

# Homelessness Update

Housing Options

September 2024

# Homelessness Update



## Emergency Support and Prevention

- The use of Emergency Accommodation is constantly reviewed with the needs of the household a priority. 59 households needed emergency accommodation in August.
- Homeless Prevention remains a priority. Finding solutions to complex situations is always a challenge. During August:
  - 6 households secured accommodation for 6 months or more,
  - 3 were housed for 12 months or more, and
  - 2 were able to remain in their existing accommodation for 12 months or more.
- Key reasons for evictions and homelessness remain rent increases in the private sector, affordability and needing to leave family accommodation.

## Families with children in EA

- In the NFDC area, this number has remained stable, despite fluctuations and increasing numbers nationally.
- Ages between one month old and 18 years, though some households have adult children living with them.
- Whilst we try to limit the use of EA, it is needed, and we try to keep this as short a period as possible.

**Current households with children in Emergency Accommodation**

	1 child	2 children	3 children	4 children	5 children	6 Children	Total
<b>Female</b>	6	2	2	1	0	0	11
<b>Male</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Couple</b>	1	5	1	1	0	1	9
<b>Total</b>	7	7	3	2	0	0	20

# Homelessness Update



## Budget

- Considering national budgetary concerns, NFDC are currently within expected spending targets and is closely monitored
- Spending on Emergency Accommodation averages around £121,000 per month, though has reduced compared to recent years due to owning more stock for this use.
- Spend monthly around £7000 for in rent in advance and £4000 for rent deposits to help secure private sector tenancies for households to alleviate homelessness. We receive some of this back when households receive their Universal Credit or Housing Benefit payments which reduces the burden.

## Rough Sleeping

- Work under the Rough Sleepers initiative is ongoing, with funding due to end in March 2025.
- The number of verified rough sleepers fluctuated throughout the year, with consistently low numbers of around 1 to 3. However, at today's date there are no verified rough sleepers across the district.
- Recent successes with longer term rough sleepers moving into Council accommodation.
- The annual physical count will be undertaken in the autumn with the numbers fed back to government.

# Emergency Accommodation

Total Households in Emergency Accommodation End of the Month (Snapshot)

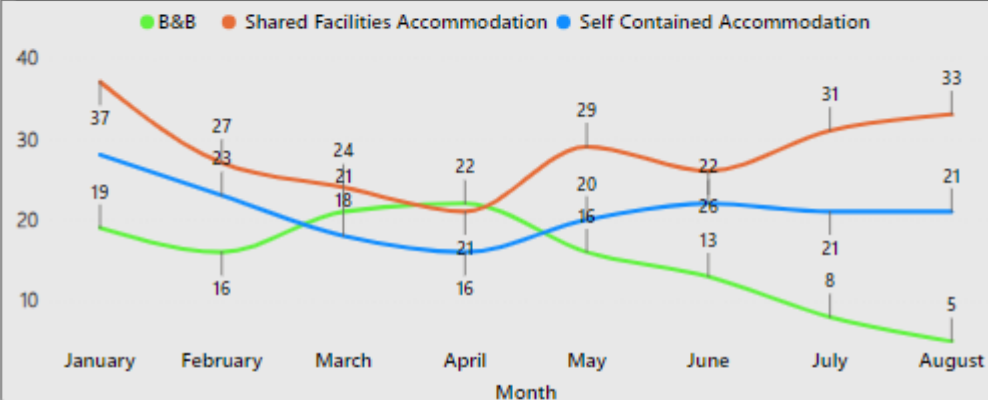
59✓

Last Month: 60 (+1.67%)

