

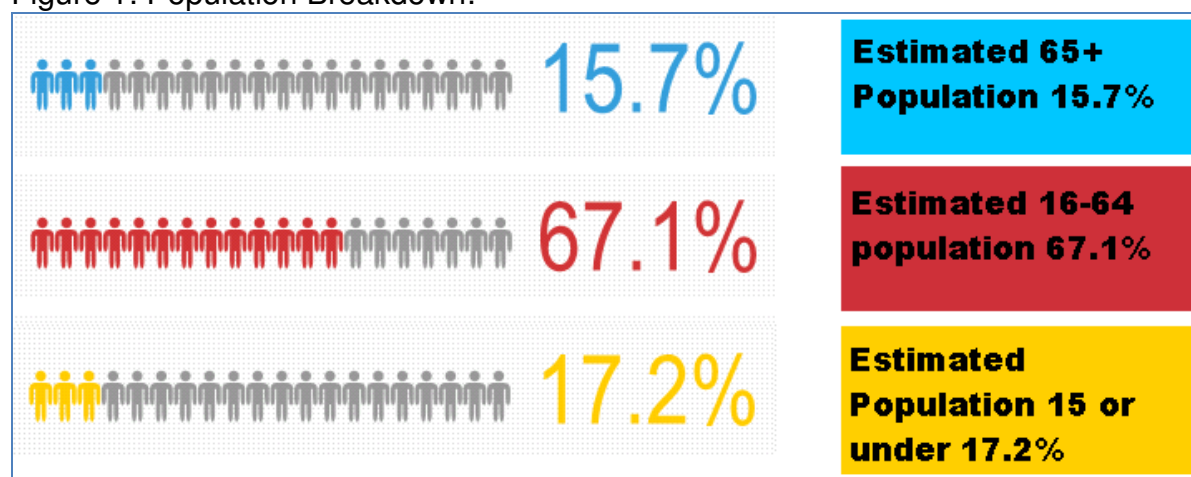
Colchester's Homelessness Strategy Evidence Base 2014

Background and Demographics

Population

Data taken from the 2011 census estimated the boroughs population at 173,000. This is an increase of 11% from the mid year estimate of 156,000 in 2001. The estimated total number of households in the borough is 71,600. Figure 1 below shows the make up of the population in Colchester by age category.

Figure 1: Population Breakdown:



Source; Census data 2011

The population of Colchester is estimated to continue to grow over the next ten years by 14.3% to 206,000 between 2012 and 2022. This is an increase of 25,700 people over a 10 year period.

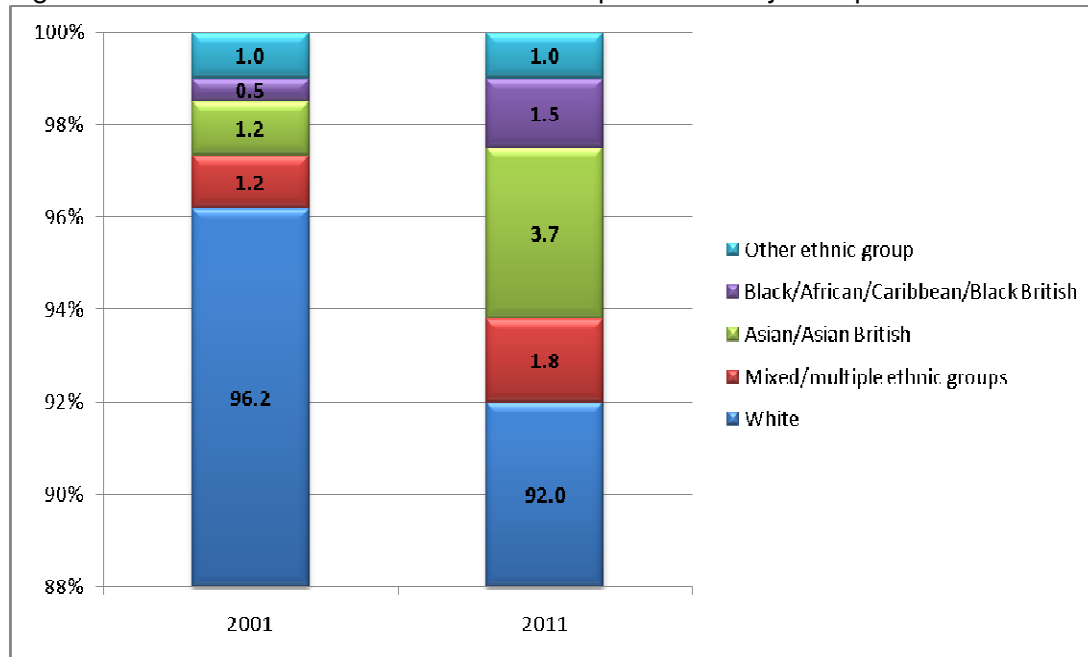
The health of people in Colchester is generally better than the average across England and the deprivation is lower than the average. However although life expectancy is higher than the average in England there are inequalities across the borough. Life expectancy is 8.4 years lower for men and 4.4 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Colchester compared to the least deprived areas.

As at 31st March 2012 there were 75,945 dwellings in Colchester borough of which 6257 are owned by the Local Authority. A total of 1012 were built in Colchester between April 2011 and March 2012 of which 366 of these were recorded affordable housing completions. The average household price across the borough in April 2012 was 214, 573.

Diversity of the local population

Ethnicity Summary Colchester

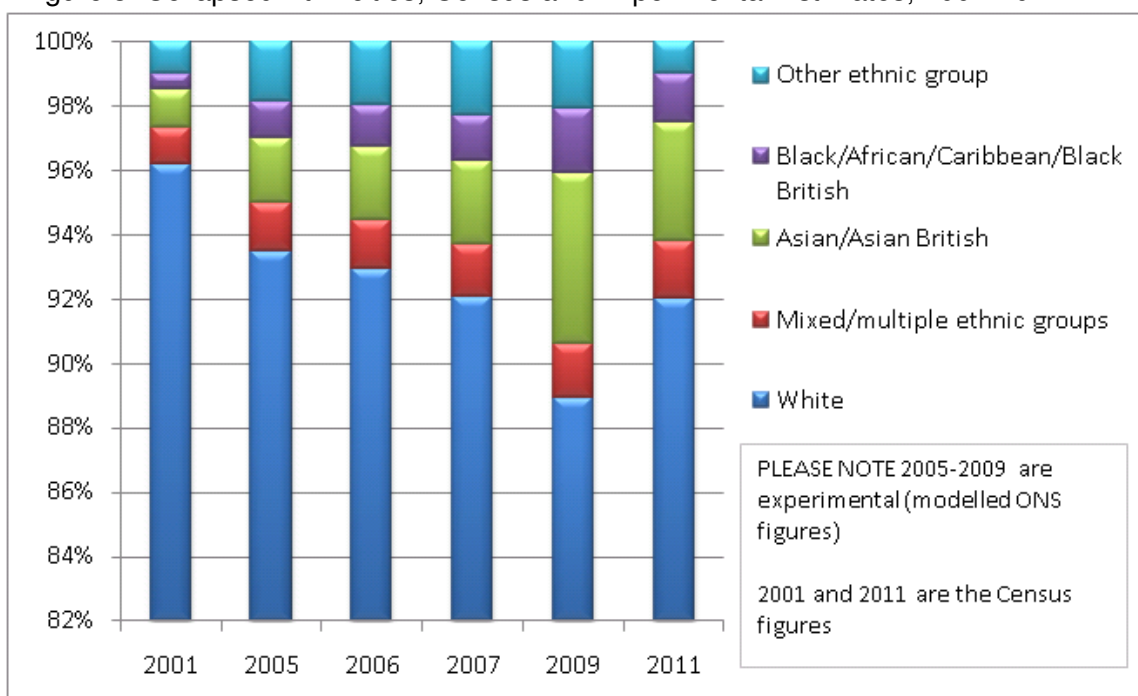
Figure 2: Census 2001 vs Census 2011 Collapsed Ethnicity Groups



Source: ONS and Census data – **Please note axis doesn't start 0.0%**

- The Census provides the most robust estimate of ethnicity at local authority level
- There has been an increase in minority ethnic groups from 2001-2011 from 3.8-8.0%

Figure 3: Collapsed Ethnicities, Census and Experimental Estimates, 2001-2011



Source: ONS and Census data – Please note axis doesn't start 0.0%

- When including modelled estimates for 2005-2009, it is evident that the proportion of minority ethnic groups in Colchester has increased over the last ten years.

