



Youth Housing Evidence Paper

Local Housing Strategy

2021-2026

Date: June 2020
Author: Business Strategy Team
Enterprise and Communities



Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction
3. Legislation and National & Local Context
4. Demographic and Statistics
5. Young Person Tenure Type
6. Tenancy Sustainment
7. CHR Waiting Lists Under 26 In North Lanarkshire
8. Youth Homelessness in North Lanarkshire
9. Temporary Accommodation
10. Prevention and Sustainability and Housing Options
11. Housing Support Services for Young People in North Lanarkshire
12. RRTP, Housing Support Services & Homes First
13. External Housing Support Services
14. Care Experienced Young People
15. LGBTQ+
16. Pregnancy and Young Homeless Women
17. Discharged from Institutions
18. Domestic Abuse
19. Information and Advice
20. Health and Wellbeing
21. Anti-Social Behaviour/ Mediation
22. Youth Justice
23. Employability, Training and Education
24. Adult Protection
25. Summary
26. Recommendations
27. Action Plan
28. Bibliography

1. Executive Summary

This paper sets out the evidence on youth housing issues and related support needs in North Lanarkshire, highlighting the key issues for consideration over the period of the next Local Housing Strategy in North Lanarkshire (2021-26). This evidence paper finds the following key issues in relation to younger people's housing needs:

- A decline in younger age population groups is projected over the next two decades in North Lanarkshire.
- Significant growth projected in single person households.
- 31% of all homeless applicants are young people aged 16-25 years however they make up 12% of the NL population and are disproportionately affected by homelessness.
- Increasing numbers of young homeless people in North Lanarkshire in contrast to reductions nationally.
- Tenancy Sustainment levels for young people are below the mainstream population. A small number of young people were discharged into homelessness from a care setting, and it is clear that a more pro-active approach to the pathway planning process is required.
- Inconsistent outcomes for Care Experienced young people in terms of their housing aspirations.
- Need for additional and specialist Temporary and Supported Accommodation as under-occupation and welfare reform continues to affect access to suitable housing.
- Demand for additional Housing Support and Mediation Services as the number of younger people with complex needs is projected to increase as we support more people in mainstream housing.
- Affordable housing choices are a significant challenge for those younger people on benefits under the age of 35 years due to the shared room rate of housing benefit/universal credit that can be claimed.
- Other strategic plans will have a direct impact on younger people in North Lanarkshire. This includes the Town Centre Vision and the Tower Re-provisioning Programme.
- Improving our understanding of the needs of the LGBTQ+ community is a developing priority and should be facilitated through engagement and consultation.
- There appears to be inconsistent planning for those leaving custody and a more intensive approach could be considered through the use of the SHORE Standards.
- A recent short-life project on rough sleeping highlighted that there is a concerning level of sofa-surfing for considerable periods of time from a few months to several years.
- Lack of awareness of homelessness and temporary accommodation services illustrates the need to improve access to information, advice and support services.

2. Introduction

Young people can face a number of significant life changes between the ages of 16-25, including leaving home, moving into further education, seeking employment, moving on from a period spent in care, involvement with youth justice services, becoming parents, some may also have a variety of complex support needs. In some cases, the life changes they have experienced mean they require additional support and guidance, to make the transition to adulthood and independent living.

This evidence paper has been prepared to enable North Lanarkshire Council to consider some of the challenges facing young people in North Lanarkshire as we prepare our next Local Housing Strategy. The document provides an overview of the population of young people in North Lanarkshire and provides details of some of the services currently provided to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable young people in North Lanarkshire i.e. those at risk of homelessness and those leaving care.

The paper will consider how homelessness affects the health and wellbeing of vulnerable young people and the ways in which this impacts their everyday lives. We review the accommodation and associated support services that we currently provide for young people and also look at issues that make them particularly vulnerable to homelessness e.g. offending, domestic abuse and health matters.

The Local Housing Strategy 2016-21 provided a framework within which the Council and partners could develop outcome focused practice and services to realise our vision where:

- Our aim is to *build housing futures for all young people in North Lanarkshire by meeting their housing needs and providing opportunities for them to fulfil their housing aspirations;* and
- *where 'Young people are most at risk, or in need of additional support, they are given the opportunity to access affordable housing, suitable to their needs and to receive appropriate support to help them sustain their accommodation.'*

North Lanarkshire's next Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2021-2026 will contribute further to the delivery of this vision and aims to address a range of issues impacting on the lives of vulnerable young people. It remains the blueprint for maximising resources, promoting joint working and ensuring a proactive approach to the housing problems of young people. It will provide the opportunity for all partners to work together on an agreed and achievable plan.

The new LHS 2021-2026 will set out how the Council aims to address housing supply, homelessness and support issues in relation to young people and will take account of the challenges and priorities outlined within this evidence paper. This paper draws on national and local evidence on younger people's housing needs to help identify actions and recommendations for the development of the new Local Housing Strategy (2021-26) for North Lanarkshire.

3. Legislation and National & Local Context

The main legislation governing Young People and housing include: Housing (Scotland) Act 2014, Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, Children (Leaving Care) (Scotland) Act 2000, Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 and The Looked After Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

The Children Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ensures extra support and greater rights for children and young people in care. All teenagers in residential, foster or kinship care who turn 16 will now be entitled to remain in their care setting until they reach the age of 21 years. There is also a requirement to provide support until reaching the age of 26 for care leavers to help them move into independent living at a pace which suits them. It also places a Corporate Parenting duty on local authorities. This means it is the collective responsibility of the Council, elected members, employees, and partner agencies to provide the best possible care and safeguarding for children who are looked after by the Council.

In 2009, the Scottish Government published statutory guidance focussing on preventing and alleviating homelessness and this has been a key driver in changing practice across Scotland. This was further supported by the introduction of Housing Options Guidance in 2016. Housing Options is defined as *“looking at an individual’s options and choices in the widest sense and may involve exploring all possible tenure options. It can also cover other aspects of an individual’s circumstance that may not be housing related but could impinge upon that individual’s options in terms of access to housing which meets their needs.”* A Housing Options Training Toolkit is currently in development and will provide learning opportunities for housing advice staff. The aim will be to ensure that everyone who approaches a local authority with a housing problem, is assisted to look at the widest range of housing options and solutions available and to consider the best and most sustainable option for them.

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) was set up by Scottish Government in October 2017 to produce solutions to eradicate homelessness and rough sleeping and transform temporary accommodation. The main recommendation of the HARSAG was to develop a Rapid Rehousing approach for people experiencing homelessness by providing settled housing as quickly as possible avoiding a lengthy stay in temporary accommodation. Every local authority was required to develop a five year Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) and submit this to the Scottish Government in December 2018 and begin implementation from April 2019. The integration of Health and Social Care has transformed the way services are delivered for some groups of the population. The introduction of RRTP and mandatory collaboration is now a high priority for the partnerships and will assist in meeting the wider health and wellbeing needs of young homeless people.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire sets out our vision for inclusive growth and prosperity to address high levels of deprivation, child poverty and inequality. It aims to improve the lives for everyone who lives, works, or visits North Lanarkshire by ‘driving economic growth, increasing skills, generating jobs and training opportunities’ through a partnership approach and by involving communities to share in our ambitions.

The Plan has twenty five high level ambition statements and are aligned under five key priorities to deliver the intended outcomes:

- Improve economic opportunities and outcomes;
- Support all children and young people to realise their full potential;
- Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities;
- Enhance participation, capacity and empowerment across our communities;
- Improve North Lanarkshire’s resource base;

Preventing and alleviating homelessness, and the provision of housing support services, straddle a number of these strategic priorities but are particularly linked to priority three to improve health and wellbeing. These outcomes fit directly with the aims of the HARSAG High Level Action Plan and RRTP’s to prevent homelessness where possible and to re-settle those who become homeless and provide support to enable them to move on successfully.

North Lanarkshire’s RRTP was developed in partnership with all agencies across health, social care, housing associations, police and third sector partners and sets out how the partnership will move from the current position to the future vision. The vision of the North Lanarkshire RRTP is to:

‘Work in collaboration to provide early interventions which prevent homelessness and ensure settled accommodation is made available as quickly as possible if homelessness occurs.’

The RRTP intends to make significant changes to the provision of temporary accommodation, housing supply systems and the support services to ensure that this impacts positively on young homeless people and that they are provided with settled housing and the support they need to achieve successful lives. The plan takes account of the health and social care needs of young homeless people and identifies that this group are far more disadvantaged than the general population and have far more complex needs requiring a different approach to delivering health and social care services.

Housing and support for young people remains a high level strategic priority for the Council and its wider partners. The LH2 2016-2021 included key actions to provide quality housing options advice and prevent homelessness through targeted prevention activity. Fortuitously during the lifespan of the LHS the development and delivery of RRTP’s became a requirement and has been an additional driving force to improve joint working and deliver on shared responsibilities and actions which were set out earlier.

The IJBs Strategic Commissioning Plan for North Lanarkshire also highlights the aim of supporting young people in their own home as a key priority for the Council and its partners, and significant changes have taken place in the period of the Local Housing strategy (LHS) 2016-21. These have included:

- The redesign of housing support services, to provide a more flexible, tailored support service.
- The commencement of the re-provisioning of tower accommodation which will see Council multi storey towers in North Lanarkshire demolished and replaced with new build housing.
- The introduction of new fire safety and prevention measures across specialist temporary and supported accommodation.

Some of these changes are current actions identified and progressed through the current LHS. A number of other actions have also been progressed through the current LHS which have contributed to improved provision of housing and related services for younger people in North Lanarkshire.

4. Demographics and Statistics

In order to assess housing need for young people appropriately it is important to consider the scale of housing and support requirements of young people living in North Lanarkshire. By quantifying the number of young people in housing need the Council will be in better position to establish what the key issues are and develop priorities to address them.

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) publishes population projections for each local authority and health board area. The most recently available set is from the year 2016 to the year 2041. These figures show that the population of North Lanarkshire is expected to increase slightly in the period 2016-2041. During this period, there will be a loss in the number of young people and those in the working age groups however this will be accompanied by an increase in the number of actual households

Table 1: Projected population 2016- 2041 in North Lanarkshire Council Area

	2021	2026	2041	Change
Male	165,762	166,181	164,773	+0.3%
Female	176,222	176,630	174,850	-0.2%
Total	341,984	342,811	339,623	0.1%

Source: National Records of Scotland (C) Crown Copyright

North Lanarkshire is expected to see a growth in population to the year 2029 and then a loss of population by the year 2041. The population growth and decline will be different across different age groups in the population. The table below shows how each client group is expected to change over the projection period.

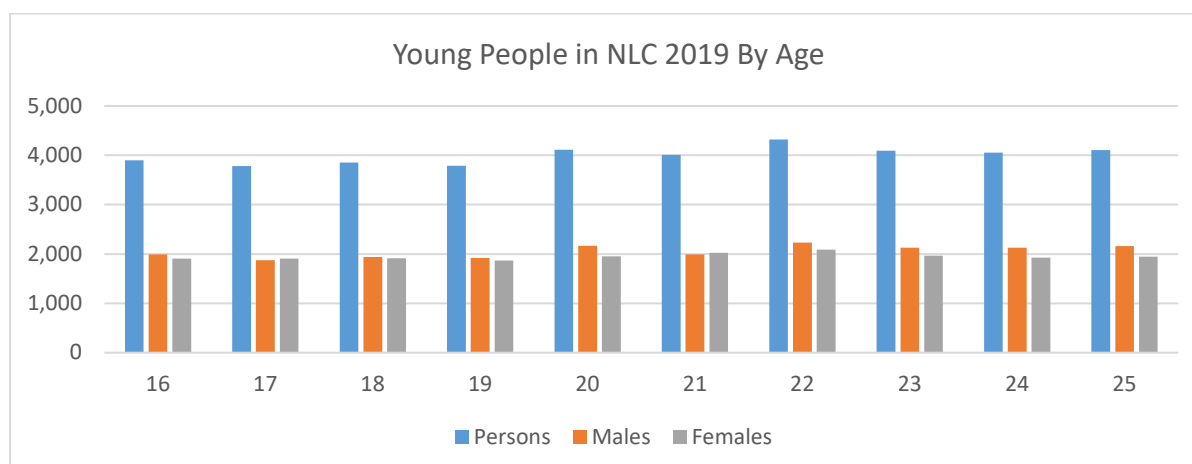
The population of young people is expected to fall across all age groups to 2041.

Table 2: Population change in North Lanarkshire Council area by age group 2021-2041

Client Group	2021	2026	2041	Change 2016- 2041	
				No.	%
Children (0-15)	62,619	60,466	57,354	-5,945	-9%
Working Age (16-64)	218,072	214,568	197,107	-22,487	-10%
Youths (16-17)	8,080	8,359	7,448	-646	-8%
18-29	27,274	27,002	25,164	-4,026	-14%

Source: National Records of Scotland (C) Crown Copyright

Table 3: Registers of Scotland 2018 Population Estimates



Source: National Records of Scotland (C) Crown Copyright

The table shows the even distribution of young people in North Lanarkshire Council area by age and gender. There were 5 young people aged 16–25 living in North Lanarkshire in 2018, representing 12% of the total population of North Lanarkshire.