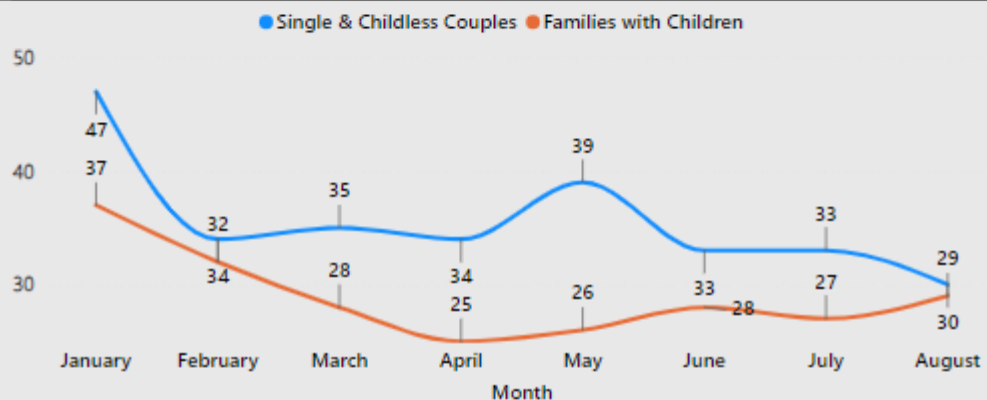
Current Month

August

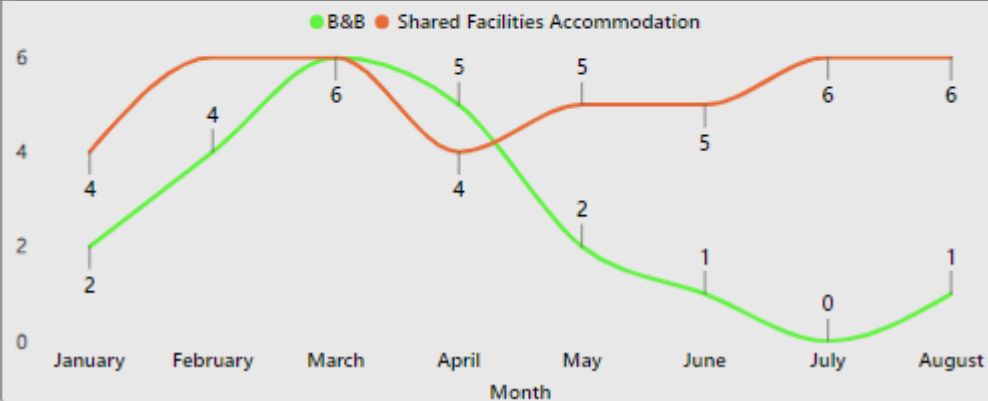
## Households in Emergency Accommodation



