

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
C O U N C I L

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 1015152  
Date            29 October 2015

### *Homelessness Placements*

**Request:**

1) How many homelessness households has your borough accepted a duty for in 2015 to date?

The Wolverhampton Housing Options have taken a total of 742 cases during 1 April 2015 through to 30 October 2015 and have accepted a duty for those applications where an “eligible unintentionally homeless and in priority need” decision was made, this total came to 165.

2) What were the five main reasons that households presented as homeless during that time (ie the five most common reasons for the loss of the last settled accommodation)?

Of the 742 cases where a homeless application, the five main reasons are as follows:

1.      End of assured short-hold tenancy
2.      Parents unable / unwilling to accommodate
3.      Violent relationship breakdown
4.      Friend unable / unwilling to accommodate
5.      Other loss or tied / rented accommodation

3) How many of those households were placed in temporary accommodation in your borough?

This figure does not contain households that were placed in temporary accommodation prior to the start of April 2015 and only relates to all households places with the Local Authorities shared and self-contained temporary accommodation.

We had 120 households placed of which 7 were re accommodated into alternative temp accommodation within our provision, thus the actual figure is 113 households.

4) What were the most common areas in which those homeless households were placed in temporary accommodation in your borough?

Park Village and Heath Town

5) How many of those homeless households were placed in temporary accommodation outside of your borough?

None

6) What were the most common areas outside the borough in which those homeless households were placed?

N/A

7) How long on average have homeless households this year spent in temporary accommodation?

Taking into account all households placed within ours shared and self-contained temporary accommodation from the start of April only, the average time spent there was 54.95 nights or approximately 7.85 weeks.

8) In what sector are homeless households in your borough most likely to be found settled accommodation (ie in the private rental sector or in social housing). How many were found settled accommodation this year in the private rental sector and how many in social housing?

The answer below is for all households that found settled accommodation for

a) those that where our temp accommodation prior to April 2015

and

b) those that were placed from April onwards.

a) Social housing (part 6 offer) 62 cases, private sector – assured tenancy 1 case, private sector offer 1 case.

b) Social housing (part 6 offer) 27 cases, private sector – assured tenancy 1 case.

9) Does your council provide a storage service for homeless households that are placed in temporary accommodation.

Yes we provide storage for homeless households who are owed a full duty, once a full financial statement has been taken.

If so, how long does the council provide that storage and how much does it cost?  
Average cost is £251.00 delivery into storage and £251.00 delivery out of storage.  
Plus a weekly cost of £8.00 per container per week.

10) Did housing benefit cover the full costs of temporary accommodation for homeless households this year or have some households had to pay costs towards that accommodation?

From a household perspective, Housing benefits may cover a majority of their accommodation costs but as per their financial status a supplement charge may be required.

11) Does your council discharge its homelessness duty to the private sector?

No