Table 4: Registers of Scotland 2018 Household Gender Estimates for Scottish Council Areas (2018)

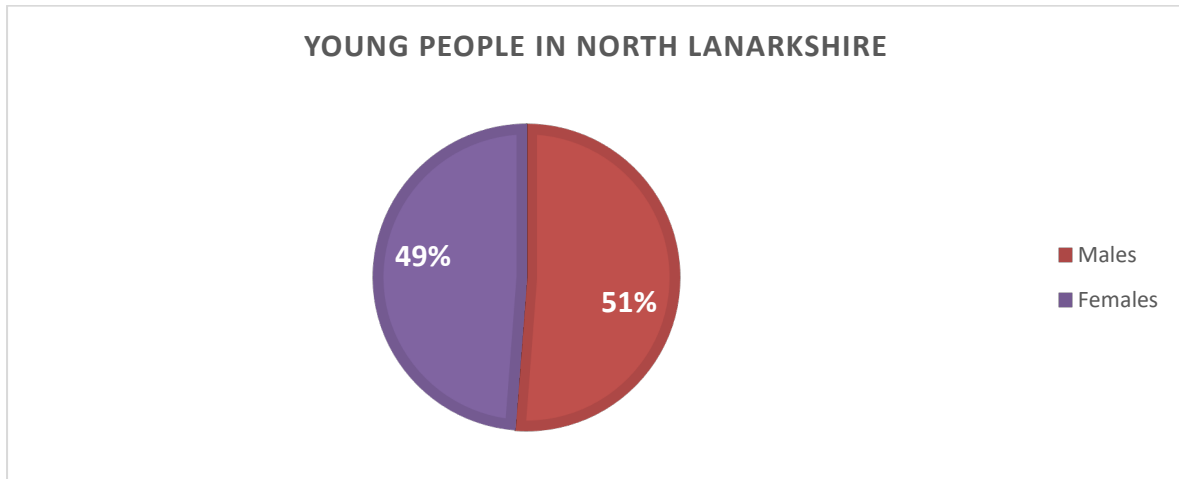


Table 4 Source: National Records of Scotland (C) Crown Copyright

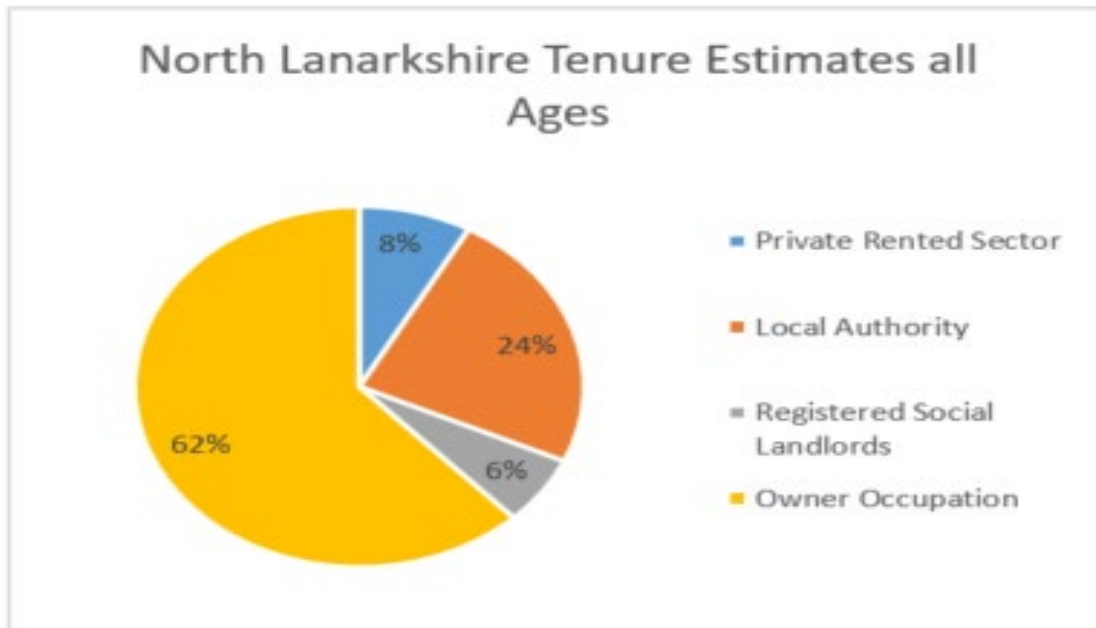
The gender split among this age group is fairly even in relation to males (51%) and females (49%) and is the same in NLC as across Scotland.

Although there is predicated to be a stable, though slightly falling population in North Lanarkshire Council area there is an issue to research in that, the number of homeless applications from young people in the area has increased over the last 3 years in contrast to a reduction in most other local authority areas and across Scotland as a whole.

5. Young Person Tenure Type

The majority of households in North Lanarkshire own their own home (62.7%) of which 49.2% own their home outright. 24% rent from the Council and a small proportion privately rent (8%). The current tenure split of young people living in North Lanarkshire provides a picture of current and potential future housing need.

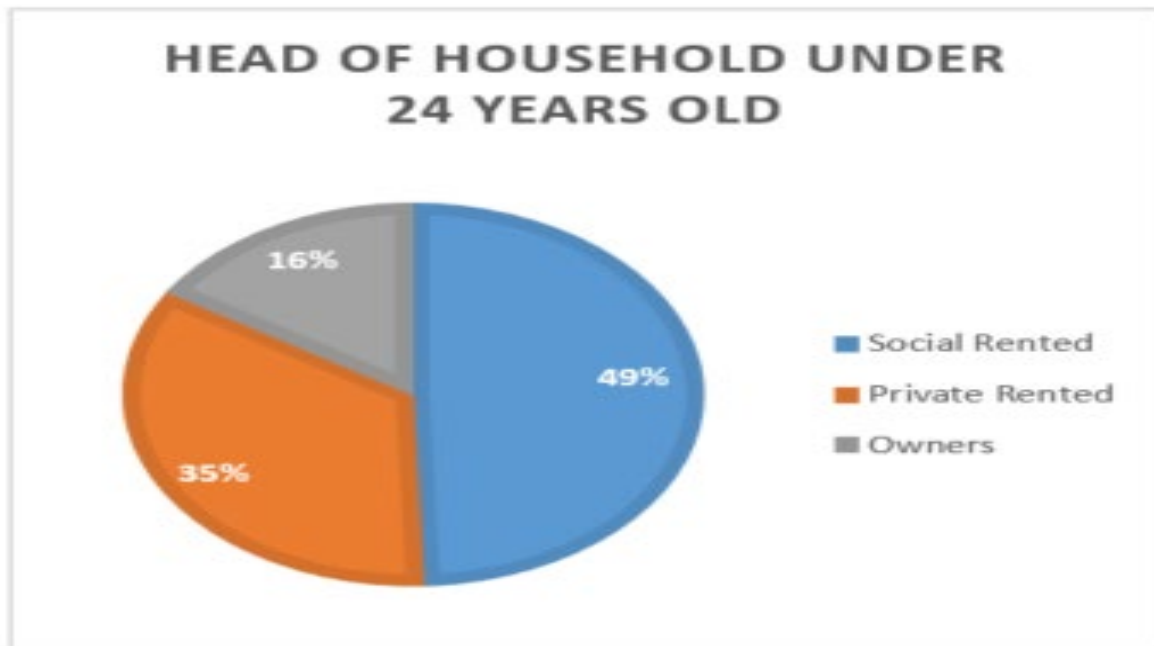
Table 5: Registers of Scotland 2018 Tenure Estimate all Households in North Lanarkshire



Source: National Records of Scotland June 2020 (C) Crown Copyright

The preferred tenure across North Lanarkshire Council appears to be owner occupation 62% a figure that is slightly higher than the Scottish average.

Table 6: North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19 Household tenure where Head of Household is Under 24

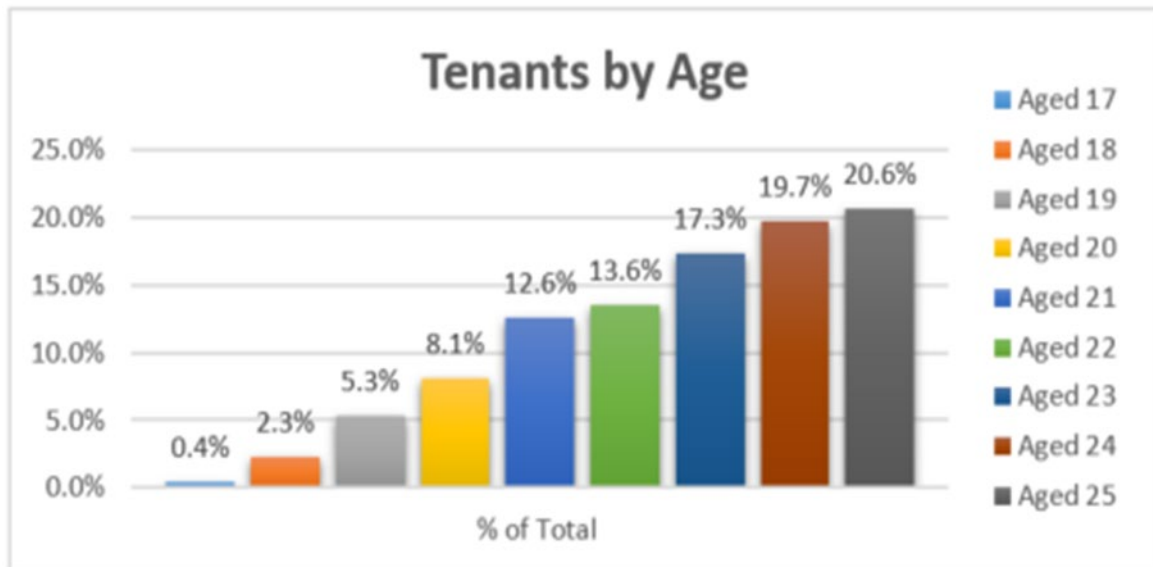


Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

The preferred tenure across North Lanarkshire Council for young people appears to be rented accommodation with greater reliance on the PRS than the general population.

The 2011 census identified that households with a head of household under 24 are more likely to be living in rented accommodation. Given the relatively low incomes of this group and higher unemployment rates it is not unexpected that renting appears to be the most prominent tenure choice in North Lanarkshire, this is supported by findings in the NOMIS Claimant Count February 2020 where 1,520 young people 5.1% (16-24 years) were identified as claiming unemployment benefits within North Lanarkshire exceeding the Scotland wide figure of 4.3%.

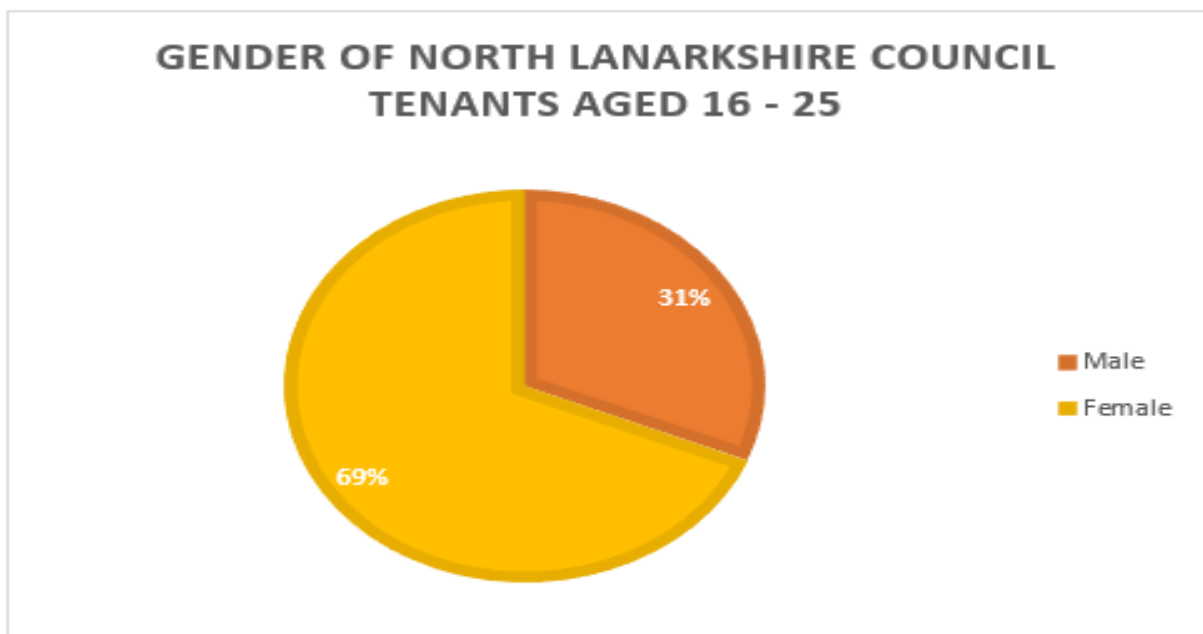
Table 7: North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19 distribution of Council tenants by age where head of household is 16-25 years



Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

In April 2019 there were 1,768 North Lanarkshire Council tenants aged between 16 and 25 years old. Young people (16-25 years) account for just under 6% of all Council tenancies.