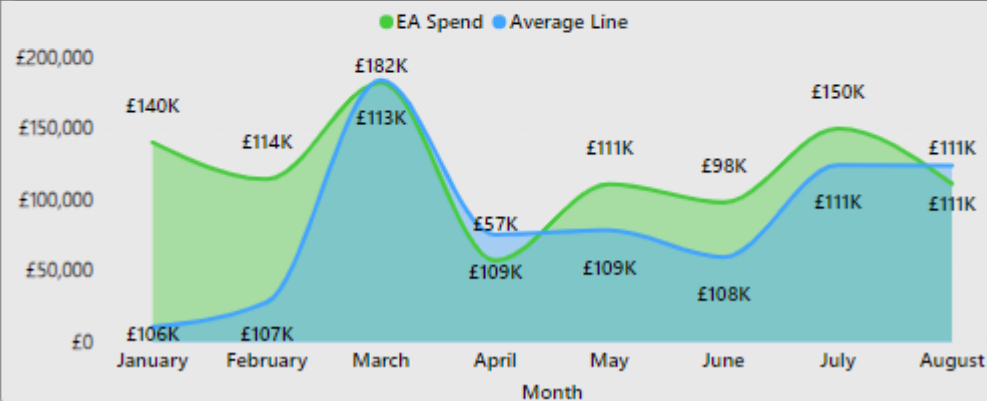
## Household Type



## Families in EA for 6 Weeks or more



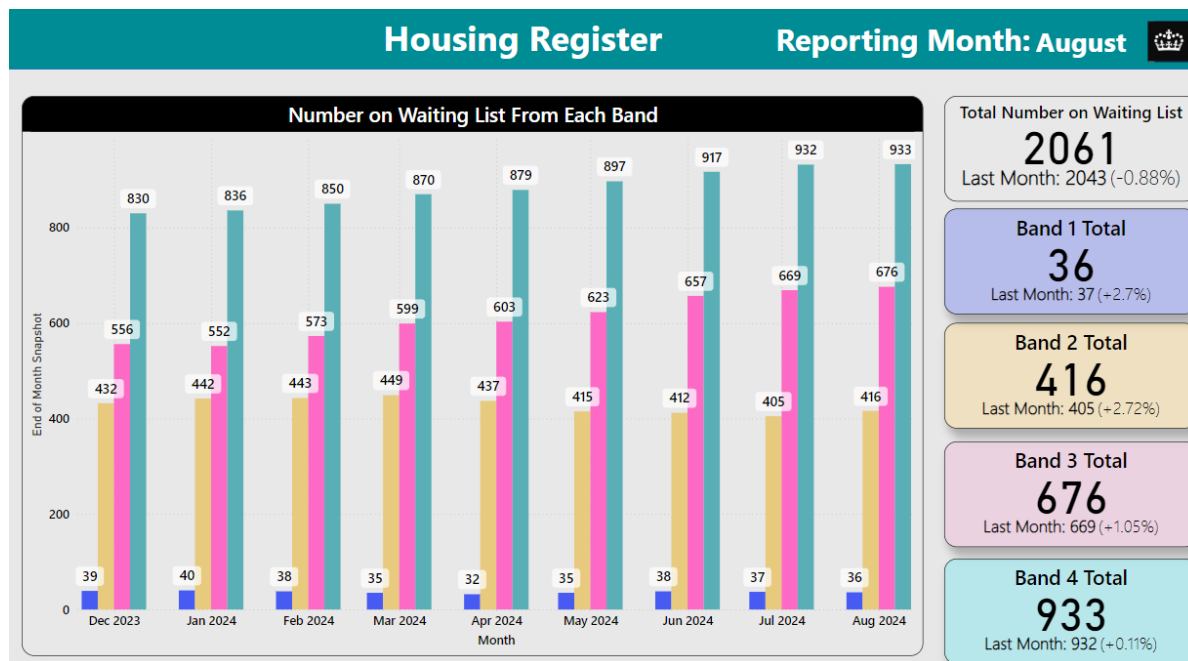
## EA Spend



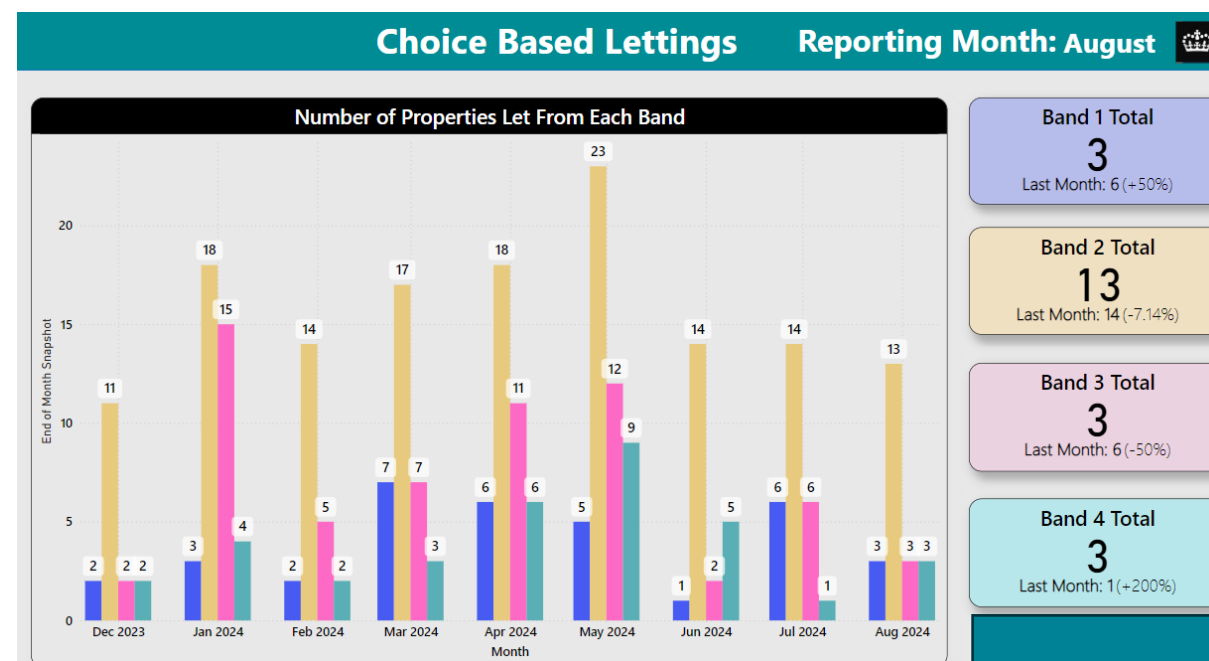
# Housing Register Update



## Housing Register



## Number of properties let on Homesearch



# Wider Homelessness Update



## Homes for Ukraine scheme

- 54 families remain with hosts, 10 in LAHF properties (Local Authority Housing Fund), 46 residing in private rented sector who are continuing to receive support.
- Trickle of new approaches from family members of those already in the UK seeking hosts.
- Questions remain over the future of the "Host Thank You Payments" have led to some hosts querying this and potentially there may be need to find long term accommodation.

## Accommodation for Ex Offenders

- Current pressures include the national prison release scheme. It is expected to see around 3-6 additional releases to NFDC area and a similar number in October. This is much less than expected but is open to change.
- The ongoing scheme, which started in 2023, has a target of 24 ex-offenders to be housed in 2 years, in the last year alone 18 have been housed.

# Wider Homelessness Updates



- The Rough Sleepers Initiative funds the Support Team which is due to end March 2025. A review of the service to continue to prevent rough sleeping, support those in transitional accommodation and people needing extra support when rough sleeping or finding private has been undertaken and final outcomes to be agreed.
  - We continue to work with partners across the district including The Crossings who support people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness across The Waterside area of The New Forest.
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- The Audit of Homelessness Prevention and Relief was completed in April 2024. It demonstrated a reasonable assurance with a generally sound system of governance, risk management and control in place. Some recommendations for improvement were identified and acted upon.
  - Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy is being reviewed and refreshed for the next five years. Updated national guidance is expected to be provided with the budget in October, which may provide new priorities.



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