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## **Housing Key Facts**

# **Homelessness & Rough Sleeping**

**Summary, Commentary & Data Tables**

**March 2024**

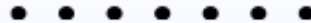
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# Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Summary

March 2024



**1,172**

Advice

Cases of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress, October to March



**2,299**

Advice

Cases of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress, April last year to March this year



**up 25%**

Since April to March five years ago



**497**

Applications

Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, October to March.\*



**1,007**

Applications

Homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty, April to March.\*



**up 14%**

Since April to March a year ago

**B&B**

**80**

B&B

Applicant households with dependent children/ pregnant placed in Bed & Breakfast, April to March. (Average stay tends to be much shorter than in other temporary accommodation)

**B&B**

**0**

B&B

Applicant households with dependent children/ pregnant leaving Bed Breakfast, April to March, who had been there more than 6 weeks



Non B&B

**66**

Applicant households with dependent children/ pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of March



Rough sleeping

**23**

Individuals counted as sleeping rough during the last annual November street count



**up 1**

Since the previous November

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



## Homelessness & Rough Sleeping: Summary

There were **1,172** cases October to March of people seeking council advice relating to housing stress; and **2,299** April to March - **up around 2%** since April to March a year ago and **up 25%** since April to March five years ago.

There were **497** homelessness applications received October to March where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty. \*

There were **1,007** homelessness applications received April to March where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness duty; **up 14%** since the previous April to March. \*

**80** applicant households with dependent children/pregnant were placed in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during April to March. (The average stay tends to be much shorter than in other temporary accommodation)

**0** applicant households with dependent children/pregnant who left Bed & Breakfast between April and March had been there for more than six weeks.

There were **66** applicant households with dependent children/pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of March.

**23** individuals were counted as sleeping rough during the last annual November street count; **up 1** since the previous November.

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

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## Homelessness & Rough Sleeping: Commentary

- When people think of homelessness they often think of people sleeping rough, but numbers of people at risk of or becoming homeless who do not end up on the streets are considerably higher.

- Homelessness has always been an issue for Cambridge, but the problem is worsening and is expected to continue to do so.
- There has been a steady increase over the last few years of the number of people approaching the council for advice relating to housing stress, and numbers rose again this year.
- The number of homelessness applications where the applicant was initially assessed as being owed a statutory homelessness has also risen every year over the last four years.
- At the same time, the number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless before they were owed a statutory duty (i.e. more than 56 days before they were threatened with homelessness) have been falling.
- The number of cases where the council has a statutory duty to relieve homelessness has increased significantly over the past two years. This is due to a reduction in successful homelessness preventions, and increasing numbers of people presenting to the council who are already homeless.
- The number of households with dependent children or pregnant who were placed in Bed & Breakfast (B&B) over the last year has fallen since the previous year, but is still considerably higher than it was in the previous three years. Similarly, numbers in temporary/emergency non-B&B at the end of March were lower than last year but higher than the previous three years.
- Higher caseloads resulting from increased demand, coupled with greater complexity of some cases, has led to slower case turnover and increasing periods of time spent in temporary accommodation over the past few years. Despite the growth of our temporary accommodation stock to meet additional demand, our use of hotel accommodation has increased.
- The growing pressures are due to a combination of factors, particularly the ongoing cost of living crisis and the growing shortage of private sector accommodation. Homelessness resulting from family/friend evictions and service of section 21 eviction notices in the private rented sector remain significant causes of homelessness.
- Access to private sector housing at rent levels people can afford, in particular for those on welfare benefits, continues to be a significant challenge.

- Arrangements for accommodating some Ukrainian refugees under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme are continuing to come to an end, leading to more households seeking advice or being at risk of homelessness.
  - Increases in mortgage rates could also start to see more home-owners in difficulty than in recent years, although as many mortgages are fixed term arrangements the full effects of this may take longer to come through.
  - Numbers of rough sleepers counted in the annual autumn street count were similar to last year, but higher than in 2020 and 2021. Reasons are complex include: a core number of long-term rough sleepers not accepting or maintaining accommodation opportunities; and a steady drift to the street of new rough sleepers, many of whom originate from outside Cambridge but appear to be drawn to the City by services not available in their home area.
  - A number of new initiatives have been implemented over recent years to try to prevent and tackle rough sleeping. Further measures are being put in place, with targeted support provided for people with multiple and complex needs.
  - See also the Housing Register Applications & Lettings, Private Rented Housing, and Population Households & Economy sections of Housing Key Facts.
  - For more information on the council's approach to homelessness and rough sleeping see the council's [Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021-2026](#).
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## Homelessness Data Tables

### Homelessness Data Tables: Index

(See separate index further down for rough sleeping data tables)

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## Explanation

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

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

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

These duties include:

- A duty to take reasonable steps to prevent someone from becoming homeless by helping them to stay where they are or move to somewhere more suitable, whether or not they are considered to be in priority need. This duty applies to people who are at risk of becoming homelessness within 56 days.

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

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

Households are usually only placed in Bed and Breakfast for one or two nights, although stays can be longer if no other suitable accommodation is available. There is a statutory requirement that no household with a pregnant mother or with dependent children should remain in Bed & Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks.