Table 1: Ethnicity Classifications in Colchester, Census 2011

Ethnic Group	Colchester	
	number	%
White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	151,453	87.5
White: Irish	1,155	0.7
White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller	79	0.0
White: Other White	6,619	3.8
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black Caribbean	889	0.5
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Black African	469	0.3
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: White and Asian	929	0.5
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups: Other Mixed	865	0.5
Asian/Asian British: Indian	1,426	0.8
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	366	0.2

Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	385	0.2
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	1,690	1.0
Asian/Asian British: Other Asian	2,488	1.4
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: African	1,803	1.0
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Caribbean	528	0.3
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British: Other Black	244	0.1
Other ethnic group: Arab	978	0.6
Other ethnic group: Any other ethnic group	708	0.4

Source: ONS and Census data

- In 2011 Colchester has the third highest proportion of minority ethnic groups in comparison to other LAs (behind Harlow and Epping Forest).
- Compared to other Essex LAs Colchester had the highest proportion of other Asian, Arab and Chinese ethnicities', (shaded boxes).

Colchester Borough Council is represented on the Equality and Diversity sub group for the Greater Haven Gateway (GHG) which was set up by the GHG Steering Group to focus on specific areas of housing policy and procedure, commissioning studies when appropriate and ensuring that the work of the sub region complies with the Equality Act 2010. Under this act local authorities, must have due regard to the needs of the nine protected characteristic groups to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

The group brings together officers from the local authorities in the sub-region to contribute to and influence the equality and diversity aspects of the sub-regional action plan which includes monitoring the sub regional allocation policy and the impact on the Gateway2Homechoice housing register.

Homelessness in Colchester

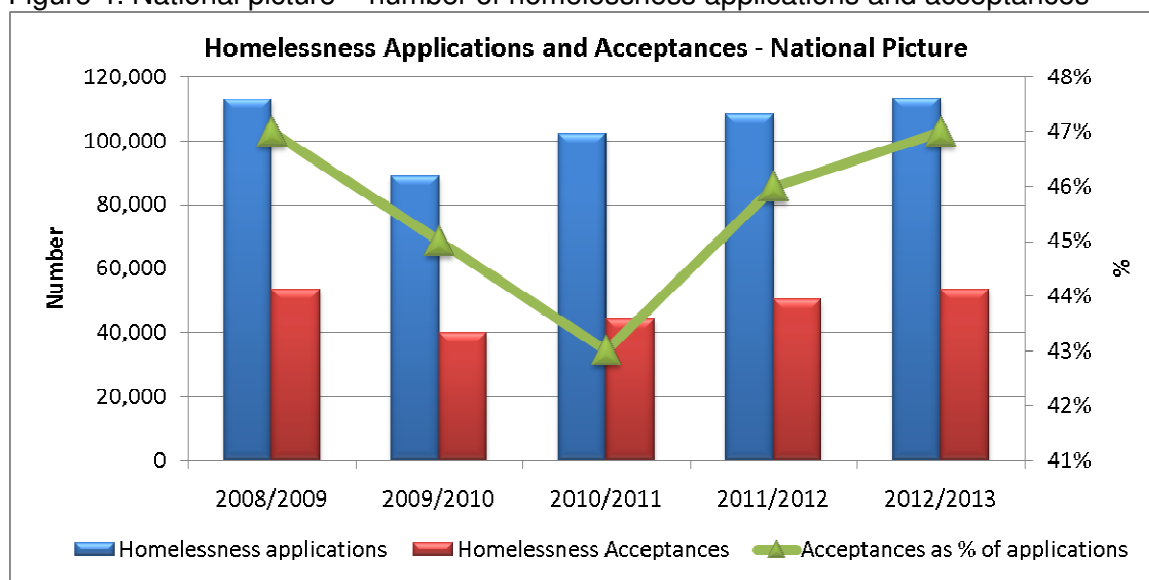
Homelessness Applications and Acceptances

Detailed information on people that have made a homelessness application to Colchester Borough Council is recorded on the P1E returns that are sent to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) quarterly.

The P1E provides data on households who have presented themselves as homeless to the Local Authority, and those who have been accepted as unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

Although information from the P1E provides an indicator of homelessness in Colchester it does not represent the whole picture.

Figure 4: National picture – number of homelessness applications and acceptances

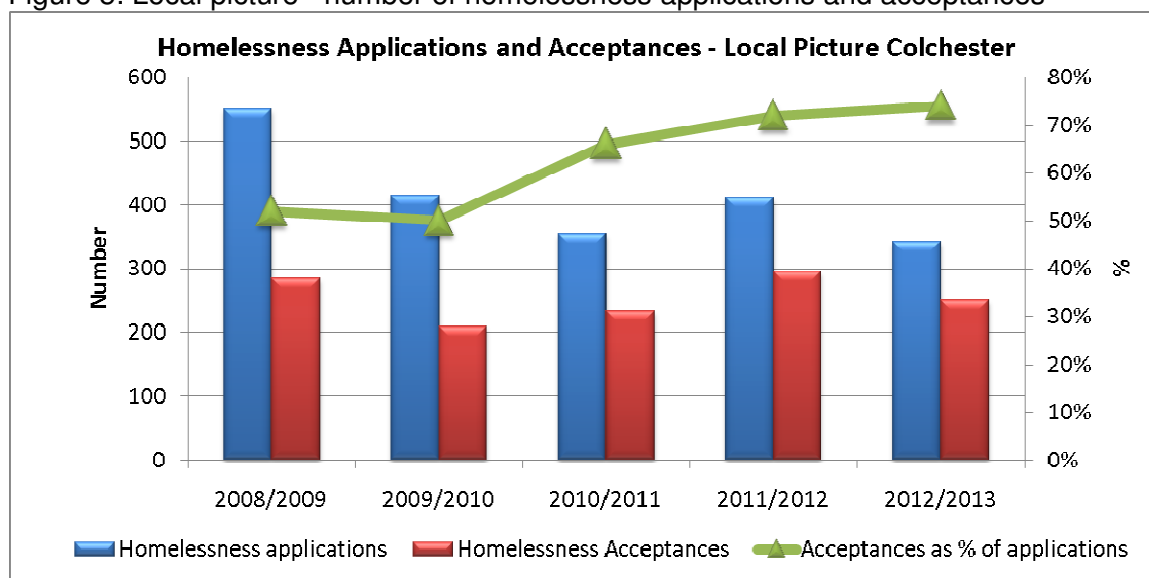


Source; DCLG P1E Return

During the 2012/13 financial year, 113,260 decisions were made by local authorities nationally. This is an increase of 4 per cent from 108,720 in 2011/12.

During the 2012/13 financial year, 53,540 households were accepted by local authorities as being owed the main homelessness duty. This is an increase of 6 per cent from 50,290 in 2011/12.

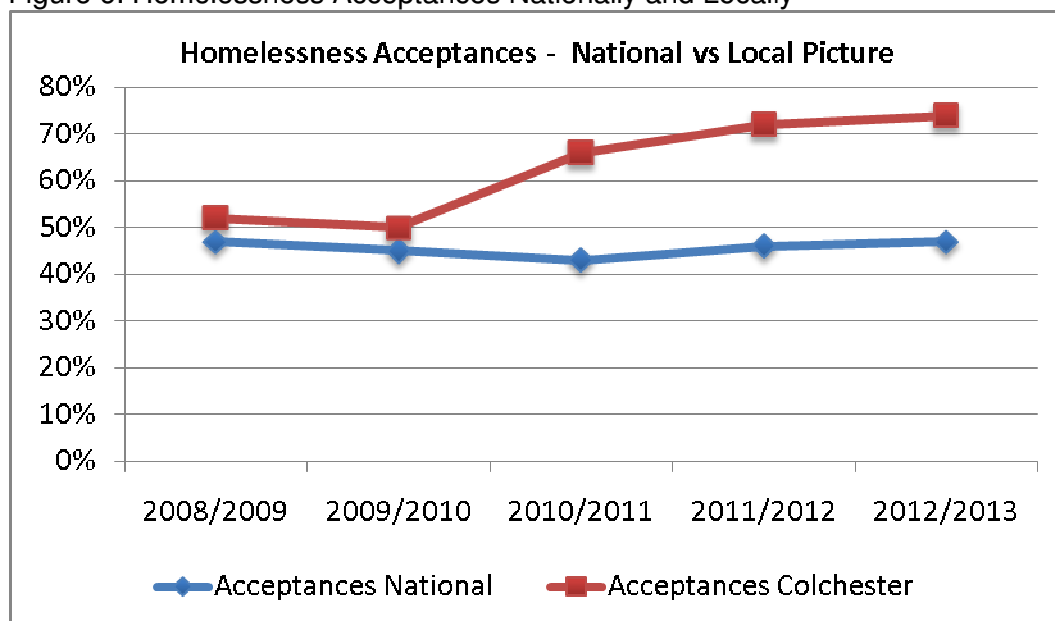
Figure 5: Local picture - number of homelessness applications and acceptances



Source; DCLG P1E Return

- During the financial year 2012-13 there were 342 homeless decisions made by Colchester Borough Council compared to 411 in 2011-2012, this was an overall decrease in decisions of 17%.
- During 2012-13 there were 251 households accepted by Colchester Borough Council as being owed a homelessness duty compared with 295 accepted in 2011-12, this was an overall decrease in acceptances of 15%.

