

# Ending Homelessness Together

Homelessness Strategy **2022-27**



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## STREET NEEDS AUDIT 2023

**Belfast, Derry/Londonderry, Newry**

September 2024

**Housing**  
Executive

WELCOME  
ORGANISATION

DEPAUL

FIRST HOUSING AID &  
SUPPORT SERVICE

# Acknowledgements

The Street Needs Audit 2023 has been carried out by strategic partners in the charitable sector, who have extensive knowledge of rough sleeping and homelessness in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Newry.

The Housing Executive would like to acknowledge and thank the dedicated staff from the Welcome Organisation, Depaul and First Housing Aid and Support Services for the commitment they demonstrated throughout the course of the Audit in recording observations and supporting the vulnerable people they encountered, and for their ongoing dedication and support to those who are at risk of homelessness and those who are experiencing homelessness.

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# 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The [Chronic Homelessness Action Plan](#), which was published in January 2020, included a commitment to conduct a Street Needs Audit in a number of cities across Northern Ireland. In consideration of the reported street activity, Belfast and Derry/Londonderry were highlighted as cities in which a Street Needs Audit would be carried out, and Newry was considered as a city in which a Street Needs Audit could potentially be carried out.
- 1.2 While the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan covered January 2020 to March 2022, it was not possible to carry out a Street Needs Audit during this time. This was primarily due to the impact of the pandemic, and the Housing Executive did not feel it appropriate to carry out the exercise while public health guidance at the time may have resulted in the findings not providing an accurate picture of street activity. It was therefore intended that Street Needs Audits would be carried out at a time when all public health guidance relating to COVID-19 eased or was removed, which would assume in street activity returning to levels more consistent with prior to the pandemic and therefore, providing a more accurate reflection. The commitment in the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan was realised in February to March 2023 and the [Year 2 Action Plan of the Homelessness Strategy 2022-27](#) included a commitment to publish a report on the Street Needs Audits carried out in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Newry.
- 1.3 The purpose of the Street Needs Audit is to assist the Housing Executive in its statutory duty to respond to homelessness, and to provide the organisation with a comprehensive understanding of the scale of street activity, including rough sleeping in Northern Ireland. Indications of growing levels of street activity have led to a perceived increase in rough sleeping. Whilst anecdotal evidence indicates that much of this is related to street drinking and begging, the Housing Executive has sought to establish a clear and factual picture in order to ensure that services targeted at rough sleepers are operating effectively. A similar [Street Needs Audit](#) was carried out in Belfast in 2016, which produced baseline figures as well as a number of findings and recommendations.
- 1.4 Meetings with prospective providers, including Welcome Organisation, First Housing Aid & Support Services and Depaul took place in January 2023 to discuss an agreed approach to the completion of a Street Needs Audit in the three cities. The Street Needs Audit commenced in Belfast on 3rd February 2023 and one week later in Derry/Londonderry on 10th February 2023. Both audits were completed over a 6-week timescale, however, in comparison the Newry Street Needs Audit was carried out over a 2-week period, due to less street activity being reported in Newry in comparison to the larger cities. The Newry audit commenced on 18th March 2023.



## Rough Sleeping Counts/Estimates

- 1.5 Currently, the Housing Executive publishes annual rough sleeping figures for Northern Ireland, based on methodology that is consistent with England. As per Homeless Link's guidance, rough sleepers are identified using the definition below:

*People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places, not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations or 'bashes').*

This provides a snapshot of how many people are rough sleeping on a given night. The figures from the rough sleeper's street count, and street estimates from 2018 to 2023 are noted in Table 1 below. Further details on the counts/estimates is available [here](#).

- 1.6 It should be noted that the rough sleeping street counts and street estimates provide a snapshot at a point in time, however the Street Needs Audit goes beyond this and covers a 6-week period in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry and a 2 week period in Newry. Additionally, the Street Needs Audit covers all forms of street activity as outlined in section 3.3 below. This approach will provide the Housing Executive and our partners with a comprehensive evidence base to deliver the objectives as outlined in section 2.3 of this report.

**Table 1**

Council	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Antrim & Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ards & North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	0	4	0	1	1	1
Belfast	16	28	10	18	26	32
Causeway Coast & Glens	4	0	0	0	0	0
Derry City & Strabane	13	1	2	0	2	3
Fermanagh & Omagh	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lisburn & Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mid & East Antrim	0	1	0	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	0	1	0
Newry, Mourne & Down	5	1	6	4	3	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>45</b>

## 2.0 Aims & Objectives

- 2.1 The overarching aim of the Street Needs Audit is to carry out a comprehensive assessment of need, for the purpose of better informing prevention work, and future service commissioning. The findings from this piece of work should be viewed in conjunction with other intelligence and data that the Housing Executive collects in relation to the needs of this cohort, including the Belfast Complex Lives Team and through the Housing Solutions and Support Teams.
- 2.2 The combined analysis of this intelligence will be required to enable the Housing Executive to plan effectively and therefore ensure that services are contributing fully to achieving the aim of ending rough sleeping.
- 2.3 The main objectives of the Street Needs Audit are to:
  - Undertake action research on individuals engaged in rough sleeping and street activity throughout the day and night.
  - Proactively engage with individuals to assess immediate needs at the point of contact.
  - Actively assist individuals to return to their accommodation (where applicable) including referrals to the most appropriate support services.
  - Identify the nature and frequency of contacts with individuals to inform a case management approach.
  - Identify barriers to service entry.
  - Promote partnership working around managing and addressing street activity.
  - Inform the reconfiguration of homelessness services including assessing the adequacy of crisis and outreach services and informing commissioning priorities.
  - Identify non-accommodation-based issues that impact on street activity.
  - In working with the Belfast Complex Lives Team and the Housing Solutions and Support Teams in each of the three cities, the Street Needs Audit will seek to improve the response in meeting the complex needs identified.

## 3.0 Methodology

- 3.1 After initial discussions with providers, it was agreed that the Belfast and Newry Audits would be carried out by the Welcome Organisation and the Derry/Londonderry Audit would be carried out jointly by First Housing Aid & Support Services (FHASS) and Depaul (Foyle Haven). In Belfast and Derry/Londonderry these organisations have an established working relationship in assisting rough sleepers and those engaged with street activity. In Newry, there is no equivalent organisations and the Welcome Organisation agreed to assist in the Newry exercise on account of their support in delivering the annual rough sleeper street counts which take place in Newry.
- 3.2 It was believed that the Street Needs Audits should take place over several weeks to ensure a true reflection of the street activity levels. Due to the reported levels of street activity in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry it was agreed with providers that the audits would be carried out over a 6-week period, whilst the Newry audit would be carried out over a 2-week period.
- 3.3 The audit seeks to identify individuals who engage in day time street activity and night time street activity. It also seeks to identify what proportion of street activity relates to homelessness and what proportion relates to other activities. Appendix 1 contains the form used by providers to record their encounters with individuals engaged in street activity. The form is similar to the one used in the annual street counts which are outlined in section 1.5 above, however the form was updated to reflect feedback received from the providers during initial discussions to ensure that appropriate data was captured over the course of the audit.

The Street Needs Audit gathers information regarding:

- Levels of rough sleeping, street drinking, other substance misuse, begging, street working and socialisation.
- Trends in housing status.
- Types of support needs and levels of engagement with support services.
- Actions taken to support individuals who are engaging in street activity.
- Levels of chronic homelessness.

- 3.4 It was agreed that information would be gathered during set times, ensuring that both day and night activity would be recorded and captured in the findings. Based on the utilisation of the providers local knowledge of street activity in the respective cities the following day and nighttime recordings took place;

- **Belfast – Welcome Organisation**
  - o Day Encounter: 11:30am – 3pm
  - o Night Encounter: 9:30pm – 1:30am
- **Derry/Londonderry - Depaul and First Housing Aid & Support Services**
  - o Day Encounter: 2pm – 3:30pm
  - o Night Encounter: 9:30pm – 11pm

- **Newry – Welcome Organisation**

- o Day Encounter: 8:30am – 10:30am (Week 1) 2pm – 4pm (Week 2)
- o Night Encounter: 9pm – 11pm

3.5 From the beginning of the audits, Steering Groups for each respective city were set up to guide the data collection and ratify the final report of the findings. The Steering Groups are made up of representatives from Local Housing Executive teams, Local Councils, Health, PSNI and Belfast Complex Lives Team. Membership for each city is contained in Appendix 2.

## 4.0 Summary of Findings

4.1 During the Street Needs Audit, providers observed and supported:

- Belfast: 226 unique individuals over 980 engagements
- Derry/Londonderry: 50 unique individuals over 411 engagements
- Newry: 12 unique individuals over 44 engagements

The overwhelming majority of individuals recorded were already known to the Service Providers, except in Newry, where, as previously noted, there is currently no permanent outreach team based here.

4.2 During all three audits, Service Providers encountered ‘unknown’ individuals. This was a small cohort of individuals who could not be clearly identified or who were not willing to engage with Service Providers to provide information, or it was not appropriate to engage with them at that time. All engagements, with either known or unknown individuals are included in the total engagement numbers. However, only individuals who could be clearly identified as being a unique individual are counted in the total unique individual figures.

4.3 It should be noted that while this section provides us with an analysis of street activity in the respective cities, it is important to note that it only captures visible activity. Consequently, hidden forms of street activity like street working for example, may not be accurately reflected in the data. This issue was raised at the Steering Group meetings and is addressed in Section 6.1 under Recommendations. The definitions of the different types of street activity were also discussed in the Steering Group meetings and it was agreed that they should be defined clearly in order to fully understand the support needs of the individuals who are engaging in these activities. The definitions of each street activity can be found in Page 38 Glossary of Terms.

- 4.4 It is also acknowledged that street activity is multifaceted, making it a challenging area to record and summarise effectively. In weekly progress meetings, providers spoke about the growing complexities in the individuals they were supporting, and how many of their support needs overlapped or intertwined. Therefore, although the findings extensively analyse the street needs across Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Newry, it is important to note that it may not be fully representative of the deeper intricacies that exist.

## Demographics

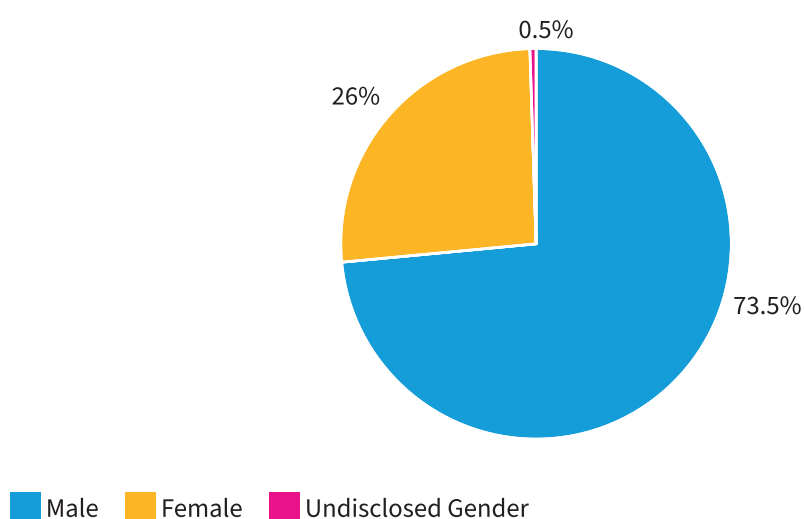
- 4.5 In all three cities, Service Providers observed more males than females. The highest percentage of female engagement was recorded in Derry/Londonderry, with 36% of all engagements being female. There was a total figure of 109 engagements with females in the survey, with the highest number of engagements with one individual female being 21 times.