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

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## Caution

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

Figures may not necessarily tie up exactly with those reported through government returns or internal performance figures as reporting criteria may be slightly different



and/or backdated changes may have to be made here if figures change after a return has been submitted.

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## Data source

Internal homelessness data

Cambridge Outreach Team – rough sleeping figures

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## Housing Advice cases

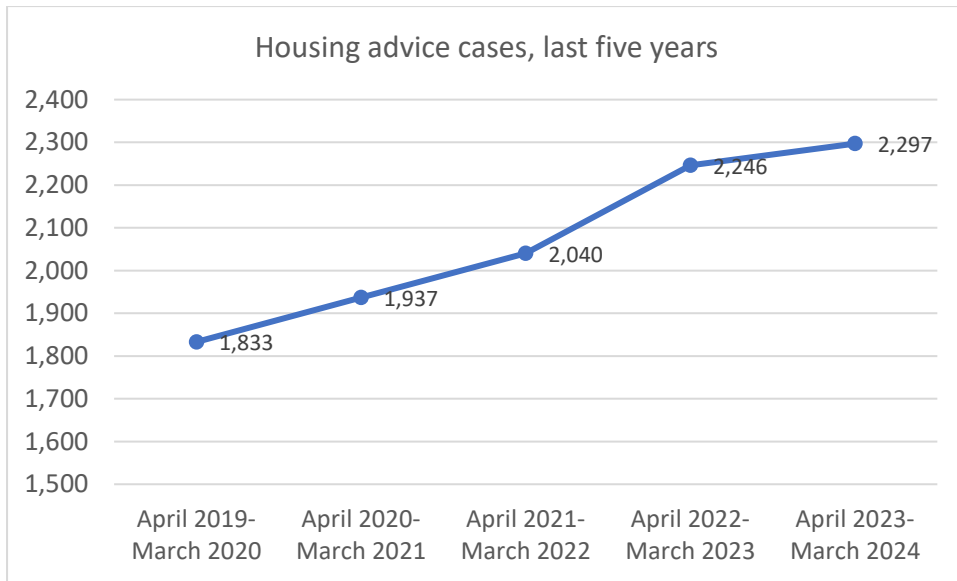
**Table 1: Housing advice cases, October to March**

Date	Housing advice cases
October 2023-March 2024	1,172

**Table 2: Housing advice cases, last five years**

Date	Housing advice cases
April 2019-March 2020	1,833
April 2020-March 2021	1,937
April 2021-March 2022	2,040
April 2022-March 2023	2,246
April 2023-March 2024	2,297

**Figure 1: Housing advice cases, last five years**

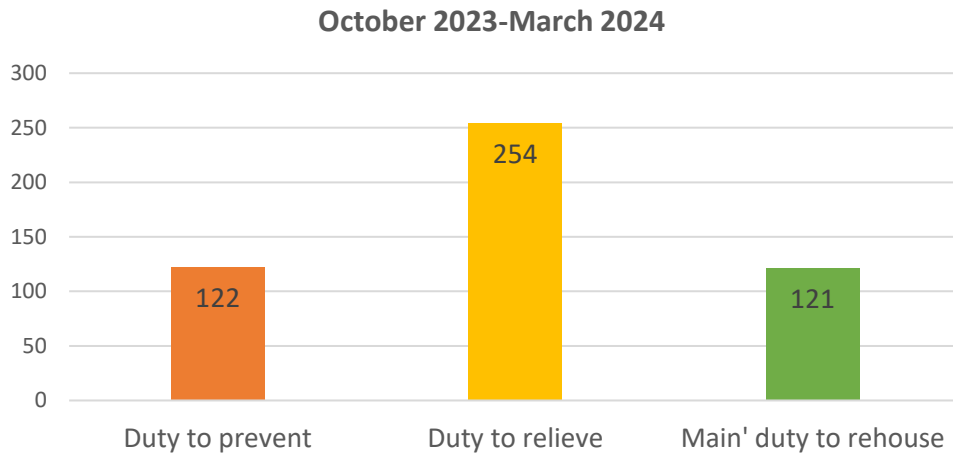


## Homelessness applications where a statutory duty is owed

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

Date	Duty to prevent	Duty to relieve	Main' duty to rehouse
October 2023-March 2024	122	254	121

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



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

Date	Duty to prevent	Duty to relieve	Main duty
April 2019-March 2020	236	480	214
April 2020-March 2021	174	463	150
April 2021-March 2022	264	394	180
April 2022-March 2023	243	443	195
April 2023-March 2024	264	507	236

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

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

## Preventing homelessness

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

Date	Prevention duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where prevention duty ended
October 2023-March 2024	64	49%

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

Date	Prevention duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where prevention duty ended
April 2019-March 2020	122	50%
April 2020-March 2021	108	59%
April 2021-March 2022	130	56%
April 2022-March 2023	148	58%
April 2023-March 2024	155	56%