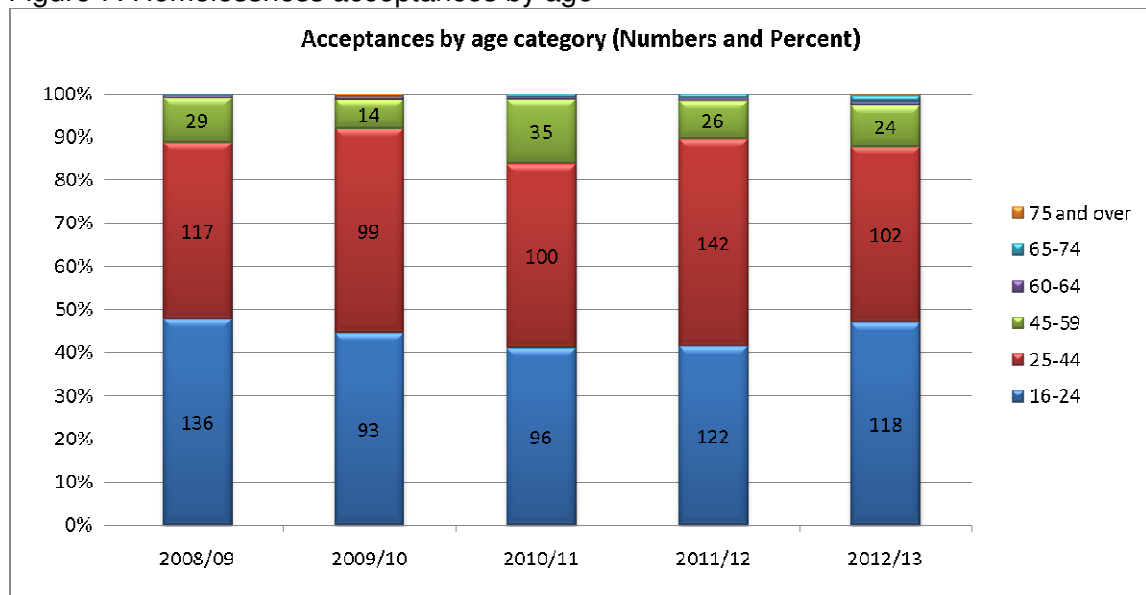
Figure 6: Homelessness Acceptances Nationally and Locally



Source; DCLG P1E Return

Compared to national trends the numbers of homeless applications and acceptances by Colchester Borough Council have shown a decrease in the last financial year whereas nationally there has been an increase. However as shown in figure 6 above, the percentage of applications that has led to an acceptance of homelessness remains higher than the national trend.

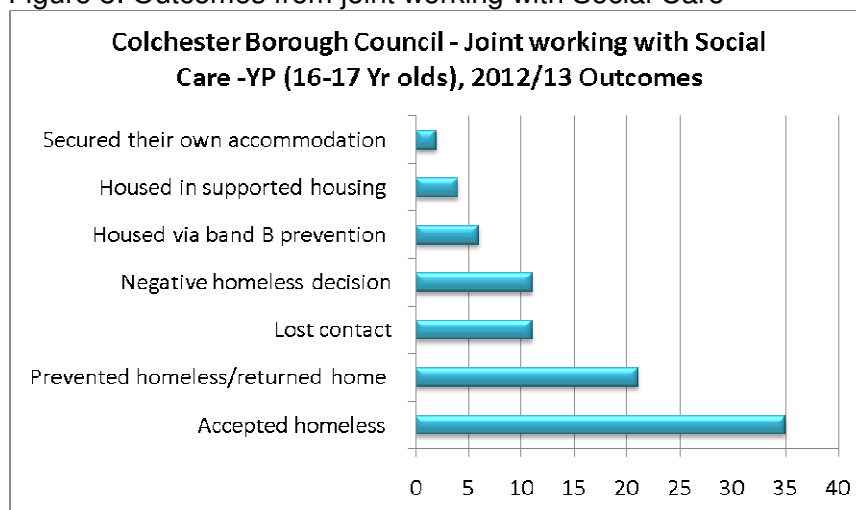
Figure 7: Homelessness acceptances by age



Source; DCLG P1E Return

As shown in figure 7, the highest proportion of homelessness acceptances in 2012 /2013 is predominantly made up of young people between the ages of 16 - 24 years and households in the 25-44 age categories.

Figure 8: Outcomes from joint working with Social Care



In the past year, Colchester Borough Council have conducted joint homelessness assessments with the Social Care Team at Essex County Council to try to prevent young people becoming homeless. Figure 8 above shows the outcomes from the assessments. The total number of young people assessed in 2012/13 was 90. Colchester Borough Council accepted a duty to 35 young people and homelessness was prevented for 21.

Table 2: Accepted Homeless Households by (main) priority need category

Priority need category	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/2012	2012/13
Emergency(fire, flood, storms, disaster, etc.)	0	0	0	0	1
Households with dependent Children	131	95	117	157	125
Pregnant Woman with no other dependent children	48	50	34	51	44
16 or 17 year old	32	7	10	20	27
Formerly "in care" and aged 18 to 20 years old	8	6	11	15	4
Old age	3	2	1	5	4
Physical disability	19	14	17	14	17
Mental illness or disability	40	32	39	29	23
Drug dependency	2	0	0	1	0
Alcohol dependency	0	0	0	0	0
Former asylum seeker	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	3	4	1
Been in care	1	1	1	0	0
Served in HM Forces	0	0	0	0	1
Been in custody/on remand	0	1	0	1	0
Fled their home because of violence/threat of violence	1	1	1	0	4
<i>of which Domestic violence</i>	0	0	1	0	4
TOTAL	285	209	234	297	251
Source; DCLG P1E Return					

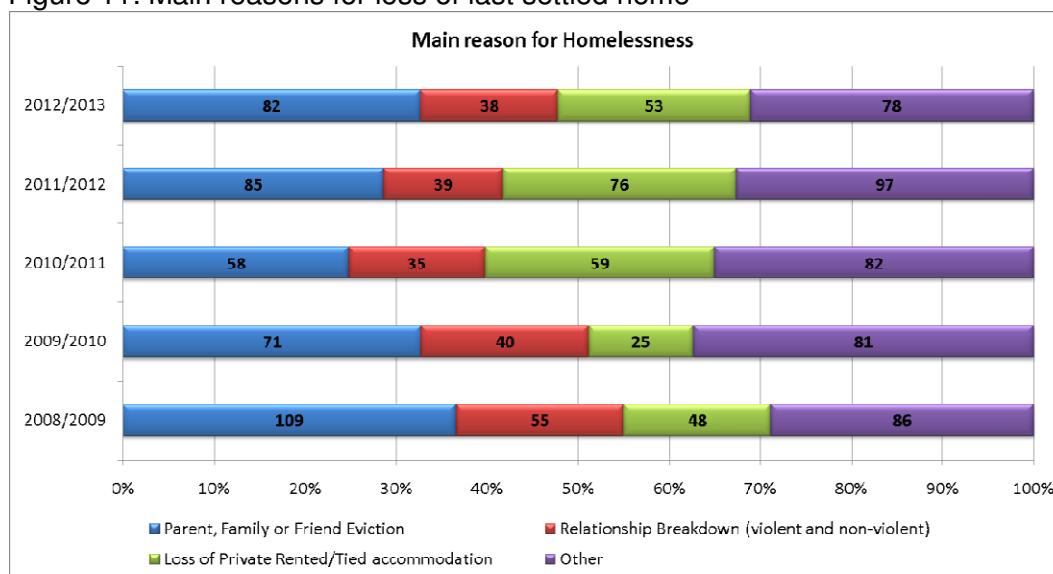
As shown above the main priority need category for people accepted as homeless continues to be those households with dependent children. The Housing Options Team continue to try to prevent homeless for families with children by helping to keep them in their homes or helping them to access accommodation in the private rented sector. Over the last year there has been a decrease in this category from 157 households in 2011/12 to 125 households in 2012/13.

