend shows presentations has increased by just under 65% with female presentations making up the majority of that rise.

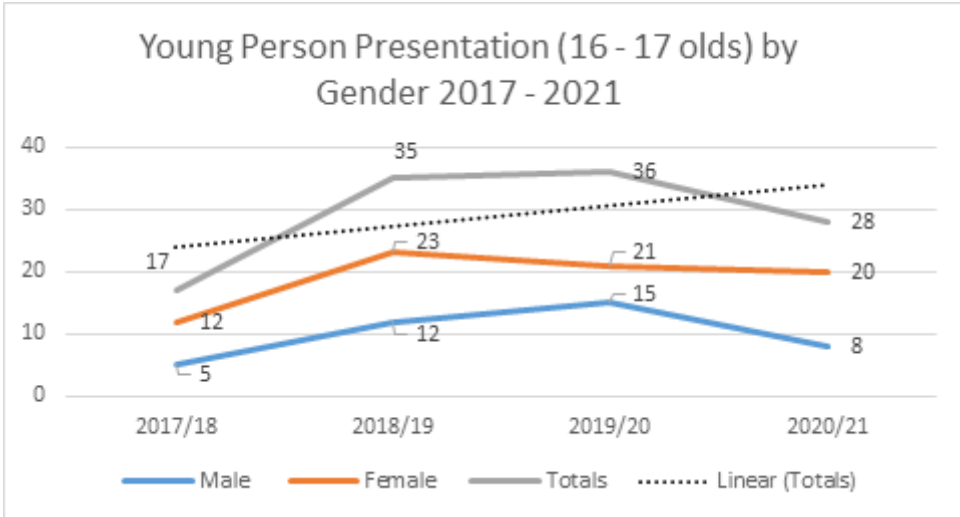


Figure 29: Young Person presentations- 16-17 year olds- by Gender 2017-2021

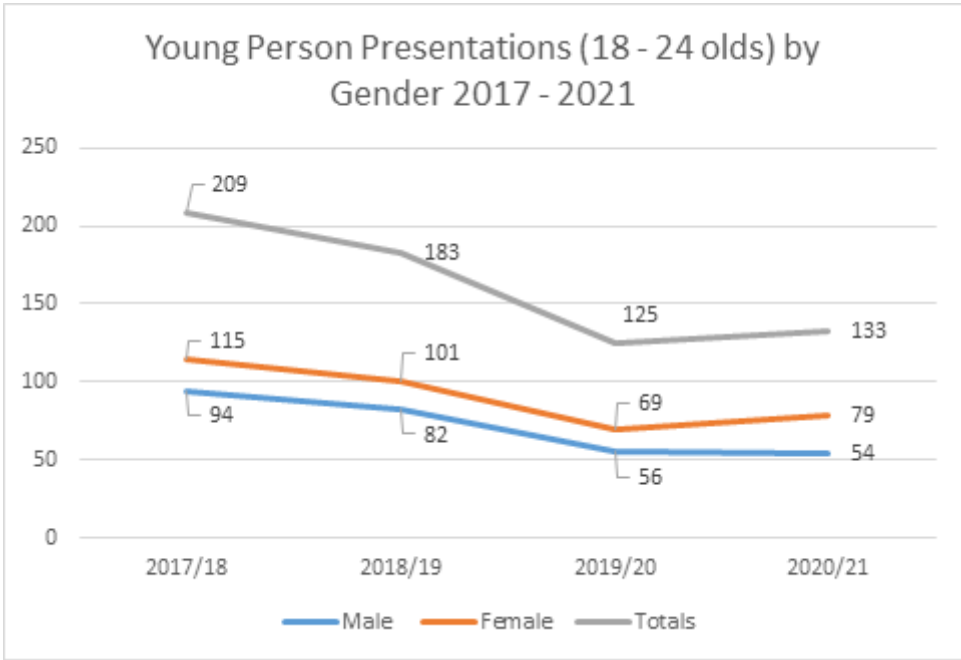


Figure 30: Young Person presentations- 18-24 year olds, by gender 2017-2021

8.3.4.5 For the 18 to 24 year old cohort Figure 30 above shows of just over 36% fall during over the four year period 2017 – 2020 with a slight increase during 2020 – 21. As with the 16- 17 year old cohort females make up the majority of the 18 – 24 year old cohort.

8.3.4.6 The gender split for the young person cohort (more female than male) is opposite to the gender split for all presentation (more male than female).

8.4 The Duties

8.4.1 Section 60 – The Duty to provide housing advice, information and assistance that is free and easily accessible.

8.4.2 Section 62 – The duty to undertake an assessment

8.4.3 The local authority has a duty to assess every household who could be at threat of homelessness. At this point the Council must satisfy itself what further duties apply to the household applicant.

8.4.4 Section 66: The Prevention Duty. The duty placed on the Council to take reasonable steps to prevent or alleviate homelessness. It applies to all households threatened with homelessness within 56 days of approaching the Council regardless of their priority status or connection to the County.

8.4.5 Section 73: To Help to Secure Alternative Accommodation – A prevention duty. The activation of this duty occurs when all other forms of assistance to prevent or alleviate homelessness occurring under the S66 duty are exhausted and the household has to leave their current accommodation. Again this duty applies to all households regardless of their priority status or connection to the County. Under this duty the Council will help the applicant to secure alternative accommodation through various means such as.

8.4.6 Section 75 – The Duty to Accommodate. Only households with a priority need, local connection and unintentionally homeless will fall under this duty. This duty applies once all other preventative options under the duties above have failed.

8.4.7 This duty ends any one of the following happens

- The household applicant accepts an offer of suitable accommodation
- The household applicant refuse offer of suitable accommodation
- The household applicant voluntary ceases to occupy the accommodation,
- The household applicant is no longer eligible,
- There is a mistake of fact during the investigation stage,
- The household applicant withdraws their application
- The household applicant unreasonably fails to cooperate.

8.5 The main reasons for being threatened with homelessness under a Section 66 or 73 Duty

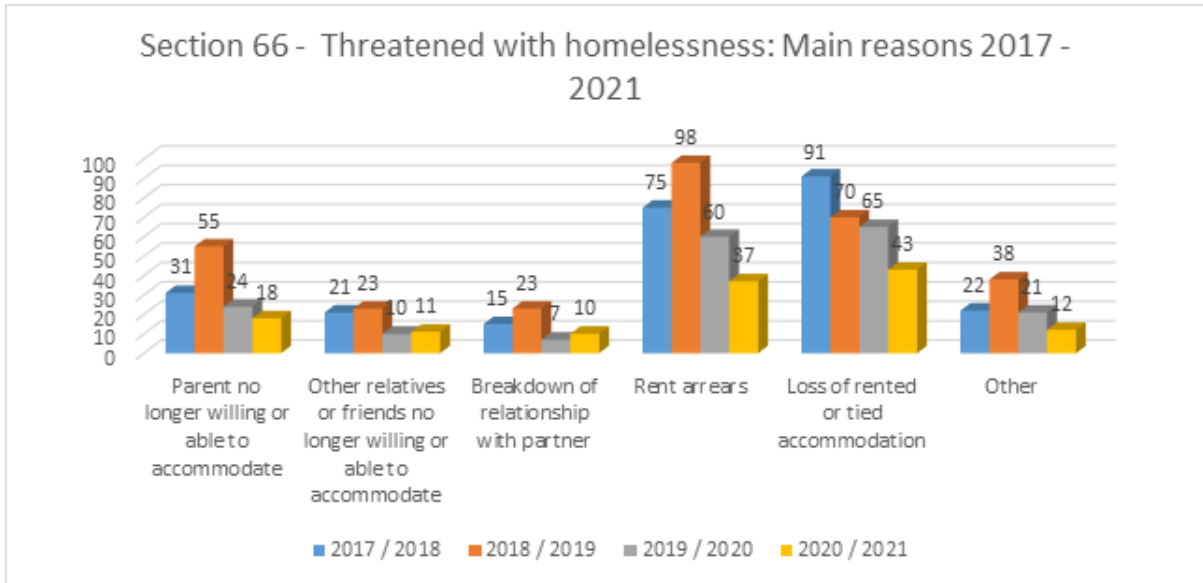


Figure 31: Main reasons for the threat of homelessness under a Section 66 2017-2021

8.5.1 When it comes to Section 73, the main reasons for being threatened with homelessness is the applicant is no longer able to remain in their current accommodation either due to parental eviction or other relatives or friends evicting (300) followed by breakdown with partner (233) and by loss of private rented accommodation (including rent arrears) (220), see figure 32 below.

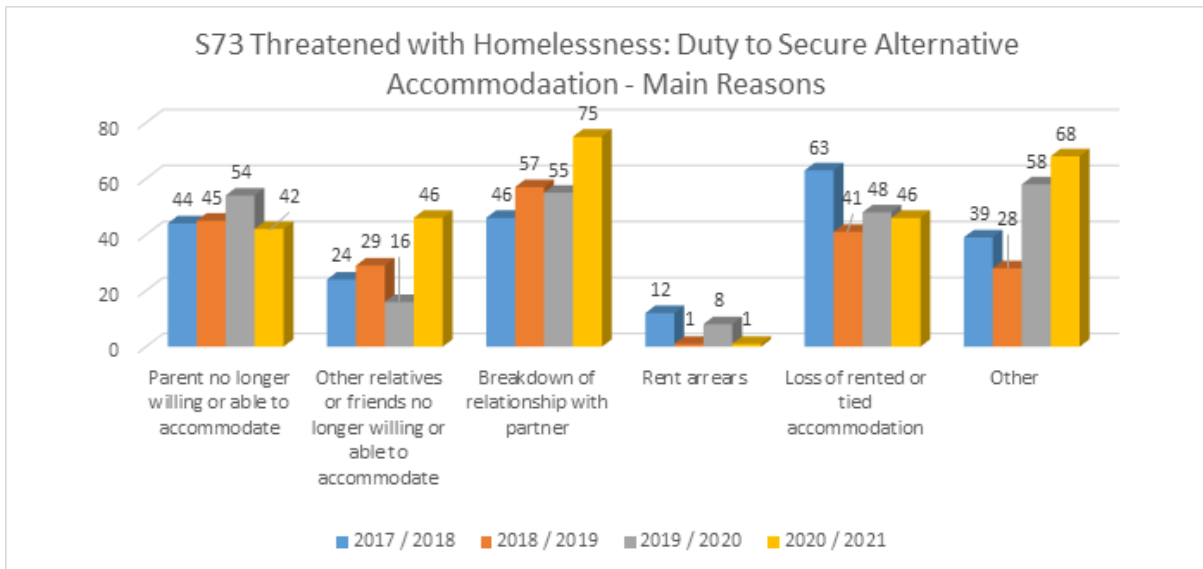


Figure 32: Main reasons for the threat of homelessness under a Section 73 2017-2021

8.5.2 The category “Other” for both S66 and S73 covers the following

- Current property unaffordable
- Violence or harassment:
- Mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home)
- Current property unsuitable

- Prison Leaver
- In institution or care (e.g. hospital, residential home, army etc.)
- homeless in emergency eg, returned from abroad, sleeping rough or in hostel)

8.5.3 Loss of a Private Sector rented accommodation has consistently remained the most common reason for household threatened with homelessness (both rent arrears and loss of accommodation) followed by parent and friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (both from parents and relative and friends).

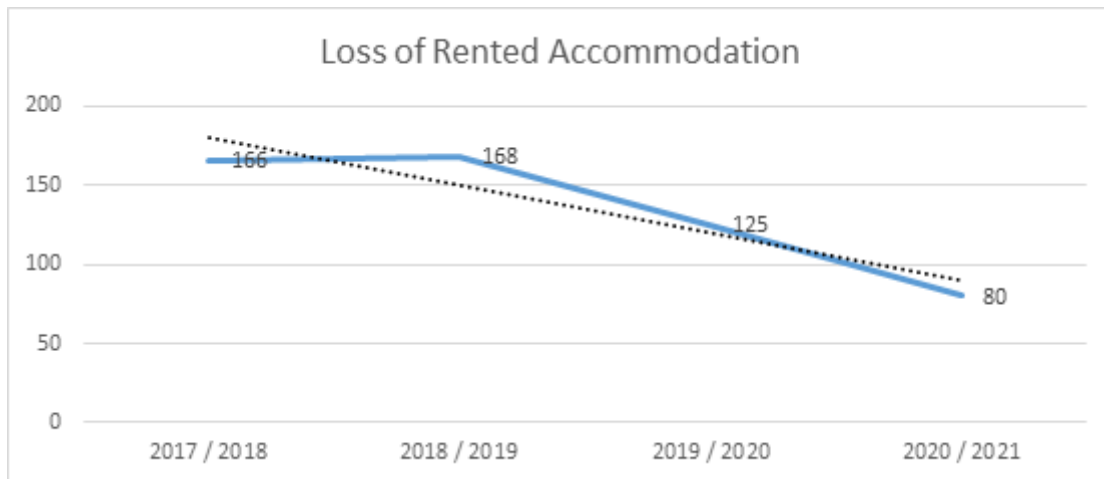


Figure 33: Number of applicants who have lost Private Rented Accommodation 2017-2021

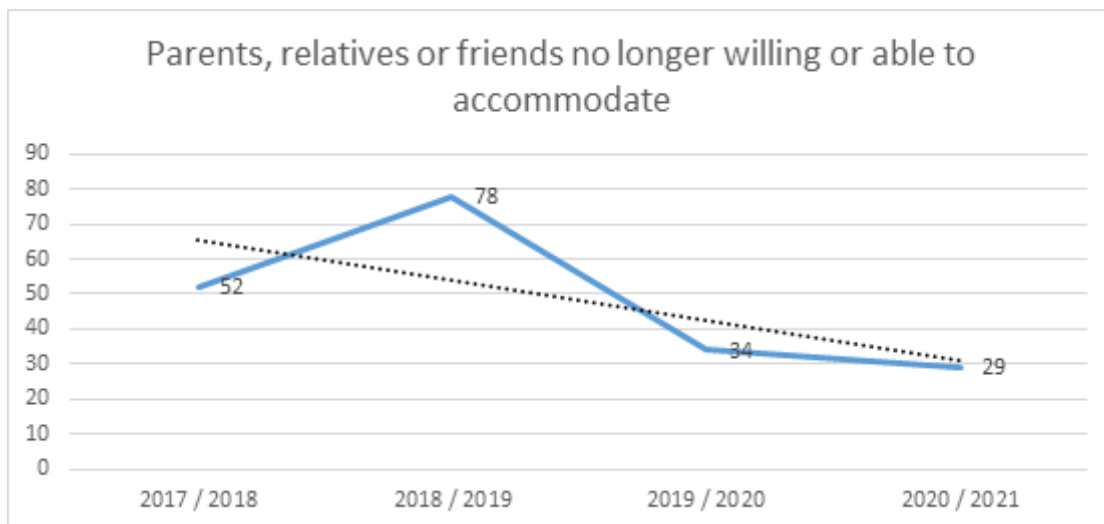


Figure 34: Number of applicants whose Parents, Friends or Relatives are unable to accommodate 2017-2021

8.5.4 When cross referencing with data on single people gives some indication that parents no longer willing to accommodate is broadly more of an issue for single households, compared to all households that present to the Council.

8.5.5 When we look at the number of single households they account for almost 43% of all household under a S66 duty during 2017/18 and rises to almost 65.5% for the financial year 2019/20.

8.5.6 Under a S73 duty single household's account for almost 69% of all households rising to just under 75% for the 2019/20 financial year.

S66	Male applicant	Female applicant	Total single Households	Total Households	Percentage of single to total household	Percentage of male single households as a percentage of total single households	Percentage of female single households as a percentage of total single households
2017/2018	55	55	110	255	43.13%	50%	50%
2018/2019	92	58	150	307	48.88%	61.33%	38.67%
2019/2020	73	57	130	187	69.51%	56.15%	43.85%
2020/2021	38	23	61	130	46.92%	62.29%	37.71%

Table 18: Breakdown of Section 66 Households

S73	Male applicant	Female applicant	Total Singles Households	Total Households	percentage of single to total household	Percentage of male single households as a percentage of total single households	Percentage of female single households as a percentage of total single households
2017/2018	106	52	158	228	69.29%	67.08%	32.92%
2018/2019	82	47	129	201	64.17%	63.56%	36.44%
2019/2020	112	66	178	239	74.47%	62.92%	37.08%

2020/2021	138	67	205	278	73.74%	67.31%	32.69%
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Table 19: Breakdown of Section 73 Households

8.6 The Duties and the Data

8.6.1.1 As discussed at paragraph 8.4, above, the Council has a number statutory duties to help alleviate households from being homelessness. To recap the duties

- S66 and S73 the “preventative” and help to “secure” duties that are available to all households irrespective of their local connection or priority status, and the “reasonable steps” the Council must undertake to alleviate the threat of homelessness.
- S75 the duty to accommodate – is available to those households that have a local connection and priority need and preventive work under sections 66 and 73 has failed to prevent the household from becoming homelessness.

8.6.1.2 The following paragraphs show the demand and effectiveness of the service.

8.6.1.3 **Section 66** to prevent homelessness occurring in the first instance either by helping households to remain in their current accommodation if it is safe and practical to do so or through the securing of alternative accommodation.

8.6.1.4 All cases where positive action succeeded or did not succeed in preventing/relieving homelessness.

S66				
	Unsuccessful	Successful	total	Success as a Percentage
2017/18	100	155	255	60.78%
2018/19	101	206	307	67.10%
2019/20	74	113	187	60.43%
2020/21	46	83	129	64.34%

Table 20: Number of Section 66s broken down by successful and unsuccessful outcomes 2017-2021

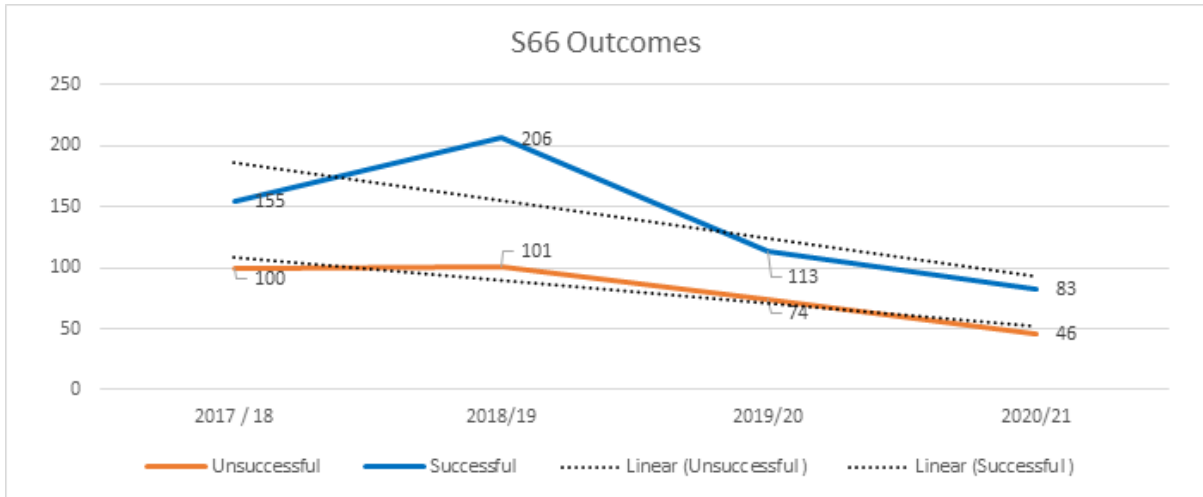


Figure 35: Number of Section 66s broken down by successful and unsuccessful outcomes 2017-2021

8.6.1.5 Table 20 and Figure 35 above shows that for households owed a Section 66 duty across all four years the Council success rate in alleviating the threat of homelessness was just under 64%.

8.6.1.6 **Section 73:** Help to Secure Alternative Accommodation. Households are owed this duty when all other forms of assistance to prevent or alleviate homelessness occurring under the S66 duty are exhausted.

S73				
Year	Unsuccessful	Successful	Total	Success as a Percentage
2017 / 18	115	113	228	49.56%
2018/19	71	130	201	64.68%
2019/20	77	162	239	67.78%
2020/21	135	127	273	46.52%

Table 21: Number of Section 73s broken down by successful and unsuccessful outcomes 2017-2021

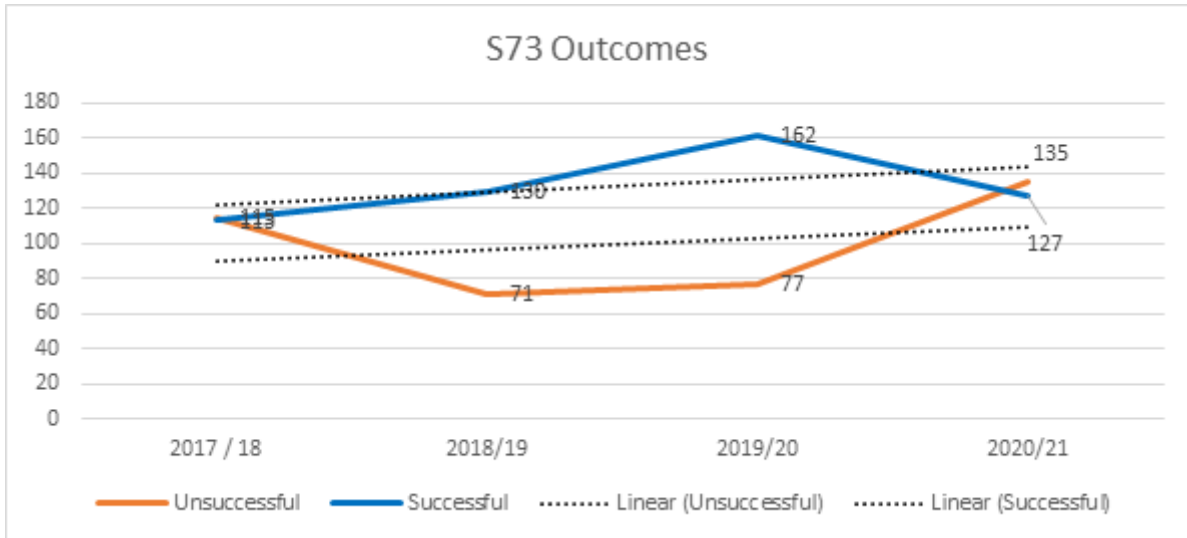


Figure 36: Number of Section 73s broken down by successful and unsuccessful outcomes 2017-2021

8.6.1.7 Table 21 and Figure 36 above shows that for households owed a Section 73 duty across all four years the Council success rate in alleviating the threat of homelessness by securing alternative accommodation was just under 57%.

8.6.1.8 The following table (Table 22) shows the total number of successful and unsuccessful outcomes across both S66 and S73 duties.

S66 and S73	Successful	Unsuccessful	Total
2017/18	268	215	483
2018/19	336	172	508
2019/20	275	151	426
2020/21	210	181	391

Table 22: Total outcomes S66 & S73 2017-2021

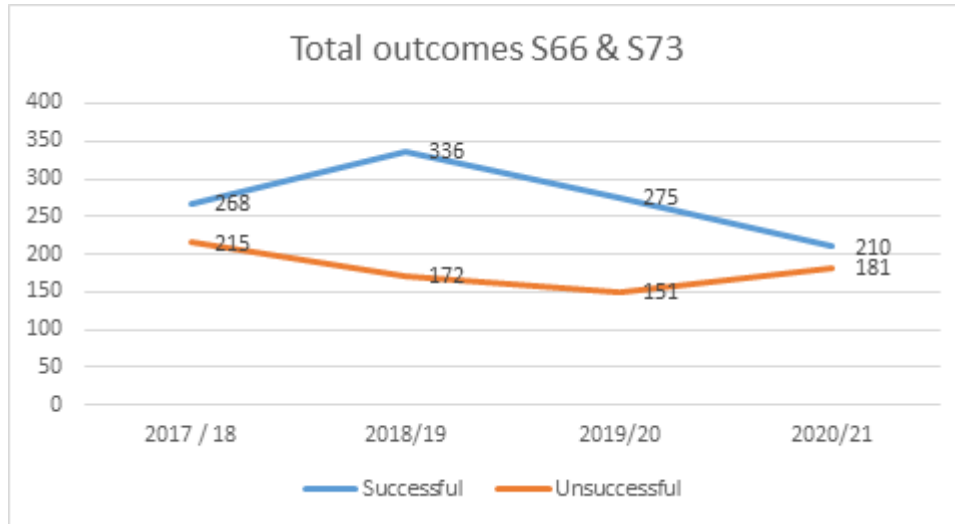


Figure 37: Total outcomes S66 & S73 2017-2021

8.6.1.9 From the table below (Table 21) our successes as a percentage of the total preventative outcomes reduced during 2020/21 to below the 2017/18 level.

	2017 - 2018	2018 - 2019	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
Successful Outcomes	55.5%	66.14%	64.55%	53.71%
Unsuccessful Outcomes	44.5 %	33.86%	35.45%	46.29%

Table 23: Breakdown of preventative outcomes 2017-2021

8.6.2 The “Reasonable Steps” taken to Prevent Homelessness (S66)

8.6.2.1 Reasonable steps can include any of the following:

- Services offering mediation between young people and their parents / other relatives that will allow young persons to remain living their current accommodation if it is safe to do so.
- Services offering financial and debt advice to address issues such as
 - Mortgage and rent arrears.
 - The use of discretionary housing payments (DHP)
 - Prioritising debts
 - Services offering support to mortgage lenders and landlords to resolve issues that would prevent an eviction or withdraw an eviction notice.
- The use of a “prevention fund” that can resolve issues or assist households secure alternative accommodation, such as
 - rent/ mortgage arrears
 - Rent in advance
 - Rent deposits
 - Introduction payments
 - Landlord incentive measures

8.6.2.2 The following graph (Figure 38) shows the type of S66 interventions that enable the household to remain in their existing home.

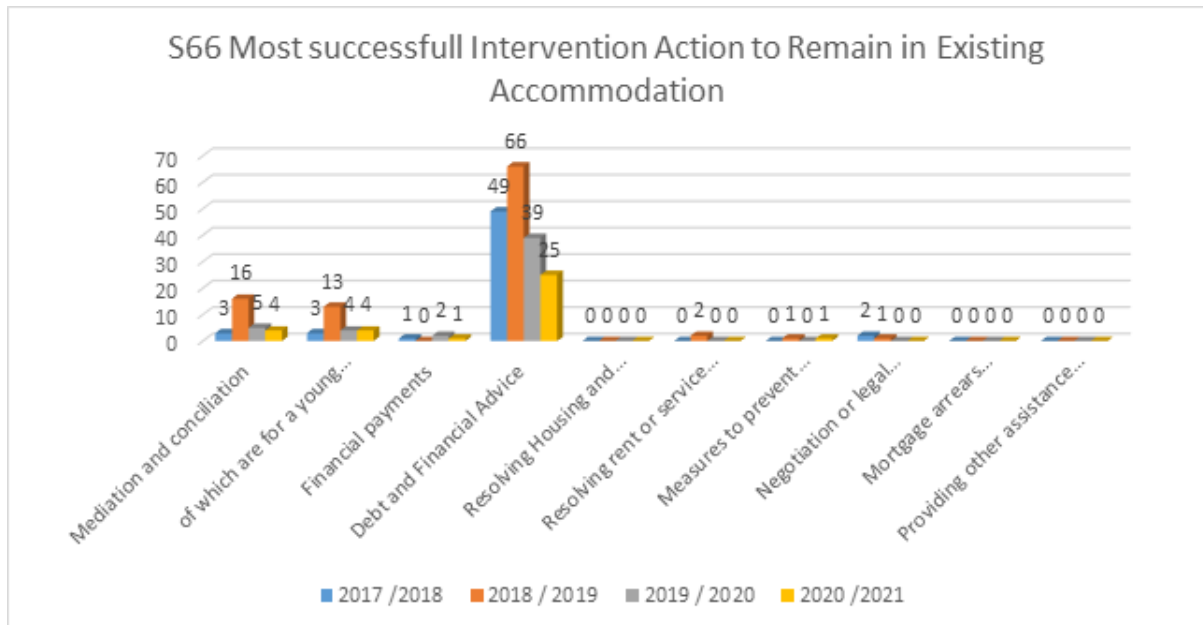


Figure 38: S66 Most Successful Intervention Action

8.6.2.3 Between 2017 – 2021, the most successful intervention allowing households to remain in their existing home has consistently been debt and financial advice (179 households) followed by mediation and conciliation (28 households)

8.6.3 Debt & Financial Advice

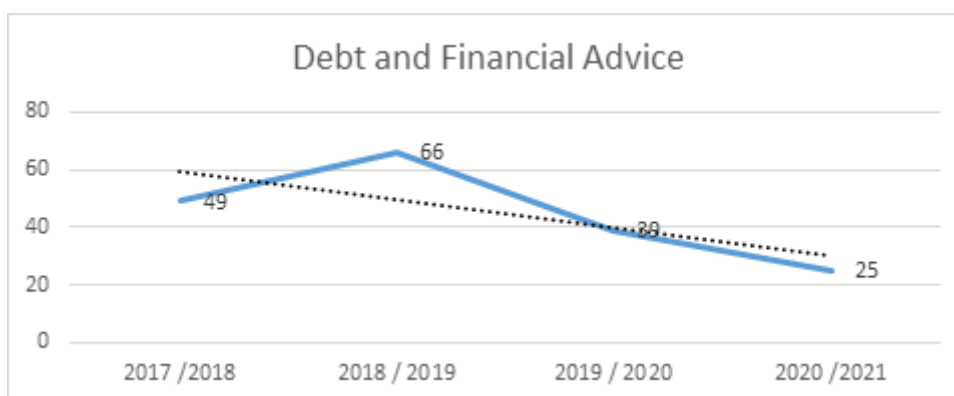


Figure 39: Debt & Financial Advice Intervention 2017-2021

8.6.3.1 However there has been a steady decline in the number of outcomes from a high of 66 during 2018/19 to 25 during 2020/21.

8.6.4 Young Persons Services

8.6.4.1 Mediation

8.6.4.2 Llamau provide a service for under 25s who are at risk of relationship breakdowns in the family home which could result in homelessness. Llamau work with the young person and their family as a mediator with the aim being for the young person to remain in the family home.

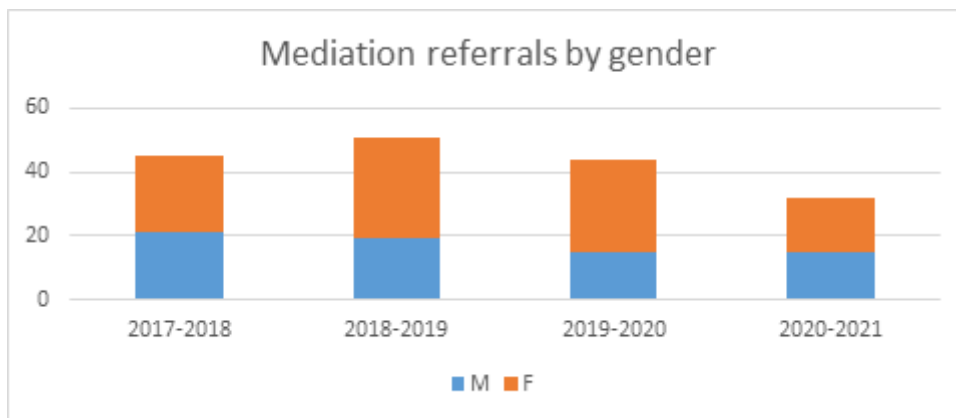


Figure 40: Number of referrals for Mediation 2017-2021 by Gender

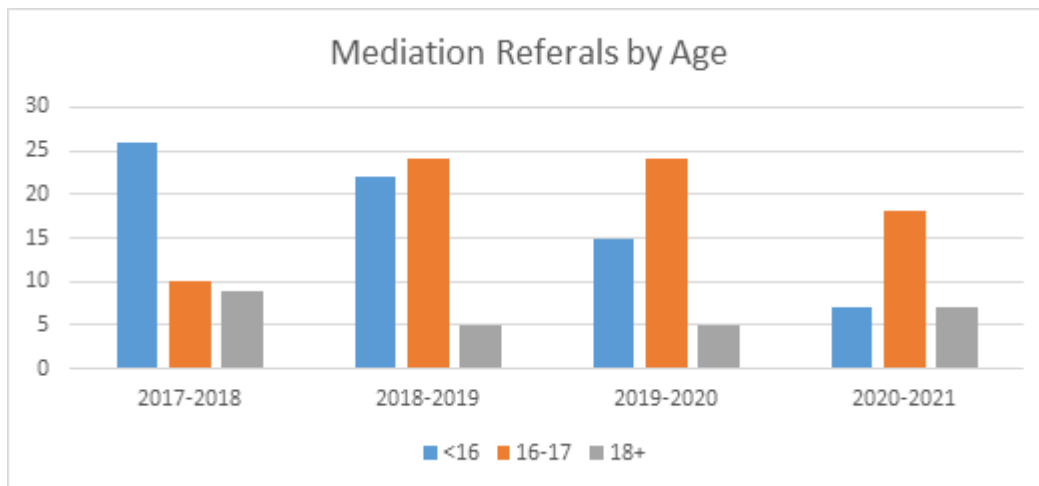


Figure 41: Number of referrals for Mediation 2017-2021 by Age

Year	Number of referrals	Number remaining/returning	Success rate (%)
2017-2018	45	38	84.44

2018-2019	51	40	78.43
2019-2020	44	32	72.73
2020-2021	32	26	81.25

Table 24: Number of referrals who were able to stay or return to accommodation

8.6.4.3 As the above table (Table 24) shows mediation has a high success rate in supporting young people to avoid homelessness and rebuild relationships. In general there are more female referrals than males with the number of U16s referred in decline.