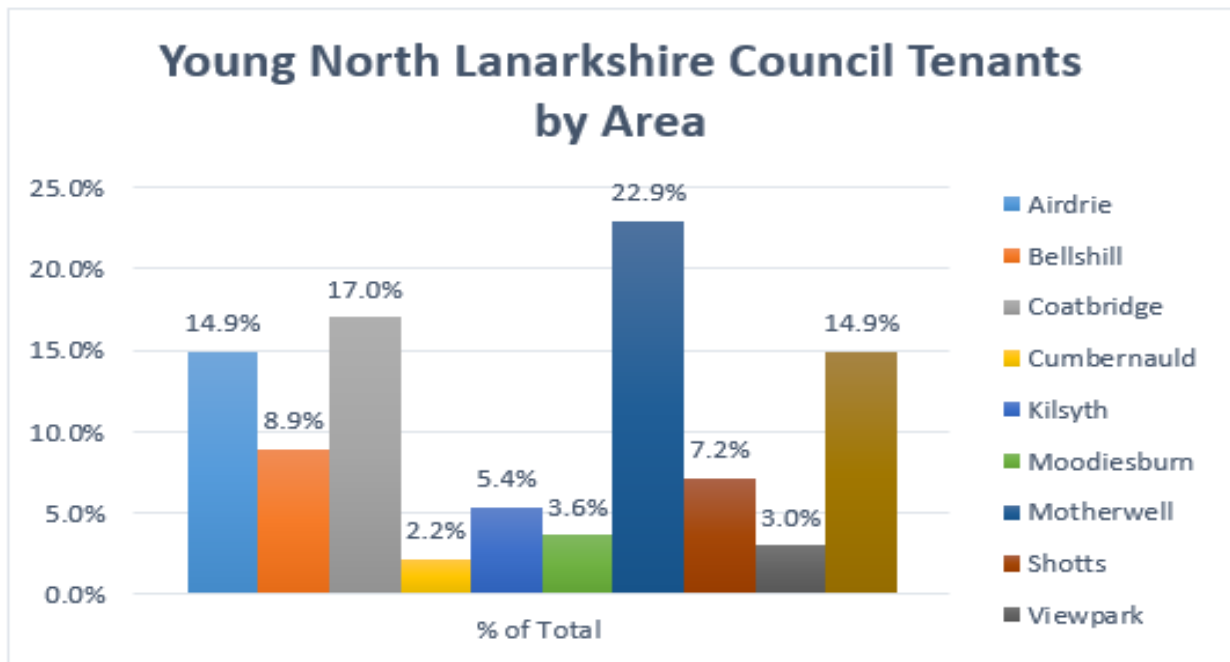
Table 8: North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19 distribution of Council tenants by Gender where head of household is 16-25 years



Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

There are significantly more female (69%) tenants under the age of 25 than male tenants (31%) of the same age which is reflective of the male/ female split of young people seeking social rented housing within North Lanarkshire.

Table 9: North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19 shows the distribution of Council tenants 16-25 years by Housing Sub Market Area

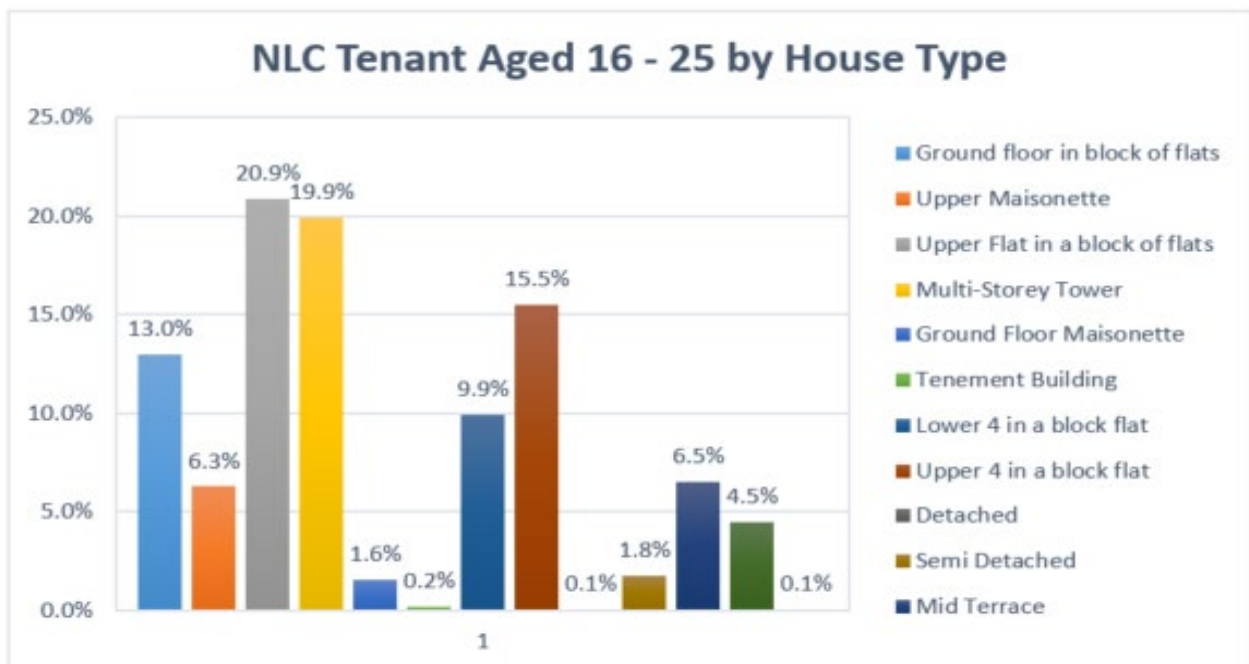


Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

Motherwell Housing Sub Market Area has the greatest proportion of young tenants (56%), Cumbernauld the lowest at 2.2%.

Most young people reside within flatted accommodation, 20.9% of younger people reside within an upper flat within a block of flats and 19.9% in flats within multi storey towers.

Table 10: Distribution of Council tenants aged 16-25 years by tenancy type



Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

6. Tenancy Sustainment

The information available from HSMS in relation to tenancy sustainment for 16-25 year olds shows that there is lower than average sustainment levels for younger tenants. During the 2-year period from 2018 to 2020 there were 1,437 new tenancies created for 16-25 year olds across North Lanarkshire. In total 5,774 households were housed in the period of which 97.47% have sustained their tenancy for more than 1 year – a 2.53% tenancy failure rate. A greater number of young males (31.8%) compared to young females (14.0%) failed to sustain their tenancy.

It is widely acknowledged the main reasons for tenancy failure include lack of support, debt problems, a lack of furniture, relationship breakdown and ill health. The Council recognise the importance of continuing to review, monitor and develop services that support young people to sustain their housing situation.

Table 11 compares sustainment levels between new tenants aged 16-25 against overall tenancy sustainment figures. Work is required to interrogate the housing management data further to identify the main reasons for tenancy failure and to gauge the impact Housing Support is making.

Table 11: North Lanarkshire Council HSMS 2018/19 Tenancy Sustainment Figures for all new tenancies North Lanarkshire Council April 2018 to March 2019

	Number Failed Tenancies	% Failed Tenancies	Number of Sustained Tenancies	% Of Sustained Tenancies	Total Housed Apr 2018 Mar 2019
16-26 year old	66	4.59%	1371	95.41%	1437
27 and above	80	1.84%	4257	98.16%	4337
Grand Total	146	2.53%	5628	97.47%	5774

Source: North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19.

Arrears and Evictions

A key issue affecting young people remains the impacts of recent Welfare Reforms. The Council has tried to mitigate some of this by promoting income maximisation and the use of Discretionary Housing payments or the Council's Prevention and Sustainability Fund to prevent homelessness. Failure to sustain a tenancy can be caused by debt problems and often results in young people having rent arrears. In terms of current tenant arrears young people (16-25 years) make up 10.2% of all tenants in arrears. A significant contributing factor to such arrears are the number of young people claiming benefits who are subject to sanctions as well as those affected by welfare reform under-occupancy charges.

Welfare reforms and changing work patterns such as zero hour contracts continue to have a significant impact across North Lanarkshire and since the implementation of full service Universal Credit this has deepened. The Council and Scottish Government continue to mitigate these reforms where it can however this may not be sustainable longer term.

There are currently 5,006 Council and RSL tenants affected by welfare reforms, with 7.3% of these being 16-25 years old (335 Council tenants and 32 RSL tenants). During 2018-19 there were 59 evictions, of which eight (13.6%) were tenants aged 16-25 with seven of these being evicted for rent arrears.

The table shows the incidence of rent arrears of council tenants 16-25 years compared to tenants over 25 years. Some 10% of young tenants are in rent arrears with an average arrear of £653 which is considerably higher than the average for tenants over 25.

Table 12: HSMS rent arrears cases and debt values of all council tenants Feb 2020

No of young people age 16-25 in arrears February 2020				
Age of Main Tenant	No of cases	%	Total Arrears Value	Average Arrear
16yrs-25yrs	1028	10.2%	£669,145	£653
>25years	8980	89.8%	£5,395,549	£600.84
Grand Total	10008	100%	£6,064,694	£605.98

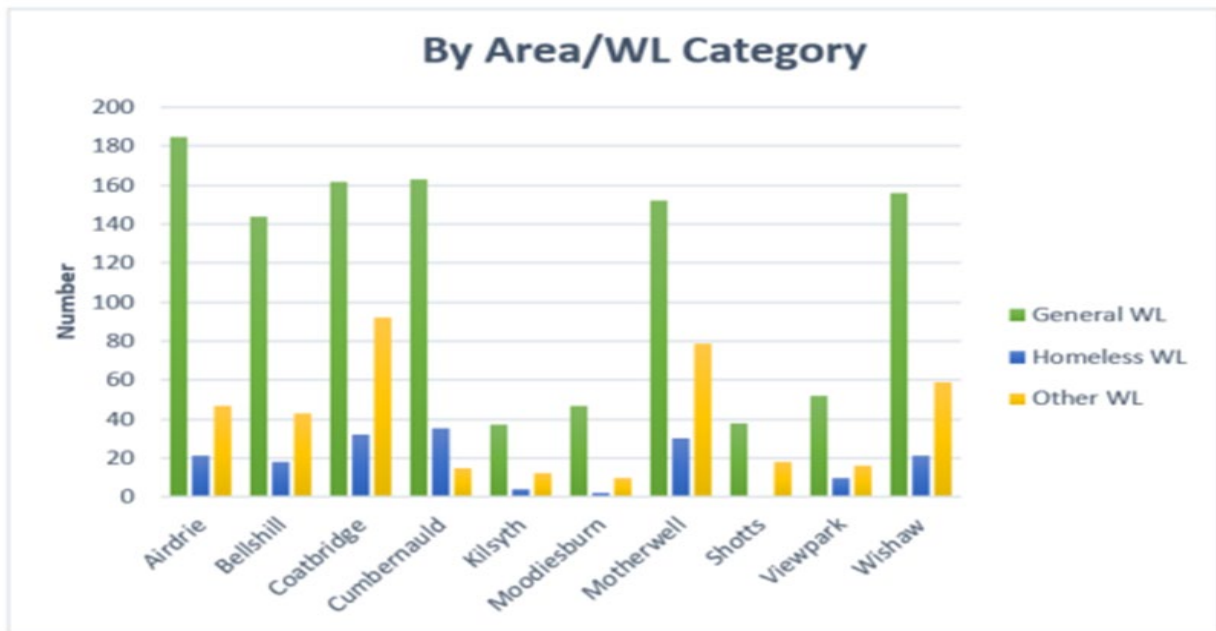
Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council

7. CHR Waiting Lists Under 26 In North Lanarkshire

As at 31st December 2019 there were 1,700 young people on North Lanarkshire Council's Common Housing Register (CHR) waiting list (14.1%), as compared to 2,341 (17%) stated in our last Youth Housing Statement paper in 2016. This is a considerable drop in numbers and requires further research to understand why this has occurred.

The table shows the distribution by area and waiting list category of housing applicants aged 16-26 in North Lanarkshire. The majority of young people are either on the General or Homeless Waiting Lists. Cumbernauld has highest number young homeless applicants.

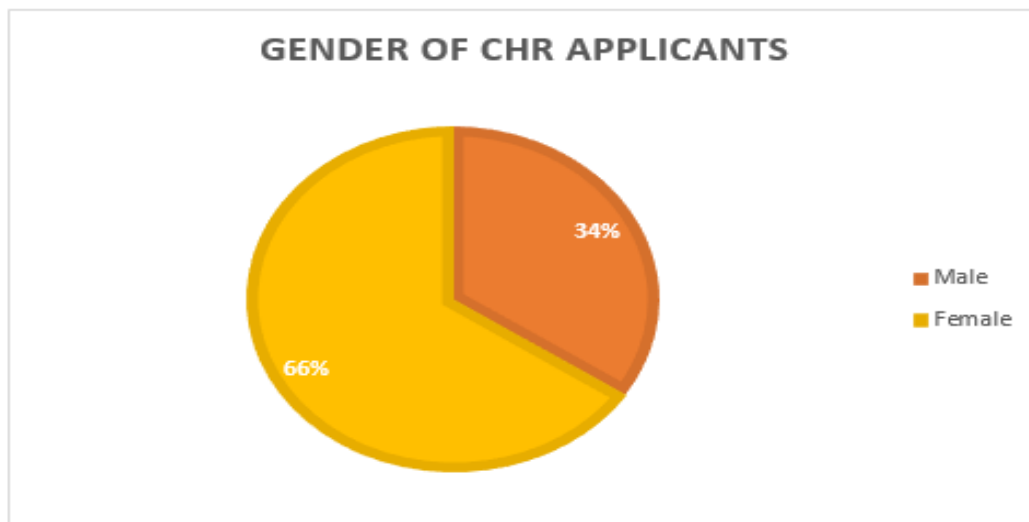
Table 13: Distribution by area and waiting list category of Housing Applicants aged 16-26 in North Lanarkshire



Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

The table shows the distribution by gender of waiting list applicants aged 16-26 in North Lanarkshire. The CHR Waiting list contains 1,700 young people 16-25 years, 66% of which are female. It is felt that young women are more likely to consider leaving home and becoming tenants for a number of reasons including becoming a parent, family breakdown and in emergency situations

Table 14: The distribution by gender of waiting list applicants aged 16-26 in North Lanarkshire



Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

8. Youth Homelessness in North Lanarkshire and Scotland

Homeless households in the 16-25 age band have reduced by 9% since the last LHS, however young people between 16 and 25 years still represent 24% of all homeless applicants. Additionally, most homeless applicants in North Lanarkshire are still made by those in the 16-25 and 26-34 age bands. Added together, these age bands represent 23% of the North Lanarkshire population but make up 57% of all homeless applications and so appear to be disproportionality affected.