Service Providers in Derry/Londonderry highlighted that this finding is not reflective of the situation now as the numbers are much lower but explained that due to the chaotic nature of homelessness, the demographics can fluctuate during the year with no real pattern or trend. They added that during the audit period (Feb 2023 - Mar 2023) there was a particularly high number of female individuals engaging with local services in the area.

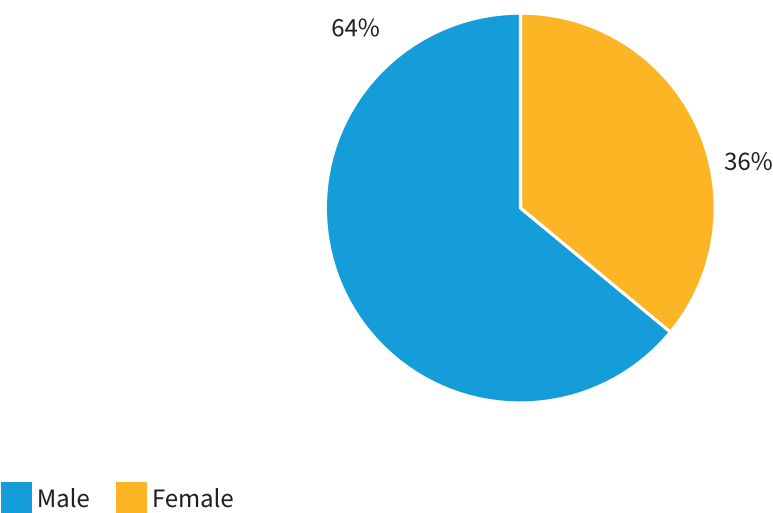
## Gender

The diagrams below represent the gender breakdown in each city:

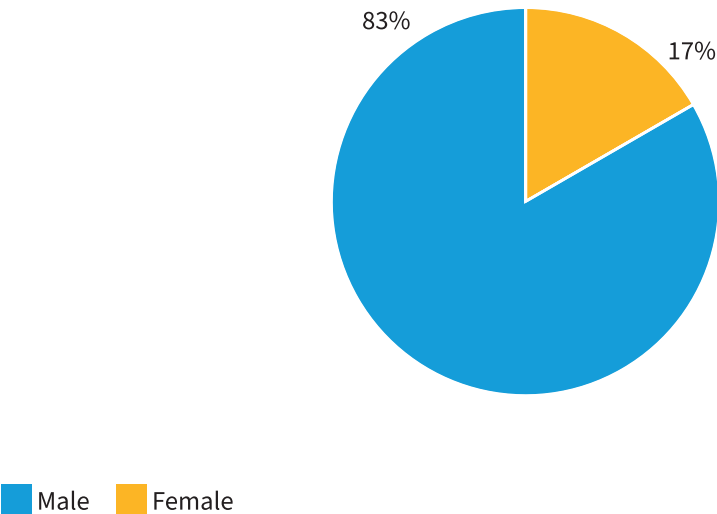
**Figure 1 Belfast**



**Figure 2 Derry / Londonderry**



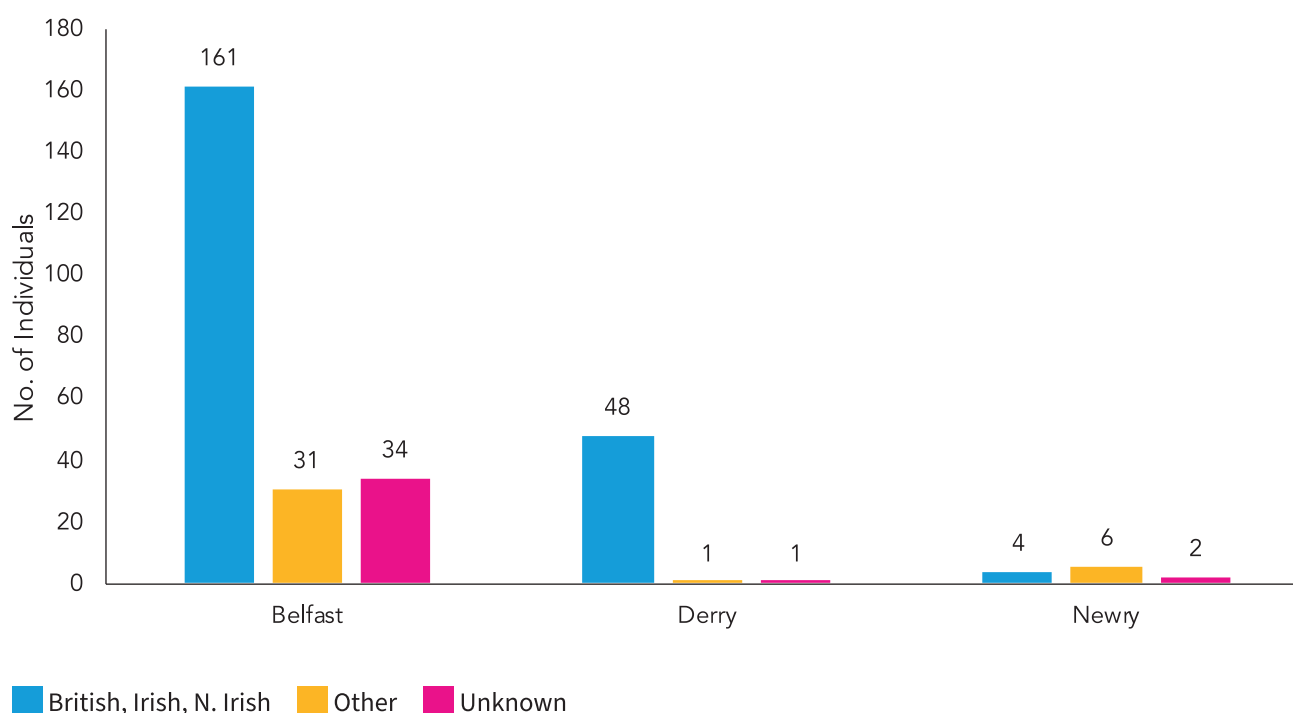
**Figure 3 Newry**



## Nationality

4.6 The Street Needs Audit also captured an overview of the Nationality of individuals found to be engaging in Street Activity. By categorising this information, it provided an invaluable insight and enabled us to categorise individuals and determine possible reasons for engaging in Street Activity which may be due to access reasons and having No Recourse to Public Funds. The diagram below represents the Nationality breakdown in each city:

**Figure 4 - Nationality**



4.7 In Belfast approximately 15% of all individuals observed were recorded as having a foreign nationality. In Newry, this percentage was significantly higher with 50% of all individuals observed as having a foreign nationality. The local Housing Executive team and local support agencies on the Newry Steering Group noted their concern for this cohort's welfare as they are not characteristically eligible for housing and homelessness assistance. The Steering Group were keen to find out more about these individuals and how they can be best supported to exit rough sleeping. (see Section 6.5 under Recommendations)

## Age

4.8 The age breakdown for the three cities is as follows;

### Belfast – 226 Unique Individuals

- Average age – 36 years old
- Oldest male individual recorded – 71 years old
- Oldest female individual recorded – 61 years old
- Youngest male individual recorded – 18 years old
- Youngest female individual recorded – 21 years old.

### Derry/Londonderry – 50 Unique Individuals

- Average age – 38 years old
- Oldest male individual recorded – 67 years old
- Oldest female individual recorded – 60 years old
- Youngest male individual recorded – 20 years old
- Youngest female individual recorded – 20 years old.

### Newry – 12 Unique Individuals

- Average age – 33 years old
- Oldest individual recorded – 45 years old
- Youngest individual recorded – 24 years old.

4.9 The wide variety of ages highlights that a variety of demographics are represented within this Street Needs Audit. It should be noted that in some instances during the engagements, the outreach teams were not able to collect some data including the Date of Birth/Age of some of the individuals, as participants were unwilling to share that information and/or not willing to engage with the outreach teams. The tables below display recorded ages by age range:

**Table 2. Belfast**

Age Bands	Female	Male	Undisclosed / Unknown Gender	Total Engagements	Percentage Of Total (980)
< 20 Yrs	0	1	0	1	0.1%
20-30 Yrs	21	40	1	245	25%
31-40 Yrs	21	58	2	355	36%
41-50 Yrs	9	31	0	184	19%
51-60 Yrs	1	13	0	127	13%
61-70 Yrs	1	3	1	14	1.4%
70 and over	0	1	0	20	2%
Unknown Age	2	10	764	34	3.5%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>768</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Please note there were 768 engagements where gender was unable to be confirmed



**Table 3. Derry/Londonderry**

Age Bands	Female	Male	Total Engagements	Percentage of total (411)
<20 Yrs	1	0	1	0%
20 - 30 Yrs	43	72	115	28 %
31 - 40 Yrs	37	86	123	30 %
41 - 50 Yrs	9	98	107	26 %
51 - 60 Yrs	19	36	55	13 %
61 - 70 Yrs	0	2	2	1 %
Unknown Age	0	0	8	2 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Please note there were eight engagements where gender was unable to be confirmed

**Table 4. Newry**

Age Range	Female	Male	Total Engagements	Percentage of total (44)
<20 Yrs	0	0	0	0%
20 - 30 Yrs	5	4	9	21 %
31 - 40 Yrs	0	16	16	36 %
41 - 50 Yrs	0	1	1	2 %
51 - 60 Yrs	0	0	0	0 %
61 - 70 Yrs	0	0	0	0 %
Unknown Age	2	16	18	41 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

It is noted that due to the absence of a permanent outreach team within Newry, there was certain data that was not able to be collected including the Date of Birth/Age of some of the individuals, as participants were unwilling to share that information and/or were not willing to engage with the Welcome Organisation.

### Sexual orientation

4.10 This year, following feedback from providers, the audit began capturing data relating to sexual orientation as per Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Providers in Belfast did not record sexuality for every engagement; therefore, the below data relates to a smaller sample where sexuality was recorded.