8.6.4.4 Compass

8.6.4.5 Compass is a service working with young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

8.6.4.6 Compass receives referrals from schools, MCC Gateway, MCC Community HUBs, Self-referrals, Social Services, Job Centres, POBL group (hostels) and Llamau (Mediation and Emphasis projects). For those at risk of homelessness Compass provides support through holistic support approach based on assessment of individual needs from a single support factor to combined factors (**Note:** this will include where required collaboration with specialist support) inclusive of: mental/emotional well-being, at risk of NEET, Family Relationship Support, Advocacy, Mentoring, Independent Living Skills/budgeting, Employment and Training.

8.6.4.7 Those who approach as or find themselves homeless are provided with advocacy and support through presenting to HOT, Homesearch registration plus ongoing support where required.

8.6.4.8 The below tables (Table 25 and 26) demonstrate a rise in referrals in the last two years, with successful outcomes remaining relatively stable. Successful outcomes include actions leading to accommodation and/ or referrals to other services. As these are in- year outcomes and do not record for those whose cases span more than one financial year the actual success rate may be higher.

Year	Led to accommodation	Closed			Remained open/ support ongoing	Total number of referrals
		Referred to/in receipt of specialist support e.g. mental health. Employment, etc	Non-engagement	Disengaged from support		
2019-2020	15	7	3	3	13	41
2020-2021	19	13	3	6	17	58

Table 25: Number of referrals broken down into outcomes

	Positive	As a % total referrals	Negative	As a % total referrals
2019-2020	22	53.66	6	14.63
2020-2021	32	55.17	9	15.52

Table 26: Referrals broken down into positive and negative outcomes 2019-2021

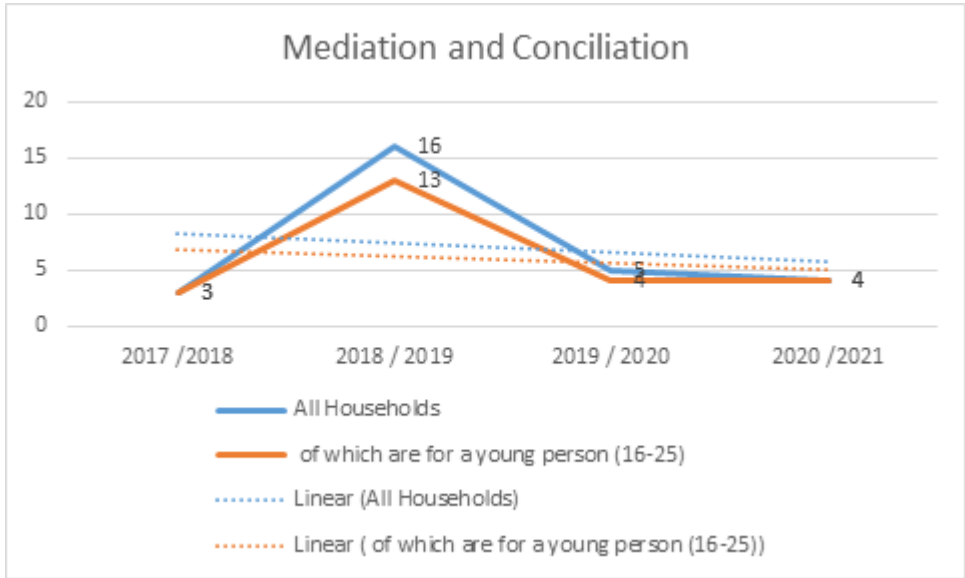


Figure 42: Mediation and Conciliation – Total of all households and the number of young persons (16-24)

8.6.5 Section 66 and Section 73: Help to Secure Alternative Accommodation

8.6.5.1 There are a number of actions recorded by WHO 12 data to alleviate the threat of homelessness through assisting applicants to secure alternative accommodation:

- I. Any form of non-self-contained supported accommodation.
- II. Self-contained supported accommodation
- III. Private rented sector accommodation with landlord incentive scheme (e.g. cashless bond, finders fee, deposit payment, rent in advance, landlord insurance payment)
- IV. Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme
- V. Accommodation arranged with friends, relatives or returning home
- VI. Social Housing - Local authority
- VII. Social Housing – RSL
- VIII. Low cost home ownership scheme, low cost market housing solution

8.6.5.2 The following figures show the most successful intervention action to secure alternative accommodation through S66 and S73 intervention. In figures 43 and 44, below, and actions III and IV above, have been combined to create total for the private sector and likewise actions VI and VII have been combined to create a total for the social sector.

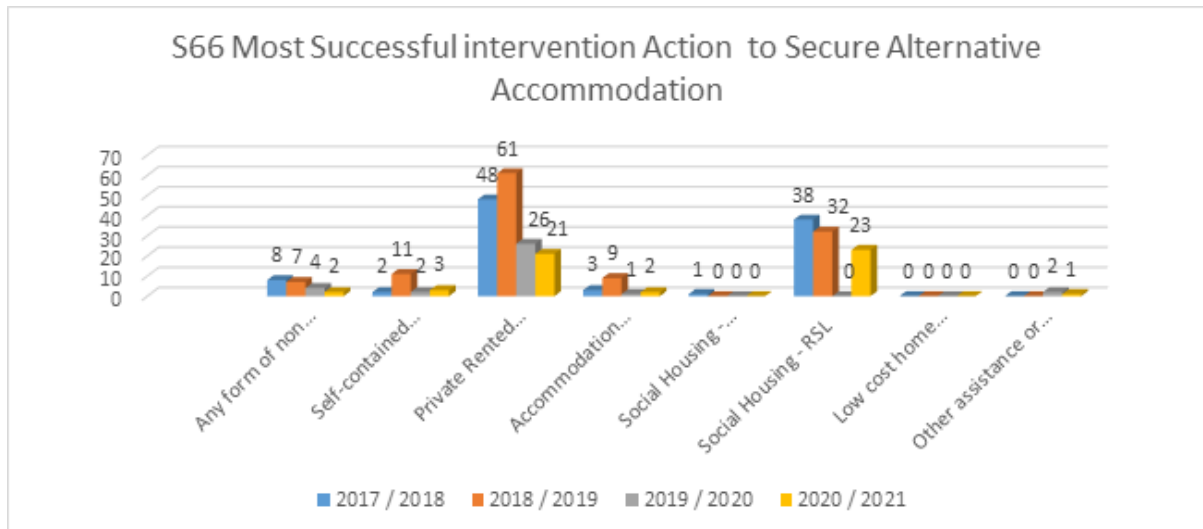


Figure 43: S 66 Most successful intervention action to secure alternative accommodation

8.6.5.3 When it comes to preventing homelessness and finding alternative accommodation options under a S66 duty the most successful option was the PRS with 63% of all household securing alternative accommodation (156) followed by the Social Housing Sector 37% (94 households).

8.6.6 Section 73: The duty to take reasonable steps to alleviate homelessness

8.6.7 However when it comes to Section 73 duty Figure 40, below shows that the most successful intervention for securing accommodation was in the social housing sector followed by securing accommodation in the private rented sector 187 and 177 households respectively.

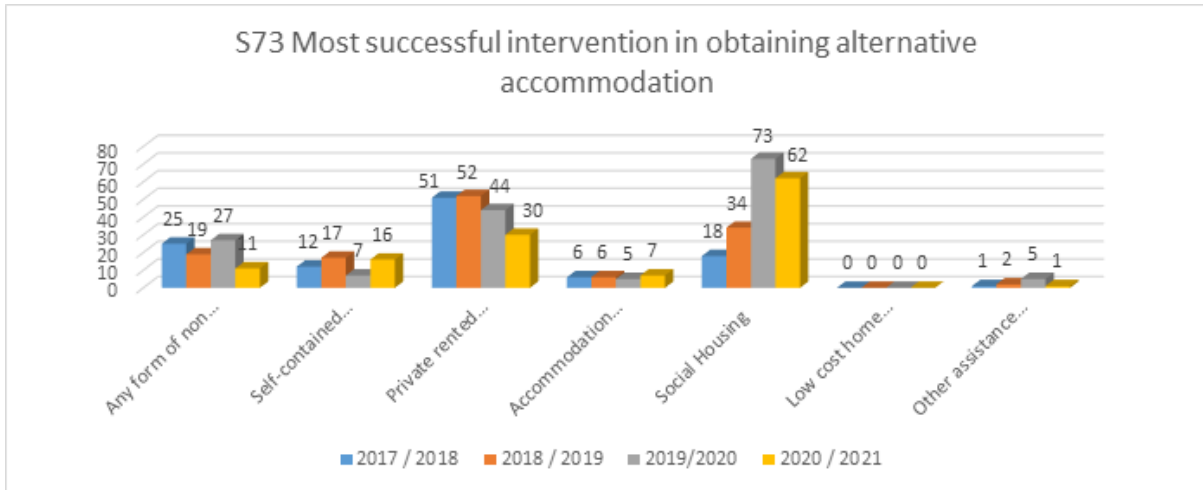


Figure 44: S73 Most successful intervention action to secure alternative accommodation

8.7 Accessing Private Rented and Social Rented Accommodation

8.7.1 Table 27 below shows the demand for both private rented property (PRS) and social housing (SHS) across S66 and S73 duties. A total of 614 households were assisted to find alternative accommodation within the PRS and SHS between April 2017 and March 2021.

Alternative Accommodation	PRS		SHS		Total
	S66	S73	S66	S73	
2017 / 2018	48	51	39	18	156
2018 / 2019	61	52	32	34	179
2019 / 2020	26	44	0	73	143
2020 / 2021	21	30	23	62	136
	156	177	94	187	614

Table 27: Demand for both private rented property (PRS) and social housing (SHS) across S66 and S73 duties

8.7.2 In terms of household being accommodation in both the PRS and the SHS and across both S66 and S73 duties the PRS accommodates 54.23% of households, see Table 28 below

		Percentage
PRS	333	54.23%
SHS	281	45.77%
Total	614	100%

Table 28: Number of those accommodated broken down into PRS and SHS

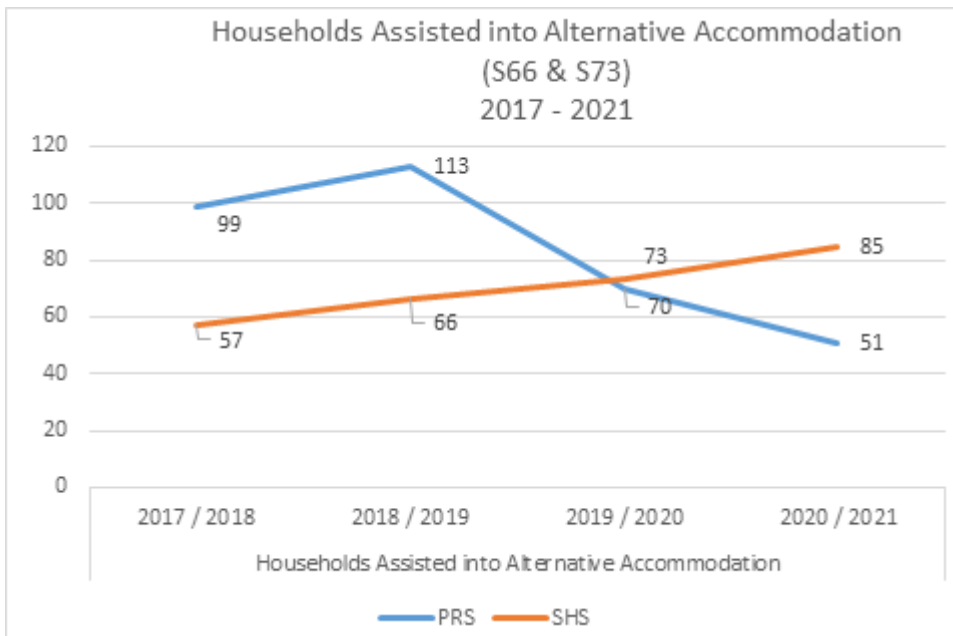


Figure 45: Number of Households Assisted into Alternative Accommodation 2017-2021

8.8 Landlord Incentives

8.8.1 As part of the toolkit to assist households find alternative accommodation within the PRS the use of landlord incentives such as cash and cashless bond, finders fee, deposit payment, rent in advance and landlord insurance payment helped to secure almost 59% of accommodation.

8.8.2 An invaluable intervention - without being able to use this we would be looking to find other forms of accommodation and more likely emergency temporary accommodation in bed & breakfast establishments.

8.9 S75: The Duty to Accommodate

8.9.1.1 This is the final duty owed to households threatened with homelessness and is only triggered when all the duties mentioned above have failed. In addition to the qualifying criteria required to meet the S66 and S73 duties, above, S 75 requires the applicant household to prove a "priority need" and "local connection".

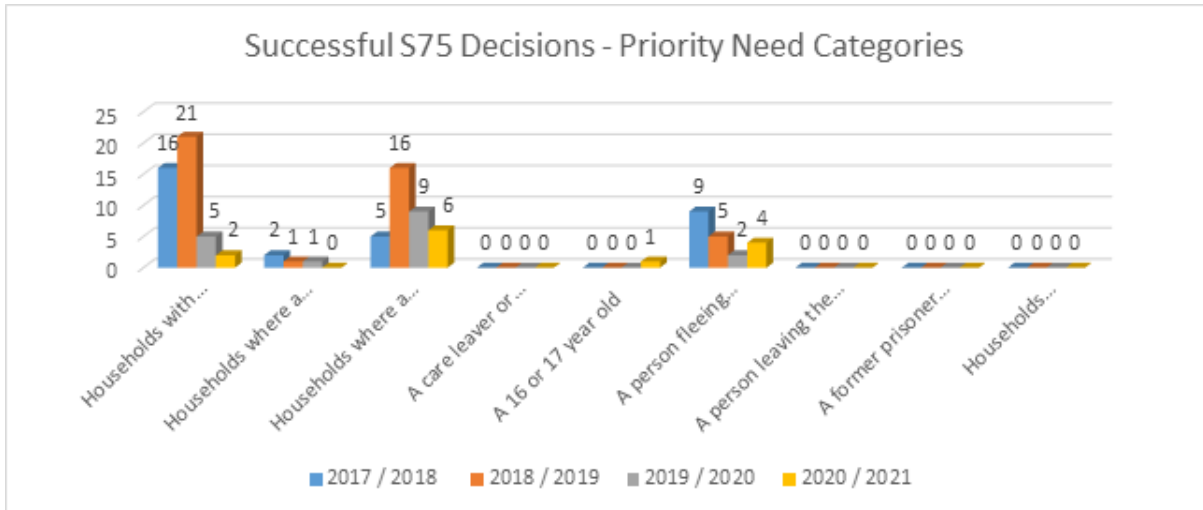


Figure 46: Households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need during the year: Categories of priority need by type of household (Section 75)

8.9.1.2 The three main priority reasons for a s75 being awarded is

- Household with dependent children;
- Households where there is a vulnerability and
- A person fleeing domestic violence.

8.9.1.3 Figure 47 below shows the trend of the number of households owed a Section 75 duty and although there was a 34.5% spike during 2018 /19, since then there has been a steady decline.

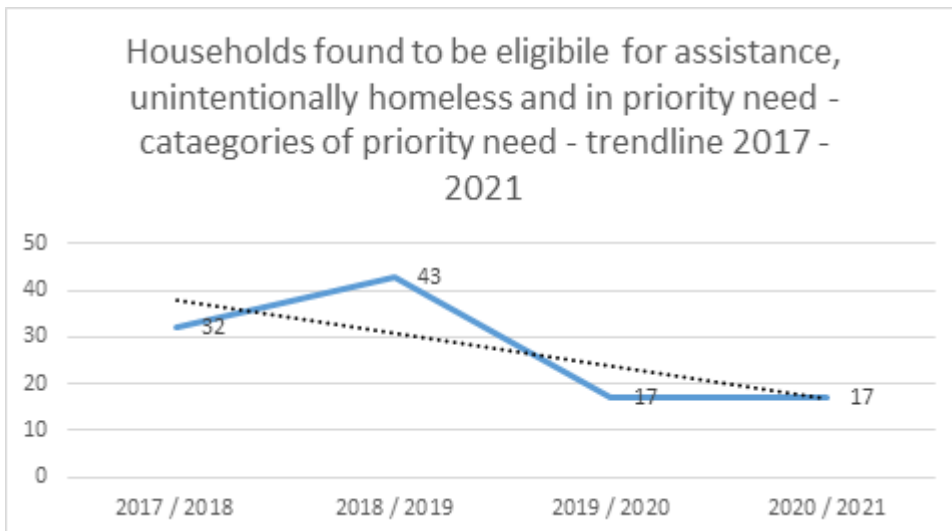


Figure 47: Number of Households owed a Section 75 duty 2017-2021

8.9.2 Household Composition

8.9.2.1 From the table below (Table 29) we can see that single household's accounted for almost 35.5%% of all households during 2017/18 to 70.6% for the 2020/21 financial year.

S75	Male applicant	Female applicant	Total single Households	Total Households	Percentage of single to total household	Percentage of male single households as a percentage of total single households	Percentage of female single households as a percentage of total single households
2017/2018	3	8	11	32	35.54%	27.28%	72.72%
2018/2019	6	9	15	43	27.90%	40%	60%
2019/2020	7	3	10	17	56.82%	70%	30%
2020/2021	9	3	12	17	70.59%	75%	25%

Table 29: Section 75s owed 2017-2021 by Household composition

8.10 Discharge of S75 Duty to Accommodate

8.10.1 Table 30 breaks down the reasons behind the discharge of the section 75 duty (household numbers). Key themes and trends include:

Reason for Discharge (Section 75) – Household numbers	2017 - 18	2018 - 19	2019 - 20	2020 - 21
Ceased to be eligible	0	0	0	0
Withdrawal of application	0	1	1	1
Mistake of fact	0	0	0	0
Became homeless intentionally from accommodation provided under section 75	1	1	2	1

Accepted an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (part vi 1996 HA)	24	23	13	10
Accepted a private sector offer	4	12	0	4
Voluntarily ceased to occupy accommodation made available under section 75	1	1	0	1
Refusal of an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (Part VI 1996 HA)	0	2	1	0
Refusal of an offer of suitable accommodation in the Private Rented Sector	0	0	0	0
Refusal of an offer of suitable interim accommodation under section 75	2	2	0	0
Refusal to co-operate	0	1	0	0
Total	32	43	17	17

Table 30: Reasons for Discharge of Section 75 duty 2017-2021

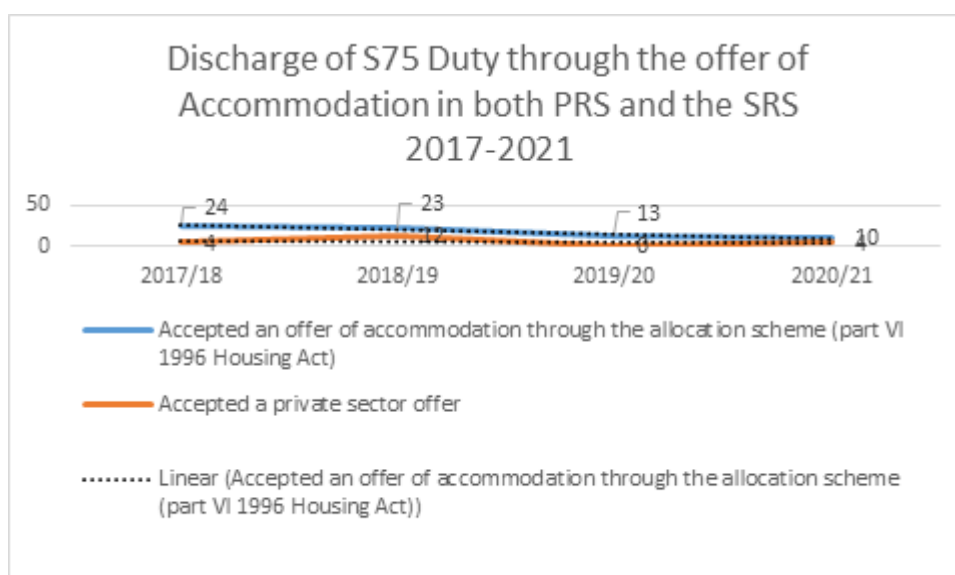


Figure 48: Breakdown of the Discharge of 75 Duty by Accommodation Offer Type 2017-2021

8.11 Ethnicity

8.11.1.1 Figures show that the ethnic identity of the county is 97%² of Monmouthshire's population are of white ethnicity with 3% being of Black, Asian and minority ethnicity.

8.11.1.2 The ethnicity of clients accessing homelessness services broadly follows the pattern of the County:

2017 - 18	1.1%
2018 - 19	5%
2019 - 20	2.1%
2020 - 21	3.1%

Table 31: Percentage of ethnic applications

8.11.2 Gypsy and Traveller

8.11.2.1 In terms of Gypsies and Travellers the 2011 census shows that six households identified themselves as Gypsy and Irish Traveller, 0.006% of the population.

8.12 What is the data telling us?

8.12.1 The table below shows how households fared as they journeyed their way through the homelessness process of presenting to the council, the preventative duties S66 and S73 and finally S75.

Year		2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Totals
Presentations		897	842	680	607	3026
Section 66 Duty	Unsuccessful	100	101	74	46	321
	Successful	155	206	113	83	557
Section 73 Duty	Unsuccessful	115	71	77	135	398
	Successful	113	130	162	127	532

² <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Equality-and-Diversity/Ethnicity/Ethnicity-by-Area-EthnicGroup>

Section 75 Duty	Unsuccessful	4	8	4	3	19
	Successful	28	35	13	14	90
	Total outcomes	515	551	443	408	1917

Table 32: Household journey through Duties 2017-2021

Total successful Outcomes	296	371	288	224	1179
Total Unsuccessful Outcomes	219	180	155	184	738

Table 33: Breakdown of Successful and Unsuccessful outcomes

8.12.2 We can conclude from table, that the Council were able to alleviate the threat homelessness or actual homelessness of almost 61% of households over the four year period 2017 – 2021. However, for almost 39% households the outcomes were unsuccessful. Further research is required to understand this figure.

Success Rate as a Percentage	61%
Unsuccessful Rate as a Percentage	39%

Table 34: Total number of Successful and Unsuccessful outcomes as a percentage 2017-2021

Chapter 9: Temporary Accommodation

- 9.1.1 Monmouthshire council currently (February 2022) has 177 units of Temporary Accommodation.
- 9.1.2 Prior to the Global Pandemic in 2020 the number of individuals placed in TA accommodation remained relatively stable. Following a change in guidance from WG to bring everyone indoors under Public Health Measures, Monmouthshire has seen a steep increase in the demand for TA that has made it necessary for the council to employ costly B&B accommodation at levels not previously seen, despite the number of overall presentations slightly declining. At the end of 2019 MCC had 15 households in TA Accommodation and no households in B&B accommodation; in March 2020 that had risen to 21 households in TA Accommodation, with 1 family in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation due to the flooding across the County during late February. By the end of March 2021 there were 74 households in Bed and Breakfast, including 3 families; with a further 67 households in TA Accommodation. By December 2021, this had increased to 92 households, including 12 families in Bed and Breakfast, with a further 84 households in TA Accommodation.
- 9.1.3 Expenditure on TA and related costs has significantly increased between 2017-2021. A large portion of this increase in expenditure is related to security costs across B&B and TA accommodation due to the increase in households with complex needs (see section 10).
- 9.1.4 The expansion of the “Duty to Accommodate” for those who may not have previously been considered ‘Priority Need’ has seen an upsurge of single households in TA. The obligation of the Local Authority to continue to accommodate those who have lost their Homeless Duty, i.e. those who have effectively exited accommodation due to Anti-Social Behaviour or left accommodation voluntarily, also continues to put a significant strain on current existing TA provision, in both housing management and physical capacity. The issue remains that for those who have no Homeless Duty, who are excluded or demoted on the Local Housing Register, there is very little opportunity for people to move on from Temporary Accommodation once the Homeless Duty is withdrawn. This is mainly due to a lack of affordable Private Sector properties and shared housing in Monmouthshire.
- 9.1.5 For those single households who remain on the Housing Register, waiting times for move on from TA Accommodation continue to grow. In the year 2018-19, the average waiting time for a one-bedroom flat was 5 months; this dropped to 3 months in the year 2019 -20. However, this escalated to an average of 7 months in the year 2020-21, with the average waiting time hitting 11 months from April – December 2021. This peaked in November 2021 to an average of 15 months.
- 9.1.6 There has been a 516% increase in single households being accommodated between 2017 and 2022, while couples decreased by 42% over the same period. ‘Other’ Households which includes households with children has seen an 80% increase.

9.1.7 With the sudden leap in single households in TA the demand for 1 bed self-contained move on accommodation is overwhelming the availability in both the social and private rented sectors. Added to the temporary ban in evictions during the Pandemic it is not a surprise that households are having to spend longer on average in Temporary Accommodation.

Chapter 10: Housing Support Grant Data

10.1.1 Monmouthshire County Council Housing Support Grant supports the aim of working together to prevent homelessness and where it cannot be prevented, ensuring it is rare, brief and un-repeated. The HSG focusses on the root cause of homelessness and work to enable people to stay in their own homes longer.

10.1.2 HSG funded services augment, complement and support the statutory service to ensure that the overall offer authorities provide helps people into the right homes with the right support to succeed. Housing related support seeks to enable vulnerable people to address the, sometimes multiple, problems they face, such as debt, employment, tenancy management, substance misuse, violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence, and mental health issues, to maintain and increase their independence and capacity to remain in their own home.

10.1.3 The HSG does NOT fund personal care services (e.g. help with bathing, dressing, prompting/taking medication), or housing management activities (e.g. rent arrears, anti-social behaviour problems).

10.2 Current Services funded through HSG

10.2.1.1 Currently Monmouthshire Council is commissioning 24 projects through its allocated HSG budget to meet the needs of its residents. The table below illustrates the number of clients accessing each service, collated by primary service area (some services will be cross sectional). Though full comparative data for this financial year will not be available until April 2022, figures for the first half of 2021-2022 have been included in the table to provide an indication of potential trend.

	Project Name	Number of referrals			
		2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021 (April-Sept)
	MCC Gateway – Housing Support Team	1525	1639	1301	709
VAWDASV Services	Cyfanol WA CRISIS	168	135	207	105
	Cyfanol WA Refuge	20	22	36	11
	Cyfanol WA Group Work	235	79	44	18
	Llarnau MODAS	83	80	113	86
	Target Hardening	5	6	9	5
Mental Health Services	MIND TASL	188	283	162	150
	MIND Welfare Rights	217	121	153	118
	MIND Farmers Project		15	31	15
Young People's Services	POBL Mon YP Scheme (Hostels)	57	40	58	44
	Emphasis Project	27	23	19	17
	Young Persons Accommodation Officer	26	76	32	
Older People's Services	Care & Repair				
	Healthy at Home Project	192	262	221	100
	POBL Derwin 55+	53	62		
Families Services	POBL Family Intervention	11	15	44	16
Generic Services	POBL Gwalla TSS	234	199	216	
	POBL Reach Housing Support	124	104	134	
	POBL Solas Low Level Floating Support	32	25	39	
	POBL Lifestyles	124	121	257	
	POBL Temporary Accommodation & Resettlement Service				211
	POBL Tenancy Support Service				232
	Llarnau Tenancy Support	43	48	130	54
	CHYPS (Crisis Housing Young Person Service)	8			
	MHA Social Inclusion	96	96	58	
	Gateway Universal Credit Officer	42	62	112	35
	MHA Resettlement	74			
	Place Based Services	Data for all Housing & Wellbeing Projects	199	216	
MHA Housing & Wellbeing				168	114
POBL Housing & Wellbeing				75	68
Llarnau Housing & Wellbeing				37	23
Housing Support Grant funded new projects from Phase 2	Llarnau Assertive Outreach				72
	POBL Housing First				12
	POBL Gwent Pathways			17	13
	GDAS Outreach Service				

Table 35: Number of Referrals across all HSG funded projects 2018- Sept 2021

Key	
	Project not operational at this time
	Decommissioned end of financial year 2020-2021
	From 1st April 2020 merged with POBL Lifestyles service
	Amalgamated with POBL TARS and POBL TSS
	This service was merged with Llarnau TSS
	19/20 amalgamated with MHA Housing & Wellbeing Project
	Data now split between projects

Table 36: Key for Table 35

10.2.1.2 All requests for support come through the Monmouthshire’s Gateway Team who act as a single point of contact for housing support referrals. Officers in the Gateway then triage clients and allocate them to the most appropriate service for their needs.

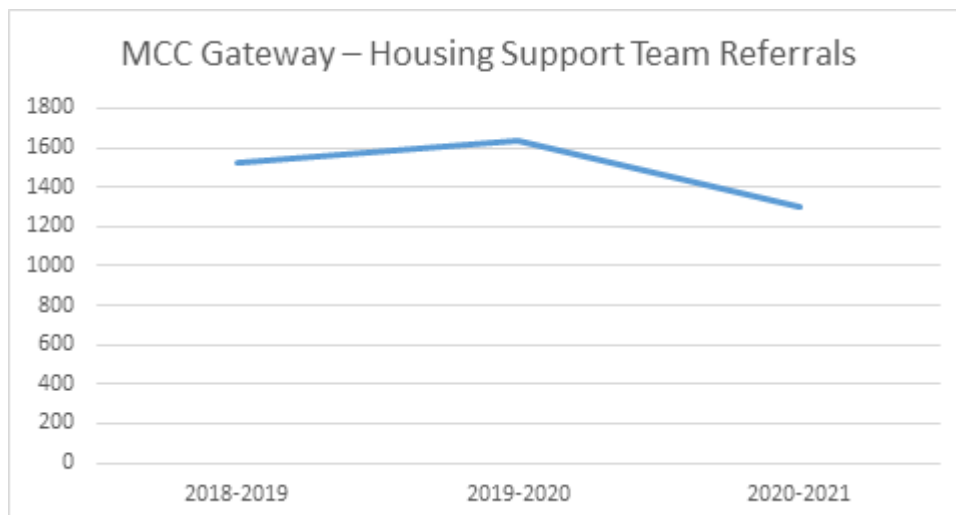


Figure 49: Number of Requests for Support to Gateway 2018- Sept 2021

10.2.1.3 The number of referrals into the MCC Gateway Housing Support Team is largely stable, though dipped slightly in 2020-2021. However, it is anticipated that the number of referrals will rise again to 2018-2020 levels, with the Gateway having seen 709 referrals in the first 6 months of the 2021-2022 financial year.

10.2.2 VAWDASV Services

10.2.2.1 There are currently 5 services for those fleeing or seeking support with Domestic abuse. Llamau MODAS and Target Hardening measures are available for whoever is experiencing any form of domestic abuse, whereas Cyfannol services are strictly for women and children.

10.2.2.2 Cyfannol WA work group runs three projects which can be accessed:

- Recovery Toolkit
 - The Recovery Toolkit is for any woman who has suffered domestic abuse and no longer has contact with her perpetrator or their perpetrator is on a recognised programme.
- Freedom Project
 - The Freedom Programme is for any woman who has experience of domestic abuse; be it in their personal or professional lives. The course identifies tactics abusers use, the beliefs held by abusers and the effects of domestic abuse on women and children.
- Own My Life
 - Online course for any women who has experience of domestic abuse. Many courses over the last eighteen months have been run online due to the pandemic.

Number of Referrals to VAWDASV services 2018-Sept 2021

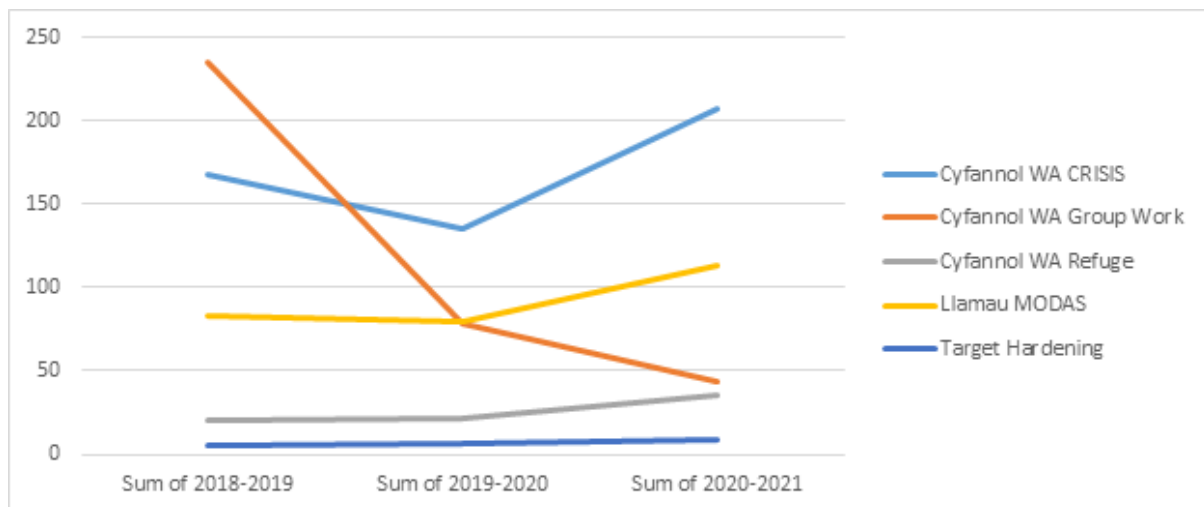


Figure 50: Referrals to VAWDASV 2018- Sept 2021

10.2.2.3 As the data illustrates, there was a significant increase in demand for Cyfannol’s Crisis service which provides emergency support for women fleeing abuse- and this trend is likely to continue given the projection of data from the first 6 months of 2021-2022. Similarly, Llamau has also seen a marked increase since 2020 which looks likely to be a continuing trend. Llamau MODAS is currently operating a waiting list with 27 referrals as of October 2021 which illustrates high demand.