People in these age bands are adversely affected by welfare reforms, in particular the Local Housing Allowance rates and the Shared Room Rate and consequently have more limited housing options. Young people appear to be particularly affected by social isolation and sporadic engagement with some services that could address their needs and evidence suggests that their mental health has been markedly affected by Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown.

In Scotland during 2018/19 about a quarter of homeless applications were made by someone under the age of 25. The proportion of applications from under 25's has reduced over the last decade, from 36% in 2008/9 to 24% in 2018/19. Over the same period this represents a 57% reduction in applications from under 25's, including a 68% reduction in applications from 16-17 year olds, compared to a reduction of 37% in all homeless applications.

During 2019, 636 young people aged 16-25 presented as homeless in North Lanarkshire, a small proportion of young people (15) made multiple homeless applications during the year. Nine percent of all young people who presented as homeless were Care Leavers and around 42% of all homeless young people were identified as requiring support needs as part of their homeless application.

The most common reasons for homelessness amongst young people continues to be family/relationship breakdowns (39%) and being asked to leave their current accommodation (27%).

Additionally, some young people previously had a tenancy which failed amounting to 6% being subject to termination of tenancy or repossession. Reasons for homelessness in North Lanarkshire have remained fairly consistent. Being asked to leave accommodation is still the main reason stated by homeless people in almost a quarter of all applications and this is consistent with the Scottish average.

The North Lanarkshire figure is 6% above the Scottish average of 24.32% for homeless young people in this age group and it would appear that homeless prevention activity requires a renewed focus to support young people to remain in their accommodation where possible. More recent innovation to assist young people to leave care into settled accommodation is in a pilot phase

Younger homeless applicants are far more likely to have been living with friends, relatives, and partners, than older applicants. With 62% of main applicants who were under 25 having lived with friends, relatives, and partners

The Homelessness Monitor: Scotland 2019 reports that nearly 10% of Scottish households contain concealed households who would prefer or expect to live separately and includes unrelated single adults or households with concealed families. For example, to what extent can different age groups form a separate household e.g. a younger person? Since 2010, there has been a sharp fall in the 'household representative rate' for all age groups but young people in particular and suggests an estimated 67,650 households have been prevented from forming for younger adults in the 20-34 age group.

Table 15: Youth Homelessness Trends in North Lanarkshire and Scotland 2005/19

Youth Homelessness Trends in North Lanarkshire and Scotland 2005/20				
Year	2005/6	2014/15	2018/19	2019/20
North Lanarkshire	1,013	417	490	508
Scotland	14,348	15,206	7,318	6,996

Source: Scottish Government Statistics & NLC Reports

There is a growing trend of young female homelessness North Lanarkshire that will require further investigation.

Table 16: Gender and Age Breakdown HPA NLC 2019/20

Age	All Applications	Male	Female
16	40	22	18
17	56	22	34
18	58	24	34
19	67	32	35
20	59	29	30
21	62	35	27
22	58	23	35
23	67	28	39
24	70	38	32
25	75	39	36
Total	612	292	320

Source: HSMS April 2020, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2020

Table 17: Youth Homelessness Household Types NLC 2019

	Age Banding NLC	
	16-17	18-25
2 Young adults/ Couple - No Children	1	36
2 Young adults/ Couple - With Children		16
More than 2 young adults - No Children		1
More than 2 young adults - With Children		
Single Female - No Children	18	184
Single Male - No Children	12	208
Single Parent/ Female - With Children	2	129
Single Parent/ Male - With Children		29
No of Cases	33	603

Source: HSMS April 2019, North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/19

50.8% of all homeless Young People lived with parents, within the family home or with relatives prior to presenting as homeless. The number of young females losing their own tenancies is a worrying trend requiring further analysis.

Table 18: Youth Homelessness Accommodation Prior to Application

Previous Accommodation Tenure	No of HPA Cases	Gender	
		MALE	FEMALE
Armed Services Accommodation	1	0	1
Children's Residential Accom (looked after by LA)	5	3	2
Friends/Partners	65	38	27
Hospital	1	1	0
Lodger	3	1	2
Long-term sofa-surfing	2	1	1
Not Known	1	0	1
Other	13	7	6
Own Property - LA Tenancy	115	51	64
Own Property - Owning/Buying	2	0	2
Own Property - Private Rented Tenancy	52	10	42
Own Property - RSL Tenancy	13	4	9
Own Property - Tenancy secured through Employment/Tied House	1	1	0
Parental/Family Home/Relatives	312	151	161
Prison	20	18	2
Shared Property - RSL	1	1	0
Supported Accommodation	5	5	0
Grand Total	612	292	320

Source: North Lanarkshire Council HSMS 2019/20

Although the number of applications by young people in North Lanarkshire has risen over the last year the trend since 2007 is down significantly across the whole of Scotland.

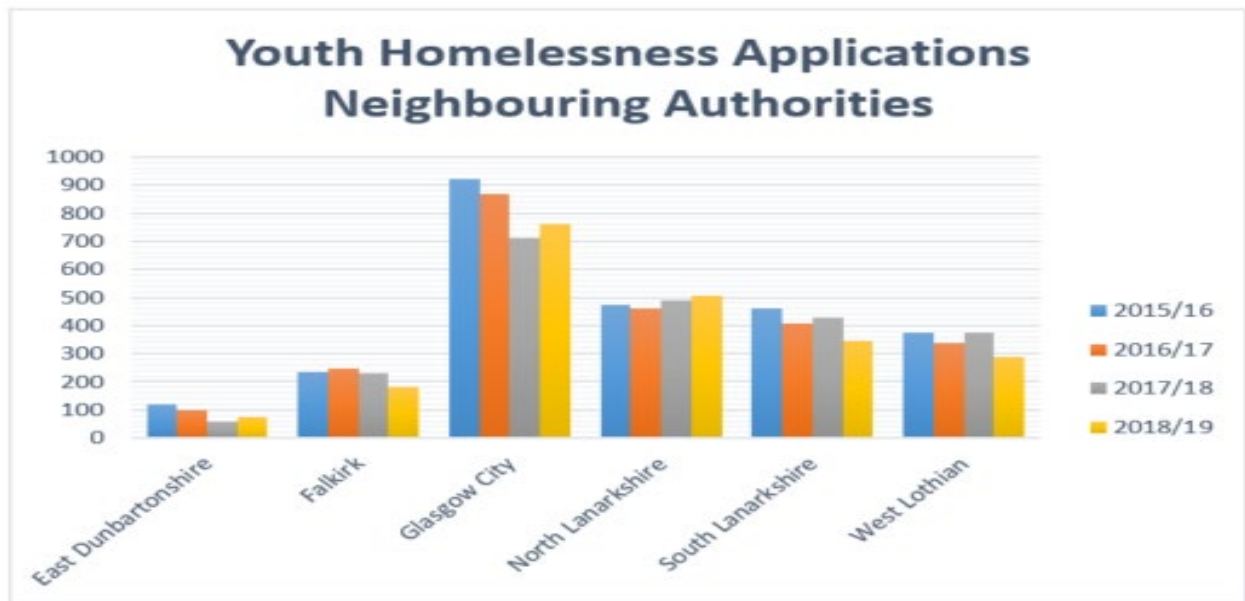
Table 19: Youth Homelessness across Scotland 2007/19

	Financial year of assessment											
	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
NLC	923	851	756	616	559	546	457	417	471	462	480	539
All	14642	15008	15574	14639	12308	9982	8733	8576	8047	7663	7348	7170

Source: Scottish Government Statistics & NLC Reports

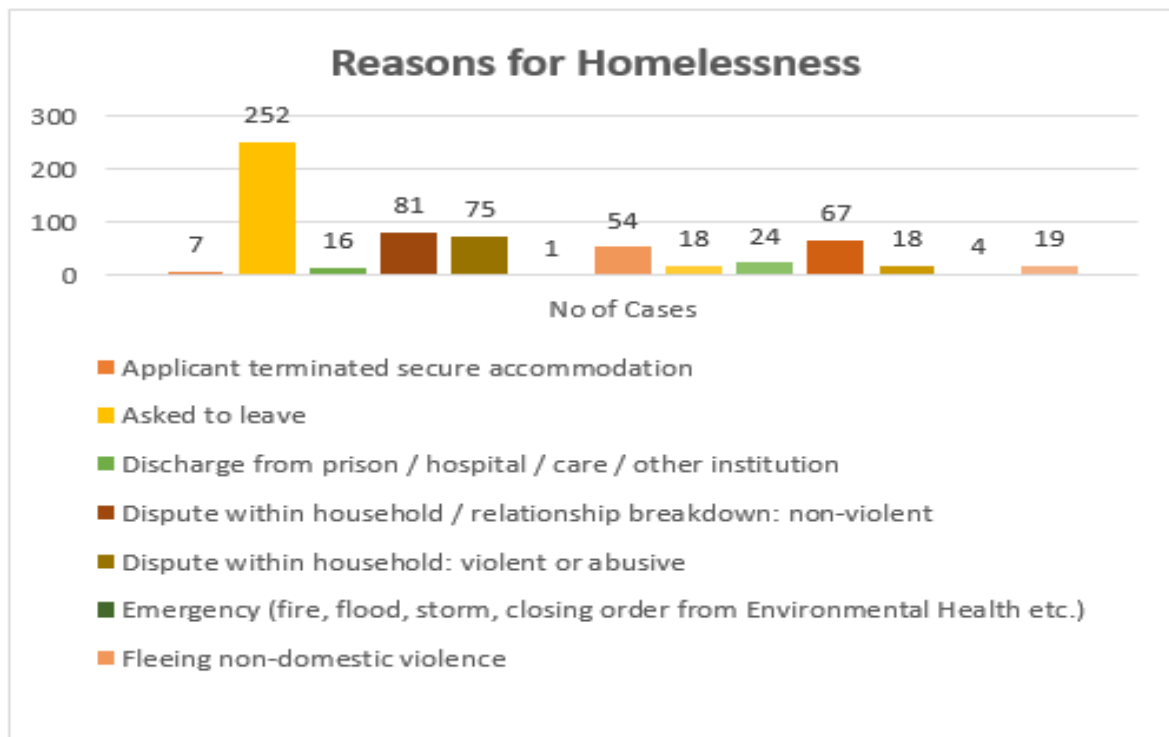
While most other areas are seeing reducing incidences of youth homelessness, applications have risen in North Lanarkshire Council area and further investigation is required to understand why.

Table 20: Incidence of youth homelessness in neighbouring authorities 2015/19



Source: Scottish Government Statistics & NLC Reports

Table 21: Youth Homelessness North Lanarkshire Council – Reasons for Homelessness 18/19



Source: NLC HSMS HPA 2018/9

The table shows youngest people took up a SSST while the numbers of lost contact and not known outcomes in North Lanarkshire remains high.

Table 22: HPA outcomes by all applicants North Lanarkshire and Scotland 2018/19

	Scottish Secure Tenancy	Private Rented Tenancy	Hostel	Returned to previous Accom	Women's Refuge	Other - Known	Other - Not Known	Contact lost before duty discharge	All
NLC	380	20	0	60	0	20	30	65	580
All	4650	305	55	770	5	290	290	945	7320

Source: NLC HSMS HPA 2018/9

9. Temporary Accommodation

The Council aims to ensure that there is a level of temporary accommodation available daily across our authority. Our priority is to ensure the availability of temporary accommodation prevents anyone being in a roofless situation. This includes ensuring sufficient Out of Hours provision. Where we cannot offer a service user accommodation or type to match their preference, we fully explain the reasons why, offer them what we have available and strive to move them back to their areas as soon as practically possible. We currently have 610 properties, broken down as follows. A separate evidence paper provides more in-depth information on the provision of temporary accommodation in North Lanarkshire.

Table 23: Breakdown of North Lanarkshire Councils temporary accommodation portfolio April 2019

Accommodation Type	Managed	No's of bed spaces
Dispersed lets	NLC	595
	RSL	29
Supported Accommodation	Managed	
Manse Avenue	NLC	20
Thrashbush Quad	NLC	18
Airth Court	NLC	32
Tarbolton Road	NLC	14
Greenlaw House	NLC	
Supported Accommodation non NLC		
Bridgeworks	Simon Community	4
Black Street	Simon Community	8
Mason Street	Simon Community	8
Houldsworth Court	Simon Community	4
Edinburgh Road	BTHA	12
Total		761

Source: NLC HSMS Temporary Accommodation Monitor 2020

The above shows that over 80% of our homeless portfolio is dispersed accommodation located across all our communities. We do not use B&B type accommodation, and have not used such accommodation since 2005, as the majority of our accommodation is provided from our own stock with a smaller provision from our RSL partners.

A number of our temporary accommodation facilities are externally managed by specialist third sector organisations such as BTHA and Simon Community who have expertise in providing enhanced support services to the most vulnerable young homeless people. We have developed specialist accommodation for young people in partnership with Blue Triangle at Edinburgh Road Project and Simon Community's Houldsworth Court. However, it is clear that some of our other accommodation options available are not particularly meeting the needs of young people and more consideration needs to be given to developing accommodation models that can respond better to the needs of vulnerable young people.

10. Prevention and Sustainability and Housing Options

In 2009 the Scottish Government published statutory guidance focussing on preventing and alleviating homelessness. This was further supported by the introduction of Housing Options Guidance in 2016. Housing Options is defined as "looking at an individual's options and choices in the widest sense and may involve exploring all possible tenure options. It can also cover other aspects of an individual's circumstance that may not be housing related but could impinge upon that individual's options in terms of access to housing which meets their needs."

The Housing Options focus is on preventing homelessness, intervening early and working closely with all relevant services which will assist individuals in their housing situation. Delivered effectively, Housing Options can help to avoid crisis and prevent homelessness. Housing Options activity is supported by locality HUBS across the country and continuously reviewed National Housing Options Guidance. A Housing Options Training Toolkit is currently in development and will provide learning opportunities, with a focus on skills and behaviours and practical assistance, to housing advice staff at a local level. The aim is to ensure that everyone who approaches a local authority with a housing problem is assisted to look at the widest range of housing options and solutions available, and considers the most sustainable option.