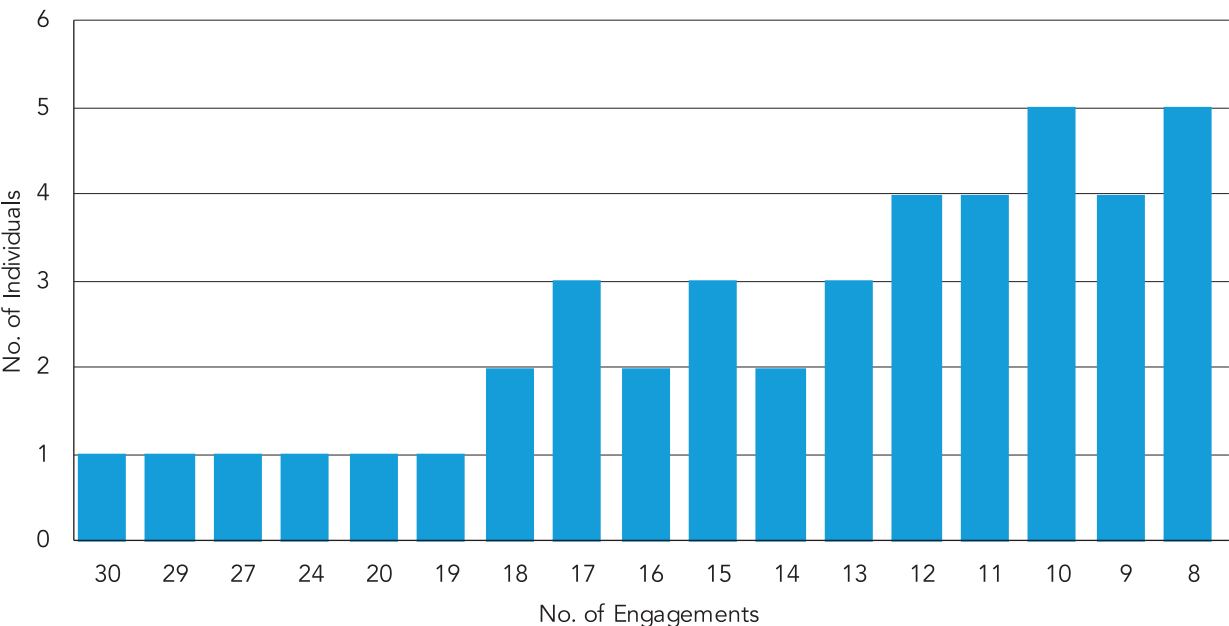
- Approximately 8% of engagements in Belfast were with people who were Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual.
- Approximately 6% of engagements in Derry/Londonderry were with people who were Gay / Lesbian / Bisexual.

## Street Activity: Belfast

### Levels of Street Activity

4.11 During the Belfast Street Needs Audit, 980 engagements were recorded by providers. The individuals recorded were engaging in some type of street activity on one or more occasions. The following graph highlights the number of individuals who were engaged with more than 7 times over the course of the audit. Providers recorded one individual 30 times over the course of the 6-week audit. 19% of engagements were with individuals who were recorded more than 7 times.

**Figure 5**  
**Belfast - Frequency of Engagements > than 7 Times**



## Belfast - Types of Street Activity

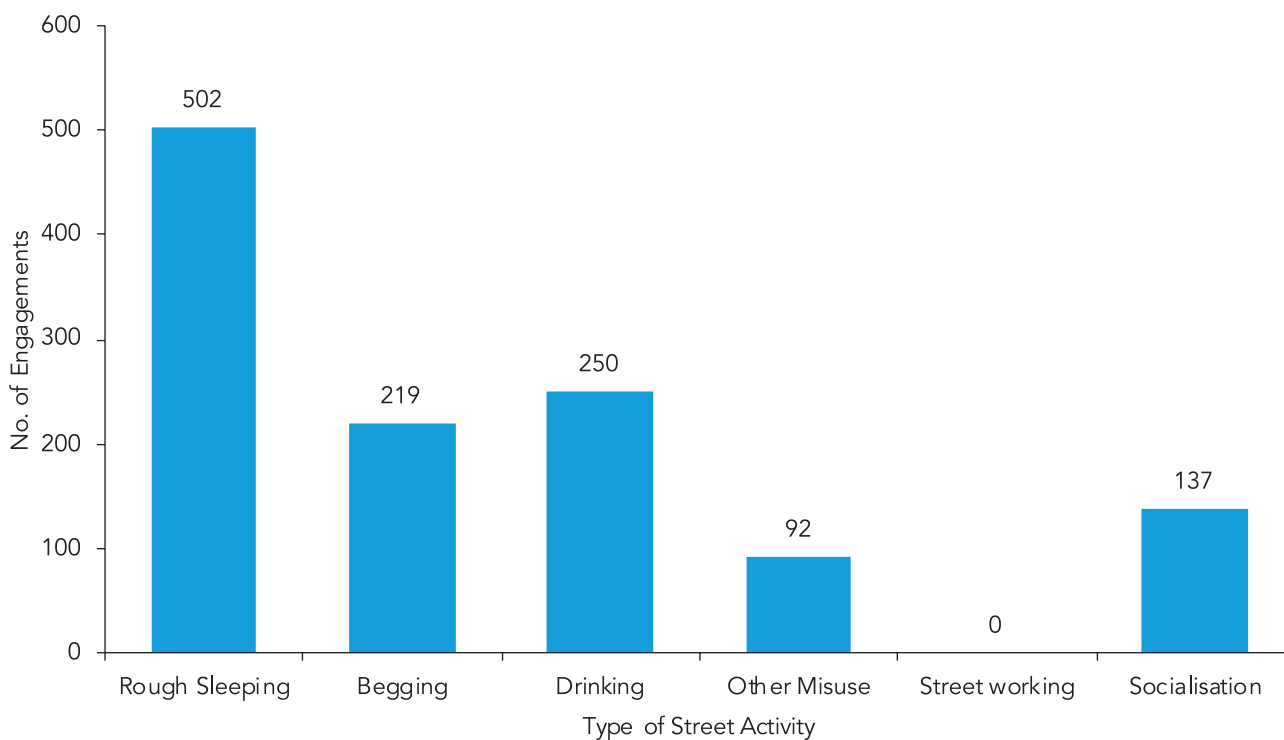
4.12 The three main types of street activity recorded in the city were Drinking (25.5%), Rough Sleeping (51.2%) and socialisation (13.9%). Most individuals were observed engaging in multiple activities.

**Table 5.**

Street activity	No' of engagements	Percentage of total (980)
Drinking	250	25.5%
Rough Sleeping	502	51.2%
Other Misuse	92	9.4%
Begging	219	22.3%
Street Working	0	0%
Socialisation	137	13.9%

**Figure 6.**

**Types of Street Activity**



## Belfast - Support Needs

4.13 This year, following feedback from providers, the audit began capturing data relating to the support needs of the individuals who were engaged in street activity. Providers felt that it was important to record the number of individuals who refused services or refused engagement, as providers reported that they found it particularly hard to support these individuals. Of the 980 engagements, Alcohol (56%) and Drugs (49%) were the two most prominent support needs recorded.

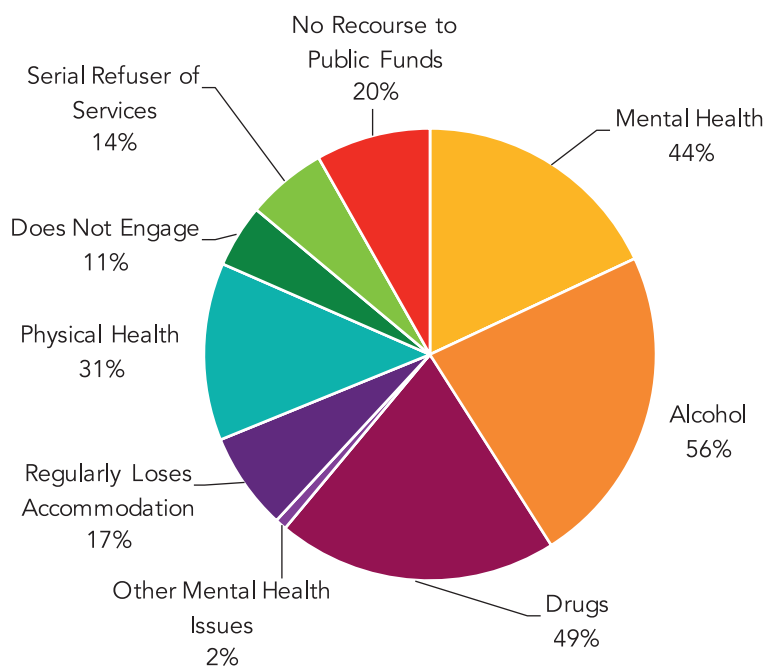
4.14 During the Steering Group meetings, providers in Belfast stated that although they agreed with the two most common support needs, they felt that the numbers were an under representation of the actual situation. They explained that whilst collecting this data, no assumptions were made and so therefore the data is dependent on people being aware of their own support needs and self-declaring it. For example, providers spoke about some individual's whose behaviour would indicate poor mental health but because they do not visit their GP, engage with relevant services or are not admitted to hospital for it, then they do not have a diagnosis. In these instances, individuals may need mental health support but may not have declared it during the audit. Partners in the Belfast Complex Lives team suggested that this data in future could be recorded differently, with a separate field for individuals displaying symptoms of mental ill-health or having experienced significant trauma. They suggested that this may also help capture the extent of the gap between people struggling with poor mental health and people accessing support for this.

**Table 6.**

Support Needs	No. of Engagements	Percentage of Total (980)
Mental Health	431	44%
Alcohol	549	56%
Drugs	479	49%
Other Mental Health Issues*	24	2%
Regularly loses accommodation	164	17%
Physical Health	308	31%
Does not engage	107	11%
Serial refuser of services	139	14%
No Recourse to Public Funds	196	20%

\*Please note this relates to individuals who may be suffering from mental health issues but have not received a formal diagnosis, and/or not receiving treatment.

**Figure 7.**  
**Belfast Support Needs**



## Belfast - Client Status

4.15 Of the 226 individuals, almost 20% were recorded as having their own tenancy. It should be noted that these individuals who are recorded as having their own tenancy are actively choosing to engage in street activity and this may have an impact on perceived increased levels of street activity within Belfast. However, these individuals are engaging in street activity and returning to their tenancy.

**Table 7.**

Client Status	Number of Individuals	Percentage of Total (226)
Assessed FDA	129	57.1%
Assessed Non-FDA*	33	14.6%
Has own Tenancy	44	19.5%
Not Assessed	7	3.1%
No Information	13	5.7%

\*Please note that this includes individuals who may not be eligible for social housing and individuals who may have been classed as intentionally homeless. This figure also includes individuals who appealed their negative homeless decision.

## Belfast - Housing Status

4.16 Of the 980 engagements, 28% were offered temporary accommodation but refused the offer. 24% of all engagements cannot access temporary accommodation mostly due to being ineligible or having no recourse to public funds.