10.2.2.4 The increase in demand for VAWDASV services converges with the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. The data would suggest that the lockdown measures taken nationally had an impact on the levels of domestic abuse and violence experienced, something which had been a national concern. Anecdotally there has also been feedback to suggest that those experiencing DA feel more comfortable to report and come forward to seek support- possibly in part due to the extensive media campaign during this time. As the data also shows no sign of this demand decreasing as we have seen a relaxation of Coronavirus measures it is unclear whether this trend will continue.

10.2.3 Mental Health Services

10.2.3.1 Monmouthshire has 3 projects devoted to those with low to medium mental health and housing needs, all delivered by MIND. TASL provides floating support, Welfare Rights is a free service which assists with benefits and income maximisation including expertise and documentation for Mandatory Reviews and for appeals to a Tribunal and the Farmers Project work within the villages and more rural areas of Monmouthshire to support those in farming industry to maintain their tenancy/accommodation.

Number of Referrals to Mental Health services 2018-Sept 2021

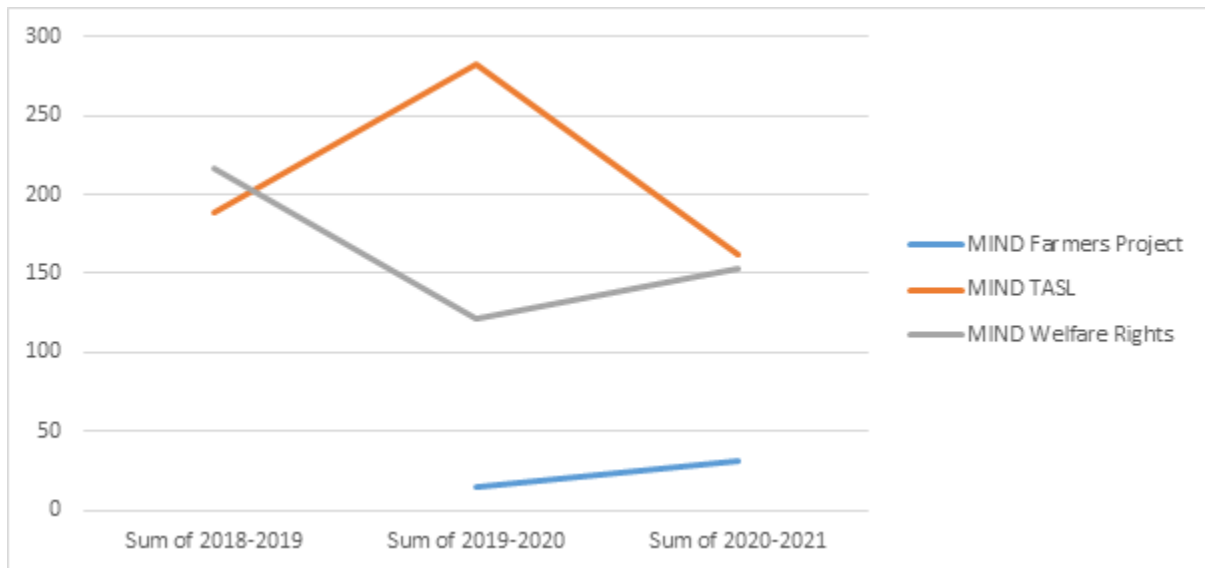


Figure 51: Referrals to Mental Health Services 2018- Sept 2021

10.2.3.2 Interestingly MIND’s mental health floating support service saw a sharp decrease in clients during 2020-2021 which covers the period of the pandemic. However, this decrease does not look like it will become an ongoing trend. If the current rate of clients accessing the service continue at the same pace 2021-2022 looks like it could see the highest demand on the service that we have seen yet as client numbers for the first 6 months have almost reached 2020-2021’s total. There is also a waiting list of 8 clients for this service as of October 1st 2021. The demand for the Farmers Project could also climb significantly by the end of this financial year.

10.2.3.3 The demands for Welfare support picked up in 2020-2021 and look like it will continue to increase this financial year. This is unsurprising given the changes in household income felt by many due to the Coronavirus measures brought in 2020 and continuing into this year, such as furloughing and the £20 per week UC uplift.

10.2.4 Young People's Services

10.2.4.1 Young people’s services cater for those between 16 and 24 with a housing need.

Number of Referrals to Young People’s services 2018-Sept 2021

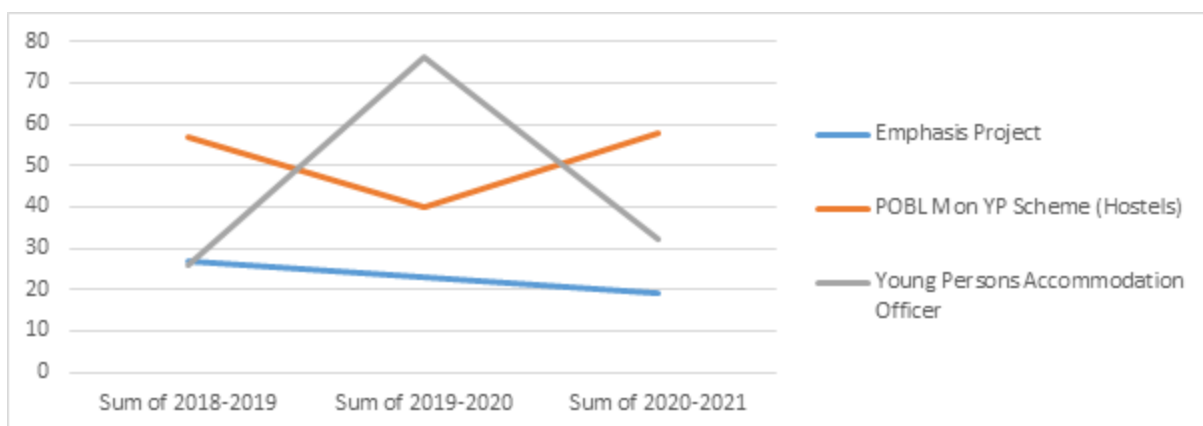


Figure 52: Referrals to Young People’s Services 2018- Sept 2021

- 10.2.4.2 There are currently 21 units of supported accommodation across two separate schemes in Abergavenny and Chepstow provided by Pobl. As dedicated accommodation for young people, this is an extremely important resource within the county. The schemes, however, are for young people with low needs and are not suitable for all young people, particularly those who are more vulnerable and with higher needs. Furthermore, there is no 'step-down' accommodation in Monmouthshire for those young people who make good progress towards independent living but are not quite fully ready for independent living.
- 10.2.4.3 Due to the nature of this scheme numbers will remain largely consistent as turnover and demand remains stable. Going forward however we anticipate that this figure will change as the projects are currently being remodelled with the input of Children's Services and the number of bedspaces altered to accommodate an emerging need for 24 hour staffed high support provision.
- 10.2.4.4 Emphasis is a floating support service which aims to provide support to 'non-engaging' young people who are or at risk of NEET(Not in Education, Employment or Training) / homeless. Client numbers so far for 2021-2022 indicate that the service will surpass last year's figure.
- 10.2.4.5 The Young Person's Accommodation Officer was decommissioned 31st March 2021 due to requirements of the pandemic where priorities changed

10.2.5 *Older People's Services*

Number of Referrals to Older People's services 2018-Sept 2021

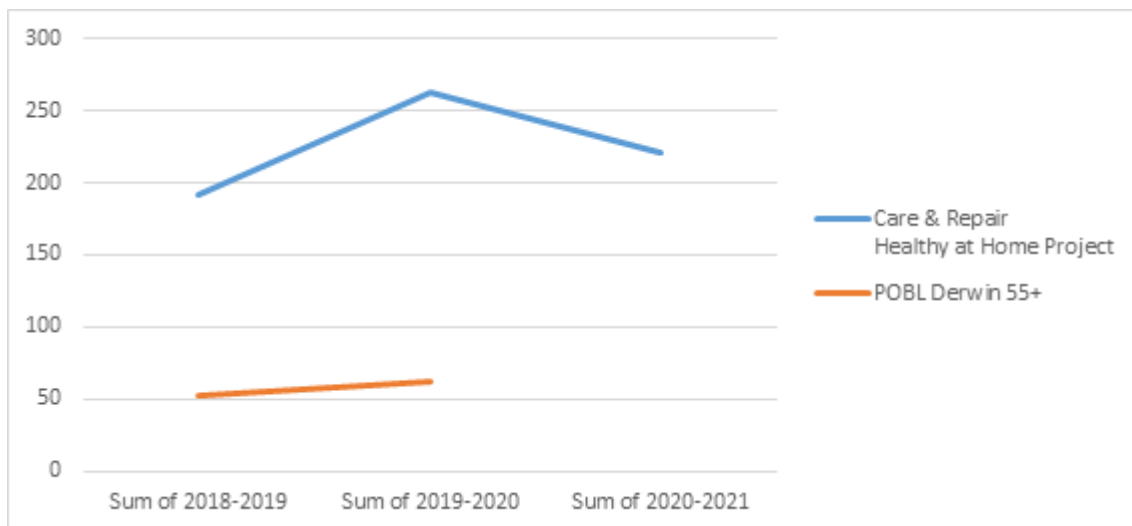


Figure 53: Referrals to Older People's Services 2018- Sept 2021

- 10.2.5.1 The Healthy At Home Project provides a service to reach people who are socially inactive and/or isolated, in addition to assisting with hospital prevention and sustainable independent living. Assistance is provided to clients to gain income maximisation, grants and a Healthy Home Check for additional works/services to sustain independent living. Although there was a slight dip in client numbers for 2020-2021 numbers have remained fairly consistent and so far this looks to continue for 2021-2022.
- 10.2.5.2 POBL's Derwin project provides tenancy floating support is available to anyone above the age of 55 plus who would benefit from housing related support but was merged in 2020 with POBL Lifestyles and is now captured within these projects.

10.2.6 Families Services

- 10.2.6.1 The Family Intervention and Prevention Project (FIPP) is designed to work with families facing eviction or other enforcement action due to anti-social behaviour. The service takes a whole family approach and combines intensive support to confront and change behaviour. Prior to April 2021 this service was provided by MHA with part time (0.75) officer. From April 2021 this service has been delivered by POBL with one full time officer.

Number of Referrals for Family Intervention 2018-Sept 2021

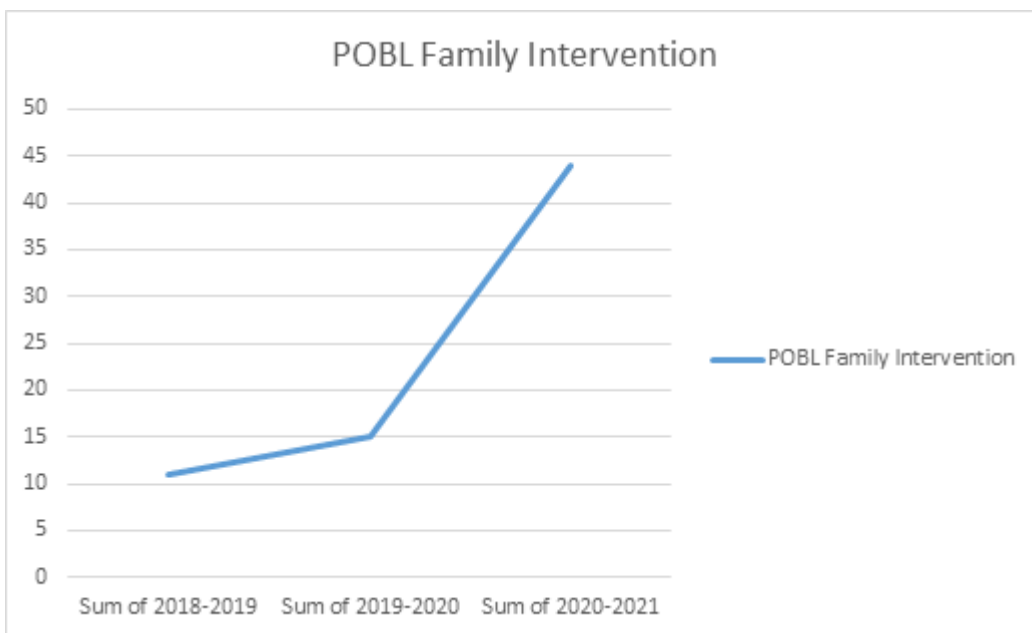


Figure 54: Referrals for Family Intervention 2018- Sept 2021

10.2.6.2 As the graph demonstrates, there was an almost 300% increase in the number of families accessing the service between 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. This increase correlates to the national lockdown measures due to the Pandemic and would suggest that there was an increase of ASB during this time, possibly due to families having to remain at home.

10.2.7 Generic Services

10.2.7.1 Generic floating support is available to anyone above the age of 16 who would benefit from housing related support. Generic floating support aims to prevent homelessness and tackle tenancy breakdowns and covers all vulnerable people.

10.2.7.2 There has been significant restructuring of generic services in 2020 which has seen a number of services amalgamated. POBL Gwalia TSS, POBL Reach Housing Support, POBL Solas Low Level Floating Support and POBL Lifestyles merged and became POBL Temporary Accommodation & Resettlement Service and POBL Tenancy Support Service from 2021. However prior to this for all but one service the number of clients accessing these services rose in 2020-2021, with the highest being the POBL Lifestyles. Whilst part of this increase could be explained by the services absorption of the Over 55s Derwin service, which occurred in this year, the rapid rise is probably also a consequence of the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

10.2.7.3 This trend is also largely replicated in the non POBL commissioned services, with Llamau TS and the Gateway Universal Credit officer seeing the highest increase in clients from 2019-20 to 2020-2021.

Number of Referrals to Generic services 2018-Sept 2021

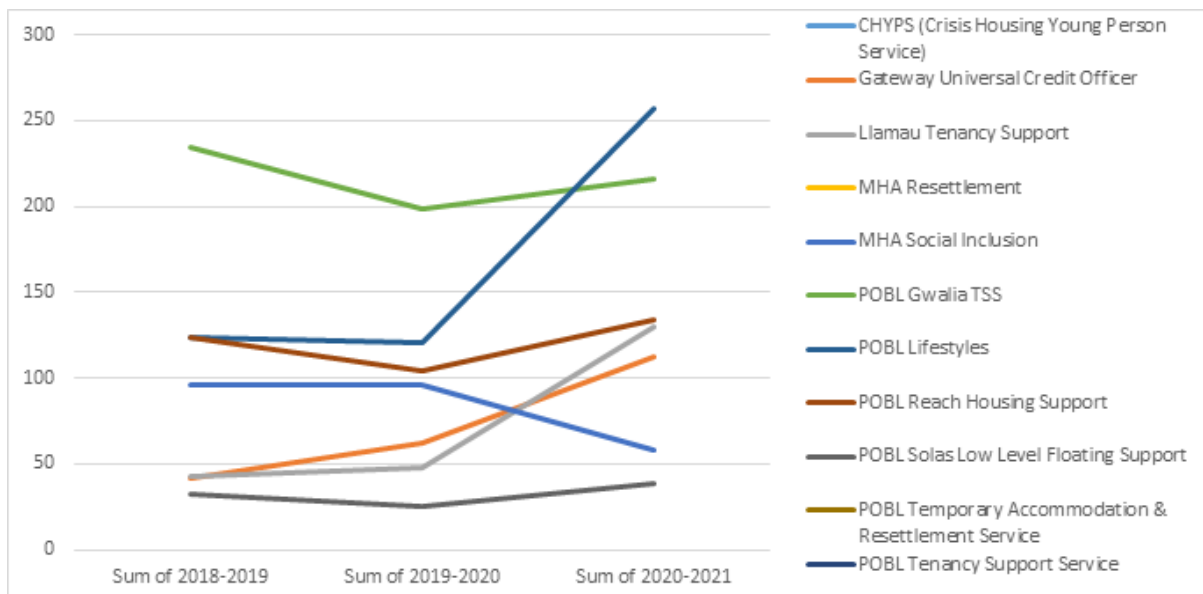


Figure 55: Number of Referrals to Older People's services 2018-Sept 2021

10.2.8 Place Based Services

10.2.8.1 These projects provide tenancy and/or housing related support to service users whose wellbeing would be enhanced and improved as a result of enhancing their housing needs. The projects deliver housing-related support to vulnerable individuals and their families in one location in Monmouthshire and hold surgeries via One Stop Shops in Monmouth, Abergavenny, Usk, Caldicot and Chepstow.

Number of Referrals to Place Based services 2018-Sept 2021

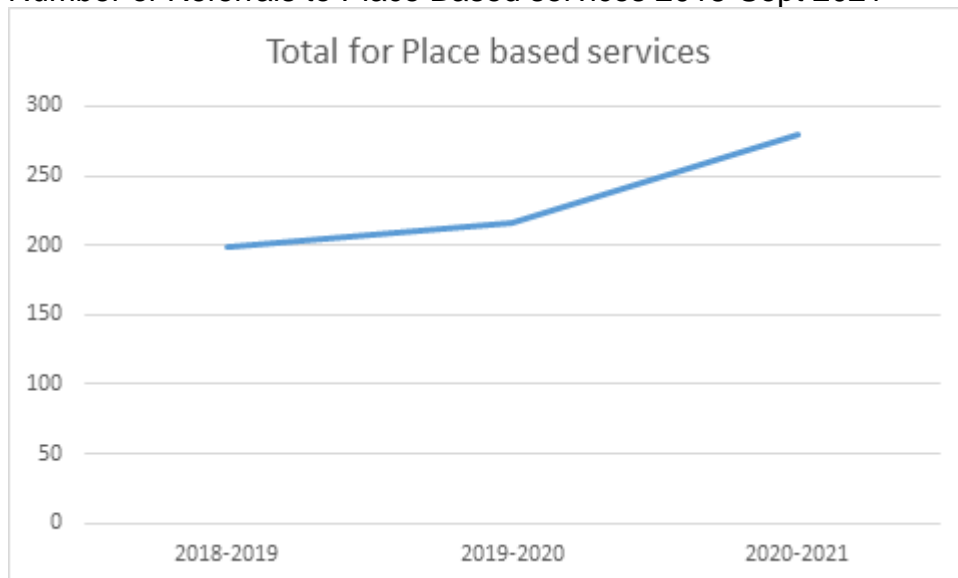


Figure 56: Number of Referrals to Place Based services 2018-Sept 2021

10.2.8.2 Up until 2021 the data for all placed based services were collated together, but from this financial year onwards data will be collected for individual sites which will help to demonstrate regional variances in demand. The individual figures for 2020-2021 were added together to achieve a figure that can be compared to previous years. 2020-2021 saw a significant increase in clients which is slightly surprising when it is considered that physical one stop shops will have been closed for significant periods during the pandemic. This demonstrates that mitigating actions taken to ensure clients could still access the support needed worked.

10.2.9 Housing Support Grant funded new projects from Phase 2

10.2.9.1 There are 3 projects which were commissioned and have started or are due to start in the financial year 2021-2022 and so there is currently no comparative data.

- **Llamau Assertive Outreach**

- The Assertive Outreach Team provides support to high need individuals at the interim multiple needs accommodation and other temporary residential settings in Monmouthshire. The Assertive Outreach service also provides direct support to any arising rough sleepers identified.

- **POBL Housing First**
 - POBL's Housing First project accommodates highly complex and entrenched clients who have experienced repeated tenancy breakdowns and provides wrap around support to prevent homelessness. This model is in line with Welsh Government strategic objectives and will meet the requirements of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan. The Housing First Scheme has worked with 12 clients so far in 2021-2022 and is currently oversubscribed.
- **GDAS outreach worker**
 - This project is expected to start in October 2021 following problems with recruitment. The service will support clients with substance misuse issues in TA and B&B accommodation.
- **Gwent Pathways**
 - POBL offer a floating support service to prolific and priority offenders. The support is focused on resettlement and aims to help people change their behaviour long term.

10.2.10 *HIP*

- 10.2.10.1 The Housing Intervention Panel (HIP) provides a multi-agency forum to identify, consider and co-ordinate multi-agency support to vulnerable individuals and households with multiple and complex needs.
- 10.2.10.2 The key emphasis is to prevent homelessness and to assist those who are actually homeless or threatened with homelessness. However, the Panel will also consider cases where there is anti-social behaviour or where the actions of an individual are having a detrimental effect either to themselves, or to others in the community under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- 10.2.10.3 The aim is for agencies to collectively agree actions that will support individuals and families to avert a crisis or prevent further crisis. In addition to homeless prevention and homelessness it also includes Promoting Personal and Community Safety, Promoting Independence and Control, Promoting Economic Progress and Financial Control, Promoting Health and Wellbeing and stopping any antisocial behaviour or crime and disorder in a community
- 10.2.10.4 Membership
- 10.2.10.5 Membership of the Core Panel of the HIP has increased over the months as the importance and popularity of the Panel has grown. The current Core Membership of the Panel consists of representatives from the Organisations below:
- Housing Support Gateway
 - Housing Support Providers
 - Housing Options Team
 - Partnerships Team
 - Social Services
 - Adult Safeguarding Team

- Aneurin Bevan Health Board
- Registered Social Landlords operating within Monmouthshire
- Youth Offending Team
- Community Safety Team
- Gwent Police
- Welsh Ambulance Service
- Youth Enterprise Team
- Early Help Panel Co-Ordinator
- HM Prison and Probation Service
- Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service
- Department of Works and Pensions

10.2.10.6 The HIP meets every two weeks to discuss cases of concern. The total number of referrals from 1st April 2021 to 9th December 2021 is 49. The referral agencies and departments are shown below:

Organisation	Number of Referrals
MCC social Services	5
MCC Partnership Team	3
MCC HOT	1
MCC Gateway Team	5
MCC Early Help Panel	1
MCC Councillor	1
MHA	15
Mind	7
Llamau	4
Pobl	2
Compass	1
Gwent Pathways	2
Gwent Police	2
Total	49

Table 37: Referral Sources to HIP April- December 2021

10.3 Temporary and Emergency Accommodation- Needs Assessment of those in TA

10.3.1.1 A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted September-November 2021 by partner agencies for all of those currently residing in temporary accommodation, placed by Monmouthshire County Council. As professionals who know the clients best, support workers were asked to report on the level and type (up to 3) of need of each of their clients using the definitions below.

Definitions of Need			
Level of need		Equivalent Support required	Definition
1	LOW NEEDS	Less than 1 hour support per week	Likely to be a significant proportion of clients who have no or very low support requirements and who can be supported into settled accommodation with either a low level of support or potentially just signposting
2	MEDIUM NEEDS	Between 1 and 2 hours support per week	Likely to be the majority of clients who will require a Rapid Rehousing service with floating support. May also be the need to include some other professional support in order to support them to live independently in settled accommodation
3	HIGH NEEDS	Over 3 hours support per week	This category is where we would expect to see those who have complex needs and who should be offered, as a default, a form of Housing First support or intensive housing-led intervention.
4	INTENSIVE NEEDS	Potentially 24/7 support requirements	These should be clients who are unable to live independently at this moment in time, perhaps due to concerns around risk to self or others or perhaps even choice. Our expectations would be that professionals are engaged from a health and social care sectors, moving into settled accommodation must continue to be objective.

Table 38: Definitions of Level of Need as a guide for Support Workers conducting the Needs Assessment

Need Type
Families with Support Needs

Generic/Floating Support/Peripatetic
Men experiencing Domestic Abuse
People over 55 years of age with Support Needs
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV,Aids)
People with Criminal Offending History
People with Developmental Disorders (i.e. Autism)
People with Learning Disabilities
People with Mental Health Issues
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities
People with Refugee Status
People with Alcohol Issues
People with Substance Misuse Issues
Single Parent Families with Support Needs
Single People with Support Needs not listed above (25 to 54)
Women experiencing Domestic Abuse
Young People who are Care Leavers
Young People with Support Needs (16 to 24)
Black Minority Ethnic
Gypsies and Travellers
Frail Persons
Vulnerable Two Parent Families
Migrant Workers

Table 39: Type of Need options used by Support Workers in conducting Needs Assessment

10.3.2 Demographics

10.3.2.1 A total of 207 people were assessed as part of this evaluation of needs.

10.3.2.2 Of the 207 clients there are more than double the number of males (143) than females (63). As part of the assessment support workers recorded the bedroom need for clients currently in TA. 148 clients are in need of a 1 bed property, of which 109 are Male. 32 clients are in need of 2 bed accommodation (17 female, 13 male and 1 trans), and 14 are in need of 3 bed accommodation (7 male and 7 female). 22 clients are recorded as having a pet or pets which is often a barrier to moving on to private rented or supported accommodation.

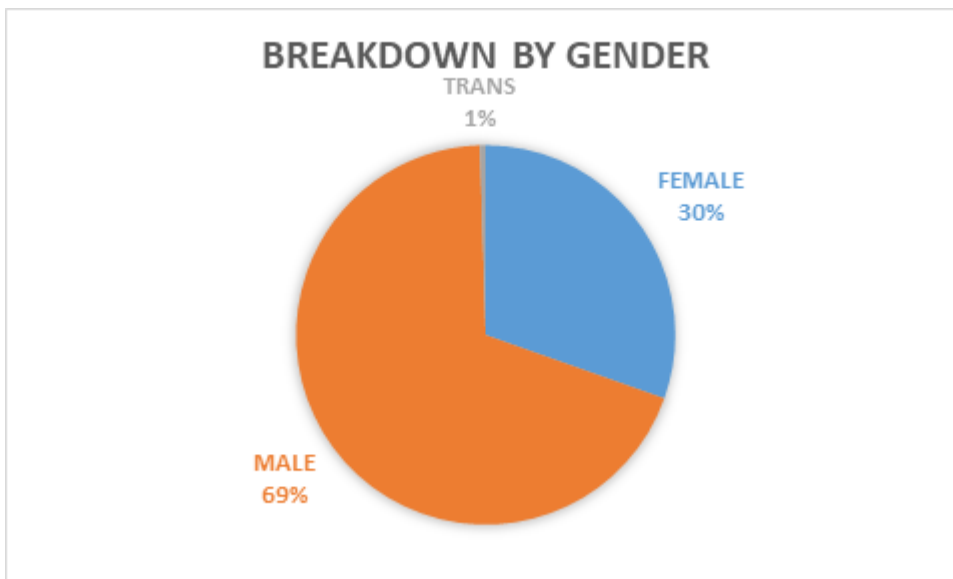


Figure 57: Gender Breakdown of those captured in the Needs Assessment (TA)

10.3.2.3 The age breakdown shows that younger residents (those under the age of 40) make up a significant proportion of those requiring emergency accommodation, with the age category 30-39 being particularly overrepresented, closely followed by 16-24 year olds. The number of clients under 40 is almost double the number of those over. This data would suggest that moving forward Monmouthshire needs to focus support and resources towards the younger population to prevent homelessness.

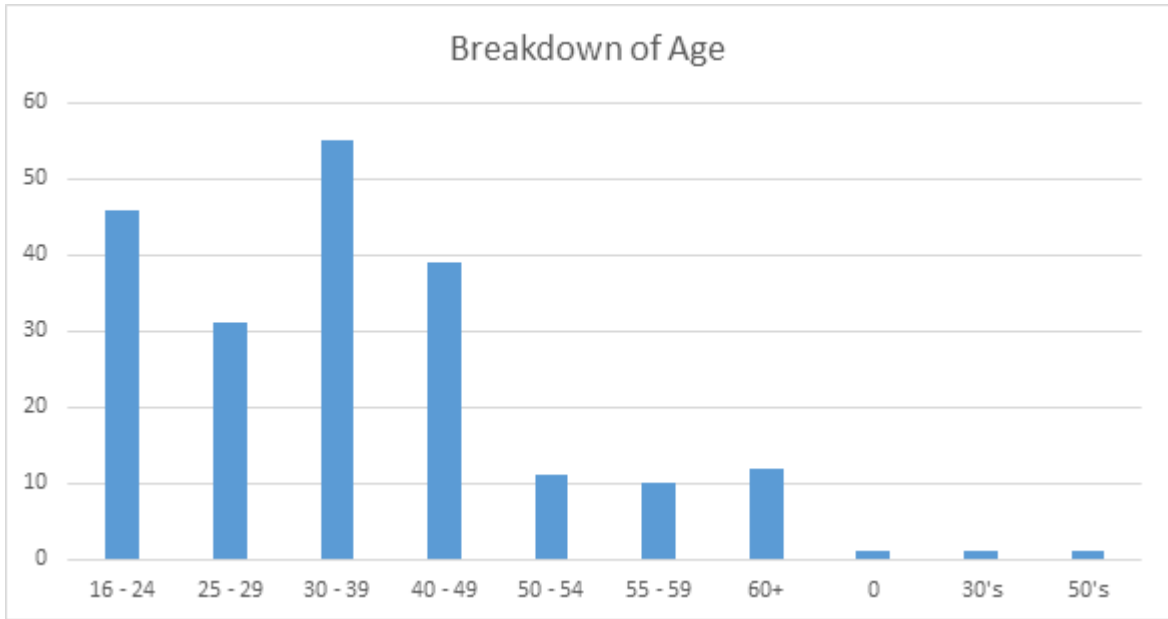


Figure 58: Age Breakdown of those captured in the Needs Assessment (TA)

10.3.2.4 As we do not have comparative data for the years prior to 2021 we cannot identify any trends. However, these figures are undoubtedly affected by the Coronavirus Pandemic. One theory for the high levels of younger residents in TA could be due to the likelihood of this age group being negatively impacted financially, but also potentially relationship and family breakdowns due to the pressure of subsequent lockdowns.

10.3.3 *Type of Need*

10.3.3.1 Support workers were asked to select the lead need for clients they are currently working with from the set list above and where appropriate record a secondary and third need.

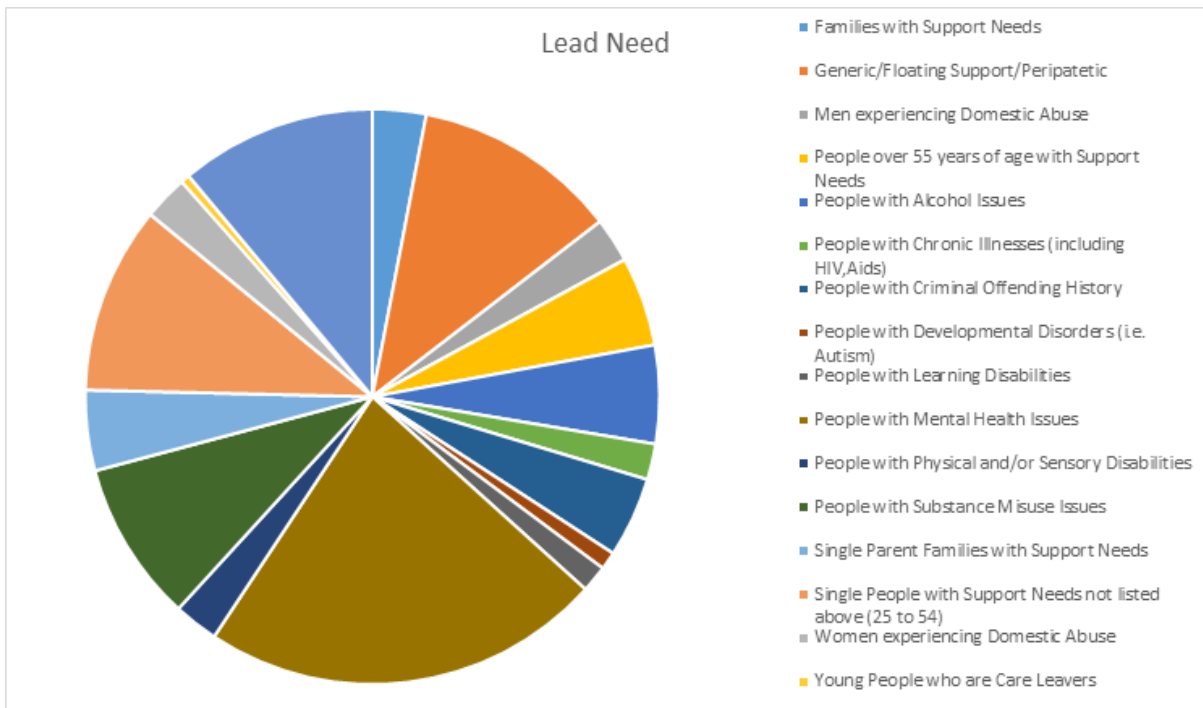


Figure 59: Spread of Lead Need amongst those in TA Needs Assessment

10.3.3.2 Out of the 207 cases 199 had a lead need recorded. The most commonly identified lead need was mental health with 45 cases, or 23%. The following most common lead needs are Generic (23 cases, 12%), Young People with support needs (22 cases, 11%), Single people with support needs not listed (21 cases, 11%) and People with Substance misuse issues (18 cases, 9%). People with alcohol issues have been recorded separately to those with other substance issues but should these be amalgamated there are a total of 29 cases or 15% of the total, the second highest need type behind mental health.