As part of the Councils housing options approach, we work with individuals to try to prevent crisis housing situations occurring. Where we cannot prevent a breakdown in living arrangements, we work to support individuals find solutions and address any underlying issues contributing to their housing situation. Where homelessness prevention is unsuccessful or a household is already homeless, housing staff will assist the applicant to exercise their legal right to make a homeless application and provide temporary accommodation for those who need it and specifically for those who are roofless, rough sleeping or sofa-surfing.

Housing support assessments are undertaken for homeless households and where needs are identified appropriate services are provided. The Council has internal housing support teams across localities and also commissions third sector agencies to provide specialist housing support services including specific floating support for young people. This includes referrals to specialist support provision, e.g., Barnardos, BTHA, Simon Community and working with our Health and Social Care partners to address range of mental health and addiction issues.

We regularly signpost to specialist services such as mediation and income maximisation services. The financial difficulties that people in the benefits system can now be presented with, such as claimant delays in accessing DWP payments and sanctions can lead to rent arrears, unpaid debts, fuel poverty, and acute hardship. This often results in negative impacts on mental health, relationships and living arrangements. All these factors have resulted in an increased demand on food banks, local authorities, Health and Social Care services and

requests for assistance through SWF applications and crisis grants. These issues have directly impacted on the increased number of young person's homeless presentations within our authority and despite continued efforts in terms of prevention, sustainability and housing options approaches we cannot always prevent people losing their homes.

11. Housing Support Services for Young People in North Lanarkshire

By accurately establishing the number of young people in housing need and understanding their particular support needs the Council will be in a better position to establish what the key issues are and develop and support services to address these needs. The Council provides housing options and homelessness advice to all households who approach the service seeking advice and assistance in relation to housing matters. The action taken to meet the needs of each household are specific to the individual or family's circumstances and may include liaison with DWP, private landlords, letting agents, lenders as well as broader advice and assistance across a range of topics and services such as repairs and maintenance across tenures, adaptations, care and repair and scheme of assistance services, social work and health.

Where homelessness prevention is unsuccessful or a household is already homeless, housing staff will assist the applicant to exercise their legal right to make a homeless application and provide temporary accommodation for those who need it and specifically for those who are roofless, rough sleeping or sofa-surfing. Housing Support assessments are undertaken for young homeless households and where needs are identified appropriate services are provided. Support aims to be tailored to individual requirements and is met through a range of resources. The Council has internal housing support teams across localities and also commissions third sector agencies to provide specialist housing support services including specific floating support for young people. The support provision is person centred and takes a broad, holistic approach to the whole family including the needs of children and links with other appropriate services to deliver tailored services.

The Council also provides supported accommodation services for young homeless people in need of significant levels of support, these services are delivered by specialist third sector housing support providers (BTHA and Simon Community).

Within North Lanarkshire we are committed to Homeless Prevention, sustainability and promoting Housing Options. In order to achieve these objectives, we work with Young People to help sustain current accommodation or stop living arrangements breaking down. Our support workers ensure effective sign-up and settling in procedures are made available to young people settling into their tenancy. There are Sustainability Officers located within local housing offices who have a particular focus on prevention activity to avoid future homelessness where possible, their role is to engage with our service users to provide advice and assistance in relation to income maximisation, addressing sanctions, housing benefit claims, setting up utilities, challenging private landlord eviction notices etc.

12. RRTP, Housing Support Services & Homes First

The Council has a legal obligation to assess and provide housing support services to homeless households as part of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. There is an ongoing commitment to review and evaluate how we deliver housing support within our developing Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP). This involves piloting a new approach to delivery of housing support through procuring an alliance of housing support from third sector providers to meet the needs of those households who would be deemed to be eligible for Homes First e.g. those with complex and multiple needs. The RRTP is co-produced with our Health and Social Care Partners, local Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), our Third Sector Housing Support Providers, Women's Aid and VANL.

RRTP and HOMES FIRST provide ordinary, settled housing as a first response for homeless people with complex needs. This approach recognises a safe and secure home with open ended flexible support as the best base for recovery, including ending homelessness by offering choice and control.

We estimate there are around 60 to 100 households within North Lanarkshire who have complex needs. Over the two years, we anticipate being able to deliver the Homes First approach to approximately 10 households per annum as well as enabling rapid re-housing for those who do not meet this criteria. Many of these households will be young people under 25 years of age.

North Lanarkshire Council will commission Partner Providers with operational experience in delivering housing support services to households who have complex and multiple needs, who have been assessed by the Council as being vulnerable and at most risk from being or becoming homeless. The successful Partner Providers will be asked to become part of an Alliance which will set-up, operate, and manage a Service that will, "seek to prevent homelessness occurring, prevent rough sleeping, minimise the effect of homelessness on individuals and their families (Service Users) and promote tenancy sustainment within the North Lanarkshire Council area". The housing support service will be targeted at households who are willing to engage with the service and have been identified as meeting one or more of the Homes First and Homes First Pathway criteria:

- Repeat Homelessness
- Care Experienced
- Prison Discharge
- Domestic Abuse
- Anti-Social Behaviour history
- Mental Health
- Addictions

The Council also aims to continue the development and implementation of Strategic Housing Outcomes set out in North Lanarkshire Council's Local Housing Strategy 2011-16 in relation to improving housing and support services for young people:

- Housing need is resolved as quickly as possible, and people can meet their housing aspirations
- Homelessness is reduced through the provision of a high quality housing options and support service
- Those with particular housing needs can live independently through the provision of accessible homes and support services
- All people at risk of experiencing fuel poverty have a warm and affordable home

- The quality and energy efficiency of homes across all tenures is improved and this contributes to meeting the climate change target
- People are able to live in good quality neighbourhoods

13. External Housing Support Services

It has long been recognised young homeless clients experience higher levels of health inequalities, they are disproportionately affected by addictions, mental health and poor physical health and often have complex needs. The Council currently works in partnership with a number of third sector providers e.g. Barnardos, Simon Community and Blue Triangle Housing Association to provide a range of accommodation based and outreach support services.

The support provided has been essential in helping people to cope with pressures and challenges arising from welfare reforms and migration of claimants to Universal Credit and plays a vital role in assisting those with complex needs engage with wider health services and other support organisations.

Our Housing Support services are outcome focussed and closely monitored on a regular basis. Inspection Reports continue to confirm high levels of satisfaction and good quality outcomes for those engaged in housing support. There is evidence to illustrate that housing support interventions help people to tackle and resolve crisis situations that could otherwise result in repeat homelessness.

BARNARDOS

One of the main aims of housing support services is to increase tenancy sustainment levels for vulnerable groups through delivery of good quality housing support. Housing support assists people to develop independent living skills, manage their accommodation and live safely in their home, as well as linking in to other services and agencies which are critical to improving health and well-being. The Council works in partnership with Barnardos Scotland to deliver a number of projects to better meet the needs of young homeless people and care leavers. Unfortunately, the Positive Destinations Project has had to end this year however the ethos of the project is enmeshed in Barnardos services and the skilled staff have been retained within other roles. Over the years the relationship between Barnardos has developed positively to meet the needs of Young People in the area. As a result, a number of initiatives have been developed and implemented. A brief description of the projects is attached below.

North Lanarkshire Youth Housing Support Service provides housing support to 16–26 year-olds referred by North Lanarkshire Council Housing Services. The service helps young people towards becoming confident independent tenants through a mixture of individual and group work and referrals to other agencies. Support is provided until each young person is able to manage on their own and an exit strategy is agreed. Some of the key goals young people work towards are:

- Gaining and sustaining a tenancy
- Decorating furnishing and making a house a home
- Understanding their budget, debt management and how to make best use of a limited income

- Managing relationships including family friends and the use of social media.

Groups offered on a regular basis include, building positive relationships, cooking, moving on to your tenancy, weekly fitness activity and the allotment group. There are also opportunities to get involved in occasional activities like a football tournament, women's, and men's groups where we look at issues that are suited to single sex groups.

Within (NLYHSS) sits the Welfare Officer. The main role for the welfare officer is to offer support and advice to young people in relation to benefit maximisation, sanctions and other issues which are affecting them. Young people can access this service through discussion with their Barnardos worker.

- **Advice and support with finances**
- **Budgeting support**
- **Income Maximisation**
- **Help with making claims to benefits**
- **Help with form filling**
- **Support with financial or benefit appointments**
- **services**
- **Support and guidance in times of financial crisis**
- **Help with challenging decisions about benefits or other financial matters (appeals and reviews)**
- **Help with rent & Council tax arrears**
- **Signposting and referral to other relevant**

HOME AND BELONGING

This project aims to deliver personalised interventions to help the young person transition from care to a settled life within their community. Enabling them to access suitable permanent accommodation by supporting tenancy sustainment through better integration within their community with the provision of appropriate supports to meet their needs. This project will enable us to pilot a model we aim to deliver through our developing Housing First approach to alleviating homelessness in North Lanarkshire.

This project has developed a 3-pronged approach to better meet the accommodation needs of Care Experienced Young People (CEYP). By providing good quality housing accommodation we are providing a strong foundation to start working from.

Training Flats - two training flats have been developed in partnership with NLC. They are made available to CEYP to learn how to manage household tasks such as washing, cleaning, or cooking a meal. Workers can arrange overnight stays for their young people as a way of getting used to managing alone in a tenancy prior to moving on from care.

Emergency reception flats - we have prepared 2 emergency reception flats. Reception flats provides a respite and planning period for when young people face emergency crisis homelessness.

Forever Homes - provide a permanent tenancy via NLC Housing or CVHA. Suitable properties will be identified in areas where people want to live. The accommodation is decorated and furnished to a high quality, ensuring young people feel valued.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The aim is to develop new partnerships and a deeper understanding within local communities about the needs of care experienced individuals. We aim to encourage families to become “befriender families”, offering friendship and support in a relaxed and natural way. People who are interested in becoming a community support may be matched up with young people living near to them. It is recognised there is an element of risk attached to this model, but the young people fully endorsed the notion of people being in their lives because they want to be, not because they are paid to be. CEYP also expressed a desire to be involved in local communities to positively raise the profile of CEYP. The young people will receive training and will be supported by the Volunteer Co-Ordinator through the whole process.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The aim of this project is to create better informed Housing Teams and Support Services by providing first-hand experience, supporting and advising on the wider needs of young people. Barnardo’s and NLC have long established relationships and we now work directly together to deliver services for young people. Each organisation is inviting the other to be open to scrutiny on practice, culture and values. This presents an element of challenge and it’s precisely this that makes this project so unique. The project will seek to understand the underlying prejudices, cultures and attitudes that drives poor responses to some of the issues faced by CEYP.

The funding provides for 6 Secondees (one Service Coordinator from each of North Lanarkshire’s Housing locality teams) to spend 6 months on secondment project. Over the 3

years of the placement each Officer will develop their understanding of care leavers' needs and their experiences of dealing with statutory services. By working directly with the young people as their key worker this project enables NLC staff to experience first-hand the impact of the housing department's policies and local decision making on the future life chances of young people. When the officers return to their teams, they will seek to drive change and disseminate learning within their locality teams. During the secondment the officer will develop an action plan and meet key aims and objectives of the project.

Key tasks will include:

- Being key worker for young people moving into their own tenancy.
- Undertake training on the needs of CEYP, fostering a relationship-based approach to problem solving: Training will include: Trauma Aware and Informed Practice, Attachment and Relationship Building.
- Lead on creating homely, welcoming accommodation for CEYP. In partnership with care leavers, we will refurbish 6 emergency accommodation flats. To enable this change, Barnardo's will introduce the concept of Psychologically Informed Environments (PIE).
- Secondees will facilitate learning and change within the Council by progressing a jointly agreed action plan

The primary purpose of this project is to bring the experiences of young people to life for Housing Officers. However critically Barnardo's staff also have the opportunity to gain an insight into the actuality of housing processes and procedures. By working alongside each other this allows a better understanding of each other's 'Values vs Norms' i.e., what is promoted vs what actually happens in practice. This project brings NLC staff face-to-face with the young people, allowing them to see the effect processes and decisions can have on young people.

CEYP are at the forefront of this project and have been involved in the inception and development of the project and continue to be fully involved. Members of the CEYP Forum have;

- Been assisting with establishing protocols for reception flats, a welcome leaflet and welcome pack.
- Produced a video providing their opinions of their dealings with agencies involved in their lives.
- Attended a 2-day residential event in January to work on skills that will allow them to be more involved in building awareness of the project

BLUE TRIANGLE (GLASGOW) HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Viewpark Project is a joint partnership between Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association and North Lanarkshire Council that delivers supported accommodation to young people. The Project provides homeless accommodation for 12 young people and is a mix of male and female residents. The Viewpark Project operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The service is aimed at young people who are aged 16 to 25 years and who:

- Are single, homeless or about to be homeless.
- Aged 16 to 25 years.
- Have been assessed by NLC as having a medium to high level of needs and where intensive supported temporary accommodation is required.

- Respite Support Aimed at young people 16-25 years, specifically those whose care placement may be at risk of breaking down.

Referrals may also be made for young people who were previously looked after and accommodated and are making the transition to independent living who have been assessed by NLC as requiring supported temporary accommodation. The service objectives are to:

- Allocate accommodation and support to an identified group of young vulnerable people.
- Provide support services specific to each individual's needs and promote and encourage independent living skills.
- Assist in the resettlement process.