**Table 8.**

Housing Status	No. of Engagements	Percentage of Total (980)
Has a tenancy & will be returning	84	8.6%
Has a tenancy but choosing to sleep rough	9	0.9%
Has been offered temporary accommodation (TA) but refused	277	28.3%
Has hostel bed & will be returning	56	5.7%
Has hostel bed but chooses to sleep rough	18	1.8%
Using crash facilities	116	11.8%
Cannot access temporary accommodation (TA)	240	24.5%
No Recourse to Public Funds	13	1.3%
Sofa Surfing	20	2%
No information recorded	147	15%
Squat	0	0%

## Street Activity: Derry/Londonderry

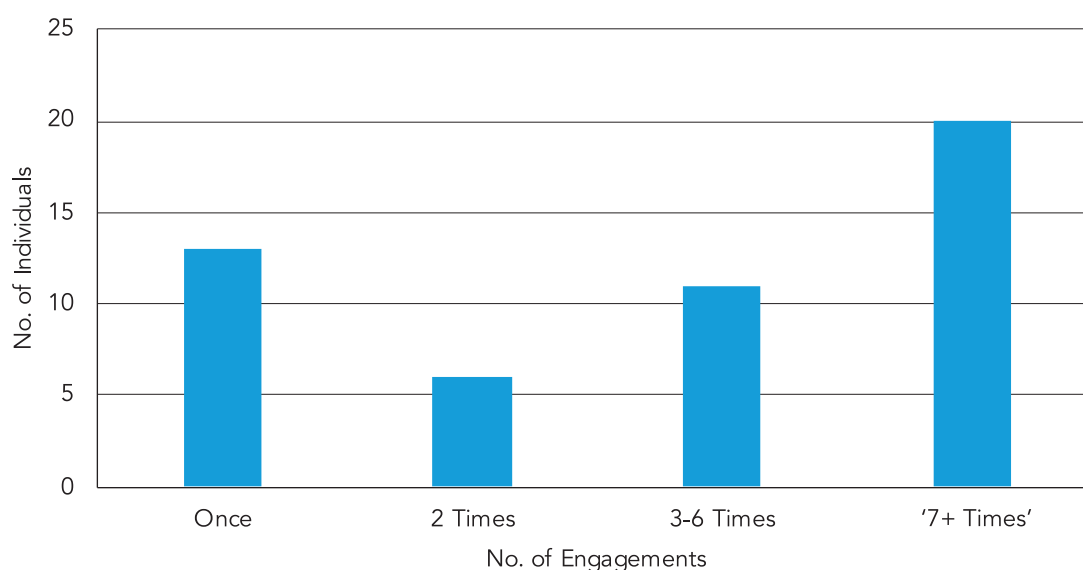
### Levels of Street Activity

4.17 During the 42-day period of the Street Needs Audit, 411 engagements were recorded by providers. The individuals recorded were engaging in an element of street activity on one or more occasions. There were 4 distinct categories that emerged in terms of the frequency with which individuals were recorded; these were 'Once', '2 times', 'Between 3 and 6 times' and 'More than 7 times.' Providers recorded one individual 51 times over the course of the 6-week audit. 40% of all engagements were with individuals who were recorded more than 7 times.

The diagram below displays the frequency of engagements:

**Figure 8.**

**Derry/Londonderry - Frequency of Engagements**

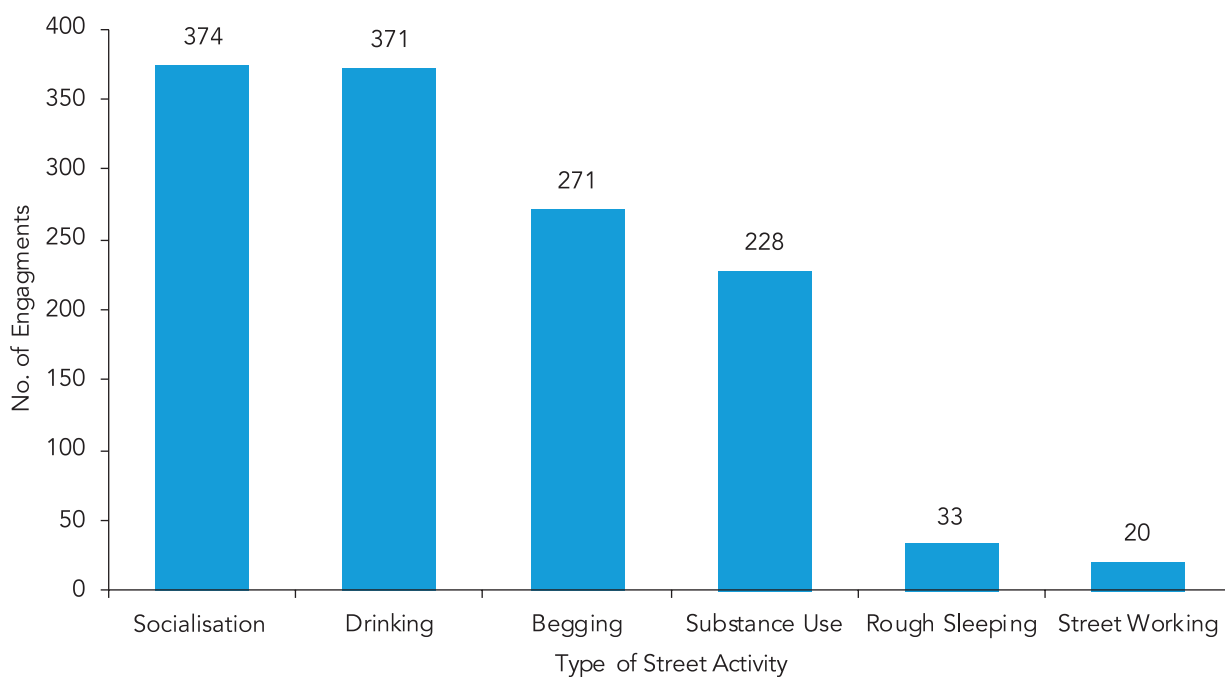


**Derry/Londonderry - Types of Street Activity**

4.18 The three main types of street activity recorded in the city were socialisation (91%), street drinking (90%) and begging (66%). The majority of those engaging in begging were also observed engaging in street drinking. Most of the individuals were observed engaging in multiple activities. Whilst discussing this finding with the Derry/Londonderry Steering Group an observation was raised regarding young people engaging in street activity. Providers explained that recently it was becoming more common to see school children and teenagers socialising with known street drinkers. Although, the Street Needs Audit data does not relate to any of these young people, providers were keen to highlight this issue and express their concern.

**Table 9.**

Street Activity	No. of Engagements	Percentage of Total (411)
Drinking	371	90%
Rough Sleeping	33	8%
Other Misuse	228	55.5%
Begging	271	66%
Street Working	20	5%
Socialisation	374	91%

**Figure 9.****Types of Street Activity****Derry/Londonderry - Support Needs**

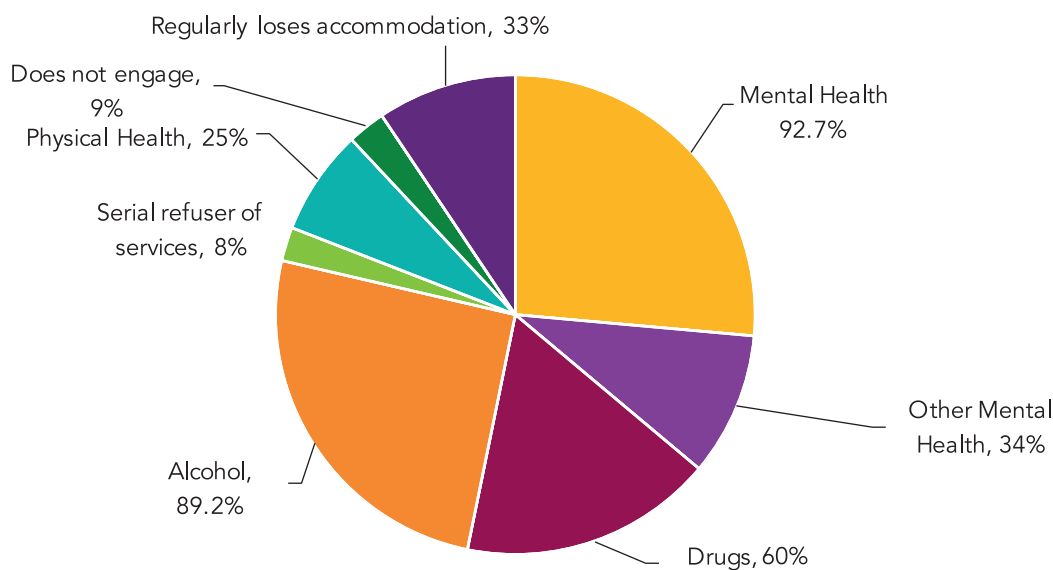
4.19 This year, following feedback from providers, the audit began capturing data relating to the support needs of the individuals who were engaged in street activity. Providers felt that it was important to record the number of individuals who refused services or refused engagement as providers reported that they found it particularly hard to support these individuals. Of the 411 engagements, Mental Health (92.7%) and Alcohol (89.2%) were the highest two support needs recorded.

**Table 10.**

Support Needs	No. of Engagements	Percentage of Total Engagements (411)
Mental Health	381	92.7%
Alcohol	367	89.2%
Drugs	246	60%
Other Mental Health Issues	139	34%
Regularly loses accommodation	135	33%
Physical Health	103	25%
Does not engage	37	9%
Serial refuser of services	32	8%
No Recourse to Public Funds	0	0%



**Figure 10.**  
**Derry/Londonderry Support Needs**



## Derry/Londonderry - Client Status

4.20 Approximately 96% of all engagements recorded either held a tenancy or were assessed as a Full Duty Applicant. Two engagements were recorded as 'Not assessed' and both engagements related to the same individual. Providers were unable to complete a homelessness assessment for this individual due to the threat of violence directed at them; this threat later led to a physical assault on staff.

**Table 11.**

Client Status	Number of Individuals	Percentage of Total (50)
Assessed FDA	27	54%
Assessed Non-FDA*	0	0%
Has own Tenancy	23	46%
Not Assessed	1	2%
No Information	3	6%

\*Please note this table has been shown as individuals, but the findings show that several individuals have been assessed as a Full Duty Applicant but also held a tenancy. This is explained further in section 4.21 below.