Reasons for loss of last settled home

The 3 main reasons why households have been accepted as homeless due to loss of their last settled home over the last 5 years are detailed in figure 11 below.

Consistently both nationally and locally the three main reasons why people lose their last settled accommodation are due to parent, family or friend eviction, Loss of private rented/tied accommodation and Relationship breakdown. Over the last two years there has been a significant rise in those people that have lost their homes due to parent, family or friend eviction.

Figure 11: Main reasons for loss of last settled home

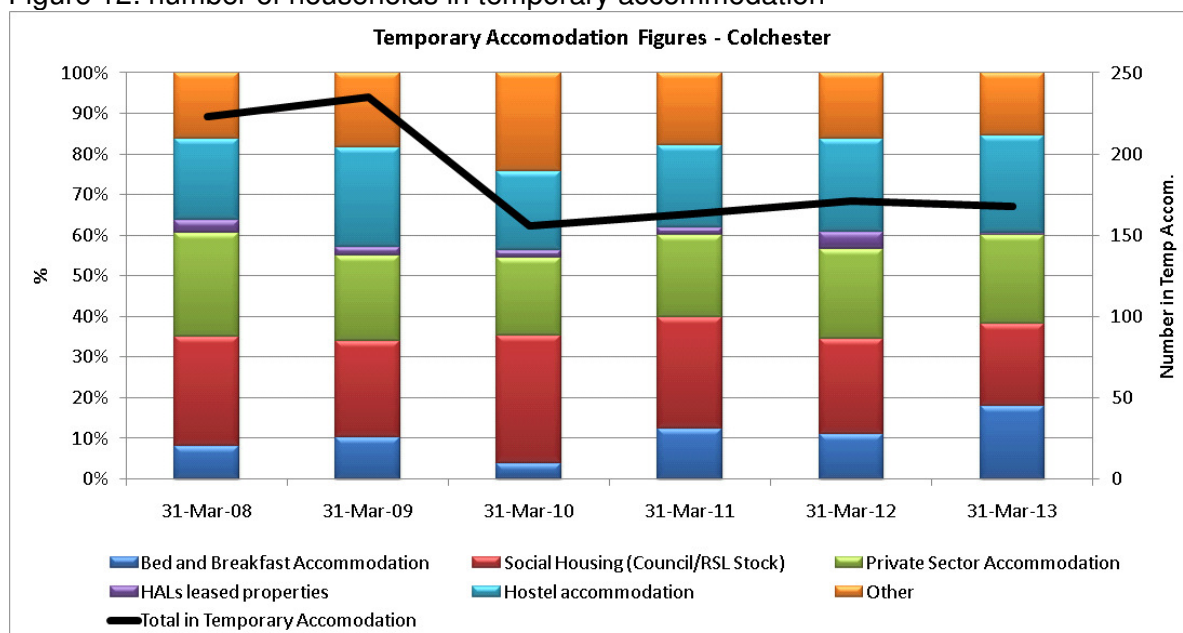


Source; DCLG P1E Return

Households in Temporary Accommodation

Since the governments drive to halve the number of households in temporary accommodation in 2010 and having met the target, Colchester Borough Council have continued to keep this figure consistent as shown in figure 12 below.

Figure 12: number of households in temporary accommodation



Source; DCLG P1E Return

(please note these figures are a snapshot as at 31 March for each year)

Table 3: Households in temporary accommodation – National picture

TA snap shot as at:	31-Mar-08	31-Mar-09	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12	31-Mar-13
Total number in Temp	77,510	64,000	51,310	48,240	50,430	55,300

Source; DCLG PIE Return

Nationally the number of households in temporary accommodation has increased by 10% from the same time last year as shown in the table above. However this figure has significantly reduced since March 2008.

Table 4: Households in temporary accommodation - Colchester

TA snap shot as at:	31-Mar-08	31-Mar-09	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-11	31-Mar-12	31-Mar-13
Bed and Breakfast Accommodation	18	24	6	20	19	30
Social Housing (Council/RSL Stock)	60	56	49	45	40	34
Private Sector Accommodation	57	49	30	33	38	37
HALs leased properties	7	5	3	3	7	1
Hostel accommodation	45	58	30	33	39	40
Other	36	43	38	29	28	26
Total in Temporary Accommodation	223	235	156	163	171	168

Source; DCLG PIE Return

In Colchester the number of households in bed and breakfast accommodation has shown an increase of 36% from the same point the previous year. The increase has been partly due to the closure of some of the council's hostel accommodation which has now been redeveloped and transferred to Family Mosaic who manage and provide additional support to tenants at the scheme.

Homelessness Prevention

The Housing Act 1977, Housing Act 1996, and the Homelessness Act 2002, placed statutory duties on each local housing authority to provide free advice and assistance to households within its area who are homeless or are threatened with homelessness.

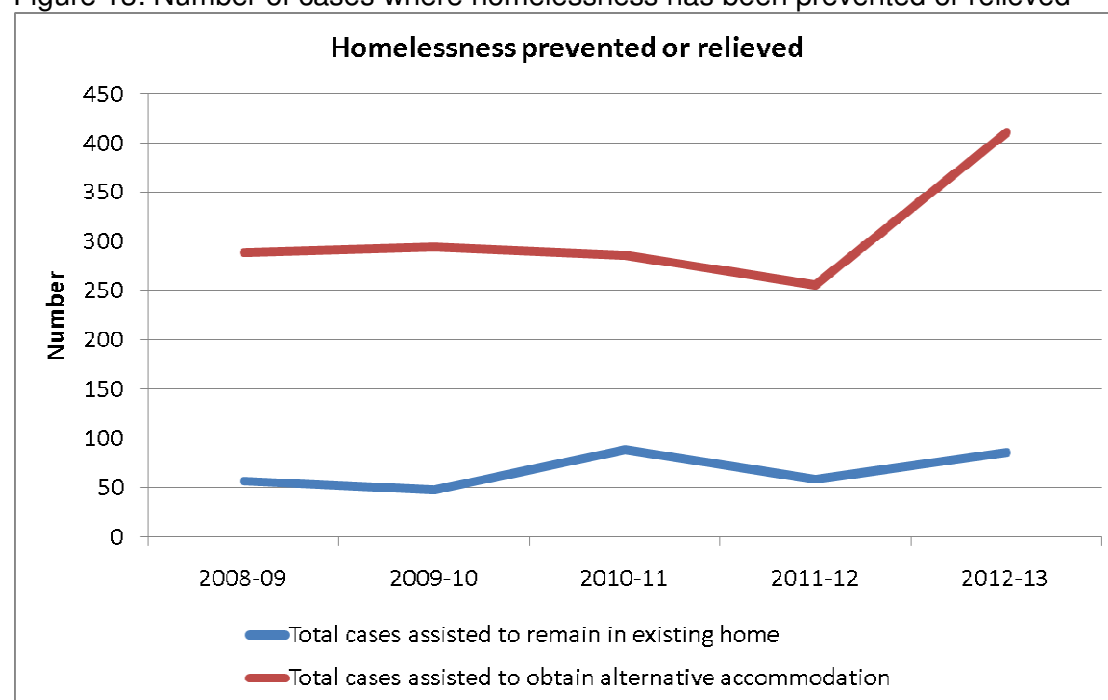
In Colchester advice and assistance to find alternative accommodation for people that are homeless or threatened with homelessness is provided by voluntary sector organisations, as well as the Housing options Team.

Homelessness prevention involves providing people with the ways and means to address their housing and other needs to avoid homelessness. This is done by either assisting them to obtain alternative accommodation or enabling them to remain in their existing home.

Homelessness relief occurs when an authority has been unable to prevent homelessness but helps someone to secure accommodation, even though the authority is under no statutory obligation to do so.

Figures recorded for the DCLG P1E return on homelessness prevention and relief in Colchester include those provided by organisations including the Youth Enquiry Service and the April Centre who receive funding from Colchester Borough Council to help provide this service.

Figure 13: Number of cases where homelessness has been prevented or relieved



Source DCLG P1E Return

Figure 13 above shows the number of cases where homelessness has been prevented or relieved in Colchester.

During the last financial year 2012/2013 the number of cases that have been prevented from homelessness by assistance to remain in existing home is 86, of which 77 cases were assisted by the Housing Options Team. This is an increase of 31% from the previous year 2011/2012. The main reason for this is the increase in the number of cases that have been provided with assistance to stay in their private or social sector homes.