Delivering this service as a Psychologically Informed Environment (PIE) means the approach and the day to day running of the project have been consciously designed to consider the psychological and emotional needs of the young people. The purpose of this service is to encourage change within the young person's behaviours and emotions. This is achieved through building positive relationships, having a person-centred support plan utilising Better Futures and a development wheel. The young people provide input into the physical environment such as colour and personalised items for their accommodation.

Staff recognition of small positive outcomes and an asset – strength based approach, stick ability, and understanding young people's learned coping mechanisms are vital in this service. Attachment, Relationships and Complex Trauma training are delivered to all staff.

SIMON COMMUNITY

NORTH LANARKSHIRE INTENSIVE HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE

“We provide housing support to over 90 people each week across the North Lanarkshire area. People who use our service tell us that it has been invaluable in assisting them gain and maintain their own tenancies. Our team know that the people who use our service have their own answers and solutions to the challenges they face. Our role is to work side-by-side to help them realise their potential. We help people explore options so they can make decisions that can enhance their life.”

NORTH LANARKSHIRE – BLACK STREET SERVICE

Black St. accommodates and supports 8 male residents and works with individuals to reach their full potential and the goals they have identified with the ultimate aim of maintaining a tenancy. Sometimes this is through getting involved in the community and sometimes it is learning to make a home cooked meal. The service utilises a PIE, person-centred, holistic and caring approach to better support service user deal with the variety of issues that have contributed to their homelessness.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE – BRIDGEWORK SERVICE

The Bridgework Service is located in Motherwell. The service is made up of 4 self-contained flat's promoting independent living with an adjoining staff premises. The service provides

intensive housing support to 4 men who have experienced homelessness, mental health and addiction issues inclusive of challenging behaviours and chaotic lifestyles. The service operates 24/7, 365 days a year. This includes a staff member on a sleep-over duty. At present this is between the hours of 10pm to 8am. There is also a responsive on-call when staff are lone working.

Bridgework aims to support service users break the vicious lifestyle circle of addiction dependency and chaotic lifestyle by promoting a recovery and harm reduction based model of positive change. Experienced and innovative staff team support individuals to build on their strengths and work in a person centred environment of support with the objectives of harm reduction (although abstinence is not a criteria condition of service) and the development of new behavioural patterns. Staff members seek to help service users identify areas of development and support required and assist them to gain confidence, life skills and coping strategies in order to prepare them for independent living.

The Bridgework staff want individuals to be at the heart of their support, promoting individual choice and inclusion within services and in the community. The aim is to ensure that when residents move on, that they can maximise their potential and achieve positive outcomes in order to be ready for when they move into their own homes with no need for further repeat homelessness.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE – HOULDSWORTH COURT SERVICE

Houldsworth Court is based within the Wishaw area. The service is made up of 4 self-contained bungalows promoting independent living with further bungalow containing the staff premises. The service provides intensive housing support to 4 females who have experienced homelessness, mental health and addiction issues inclusive of challenging behaviours and chaotic lifestyles.

The service operates 24/7, 365 days a year. This includes a staff member on a sleep-over duty. At present this is between the hours of 10pm to 8am. There is also a responsive on-call when staff are lone working. Houldsworth Court aims to support service users break the vicious lifestyle circle of addiction dependency, mental health issues and chaotic lifestyle by promoting a recovery and harm reduction based model of positive change. Our experienced and innovative staff team support individuals to build on their strengths and work in a person centred environment of support with the objectives of harm reduction (although abstinence is not a criteria condition of service) and the development of new behavioural patterns. Staff members seek to help service users identify areas of development and support required and to assist them to gain confidence, life skills and coping strategies in order to prepare them for independent living. Houldsworth staff want individuals to be at the heart of their support, promoting individual choice and active inclusion within services and in the community. The aim is to ensure that when residents move on, that they can maximise their potential and achieve positive outcomes in order to be ready for when they move into their own homes with a lesser risk for further repeat homelessness.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE – MASON STREET SERVICE

Mason Street provides supported accommodation for eight males, who are experiencing homelessness and may also have other support needs for example addictions/ mental health issues. The aim of our service is to promote person centred, independent living and support our clients to access/ engage with other support networks and to learn/relearn the necessary life skills to enable them to receive and maintain their own tenancy in the community, Within Mason street we offer a warm, comfortable, friendly atmosphere and home, staff are flexible and work a range of shifts, ensuring the service is covered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, ensuring our clients always have someone there to listen, support and offer advice, Mason street at times can be very fast paced and challenging role, but also one that is very rewarding, we pride ourselves on being approachable and providing a safe and friendly environment, where people are encouraged to have and work towards their own goals, be proud of who they are and what they achieve.

14. Care Experienced Young People

The Children Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 ensures extra support and greater rights for children and young people in care. All teenagers in residential, foster or kinship care who turn 16 are now entitled to remain in their care setting until they reach the age of 21 years. There is also a requirement to provide support until reaching the age of 26 for care leavers to help them move into independent living. It also places a Corporate Parenting duty on local authorities. This means a collective responsibility across the whole Council, elected for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for the children who are looked after by the Council.

Our aim is to increase understanding that leaving care is a life event for looked after young people, not just a bureaucratic exercise. In Scotland, the average age for leaving care is between 16 and 18 years old, but the average age for leaving home is 25. We know that care leavers make smoother transitions into independent living when they have been settled in secure, stable care and when they are properly supported as they prepare to take those big steps into adult life.

The Council recognises that everyone, including care leavers, have a legal right to make a homeless application but by implementing the Council's housing options protocol we aim to ensure that care leavers are able to access suitable accommodation and housing without having to make a homeless application. Care leavers receive priority under the North Lanarkshire housing allocations policy, operated by the Council and our RSL partners. Care leavers are given 150 waiting list points, in addition to any other points they are entitled to (on medical grounds, insecure housing grounds etc.). In the past three years, the median length of time taken from the addition of these points to a care leaver being housed is 73 days. In contrast, the median length of stay in temporary accommodation in North Lanarkshire during 2017/18 was 106 days, suggesting the priority given to care leavers by our current allocation policy is giving them sufficient priority and helps prevent them becoming homeless.

We gather data on the age of care experienced young people making housing applications. This information is used to inform service provision and delivery. This includes monitoring tenancy sustainment rates by age and household characteristic. Allocations and

homelessness outcomes for care leavers are monitored on an ongoing basis, as part of our performance management arrangements. This information has informed the development of housing support services specifically designed for care leavers.

This includes the development of projects aimed at preventing homelessness and improving outcomes for young care leavers, delivered in partnership with Barnardo's. Positive Destinations provided specialist housing support for care experienced young people. Unfortunately, this project has now ended however we have recently succeeded in an application to the Life Changes Trust for a workforce development project. This initiative will see housing coordinators from each of North Lanarkshire's six locality areas seconded to work with Barnardos for a six month period. The aim is that these workers will return to the Council and become local champions for care leavers, sharing the knowledge and understanding they have gained with colleagues.

In order to aid the transition from care and prevent homelessness, the Council is working with Barnardo's Scotland on a project providing a 'forever home' to care experienced young people at the point of leaving care and is funded through the Life Changes Trust. Young people either still in care or those leaving care will have access to life and independent living skills training through a modular programme and backed up by practical sessions within training flats where they can learn to prepare and cook a meal, clean and maintain a home and reflect on the social aspects of managing a tenancy.

Considering the increasing numbers of younger households with complex needs supported in the community it is important that people have access to the right support at the right time. Enhanced partnership working, collaboration and integration across housing, health and social care is essential to ensure that Care Leavers have access to information, advice and support to achieve their full potential. Case conferences are called for each care leaver, under the pathway planning process. Where a housing solution is required, the Council's housing service will be invited to the conference. We employ a process of joint-interviews for care experienced young adults, which takes account of both social and accommodation needs. Housing practitioners are invited to case conferences when move-on accommodation is being considered ensuring that our housing options protocol is implemented. Social work professionals also regularly attend housing options interviews, at the young person's request. The Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach supports Young People so that they can grow up feeling loved, safe, and respected and can realise their full potential. The approach helps local authorities focus on what makes a positive difference for Young People and how they can act to deliver these improvements. GIRFEC is threaded through existing policy, practice, strategy, and legislation affecting Young People and their families.

We recognise that Wellbeing is influenced by children's individual experiences and changing needs as they grow. A range of experiences can have negative effects on Young People. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences that can have a huge impact on children and Young People throughout their lives. ACEs include growing up in a difficult household and being subject to Abuse: or Neglect. As well as these ACEs there are a range of other types of childhood adversity that can have similar negative long-term effects. These include bereavement, bullying, poverty, and community adversities such as living in a deprived area, etc. Childhood adversity can create harmful levels of stress which impact healthy brain development. This can result in long-term effects on learning, behavior and health. Evidence from ACE surveys demonstrates that ACEs can exert a significant influence throughout people's life. ACEs have been found to be associated with a range of

poorer health and social outcomes in adulthood and that these risks increase as the number of ACEs increase. Consideration of ACEs is therefore crucial to thinking about how to improve the lives of Young People, to support better transitions into adulthood, and achieve good outcomes for all young adults.

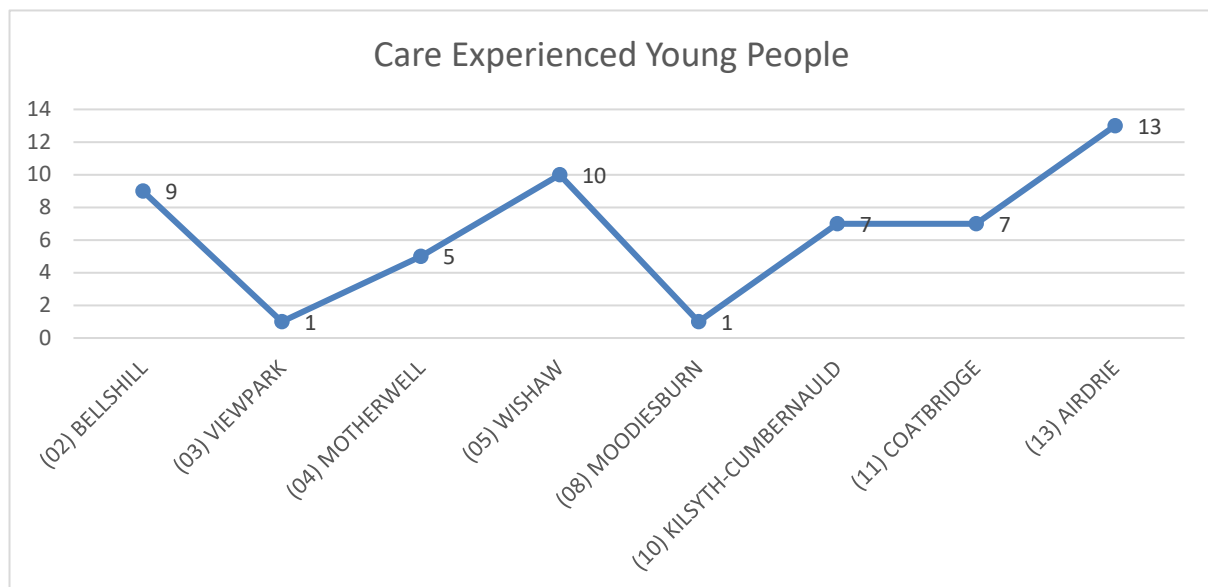
We are committed to preventing and helping to reduce the negative impacts of ACEs and supporting the resilience of Young People we work with. The Council has developed a learning pathway for all housing staff who work most closely with CEYP covering topics such as PIE, ACES, Mental Health and Sexual Exploitation.

In 2019 five young people were reported to have been discharged directly from care into homelessness and whilst this number is very low, there is an aspiration that no young person becomes homeless at point of leaving care and an improved and proactive approach to the pathway planning process is required to ensure that appropriate alternatives accommodation is provided.

Overall, 53 young people were recorded as being care experienced and is 2.24% of the homeless population. 68% (36) of all care experienced young people had been in care in within the last five years and the remainder more than five years ago.

Table 24 shows that almost 24.5% of all care experienced young people came from the Airdrie area. Just under 19% were from Wishaw and 17% from Bellshill. Both Kilsyth/Cumbernauld and Coatbridge recorded just over 13% each. The Motherwell area had half the number of care experienced homeless young people than the highest areas and it would be interesting to try and understand if there are specific reasons for this or if this is really just about the profile of young people in care.

Table 24 – Care Experienced Young People



Source: HSMS & NLC Reports 2019

15. LGBTQ+

A growing population among young people approaching the council for assistance with housing issues are young people who identify as LGBTQ+. This group of young people face particular difficulties, and it is apparent from National research that despite the best intentions current services across the country are not particularly well set up to provide the advice and support they require.

The World Habitat Report highlights that LGBTQ+ people are affected by high levels of hardship and are disproportionately affected by housing problems. Young LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness are more likely to be victims of violence and substance misuse and more likely to be affected by social isolation because they do not believe that mainstream housing, support and care can offer safe and appropriate services and have concerns about the risk of harassment and abuse they may face.

The LGBT Youth Commission on Housing and Homelessness was set up in 2016 to gain a better insight into the housing experiences of young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people they carried out peer research with over 100 LGBT young people which found:

- LGBT young people were not presenting as 'homeless' to local Councils. Young people said that they simply didn't know where to go and many said they didn't want to have discussions at open desks
- Some LGBT young people had negative experiences of 'coming out' and were fearful of disclosing their LGBT identity/ 'coming out' to support services.
- Trans and non-binary young people faced additional barriers to accessing shelters and accommodation. Some young people faced prejudice from service users and felt that staff were not always equipped to respond.
- Some transgender young people had been denied access to single-sex services and non-binary young people often felt there was no suitable alternative for them.