## Derry/Londonderry - Housing Status

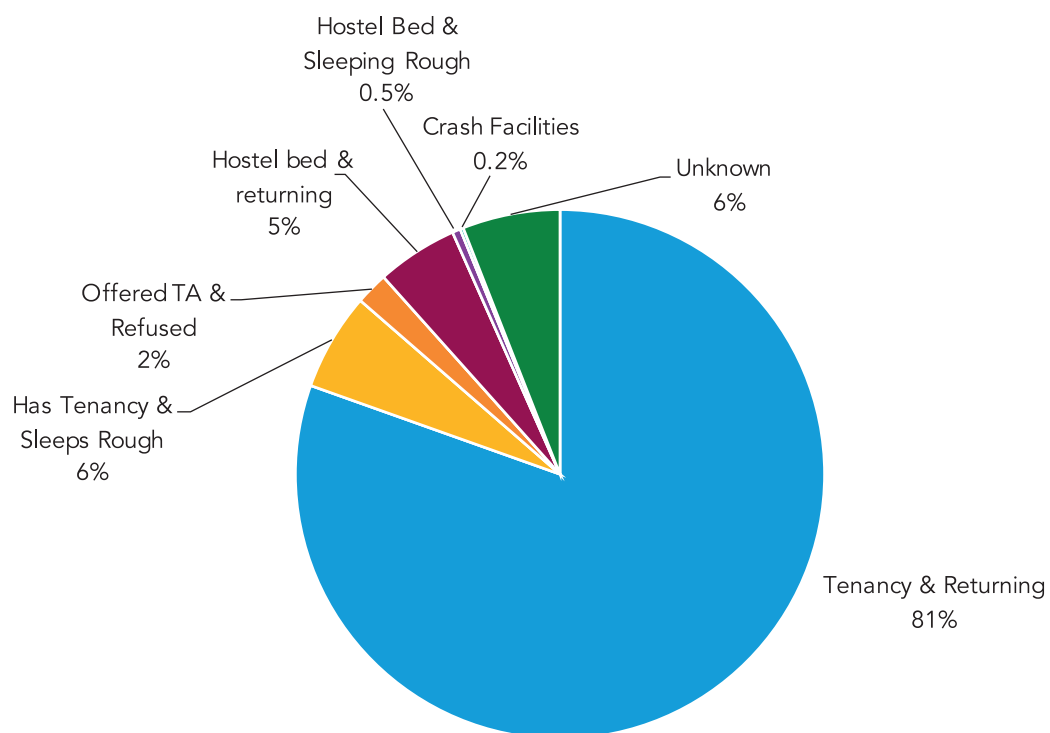
4.21 A total of 81% of all engagements, were recorded as having a tenancy with which they planned to return to. During the final Steering Group meeting in Derry/Londonderry, providers expressed their concern with this finding as they did not find it to be truly reflective of the actual situation. Providers were unsure if all individuals who said they had a tenancy knew exactly what this meant i.e. that it meant a signed tenancy such as a permanent social home or a privately rented home. Providers were concerned that some individuals may have called their current accommodation a tenancy but in fact it was temporary accommodation such as a single-let property or non-standard accommodation. To eliminate this doubt in future, it was agreed that the Housing Status categories (listed below), which are used in the Street Needs Audit forms and annual Street Count forms, will be reviewed, and amended as per feedback from providers.

See table below for full breakdown:

**Table 12.**

Housing Status	Engagements	Percentage of Total (411)
Has a tenancy & will be returning	334	81.3%
Has a tenancy but chooses to sleep rough	24	5.8%
Has been offered TA but refused	7	1.7%
Has hostel bed & will be returning	19	4.6%
Has hostel bed but chooses to sleep rough	2	0.5%
Using crash facilities	1	0.3%
Unknown	24	5.8%
Has Hostel bed but asked to leave	0	0%
Cannot access TA	0	0%
Squat	0	0%
No Recourse to Public Funds	0	0%
Sofa Surfing	0	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Figure 11.**  
**Housing Status**



## Street Activity: Newry

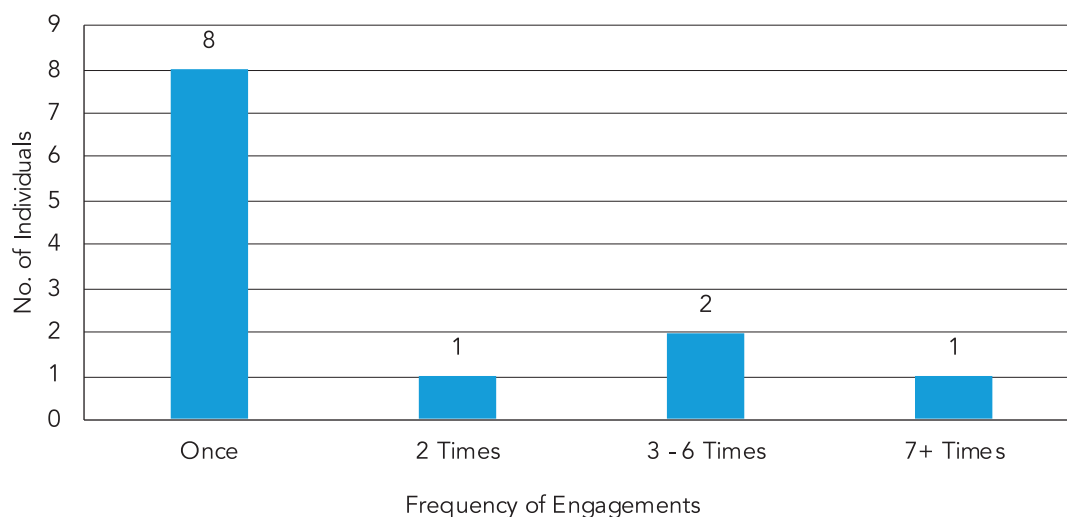
### Levels of Street Activity

4.22 During the Newry Street Needs Audit, 44 engagements were recorded by providers.

The individuals recorded were engaging in some type of street activity on one or more occasion. There were 4 distinct categories that emerged in terms of the frequency with which individuals were recorded; these were 'Once', '2 times', 'Between 3 and 6 times' and 'More than 7 times.' One individual was recorded 8 times over the 14-day period. 67% of engagements were with individuals who were recorded more than once.

The diagram below displays the frequency of engagements:

**Figure 12. Newry - Frequency of Engagements**



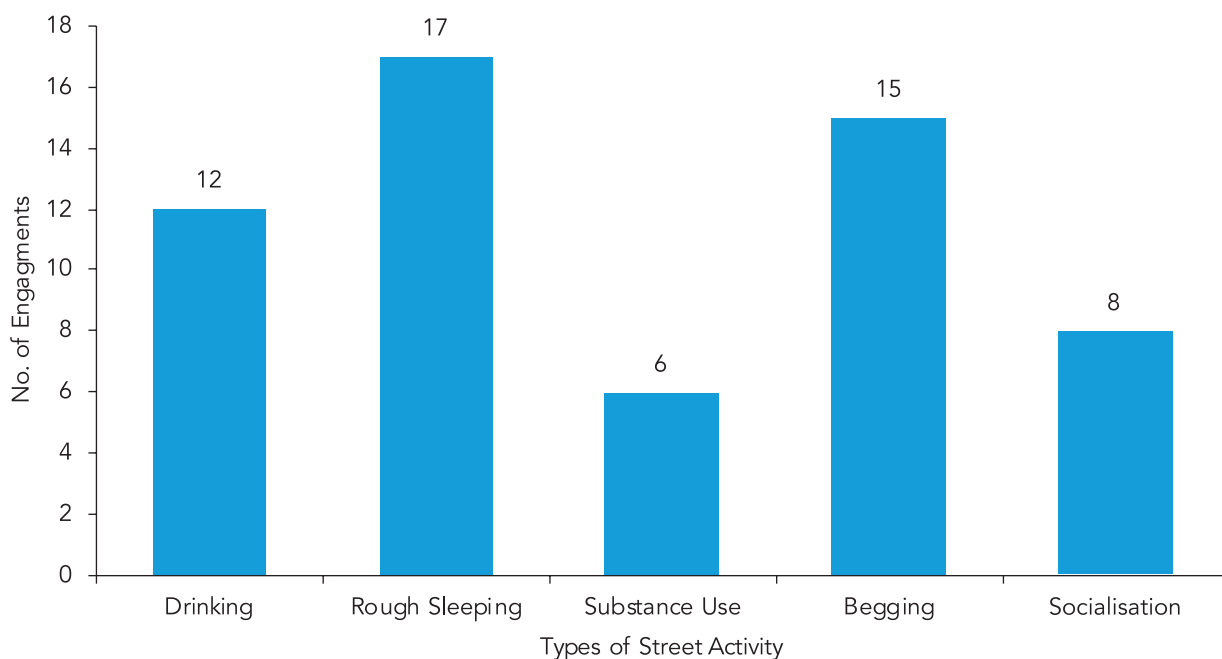
### Newry - Types of street activity

4.23 The three main types of street activity recorded in the city were rough sleeping (39%), begging (34%) and drinking (27%). The majority (59%) of engagements recorded as rough sleeping, were also recorded as engaging in begging.

**Table 13.**

Street Activity	No. of Engagements	Percentage of Total (44)
Drinking	12	27%
Rough Sleeping	17	39%
Substance Use	6	14%
Begging	15	34%
Street Working	0	0%
Socialisation	8	18%

**Figure 13.**  
**Types of Street Activity**



## Newry - Support Needs

4.24 This year, following feedback from providers, the audit began capturing data relating to the support needs of the individuals who were engaged in street activity. Providers felt it was important to record the number of individuals who refused services or refused engagement as providers reported that they found it particularly hard to support these individuals. Of the 44 engagements, No Recourse to Public Funds was the top support need identified.

**Table 14.**

Support Needs	No. of Engagements	Percentage of Total (44)
Mental Health	4	9%
Alcohol	2	4.5%
Drugs	1	2%
Other Mental Health Issues	0	0%
Regularly loses accommodation	0	0%
Physical Health	2	4.5%
Does not engage	0	0%
Serial refuser of services	0	0%
No Recourse to Public Funds	19	43%

## Newry - Client Status

4.25 Of the 12 individuals who providers engaged with, 8 of the individual's client status was known:

- 3 individuals (25%) were recorded as 'Has tenancy'.
- 2 individuals (17%) were recorded as 'Assessed FDA'.
- 3 individuals (25%) were recorded as 'Not assessed'.

The 3 individuals who were 'Not assessed' were also rough sleeping in the city. Providers and the local Housing Executive, Housing Solutions & Support team offered to complete a homelessness assessment for the individuals on numerous occasions, but all 3 individuals had refused this on multiple instances.

**Table 15.**

Client Status	Number of Individuals	Percentage of Total (12)
Assessed FDA	2	17%
Assessed Non-FDA	0	0%
Has own Tenancy	3	25%
Not Assessed	3	25%
No Information	4	33%

## Newry - Housing Status

4.26 The table below provides a breakdown of Housing Status for the 12 unique individuals. In relation to the individual who was sofa surfing, providers took action by making a referral for temporary accommodation.