The number of cases where assistance was given to obtain alternative accommodation in 2012/2013 was 325, of which 251 were assisted by the Housing Options Team. This was an increase of 39% on the previous year 2011/2012. Over the last year there has been a significant increase in the number of cases that have been helped to obtain accommodation in the private rented sector without a Landlord Incentive scheme and those that have been awarded a high priority to obtain social housing.

The national picture shows that the total number of cases of homelessness prevention and relief increased by 2 per cent in 2012/13 compared to 2011/12.

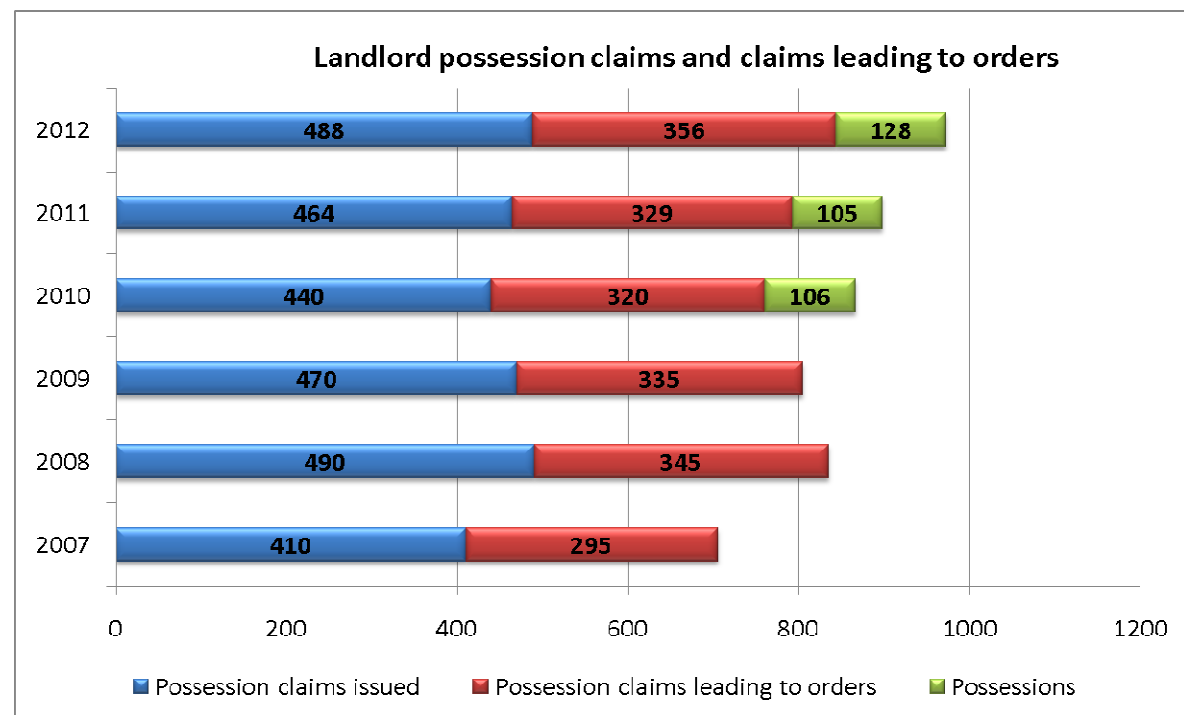
Possession Actions in the private and public sector

Landlord possession actions

As shown in figure 14 the number of Landlord (social and private) possession claims have been decreasing since a peak in 2008 and reached their lowest level around 2010. Since then there has been a gradual increase and this upward trend in recent years is the same as the national picture and coincides with an increase in the number of renters.

The proportion of claims which have progressed to a further court action has been rising again since 2010. This means that the likelihood of a tenant being repossessed has been increasing for two reasons: because possession claims have risen and because the proportion of those claims that lead to repossession has risen slightly.

Figure 14: Number of landlord possession actions in Colchester



Source; Ministry of Justice statistics

Mortgage Possession Actions

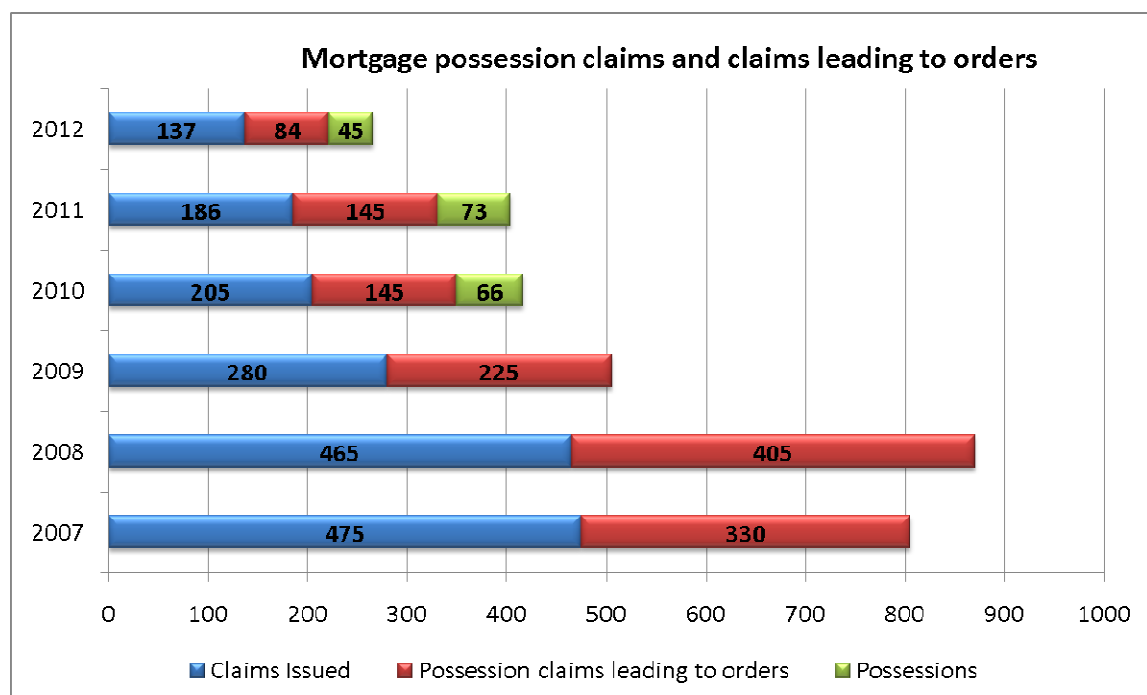
Since 2007/08 the number of mortgage possession claims has fallen as shown in figure 15 below. In addition, the total number of possession claims leading to orders and properties repossessed has followed a similar trend.

This means that the numbers of mortgagees being repossessed has fallen in recent years, both because of a falling number of claims, and because of a slight fall in the proportion of those claims that progress to a further stage in court process.

The fall in the number of mortgage possession actions since 2008 coincides with lower interest rates¹, a proactive approach from lenders in managing consumers in financial difficulties and other interventions from the government, such as the Mortgage Rescue Scheme. Other factors that may have contributed to the rapid fall in the number of mortgage possession claims and claims leading to orders after 2008 include;

- the introduction of the Mortgage Pre-Action Protocol
- a decrease in the number of owner-occupiers