10.3.3.3 Of the top 5 lead needs recorded all except Single people with support need not listed are also the most common secondary needs recorded, and moving to tertiary need Mental health, Generic and Substance Misuse are the most occurrent.

Frequency of Need Recorded separated into Lead, Secondary and Tertiary

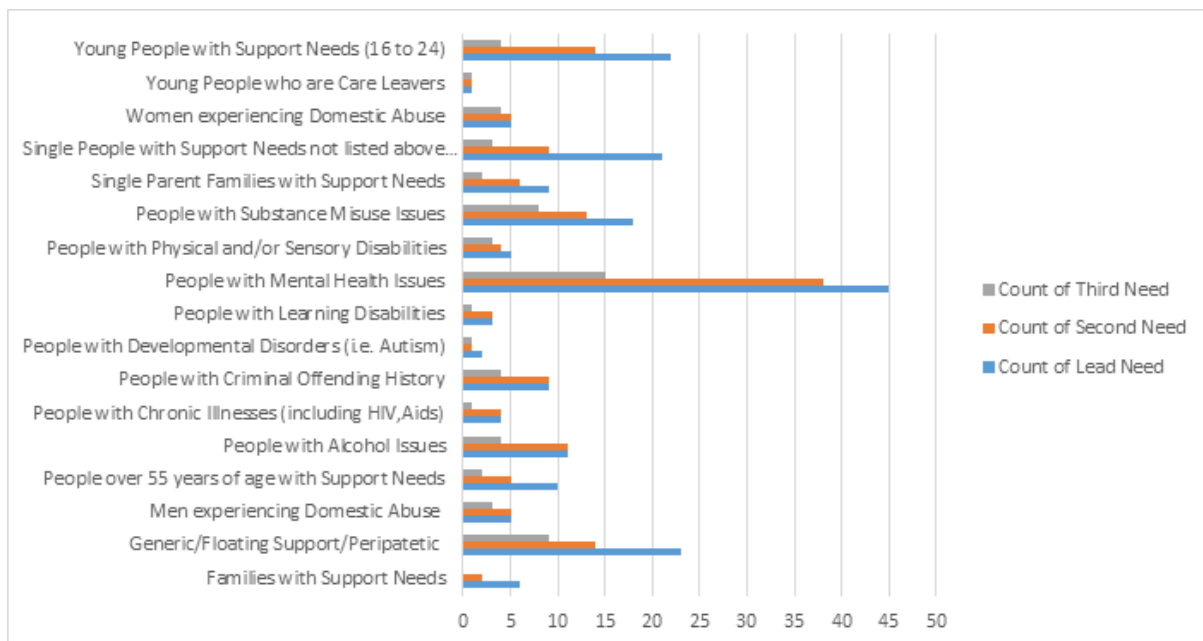


Figure 60: Frequency of Need Recorded separated into Lead, Secondary and Tertiary

10.3.3.4 A total of 408 support needs are recorded across lead, secondary and tertiary need for the 207 clients. The below chart demonstrates the most commonly occurring support needs. Again, Mental Health numbers are particularly dominant, along with generic, young people and substance misuse.

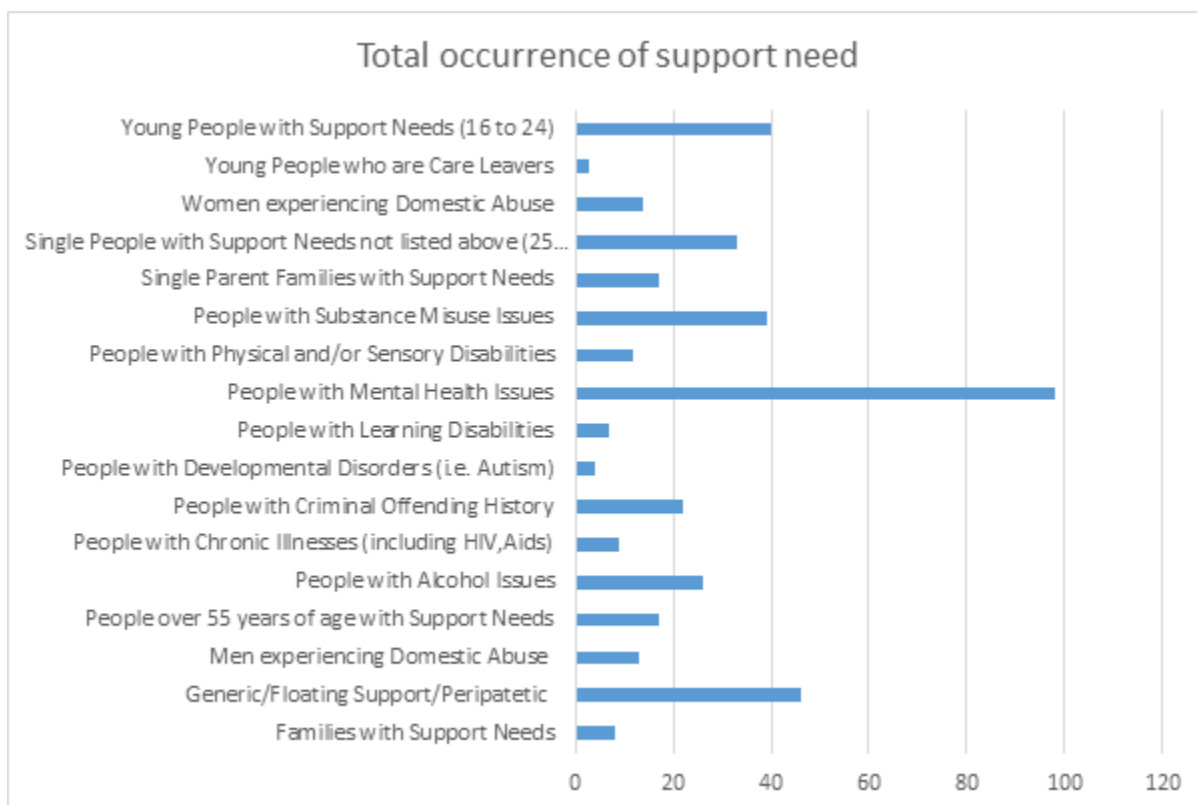


Figure 61: Total occurrence of Need Recorded

Need Type	Occurrence (1st, 2nd and 3rd need)	% of total
Families with Support Needs	8	2.0
Generic/Floating Support/Peripatetic	46	11.3
Men experiencing Domestic Abuse	13	3.2
People over 55 years of age with Support Needs	17	4.2
People with Alcohol Issues	26	6.4
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV,Aids)	9	2.2
People with Criminal Offending History	22	5.4
People with Developmental Disorders (i.e. Autism)	4	1.0
People with Learning Disabilities	7	1.7
People with Mental Health Issues	98	24.0
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	12	2.9
People with Substance Misuse Issues	39	9.6
Single Parent Families with Support Needs	17	4.2

Single People with Support Needs not listed above (25 to 54)	33	8.1
Women experiencing Domestic Abuse	14	3.4
Young People who are Care Leavers	3	0.7
Young People with Support Needs (16 to 24)	40	9.8
Total	408	100.0

Table 40: Total Occurrence of Need Type and as a Percentage of total

10.3.3.5 The prevalence of Mental Health, Young People and Substance Misuse needs across the assessment highlights areas that Monmouthshire Housing Support need to focus on with the help of partner agencies.

10.3.4 Level of need

10.3.4.1 Using the definitions above (Table 36) to gauge the level of needs support workers recorded the following need level breakdown for clients in TA.

SUPPORT NEEDS	
Level	Number of clients
LOW	50
MEDIUM	108
HIGH	38
INTENSIVE	10
BLANK	1
Total	207

Table 41: Breakdown of Level of Need from Needs Assessment (TA)

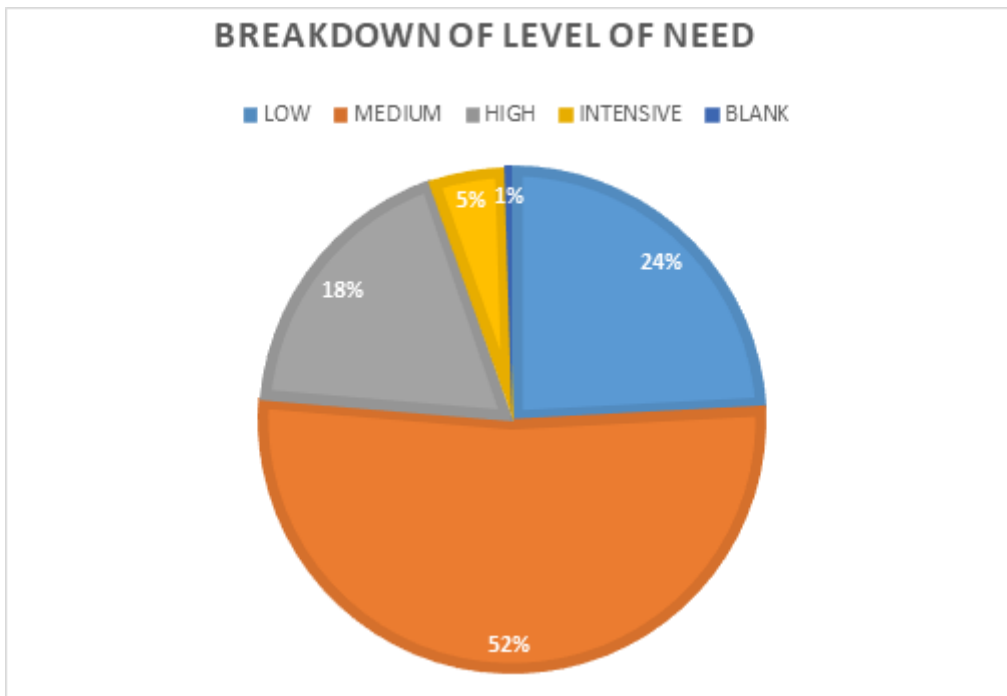


Figure 62: Breakdown of Level of Need from Needs Assessment (TA)

10.3.4.2 Unsurprisingly the majority of clients captured in this snapshot are deemed to have a 'medium' level of support need/s, the majority of whom will be in a position to maintain a tenancy with floating support. However, there is a notable number of people with high to intensive needs- almost as many as there are those deemed to have low level support need/s. This is a concern to Monmouthshire Housing Support as at present, excluding Housing First, support services funded through the HSG are set to support those with low to medium needs. Outside of Housing First which has so far worked with 12 individuals this financial year, and is currently oversubscribed, Monmouthshire does not have a high/ intensive supported provision. At present it is not clear where the most suitable move on accommodation would be for this cohort.

10.3.5 In Focus

10.3.5.1 Mental Health

10.3.5.2 As has been noted above, Mental Health is by far the most occurring support need recorded for those in TA at present. Monmouthshire HSG currently funds 3 mental health projects provided by Mind in a floating support model, and Mind also run supported accommodation for those with low-medium level mental health needs. There are currently 28 bed spaces split between properties in Abergavenny and Cheptsow. At present the data shows that there are currently 36 clients in TA with a lead need of Mental Health who are entitled to a one bedroom property- a significant number of these will be single people who would be suitable for supported housing.

Mental Health Lead Need	
Intensive	1
High	5
Medium	24
Low	15
Total	45

Table 42: Level of Need for those identified as having a Lead Need of Mental Health

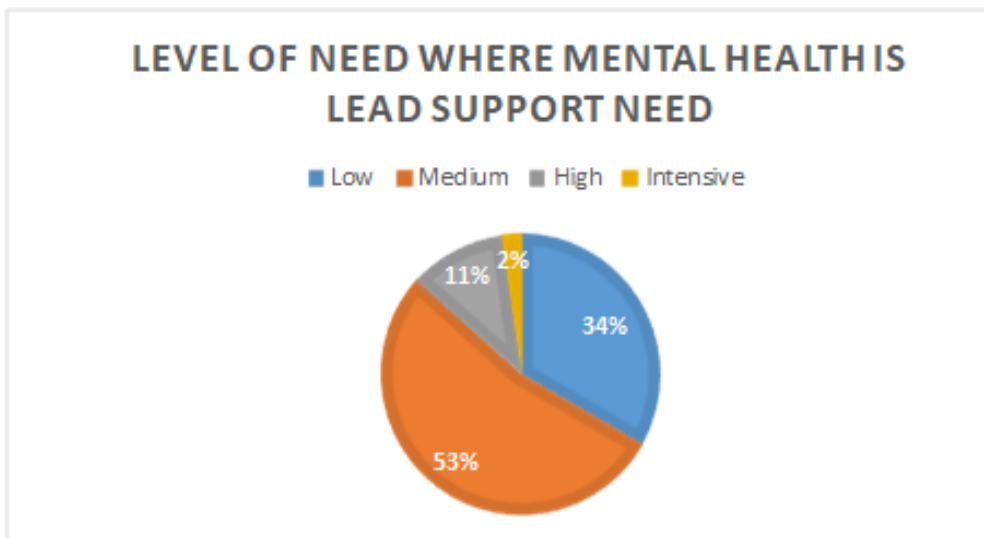


Figure 63: Level of Need for those identified as having a Lead Need of Mental Health

10.3.5.3 As with the general level of need data, the majority of those with Mental Health identified as a lead need are deemed to have 'medium' support requirements a proportion of which, along with those identified as having 'high' and 'intensive' needs, would not meet the criteria of the low- medium support need mental health services currently available.

10.3.5.4 The demographics of those who were recorded as having a Lead Need of Mental Health show that Males under the age of 40 are overrepresented and slightly above the trend of overall demographics for this cohort.

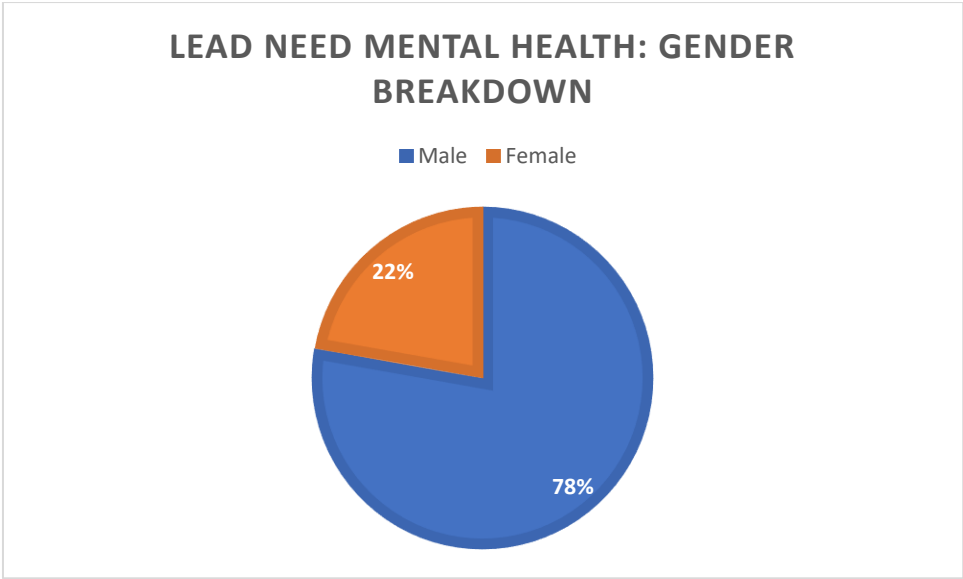


Figure 64: Gender breakdown of those with Lead Need of Mental Health

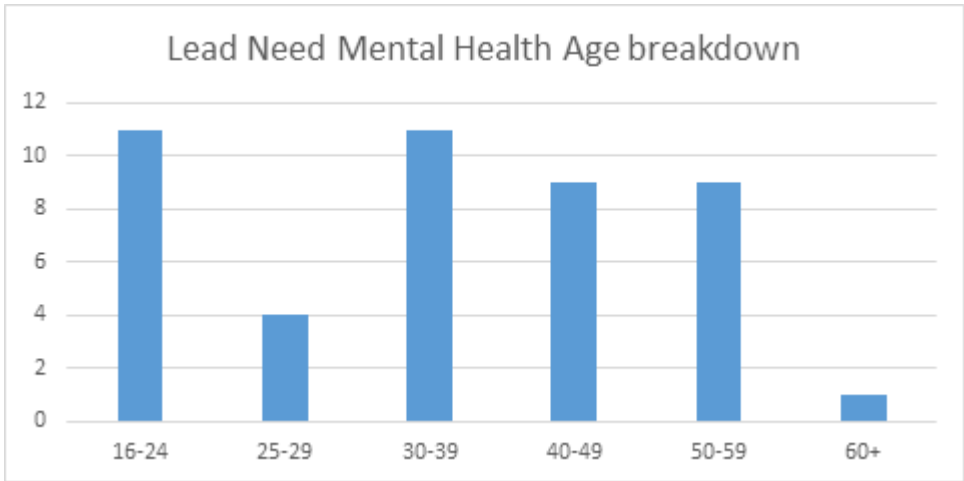


Figure 65: Age breakdown of those with Lead Need of Mental Health

10.3.5.5 Young people (16-24)

10.3.5.6 Monmouthshire currently commissions supported accommodation for young people across 3 sites and are currently restructuring one of these sites to accommodate young people with higher needs. At present all sites cater for young people with low to medium support needs.

10.3.5.7 The assessment has shown that young people aged between 16-24 are greatly overrepresented in this cohort. Being a young person in and of itself is not necessarily a support need, but when mixed with other needs can add a level of complexity and vulnerability which corresponds to the approach in support that is required. The data below (Table 43, Figure 66) illustrates the level of needs amongst all of those under the age of 25 and is not limited to those whose needs (1st, 2nd or 3rd) were recorded as 'Young person with support needs'.

Young person with Support Needs	
LOW	7
MEDIUM	25
HIGH	12
INTENSIVE	2
Total	46

Table 43: Level of Need amongst all Young People

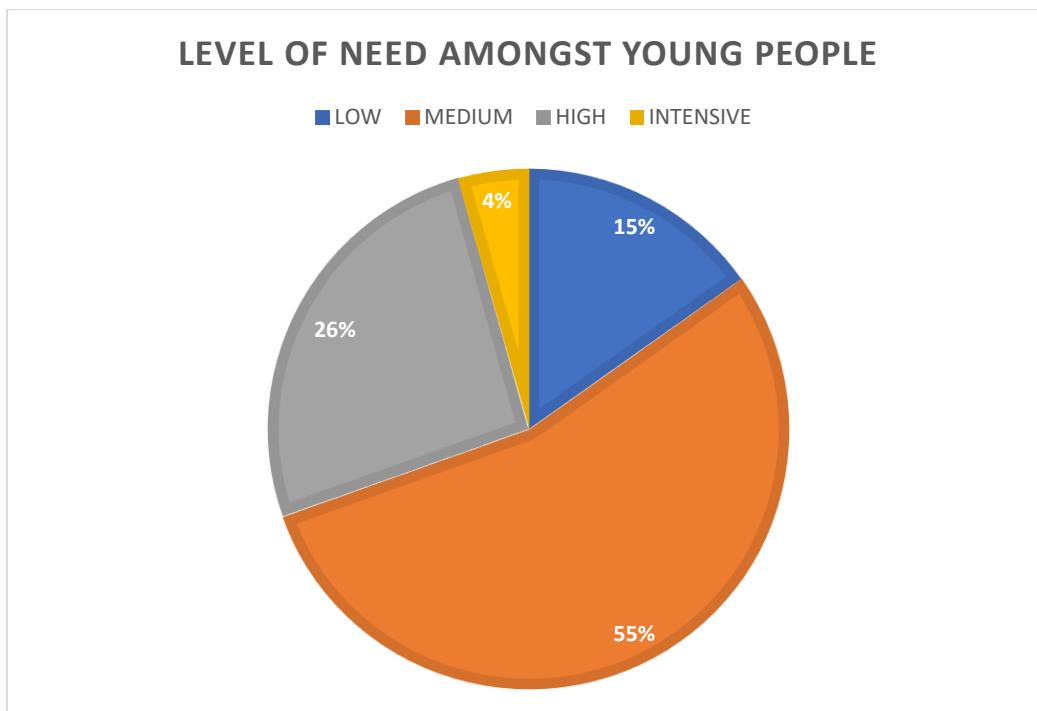


Figure 66: Level of Need amongst all Young People

10.3.5.8 Again, and in line with general trends, the majority of those under 25 are deemed to have 'Medium' needs, but a sizable minority have 'High' or 'Intensive' support needs and will require a higher level of support than housing support services are currently able to provide.

10.3.5.9 Amongst the 46 young people in this cohort the most occurrent lead need is 'Young Person with Support needs' (22) followed as above by 'People with Mental Health' (11), however when secondary needs are considered an additional 14 young people are recorded as having a Mental Health issue. The demand for mental health support is covered above.

10.3.5.10 Substance Misuse

10.3.5.11 The third most occurrent need in this assessment is those with substance misuse issues, with 18 clients having this recorded as their lead need. Of these the number of males is 5 times that of females, at 15, with the number of over 30s double that of under.

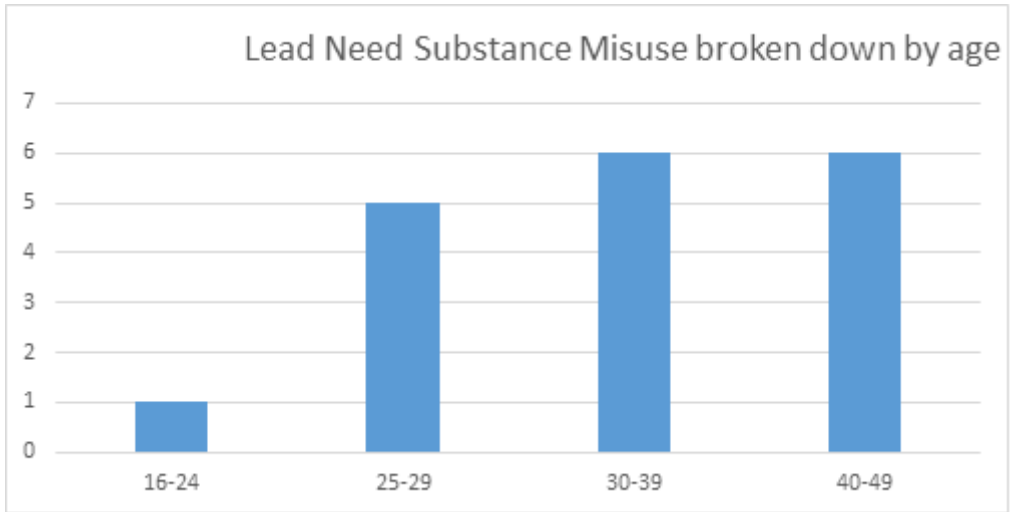


Figure 67: Those with Lead Need of Substance Misuse broken down by Age

Level of Need	Number
Low	2
Medium	8
High	4
Intensive	4

Table 44: Level of Need Breakdown of those with Lead Need of Substance Misuse

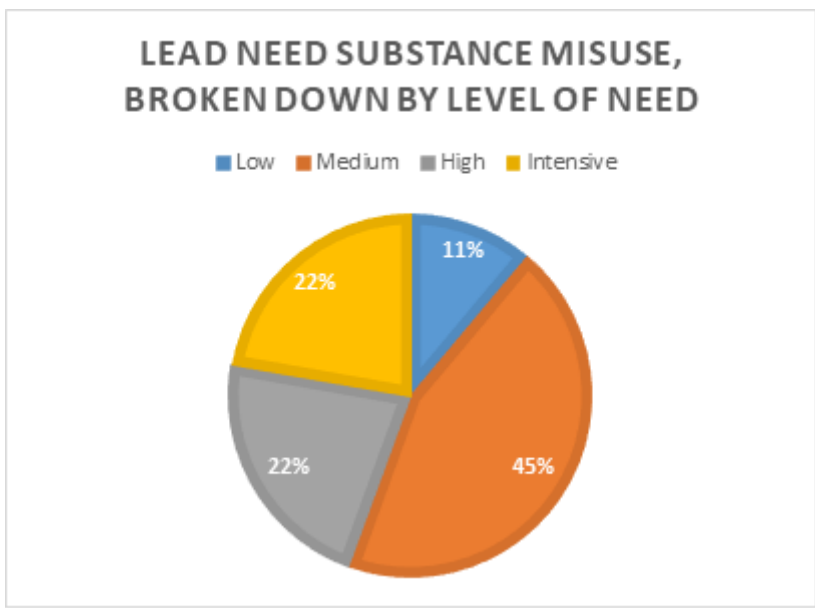


Figure 68: Level of Need Breakdown of those with Lead Need of Substance Misuse

10.3.5.12 Out of the support needs looked at here in focus, the proportion of those deemed to have 'High' or 'Intensive' level of need is highest as shown below.

10.3.5.13 Monmouthshire have commissioned a Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) outreach worker to support those residing in TA with substance (including alcohol) issues which is due to start pending recruitment but does not currently have any supported accommodation with the resources to work with this cohort.

10.3.5.14 Substance misuse often exists in comorbidity with mental health (also known as *dual diagnosis*) and can present additional complex support needs. With this in mind it is pertinent to look at the needs data to see how many cases have a combination of Mental Health and Substance Misuse across lead and secondary need.

10.3.5.15 A total of 10 clients were recorded as having this combination, 9 male and 1 female. Again the data shows a higher proportion of 'high' and 'intensive' level of need.

Level of Need	Number
Low	2
Medium	4
High	3
Intensive	1

Table 45: Level of Need breakdown for those with both Mental Health and Substance Misuse Needs recorded

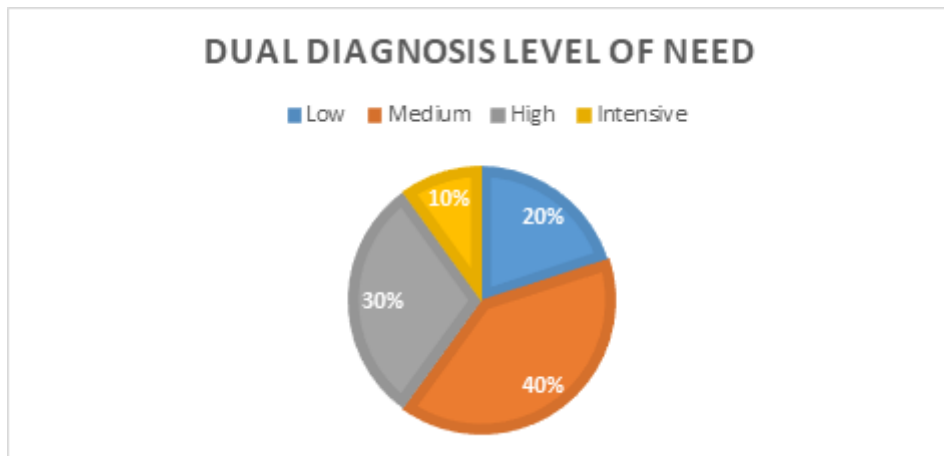


Figure 69: Level of Need breakdown for those with both Mental Health and Substance Misuse Needs recorded

10.3.5.16 This would suggest that those with Substance Misuse issues and Dual Diagnosis in this cohort have a higher proportion of high and intensive needs. It is also a need that is not currently met by a HSG funded provider.

10.3.5.17 In this assessment substance misuse and alcohol issues are recorded separately, but when these figures are combined they occur a total of 65 times across lead, secondary and tertiary need.

10.4 HSG Needs Assessment and Outcomes data

10.4.1.1 All HSG funded services are required to provide a breakdown of the clients they are supporting, and the outcomes achieved for monitoring purposes. Comparable to the needs assessment conducted on those in TA, all service users are allocated a lead, secondary and tertiary need (though not level) and the outcomes for these clients recorded. This data for April- September 2021 has been analysed as below and provides a wider context of support needs for those threatened with homeless as well as those who are homeless.

10.4.1.2 Those who were captured as part of the TA needs assessment will also feature within these stats.

10.4.2 Need Type

Support Need Type	Lead need	Secondary Need	Tertiary Need	Total
Domestic Abuse	149	128	41	318
Families with Support Needs	44	32	13	89
Generic Floating support to prevent homelessness (tenancy support services which cover a range of user needs but which must be exclusive of fixed site support)	70	49	12	131
People over 55 years of age with Support needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services).	80	35	14	129
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV, Aids)	15	15	5	35
People with Criminal Offending History	22	16	9	47
People with Developmental Disorders (I.e. Autism.)	8	8	3	19
People with Learning Disabilities	17	10	4	31
People with Mental health Issues	361	200	89	650
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	91	86	43	220
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Alcohol)	28	23	13	64
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Drugs and Volatile substances)	30	14	8	52
Single parent Families with Support needs	25	18	5	48
Single people with Support Needs not listed above (25-54)	73	41	22	136
Young People who are Care Leavers	5	5	0	10
Young People with Support Needs (16-24)	64	36	14	114
Total	1082	716	295	2093

Table 46: Occurrence of each Support Need Type across Lead, Secondary and Tertiary need

10.4.2.1 As was found in the TA needs assessment, Mental Health is resoundingly the most common Lead need, and need that appears most frequently across primary, secondary and tertiary needs recorded. Similarly need for DA support is high, and this fits with the figures from the HSG data which shows a sharp increase in engagement across DA services from 2020 onwards.

10.4.2.2 What hasn't previously been captured however is the level of demand for support from those aged over 55.

Need type	Age 55+			Total
	Lead Need	Second Need	Third Need	
Domestic Abuse	14	12	5	31
Families with Support Needs	5	5	3	13
Generic Floating support to prevent homelessness (tenancy support services which cover a range of user needs but which must be exclusive of fixed site support)	14	12	5	31
People over 55 years of age with Support needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services).	75	33	13	121
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV, Aids)	10	10	3	23
People with Developmental Disorders (I.e. Autism.)	1	1		2
People with Learning Disabilities	2	2	1	5
People with Mental health Issues	73	48	21	142
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	81	77	38	196
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Alcohol)	6	4	2	12
Single parent Families with Support needs	1	1		2
Single people with Support Needs not listed above (25-54)	4	2	1	7
Young People with Support Needs (16-24)	2			2
Grand Total	288	207	92	587

Table 47: Occurrence of Support Need Type across Lead, Secondary and Tertiary Need for Over 55s

*Cells in Light Pink highlight the most occurring needs. Cells highlighted in yellow show inputting errors.

- 10.4.2.3 Looking into the needs of the Over 55s more closely (Table 47), outside of the generic needs category a high proportion of those over 55s have a support need relating to mental health and/ or a physical or sensory disability.
- 10.4.2.4 As a support need Mental Health is covered extensively and appears consistently high across age ranges and gender. However, within this age group a significant number have a support need around disabilities. The HSG funding does not commission a service dedicated to those with physical or sensory disability but it may be prudent to liaise with stakeholders such as Adult Social Care should this be a continuing trend.
- 10.4.2.5 When considered alongside the needs assessment of those in TA and those who have approached the Council or become homeless without recourse to stay elsewhere, there is an underrepresentation of over 55's. This would suggest that this age group are less likely to find themselves homeless, possibly due to the support received successfully preventing this, or the resources Monmouthshire has with regards to age restricted accommodation stock.
- 10.4.2.6 At the other end of the spectrum those with Substance Misuse issues as a lead need are overrepresented in those in TA (Table 40) when compared to this wider data (Table 46). Overall, of all those accessing support from HSG the lead need of Substance Misuse ranks as one of the lowest. The data suggests that those with this as a lead need are more likely to find themselves homeless and in need of emergency and temporary accommodation. HSG has not had a commissioned service for those with substance misuse issues throughout the time period analysed here, but the commission of a GDAS outreach worker is pending.
- 10.4.2.7 When breaking down the lead needs by gender more women are accessing HSG support services than men- the opposite to that seen in the breakdown of TA (Figure 57, Table 48). Those with a lead need of Domestic Abuse and Single parent families are more likely to be female whereas those with lead needs of Offending, Substance Misuse or Generic needs are more likely to be male (Table 48).
- 10.4.2.8 Again, in comparing this to the isolated data around those in TA there is an overrepresentation of men in TA than amongst the wider support data. As has been noted, there are significantly more males than females in TA (Figure 57). This could be that the support needs where there is a stronger male skew are more pervasive in contributing to homelessness, or that support services are not able to cater to this cohort as effectively as for females, or a combination of the two.