**Table 16.**

Housing Status	Individuals	Percentage of Total (12)
Has a tenancy & will be returning	3	25%
Sofa surfing	1	8.33%
Cannot access TA	1	8.33%
Rough Sleeping	3	25%
Unknown	4	33.3%
Has a tenancy but chooses to sleep rough	0	0%
Has hostel bed but chooses to sleep rough	0	0%
Has hostel bed & will be returning	0	0%
Has been offered TA but refused	0	0%
Has hostel bed but asked to leave	0	0%
Using Crash Facilities	0	0%
No Recourse to Public Funds	0	0%
Squat	0	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Chronic Homelessness

- 4.27 As mentioned in Section 1.0, the Street Needs Audit originated from a commitment in the [Chronic Homelessness Action Plan](#). The Chronic Homelessness Action Plan, published in January 2020 was developed to address and respond to the needs of those experiencing chronic homelessness in Northern Ireland. Chronic Homelessness can be defined as a ‘group of individuals with very pronounced and complex support needs who found it difficult to exit from homelessness.’
- 4.28 Objective 1 of the Chronic Homelessness Action Plan, recognises the need to accurately measure chronic homelessness and contains an action point to define specific criteria for chronic homelessness. This criterion was developed alongside partner agencies and contains a number of primary and additional indicators. Moreover, although there was broad agreement among partners that the criteria does characterise most clients, it is recognised in this report that there will be individuals who will not meet the listed criteria but who still experience chronic homelessness.
- 4.29 The criteria states that an individual can be said to be experiencing chronic homelessness if **either or both** of the following primary indicators apply,
- ‘An individual with more than one episode of homelessness in the last 12 months’ and/or;
  - ‘An individual with 3 or more placements/exclusions from temporary accommodation during the last 12 months’

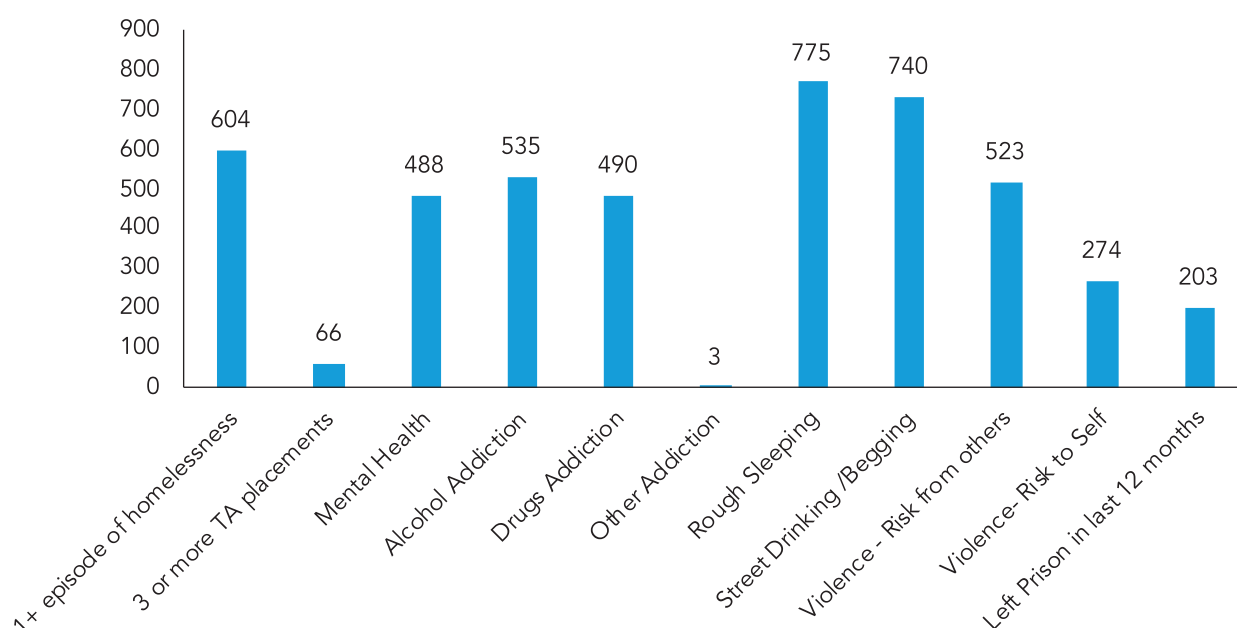
**AND** if two or more additional indicators apply. Additional indicators are categorised as;

- Mental health problems
- Addiction: Alcohol
- Addiction: Drugs
- Addiction: Other
- Street Activity: Rough Sleeping
- Street Activity: Drinking/Begging
- Risk of violence
- Left Prison within the last 12 months
- Left Youth Custody within the last 12 months
- Defined as ‘looked after child’

4.30 The diagrams below show a breakdown of the chronic homelessness indicators recorded in each respective city.

**Figure 14. Belfast Chronic Homelessness Indicators**

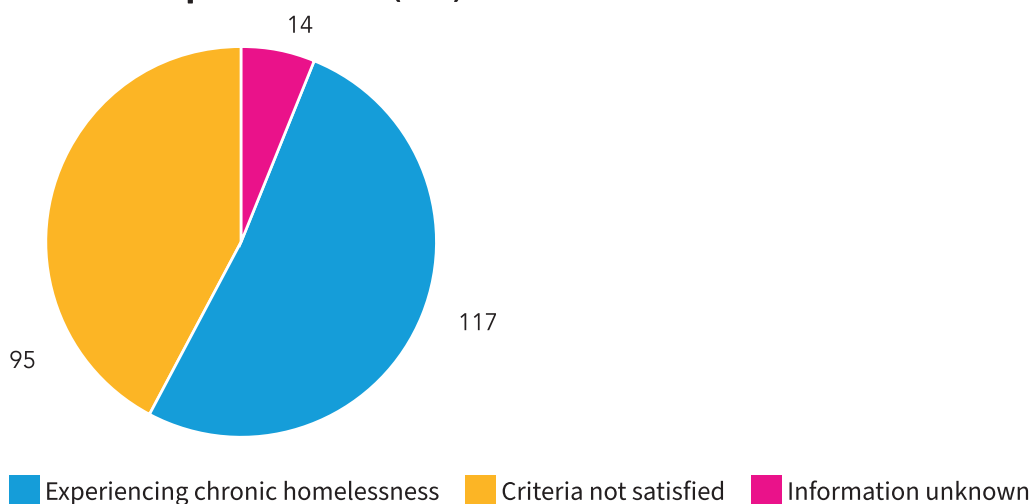
**Chronic Homelessness Indicators - Engagements (980)**



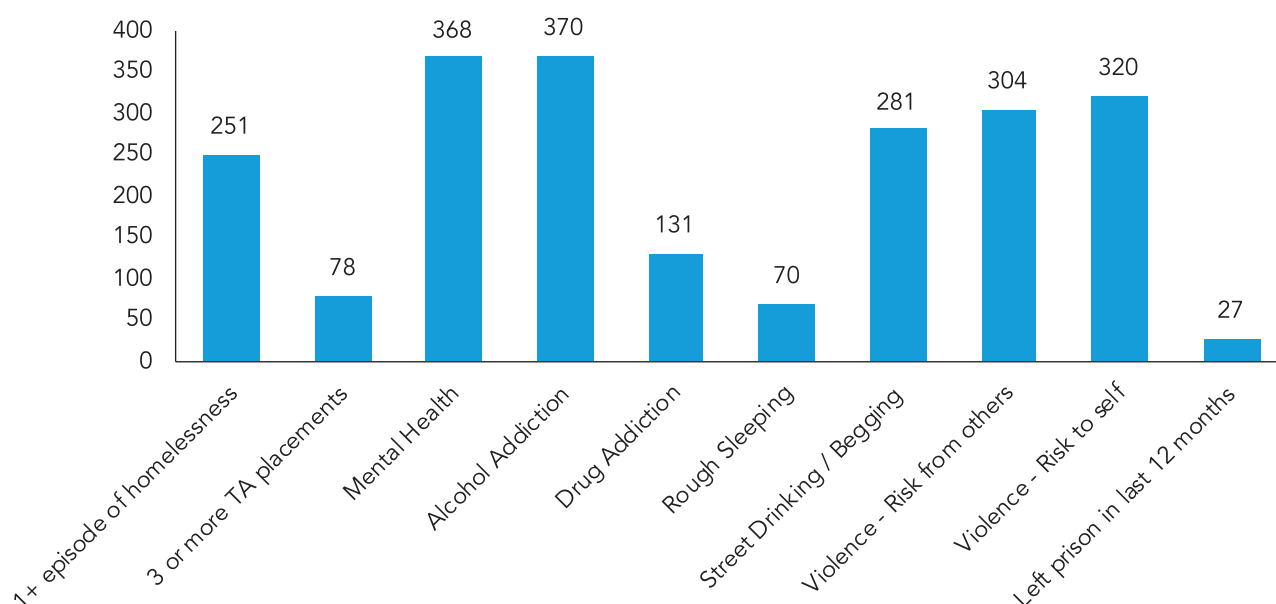
4.31 In Belfast approximately 79% of all 980 engagements had recorded 'Rough sleeping' and 'Street drinking/Begging' as two of the additional indicators. Of the 226 unique individuals who providers engaged with, it was possible to assess 214 individuals against the chronic homelessness criteria. (Fig. 13). From this cohort, 117 individuals (55%) satisfied the above criteria and in line with our policies, would be categorised as currently experiencing chronic homelessness.