Figure 15: Number of Mortgage possession actions in Colchester



Source; Ministry of Justice statistics

Social Housing Evictions in Colchester

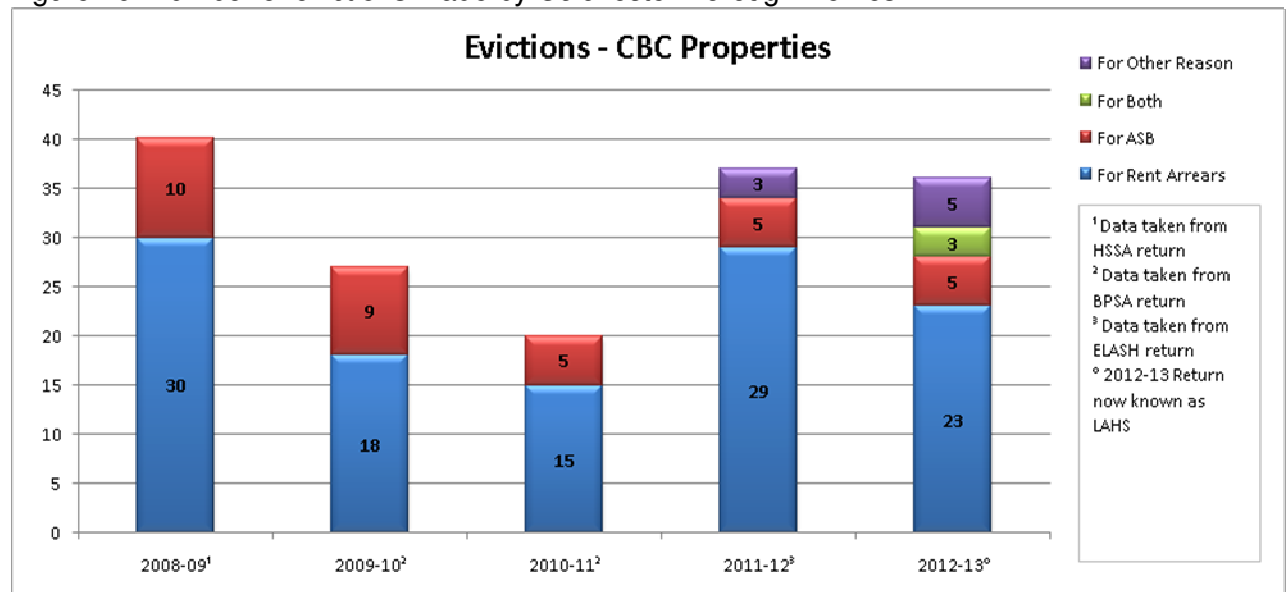
The graph below shows the number of evictions due to rent arrears and anti social behavior made by Colchester Borough Homes over the last 5 years. In line with the Landlord Possession Claims, there was a reduction in Evictions for rent arrears up until 2010. In 2011/2012 the number of evictions for rent arrears increased by 48%, but over the last year 2012/13 there has been a reduction.

Over the last two years there has been a significant increase in single people, predominately men in their twenties and early thirties, being evicted due to rent arrears. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this group have more difficulty in engaging with the processes in place to support them in their tenancy; this includes personal support offered by CBH, their ability to apply for benefits on time or maintaining a regular payment pattern.

The rise in evictions for this group alone has doubled since last year which indicates that more people in this age group are at risk. Other tenant groups engage better with the support process and this has led to a lower level of evictions for these groups.

Colchester Borough Homes have introduced Tenancy Sustainment Officers to help tenants sustain their tenancies and reduce the number of those losing their properties through eviction.

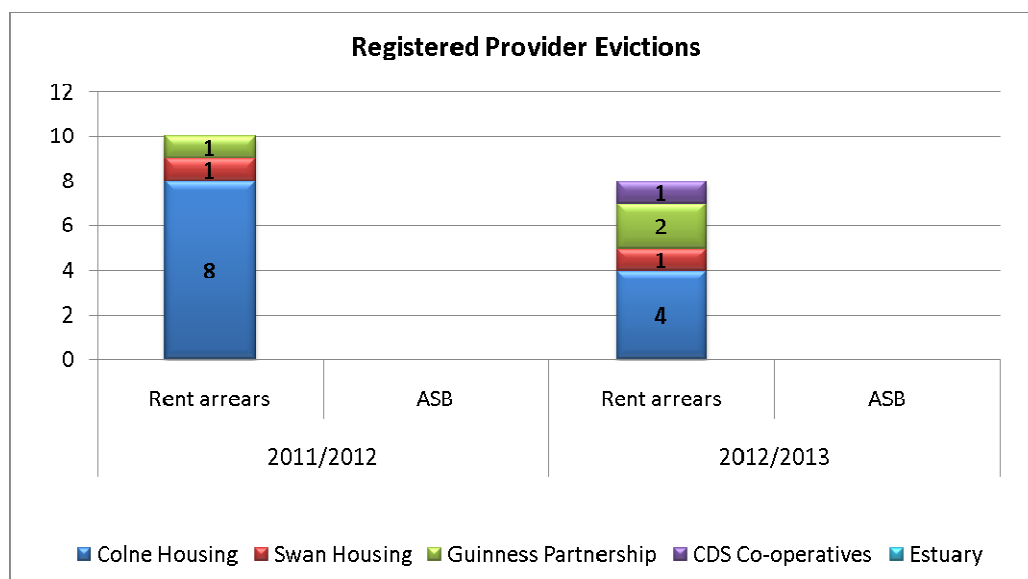
Figure 16: Number of evictions made by Colchester Borough Homes



Source; Capita

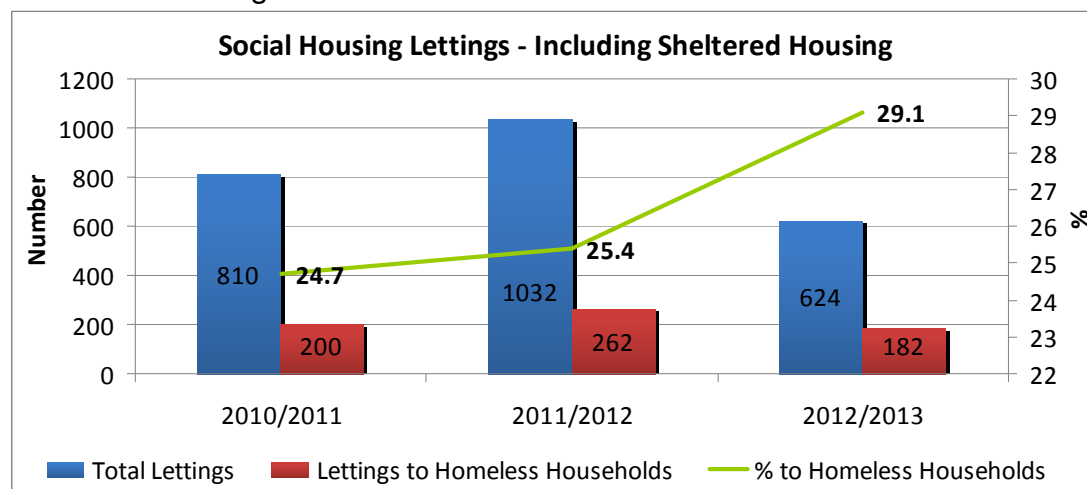
Figure 17 below shows information provided by some of the Registered Providers in Colchester on the number of evictions made for rent arrears over the past 2 years. Colne Housing Society had a 50% reduction in 2012/13 from the previous year. Colne offer help to support Introductory tenants to enable them to sustain their tenancies.

Figure 17: Number of evictions made by Registered Providers in Colchester



Social Housing Allocations and Nominations

Figure 18: Total number of Social Housing lets for Colchester including Sheltered Housing



Source: Abritas

The number of social housing lets in Colchester in 2012/13 has significantly decreased from the previous year as shown in figure 18. This decrease is partly due to the number of new build properties that became available for letting in the last financial year (see table 5 below). The percentage of lets to homeless households slightly increased in 2012/13 to 29% which is almost a third of the total lets.

Table 5: Affordable Housing Units delivered by RSL partners

Year	Total units
------	-------------

2010/11	141
2011/12	333
2012/13	86

NB; This figure does not include shared/low cost home ownership schemes

Although there was a significant reduction in the number of affordable housing units delivered in the last year this has remained strong in challenging economic times. The majority of affordable housing is delivered through s106 agreements and therefore delivery is dependent on the building of market housing. The 86 homes delivered have provided much needed affordable housing for households in housing need in the borough.

Welfare Reform

The Welfare Reform Act introduces the most fundamental reforms to the social security system for 60 years.

The impacts to housing customers mainly arise from four policy areas:

- The Benefit Cap
- The removal of the spare room subsidy in the social rented sector – under occupation
- Introduction of Local Council Tax Support
- Universal credit

Benefit Cap – from April 2013

The maximum level of benefits, including housing benefit, will be capped at £500 weekly for families and couples and £350 for single people.

Nationally 40,000 households are affected by the benefit cap most of which are larger families with 3-4 children in private rented accommodation.

The Benefit Cap Colchester

The latest information from the DWP shows that 98 households in Colchester will be potentially affected by the cap.

Breakdown of households;

- Private rented sector 55
- Colchester Borough Council 17
- Other registered social landlord 26

DWP pre implementation national impact assessment identified that the benefit cap would affect mainly those with three or more dependent children. In Colchester data analysis shows households affected have four or more dependent children.

The removal of the spare room subsidy in the social rented sector – under occupation - From April 2013

Social sector tenants of working age renting from a local authority, housing association or other registered social landlord will receive housing support based on household size. A version of this already applies to private tenants.

The allowance is for one bedroom for each person or couple living as part of the household. Two children under 16 of the same gender will be expected to share a room, as will two children under 10 regardless of gender.