Research carried out by the Albert Kennedy Trust on the experiences of LGBT people found:

- LGBT young people are disproportionately represented in the young homeless population, with as many as 24% of young homeless people are LGBT.
- 69% of homeless LGBT young people had experienced violence, abuse or rejection from the family home.
- 77% state that their LGBT identity was a causal factor in them becoming homeless.

Key issues and considerations:

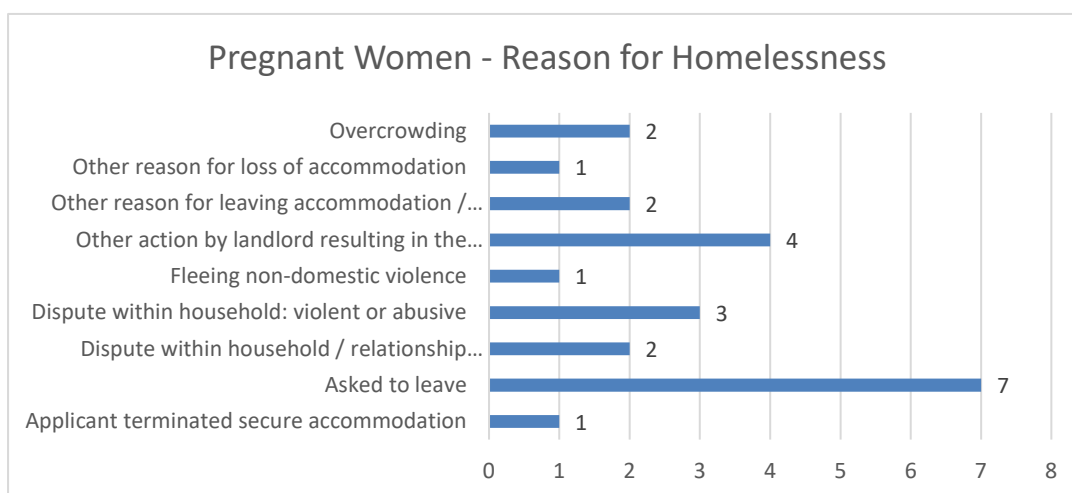
- National research tells us that LGBT young people face particular housing barriers and challenges and that training and awareness raising amongst housing staff may provide a mechanism for overcoming these challenges.
- As there is limited information available in relation to the experiences of LGBTQ people it may be beneficial to carry out research to help identify ways in which equality of opportunities can be improved and disadvantage reduced.
- One of the key challenges across all the groups is that there are little or no equalities monitoring and as a result, homelessness services are not able to identify who might have specific needs.
- An important aspect of future development is to improve our understanding of the needs of LGBTQ+ and this will be facilitated through engagement and consultation with local LGBTQ+ people.

- The Council and all its partners are committed to undertake multi-agency workforce development sessions to improve staff understanding and ensure a tailored response to the issues faced by LGBTQ+ people across all our services.

16. Pregnancy and Young Homeless Women

Recent Homeless data from HSMS 2019 identifies that 23 women were pregnant at point of presentation. The largest majority of these women were single with no existing children (16). 65% (12) of pregnant women were young people aged 16 to 25 years and one of these women had a care experienced background. 57% of these women had been residing at the family/ parental home or with partners/ friends. A further 30% had been living in the Private Rented Sector (PRS). Better information is required to clearly recognise the extent of domestic abuse within this group, and this highlights a need to develop specific support and practical assistance to ensure we keep young single women who are pregnant safe and well.

Table 25: Stated reasons for homelessness given by pregnant women NLC 2018/19



Source: Scottish Government Statistics & NLC Reports

This identifies that the majority were asked to leave or subject to violence or dispute.

17. Discharged from Institutions

Research evidence illustrates that the cycle of homelessness and offending can lead to a self-perpetuating negative cycle. An IRISS report on Prison Leavers and Homelessness illustrates the complex relationship between homelessness and offending behaviour. Time spent in prison is likely to increase the risk of possible homelessness and a lack of permanent accommodation increases the possibility of offending or re-offending. The research highlights that the provision of adequate housing for prison leavers can “significantly reduce re-offending” and a more proactive approach to planning for people leaving prison and appropriate follow on support to assist in tenancy sustainment is of critical importance. (IRISS, Prison Leavers and Homelessness – 2015).

In North Lanarkshire a range of services operate to provide a cohesive and holistic approach to working with young offenders to tackle underlying issues of offending and to support people to sustain accommodation including:

- Restorative Justice and community payback orders where skills are developed to aid future employment and break the cycle of re-offending;
- Women’s Community Justice Service which is a multi-agency approach providing support and direct interventions to address underlying reasons for offending;
- Community Bridges Project, a partnership that aims to improve the quality of life for short term prisoners and their families affected by substance misuse by enabling continuity of support and treatment from prison to the community;

However, there is a lack of consistent planning and a more intensive approach to homeless prevention is needed through full implementation of the SHORE Standards. Existing protocols and procedures will be reviewed to ensure they fit with SHORE approach.

18. Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse), can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family or friends)". While available evidence suggests that the most prevalent instances of domestic abuse are male abuse towards females, this definition acknowledges and includes female abuse towards males and also abuse between partners or ex partners in same-sex relationships.

Young homeless people are at great risk of being victims of violence and abuse in a variety of settings, NLC homelessness presentations 2019 describe some 60% of young applicants fleeing some sort of violence, abuse or household dispute.

North Lanarkshire Council is committed to dealing with domestic abuse against women and children in line with the Scottish Governments “Equally Safe” strategy North Lanarkshire Council’s Enterprise & Communities is a key partner in the Domestic Abuse Working Group and has adopted the same definition of domestic abuse as that in North Lanarkshire Domestic Abuse Action Plan.

Under this plan, North Lanarkshire Council’s Enterprise & Communities has responsibility to enable women and children to access accommodation and support services. The aim of this guidance is to further develop a co-ordinated response to the accommodation and support needs of women experiencing domestic abuse. It outlines the legal framework and operational framework agreed between the agencies for providing assessment, planning and appropriate accommodation for women experiencing domestic abuse.

The Council have produced a Domestic Abuse Guide (including MARAC) for staff and recent new guidance and training has been extended to all staff to ensure that they are aware of the council and the Scottish government’s stance on this matter.

North Lanarkshire Council takes these issues very seriously and have formed the North Lanarkshire Violence against Women Working Group (VAWWG) in order to address them. The VAWWG brings together statutory and voluntary organisations which have an important role to play in tackling domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women. The aim is to deliver the national approach as detailed in Safer Lives: Changed Lives: A Shared Approach to Tackling Violence against Women in Scotland at a local level. The Youth Housing

Statement aims to improve standards and accessibility of accommodation for those fleeing domestic abuse.

19. Information and Advice

The Council has a duty to provide a range of information and advice to all its population about a whole range of issues. This is no different for young people and in particular young vulnerable people. The Council website contains a whole range of information and advice that will assist the young people and the general public to deal with issues that arise. The Council also provides face to face advice in a network of First Stop Shops across the main towns of North Lanarkshire. The FSS are open Monday to Friday all year and people can call in to discuss a whole range of issues relating to their circumstances and Council services.

Our housing locality teams are the main point of contact for young people with housing related problems. We provide housing options interviews that will provide comprehensive advice aimed at maintaining or accessing accommodation. A major part of our work is dealing with homelessness enquiries and great effort is put into preventing incidences of homelessness occurring. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, and we will ensure young people who require further assistance are provided with temporary accommodation if needed and referral to housing support services.

We recognise that homelessness and other housing emergencies can happen to anyone at any time. To ensure that assistance is available 24 hours a day, we provide an emergency out of hours service. The service operates every day of the year when the housing offices are closed. The Council provides a Freephone line that connects to the Out of Hours Standby officers who will provide advice and information and if necessary, arrange temporary accommodation.

All new tenants receive a settling in visit and an income maximisation session with their housing officer and if necessary young people can contact or be referred to a welfare rights advisor who will be able to assist them if they have serious issues regarding finances, debt, rent or benefit entitlement.

In addition to providing direct assistance, we have developed a number of links with a range of Council, Social Work, Health and 3rd sector agencies. We have developed referral routes, service protocols and access to a range of information and advice to ensure Young People are able to get the advice and support they need, including Addiction Services, Community Mental Health Services, Criminal Justice and the NHS Lanarkshire Health and Homeless Team..

It is clear a lot of time and effort has been utilized to ensure young people have access to a wide range of information and advice that will assist them should they need assistance. The Council's website contains numerous pages of useful information and advice to assist young people in a variety of situations. If Young People are having problems as a result of a health, drug or alcohol problem there is a range of organisations across North Lanarkshire to help including:

- Advice for young homeless people
- Find your nearest GP/ Health Service.
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Community Addiction Teams
- Harm Reduction Team
- Lanarkshire HIV Aids Hepatitis Centre

- Monklands Council on Addictions
- Phace West Gay Men's Services
- Phoenix House - Rape Crisis Centre Lanarkshire
- Scottish Association for Mental Health
- Turning Point

20. Health and Wellbeing

The NHS Health & Homelessness Team provide a service, funded by Housing Services, that provides immediate health care to homeless households, including young people, who are disconnected from mainstream services. The service addresses immediate health care issues relating to mental health, addictions and physical health with the vast majority (98%) of service users being under 24 years of age.

The North Lanarkshire Addiction Recovery Team (ART) bring health and social work staff together to help young people who have problems with alcohol and drugs. The team includes nursing staff, social workers, addiction workers and support workers and occupational therapists. They can also refer to specialist doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists if required.

North Lanarkshire Addiction Recovery Team offers person centred support to people living in the area whose lives have been adversely affected by alcohol and/or drug use. The service offers a range of interventions that support people to make changes to their life that can improve their physical, mental and social wellbeing. The service has a 'no closed door approach'. This means that young people will be seen within 21 days of referral and will see anyone aged 16 years or over. There is no upper age limit. In addition, referrals are also made by other locally commissioned services. These include:

- Barnardo's Axis who offer support to young people aged 14–21 (26 if they had formerly been in care) affected by addictions.
- Phoenix Futures who offer a range of supports for those no longer in need of our service or who do not wish to access a statutory service.
- Lanarkshire Addiction Midwifery Service (LAMS) who offer specialist support to pregnant women and their families.

Other support services in place across the authority to improve health and wellbeing for young people include Barnardos AXIS and Meridian North. Both these services provide services to young people affected by substance misuse. Some services and young people indicate that there appears to be limited access to health and support services in place to work with this client group which could potentially prevent them as accessing housing or if necessary, presenting as homeless.

It would be beneficial to better understand the service provision and outcomes for this group of young people in order to identify suitable actions that could contribute to the Youth Housing Statement priority of 'Improve health and wellbeing of young people in relation to provision of suitable housing and related services'. It is therefore necessary to consider how to further develop partnership working with agencies which assist young people suffering substance misuse with a view to promoting homelessness prevention.

21. Anti-Social Behaviour/ Mediation

It is a widely held premise that young people, particularly young homeless people, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) are synonymous. However, it may be that reality is somewhat different to the perceived nature of the problem of ASB and those who commit it.

It is recognised that certain groups of young people are proportionately more likely to commit certain types of ASB, but it is dangerous to base policy and interventions on such sweeping assertions. In the best case it can often lead to poorly thought out and ineffective responses, at worst, it can lead to the gradual alienation of a significant group of society, who feel that they are 'always being picked on'.

Not all young people cause nuisance; not all young people are rowdy and intimidating. Many feel just as victimised as those members of the community who report such offences, if not more so. It is a fact that young single males are the largest group of victims of crimes. The key to dealing with the issue is to clearly identify the problem and to ensure that policy and interventions in response target the actual problem and that progress is monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

In 2014/15, 20 young people received family mediation in relation to housing circumstances and 62 received neighbourhood mediation. The aim of mediation is to enable young people to reach an agreement that will allow them to resolve issues or disputes with family members or neighbours in order to support them to sustain and enjoy their tenancy.

In order to improve our understanding of how successful mediation can be to prevent homelessness or improve tenancy sustainment it will be important to develop trend analysis to inform service development and resources. With an increased knowledge and understanding our staff will be able to participate in early intervention and by increasing the use of mediation to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour and family breakdowns we will reduce the number of young people at risk of becoming homeless.

22. Youth Justice

The North Lanarkshire Community Justice Partnership (NLCJP) is committed to working together with the community to effectively develop community justice services in order to prevent and reduce reoffending. We work with our statutory partners: North Lanarkshire Council, Police Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Health and Social Care Integration, NHS, Scottish Prison Service, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service to support manage and supervise people who have committed offences until they are reintegrated into the community.

The extension of diversion services across Lanarkshire and the reduction of young people coming formally into the justice system is a North Lanarkshire Council objective and therefore local communities and third sector organisations are also a vital part of the process which aims to prevent and reduce further offending and the harm that it causes. Housing Services works in partnership with a number of organisations to support young offenders to sustain their tenancy. Our external housing support services support a number of young people with experience offending to access and sustain accommodation.

Youth justice teams have been developed within each geographical area of the authority. This will provide a more focused service targeting youth crime and developing services that addresses local needs. The teams work with young people aged 14-21 years involved in offending behaviour. Programmes based on the "What Works" agenda are utilised within North Lanarkshire. This means interventions, which are evidence based and effective, focusing on offending behaviour, victim empathy, responsibility and consequence. Young people can be referred to attend services such as SACRO, Liber8, Fire-Safe, CHOSI etc.

North and South Lanarkshire are piloting a youth court for 16 and 17 year olds. As resources to this initiative, North Lanarkshire Council has introduced and or commissioned: two placement coaches who provide intensive motivational support to young people on youth court orders. Group work services providing structured programmes with a particular focus upon young female offenders.