Breakdown Lead need by Gender where recorded	Gender	
	F	M
Lead need type		
Domestic Abuse	139	10
Families with Support Needs	26	16
Generic Floating support to prevent homelessness (tenancy support services which cover a range of user needs but which must be exclusive of fixed site support)	20	50
People over 55 years of age with Support needs (this category must be exclusive of alarm services).	44	33
People with Chronic Illnesses (including HIV, Aids)	7	8
People with Criminal Offending History	2	20
People with Developmental Disorders (I.e. Autism.)	3	5
People with Learning Disabilities	9	8
People with Mental health Issues	181	179
People with Physical and/or Sensory Disabilities	53	38
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Alcohol)	10	18
People with Substance Misuse Issues (Drugs and Volatile substances)	8	22
Single parent Families with Support needs	23	2
Single people with Support Needs not listed above (25-54)	25	48
Young People who are Care Leavers	4	1
Young People with Support Needs (16-24)	38	24
Total	592	482

Table 48: Breakdown Lead need by Gender where recorded

10.4.3 Outcomes

Outcome category	Outcome Achieved	Number of people
Promoting personal and community safety	Feeling safe	368
	Contributing to the safety and well-being of themselves and of others	286
Promoting independence and control	Managing accommodation	594
	Managing relationships	270
	Feeling part of the community	127
Promoting economic progress and financial control	Managing money	476
	Engaging in educational learning	66
	Engaging in employment/voluntary work	79
Promoting health and well-being	Physically healthy	215
	Mentally healthy	386
	Leading a healthy and active lifestyle	105

Table 49: Type and Number of Outcomes

- 10.4.3.1 Of the 1082 people recorded by support services to have a lead need, 1042 people were supported in the period April-September 2020 and 1030 people achieved positive outcomes as a result of the support they received, and 12 are continuing to work with support. These figures suggest that approximately 40 people did not engage to proceed with support.
- 10.4.3.2 A significant number of those supported achieved a positive outcome around Mental Health, and also to feel safe (Table 49) which demonstrates that HSG support services are working successfully to address the county's most prominent support needs, but that the continuing demand would indicate that an expansion of these services would be welcomed.
- 10.4.3.3 What hasn't been recorded in the survey of needs amongst those receiving support, or at least explicitly, is the demand for support around finances. Managing money is the second highest outcome achieved (Table 49). Budgeting, benefit advice, help into employment and training and income maximisation are shown here to be necessary services to support residents to maintain tenancies and ensure that any periods of homelessness are brief and unrepeatable- all the more so in the context of unstable income and benefit changes through the Pandemic and beyond.
- 10.4.3.4 Just under half of those supported during this 6 month snapshot were successfully supported to manage their accommodation, and this is supported by the figures recorded below (Table 50).

Status	Homelessness Status at start	Homelessness status at exit
Homeless	164	34
At threat of Homelessness within 56 days	61	6
In interim accommodation	191	105
Need support to remain in own home	470	149
Maintaining stable accommodation independently (6mths +)		251
Total	886	545

Table 50: Homeless Status at the Beginning and End of Support

- 10.4.3.5 The number of homeless households, or those facing homelessness are significantly reduced following intervention of support. Those requiring support to remain in their own home are clearly receiving the support appropriate to build resilience and empowerment to remain independent. HSG support services are clearly successful in preventing homelessness for vulnerable households with support needs.

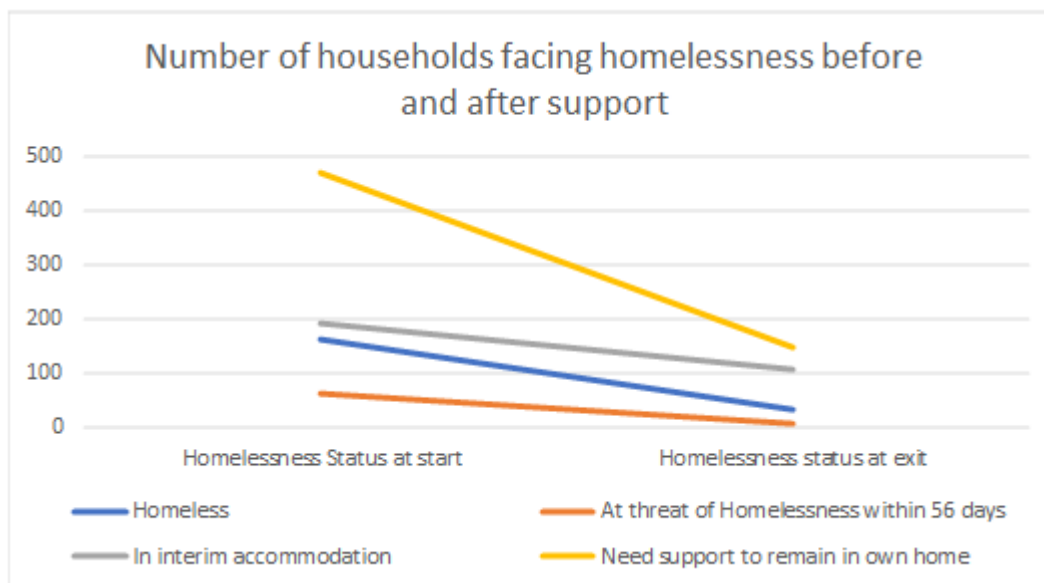


Figure 70: Number of Households Facing Homelessness at the Beginning and End of Support

10.4.4 HIP

10.4.4.1 The HIP panel has frequently been referred to as an example of good practice by stakeholders. The panel brings together a range of appropriate agencies fortnightly to discuss highly complex cases where a multi-agency approach is required. Due to the complexity of the cases outcomes are not captured statistically, however there are a number of positive testimonies which are testament to the power of the panel. The anonymised cases below are a sample of these.

- “A” was referred in November 2020 by Aneurin Bevan Health Board. “A” has a diagnosis of ASD and had been evicted from a couple of properties due to ASB, homophobic and racist abuse which had involved the police. “A” was housed at in B&B accommodation by HOTS and supported by Pobl Lifestyles. Pobl Lifestyles referred “A” to residential care where they are now happily settled with 24-hour care.
- “B” was referred in March 2021 as the family were experiencing ASB in their block of flats as well as a rodent infestation. The family needed to move quickly and so the HIP arranged for the Homeasearch team to be emailed a list of Police calls to the property, the Minutes of a recent CASP meeting and for Homeasearch to then consider a Banding change for “B”. Since going to Panel the banding has been changed to 2A and backdated to September 1st 2019. The Family successfully bid for 3-bedroom property in July 2021 and are delighted.
- “C” was re-referred to Panel in April 2021. Case of self-neglect, alcoholism, suspected financial abuse by a Neighbour. A DTR form was completed and Safeguarding Team investigated. A care package was put in place. Unfortunately, the Police were not able to investigate the suspected financial abuse as “C” denied any exploitation.

10.5 HSG data conclusion

- 10.5.1.1 Aside from a handful of services the number of residents accessing support dipped during the Coronavirus Pandemic 2020-2021 (Table 35, Figure 49). At first glance this might seem surprising, as it would intuitively been expected that the demand for support would have been higher. However, the lockdown of communities in March 2020 in response to COVID-19 saw an unbelievable response from both support providers and the citizens of Monmouthshire. During this period of time housing associations expanded their remit and sought to check in on all tenants- not just those who were receiving support. In the community 60+ CV19 volunteer groups convened almost instantly across the county, made up of multiple residents who recognised a fundamental 'need to help others' and to help sustain life at all costs. This rapid expansion of informal support most likely provided a level of pre-emptive assistance that helped families to avoid or delay crisis and approach formal support provisions.
- 10.5.1.2 It is expected, with the support of the data for the first half of 2021-2022 (Table 35), that for many services the demand will significantly increase as Wales continues to emerge from the pandemic and its social and financial implications reverberate through communities.
- 10.5.1.3 Looking across the HSG support data Mental Health issues feature prominently (Table 46), something which is supported anecdotally through the stakeholder workshops. The significant number of vulnerable adults requiring support with poor mental health far outweighs the support currently available, particularly for those with higher to intensive needs. Floating support and supported accommodation delivered by MIND would benefit from expansion to help with this increasing demand. However, there are limits to what HSG projects can achieve when issues can overlap with the need for medical treatment and specialist care. The HSG team will welcome any future partnership working with local Mental Health Teams to address this increasing need.

- 10.5.1.4 Young people (16-24) and those with substance misuse issues are overrepresented amongst those who access emergency and temporary accommodation through Monmouthshire County Council when the wider support data is considered (Figure 58, Table 40, Table 46). These two support needs also have a higher proportion of 'high' and 'intensive' needs and indicate that residents with these needs are more likely to become homeless. The Council's HSG team currently funds 2 supported accommodation provisions for young people through Pobl and are currently restructuring an additional facility to provide supported accommodation specifically for those with higher needs. However, it is clear from the data that the demand continues to outweigh the provision. For those with substance misuse issues a dedicated assertive outreach worker from the Gwent Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS) has been procured and is due to start imminently but there are no suitable accommodation provisions for this cohort. The council aspires to a 24 hour staffed provision for those with high and intensive needs to complement the Housing First model, the need for which has also been raised by stakeholders, but at present HSG does not have the available finances to fund this.
- 10.5.1.5 As a county with an aging demographic it is not surprising that HSG projects support a significant number of over 55s, many of these with sensory or physical disability (Table 47). As this trend is not replicated within TA it can be assumed that interventions by support services, as well as the accommodation stock for older people, is successfully preventing homelessness.
- 10.5.1.6 98% of those supported by HSG funded projects from April to September 2021 achieved a positive outcome (Table 49). As well as Mental Health support, HSG providers supported residents to achieve positive outcomes around Managing money and Managing Tenancies. The success of this support in reducing homelessness can be evidenced by the decrease in those either homeless or facing homelessness following intervention.
- 10.5.1.7 To ensure the best outcomes are achieved for those with high and complex needs the Council has created the Housing Intervention Panel (HIP), a multi-agency forum where partner agencies are able to work on cases collaboratively and effectively. This has been heralded by stakeholders as an example of good practice and has delivered positive results.

Chapter 11: Qualitative Data

11.1 Themes from Stakeholder Workshops and Questionnaires

The qualitative data below was captured at Stakeholder events, 5 of which were hosted by MCC with a mixture of partner agencies in attendance, and from the stakeholder questionnaire which was sent to individual professionals. This feedback

was structured into SWOT/PESTL analysis and trends can broadly be broken down into the below themes.

11.1.1.1 There was a consensus through the PESTL that services are currently operating in a context of rising costs and diminishing income. In particular services are bracing for the impact the increase in energy costs and the removal of the £20 per week UC uplift. The pandemic has also seen housing in Monmouthshire more in demand, with house prices and rents rapidly increasing. LHA rates were also acknowledged to be significantly out of line with market rents. In addition to this Monmouthshire has a number of restrictions to building or remodelling properties due to the high levels of phosphates found in the local rivers.

11.1.2 *Communication:*

11.1.2.1 Strengths

- General consensus that partnership working had improved, largely due to the change in working brought about by the pandemic. There has been more of an appetite for all agencies to work together flexibly and creatively to meet the challenges of the last 18 months. The HIP was mentioned several times as an example of good practice in this area which allows professionals to come together to seek creative solutions, and also serves as a preventative resource.
- Communication with PRS landlords has improved due to procuring TA over the last 18 months.
- The use of various digital platforms for communicating with service users is a positive advancement, especially for Monmouthshire being a semi-rural area. The increased use of MS Teams has in some ways made collaboration easier between partner agencies.

11.1.2.2 Weaknesses

- Whilst the increase use of technology to communicate with residents has had positive results it's limitations should also be recognised. As a rural county Monmouthshire does not have consistency in infrastructure with regards to internet and mobile signal and so some people risk becoming isolated from services. Similarly, some residents would have a preference in face to face working to build trust and a relationship with services. All services would like to see a blended approach to communicating with residents to meet individual preferences and needs moving forward.
- Services noted that there has been a decline in the quality of information coming through on the referrals from Gateway. This is contributing to a culture of clients becoming retraumatised by having to repeat their issues and challenges every time they move between services. The lack of robustness of the referrals can also do service users a disservice as they may not be allocated to the correct service for their needs and having to go through the system again.
- As Monmouthshire is such a decentralised county without a central focal point it poses a challenge to disseminating information. It was generally felt during

the workshops that Monmouthshire could do more to promote its services, both so that those who may need them know where they can access information, and to raise awareness around homelessness as an issue.

11.1.2.3 Opportunity

- To continue and develop the multi-agency partnership working that has emerged from the pandemic and to broaden the services included, for example, to community resources. In particular making connections with health colleagues as we move forward from the pandemic. There was a feeling that there has been a history of silo working between housing services and health, and that this area still needs to see an improvement in partnership working.
- To build a centralised hub where residents can get easy read information and advice whether that be online, or in person, or both. To avoid confusion for the service user it would be ideal to provide a central point of contact. A centralised system such as this would also benefit support staff, as although there are a number of services on Monmouthshire staff are not always aware of them all.

11.1.3 Staffing

Strengths

- It was acknowledged that staff across all services had shown dedication, compassion and professionalism in the face of extreme pressures brought about by the pandemic. Staff have had to work and adapt very quickly and have largely risen to this challenge.

11.1.3.1 Weaknesses

- Staffing remains an issue across the sector in line with national trends. Services are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit staff and retention rates are currently poor. The stresses of working during the pandemic was identified as taking its toll on the wellbeing of staff, but also the emerging competition from other sectors luring staff with increases in pay and additional bonuses.

11.1.4 Accommodation and support

11.1.4.1 Strengths

- Services supporting young people has grown through the youth work approach encouraged by WAG. As a result support services are now able to better identify and support young people at risk of homelessness which strengthens prevention.
- The HOTs team have been restructured and expanded to include Prevention officers which will now help to broaden the remit of prevention, support people earlier and avoid a 'revolving door' of clients. The role of specialist benefit support workers has also been a good tool in preventing homelessness, particularly with clients who may not engage with other services.
- The HOTs team have been creative and flexible in their approach, taking risks with initiatives such as becoming guarantors for those wanting to access the PRS.

- Questionnaire responses also praised the work of Homesearch and RSLs. Social housing providers were considered to provide support to those at risk of tenancy breakdown.

11.1.4.2 Weaknesses

- The theme that overwhelmingly dominated discussions around weaknesses is resources. It was widely acknowledged that Monmouthshire has a lack of accommodation of all types- larger properties for families, single units, specialist supported and move on accommodation. The private rented sector in Monmouthshire is small and expensive (over the LHA rates in most cases) and there was a feeling amongst participants that landlords are reluctant to take homeless clients, particularly those with support needs.
- The shortages of suitable, appropriate accommodation have caused stagnation in TA and B&B which support services in turn felt were contributing to a backlogs in services as they were supporting households for longer periods.
- Stakeholders identified an unmet need amongst service users in the county who experience mental health issues. Mental health issues appear to have a high prevalence amongst the homelessness community in Monmouthshire and services felt that there is a distinct lack of support options for this cohort. Alarmingly, one group identified that for some residents criminalisation was the only means of accessing mental health support.
- Participants noted a lack of housing options for those with medium to high needs, as there aren't any provisions suitable to ex-offenders, those with entrenched drug and alcohol misuse issues, and as above, those with medium to high mental health needs. At present the county does not have a dedicated GDAS worker for TA due to the challenges of recruitment (see below), and there is no current framework for dual diagnosis teams. Although WAG would like to move away from shared accommodation, for some residents this would be a positive solution for the short to medium term. The idea of specialist 24 hour supported hostel provision was raised in a number of the focus groups as support services have identified a larger number of complex cases coming through the system.
- Where there is supported accommodation, providers have identified barriers for those who find employment, as their rent quickly becomes unsustainably high. This can create a disincentive for residents to go into employment and an additional barrier to securing move on accommodation due to a build-up of arrears.

11.1.4.3 Opportunities

- There is scope to work with adult social care to improve services for those who are neurodiverse.

11.1.5 *Transport*

11.1.5.1 Weaknesses

- Monmouthshire does not have developed public transport links which causes a number of issues for homeless residents.

- Supported accommodation providers raised the problems they have faced when trying to support clients to medical appointments and for emergency treatment. Some clients are not able to get the treatment they need due to these logistical barriers.
- Similarly, further education establishments are spread throughout Monmouthshire and beyond, and the lack of regular and affordable transport to the campuses poses a real barrier to those seeking to obtain further qualifications.

11.1.6 *Legislation, policy and processes*

11.1.6.1 Strengths

- Staff are now more aligned to PIE practices and it is considered that services are now working with the individual in mind and have been tailoring support to meet individual needs.

11.1.6.2 Weaknesses

- Participants discussed the funding processes for services and identified that this tends to be on a short-term basis which makes it difficult for them to develop long term solutions to issues. Services do not feel that they can work with longevity when funding can be removed or changed regularly.
- It was mentioned that the way that services are funded fosters gatekeeping of individual pots of funding, rather than encouraging services to pool resources to address needs. Homelessness services rely very heavily on HSG funding, and it would be good to see other services such as health contribute on joint programmes that will achieve multilateral goals.
- Uncertainty around WAG's intentions with regards to statutory requirements such as intentionality and priority need, and what will happen to those in TA/B&B should this change.

11.1.6.3 Opportunities

- Practices in other LAs were mentioned, including the Tenancy Training offered by Cardiff City Council which may ease the concerns of private sector landlords in placing homeless households in their properties.

11.1.7 *Community*

11.1.7.1 Weaknesses

- There has historically been a lack of appetite in the communities for homeless accommodation. Plans for homeless accommodation has frequently been met with resistance and has caused friction between the community and the council.

11.1.7.2 Opportunities

- The pandemic awoke the public to often hidden societal issues such as homelessness and encouraged communities to come forward and support each other. It was identified that this culture of 'good will' may provide opportunities to bring the public onside and encourage private landlords to work

with services. As with the recent Afghan refugees resettlement, there may be an appetite to go to directly to the public for help.

11.2 Feedback from Service User workshops

Service users accommodated in one of Monmouthshire's supported projects and a B&B used to accommodate those approaching as homeless during the Covid pandemic were asked a series of questions on their experiences. Below is a summary of their responses.

11.2.1 B&B participants

- 11.2.1.1 The majority of participants accessed the Housing Options Team through other agencies, usually with the support of a key worker or healthcare professional. This delayed the process for service users to access the housing support that they needed and gave the appearance of the system being convoluted.
- 11.2.1.2 Once in contact with the HOTs team participants relayed being put off by the attitude of staff and finding it difficult to meet the legislative requirements around eligibility and local connection. This however has changed during the pandemic, and some participants stated that they would not have received the housing support they have outside of these special arrangements. Those with pets felt they faced an additional barrier due to a lack of emergency and temporary accommodation provision that will accept animals.
- 11.2.1.3 Once in contact with the HOTs team participants relayed being put off by the attitude of staff and finding it difficult to meet the legislative requirements around eligibility and local connection. This however has changed during the pandemic, and some participants stated that they would not have received the housing support they have outside of these special arrangements. Those with pets felt they faced an additional barrier due to a lack of emergency and temporary accommodation provision that will accept animals.
- 11.2.1.4 Once having submitted a homeless application and engaging with the process responses were generally positive but identified ways the process could have been made easier. A lack of clarity of information was identified and participants noted that they would have appreciated more 'straight answers' around their homeless application. Although a number of participants described approaching the HOTs team through other support agencies it was considered that these agencies could have communicated better- particularly with Probation and Criminal Justice departments.
- 11.2.1.5 Overall feelings on the homelessness process was not positive, with participants describing feeling 'lost', 'broken', 'vulnerable', 'shit' and as 'less of a person' and that the experience had negatively affected their mental health. Service users were largely satisfied with the accommodation they had received and spoke well of support services but did not rate contact with Monmouthshire council well. The aspirations of the service users from this workshop was to be accommodated in suitable accommodation (largely 1 bed units) near to their support networks.

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11.2.2 Supported accommodation participants

11.2.2.1 On the homelessness process those in supported accommodation felt that there needs to be more advertisement of services available to people who are homeless in Monmouthshire. However the overall experience was described as 'swift' though frightening.

11.2.2.2 Those residing in supported accommodation responded positively when asked about the support they receive and the accommodation they are residing in. They identified that communication was the tool that they felt was most important. Those residing in supported accommodation also identified that the cost of the accommodation for those working acts as a disincentive for people to seek employment and take opportunities.

11.3 HSG Feedback

11.3.1 Due to resource constraints, exit interviews are conducted by phone with a sample of service users recently closed to support services. Service users are asked to rate their experience based on the two questions below and are given the opportunity to provide feedback on their experience.

Clients were asked...	Support had made things worse	Support had made no real change to their life	Support had made their life a bit better	Support has made life a lot better	Support had made life significantly better	Total
to rate their overall experience of receiving support from HSG funded projects and changes it had made to their everyday life.	0	8	8	17	15	48
since support how do you rate your ability to live independently and	1	12	7	20	8	48

manage your own home?						
Total	1	20	15	37	23	

Table 51: Responses from HSG Support Service Exit Interviews

11.3.2 The table above illustrates the responses gathered between May and December 20221. Contacting those within the sample can be challenging, as staff have found that a number of service users have either changed their telephone number or are reluctant to answer calls from unknown numbers. Despite this, over 50% of those contacted resulted in a complete interview. Feedback on the efficacy of support is overwhelmingly positive- 83.3% of responders asserted that their experience was positive and had brought changes to their life (question 1) and 72.9% of responders felt that the support received had increased their ability to live independently (question 2).

11.3.3 Some of the main themes that came from the interviews where that people had benefited a great deal from someone to talk to, especially in the period of lockdowns.

11.3.3.1 Lots of clients felt they had been able to address their debt which had been a big part of their daily stresses.

11.3.4 The questionnaire didn't ask about banding but the majority had mentioned that they had been helped with new banding on the housing register.

11.3.5 Service users were asked about barriers they faced during the support process during their exit interviews, a selection of which are shown below.

- [I] Found it really difficult to find support when I needed it, didn't know where to go, and would like to have seen helpful numbers on a bus stop or something.
- I had 3 different workers in 3 months, (Found it really had telling lots of different workers my story).
- I wasn't in a good place when support was being offered and didn't answer the phone so people gave up on me and support ended.

11.3.6 When asked to provide a brief outline of how support has helped to achieve something that was important to service users the responses broadly followed the themes of the statements below.

- I have had support previously, but nothing like this, my worker was down to earth and we got on well, she was always there for me.
- I am dyslexic and have had lots of support to read and write which has made me understand things better, especially when it comes to having contact with my children.
- Helped with benefits after my breakdown and losing job. I became a full time carer and needed to get on housing register, I have had help with foodbanks when we have got into a difficult situation and support has been fantastic.
- Support has helped me get a flat, Help with DA, help with Social Services.
- I am slowly learning to do things for myself with support.
- It has greatly helped with family relationships.

11.4 Housing Options Feedback

- 11.4.1 Customer feedback forms provide the Local Authority with invaluable feedback about the current status quo regarding the initial contact with Housing Options and the subsequent placements into temporary accommodation. Responses remain low to medium across the service with room for an updated system of collecting and measuring responses given. Feedback received via questionnaires across the two services overall were positive or very positive, with 95% of clients being satisfied or very satisfied with the service from Housing Options; and 91% very satisfied or satisfied with allocated temporary accommodation.
- 11.4.2 The overarching positive themes from Housing Options was that the service was prompt; quick and reliable, and that individuals in the team were easy to speak to, kind and understanding.
- 11.4.3 The challenges raised related to communication with the Team who were “not easy to contact” due to a lack of phone numbers, or communication being by email.
- 11.4.4 In temporary accommodation clients in the main felt listened to; that staff were friendly; fast and helpful.
- 11.4.5 Challenges clients raised were around the location of some of the B&Bs being outside of a main town when people don't drive; and the rent in house share is expensive for those who were working, or wished to work. Other comments were about the accommodation itself, which some felt was small and sometimes slow to be maintained after requests were made for improvements.
- 11.4.6 None of the responses has come as a surprise, with work already underway to improve communications with people during their first point of contact with the team. Video and face-to-face calls are being developed within local hubs to enable clients to feel comfortable with their approach to the service.
- 11.4.7 A minimum standard review of all accommodation started pre-pandemic, and with the move towards Rapid Rehousing and self-contained temporary accommodation, the points raised about current properties should be met with the improvements planned in the near future.

Chapter 12: Conclusion

- 12.1.1 What the preceding chapters are showing is that these are challenging times for households and the Council when confronted with dealing with homelessness in the County.
- 12.1.2 For many households it is around accessing affordable housing in whether it is through home ownership or renting within both the PRS and SHS while for others it is having the appropriate support to maintain existing accommodation.
- 12.1.3 The Council too has a number challenges, The Statement of Need highlights that the profile of homeless need and the requirements to meet this need has changed significantly over the last two years. Whilst there has essentially been minimal change in the number of applications, the need and demand for a range and type of temporary, supported and permanent homeless accommodation has risen significantly, particularly in relation to young people, single people and those experiencing mental health and substance misuse issues, a high proportion of which require medium to high housing support provision. In part, this can be attributed to the challenges of the local housing market, including a contracting private sector, which impacts detrimentally on the housing options available to low income and vulnerable households. For example, both social housing and private rented housing is difficult to access.
- 12.1.4 The increase in demand for homeless temporary, supported and permanent accommodation has highlighted three issues, firstly, the importance of homeless prevention and identifying scope to strengthen further existing arrangements. In addition, there is a need to identify additional permanent housing solutions both in the social and private rented sector due to the inability to rely on 'normal/typical' turnover to facilitate move on from temporary accommodation, particularly one bedroomed accommodation.
- 12.1.5 Secondly the need for additional and a greater range of supported housing and housing support provision to help people, particularly those with medium to high complex needs, both to maintain their existing accommodation whilst also preparing for independent living.
- 12.1.6 Lastly, there is a need for additional self-contained temporary accommodation, (as per Welsh Governments standards) to facilitate a phased reduction and eventual elimination in the use of B & B and shared temporary housing. The continued use of such accommodation has a detrimental effect on those being housed by this means and creates an unsustainable cost for the Council.
- 12.1.7 The Statement of Needs assessment has also highlighted the relevance and importance of collaborative working. The current delivery of homeless services is based on a wide range of partnership working, which provides a strong platform upon which to continue building and strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new and innovative arrangements. A key focus will be to continue to explore opportunities within Monmouthshire County Council and between the Council and Registered Social Landlords, support providers, the Aneurin Bevan Health Board and Welsh Government.

Housing Support Provision & Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2022 - 2026

Priority One: To identify those at risk of homelessness earlier and provide timely interventions to prevent homelessness occurring.			
Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs
1.1 To investigate how to increase the number of households accessing the service at an earlier stage thereby reducing the number of households presenting in a crisis.	Strategy & Policy Officer	On-going to 31/03/26	To move to a more proactive service rather than a reactive service and reducing the number of people presenting in crisis.
1.2 To review homelessness services information to ensure there is clear and easily accessible information to help prevent homelessness at the earliest possible stage.	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	31/03/23	Increase awareness of housing options and accessibility of information. Updated web pages Establish bespoke information for young people.
1.3 To ensure the Monmouthshire's Protocol for Care Leavers and Young People is up-to-date and that all parties that have signed up to it are complying with it eg ensure it is operating effectively	Housing Options Team Manager	31/03/23	To provide care leavers and young people with a managed pathway into appropriate accommodation.
1.4 To work alongside colleagues to promote services available to those who are at risk of homelessness through the Council's emerging Tackling Poverty Campaign.	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	31/03/23	To provide a planned approach to homelessness prevention and housing options.
1.5 To continue to invest to deliver upstream homelessness prevention in places of education including wider family networks	Youth Enterprise Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/2026	To reduce causes of homelessness for the future by increasing awareness of housing options and accessibility of information.
1.6 To review exclusion practices from social housing.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	31/03/2023	To aid “move on” options by ensuring that those most in need of social housing are not

			unreasonably excluded: and support is available to address the causes of exclusion.
<p>1.7 To seek to identify funds and invest in resources to engage directly with households considered high-risk groups such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mental Health. ○ Young Persons. ○ Substance misuse 	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	On-going to 13/03/2026	To avoid unsuitable placements and minimise placement break-down
<p>1.8 Make better use of information technology to capture and analyse data to identify opportunities and improve planning.</p>	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/23	To provide the Housing Support and Homelessness Group with regular reports on homelessness trends and the main causes of homelessness
<p>1.9 To develop better use of technology and the sharing of data for analysis and planning.</p>	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/23	<p>Full utilisation of the functionality of Locata to improve efficiency and generate regular monitoring reports.</p> <p>Acquire and develop a rents system for Monmouthshire Lettings</p> <p>To evolve services to ensure it is structured to meet the needs of those that are threatened with homelessness eg use of TEAMS; WhatsApp etc</p>
<p>1.10 To consider the co-location of services to provide a holistic needs assessment and support planning process and a single point of access for all households threatened with homelessness.</p>	Housing Options Team Manager &		To provide an environment whereby there is a better sharing of expertise that will provide a more efficient and effective service and offers a better experience to households threatened with homelessness.
<p>1.11 To incorporate Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) approach to the homeless service. .</p>	Housing & Communities Manager &	31/03/26	To achieve high levels of client user satisfaction and to have a better understanding of the needs of those affected by homelessness.

	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager		Provide support for staff. Reflect in service specifications for future commissioning.
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Priority Two: To provide timely and effective support for vulnerable residents particularly for those with high and complex needs.

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs
2.1 To seek to engage with Welsh Government and other partners to identify additional resources to increase the capacity of the housing support programme and support availability to meet local need.	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	On-going to 31/03/26	Ability to meet the need identified in the Statement of Need. Collaborative partnerships facilitating blended funding packages
2.2 To seek to expand the existing Housing First service to meet unmet demand.	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To improve people's journey into permanent suitable accommodation
2.3 To seek to expand the Young Persons floating support service and remodel existing shared housing to increase the availability of dedicated young person's accommodation.	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/23	To improve a young person's journey into permanent suitable accommodation
2.4 To review and evaluate the newly re-modelled Young Persons accommodation in relation to outcomes achieved for those with higher needs and consider whether there is a need for Young Persons Housing First model.	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/23	To improve a young person's journey into permanent suitable accommodation
2.5 To increase the supply of accommodation in the County for people with complex needs around substance misuse and mental health.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	31/03/23	Identify revenue funding to establish multiple needs supported housing north and south

<p>2.6 To review, evaluate and re-commission Housing Support Grant services by April 2023.</p>	<p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager, Housing Support Development & Operations Manager</p>	<p>31/3/23</p>	<p>To ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>2.7 To review Place Based Teams with a view to re-commissioning services from 1/4/23</p>	<p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager, Housing Support Development & Operations Manager</p>	<p>31/3/22</p>	<p>Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>2.8 To review Young Persons in TA with a view to development of a bespoke YP contract for TA from 1/4/23</p>	<p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager, Housing Support Development & Operations Manager</p>	<p>31/3/22</p>	<p>Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>2.9 To review TA/ Resettlement Scheme with a view to either remodelling or re-commissioning services from 1/4/23</p>	<p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager, Housing Support Development & Operations Manager</p>	<p>31/3/22</p>	<p>Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>2.10 To review Assertive Outreach with a view to either remodelling or re-commissioning services from 1/4/23</p>	<p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager Housing Support Development & Operations Manager</p>	<p>31/3/22</p>	<p>Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>2.11 Review and evaluate the outcomes of the re-modelled young persons accommodation for those with low to high needs</p>	<p>Flexible Funding Strategic Manager Housing Support Development & Operations Manager</p>	<p>31/3/23</p>	<p>Ensure service meets the needs and demands of the most vulnerable members of our community</p>
<p>2.12 Re-model an existing shared housing property to provide dedicated provision for young people with lower needs</p>	<p>Housing Options Team Manager</p>	<p>31/3/22</p>	<p>Increase dedicated accommodation provision for young people</p>

Priority Three: To Increase access to a range of affordable and suitable housing solutions for homeless households, both temporary and permanent,

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs
<p>3.1 To review the use of all forms of temporary accommodation and reduce our reliance on it over the length of the strategy.</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To mitigate against un-sustainable expenditure and reliance on WG Hardship funding in relation to B & B and concierge use and B & B focused Accommodation Officers</p> <p>Procurement of security service</p> <p>Identify alternative funding for Temporary Accommodation Officers based in B & B</p>
<p>3.2 To continue to co-ordinate a newly established Strategic Housing Forum with housing association partners to help identify opportunities to develop new affordable housing.</p>	<p>Housing Communities Manager</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To maximise the number of affordable homes built and Social Housing Grant spend.</p>
<p>3.3 To work with Homesearch partners to operate flexible Housing Register quotas to maximise the number of lettings of social housing vacancies to homeless households.</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Strategy Officer</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To increase move-on into permanent accommodation</p>
<p>3.4 to work with Homesearch partners to implement actions to make the 'best use' and maximise occupancy of the stock to facilitate more people to move-on from temporary accommodation.</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Strategy Officer</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To provide more options for those who are at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Target households/transfer applicants occupying overcrowded one bedroom accommodation to facilitate one bedroomed vacancies</p> <p>Utilise existing housing stock for shared accommodation</p> <p>Re-designation of existing accommodation</p>

<p>3.5 To consider alternative housing options such as converted commercial units and modular housing</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Strategy Officer</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To increase the supply, particularly for single people.</p>
<p>3.6 To appraise the opportunities for the Council to utilise Council owned assets for homeless purposes.</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Strategy Officer & Development Manager</p>	<p>31/03/26</p>	<p>To maximise the development of new affordable housing</p>
<p>3.7 To appraise the option of purchasing properties from the open market for use as homeless accommodation and consider partnership option in respect of management</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Strategy Officer</p>	<p>31/03/26</p>	<p>To maximise options for delivering affordable housing</p>
<p>3.8 To increase the provision of other forms of temporary accommodation working with a range of landlords, both RSL and private sector and to secure additional units of temporary accommodation, direct access and supported housing.</p>	<p>Affordable Housing Strategy Officer</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To minimise the use of expensive nightly paid accommodation</p> <p>Establish a dedicated emergency self-contained family accommodation in the North.</p> <p>Re-model an existing shared housing property to provide dedicated provision for young people</p> <p>To ensure temporary accommodations costs to the Council are contained and to provide better quality accommodation</p> <p>Identify opportunities to re-designate existing social housing</p>
<p>3.9 To develop effective pathways to and from temporary accommodation ensuring move on is timely.</p>	<p>Housing Options Team Manager</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To gain a better understanding of why length of stay can vary and barriers for move on.</p>
<p>3.10 To review and evaluate Monmouthshire Lettings to identify opportunities to improve the service and encourage further private landlords to make available their properties to the Council.</p>	<p>Housing Options Team Manager</p>	<p>On-going to 31/03/26</p>	<p>Sign up to Welsh Government National Leasing Scheme</p> <p>Sign up to Welsh Government National Leasing Scheme</p>

3.11 To establish self-contained emergency family accommodation in the North of the County	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/24	To improve provision for families meet WG accommodation standards
3.12 To seek to establish links with local voluntary organisations and local churches/faith groups to develop new services	Housing & Communities Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To provide additional private sector accommodation
3.13 To implement the Empty Property Action Plan to target empty homes and town centre opportunities.	Strategy & Policy Officer - Homelessness	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To provide additional private sector accommodation Where possible align with Social Housing Grant
3.14 To develop a clear and co-ordinated private sector offer to Landlord Developers through innovative use of S106 monies	Strategy & Policy Officer – Affordable Housing	31/03/23	Additional homeless accommodation facilitated by making full use of S106 contributions as an additional resource.