Household size criteria will also allow one bedroom for a non-resident carer if a tenant or their partner is a disabled person who needs overnight care.

Households with a disabled child may retain housing benefit for an additional room, if the nature and severity of the child's disability disturbs the sleep of the other child that they would normally be expected to share with.

Where a property is deemed 'under occupied' the eligible rent under Housing Benefit will be reduced by 14 per cent for one room and 25 per cent if under occupied by two rooms or more.

Approved foster carers, whether or not they have a child placed with them or are between placements, will be allowed an extra room, as long as they have fostered a child within the last 12 months or become a registered foster carer within the last 12 months.

Wives or husbands of those serving in the armed forces will be unaffected by these changes. Parents with adult children in the Armed Forces who continue to live with their parents will continue to be considered as living at home when applying the size criteria whilst away on operational duty.

Under occupation Colchester

The table below shows the under occupation of households in the social rented sector in Colchester as at July 2013.

Table 6: Under Occupation in Colchester

	Colchester Borough Council Tenants	Non Colchester Borough Council Tenants	Total
Under occupying by 1 bedroom	372	413	785

Under occupying by more than 1 bedroom	76	43	119
Total	448	456	904

Colchester Borough Council

A number of Colchester Borough Council tenants have already been affected by the under occupation charge, with a small number being affected by the benefit cap as at June 2013.

Table 7 below shows the rent outstanding and the number of tenants in arrears as at June 2013 compared to the same period last year.

Table 7: Rent and Income comparison

Rent & Income	Jun-13	Jun-12
Arrears outstanding	£402,521	£420,000
as % of debit raised	1.52	1.58
No of tenants in arrears	1707	1524
No owing more than 7 weeks rent	153	182
No of evictions	5	2

Although the amount of arrears outstanding has reduced since the same period last year, the number of tenants in arrears has increased.

Table 8 below shows the number of households affected by under occupation in July 2013 compared to the previous quarter, broken down by amount of arrears. There has been a significant increase in the number of households in arrears in Bands 1-3; this is predominantly due to the reduction in housing benefit received.

Table 8: Breakdown of arrears by households affected by under occupation

	Number of households in arrears as at 1st July	Number of households in arrears as at 1st April
Band 1 - under £50	81	14
Band 2 - £50-99.99	49	12
Band 3 - £100-499.99	132	73
Band 4 - £500+	22	20
Total	284	119

The table below shows an analysis of the arrears of Colchester Borough Council tenants that are under occupying their council property and are receiving Housing Benefit (HB), over the 1st quarter of 2013-2014.

Table 9: Analysis of under occupation arrears

	April	May	June
All tenants in arrears	1587	2077	1707
Under occupying HB tenants in arrears	323	309	284
Total arrears	£374,000	£401,592	£402,521
Under occupying HB tenant arrears	£47,832	£54,803	£54,614
% of tenants in arrears who are HB under occupiers	26%	23%	17%

Over the 1st quarter of 2013-2014 the number of under occupying HB tenants in arrears has slightly decreased although the amount of arrears has increased over this period.

A Housing Welfare Reform Group has been set up between relevant teams at Colchester Borough Council and Colchester Borough Homes to collect information to assess and respond to the impact of Welfare Reform on tenants.

Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) - from 1 April 2013.

As part of the national welfare reforms Council Tax Benefit has been replaced by Local Council Tax Support (LCTS)

Colchester Borough Council - Local Council Tax Support scheme

Those of state pension credit age receive the same level of support as they did under Council tax Benefit.

The following applies to residents of working age and entitled to Local Council Tax Support (LCTS)

- Residents are required to pay a minimum of 20% of their Council Tax liability.
- The first £25 per week of earnings will not be taken into account when calculating LCTS.
- £6000 saving limit for non passported claims
- Child Benefit and maintenance payments will be taken into account when calculating LCTS.
- A new flat rate non-dependant deduction of £10 regardless of income or savings
- Second adult rebate claims will no longer be accepted.

LCTS Colchester

- Currently around 12,000 residents are in receipt of LCTS
- 7,000 of working age
- 5,000 of state pension credit age

Universal Credit – from April 2013

Universal Credit aims to make the welfare system simpler by replacing six benefits and credits with a single monthly payment for those residents on a low income or out of work. It includes support for the costs of housing, children and childcare, as well as support for disabled people and carers.

Between April 2013 and the end of 2017, Universal Credit will replace:

- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit
- Housing Benefit

Early rollout of Universal Credit, known as Pathfinder, started in some areas of Greater Manchester and Cheshire in April 2013. Universal Credit will be progressively rolled out nationally from October 2013.

New Claims to Universal Credit are expected in Essex from February 2014.

Colchester Borough Homes have started to identify tenants who will be affected by the changes so that support services can be targeted to them.

Two important features of Universal Credit are:

- Universal Credit is designed to be claimed online.
- Universal Credit is paid monthly into a single account with day payment principles.

Single Homeless and Rough Sleepers

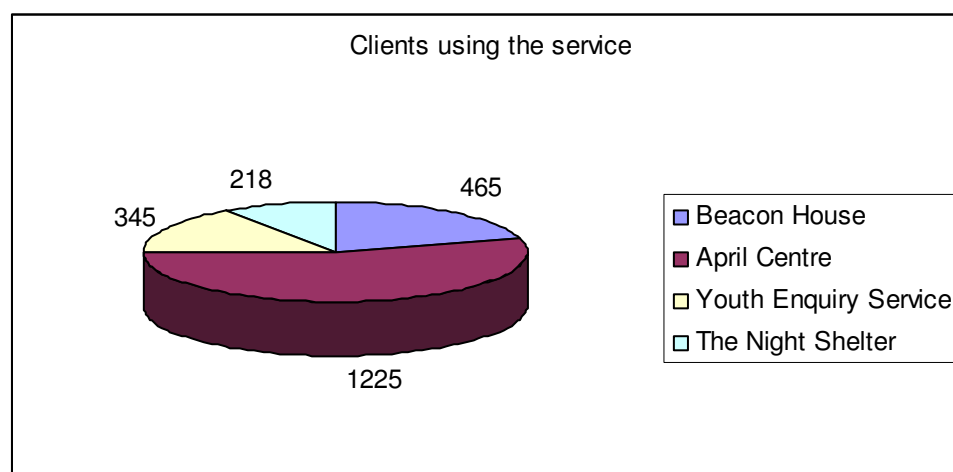
Single Homeless

There are a significant number of single homeless people in Colchester that the council does not owe a duty to house because they are not in priority need as set out by Homelessness legislation.

A number of voluntary sector organisations in Colchester provide valuable advice, support and accommodation for the growing number of single homeless people.

Figure 20 below shows that during 2012/13 the number of clients referred by other organisations to the April Centre for help to secure accommodation was 1225. The number of clients that used the services provided by Beacon House for help and support was 465. The Youth Enquiry service helped prevent homelessness for 345 young people under 25 referred to the service and 218 clients stayed at Colchester Emergency Night Shelter.

Figure 20: Single homeless clients that used voluntary sector services during 2012/13



Source; Voluntary sector organisations

Single Homeless and Health

A research study by Crisis (a national charity for single homeless people) to investigate the mortality of homeless people in England from 2001-2009 found that homeless people are more likely to die young. Homelessness leads to very premature mortality and increased mortality rates.

The average age of death of those who die on the streets or while resident in homeless accommodation is 47 years and even lower for homeless women at 43 years. This compared to 77 years for the general population, 74 years for men and 80 years for women.

Standardised mortality rates show that homeless 16-24 year olds are at least twice as likely to die as those that are not homeless. The ratio increases to four to five times for 25-34 year olds and five to six times at ages 35-44.

The findings of the research shown below clearly indicate that being homeless is incredibly difficult both physically and mentally and has a significant impact on people's health and well being.

Distribution of causes of death for homeless people;

- Cardiovascular (18.3%)
- Cancer (9.8%)
- Respiratory (8.4%)
- Infections (2.5%)
- Other diseases and disorders (10.9%)
- Due to alcohol (14.4%)
- Due to drugs (21.7%)
- Suicide/undetermined intent (8.5%)

Falls (2.0%)
 Traffic accidents (1.2%)
 Other external causes (2.3%)

Beacon House is a Primary Health Care Centre that offers healthcare facilities to clients that are homeless, are threatened with homelessness or are living in insecure accommodation.

Beacon House offers help to homeless people who have health problems by providing the following services:

Nurse-led clinics
 Help with accessing GPs and other health services
 Needle exchange
 Clothing
 Laundry
 Toiletries
 Showers
 Shaves
 Advice & referral

The nurse-led clinic operates a needs led 'drop in service' where clients do not need to make an appointment. All new clients who register with Beacon House will have a comprehensive health and well being check. Existing clients also have a health assessments offered on subsequent visits.