Barnardos and North Lanarkshire CHOSI project offers a range of intensive services for young people 14-18. The aims of the project are to prevent 16/17 year olds progressing into the adult justice system by offering alternative options via children's hearing systems and to prevent young people aged 14 plus from being placed in secure accommodation. North and South Lanarkshire have also purchased from Includem intensive intervention services for update young persistent offenders. This service includes a 24 hour helpline and peer mediation.

North Lanarkshire Council intends to continue to identify the needs of persistent young offenders with the aim of reducing the number of young people in secure care residential care or custody. The aim is to ensure a consistency in practice between child care and criminal justice workers with a view to preventing young people becoming involved in the criminal justice system but ensuring that their offending behaviour is addressed along with their welfare needs.

23. Employability, Training and Education

In North Lanarkshire, a range of partners including North Lanarkshire Council, Skills Development Scotland, Job Centre Plus and New College Lanarkshire work closely together in order to help young people at various stages of their lives to get into work, education, or training

North Lanarkshire's Working is part of North Lanarkshire Council. The service is wide ranging and supports clients and businesses in getting people into work. From one-to-one support to debt and money advice to CV support and interview skills the service takes a customer on a journey to ensure they are confident and ready to go into work.

North Lanarkshire's Working offers a wide variety of services; including **Routes to Work** and a range of other supports from North Lanarkshire Council. The aim is to provide as much help and support as possible to local people looking to get into the workplace.

This service provides money advice, financial education and income maximisation to people impacted by debt. The project aims to enable young people to make more informed choices, and to better understand their financial position and the options available to them. They provide a financial health check, together with a personalized budget planner, to ensure that people can better understand and make use of your income.

Routes to Work provide an individually tailored service to support young people into sustainable employment. They offer access to a range of support and services including childcare, CV writing, confidence building, assisting with application forms, and interview preparation. For those not quite ready to move into employment, they additional tools and support available from specialist teams and external partners that will ensure young people get the assistance they need.

The **Routes to Work** Skills team offer various training opportunities including Confidence Building and developing a positive mental attitude, and a range of employability led courses such as Interview Techniques, CV Workshops, Basic IT and Communication Skills. Sector

specific training is also available including Retail, Call Centre, Hospitality, Social Care, and Customer Service. Training can be tailor made to suit your needs.

Childcare caseworkers provide advice and guidance on the various types of childcare options available; they can help find the right childcare service and offer financial support towards initial costs.

The 'Family Firm' has been developed with care-experienced young people themselves to provide placements and training so that they can have better opportunities to access further education, training or employment.

The 'Family Firm' concept brings together the council, voluntary organisations and the private sector. These agencies all work with TNT (Today Not Tomorrow), which is a group of care-experienced young people, to identify better opportunities and secure placements.

In the development of the programme, young people secured placements with the Council, NL Leisure, Culture NL and Mears (the Council's housing repairs partner). This programme will now rapidly expand after the Council agreed a report setting out the benefits to young people. The Council also approved a virtual school for care-experienced young people. The school will support children in their academic attainment and will also support families of children who are looked after at home or are in kinship care.

We believe these will be truly life-changing developments for young people who have experience of care. "The 'Family Firm' approach brings all the relevant agencies and employers together to do all we can to provide support. We know that young people who have experience of care, through no fault of their own, are most at risk of not entering the world of work. That's why it's essential that we work directly with these young people to support them, and employers, to offer them a chance to work.

24. Adult Protection

Most young adults are at risk of harm and less able to protect themselves due to such issues as frailty, physical or learning disabilities or mental health problems, manage to live their lives without experiencing harm. Often this is with the assistance of caring relatives, friends, paid carers, professional agencies or volunteers. For some, dependence or association with others may result in conflict, exploitation and actual or risk of harm. In addition, some people with similar conditions can also experience self-harm.

There are a range of relevant pieces of legislation designed to support and protect young adults at risk of harm such as the Adult with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000, the Mental Health (Care & Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

North Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership has responsibilities to ensure that all young adults at risk are supported and are as safe as reasonable from harm and that they are respected, included, have their views considered and are fully involved in all decision making. The aspiration, for all young adults at risk in our community, is that they are empowered, wherever possible so that they can be free from preventable harm and are able to make choices about how to live as independently as possible in line with their personal strengths.

Changes in the way statutory and independent support services are being provided, has resulted in a greater range of options available to those requiring help and assistance. This has allowed people, who need services greater options, choice and participation in decision making. Ensuring the young adult's right to be protected from harm remains paramount. All staff across the statutory agencies are expected to work within a clear procedural framework but to have the confidence to exercise judgement about the most appropriate responses in individual specific circumstances. With all of the above in mind, all the relevant statutory agencies in North Lanarkshire including Social Work, Care Inspectorate, Police, Housing and Health have worked in partnership to produce an Interagency Practice Guidance & Procedures document.

This has resulted in ongoing training and awareness raising within Housing Services and a better understanding of the reporting requirements and triggers for ensuring referrals are made appropriately to ensure people are protected from harm. Housing produces a quarterly and yearly Adult Protection (AP) report and shares this with the adult protection committee.

During 2019 (Jan–Dec) there were 64 AP referrals made from Housing to Social Work (SW) however it is possible that other referrals have been made where we have not been formerly notified. It should be noted that these figures will be less than SW report as they have also receive referrals from other Housing Organisations such as Housing Associations and housing support organisations. Of the 64 AP referrals made, 7 of these came under the age banding 16-25 years (11%). Of the 7 referrals, 5 were male and 2 were female. The categories of abuse reported were: 3 physical abuse, 2 emotional abuse and 2 self-harm.

25. Summary

In 2018/19 there were 636 presentations for homelessness assistance in the NLC area by young people aged 16 to 25. 7.9% of all young people who presented as homeless were care experienced and 54% of all homeless young people were identified as having a variety of support needs as part of their homeless application.

Over the last decade statistics from the Scottish Government show a significant drop in the numbers of young people facing homelessness overall, however the figure has recently begun to rise in North Lanarkshire Council area and further research is required to intervene in this worrying trend urgently.

The current LHS 2016-21 set out specific actions to support young people in meeting their housing needs, including the needs of care leavers. These include targeted housing options advice for care leavers and support for young people experiencing homelessness.

Much progress has been made in development of RRTP and Homes First however much more still need to be done. It remains unclear how much progress has been made in progressing the Actions identified in the LHS Action Plan and there is a sense of frustration that a lot of the partnership working hoped for hasn't really materialised. There is also anecdotal evidence in drift regarding involvement in pathway planning for Care Experienced Young People and it is clear renewed focus and efforts are required to re-establish the momentum of recent years.

It is also clear that there are areas of excellent practice particularly around the area of housing support for young people and links with providers such as Barnardos, Simon Community and BTHA provide much needed targeted support for the most vulnerable young people in the area, in addition the Councils housing support teams provide a whole range of information, advice and support to young people including housing and homelessness, financial and debt and links to social work and health services.

Recognising the anticipated increasing numbers of younger and single person households, some with complex needs, it will be important that young people have access to the right support at the right time. Enhanced partnership working, collaboration and integration across housing, health and social care will remain essential to ensure that young people have access to the information, advice and support to access and maintain housing and achieve their full potential.

We know we have to work together with all our partners and colleagues to address our shared challenges and we already do this through our Health and Social Care Partnership to plan and deliver community health and social care services. The Youth Housing Statement recognises another opportunity to call on stakeholders to commit to coming together and working on developing and implementing a plan to ensure young people receive appropriate advice, information and support to access and sustain suitable accommodation. Success relies on commitment from all stakeholders including politicians, policymakers, management, front line staff, voluntary organisations, external agencies and service providers. The recommendations and Action Plan below will feed into our new LHS 2021-2026 and be the focus of our work over the period.

26. Recommendations

This paper aimed to identify current issues and trends affecting young vulnerable people in North Lanarkshire. Alongside this, the development of our RRTP has recently identified many of the same matters as key issues affecting the well-being of young people in the area. It therefore follows that the priorities identified as key issues for the new LHS will mirror several of the issues contained within our RRTP action plan.

The recommendations from this evidence paper will feed into the new LHS Action Plan. The Action Plan will also take heed of the RRTP in relation to a number of cross cutting themes including supply of housing, preventing homelessness and providing suitable support.

The overarching theme of this action plan is to:

- “Understand and identify the contributing factors that lead to young people requiring housing assistance and related services such as support;
- Ensure housing need is resolved as quickly as possible and “those with particular housing needs can live independently through the provision of accessible homes and support services”

The Action Plan must be taken in context with other aspects of the LHS and the actions being progressed elsewhere by the Council and its partners, particular heed should be taken of the developing RRTP and Housing First agenda to ensure duplication of effort is avoided. This Action Plan carries on from where the LHS 2016-21 Action Plan left off and hopes to renew focus on these aspects of service and contribute to improved partnership working and better outcomes for young vulnerable adults across North Lanarkshire.

27. Priorities Arising from North Lanarkshire’s Youth Housing Statement 2020

The key priorities in relation to delivering housing and related services in North Lanarkshire to young people age 16-25 are laid out in the Youth Housing Priorities Action Plan

Table 26: Youth Housing Action Plan

Youth Housing Priority Actions	Milestones or Actions to meet Priority Ambition
<p>Priority 1 Better Understand the contributing factors that lead to young people requiring housing assistance and related services such as support.</p>	<p>Develop a consistent youth profile for North Lanarkshire for sharing between partners with agreed data and reporting requirements. Encourage Development of Young person’s forums via Support providers and TP team. Research reasons for increasing numbers of YP HPA applications within NLC area. Develop a better understanding of how ‘isolation’ can impact upon sustaining housing solutions for young people. Assess the impact of welfare reform on young people in relation to housing, particularly in relation to housing options, homelessness, rent and temporary accommodation.</p>
<p>Priority 2 Improve accessibility and remove barriers that prevent young people getting and keeping a sustainable home.</p>	<p>Assess accessibility, availability and affordability of housing across all tenures for young people. Make best use of existing stock in all tenures to meet YP housing needs. Investigate and address service gaps in complex needs cases to identify requirements and develop appropriate services for service users. Review /Develop protocols for all groups of vulnerable young people between Housing Operations and Health and Social Care Services.</p>
<p>Priority 3 Prevent homelessness wherever possible through the provision of a quality housing options and support services.</p>	<p>Review Housing Options advice, PAS and early intervention actions available to young people. Implement Housing Options Hub. Review availability of advocacy and advice services to households requiring assistance in relation to housing issues. Consider development of practical assistance that will immediately prevent homelessness.</p>

Youth Housing Priority Actions	Milestones or Actions to meet Priority Ambition
<p>Priority 4 Review the type and supply of accommodation available for young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.</p>	<p>Continue to develop and support a mix of temporary accommodation and housing support services across North Lanarkshire to meet the needs of young people.</p> <p>Consider how to improve perception of and access to the private rented sector for young people Housing Options review.</p> <p>Review RDGS.</p> <p>Assess feasibility of new types of tenancies for young people including trial tenancies and shared tenancies. Develop proposals in relation to alternative models.</p>
<p>Priority 5 Provide appropriate support for young people to sustain tenancies and prevent homelessness.</p>	<p>Facilitate appropriate pre-tenancy training and education courses locally to appeal to young people.</p> <p>Promote Mediation Service to localities, other housing providers and partners to increase use of Mediation to break the cycle of homelessness and anti-social behaviour.</p>

Youth Housing Priority Actions	Milestones or Actions to meet Priority Ambition
<p>Priority 6 Improve health and wellbeing of young people in relation to provision of suitable housing and related services.</p>	<p>Continue to provide access to a health & homelessness service for Young People.</p> <p>Improve access to mental health care and support for young people who are homeless to ensure more successful outcomes in re-settlement.</p> <p>Continue to develop partnerships with services who support young people suffering from substance misuse.</p> <p>Raise awareness of all available support services to ensure referrals made to appropriate services where required.</p> <p>Contribute to delivery of North Lanarkshire's Violence Against Women Strategy Continue to provide advice and information to tackle fuel poverty.</p> <p>further develop referral arrangements to ensure young people can easily access Employability and Income Maximisation Services.</p>
<p>Priority 7 Ensure young people leaving care do not experience homelessness.</p>	<p>Review and monitor implementation of Care Leaver Protocol for identifying housing solutions for young people leaving care</p> <p>Audit and Review usage of Housing Options interviews and Pathway Plan for young people leaving care.</p> <p>Consider how we can ensure young people leaving care do not have to present as homeless to access accommodation.</p> <p>Review pointing on CHR for Care Leavers to prevent homelessness and consider new style of temporary tenancy available to CEYP to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Review Forever Homes and Workforce Development Projects.</p>

28. Bibliography and References

- NLC LHS 2016/21
- SCP 2020 /23
- NLC HSMS
- Scottish Government Census 2011
- LHS 2021/26 Evidence Paper Homelessness 2020
- LHS 2021/26 Evidence Paper Temporary Accommodation
- RRTP NLC 2019
- <https://www.gov.scot/collections/homelessness-statistics/>
- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2014/8/pdfs/asp_20140008_en.pdf
- The Plan for North Lanarkshire
- Housing (Scotland) Act 2014
- Children (Leaving Care) (Scotland) Act 2000, and The Looked after Children (Scotland) Regulations 2009
- Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003
- Housing Options Guidance in 2016
- The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG)
- IJBs Strategic Commissioning Plan for North Lanarkshire
- The National Records of Scotland (NRS) publishes population projections for each local authority and health board area
- North Lanarkshire Council Area Profiles 2018/ 19
- Registers of Scotland 2018 Population Estimates
- The Homelessness Monitor: Scotland 2019¹ The Homelessness Monitor: Scotland 2019:
https://www.crisis.org.uk/media/239984/the_homelessness_monitor_scotland_2019_es.pdf
- Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)
- Domestic Abuse <https://www.basw.co.uk/resources/domestic-abuse-and-child-welfare-practice-guide-social-workers-0>