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Priority Four: To establish a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs
4.1 There is a need to implement Welsh Government policy direction and establish and implement a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan .	Housing & Communities Manager	Sept 2022	Draft plan to be established by June 2022.

Priority Five: To maximise and increase the availability and effectiveness of financial, staffing/workforce and collaborative resources available for tackling homelessness.

Action required to deliver the priority	Lead Person	Timescales / By When	Outcome/Outputs
5.1 To review and evaluate existing staff structures of teams delivering homeless services to ensure they continue to provide sufficient capacity and continue to be fit for purpose.	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/23	To support staff, maximise capacity, improve efficiency and maximise flexibility.
5.2 To improve procedures to enable partners to work together successfully e.g. information sharing, referral mechanisms	Housing & Communities Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	To streamline the processes so that multi-agency working is easier and more efficient and therefore a better experience for those threatened with homelessness.
5.3 Identify funding for those aims and objectives where funding currently hasn't been allocated.	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	Ongoing to 31/03/26	Address the need identified in the Statement of Need
5.4 Transition from short-term arrangements established quickly due to the Covid Pandemic and in response to Welsh Government guidance to more sustainable long-term solutions.	Housing & Communities Manager	31/03/23	To mitigate against the use of B & B use and concierge services in lieu of supported housing
5.5 We will work collaboratively both internally and externally with organisations that offer a broad range of skill sets and knowledge, expertise and experience to address homelessness successfully.	Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager	On-going to 31/03/26	
5.6 We will develop further the Housing Support & Homelessness Forum.	Flexible Funding Strategic Manager Housing Support Development & Operations Manager	31/03/26	
5.7 We will evaluate the effectiveness and cost efficiency of using data analytics for the prevention of homelessness.	Strategy & Policy Officer – Homelessness	31/03/23	Determine whether an automated approach would deliver cost benefits

<p>5.8 Undertake a training needs audit and establish a programme of training to support staff to deliver and transform services, in particular substance misuse and violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager</p>	<p>30/09/22</p>	<p>To increase staff awareness, enhance staff professional development and embed best practice</p>
<p>5.9 Work collaboratively both internally and externally with organisations that offer a broad range of skill sets and knowledge, expertise and experience to address homelessness successfully.</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing to 31/03/26</p>	<p>To maximise capacity, improve efficiency and maximise flexibility.</p>
<p>5.10 Support and develop staff in respect of adopting and maintain a Psychologically Informed Environment/ Trauma informed approach.</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager</p>	<p>31/03/23</p>	<p>Staff training will be undertaken Action plans will be established to take forward the implementation.</p>
<p>5.11 Identify opportunities for increasing collaborative arrangements with Aneurin Bevan Health Board</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager</p>	<p>31/03/23</p>	<p>Additional accommodation and/or support for those who have both a homeless need and a health need, particularly mental health</p>
<p>5.12 Engage with Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association in respect of future funding arrangements in order to align with homeless need in Monmouthshire</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager & Flexible Funding Strategic Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing to 31/03/26</p>	<p>Address the need identified in the Statement of Need</p>
<p>5.13 Identify opportunities for homeless services and solutions to support wider strategic priorities. For example, Social Care needs, tackling empty properties, Town Centre regeneration and decarbonisation.</p>	<p>Housing & Communities Manager</p>	<p>Ongoing to 31/03/26</p>	<p>Implement that meet homeless needs and contribute added value (eg cost benefits) in respect of other strategic priorities</p>
<p>5.14 Implement the Strategic Housing Partnership to increase opportunities that support and contribute to the priorities of this Strategy</p>	<p>Chief Officer - Enterprise</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Increasing opportunities to facilitate and develop additional homeless accommodation</p>

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Appendix 5

Welsh Government Feedback

Overall the Strategy has a clear structure and layout.

- **Section 1- Introduction**

- 1.2.5: The Strategy should set out the priorities for the Housing Support Programme which covers both the HSG and statutory homelessness functions funded through the revenue settlement. You therefore need to update this sentence to reflect that.
- 1.4.13: the heading doesn't seem to correspond with the narrative which appears underneath in 1.4.14 and 1.4.15.
- The information that has been included in the Introduction (1.1) section and the Purpose of the Strategy (1.2) is very detailed and there is some duplication of information. You may wish to consider combining these two to create an '*Introduction and Purpose*' section.
- 1.5 It is not clear if the vision included is the overarching vision for the Council or a specific vision for housing support/homelessness services? Can you confirm? It also currently reads as a list of aims rather than an overall vision.
- 1.6: Whilst it's good to see the key achievements and what is currently being delivered, it is not particularly relevant as the Strategy should focus on the priorities for future delivery of services. Would suggest you could incorporate some of it in an Annex or relevant detail included in your needs assessment document.

- **Section 2: Needs assessment**

- 2.1 - It would be useful if this section also listed the data sources (as set out in the HSP Template) used to inform your needs assessment as well as the process/method.
- The key findings section is very detailed. There could be an opportunity to better draw out the key themes by perhaps using thematic sub-headings.
- You will need to include a conclusion paragraph to highlight the key needs, gaps in provision and issues that need to be addressed as a result of the findings from the needs assessment.

- **Section 3: Strategic Priorities**

We welcome that you have provided the context for each strategic priority setting out the how and why, although some of 'reasons why' listed don't always appear to be relevant to the priority. We have made the following suggestions for how the strategic priorities could be strengthened:

- P1 – you may want to make it clearer exactly what you're prioritising and the specific gap that is being addressed. Is this about strengthening targeted prevention i.e. pathways for certain cohorts, or general early intervention and prevention services, or both? The priority combines a number of cohorts/needs

i.e. young people, mental health, substance misuse and would therefore benefit from being more focused/specific. Suggest rephrasing to '*strengthen early intervention and prevention services.*', and then draw out the key cohorts/groups in the detail underneath.

- P2 – this priority slightly overlaps with P1 and reads as a business as usual activity rather than a priority. Would suggest making it clearer and more action focused around what is the specific gap being addressed i.e. is this priority around strengthening support services or increasing supply of suitable accommodation? The priority also combines a number of cohorts/needs i.e. young people, mental health, substance misuse and would benefit from being more focused. Therefore, you may wish to consider rephrasing and splitting into 2 priorities as follows: One to '*Increase or strengthen support provision for people with complex needs*' focusing on mental health and substance misuse provision (linking in a multi-agency approach, including health, to support those with complex need), and the other priority around strengthening housing support provision for younger people.

P3 – this priority could be clearer about what you are prioritising i.e. is it about increasing allocations for people already in temporary accommodation or building more temporary accommodation? What type of accommodation (single person accommodation etc.)? You could therefore explicitly draw out in the narrative what you are going to do, what are the gaps and the cohorts that you are trying to address. Would also suggest changing 'Welsh Government 'Annex D' accommodation standards' to 'Welsh Government relevant standards'.

- We note that there is no priority around workforce development although you mention that staffing is an issue in the stakeholder engagement section (4.2.6).
- You will also need to include a priority around your approach to targeted prevention as set out in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, that perhaps is not covered sufficiently in P1.
- The Strategic regional priorities of the Gwent RHSCG could be referred to here instead of in 1.4.16 (local policy section), under a 'Regional priorities' sub heading and drawing out any specific actions for Monmouthshire.

- **Section 5: Impact assessment and Action Plan**

- As you have noted, this section will need to be completed. We note that some information in the Action Plan is missing. You will need to complete these before the Strategy is published.

- **Section 6: Implementing, monitoring and reviewing the Strategy**

- You may wish to consider listing some of the key partners integral to delivering the strategy.



Integrated Impact Assessment document (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Ian Bakewell Phone no: 01633 644479 E-mail: ianbakewell@monmouthshire.gov.uk	Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal Housing Support Programme Strategy
Name of Service area Housing & Communitues	Date 30 th December 2021

1. **Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	<p>This proposal positively affects people of all ages threatened with or actually homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted.</p> <p>The priority focus of the Strategy is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups. This includes older persons.</p> <p>This Strategy will increase the amount homeless accommodation available, the type of accommodation available and the quality of accommodation available. Similarly, it will increase the type of housing support available</p> <p>All homelessness activity, regardless of advice and information, homeless prevention or homeless accommodation will support people of all protected characteristics</p>	None	<p>No negative impacts will arise as a result of this Strategy, which will seek to continue building on homeless actions already delivered over the last year which includes:</p> <p>New Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-contained x 4 units and shared emergency family accommodation in the south • Self-contained one bedroomed flats x 8 for single people <p>New Housing Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary accommodation housing support • Assertive Outreach • Drug & Alcohol Assertive Outreach • Housing First • High need Young Persons Supported Housing
Disability	The Strategy specifically mitigates against a lack of accessible homeless accommodation and will seek to increase the availability of accessible accommodation.	As above	New self-contained emergency family accommodation in the South has increased the availability of accessible homeless accommodation. New single persons accommodation in Chepstow has provided additional ground floor units.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	<p>This proposal positively affects people of all ages threatened with or actually homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted.</p> <p>The priority focus of the Strategy is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.</p> <p>This includes older persons. This Strategy will increase the amount homeless accommodation available, the type of accommodation available and the quality of accommodation available. Similarly, it will increase the type of housing support available</p> <p>All homelessness activity will support people of all protected characteristics.</p>	As above	<p>No negative impacts will arise as a result of this Strategy, which will seek to continue building on homeless actions already delivered over the last year which includes:</p> <p>New Accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-contained x 4 units and shared emergency family accommodation in the south • Self-contained one bedroomed flats x 8 for single people <p>New Housing Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary accommodation housing support • Assertive Outreach • Drug & Alcohol Assertive Outreach • Housing First • High need Young Persons Supported Housing

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Marriage or civil partnership	<p>This proposal positively affects people of all ages threatened with or actually homeless from 16+. It will also benefit children of families who may be assisted.</p> <p>The priority focus of the Strategy is to help prevent homelessness of people falling within all protected characteristics groups.</p> <p>This includes older persons. This Strategy will increase the amount homeless accommodation available, the type of accommodation available and the quality of accommodation available. Similarly, it will increase the type of housing support available</p> <p>All homelessness activity will support people of all protected characteristics.</p>	As above	As above
Pregnancy or maternity	As above	As above	As above
Race	As above	As above	As above
Religion or Belief	.As above	As above	As above
Sex	As above	As above	As above
Sexual Orientation	As above	As above	As above

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions. This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
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Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

<p>A positive benefit of the Strategy is that it will help to tackle and mitigate against socio economic disadvantage.</p> <p>The Strategy is seeking to transform the delivery of homelessness services. In this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no need to sleep rough • Homeless prevention is a priority of this Strategy. This includes financial inclusion support eg income maximisation, budgeting support, digital inclusion support, minimisation of outgoings, financial assistance (for example - to access private sector accommodation or address arrears etc) which mitigates against socio-economic disadvantage. A key aim will be to intervene earlier and 'higher-up' stream • The Strategy will improve the quality and availability of temporary, permanent, semi-permanent and supported accommodation. • The aim will be for homelessness to be brief and non-recurring • A key action is to establish a Rapid Re-Housing Transition Plan • A move to Temporary 'Homes' – not the bare the necessity, which are safe & secure and where lives can be re-built. <p>In this context, good quality and warm 'homes' which provide safety, security and stability is positively conducive to children completing homework and studying, adults training and studying and adults accessing and maintaining employment. It's also similarly relevant to other areas of 'inclusion' such as access to broadband and financial services, such as insurance.</p>

<p>There are no negative impacts of the proposal.</p>

<p>The Strategy will build on existing homeless prevention services and Housing Support Services that mitigate against socio economic disadvantage. Such services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention fund • Discretionary housing payments • Temporary accommodation support • Re-settlement housing support • Generic floating housing support • Pobl Young Persons Supported Housing • Llamau Emphasis • Housing First
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	In addition to the provision of higher standards of accommodation which will offer greater stability for households, housing support will be available to households. Support assessments will give consideration to training and employment needs		
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3. Policy making and the Welsh language.

How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
<p>Policy Making</p> <p>Effects on the use of the Welsh language,</p> <p>Promoting Welsh language</p> <p>Treating the Welsh language no less favourably</p>	<p>Welsh Language will be factored into those areas of services where there is written information. Such examples where bi-lingual can be applied include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation agreements • Standard letters • Personal Housing Plans • Housing Support Plans • Accommodation signage • Website information • Hard information eg flyers 	None	N/A
<p>Operational</p> <p>Recruitment & Training of workforce</p>	<p>There is no requirement for Welsh speakers in respect of operational delivery and, therefore, recruitment and training. Welsh speakers are however, positively encouraged to apply for vacancies.</p> <p>Existing staff are encouraged through the Council's training unit to access Welsh lessons.</p>	None	At present there are two members of the Housing team who have taken up this opportunity.
<p>Service delivery</p> <p>Use of Welsh language in service delivery</p>	<p>Actions to improve the Council's delivery of the homeless service provide an opportunity to promote that anyone approaching the Council in respect of homelessness can deal with the Council in Welsh in person, by phone, email, Twitter, Facebook, letters, forms etc</p>	None	The Housing Register policy was reviewed last year and the changes are being implemented. One such change is establishing a Welsh version of the Homeseach website. The Homeseach website contains

Promoting use of the language			homeless information and, thereby, provides a building block for going forwards.
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4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!



Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>Positive: Homelessness is increasingly a priority for Welsh Government. Thereby it is a strategic priority for the Council. Due to the change in need and demand profiles, there has been a need to create additional posts/jobs and employment across the homeless sector to manage this change in demand. The Council has recruited additional staff in this regard</p> <p>The proposal contributes positively to increasing housing options for those who are threatened with homelessness or those who are actually homeless.</p> <p>The whole service is focused on delivering sustainable solutions that make efficient and best use of available resources. The central focus of this is for households needing homeless assistance being able to acquire their own sustainable accommodation and live as independently as possible. The service can provide wider benefits to other services eg facilitate hospital discharge; reduce reliance on Social Care packages; support criminal justice resources etc</p>	<p>Homeless services relating to accommodation provision will be positive in respect of employment because of the need for repairs and maintenance services that will benefit local companies and supply chains.</p> <p>An impact of Welsh Government policy has seen the increased use in B & B use in both numbers needing B & B and average lengths of stay due to the current lack of affordable housing and suitable temporary/supported accommodation. This isn't sustainable accommodation in terms of expenditure or the well-being of households accommodated. The Strategy will mitigate against this. For example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More flexible quotas of social housing being allocated to homeless households • Introducing shared housing within the social sector • Re-designation of social housing • Seeking to use the social housing grant programme to increase the availability of accommodation that will benefit homeless applicants • Seeking to develop Monmouthshire Lettings to promote and identify new accommodation opportunities in the private rented sector




Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>Stable and good quality accommodation that is safe and secure provides a good platform for homeless households to rebuild their lives, which will include</p> <p>Negative: The change in policy by Welsh Government, whilst for positive reasons (eg to minimize rough sleeping) there has been a resulting need to use additional B & B accommodation, which isn't considered as sustainable accommodation.</p>	
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Positive: N/A</p> <p>Negative: N/A</p>	<p>For emerging accommodation projects, the Council will use this as an opportunity to consider scope to incorporate accommodation standards that mitigate against climate change and tackling carbon emissions eg PV panels</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Positive: Homeless services in Monmouthshire positively contribute to positive health outcomes for homeless persons. This includes supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those with a physical disability, particularly through more accessible accommodation. The homeless team will also liaise with the Sustainable Living team and housing associations in respect of opportunities to adapt either temporary accommodation or permanent accommodation. • There will be increase support for those with substance and alcohol abuse issues through specific accommodation and specialist support 	<p>The Council already has established additional homeless services such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Intervention Panel • Additional temporary accommodation in general • Specific Temporary Accommodation Support and Resettlement Support • Housing First • Assertive Outreach for Drug and Alcohol • Rough sleeper Assertive Outreach <p>The above are all services that can be built on and wherever possible, expanded.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarly there will be increased support for those experiencing mental health issues. <p>Key actions for the Council through the Strategy will be to establish a Rapid Rehousing Transition plan, part of which includes a triage arrangement. The result will be that the needs of individuals will be a more systematic and robust approach to assessing needs.</p> <p>Another key action will be to strengthen current links with Health.</p> <p>Good housing supports well-being</p> <p>Negative: None.</p>	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Positive: The Strategy and the focus on additional homeless accommodation and a wider range of housing support services will reduce the likelihood of people not being able to remain living in their homes communities.</p> <p>For example, establishing provision, such as dedicated Emergency Family Accommodation both North and South to minimize the likelihood of households having to move to an alternative location and away from schools, facilities, health services, employment and other support networks.</p> <p>Supported housing schemes contribute to community safety through regular or permanent presence of professionals.</p>	<p>The Council previously only had dedicated family accommodation in the north of the County. The Council now has established dedicated provision in the south. However, it has been necessary to temporarily utilize the family accommodation in the north for high need single people</p> <p>In terms of community safety, homeless procedures are under-pinned by rigorous risk assessment procedures to inform homeless and support assessments and potential placements</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Accommodation standards will include elements such as CCTV. Negative: None	
A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	Positive: <i>Positively contributes to the effective use of resources and contributes positively to health if properties can be brought back into use.</i> Negative: N/A	N/A.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Positive: N/A Negative: N/A	N/A
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Positive: The proposal both strengthens the availability of residential accommodation in Monmouthshire. Any accommodation helps to increase the stability in people's lives improving opportunities in respect of personal finances; employment; training etc Negative: None.	N/A

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	<p>The proposal, which includes enforcement, seeks to provide a medium to long-term intervention. The proposal is not expected to deliver any short-term benefits</p> <p>The proposal is about planning ahead in respect of sustainable solutions and strategic planning</p>	<p>The Council will continue to operate a pro-active and positive approach will continue to contribute to positive impacts.</p>
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	<p>This proposal is based on a partnership approach through the following parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing & Communities and Housing Support Grant Commissioning • Welsh Government • Housing Associations • Housing Support Providers • Private property owners and letting agencies • Env Health • Planning • Anerin Bevan Health Board • Social Care • Private developers • Church community 	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>The Council has established an internal working group in respect of empty homes. This platform has been used to develop the empty property action plan.</p> <p>The high street survey raises awareness with shop owners/managers</p>	N/A
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>The proposal builds upon the existing proactive, positive, and supportive approach.</p> <p>By identifying empty properties such as spaces above shops, that supports the Council's preventative approach.</p>	
 <p>Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p> <p>Integration</p>	<p>The proposal indirectly positively impacts on well-being e.g., potential for additional good quality accommodation supports well-being and potential additional income for empty property owners</p>	N/A

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	<p>The proposal can support households where there could be safeguarding issues by providing safe and secure temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Stringent risk assessment processes are utilized for applicants presenting as homeless. This informs placements and referrals to agencies.</p>	None.	<p>The following are used to mitigate against any negative impacts:</p> <p>Procedure documents; staff meetings; briefing notes and training</p>
Corporate Parenting	The proposal supports Corporate Parenting by potentially providing safe and secure accommodation.	None.	

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What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

<p>Evidence has been gathered in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Statement of Need has been established to inform the Strategy • Statistical data – particularly homeless and Housing Support Grant related data • Anecdotal operational evidence and feedback • Stakeholder survey • Stakeholder themed workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Homeless prevention ○ Young people ○ Criminal justice ○ Health • Service user meetings • Service user satisfaction on homelessness, accommodation and housing support -
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8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template

Positive

The positive benefits of this proposal are:

- The proposal establishes a formal and whole authority approach to tackling empty properties
- It establishes a firm commitment by the Council to tackling empty properties using enforcement
- It will enable the Council to access Welsh Government load funding facility

Negative

None.

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ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Prepare reports for Enterprise DMT	6 th September 21 Enterprise DMT - Completed	Housing & Communities Manager
Submit action plan to WG	By 17 th September 21 - Completed	Strategy & Policy Officer
Cabinet Member Training	23 rd October 2021 – Completed	Strategy & Policy Officer
Prepare reports for Adults Select	By 9 th November 21 – Completed	Strategy & Policy Officer
Prepare reports for Cabinet	By 1 st December 21	Strategy & Policy Officer
Agenda for Empty Property Working Group	3 rd December 21	Strategy & Policy Officer

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this

process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Enterprise DMT	06.09.21	Minor amendments to improve clarity
2	Adults Select Committee	09.11.21	None

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**SUBJECT: REVENUE & CAPITAL MONITORING 2021/22
FORECAST OUTTURN STATEMENT – MONTH 9**

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 2nd March 2022

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To provide Members with an updated forecast of the revenue and capital outturn position for the current financial year.
- 1.2 This report will also be considered by Select Committees as part of their responsibility to,
 - assess whether effective budget monitoring is taking place,
 - monitor the extent to which budgets are spent in accordance with agreed budget and policy framework,
 - challenge the reasonableness of projected over or underspends, and
 - monitor the achievement of predicted efficiency gains or progress in relation to savings proposals.
- 1.3 To provide an update on the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet recognises a forecast surplus of £2.182m at year-end on the Council's core service delivery, a significant improvement in the forecast outturn position since month 6 of £4.122m.
- 2.2 That Cabinet note that the improvement in the forecast outturn has arisen both through continuing budget recovery action and more significantly through the notification of substantial further and late specific grant funding to be received from Welsh Government before the year-end.
- 2.3 That Cabinet recognises the importance of a positive outturn position being achieved for 2021/22, in that it safeguards and now forecasts to contribute to limited one-off reserve headroom retained to assist with meeting the unpredictable financial challenges over the medium term, and where uncertainty still remains to the extent of future pressures and the funding available to meet these challenges.
- 2.4 That Cabinet recognises that currently the overall net revenue forecast surplus at month 9 is £310k, as this takes account of a further forecast deficit of £1.872m that is directly associated with the extraordinary financial pressures attached to Covid-19. If, as expected the £1.872m is fully recovered from the WG Covid-19 hardship fund the overall surplus would be that on core service delivery of £2.182m.

- 2.5 That Cabinet can be reasonably assured based on commitments from Welsh Government, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses that are eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.
- 2.6 That Cabinet note that there remains significant Covid-19 related cost pressures and income losses forecast after the end of March 2022 and that these have been assessed and incorporated where required into the final budget proposals for 2022/23.
- 2.7 That Cabinet recognise that the current budget forecast allows for an estimated non-teaching pay award for 2021/22 of 1.75%. The outcome of pay negotiations is awaited and in the event that the agreed pay award is above this estimate, that this will present a further budgetary pressure. Welsh Government have been clear that no compensating funding is anticipated and given that the Minister confirmed via the final settlement that this already took into account any subsequent pay awards.
- 2.8 That Members note that the overall revenue outturn position continues to be subsidised by £2.2m of capital receipts which are being used to fund identified eligible expenditure under the flexible use of capital receipts directive.
- 2.9 That Members note the forecast 93% delivery of the budgeted mandated savings as detailed in **appendix 3** and as agreed by full Council previously and the implicit remedial action/savings included in the financial outturn to compensate for circa 7% savings (£309k) reported as delayed or unachievable by service managers.
- 2.10 Cabinet notes the extent of forecast improvements in school balances contained in **table 4** and **appendix 1** which is informed and driven by the extent to which significant and unprecedented late grant support provided by Welsh Government to schools at the end of 2020/21 exceeded the impact of school investment plans, and notably further receipt of unbudgeted grant support notified since month 6 totalling £2.06m.
- 2.11 Cabinet considers the forecast capital outturn spend of £31.5m as outlined in **appendix 1** that would result in forecast slippage of £54.3m, noting the continuing delays in progressing some of the key capital projects due to the ongoing challenging operating conditions and impact both internally and externally in relation to Covid-19.
- 2.12 That Cabinet approve the Capital budget revisions as listed in **appendix 4** to this report resulting from the notification of external capital grant awards to the value of £4.01m and draw on Section 106 balances of £971k.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Assessing the financial impact of the pandemic on the Council

- 3.2 The 2021/22 budget was set against the backdrop of an unprecedented period of uncertainty, both in Local Government and in the wider context. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have a major impact on all local authorities and wider public services across

Wales. From a financial perspective, the response to the pandemic has required the Council to incur significant additional expenditure, for example, costs relating to infection control measures, safeguarding the public and employees and support for elderly and vulnerable residents. In addition, income losses have also been substantial, during the period where services either have been closed or have experienced significant reductions in demand or footfall due to restrictions in place.

3.3 The Council has been given clear commitments of the proposed Welsh Government support to meet the Covid-19 pressures and significantly the announcement of further funding for local authorities via the Local Government Covid-19 hardship fund to the end of March 2022. Cabinet can be reasonably assured that all such Covid-19 related pressures will be funded during this period.

3.4 **Table 1** below indicates a total forecast net under spend for the Council at year-end of £310k and how this variance is broken down into that relating to core service delivery and that relating directly to the response to the pandemic.

Table 1: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast as at Month 9

Directorate	Total forecast variance at Month 9	Of which due to core service delivery:	Of which due to Covid-19 Expenditure Increase:	Of which due to Covid-19 Income Loss:
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	28	28	0	0
Children & Young People	1,128	1,128	0	0
Enterprise	47	(911)	261	697
Monlife	430	(128)	0	558
Chief Executives Unit	(160)	(160)	0	0
People & Governance	(179)	(179)	0	0
Resources	39	(217)	48	208
Corporate Costs & Levies	(693)	(693)	0	0
Appropriations	(400)	(400)	0	0
Financing	(550)	(650)	100	0
Total forecast Month 9	(310)	(2,182)	409	1,463
Total forecast Month 6	5,911	1,940	1,734	2,237
Variance from Month 6	(6,221)	(4,122)	(1,325)	(774)

3.5 The overall forecast surplus of £310k comprises expected additional costs of £409k and income losses of £1.463m directly related to the impact of Covid-19 on the Council, alongside a forecast £2.182m surplus on core Council service delivery. If, as expected, the £1.872m is fully recovered from the WG Covid-19 hardship fund the overall surplus would be £2.182m.

- 3.6 It is important to note that the combined forecast overspend of £1.872m (£409k and £1,463k in the table above) relating specifically to the Covid-19 impact is presented on a prudent basis in so much that it displays a worst case scenario that does not take into account any of the further Welsh Government Hardship funding anticipated to meet the additional costs or reimbursement of income losses that have equally resulted.
- 3.7 The Council can be reasonably assured based on continued dialogue with Welsh Government and their current funding commitments, that all Covid-19 associated cost pressures and income losses eligible to be met by the Welsh Government Covid-19 Hardship fund will be funded to the end of March 2022.
- 3.8 Whilst the Council is grateful for the funding commitments made to date by Welsh Government through the Covid-19 Hardship fund, it is imperative that the Council looks to continue to make strong representations for further clarity on funding arrangements for the ongoing Covid-19 pressures post March 2022. As Covid-19 restrictions continue to ease some of these pressures are expected to fall away quickly, others will take some time to unwind and stabilise, whilst others will be of a more permanent nature brought about by strategic policy change enacted by Welsh Government.
- 3.9 The Council prudently set aside reserve funding at the end of 2019/20 and 2020/21 totalling £2.6m for specific Covid-19 related pressures which were yet to materialise, and in the event that funding commitments from Welsh Government fall short of meeting the additional expenditure and income losses, and this reserve funding will be available to mitigate the impact. Given the Council's comparatively low level of reserve cover, and the financial challenges over the medium term and beyond, recourse to this funding should be seen as an absolute last resort after exhausting all other alternative options. Therefore, it remains of critical importance that services manage budgets and expenditure tightly and take all opportunities to maximise income generation and bear down on cost. It is vitally important that services do not become reliant upon WG support and develop strategies that allow them to emerge from the pandemic on a sustainable financial footing.
- 3.10 Just as importantly as managing the direct impacts of the pandemic on the Council, the wider and longer lasting indirect impact on Council services need to be considered, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs. There remains significant latent and complex demands in these areas as a result of the ongoing societal impacts of the Covid-19 response and restrictions, and some of these impacts will take a significant period of time to unwind and the Council needs to engage in careful discussions with Welsh Government around the management of this in the medium term. Alongside this Council services need to prepare to be adaptable and innovative in their response to these pressures materialising and not simply rely on traditional methods of mitigation or solely place reliance on further funding coming forward.
- 3.11 **Financial assessment of core service delivery**
- 3.12 As the Council continues to transition from the response phase of the pandemic it is important that Cabinet is kept informed as impacts are being assessed. The Council had already faced significant financial challenges in setting a balanced budget for 2021/22 and

the pandemic has only accentuated the challenge. The budget round saw £10.3m of budget pressures accommodated, notably:

- In full, all pay and pension-related spending pressures in our schooling system;
- The increasing demand placed on children’s social care services, adult social care and our children with additional learning needs budgets;
- Significant service pressures within the passenger transport unit and within recycling and waste and that look to ensure that the Council supports and sustains key service delivery;
- Investment that ensures that homeless people are provided adequate support, advice and accommodation in their time of need;
- An ongoing commitment to recognise and value the contribution made by the workforce and ensuring that local government staff are paid no less than the minimum wage set by the Living Wage Foundation. And that as a result of the Cabinet decision in January 2021 is also extended to apprenticeship roles within the Council.

3.13 Despite accommodating the above pressures into the 2021/22 budget, at month 9 there continues to be significant in year core service pressures forecast, with many of these pressures developing in the same key areas that have been provided additional support in the budget. Critically as we have moved through the financial year we have been notified of significant unbudgeted grant funding which has helped offset these pressures.

3.14 The principal pressures and savings are within the areas of:

Pressure/Saving	Month 9 £000's	Month 6 £000's	Description
Children’s services	394	695	Despite stabilisation in Children looked after numbers, new children have required high cost residential placements, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements. A recent legal case has also led to the need to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training. The pressure has been considerably offset since month 6 by £627k of unbudgeted WG winter pressure grant.
Adults Services	(253)	547	The pressure on this budget is largely as a result of additional carer recruitment to our in house care at home service, and increased care packages in the South of the County. This has been significantly offset since month 6 by £823k of unbudgeted grant in respect of winter pressures and the social care recovery fund.
Additional Learning Needs	1,065	982	Primarily due to a reduction in income from other LAs (£244k), additional support for pupils

			attending our own schools (£278k), and placement costs outside of our own schools (£460k).
Landlord services	181	401	Reduced income from recharges into capital schemes due to a lower level of activity in the capital programme, alongside an in-year adjustment to correct a control account in-balance due to the mis-posting of income in previous years.
Transport & Passenger Transport Unit (PTU)	241	236	The cost of maintaining the authority's fleet has exceeded available budget.
Non-teaching pay award	837	837	An allowance has been made within the forecast for the expected result of pay award negotiations over and above the 1% already budgeted for. The estimate is based on an expected award of 1.75% with negotiations continuing between local government employer's representatives and trade unions.
Holiday pay in relation to regularised overtime	493	0	A statutory change has meant that staff who work over their contracted hours as part of their normal working pattern, or casual staff who are given standard working hours, are entitled to accrued holidays. This pressure reflects the backdated pressure of bringing staff in line with the revised regulations for both 2020/21 and 2021/22.
Council tax	(650)	(750)	Out-performance of budgeted Council tax collection.
Borrowing costs	(571)	(230)	A reduction in net budgeted borrowing costs reflective of the continuing low interest rate environment and significant capital slippage.
Staff vacancies	(1,064)	(540)	Significant staff vacancies being carried in the establishment.
Waste contract & recyclates	(494)	(157)	The HWRC and transfer station contract savings have been realised since month 6 and a relatively buoyant recycling market in Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 have reduced costs. Planned expenditure on new depot infrastructure in south of county has not materialised due to the lack of suitable site availability to house recycling and waste fleet.
Unbudgeted grant income	(3,469)		Additional £1.019m grant notified for reductions in Council tax income during the period, alongside £1m in further AEF distribution. A further £1.25m notified in relation to Social care winter pressures, with a further allocation of £200k from the social care recovery fund. *£1.45m of this amount is shown above as already netting off the above pressures in relation to Children's & Adults services.