Figure 21; Clients Health Issues

BEACON HOUSE - Clients Health Issues					
	Jan-Mar 2012	Apr-Jun 2012	Jul-Sep 2012	Oct-Dec 2012	Total
Trauma	28	5	6	5	44
Musculoskeletal	28	10	7	17	62
Dermatology	12	6	5	10	33
Respiratory	30	7	1	12	50
Gastro	9	6	1	4	20
Cardiovascular	51	16	9	10	86
Obstetric	3	2	0	1	6
Gynae/GU	7	5	6	8	26
Family planning/advice	5	11	5	8	29
Psychiatry/Mental health	140	31	56	52	279
Other	20	5	2	1	28
Hep/HIV Screen	2	2	0	0	4
Pneumo/Flu vaccines	33	0	0	25	58
Alcohol	112	45	42	72	271

Drugs	75	40	37	30	182
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Source; Beacon House

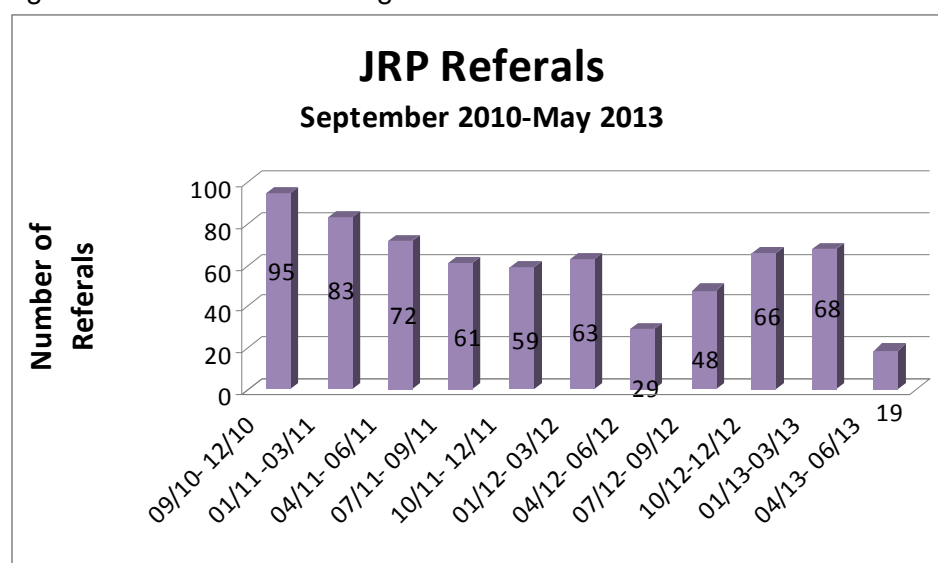
Figure 21 above shows the number of clients suffering from different health issues treated at Beacon House clinic in 2012. Mental Health and Alcohol and drug issues affect significantly higher numbers than any other issues.

Young Single Homeless and Support needs

Joint referral panel for under 25's

The Joint Referral Panel (JRP) is made up of a group of agencies who provide or refer young single homeless clients into supported housing projects in Colchester. The panel meets every two weeks and its function is to assess applications for supported housing services in Colchester and make decisions about allocations to ensure that each applicant is offered the most appropriate service for their needs.

Figure 22: Referrals excluding re-referrals



Source; JRP

Figure 22 above shows the number of referrals excluding re-referrals made to the JRP quarterly from September 2010 – May 2013. The number has significantly reduced in the last quarter 04/2013 – 06/2013 which forms a similar pattern to the same period last year.

Demand for supported housing for young people in Colchester far outweighs the supply and most schemes have waiting lists.

The numbers of units in schemes specifically for single young people are as follows:

Family Mosaic including;
Bernard Brett House – 23 units
Mersea Road – 8 units
YMCA – 44 units

Nacro provides 24 units of supported accommodation for 16-65 years and
Sanctuary Housing provides 49 units for 18–65 years, including;
Queen Elizabeth Way – 20 units
Chinook – 25 units
Pebmarsh Close – 4 units

Rough Sleepers

Local Authorities are required to provide a figure for the number of people rough sleeping in the area to the DCLG on an Annual basis; this can either be by way of a count or by providing an estimate from information gathered from local organisations.

Over the last few years Colchester has provided an estimated figure to the DCLG. The organisations that provide the most accurate information about who is sleeping rough include; the Night Shelter, the April Centre, Beacon House and many other organisations that delivers services to or supports those people rough sleeping.

Since 2010 the estimated figure for rough sleeping in Colchester has significantly risen from 10 people in 2010 to 24 and 25 in 2011 and 2012 respectively. Based on 2012, Colchester has the joint highest number of rough sleepers in the Eastern region (with Luton UA) and nationally, the joint 14th highest.

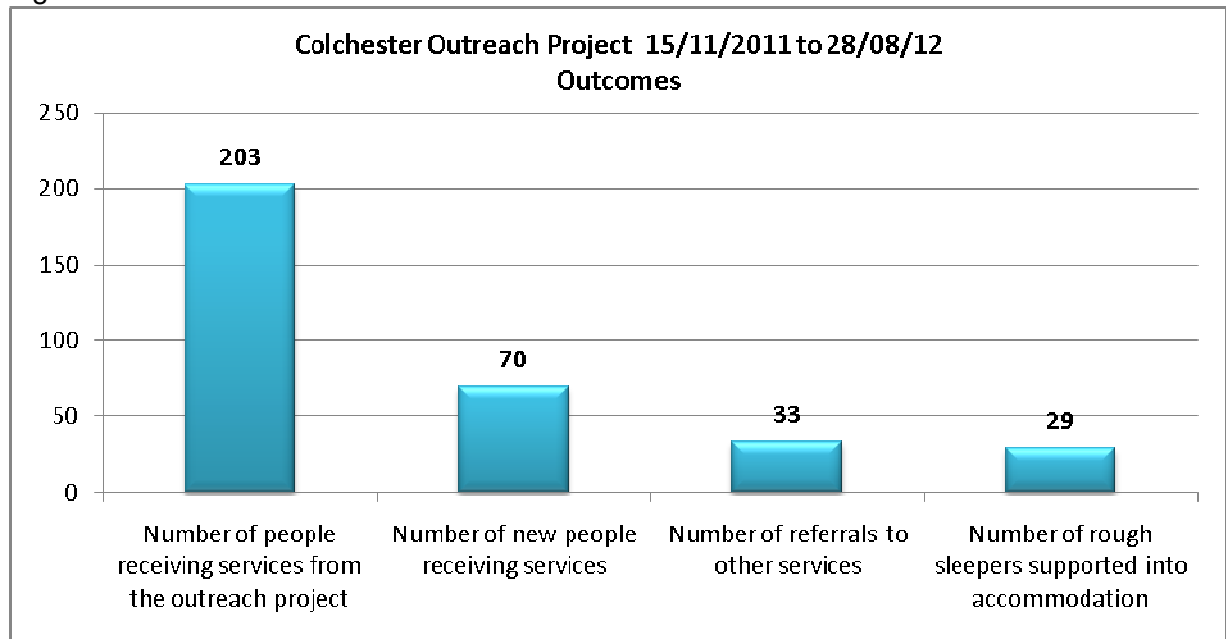
Figures for Rough Sleepers in 2012 in some other Local Authorities in the Eastern Region were:

Ipswich (count) – 7
Chelmsford (estimate) – 8
Norwich (count) – 6
Cambridge (estimate) - 20

In 2011 the DCLG awarded £40,000 funding to the Greater Haven Gateway with Colchester as the lead authority, to support work to prevent and tackle single homelessness and rough sleeping in the sub region.

Part of this funding was used to provide an outreach service in Colchester and Tendring by the April Centre, an organisation that worked across both local authorities. The project ran from November 2011 to September 2012.

Figure 23: Main outcomes from the Outreach Service in Colchester



Source; The April Centre

Figure 23 above shows that the project met its objective to prevent and tackle rough sleeping by addressing the issues faced by single homeless people as well as rough sleepers. This is due to the number of rough sleepers that engaged with the outreach workers, were referred to other services and supported into accommodation

In February 2012 the DCLG allocated £20m funding to Local Authority Sub-Regional Groupings across the country, appointing a Lead Authority in each. The Greater Haven Gateway was awarded £362,000 with Colchester as lead authority to 'bolster' front line provision to prevent single homelessness and rough sleeping and support the roll out of No Second Night Out.