**Figure 15. Belfast**

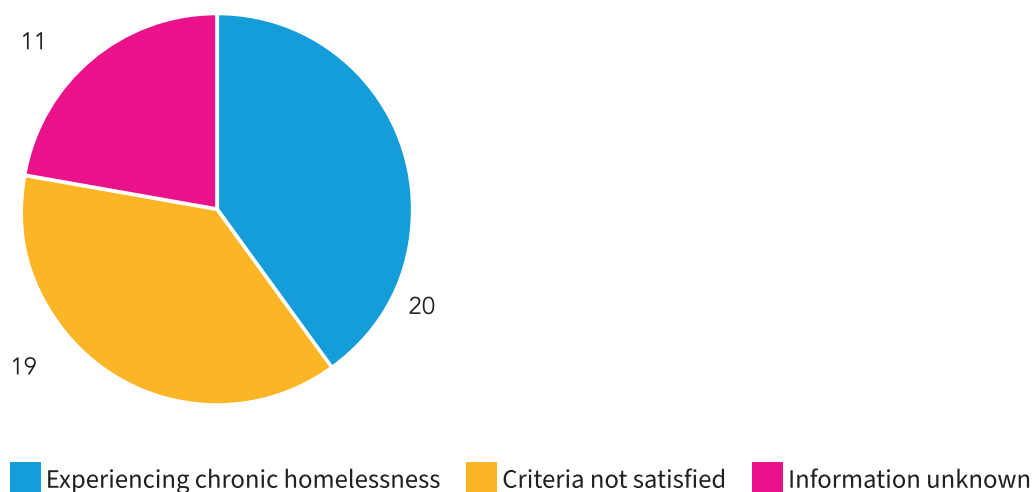
**Belfast - Unique Individuals (226)**

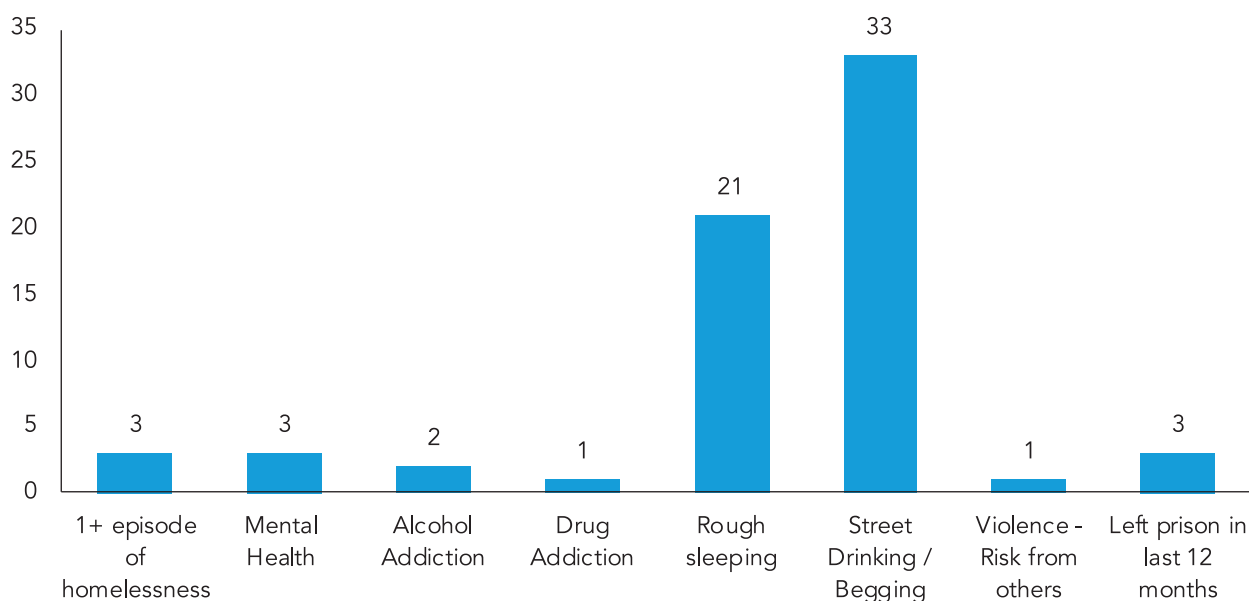




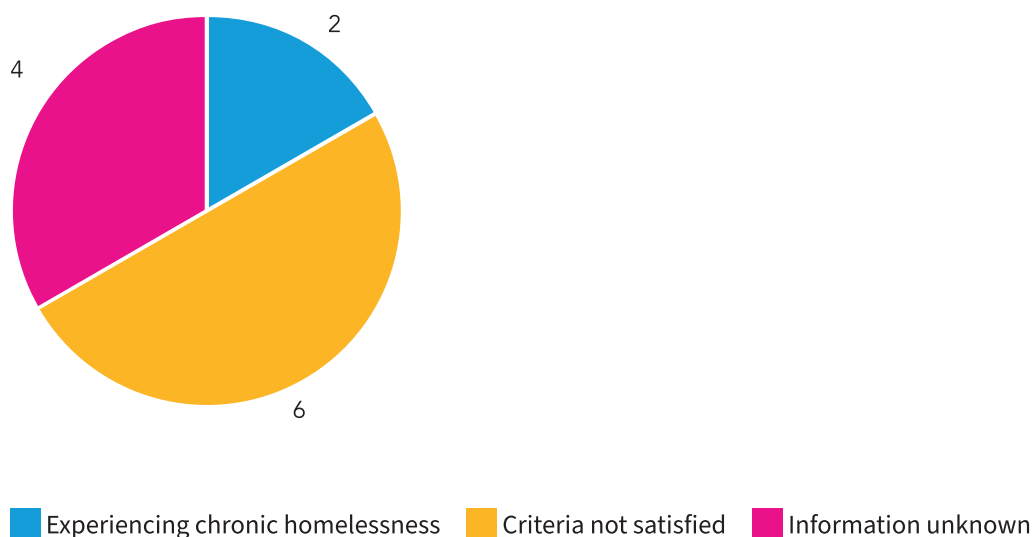
**Figure 16. Derry/Londonderry Chronic Homelessness Indicators****Chronic Homelessness Indicators - Engagements (411)**

4.32 In Derry/Londonderry approximately 90% of all 411 engagements had recorded alcohol addiction and mental health as two of the additional indicators. Of the 50 unique individuals who providers engaged with, it was possible to assess 39 individuals against the chronic homelessness criteria. (Fig. 15). From this cohort, 20 individuals (51%) satisfied the above criteria and would be considered to be experiencing chronic homelessness.

**Figure 17. Derry/Londonderry****Derry/Londonderry - Unique Individuals (50)**

**Figure 18. Newry Chronic Homelessness Indicators****Chronic Homelessness Indicators - Engagements (44)**

4.33 In Newry 75% of all 44 engagements had recorded the street activity of drinking/ begging as an indicator. Approximately 48% of all engagements had recorded rough sleeping as an indicator. Of the 12 unique individuals who providers engaged with, it was possible to assess 8 individuals against the chronic homelessness criteria (Fig.17). From this cohort, 2 individuals (17%) satisfied the above criteria and would be considered to be experiencing chronic homelessness.

**Figure 19. Newry****Newry - Unique Individuals (12)**

## Multi-agency working

- 4.34 The Welcome Organisation, Depaul and First Housing Aid and Support Services all played an instrumental role throughout this research and these findings would not have been achievable without their hard work and dedication. Throughout the audit in each city, a series of actions and/or interventions were taken by providers to address the needs of the individuals who were engaged with. These include providers initiating case management and involving key partner agencies, including outreach services, local Housing Solutions & Support teams, Health representatives, Crisis teams, Community Addictions, and the Belfast Complex Lives team. The Belfast Complex Lives team is a multi-disciplinary team made up of statutory partners and key delivery partners from the Voluntary and Community sector, who help improve outcomes for individuals by addressing the full spectrum of their needs. A comprehensive approach was taken by providers to ensure that the individual was receiving all available support.
- 4.35 Many of the people identified as engaging in street activity were characterised by chaotic lifestyles and poor health and well-being. Providers explained that this cohort can often prove difficult to engage with and can be resistant to offers of assistance. Despite this, providers supported individuals successfully by working alongside local Housing Solutions & Support teams and the Complex Lives team in Belfast. Weekly progress meetings also created a space for some of the more complex cases to be analysed and appropriate solutions discussed. Credit is given to the existing close working relationships which were observed throughout the audit in these meetings.
- 4.36 Exemplary partnership working was witnessed in all three cities between all Steering Group members and full recognition is given to Depaul, First Housing Aid and Support Services and Welcome Organisation for their joined-up holistic approach to supporting individuals in the cities.

## 5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 As mentioned in 1.3 the purpose of the Street Needs Audit is to assist the Housing Executive in its statutory duty to respond to homelessness, and to provide the organisation with a comprehensive understanding of the scale of street activity, including rough sleeping in Northern Ireland. A similar Street Needs Audit was carried out in 2016 which produced some baseline figures, but the Housing Executive were keen to capture a wider picture of street activity across the region and so as the findings above show, the 2023 audit was extended to Derry / Londonderry and Newry.
- 5.2 The Housing Executive were also keen to find out more about the individuals who are engaging in street activity and so in January 2023, providers were asked for their feedback on what new data the audit should include. Consequently, it was agreed that the Support Needs, Client Status and Housing Status of individuals would now be recorded. It was also agreed that individuals engaged in street activity across the three cities would be assessed against the Chronic Homelessness Indicators.
- 5.3 As the previous Street Needs Audit took place in Belfast, it is possible to compare some of the findings, however due to the shortened audit period, other findings are not as comparable. For example, in 2016, over a 12-week period, 361 unique individuals were observed and supported, in comparison to 226 individuals over a 6-week period in 2023. It is difficult to know if the data collected during 2023 would have doubled if the audit ran for a further 6 weeks, or if most of the individuals who regularly engage in street activity were already picked up during this 6-week period. Comparable data relates mainly to the types of Street Activity in Belfast, which has remained largely unchanged; in 2016 the top two Street Activities recorded was Rough Sleeping and Street Drinking and in 2023 the top two activities was also recorded as Rough Sleeping and Street Drinking.
- 5.4 Throughout the audit in both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, providers spoke about the complex support needs of the individuals they support, including individuals who simultaneously have a mental health disorder as well as a substance use disorder (dual diagnosis), usually with one condition worsening the other. Therefore, the findings were not surprising, with mental health, alcohol and drugs featuring in the top three support needs in both cities.
- 5.5 From the outset, it was clear that Newry's Street Activity was much different from Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, and although on a much smaller scale, it presents its own unique challenges for local providers and support services. The top support need by far was individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds, which is particularly challenging, as typically this cohort of individuals are ineligible for housing and homelessness assistance.

- 5.6 In regard to Chronic Homelessness, over 50% of all individuals in Belfast (55%) and Derry/Londonderry (51%) met the criteria and would be considered to be experiencing a period of homelessness. In Newry however this figure was much lower at 17%, which is an interesting contrast to what would be expected from a cohort of people who cannot access temporary accommodation, permanent social housing, or Housing Benefit/Universal Credit to rent privately. This figure could reflect the transient nature of the individuals passing through, who have not been assessed as having more than one episode of homelessness in the last 12 months. Alternatively it could reflect that the chronic homelessness criteria does not fully consider those with No Recourse to Public Funds, or those individuals who refuse, or who are not willing to accept offers of temporary accommodation.

## 6.0 Key Themes

Throughout the Street Needs Audit, weekly progress meetings created opportunities for feedback and discussion. Providers spoke about recent street activity trends and the complexities of support needs among the individuals they are supporting. During the Steering Group meetings these trends and issues were discussed further, with Steering Group members providing additional insight. This section aims to summarise the findings outlined, the feedback and comments from the Steering Group meetings and recommends consideration be given to the following points:

### Street Working Analysis

- 6.1 As noted in 4.3, hidden forms of street activity could not be accurately recorded during the audit. Street working was given as an example of something that was once visible, but now with the advancement of technology, has become hidden. Providers in Belfast and Derry/Londonderry confirmed that some of the individuals they support are involved in sexual exploitation and expressed their concern for the welfare of these individuals. Whilst on this topic, the Steering Group members also spoke about issues around human trafficking and sexual exploitation with members referring to the Irish Department of Justice's recent study on [Human Trafficking between Ireland and Northern Ireland](https://unitedkingdom.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11381/files/documents/iom_a_study_on_human_trafficking_between_ireland_and_northern_ireland_2023.pdf)<sup>1</sup>. It was suggested with the Steering Group members that future Street Needs Audits and similar data collection should aim to be carried out in a way which would take hidden forms of street activity into consideration.

### Health support for those in out-of-area placements

- 6.2 Providers in both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry described the health implications for individuals placed out of area. Providers spoke about cases where individuals had been offered accommodation in Derry/Londonderry, but when they arrived in the area they could not access local health provisions such as GP's or drug substitute programmes. It is worth noting this is also an issue in Newry with individuals being placed outside of their desired location due to availability of temporary accommodation placements. Providers explained that this can leave vulnerable individuals without access to their prescribed medications, with providers in Belfast using the example of an individual who was not able to access anti-psychotic medication due to a temporary out-of-area placement.