- 3.15 Importantly the overall outturn position also continues to be supported by £2.2m of identified eligible expenditure to be funded from capital receipts under the flexible use of capital receipts directive. Reliance on these mitigations is a short term measure only and is clearly not sustainable over the medium term.
- 3.16 As the financial year progresses there will inevitably be further forecast budget pressures and savings identified and added to the budget forecast. **Appendix 2** provides an analysis of both the significant forecast pressures and savings already identified at month 9.
- 3.17 It is important to note that the majority of the savings identified during the year to assist the in-year budget recovery are one-off savings and will not bring any further benefit to future year's budgets. Conversely, the majority of those pressures highlighted above are recurrent pressures and were considered as part of the wider budget process for 2022/23 and beyond.
- 3.18 Following the further funding commitments received from WG for Covid-19 related pressures, as we look to the remainder of the financial year the key financial focus and uncertainty continues to be in achieving a positive outturn position in the core service delivery. To that end the ongoing budget recovery plan remains vital in ensuring that the Council ends the year in a robust financial position and without needing to deplete reserve balances which are at comparatively low levels despite the recent replenishment, and particularly in light of the challenging budgetary position leading into 2022/23.
- 3.19 **Progress against mandated savings**
- 3.20 The 2021/22 budget included mandated savings totalling £4.734m and the progress against these is summarised in **table 3** below and in more detail in **appendix 3**.

Table 3: Progress against mandated savings

Directorate	2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Saving achieved £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings Unachievable £000	% Achieved
Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,275)	(235)	0	84%
Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	0	0	100%
Enterprise	(821)	(821)	0	0	100%
Monlife	(100)	(80)	0	(20)	80%
Resources	(165)	(123)	(42)	0	75%
Chief Executives Unit	(32)	(20)	(12)	0	63%
Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	100%
Appropriations	275	275	0	0	100%
Total	(4,734)	(4,426)	(289)	(20)	93%

3.21 It is pleasing to note the forecast 93% delivery of mandated savings, especially in light of the ongoing challenges faced by services in the current operating conditions. Finance officers will continue to work with services to ensure that these savings are fully delivered as the year progresses and to look at options for delivering on savings indicated as delayed.

3.22 School balances

3.23 From a financial perspective, 2020/21 was an unprecedented year for schools who received several significant Welsh Government grants to support them and their pupils during a period of significant disruption to learning, and alongside this sustained periods of enforced closure during the financial year resulted in spending on core budgets being significantly curtailed. This resulted in the majority of schools bringing forward significant surplus balances into the 2021/22 financial year.

3.24 The Authority required schools carrying significant surplus balances that were above levels guided by Welsh Government (£50k for a Primary, £100k for a Secondary) to provide investment plans setting out how they intended to spend the significant balances being held. These plans have subsequently been completed and assessed and has informed the budget monitoring process.

3.25 At month 9, the forecast is a contribution to reserves of £686,954, resulting in a forecast surplus balance of £4,105,074. The majority of the increase in reserve balances is due to further additional unbudgeted grants notified from Welsh Government during the year:

- £1,089,288 to cover revenue maintenance
- £117,306 Winter of Wellbeing
- £184,076 ALN new system funding
- £668,971 RRR's funding.

All schools are putting in place plans to ensure the most effective and beneficial use of these grants is made.

Table 4: Forecast movement school balances for 2021/22

Draft Council Fund Outturn 2021/22 – School Balances Summary outturn position at Month 9	(A) Opening Reserves (Surplus) / Deficit Position 2021/22	(B) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 2	(C) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 6	(D) Draw / (Contribution) from / (to) School Balances @ Month 9	(A+D) Forecast Reserve Balances at 2021/22 Outturn	Variance Draw on School Balances Month 6 to Month 9
	£000's	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cluster						
Abergavenny	(1,158)	309	426	(197)	(1,355)	(623)
Caldicot	(1,091)	539	372	(197)	(1,288)	(569)

Chepstow	(349)	516	417	42	(307)	(375)
Monmouth	(794)	457	354	(318)	(1,113)	(673)
Special	(26)	(39)	(11)	(16)	(42)	(5)
Total	(3,418)	1,782	1,558	(687)	(4,105)	(2,245)

3.26 Irrespective of the significant one-off funding given to schools at the end of 2020/21, and the further grants notified during 2021/22, it is clear that the inherent structural budget deficits that led to a significant number of schools being in deficit over the past few years remain and that these will require resolution regardless. It is expected that the additional funding made available to those schools will allow a period of transition and as to allow those underlying budgetary issues to be rectified without impacting on educational standards.

3.27 Capital outturn forecast

3.28 The capital expenditure forecast outturn detailed in **appendix 1** indicates no variance to budget at the present time. This is not uncommon on capital projects at this stage of the year where projects are in progress and final consolidation of costs will not be undertaken until later in the year.

3.29 The impact of Covid-19 on the programme has varied and is very much been dependent on the nature of the works being undertaken. Following initial delays on schemes during periods of operating restrictions, contractors are adapting to Covid-19 work restrictions, although cost inflation and supply chain issues continue to represent a challenge to project delivery. Some of the issues will be temporary, however it remains unclear whether increases in cost inflation will be sustained over the medium term.

3.30 There is therefore a significant level of slippage forecast at month 9 of £54.35m (63% of total budget) where some of the Councils major schemes have been impacted by delays:

- **Abergavenny 3-19 School (£26.399m)** where the original budget schedule for the project has changed considerably since the inception of the project due to external factors.
- **Asset Investment Fund (£18.092m)** where further expenditure is dependent on appropriate schemes coming forward that meet the Authorities investment criteria.
- **Crick Road Care Home (£5.964m)** where there have been delays in the building schedule.
- **Other notable slippages:** £813k for a backlog in disabled facility grant implementations; £516k for modifications to County Hall 'J' block, delayed due to a 'SUDS' consent being required; £489k for Match Funded Capital schemes and £280k on the Re-Fit programme.

3.31 The forecast movement in capital receipts balances for the year is shown below. Whilst overall balances on the face of it are healthy, there remains the risk that forecast receipts receivable for 2022/23 onwards are at comparatively low levels, and combined with the

fact that receipts are continuing to be used to subsidise the revenue budget through capitalisation direction means that the scope for further capital investment funded via receipts will be limited.

Table 5: Forecast movement in capital receipt balances

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,208)	(2,650)	(507)	(507)	(507)
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

4 OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the current financial situation and the challenges facing the Council now and over the medium term. It has been prepared at a time of great uncertainty as the Council still transitions from the emergency response phase of the Covid-19 pandemic towards a period of recovery.
- 4.1 The outturn forecast that has been prepared for consideration is predicated on assumptions that have been independently assessed by budget holders and subsequently reviewed as part of the budget monitoring process. These assumptions don't look to represent a policy position that Cabinet is looking to take on when services are re-opening, either fully or in a more limited capacity, or how services are looking to respond to the changing demands. Rather they represent a reasoned assessment of the impact on services in year based on known information, anticipated future changes and estimates.
- 4.2 By far the greatest uncertainty that exists is the continued level of Welsh Government funding to be received to offset additional costs incurred in responding to the Covid-19 emergency response and the significant income losses that have resulted where services have ceased as a result of the lockdown restrictions in place. Current funding commitments from Welsh Government are due end in March 2022 in their current form and the council will continue to make strong representations for further clarity on funding for the ongoing Covid-19 pressures faced.

5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 This forecast outturn report represents an assessment of the forecast for the 2021/22 financial year based on nine months of data. More so than ever the combination of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on service operating conditions and the fact that it is only part way through the financial year, means that a level of risk uncertainty should be attributed to the forecast.

- 5.2 There is an increased level of comfort that Welsh Government funding will meet additional costs and income losses brought about by the response to and the impact of the pandemic to the end of the financial year. However, this continues to represent a risk that will only be mitigated by monthly and quarterly submissions to Welsh Government being agreed. And furthermore and beyond those impacts resulting from Covid-19 there exists a number of significant cost pressures that need to be managed regardless.
- 5.3 The Council has traditionally maintained formal reporting to Cabinet at month 2, month 5, month 9 and outturn, with more frequent budget monitoring information being undertaken at a departmental level and reported to management and the Strategic Leadership Team. More regular formal reporting to Cabinet is considered necessary only where circumstances necessitate it.
- 5.4 Given the further funding commitments made by Welsh Government through to the end of the year to cover Covid-19 pressures, it is considered appropriate to maintain the traditional reporting frequency for the remainder of this financial year, with further reporting to take place at outturn.
- 5.5 The update of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the development of the budget proposals for 2022/23 have been finalised. The Council has needed to consider the wider and longer lasting indirect Covid-19 impact on Council services, particularly in the areas of Homelessness, Children's services, Adult social care and Children's additional learning needs. There remains significant latent and complex demands in these areas as a result of the ongoing societal impacts of the Covid-19 response and restrictions, and some of these impacts will take a significant period of time to unwind and the Council will therefore continue to engage in careful discussions with Welsh Government around the management of this in the medium term.

6 REASONS:

- 6.1 To provide Members with an updated forecast of the revenue and capital outturn position for the current financial year.
- 6.2 To ensure that the gravity of the financial challenges facing the Council are understood and that reasonable actions are being taken to safeguard the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 The resource implications of the current in-year forecast outturn are contained in this report and the attached appendices. The forecast outturn exhibits an under spend of £310k. However further Welsh Government Covid-19 hardship funding is expected to be received through the end of year of £1.709m which is not included in the current forecast.
- 7.2 The financial challenges facing the Council and resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic are significant in the current year and will undoubtedly be a feature of the next 4 years of the MTFP. Not just for this Council but all councils across Wales and the UK. The Council is having to incur significant costs in its response effort and this will continue as it transitions towards recovery. Furthermore and resulting from the restrictions that UK Government and Welsh Government have had to put in place to contain the spread of the virus we are

suffering significant shortfalls in our income levels. Some of these will return more quickly than others as services are able to be safely turned back on.

7.3 In terms of how the Council will respond to the challenges faced in the current year and over the medium term this will very much depend on the level of compensating funding received from Welsh Government and the flexibilities afforded to Welsh local authorities to spread the impact over more than one financial year.

7.4 The more immediate focus has been in arresting the core service delivery deficit that was forecast earlier in the financial year. To that end the ongoing budget recovery plan has been vital in ensuring that the Council ends the year in a positive position and without needing to deplete reserve balances which are at comparatively low levels despite the recent replenishment, and particularly in light of the challenging budgetary position it has had to overcome leading into 2022/23.

8 EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

8.1 This report provides Members with information on the forecast revenue and capital outturn position of the Authority and carries no decisions. There are therefore no equality of future generations' implications directly arising from this report.

8.2 Any such impacts will be fully considered subsequently when Council receives details the budget recovery plan and revised budget proposals.

9 CONSULTEES:

Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Detailed outturn statements and directorate commentaries

Appendix 2 – Service variance analysis

Appendix 3 – Progress against budgeted savings

Appendix 4 – Capital external financing budget revisions

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Social Care, Health & Safeguarding Summary		COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			Total
	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	
Adult Services	(4)	0		0	(4)
Children Services	396	0	0	0	396
Community Care	(67)	0	0	0	(67)
Commissioning	(155)	0	0	0	(155)
Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0
Public Protection	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
Resources & Performance	(27)	0	0	0	(27)
Total	28	0	0	0	28

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Social Care, Health & Safeguarding Detailed		COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			Total
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	
Adult Services					
Reduced capacity to offer services	(259)				(259)
Bad debt provision	99				99
Additional care packages & recruitment	156				156

Total Adult Services	(4)	0	0	0	(4)
Children Services					
High cost residential placements as a result of increased complexity	832				832
Legal case relating to rate historically paid to kinship carers	273				273
Legal costs	213				213
Agency staff requirement	75				75
Winter pressures grant unbudgeted	(627)				(627)
Net reduction in staffing requirement over the period	(104)				(104)
Transport/Other grant funding	(266)				(266)
Total Children's Services	396	0	0	0	396
Community Care					
A net underspend driven by lower referrals for drug & alcohol dependency and unbudgeted grant, offset by an increase in some car packages	(67)				(67)
Total Community Care	(67)	0	0	0	(67)
Commissioning					
Other	(22)				(22)
Staff vacancy	(99)				(99)
Termination of the Usk Services contract	(34)				(34)
Total Commissioning	(155)	0	0	0	(155)
Public Protection					
Other	(7)				(7)
Staff vacancies	(108)				(108)
Total Public Protection	(115)	0	0	0	(115)
Resources & Performance					
Other	13				13
Staff vacancy	(40)				(40)
Total Resources & Performance	(27)	0	0	0	(27)
Total	28	0	0	0	28

Children & Young People Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Individual Schools Budgets	(29)	0	0	0	(29)
Resources	8	0	0	0	8
Standards	1,149	0	0	0	1,149
Total	1,128	0	0	0	1,128

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Children & Young People Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Individual Schools Budgets					
Back pay due to school staff is less than anticipated	(29)				(29)
Total Individual Schools Budgets	(29)	0	0	0	(29)
Resources					
Additional support services staff	8				8
Total Resources	8	0	0	0	8
Standards					
Additional learning needs - placements, recoupment, support	1,065				1,065

Breakfast club income	62				62
Additional staffing	22				22
Total Standards	1,149	0	0	0	1,149
Total	1,128	0	0	0	1,128

Enterprise Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Enterprise & Community Animation	(197)	0	433	0	236
Facilities & Fleet	(28)	25	0	0	(3)
Neighbourhood Services	(604)	236	0	0	(368)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	(82)	0	264	0	182
Total	(911)	261	697	0	47

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Enterprise Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Enterprise & Community Animation					
Communications - Increase in Software Costs offset by increased income	6				6
Community & Pships - savings on course fees and mileage - staff costs to capitalisation (£29k)	(33)				(33)
Enterprise Mgt - Staff vacancy savings	(12)				

Homelessness - Increase in B&B costs, security costs due to Covid	(79)		433		
Sewage Treatment Costs - Shirenewton waste removal to avoid leaks.	24				
Housing Grant - Staff costs no longer covered by grant T&Cs	63				
Shared Housing & Private Leasing - Improved rental figures	(102)				
Housing Associations - Mortgage costs	8				8
Careline - Reduction in equipment spend, improved income.	(22)				(22)
Strategic Services - Vacant post savings.	(17)				(17)
Procurement	(33)				(33)
Total Enterprise & Community Animation	(197)	0	433	0	(91)
Facilities & Fleet					
Building Cleaning - Essential equipment repair & replacement.	0	25			25
PTU Commissioning - Reduction in in contract costs, windfall in operator payments going monthly. £50k route optimisation software capitalised	(269)				
Transport - Green car scheme loss £26k, increased repair costs £238k for additional vehicles taken on for covid & increased operations. Staff Cost to capitalisation £28k	241				
Total Facilities & Fleet	(28)	25	0	0	25
Neighbourhood Services					
Highways & Streetlighting - Energy & maintenance savings	(110)				(110)
Waste/Grounds - Savings from recyclates and reduced waste mgt contract + Increased vehicles due to covid.	(494)	236			
Total Neighbourhood Services	(604)	236	0	0	(110)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood					
Planning - Lost Pre-app income	35				35
Building Control - Lost income			73		
Car Parking & CPE - Software, premises and transport overspend	49				
Car Parking & CPE Income down			191		
Highway Dev & Flooding - Staff uspend & improved income.	(166)				

Total Placemaking, Highways & Flood	(82)	0	264	0	35
Total	(911)	261	697	0	(141)

MonLife Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Countryside & Culture	14	0	78	0	92
Finance & Business Development	(145)	0	38	0	(107)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	3	0	442	0	445
Total	(128)	0	558	0	430

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Monlife Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Countryside & Culture					
Countryside & Culture - Income Loss, contribution to Living Levels	14		78		92
Total Countryside & Culture	14	0	78	0	92
Finance & Business Development					
Finance & Business Development - Income Loss (£38k), Staff Vacancy savings (£145k)	(145)		38		(107)
Total Finance & Business Development	(145)	0	38	0	(107)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure					
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure - Loss of leisure centre & outdoor adventure income	3		442		445

Total Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	3	0	442	0	445
Total	(128)	0	558	0	430

Resources Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	181	48	157	0	386
Finance	(376)	0	51	0	(325)
Future Monmouthshire	0	0	0	0	0
Information Communication Technology	(22)	0	0	0	(22)
Total	(217)	48	208	0	39

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Resources Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services					
Estates - Income loss from vacant office space in magor and loss of service charge, offset by staff savings	(96)		37		(59)
Solar Farm - Improved ROC income	(40)				(40)
Commercial Investments - income shortfall NLP	(74)		66		(8)
Commercial Investments - Castlegate - Control account mis-post	250				250

County Farms - Increase in fees, and a reduction in tenant income.	21				21
Property Services - Reduction on project fee income	43				43
Central Accommodation - Pru borrowing hit for J block - increase in repair costs. Additional cleaning costs (£48k)	42	48			90
MCC Markets - Income Loss due to 50% charge due tot refurb, £78k due to covid rules. £35k over on Refuse.	35		54		89
Total Commercial, Corporate & landlord Services	181	48	157	0	386
Finance					
Benefits - B&B HB claims increasing due to Covid, not all can be claimed against Housing benefit subsidy so pressure on budget.	42				42
Council Tax & NNDR - Shortfall in Summons income due to courts being closed and decision to halt recovery of Unpaid Council Tax & Business Rates. Salary overspend as budget moved as part of restructure that has not taken place yet.	57		51		108
Charity Relief - Business Grants admin grant payment	(132)				(132)
Debtors - Vacant post	(4)				(4)
Finance & Imp - Senior staff vacancy saving	(243)				(243)
Payroll - Staff vacancy savings	(60)				(60)
Innovation - Staff Costs					0
Audit - Staff Savings	(15)				(15)
Systems & Exchequer - Security carrier savings, system dev postponement savings.	(21)				(21)
Total Finance	(376)	0	51	0	(325)
ICT					
SRS - Contribution savings	(22)				(22)
Total ICT	(22)	0	0	0	(22)
Total	(217)	48	208	0	39

Chief Executive Summary		Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION		Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service		(160)	0	0	0	(160)
Total		(160)	0	0	0	(160)

Page 198	Chief Executive Detailed		Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
			Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service							
Community Hubs - Unachievable income budget.		29					29
Community Education - Grant Windfall from 20-21.		(159)					(159)
Contact Centre - Increased staff costs offset by savings due to delay in new telephony system.		(65)					(65)
Corporate CEO - Inability to meet vacancy factor and increase in licensing fees		9					9
Scrutiny - Unachievable Staff vacancy savings		1					1
Policy & Partnerships - Welsh Language Overspend due to covid, reduction in third party contributions.		25					25
Total Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service		(160)	0	0	0	0	(160)
Total		(160)	0	0	0	0	(160)

People & Governance Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
People & Governance	(179)	0	0	0	(179)
Total	(179)	0	0	0	(179)

People & Governance Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
Page 199	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£,000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£,000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£,000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£,000)	Total
People & Governance					
Innovation - Staff re-grading, no budget	8				8
Members - IT Equipment saving and mileage/allowance due to less travel for meetings	(50)				(50)
Elections - Reduced canvassing costs offset by increased salary.	0				0
Committee Section - Increased staff hours	18				18
Legal - Staff savings through delay in employing lawyer.	(24)				(24)
Land Charges - Vacant Post & improved search income	(37)				(37)
People Services - Senior staff vacancy savings (£80K) and reduce demand in occ health. (£11k), Training Staff vacancy (£3k)	(94)				(94)
Total People & Governance	(179)	0	0	0	(179)
Total	(179)	0	0	0	(179)

Corporate Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies	13	0	0	0	13
Corporate Management	(94)	0	0	0	(94)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	62	0	0	0	62
Strategic Initiatives	(677)	0	0	0	(677)
Insurance	3	0	0	0	3
Total	(693)	0	0	0	(693)

Corporate Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Precepts & Levies					
National parks levy	13				13
Total Precepts & Levies	13	0	0	0	13
Corporate Management					
Bad debt provision reversal	(86)				(86)
Other	(8)				(8)

Total Corporate management	(94)	0	0	0	(94)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)					
Pension strain costs	62				62
Total Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	62	0	0	0	62
Strategic Initiatives					
Other	12				
Holiday pay in relation to regularised overtime	493				
Unbudgeted grant - Council tax losses	(1,019)				
Additional AEF notified	(1,000)				
Pay award pressure over and above 1% budgeted	837				837
Total Strategic Initiatives	(677)	0	0	0	837
Insurance					
Premium	(40)				(40)
Fees	(34)				(34)
Usk trust payment, offset by lower forecast Self insured costs	77				77
Total Insurance	3	0	0	0	3
Total	(693)	0	0	0	821

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Appropriations Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	171	0	0	0	171
Interest & Investment Income	(72)	0	0	0	(72)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(403)	0	0	0	(403)
Charges Required under Regulation	(11)	0	0	0	(11)
Borrowing cost recoupment	(85)	0	0	0	(85)
Total	(400)	0	0	0	(400)

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Appropriations Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs					
Unbudgeted security costs	171				171
Total Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	171	0	0	0	171
Interest & Investment Income					
Returns higher than budgeted due to increase in rates and additional unbudgeted recoupment	(72)				(72)

Total Interest & Investment Income	(72)	0	0	0	(72)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges					
Temporary borrowing costs remaining very low	(403)				(403)
Total Interest Payable & Similar Charges	(403)	0	0	0	(403)
Charges Required under Regulation					
Due to capital slippage in 20/21	(11)				(11)
Total Charges Required under Regulation	(11)	0	0	0	(11)
Unbudgeted recoupment from service	(85)				(85)
Borrowing cost recoupment	(85)	0	0	0	(85)
Total	(400)	0	0	0	(400)







Financing Summary	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
DIVISION	Net Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax	(650)	0	0	0	(650)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	100	0	0	100
Total	(650)	100	0	0	(550)

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Financing Detailed	Non Covid-19 Pressures	COVID- 19 Specific PRESSURES			
	Service Pressures not related to Covid-19 (£000)	Expenditure directly attributable to Covid- 19 (£000)	Shortfall /Loss of Income due to Covid-19 (£000)	Costs incurred due to changes in service delivery (£000)	Total
Council Tax					
Increase in base, reductions in exemptions, collection rate remaining healthy	(650)				(650)
Total Council Tax	(650)	0	0	0	(650)
Council Tax Reduction Scheme					
CTRS		100			100
Total Council Tax Reduction Scheme	0	100	0	0	100
Total	(650)	100	0	0	(550)

(SELECT)	REF.	Disinvestment 2021-22	2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 2 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 6 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 9 £000	Value of Saving achieved at Outturn £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings deemed Unachievable YTD £000	% Forecast M6
		Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0	83.9%
		Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Enterprise	(821)	(821)	(821)	(821)	0	0	0	99.9%
		MonLife	(100)	(80)	(80)	(80)	0	0	(20)	80.0%
		Resources	(165)	(165)	(117)	(123)	0	(42)	0	70.9%
		Chief Executives Units	(32)	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	(12)	0	62.5%
		Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Appropriations	275	275	275	275	0	0	0	100.0%
		Totals Disinvestments by Directorate	(4,734)	(4,506)	(4,411)	(4,426)	0	(289)	(20)	93.2%

		Children & Young People Select Committee	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0	83.9%
		Adult Select Committee	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0	100.0%
		Economic & Development Select Committee	(162)	(142)	(142)	(142)	0	0	(20)	87.5%
		Strong Communities Select Committee	(2,189)	(2,177)	(2,129)	(2,135)	0	(54)	0	97.3%
		Totals Disinvestments by Select	(4,734)	(4,506)	(4,411)	(4,426)	0	(289)	(20)	93.2%

Page 205	Children & Young People		2021/22 Budgeted Savings £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 2 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 6 £000	Value of Saving forecast at Month 9 £000	Value of Saving achieved at Outturn £000	Delayed Savings £000	Savings deemed Unachievable £000	Traffic Light based Risk Assessment	ASSESSMENT of Progress	Risk of current forecast saving NOT being achieved (High / Medium / Low)
	CYP	CYP 1	Mounton House closure impact on ISB	(1,258)	(1,258)	(1,258)	(1,258)	0	0	0		Achieved
CYP	CYP 2	Additional recoupment income - mainstream	(252)	(55)	(8)	(17)	0	(235)	0		Unlikely to achieve saving, as several pupils have moved into Monmouthshire, meaning we can no longer recoup from other LA's	High
		Total Children & Young People	(1,510)	(1,313)	(1,266)	(1,275)	0	(235)	0			
		Social Care & Health										
ADULT	SCH 1	Fees & Charges 2021/22	(79)	(79)	(79)	(79)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
ADULT	SCH 2	Increase in Social Care Workforce Development (SCWD) grant	(247)	(247)	(247)	(247)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
ADULT	SCH 3	Removal of TWUD base budget	(548)	(548)	(548)	(548)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Social Care & Health	(874)	(874)	(874)	(874)	0	0	0			
		Enterprise										
E&D	ENT	PLANHOUS - Staff Saving - 20-21 Staff Restructure Savings (£11,950) + £50k LDP senior officer saving, frozen until 23/24.	(62)	(62)	(62)	(62)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low

SCOMM	ENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD - Waste - Service Savings	(685)	(685)	(685)	(685)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	ENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD - Grounds Maintenance - Remove Sweeper & Staff savings	(65)	(65)	(65)	(65)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	ENT	Increase in discretionary Fees & Charges	(9)	(9)	(9)	(9)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Enterprise	(821)	(821)	(821)	(821)	0	0	0			
		MonLife										
E&D	MonLife	MONLIFE - Removal of Events Co-ordinator Post	(25)	(25)	(25)	(25)	0	0	0		Achieved post has not been filled.	Low
E&D	MonLife	MONLIFE - Introduce Car Parking Charges at Caldicot Castle	(20)	0	0	0	0	0	(20)		Will not be achieved this financial year as charges are not being introduced.	High
E&D	MonLife	Increase in discretionary Fees & Charges	(55)	(55)	(55)	(55)	0	0	0		Increase has been implemented, any shortfall will be claimed from WG loss of income claims.	Low
		Total MonLife	(100)	(80)	(80)	(80)	0	0	(20)			
		Chief Executive's Unit										
SCOMM	CEO	GOVDEMSUP - Members Supplies & Services	(15)	(15)	(15)	(15)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	CEO	GOVDEMSUP - Staff Vacancy Saving	(17)	(5)	(5)	(5)	0	(12)	0		Increased staff hours have partly offset saving	High
		Total Chief Executive's Unit	(32)	(20)	(20)	(20)	0	(12)	0			
		Resources										
SCOMM	RES	CORPLLORD - Property Accommodation Savings.	(50)	(50)	(2)	(8)	0	(42)	0		Will not be achieved in full in 21-22, maintenance costs have increased across our office sites this year.	Low
SCOMM	RES	FUTUREMON - Mileage Savings	(71)	(71)	(71)	(71)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
SCOMM	RES	FUTUREMON - Staff Secondment Savings	(44)	(44)	(44)	(44)	0	0	0		Achieved	Low
		Total Resources	(165)	(165)	(117)	(123)	0	(42)	0			
		Corporate Costs & Levies										
SCOMM	COL001	Capitalisation directive	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0		Likely to be taken in full	Low
		Total Corporate Costs & Levies	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	(1,508)	0	0	0			
		Appropriations										
SCOMM	APP001	Net Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) increase based on additional activity	275	275	275	275	0	0	0		Included in overall MRP charge for year	Low
		Total Appropriations	275	275	275	275	0	0	0			

Council Fund 2021/22 ADULT Select Month 9 Detailed Statement

Table 1: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast Summary Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
<u>Social Care, Health & Safeguarding</u>	52,825	(182)	52,643	52,671	28	1,181	(1,153)
<u>Children & Young People</u>	56,527	48	56,575	57,703	1,128	1,262	(134)
<u>Enterprise</u>	21,884	(468)	21,416	21,463	47	913	(866)
<u>MonLife</u>	3,951	17	3,968	4,398	430	1,228	(798)
<u>Chief Executives Unit</u>	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
<u>People & Governance</u>	3,383	427	3,809	3,630	(179)	(184)	5
<u>Resources</u>	7,235	(849)	6,386	6,425	38	1,504	(1,466)
<u>Corporate Costs & Levies</u>	23,414	847	24,261	23,569	(693)	705	(1,398)
Net Cost of Services	172,130	(261)	171,870	172,510	640	6,568	(5,928)
<u>Appropriations</u>	5,836	261	6,097	5,697	(400)	(93)	(307)
Expenditure to be Financed	177,966	0	177,966	178,207	240	6,475	(6,235)
<u>Financing</u>	(177,966)	0	(177,966)	(178,517)	(550)	(564)	14
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	(310)	(310)	5,911	(6,221)

Table 2: Council Fund 2021/22 Outturn Forecast Detailed Statement at Month 9

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's	'000's
Adult Services	8,341	(81)	8,261	8,257	(4)	629	(633)
Children Services	16,147	(85)	16,061	16,458	397	695	(298)
Community Care	24,386	(43)	24,342	24,275	(67)	96	(163)
Commissioning	1,431	(37)	1,394	1,239	(155)	(162)	7
Partnerships	436	0	436	436	(0)	0	(0)
Public Protection	1,523	18	1,541	1,426	(115)	(60)	(55)
Resources & Performance	560	47	607	580	(27)	(17)	(10)
Social Care, Health & Safeguarding	52,825	(182)	52,643	52,671	28	1,181	(1,153)
Individual Schools Budget	46,488	43	46,531	46,502	(29)	166	(195)
Resources	1,167	4	1,171	1,180	8	18	(10)
Standards	8,871	1	8,872	10,021	1,149	1,078	71
Children & Young People	56,527	48	56,575	57,703	1,128	1,262	(134)
Business Growth & Enterprise	3,024	10	3,034	3,270	236	534	(298)
Facilities & Fleet Management	5,487	(54)	5,433	5,429	(4)	437	(441)
Neighbourhood Services	11,233	(180)	11,053	10,685	(368)	(185)	(183)
Placemaking, Highways & Flood	2,140	(244)	1,896	2,079	183	127	56
Enterprise	21,884	(468)	21,416	21,463	47	913	(866)
Countryside & Culture	1,422	(0)	1,422	1,514	92	72	20
Finance & Business Development	1,735	23	1,758	1,651	(107)	8	(115)
Leisure, Youth & Outdoor Adventure	794	(6)	787	1,233	446	1,148	(702)
MonLife	3,951	17	3,968	4,398	430	1,228	(798)
Policy, Scrutiny & Customer Service	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
Chief Executives	2,912	(100)	2,812	2,652	(160)	(41)	(119)
Democratic Services	2,424	(82)	2,342	2,257	(85)	(114)	29

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
Emergency Planning	152	0	152	152	(0)	0	(0)
People	807	508	1,315	1,221	(94)	(62)	(32)
People & Governance	3,383	427	3,809	3,630	(179)	(176)	(3)
Finance	3,339	(475)	2,864	2,539	(325)	760	(1,085)
Information, Communication Technology	3,029	(367)	2,662	2,641	(21)	(17)	(3)
Commercial & Corporate Landlord	868	(7)	860	1,245	384	754	(370)
Resources	7,235	(849)	6,386	6,425	38	1,496	(1,458)
Precepts & Levies	21,362	0	21,362	21,375	13	13	(0)
Coroner's	147	0	147	147	(0)	0	(0)
Archives	182	0	182	182	(0)	0	(0)
Corporate Management	339	0	339	245	(94)	(68)	(26)
Non Distributed Costs (NDC)	643	0	643	705	62	62	0
Strategic Initiatives	(836)	823	(13)	(689)	(676)	837	(1,513)
Insurance	1,578	24	1,601	1,604	3	(140)	143
Corporate Costs & Levies	23,414	847	24,261	23,569	(693)	705	(1,398)
Net Cost of Services	172,130	(261)	171,870	172,510	640	6,568	(5,928)
Fixed Asset Disposal Costs	30	0	30	201	171	136	35
Interest & Investment Income	(134)	0	(134)	(203)	(69)	11	(80)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	3,736	0	3,736	3,333	(403)	(230)	(173)
Charges Required under Regulation	6,404	0	6,404	6,393	(11)	(10)	(1)
Other Investment Income	0	0	0	(2)	(2)	0	(2)
Borrowing Cost Recoupment	(3,619)	0	(3,619)	(3,704)	(85)	0	(85)
Contributions to Reserves	195	0	195	195	(0)	0	(0)
Contributions from reserves	(777)	261	(516)	(516)	(0)	(0)	0
Appropriations	5,836	261	6,097	5,697	(400)	(93)	(307)
Expenditure to be Financed	177,966	0	177,966	178,207	240	6,475	(6,235)

Service Area	Original Budget 2021/22	Budget Adjustments	Revised Annual Budget	Forecast Outturn	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M9	Forecast (Under) / Over Spend @ M6	Forecast Variance M6 to M9
General Government Grants	(69,465)	0	(69,465)	(69,465)	0	0	(0)
Non Domestic Rates	(32,018)	0	(32,018)	(32,018)	0	(0)	0
Council tax	(83,636)	0	(83,636)	(84,286)	(650)	(750)	100
Council Tax Benefit Support	7,152	0	7,152	7,253	100	186	(86)
Financing	(177,966)	0	(177,966)	(178,517)	(550)	(564)	14
Net General Fund (Surplus) / Deficit	(0)	0	0	(310)	(310)	5,911	(6,221)

DIRECTORATE – DIVISION VARIANCE COMMENTS

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,665	1,181	28	0

SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH & SAFEGUARDING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The month 9 directorate outturn for 2021/22 is a predicted overspend of £28,000. The overspend would be £3.25M higher if not assisted by the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability Grant from Welsh Government of £1.242M, £500k of Intermediate Care Funding (ICF), Discharge to Reassess monies from Health, £540K from the Social Care Recovery and its Extension Fund, and the recently announced additional financial support package from Welsh Government to fund overspends within Social Care of £1.25M.