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

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

Date	Homelessness prevented - no prevention duty owed
October 2023-March 2024	32

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

Date	Homelessness prevented - no prevention duty owed
April 2019-March 2020	85
April 2020-March 2021	148
April 2021-March 2022	162
April 2022-March 2023	89
April 2023-March 2024	70

## Relieving homelessness

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

Date	Relief duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where relief duty ended
October 2023-March 2024	107	40%

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

Date	Relief duty ended - accommodation secured	Accommodation secured as a percentage of all cases where relief duty ended
April 2019-March 2020	188	38%
April 2020-March 2021	189	42%
April 2021-March 2022	155	38%
April 2022-March 2023	151	38%
April 2023-March 2024	185	37%

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

## Main homelessness duty

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

Date	Decisions made - 'main' duty to rehouse	Decisions made - no 'main' duty to rehouse	Total main duty decisions made	Main duty accepted as a percentage of all main duty decisions made
October 2023-March 2024	73	48	121	60%

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

Date	Decisions made - 'main' duty to rehouse	Decisions made - no 'main' duty to rehouse	Total main duty decisions made	Main duty accepted as a percentage of all main duty decisions
April 2019-March 2020	91	123	214	43%
April 2020-March 2021	56	94	150	37%
April 2021-March 2022	103	77	180	57%
April 2022-March 2023	130	65	195	67%
April 2023-March 2024	153	84	237	65%

## Temporary and Emergency accommodation

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

Date	Number of households with children or pregnant <u>placed</u> in Bed & Breakfast	Of which placed outside of Cambridge City	Number leaving B&B who had been there more than six weeks
October 2023 - March 2024	43	12	0

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

Date	Number of households with dependent children or pregnant <u>placed</u> in Bed & Breakfast	Of which placed outside of Cambridge City	Number leaving B&B who had been there more than six weeks
April 2019-March 2020	61	26	0
April 2020-March 2021	39	19	2
April 2021-March 2022	71	24	0
April 2022-March 2023	115	21	0
April 2023-March 2024	80	14	0

**Table 15: Households with dependent children or pregnant in temporary or emergency accommodation other than Bed & Breakfast, end of March, last five years**

Date	Number of households with dependent children or pregnant in temporary/ emergency non-B&B at the end of March
March 2020	45
March 2021	34
March 2022	55
March 2023	72
March 2024	66

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

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## Rough Sleeping Data

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### Explanation

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

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

- a) The estimated number of people sleeping rough on one single night between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November each year. All councils are required to report their 'snapshot' street count figures to government.



- b) The number of individuals verified as sleeping rough by the Street Outreach team each month.

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

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## Caution

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

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## Data source

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

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

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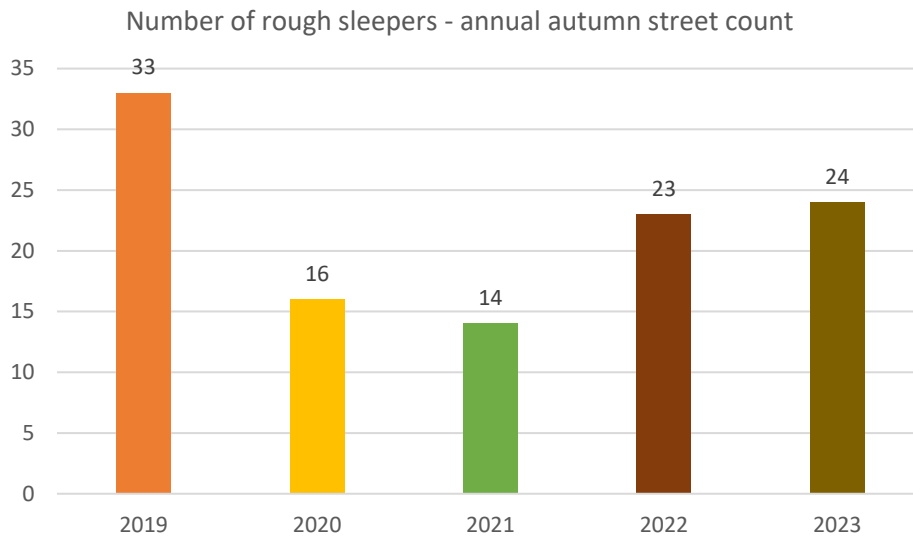
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## Annual rough sleeping snapshot, last five years

**Table 16: Number of rough sleepers counted during the annual autumn street count, last five years**

Year	Number of rough sleepers counted
2019	33
2020	16
2021	14
2022	23
2023	24

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



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

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## Individuals verified as sleeping rough

**Table 17: Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough, October last year to March this year**

Month	Number of rough sleepers verified
October	33
November	88
December	40
January	45
February	62
March	58

**Table 18: Number of individuals verified as sleeping rough, April to March, last five years**

Date	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019-2020	32	26	40	35	37	43	37	27	23	29	29	32
2020-2021	17	22	30	47	46	49	21	50	46	62	41	35
2021-2022	28	34	43	50	33	48	40	50	42	44	33	33
2022-2023	35	40	43	42	60	44	62	49	42	30	19	33
2023-2024	29	41	26	49	52	53	51	22	29	32	37	42

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

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