The Adult Services division (which also includes the Community care, Commissioning, Partnerships & Resources sections) at month 9 has an underspend of £253K, a reduction of £799K since month 6, even though we have made additional recruitment to our inhouse care at home service, and increased care packages in the South of the County. This area of the directorate is benefitting from the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability (SCWS) grant of £1.242M, ICF (scheduled to terminate at 31st March 2022) , Discharge to Reassess funding from Health totalling £150K, £300K from the Social Care Recovery Fund and £623K as its share of the £1.25M additional support from Welsh Government.

Children's Services has a forecast overspend of £396K, a decrease of £298K since month 6 due to increased costs connected with one high cost placement. At the end of 2019/20 CLA numbers stood at 213 but have fallen to 205 at the end of month 9, remaining unchanged since month 6. However, new children have required high cost residential placements, as opposed to those leaving which have been more in the lower cost fostering/kinship/family placements, accounting for £832K of the overspend. A recent legal case has led to the need for the directorate to pay kinship carers in line with foster carer rates, along with the increase in payment to foster carers due to increasing skills training, producing £273K of the overspend. Legal costs associated with court proceedings accounting for £213K of the overspend, with the continued use of agency staffing contributing £75K to the overspend. There are £104K of compensating savings mainly from the vacant Head of Service and reduced partner contributions. This element of the directorate has also benefitted from ICF funding of £300K, coupled with £240K from the Social Care Recovery and Extension Fund, and £627K as its share of the £1.25M additional support from Welsh Government has helped to lower the overspend.

Public Protection is anticipated to underspend by £115K due to vacancies within the service which will be maintained until the end of this financial year.

ADULT SERVICES

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	289	629	(4)	0

Additional recruitment of carers, over and above budget, into our in-house care at home service to facility additional packages of care. This overspend has been offset by £623K as its share of the £1.25M additional funding package from Welsh Government

COMMUNITY CARE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	397	95	(67)	0

The overspend in in the South of the County in our Chepstow Integrated team resulting from increased care packages. However, one off ICF funding, the Social Care Sustainability Grant and the new Social Care Recovery fund have helped to offset the potential overspend.

COMMISSIONING

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'s	(134)	(162)	(155)	0

Ongoing vacant Commissioning Officer post and due to the continued closure of day facilities transport, costs are lower than budget.

PARTNERSHIPS

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	0	0	0	0

No variances

RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	(16)	(16)	(27)	0

Vacant posts within the Finance team.

ENTERPRISE	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	2,470	913	47	0

ENTERPRISE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTARY:

The Enterprise Directorate is forecasting a £47k overspend at month 9.

The impacts of COVID-19 are still affecting services provided within Enterprise, WG Covid-19 funding has been guaranteed for the remainder of the year so any shortfall caused by Covid-19 will not impact the directorates outturn position at year end. We have continued to submit Covid-19 claims through the year and the receipt of funding since Qtr2 is the main reason for the £866k improvement from Month 6.

The current £47k overspend projection can be broken down between:

- **Covid-19 Related Pressures** of £958k – these are mainly found in Homelessness (B&B and Security costs), Car Parking (loss of P&D and PCN income) and Waste (Staff cover and vehicles). As mentioned above we are anticipating that all these costs will be covered.
- **Non-Covid-19 Related** underspend of £911k – main savings can be found in Waste (Contract & Recyclate savings), Streetlighting (Energy savings), PTU (Contractor savings) and staff vacancy savings across whole directorate.

Each service area sets out the detail behind these projections within the next sections of the report and the key financial issues, risks and implications are described.

Across all service areas we are looking to ensure that all eligible additional costs and income losses will be claimed against any Welsh Government funding being made available.

ENTERPRISE & COMMUNITY ANIMATION

Outturn Forecast	Month 2	Month 6	Month 9	Outturn
Deficit / (Surplus) £'000s	1,143	534	235	0

Enterprise & Community Animation is forecasting a £235k overspend at month 9, this is mainly due to:

- **Housing** - £308k overspend, this can be broken down into these main areas:
 - **Homelessness** – £354k overspend - If levels remain the same for the remainder of the year then we are expecting a pressure of £433k split between B&B costs of £176k and hostel security costs of £258k. This has been offset by staff vacancies of £79k. WG have informed us that the Homeless costs will continue to be covered out of Covid-19 grant for the rest of the year so there will be no adverse impact on revenue budget.
 - **Social Housing Grant** - £63k overspend – Change in grant T&Cs has meant that core staff costs are no longer claimable causing a budget pressure.
 - **Shared Housing & Private Leasing** - £110k underspend - Rental income within Shared housing and Private leasing are currently exceeding budget creating a bottom-line underspend. This is an improvement from month 6 of £16k but the receipt of rental payments can be volatile so this figure could change between now and year end.
 - **Careline** - £22k underspend – Mainly due to reductions in equipment spend and income increase from recharges to other LAs.

3 CAPITAL OUTTURN

3.1 The summary forecast Capital position at Month 9 is as follows:

Forecast Capital Outturn Position 2021/22 at Month 9							
Select Portfolio	Slippage B/F	Original Budget	Budget Adjustments	Provisional Slippage	Revised Budget 2021/22	Forecast	Variance
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Expenditure							
Children & Young People	15,381	14,423	1,261	(27,478)	3,587	3,587	0
Economic & Development	19,244	546	606	(18,143)	2,253	2,253	0
Adult	5,964	0	0	(5,964)	0	0	0
Strong Communities	8,554	11,545	8,349	(2,768)	25,680	25,680	0
Total Expenditure	49,143	26,514	10,216	(54,353)	31,520	31,520	0
Financing							
Supported Borrowing	0	(2,431)	0	0	(2,431)	(2,431)	0
General Capital Grant	0	(2,438)	0	0	(2,438)	(2,438)	0
Grants and Contributions	(19,096)	(13,160)	(7,685)	29,132	(10,809)	(10,809)	0
S106 Contributions	(711)	0	(331)	170	(872)	(872)	0
Unsupported Borrowing	(27,031)	(4,094)	0	23,686	(7,439)	(7,439)	0
Earmarked Reserve & Revenue Funding	(241)	0	0	0	(241)	(241)	0
Capital Receipts	(2,064)	(2,891)	(2,200)	1,365	(5,790)	(5,790)	0
Leasing	0	(1,500)	0	0	(1,500)	(1,500)	0
Total Financing	(49,143)	(26,514)	(10,216)	54,353	(31,520)	(31,520)	0

3.2 The capital expenditure forecast outturn at month 9 shows a balanced outturn position as capital budget holders are forecasting a full spend on schemes that are not being slipped.

3.3 Forecast Capital Slippage at month 9 is £54.353m (£51.772m at Month 6) as major schemes are impacted by delays.

- Abergavenny King Henry VIII replacement (£26.399m), where the original budget schedule for the project has changed considerably since the inception of the project.
- Asset Investment Fund (£18.092m), on hold due to an asset investment priority review;
- Crick Road Care Home (£5.964m), delays in building schedule;
- £813k for a backlog in disabled facility grant implementations;
- £516k for modifications to County Hall 'J' block, delayed due to a 'SUDS' consent being required;
- £489k for Match Funded Capital schemes due to the dependency on external funding contributions;
- £280k on the Highways Re-Fit programme

3.4 Useable Capital Receipts Available

3.5 In the table below, the effect of the changes to the forecast capital receipts on the useable capital receipts balances available to meet future capital commitments are illustrated.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 1st April	9,581	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714
Capital receipts used for financing	(3,582)	(2,311)	(1,294)	(1,194)	(1,094)
Capital receipts used to support capitalisation direction	(2,208)	(2,650)	(507)	(507)	(507)
Capital receipts Received or Forecast	9,712	2,565	1,004	104	104
Forecast Balance as at 31st March	13,503	11,108	10,311	8,714	7,217

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Monmouthshire Select Committee Minutes

Meeting of Adults Select Committee County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance Monday, 24th January, 2022 at 10.00 am

Councillors Present

County Councillor S. Howarth (Chairman)
County Councillor L. Brown (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: R. Edwards, R. Harris,
M. Powell, S. Woodhouse and M. Lane

T. Crowhurst

Also in attendance County Councillor P. Murphy

Officers in Attendance

Peter Davies, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, Resources
Jane Rodgers, Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Eve Parkinson, Head of Adult Services
Hazel Ilett, Scrutiny Manager
Robert McGowan, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Jonathan Davies, Acting Assistant Head of Finance
Cath Fallon, Head of Economy and Enterprise
Tyrone Stokes, Accountant

APOLOGIES: County Councillor M. Groucutt
C. Bowie

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public Open Forum

No public submissions were received.

3. Budget Scrutiny: Scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2022/23

Cabinet Member Phil Murphy delivered the presentation.

Tyrone Stokes, Finance Manager for Social Care and Health, summarised the pressures on Adults Services:

Pressures within Social Care and Health that are pertinent to Adults Select amount to £2.3m. Of this, £1m is for Adult Social Care (SCH2), relevant to what is needed to provide the service next year. The majority of this pressure comes from the over-recruitment of carers to our in-house domiciliary care service, in order for us to provide domiciliary care to our clients due to the fragility in the external care market. The rest of the pressure is what's been identified through doing the forecast this year. Just over £100k is the reduction in the Social Care Workforce and Sustainability grant, which

contributes to core services. The remainder is from the Adults Select share of the increase to the real living wage, which amounts to £1.25m.

There are £120k of savings from increases in fees and charges; the majority of this relates to Adults services, particularly means-tested residential and non-residential services. Domiciliary care services are presently capped at £100 a week – this is the maximum that someone would be expected to contribute, according to the legislation. But there is no cap for residential care i.e. if someone is assessed that they can pay the full fees themselves, that is what will be levied.

Phil Murphy, Tyrone Stokes, Eve Parkinson and Jonathan Davies answered the members' questions.

Challenge:

Could you detail the difference between £900k for DFGs and £250k for Access for All?

These are two different grants. The £900k was made up from the base budget (and increased to that last year) – we had temporarily made it up in previous years. DFGs are for disabled modifications, and Access For All is a separate budget.

Regarding Social Care and a shortage of carers, some have been asked if they'd like to obtain their own carers and get direct payments back. Is there a standard for the time between claiming the payment back and receiving it?

Direct payments haven't changed: they have been in for many years. When someone is assessed by the social worker they are given the option of whether they would like a direct payment, to be used to employ their own carer. Once the assessment is done, and the care plan agreed, we always pay 4-weekly in advance, never in arrears. There might be a slight delay while we go through the costing and they set up a bank account but that's always been the case, and the advance payment overcomes this.

What percentage of people go for their own carers and get direct payments? Has this increased recently?

Take-up is at roughly 200, 8-10% of what we provide in terms of our domiciliary care provision to clients. There has been a bit of increase over the last year in the request for direct payments which has presented some problems with capacity. We did have a backlog because there was such an increase and have put in a temporary member of staff until financial year end – they are getting on top of things quickly and returning to an even keel.

Without families taking on their own care package would we therefore have a serious problem?

We have 200 people arranging their own care but we also have people for whom we don't have care arranged. The Health Board has a scheme for those around hospital discharge called Step Closer To Home, whereby people are placed in a short-term residential placement for approximately 6 weeks, while their care arrangements are made. Predominantly, this is for people who want to return home or looking for a longer-term placement somewhere without any current availability. 60+ people have gone via the Step Closer To Home route; mostly we have been able to get them home, but it is a continual challenge to do so.

It seems that finding care providers over the next 12 months will be a struggle and we will look to encourage more families to take on the care themselves, via the direct payments? There seems to be a huge shortfall in the budget.

With direct payments, not all of it is to employ families or friends to be carers – some people choose to have the money to pay the care agency themselves because there might be a specific carer whom they wish to employ, rather than the agency sending out the rostered carer.

Cases I know of are because they've been told there are no carers available, and they have to get their own.

Unavailability of carers is a national problem, not unique to Monmouthshire. One of the factors is care being seen as a career. The move to the real living wage by Welsh Government is helpful but is just one element – the care sector market problem is multi-faceted and has been going on for a while. Covid has made for a perfect storm, bringing everything together. We can't simply solve the problem next year – we will need a strategy for next year, and then the next 3-5 years. We will have meetings to look at how we provide care in a sustainable way, going forward. We have started conversations with our independent providers about what those models might look like. We are in a very challenging and complex situation but we do try to ensure that we can meet the most pressing demand in the best way possible. Unfortunately, we have had to go through caseloads and reduce care for some people so that we can meet the increase in demand but have only done so where it has been safe.

Could the Real Living Wage be further explained?

We had the National Minimum Wage, the minimum legal requirement that has been in place for many years. It was set at £8.91 per hour. The UK Chancellor increased it in his Autumn budget to £9.50, and the Real Living Wage – which is optional – was then increased from £9.50 to £9.90. Following the First Minister's 21st December 2021 announcement, there was a move to the real living wage being delivered in Wales, with the first sector targeted being Social Care, covering adults and children. What we've costed is the impact of moving from the national minimum wage to the real living wage. The overall pressure is £1.9m for social care, of which £1.25m concerns adults. We're looking to tie it into sustainability – we need to use it as a catalyst to open up the sustainability debate with our trusted partners about how we can sustain the care in Monmouthshire in the long term.

Finance for the Crick Road development is being met by Capital. What about grants?

This is a major partnership with Health and the utilisation of the Intermediate Care Fund that Welsh Government provides. This fund is in its final year, after which it will move into the Transformation Fund. In terms of securing those funds, we have worked tirelessly with our partners, and there is no risk moving forward into next year. To clarify, regarding the Capital budget: we have it covered but also there is funding through prudential borrowing as part of the scheme costings presented to councillors several years ago – we are still in keeping with that report.

Regarding potential borrowing, we don't borrow for any particular scheme – we borrow when the market conditions are right to do so. So, we will end long-term borrowing to take advantage of short-term borrowing, or we'll use internal monies at the right time of the year rather than specifically borrow and set an amount of money over an extended period that relates to one specific thing. So, we will have to borrow to maintain a lot of the Capital programmes but it won't be for any one programme, specifically.

What is the percentage threshold for borrowing?

We have an authorised limit that we need to approve at the start of the financial year, as part of a managed Treasury strategy. The limit is always monitored so that we can't go above it. We currently have a fair bit of headroom within that – around £30m. The limit is reviewed as part of the strategy and will go to Council in March.

As Monmouthshire is a rural county, we must lose a lot of care time moving between clients. Have we some idea of how much care time is lost, and its effect on service provision?

Yes, being rural we have this travel time. We try to maximise the rotas, especially internally; for example, a carer in Usk won't be expected to go to Abergavenny and then back to Usk an hour later. We operate on a 'cluster' basis, minimising the amount of travel time. We also work with our external care sectors to try to ensure that the contract we provide them with has minimised lost productivity time.

Chair's Summary:

Thank you to officers for all of their hard work. The Budget is particularly difficult, and with an ageing population in Monmouthshire it is only going to get harder. The long-term vision is that it's getting very difficult to find carers and there is a massive shortfall in the budget. We would like to ensure that a Crick Road update is on future agendas.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were confirmed and signed as an accurate record, proposed by Councillor Powell and seconded by Councillor Harris.

5. Adults Select Committee Forward Work Programme

The Housing Support Programme Strategy and Homelessness will be covered at the next meeting – the strategy needs to be submitted to Welsh Government by the end of March. A press release on Crick Road will be out soon which might provide the detail that has been requested. The 29th March meeting should perhaps come forward – the agenda item could be combined with the next meeting. The Chair asked that officers prepare a short report on Step Closer, for the next meeting concerning domiciliary care.

6. Council and Cabinet Forward Work Plan

7. Next Meeting

The Chair and Vice-Chair are unavailable for 15th February 2022, so the date of 2nd March 2022 was agreed instead.

The meeting ended at 11.18 am.

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Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022

Adults Select Committee				
Meeting Date	Subject	Purpose of Scrutiny	Responsibility	Type of Scrutiny
3 rd March 2022	Domiciliary Care	To discuss the current challenges faced within the care sector and the Monmouthshire context.	Eve Parkinson Jane Rodgers	Service Review
	Housing Support Programme Strategy and Homelessness	Scrutiny of the Housing Support Programme Strategy prior to submission to Welsh Government on 31 st March. Report to be accompanied by a Homelessness Update.	Ian Bakewell	Policy Development
	Budget Monitoring	Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Month 9.	Jonathon Davies Tyrone Stokes	Budget Monitoring
End June 2022	Budget Monitoring	Scrutiny of the budgetary position (revenue and capital) for services falling within the committee's remit at Outturn position.	Jonathon Davies Tyrone Stokes	Budget Monitoring

Future Agreed Work Programme Items: Dates to be determined

- ✓ **Disability Provision** ~ suggested by a committee member.
- ✓ **Homelessness** ~ To scrutinise the findings of the Audit Wales Review on the Council's response to an increased demand for homelessness services during the pandemic and plans to develop. Audit Review taking place Autumn 2021, scrutiny early 2022)
- ✓ **Mental Health Services** ~ Jointly with Children and Young People's Select Committee (ABUHB and Eve Parkinson)
- ✓ **Market place for social care** ~ **better understanding of services, play space community staff, integrated workspace, hub services, Turning the world upside down. Housing element.**
- ✓ **Performance reporting (plus Homefirst)**
- ✓ **Housing register allocations policy**
- ✓ **Housing Support Grant** ~ replaces the supporting people grant (children and communities grant ~ Sharran Lloyd) ~ how is the money used (homeless prevention ~ difficult places) ~ homelessness ~ late autumn (discussion with Sharran Lloyd)
- ✓ **Adults Carers Strategy**

Audit Wales National Reporting:

Monmouthshire's Scrutiny Forward Work Programme 2022

- Care Home Commissioning ~ anticipated publication August 2021
- Warm Homes Programme ~ anticipated publication September 2021
- Unscheduled Care ~ Autumn 2021

Cabinet, Council and Individual Cabinet Member Decisions (ICMD) Forward Plan

Monmouthshire County Council is required to publish a forward plan of all key decisions to be taken. Council and Cabinet items will only be considered for decision if they have been included on the planner no later than the month preceding the meeting, unless the item is considered urgent.

Committee / Decision Maker	Meeting date / Decision due	Subject	Purpose	Author	Date item added to the planner	Date item originally scheduled for decision
Council	04/11//2021	Final Statement of Accounts		Peter Davies	07/05/21	
Council	01/12/2022	RLDP Deposit Plan for submission to WG for examination	Approval of Deposit Plan post-consultation for submission to WG for independent examination	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	30/07/21	
Council	01/10/23	RLDP for Adoption		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
Council	01/02/23	LDP submission for examination		Mark Hand	23/01/20	
ICMD	14/07/22	MonLife Heritage Strategy (or cabinet)		Matthew Lewis	10/02/22	
Cabinet	07/07/22	MonLife Heritage Strategy (or ICMD)		Matthew Lewis	10/02/22	
Cabinet	06/07/22	Monmouthshire Destination Management Plan		Matthew Lewis	10/02/22	
Cabinet	06/07/22	Play Sufficiency Assessment and Action Plan 22/23		Matthew Lewis	10/02/22	

Council	01/07/22	RLDP Deposit Plan endorsement for consultation	Endorsement of Deposit Plan	Mark Hand	23/01/20	
ICMD	15/06/22	Non-Moving Orders (outside 20s tiles)		Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	21/01/22	
ICMD	15/06/22	Non-moving Traffic Regulation Orders (Amendment No. 4)		Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
Cabinet	08/06/22	Review of Monmouthshire's Destination Management Plan 2017-2020	Purpose: to approve the revised Destination Development Plan	Matthew Lewis	22/09/20	
Council	07/06/22	RLDP Preferred Strategy endorsement post consultation	Endorsement of preferred strategy to inform deposit plan	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	20/05/20	
Council	19/05/22	SACRE Restructure		John Pearson/ Sharon Randall Smith	08/02/22	
Cabinet	06/04/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 9 held on 10th March 2022		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
ICMD	09/03/22	Removal of Means Testings for Small and Medium Sized DFGs		Ian Bakewell	21/02/22	
ICMD	09/03/22			Will Mclean	16/02/22	
ICMD	09/03/22	EAS CAM Arrangements PROPOSED MCC 20, 30, 40 & 50 MPH SPEED LIMIT		Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	

ICMD	09/03/22	Non-moving Traffic Regulation Orders (Amendment No. 3)	DEFERRED TO 9/3/22	Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
Council	23/06/22	21st Century Schools Band B Programme		Cath Saunders	08/02/22	
Council	03/03/22	Pay Policy		Sally Thomas	08/02/22	
Council	03/03/22	Standards Committee Report		Matt Phillips	08/02/22	
Council	03/03/22	SACRE - terms of reference		John Pearson/ Sharon Randall Sm	07/02/22	
Council	03/03/22	2022/23 Treasury Policy		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Council	03/03/22	2022/23 Capital Strategy & Treasury Management Strategy		Jon Davies	20/05/21	
Council	03/03/22	2022/23 Final Budget sign off including Council Tax Resolution		Peter Davies	07/05/21	
Council	03/03/22	Population Needs Assessment	To seek approval of assessment of the care and support needs of the population carried out jointly by the Local Authority and Local Health Board as required by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014.	Jane Rodgers / Phil Diamond	07/12/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Cardiff Capital Region Funding for housing development site SAH6- Land at Vinegar Hill, Undy		Craig O'Connor	07/02/22	

Cabinet	02/03/22	EAS Business Plan		Joanne Hughes - EAS	15/02/22	
Cabinet	02/03/22	•UK Government Funding – including launch of Shared Prosperity Fund guidance, Levelling up white paper, CRF update and LUF round 2		Frances O'Brien	09/02/22	
Cabinet	02/03/22	2021/2 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 9		Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Chepstow Astro and MUGA (multi use games area)		Nick John / Ian Saunders	07/02/22	
Cabinet	02/03/22	2022/23 Final Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals		Peter Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	2022/23 WCF/Treasury Fund Investments		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 8 held on 27th January 2022		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Changes to the School Funding Formula for pupils with Additional Learning Needs	following a recommendation of the School Budget Forum a review has taken place with schools of the formula for pupils with additional learning needs. This will be consulted on during January and February 2022 with the final recommendations being presented to	Nikki Wellington	16/12/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Childcare Sufficiency Assessment		Susan Hall	07/12/21	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Active Travel Funding Overview		Ian Saunders/Paul Sullivan	01/02/22	

Cabinet	02/03/22	Castle Dell Playpark, Chepstow.		Mike Moran	25/01/22	
Cabinet	02/03/22	Abergavenny Velo Park	CM	Mike Moran	14/10/20	
ICMD	23/02/22	Non-moving Traffic Regulation Orders (Amendment No. 3)	DEFERRED TO 9/3/22	Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
Cabinet	16/02/22	Cabinet approval of the evidence based three year highway maintenance forward programme		Mark Hand	07/10/21	
ICMD	09/02/22	20mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order (Pilot) (Amendment No. 1)	Deferred to 9/2/22	Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
ICMD	09/02/22	20mph Speed Limits Traffic Regulation Order (Additional sites) (Amendment No. 2)	DEFERRED TO 9/3/22	Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
Council	27/01/22	Council Tax Reduction Scheme		Ruth Donovan	07/05/21	
Council	27/01/22	Corporate Parenting Strategy		Jane Rodgers		
Council	27/01/22	CJCs		Frances O'Brien	16/12/21	
ICMD	26/01/22	Interim Pavement Café Policy	Deferred from 26/1/21/moved to 9/2	Paul Keeble/Pratt	26/01/21	

ICMD	26/01/22	20mph Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order (Pilot) (Amendment No. 1)	Deferred to 9/2/22	Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
ICMD	26/01/22	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts - final	Deferred from 12 Jan 2022	Jon Davies	07/05/21	
Cabinet	19/01/22	Draft Budget Proposals and Medium Term Financial Strategy		Jon Davies		
Cabinet	19/01/22	UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND OUTCOME/UPDATE ON THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME/FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES		Cath Fallon	15/12/21	
Cabinet	19/01/22	WESP		Sharon Randall Smith	23/12/21	
Cabinet	19/01/22	Welsh Government Business Development Grant		Hannah Jones	23/11/21	
Cabinet	19/01/22	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 7 held on 16th December 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	19/01/22	Consultation on the proposals to establish an all-through school, Abergavenny.	Cabinet to receive objection report and decide whether to proceed with the proposal.	Debbie Graves	26/05/21	
ICMD	12/01/22	Interim Pavement café Policy	Deferred to 26th Jan	Paul Keeble/Cllr J Pratt	17/12/21	
ICMD	12/01/22	Living Levels Partnership	to consider continued involvement in the partnership as it enters a transition stage	Matthew Lewis Lisa Dymock	13/11/21	

IMCD	12/01/22	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts - final	DEFERRED TO 26 JAN 2022	Jon Davies	07/05/21	
ICMD	22/12/21	Play and Recreation S106 Capital Funded Schemes 2021/22		Mike Moran		
ICMD	22/12/21	MINOR AMENDMENT TO STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY REGARDING REPLACEMENT OR ADDITION STREETNAME SIGNS FOR EXISTING STREETS		Mark Hand/Jane Pratt	03/12/21	
ICMD	22/12/21	Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011		Alan Burkitt/Lisa Dymock	22/10/21	
IMCD	08/12/21	2022/23 Community Council and Police Precepts draft		Jon Davies	07/05/21	
IMCD	08/12/21	Council Tax Base and associated matters		Ruth Donovan	07/05/21	
Cabinet	01/12/21	Cabinet approval of the methodology for prioritising highway resurfacing and maintenance projects		Mark Hand	07/10/21	
Cabinet	01/12/21	Regional approach to employability		Hannah Jones	04/11/21	
Cabinet	01/12/21	CORONAVIRUS STRATEGY: PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS		Matt Gatehouse		
Cabinet	01/12/21	Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 6 held on 4th November 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	Didn't arrive

Cabinet	01/12/21	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report - month 6		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
ICMD	24/11/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	Adoption of SPG clarifying how S106 contributions are calculated following consultation	Mark Hand / Phillip Thomas	26/04/21	
ICMD	10/11/21	AWPOG Capital Funding for Fixed Play Provision		Mike Moran		
Council	04/11/21	Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy	To endorse an updated climate strategy and action plan which will introduce new programmes of activity to achieve the council's clear policy commitment to reduce carbon emissions.	Matthew Gatehouse / Hazel Clatworthy	19/05/21	
Council	04/11/21	Diversity and Democracy Declaration		John Pearson	12/02/21	
Council	04/11/21	Council Diary		John Pearson	29/09/21	
Council	04/11/21	Safeguarding Evaluative Report		Jane Rodgers	20/07/21	
Council	04/11/21	ISA260 - MCC Accounts		Jon Davies		
Council	04/11/21	Statement of Gambling Policy and Proposals for Casinos.		Linda O'Gorman	21/09/21	
Cabinet	03/11/21	Ombudsman's annual letter		Annette Evans	13/10/21	

Cabinet	03/11/21	ICT Security and Resilience		Sian Hayward	07/10/21	
Cabinet	03/11/21	Active Travel Network Maps		Paul Sullivan	13/11/20	
ICMD	27/10/21	Museum object disposal		Rachael Rogers	09/06/21	
ICMD	27/10/21	LDP Annual Monitoring Report and Development Management Annual Performance Report	Endorsements of reports for submission to WG	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	26/04/21	
Cabinet	06/10/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 5 held on 23rd September 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	06/10/21	Consultation on the proposals to establish an all-through school, Abergavenny.	Cabinet to receive the consultation report and consider recommendations on proposed way forward / whether to publish statutory notices.	Debbie Graves	26/05/21	
Council	23/09/21	Director of Social Services Annual Report		Julie Boothroyd		
Council	23/09/21	Borough Theatre Funding Proposal		cath Fallon		
Council	23/09/21	Corporate Plan Annual Report		Emma Davies	17/08/21	
Council	23/09/21	Audit Committee Annual Report		Phillip White	29/06/21	

ICMD	22/09/21	Leave Averaging & Holiday Pay	Deferred to 13th October	Katherine Cameron		
Cabinet	15/09/21	Placemaking Charter	Council signs up to the Placemaking Charter	Mark Hand / Craig O'Connor	28/04/21	
Cabinet	15/09/21	Borough Theatre Funding Proposal	Needs to go 15 th Sept as won't be ready for 1 st Sept – Cabinet want to endorse this before it goes to Council for funding to be secured on 23 rd Sept	Cath Fallon		
Cabinet	15/09/21	Code of Corporate Governance		Andrew Wathan	20/07/2021	
Cabinet	15/09/21	Welsh Church Fund Working group - meeting 4 held on 22nd July 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	15/09/21	Regeneration projects and Placemaking grant submission	To endorse the indicative Placemaking Grant submission for £791,429 made under the Welsh Government Transforming Towns funding	Mark Hand	29/07/21	
Cabinet	15/09/21	Afghan National Relocation Scheme	To re-state Cabinet's commitment to continued participation in the Home Office Afghan National Relocation scheme in line with the desire for Monmouthshire to be a county of sanctuary for those fleeing persecution.	Lisa Dymock/Matt Gatehouse	6/2021 - amended 20/8/21	
ICMD	08/09/21	Abergavenny Town Floodlights		Mike Moran	26/06/21	23/06/21
ICMD	18/08/21	Consultation on the review of school places in Caldicot town		Matthew Jones	21/07/21	
ICMD	18/08/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance		Matk Hand / Phillip Thomas	01/05/21	

ICMD	18/08/21	Procurement of PaybyPhone as an additional payment service for our car parks (Jane Pratt)	Agree to procure PaybyPhone	Mark Hand	29/07/21	
ICMD	04/08/21	Planning Policy discretionary service charges (Bob Greenland)	Agree Candidate Site assessment charges	Rachel Lewis	29/07/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	Securing resources for ICT resilience	To provide appropriate investment for security resilience in ICT systems	Sian Hayward	30/06/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	Regional Collaboration: Gwent Public Service Board		Richard Jones	14/07/21	
Cabinet	28/07/21	2021/22 Revenue and Capital Monitoring report		Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Council	22/07/21	investments in Leisure Centres		Marie Bartlett / Ian Saunders		
ICMD	14/07/21	Museum object Disposal		Rachael Rogers/Lisa Dymock	19/05/21	
Cabinet	07/07/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 3 held on 24th June 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	07/07/21	Capital Slippage		Jon Davies	11/06/22	
Cabinet	07/07/21	•Mutual Delegation of Strategic Procurement Services		Cath Fallon		

Council	24/06/21	Chief Officer's Report		Will Mclean	19/05/21	
Council	24/06/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum		Matthew Lewis	24/05/21	
Council	24/06/21	LDP Preferred Strategy endorsement for consultation		Mark Hand	21/09/20	
Cabinet	09/06/21	2020/21 Revenue and Capital Monitoring outturn	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the forecast outturn position of the Authority at end of month reporting for 2020/21 financial year	Peter Davies/Jon Davies	27/04/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group - meeting 1 held on 15th April 2021 and meeting 2 held on 13th May 2021		Dave Jarrett	27/04/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Digital and Data	To seek approval for the creation of a new Digital Design and Innovation Team, to strengthen our information governance arrangements and to broaden the remit of the existing performance team to include data analytics'.	Emma Jackson	13/05/21	
Cabinet	09/06/21	Shire Hall / Monmouth Museum – to consider the outcome of the feasibility study		Matthew Lewis/Ian Saunders	05/02/21	
Council	13/05/21	Outside Bodies		John Pearson		
Council	13/05/21	Appointment to Committees		John Pearson		
Council	13/05/21	Political Balance		Matt Phillips		

Council	13/05/21	Freedom of the Borough		Joe Skidmore	22/04/21	
Council	13/05/21	Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan		Hazel Clatworthy	14/04/21	
ICMD	12/05/21	A Nation of Sanctuary - Asylum Dispersal Scheme - Moved to Cabinet	To provide Council with an progress update on the Climate and Decarbonisation Strategy and Action Plan which was developed following the passing of a motion to declare a climate emergency.	Matt Gatehouse	19/04/21	
ICMD	12/05/21	Play Action Plan	Cabinet Member Richard John Report originally on Cabi	hew Lewis/Mike Moran/Ian Saun	16/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Leisure Centre Investments		Marie Bartlett	22/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Statutory Consultation to establish 4-19 school in Abergavenny		Cath Saunders	03/03/21	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Welsh Church Fund Working Group meeting	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations to Cabinet on the Schedule of Applications 2020/21 - meeting 6 held on 11th March 2021	Dave Jarrett	02/04/20	
Cabinet	14/04/21	Whole Authority Strategic Risk Assessment		Richard Jones	02/03/21	
ICMD	07/04/21	Strategic Procurement		Cath Fallon/P Murphy	09/03/21	
ICMD	24/03/21	SPG S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance	To Clarify how S106 contributions are calculated/ deferred from 13/1/21 and 24/02/21 deferred UFN	Phil Thomas/Mark Hand	01/05/19	

Council	11/03/21	Appointments to outside bodies	To appoint a representative to the Wye Navigation Advisory Committee	Matt Gatehouse	08/02/21	
Council	11/03/21	Council Tax Resolution Report		Ruth Donovan	02/04/20	