Whilst discussing this issue during the Steering Group meetings, providers in both cities spoke about increasing aggression shown towards staff members (discussed below in 6.3) and noted that this is only exacerbated further when individuals are not able to access the right medication or health support.

<sup>1</sup> Chisholm A, Burland P, Dew J, Stephenson T, (2023) A Study on Human Trafficking between Ireland and Northern Ireland. International Organization for Migration, London [https://unitedkingdom.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11381/files/documents/iom\\_a\\_study\\_on\\_human\\_trafficking\\_between\\_ireland\\_and\\_northern\\_ireland\\_2023.pdf](https://unitedkingdom.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd11381/files/documents/iom_a_study_on_human_trafficking_between_ireland_and_northern_ireland_2023.pdf)

## Support Needs – Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs

- 6.3 Over the 6-week period in both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry, Mental Health, Alcohol and Drugs were the top three support needs recorded. Providers were not surprised by this finding and spoke openly about the challenges they face when trying to support individuals with these specific needs. Providers explained that it was often difficult for individuals to access the right level of mental health support or access addiction services, noting that this became even more challenging when individuals were placed into temporary accommodation outside of their own local area.

During the weekly progress meetings, providers in both cities spoke about an increase in poly drug use, and the difficulties this presented for frontline staff. Providers in Belfast explained that it was now common for individuals who used their service to inject cocaine, whilst also consuming other stimulants. Providers explained that they have noticed a correlation between this change in drug usage and a rise in aggressive behaviour among the individuals they support; this behaviour puts the individuals themselves at risk, but also those who are trying to support them. This risk became evident in Derry/Londonderry when it was reported in a weekly progress meeting that frontline staff had been physically assaulted whilst trying to support a volatile individual. It is important to note that feedback from the Belfast Steering Group emphasises that drug use is likely under reported as it is less visible and can be hidden, but it is a much wider issue.

## Support Needs – Regularly loses accommodation

- 6.4 During the Steering Group meetings, providers in both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry spoke about the current temporary accommodation stock and how it did not reflect the increasingly complex support needs of individuals. Due to unprecedented demand in temporary accommodation, individuals are often being placed in available accommodation rather than being placed in accommodation which best suits their needs. Providers explained that it is typical for high needs individuals to end up being placed in unsupported non-standard accommodation, which they said leads to 'a serial breakdown' in temporary accommodation placements.

This issue was evidenced in the Support Needs findings where 17% of all engagements in Belfast and 33% in Derry/Londonderry were recorded as regularly losing accommodation. Providers spoke about the knock-on effect this has on their service provision as their staff end up spending a lot of time and energy every day trying to get people a place to stay for the night rather than providing the intensive or holistic support which people need.

## Support Needs – No Recourse to Public Funds

- 6.5 No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) is a condition imposed by the Home Office on most migrants with limited leave to remain in the UK. Individuals with NRPF are unable to access statutory homelessness support, social housing allocation or support to pay their housing costs (whether through Housing Benefit or Universal Credit). This condition leaves many individuals with no other option but to sleep rough. In Belfast

20% of all engagements were with individuals who had NRPF recorded as a support need. In Newry, this figure was significantly higher at 43%. Providers and Steering Group members in both cities spoke about the importance of supporting people to exit rough sleeping and were keen to find the best possible way of doing this for people with NRPF. It was agreed with the group that any solution would involve multi-agency working.

## **Support Needs – Does not engage and Serial refuser of Services**

- 6.6 During pre-audit meetings, providers were asked for their feedback on what data the audit should capture. In relation to support needs, providers felt it was important to record the number of individuals who refused services or refused engagement, as providers reported that they found it particularly hard to support these individuals. In Belfast, around 25% of engagements fell into these categories, with 11% of all engagements not wanting to engage at all with providers and a further 14% being recorded as serial refusers of services. In Derry/Londonderry, the cohort was slightly smaller, with around 17% of engagements falling into these categories; 9% of all engagements not wanting to engage at all with providers and a further 8% being recorded as serial refusers of services.

## **Release from Prison and Hospitals**

- 6.7 Providers and local Housing Executive staff in all three cities spoke about instances where individuals were released from prison or hospital with no arranged accommodation. Providers explained that this practice left vulnerable individuals without crucial support and often led to some form of street activity, including rough sleeping.

## **Newry – Begging**

- 6.8 Whilst analysing the Newry Street Needs Audit findings, it became clear that the street activity in Newry was distinct from both Belfast and Derry/Londonderry. The most noticeable difference was the transient nature of the individuals who engage in Street Activity in Newry. Local Housing Executive staff, Steering Group members and providers all spoke about a constant stream of individuals who pass through Newry, either stopping for a few days or a few weeks before then moving on elsewhere. During the Steering Group meetings, it was discussed that this transient behaviour is often linked to organised begging and/or exploitation.

Steering Group members explained that there were already human trafficking and exploitation teams operating in the area and they were aware of some of the individuals who were engaged in street begging. Local Housing Executive staff explained that they actively engage with any new individuals who are spotted rough sleeping in the area and assess whether they are Full Duty Applicants. The team reported that it is a characteristic for the individuals to refuse to engage with them, but even when some individuals do engage, it is often found that they are ineligible for assistance due to having No Recourse to Public Funds.



Whilst discussing this topic, Steering Group members commented on the increasing numbers of on-street food services now operating in the city centre, which provide hot food and drinks to individuals who are rough sleeping or begging. Although Steering Group members are supportive of the idea to help these individuals in need, some members expressed their concerns over untrained and unvetted groups providing support to vulnerable individuals. A similarity was drawn to the findings of a review which was carried out in [Dublin](#)<sup>2</sup> relating to on-street food services, where it was found that many of the groups did not have the necessary skills or experience to support individuals. There were examples of their interventions undermining the work of mainstream providers and possibly supporting people to remain on or return to the streets. It was suggested by Steering Group members that an educational piece on local street activity would be a helpful way to inform the public about the best ways to support people to exit rough sleeping and to support people in need.

## **Derry – Complex Lives Approach**

- 6.9 Due to the increasing complexity of support needs for all individuals in the region, it was suggested that a Complex Lives approach should be adopted in Derry/Londonderry, to prevent homelessness and sustain tenancies. As mentioned in Section 6.4, 33% of all engagements in the city were recorded as regularly losing accommodation. The development of a Complex Lives approach in Derry/Londonderry would aid the reconfiguration of homelessness services in the area and assist partnership working with outreach services.

## **Derry – Cross Border Activity**

- 6.10 Given the geographical location of Derry/Londonderry, providers highlighted that a small cohort of individuals are engaged in cross border street activity. Providers explained that they could have people come across the border to engage in begging or street drinking then make their way back home in the evening. Providers again highlighted this became more of an issue when these individuals needed somewhere to sleep for the night and providers were unsure if they already had a tenancy or not over the border.

## **Hidden Rough Sleeping**

- 6.11 It is essential to note that there is a cohort of hidden rough sleepers that may not have been represented within this study. It is beneficial to acknowledge that feedback from the Belfast Steering Committee highlighted that there are individuals who do not 'bed down' for safety concerns, and this is a growing concern around some women who are rough sleeping and will instead walk around all night or may sit in restaurants/cafes that are open past midnight. It is important to highlight that some individuals will intentionally avoid outreach/rough sleeping services and sleep in areas they will not be found.

<sup>2</sup> Higgins, M. (2021) On Street Food Services in Dublin: A Review. Dublin Region Homeless Executive, Dublin. <https://www.homelessdublin.ie/content/files/Review-of-On-Street-Services-FINAL.pdf>

# Glossary of Terms

**Begging:** is the practice of asking / imploring others, typically in the street, for money, food, or other donations. Begging is illegal in Northern Ireland.

**Full Duty Applicant (FDA):** if an individual is assessed as being a Full Duty Applicant, it has been decided that they have a priority need and are not homeless intentionally. This creates a duty for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to secure accommodation for this individual.

**Rough sleeping:** sleeping or about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). Sleeping in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes”).

**Socialisation:** for the purposes of this audit, socialisation refers to individuals who regularly congregate in public places (such as on the street or in parks) with the purpose of socialisation with others. Typically, individuals who engage in socialisation also engage in other forms of street activity.

**Street drinking:** for the purposes of this audit, street drinking refers to individuals who regularly drink alcohol in public places (such as on the street or in parks), or who are regularly under the influence of alcohol in such public places.

**Street working:** for the purposes of this audit, street working refers to individuals who engage in sexual activity for some form of payment.

**Substance use:** for the purposes of this audit, substance use refers to individuals who regularly abuse either legal or illegal substances in public places (such as on the street or in parks), or who are regularly under the influence of substances in such public places.

# Appendix 1

## Street Needs Audit Form

# Street Needs Audit Form

Date	
AM:	PM:

Name of contact / Unknown:

Client Engaged: Yes / No

Personal Details of contact:

Date of Birth (estimate age of unknown)	Gender (Male/ Female)	Race/Ethnicity	Nationality	Sexuality	Relationship status	Owns a pet

Activity:

Rough Sleeping (How many days/months) Tent (Yes/No)	Drinking	Other Substance Misuse	Begging	Street Working	Socialisation	Other

Support:

Support Need	Organisation contact is engaging with (if applicable)

Client Status:

Assessed FDA	
Assessed, non FDA (Homelessness)	
Assessed, non FDA (Eligibility/ASB)	
Assessed, non FDA (Eligibility/Immigration)	
Assessed, non FDA (Priority need)	
Assessed, non FDA (Intentionality)	
Not Assessed	
Has Tenancy	
Other (Specify):	

Housing Status:

Has a tenancy but chooses to sleep rough	
Has a tenancy & will be returning	
Has hostel bed but chooses to sleep rough	
Has hostel bed & will be returning	
Has hostel bed but asked to leave	
Using crash facilities	
Has been offered TA but refused (see below, TA outcome)	
Cannot access TA (see client status for reason)	
Sofa surfing	
No Recourse to Public Funds	
Squat	

**Action Taken:**

Action	Y/N	Outcome and additional comments
Referred to HSST/Complex Lives for Assessment		Accepted / Declined by provider
Referred for TA		Client refused referral  Accepted / Declined by provider
Referred to Support Agency Name of Agency		Accepted / Declined by provider
Basic Needs Provided (i.e. emotional support, food, clothes)		
Other		

**TA referral/offer - client outcome:**

Accepted	
Declined due to location (Detail)	
Declined due to safety concerns	
Declined due to pet	
Declined due to partner	
Declined as does not want / no longer wants TA	
Declined due to friend	
Declined (Other: specify)	

**Chronic Homelessness: (Yes / No)**

Has had more than 1 episode of homelessness in last 12 months		Addiction: Other		Left prison in last 12 months	
Has had 3 or more TA placements/ exclusions in last 12 months		Street Activity: Rough Sleeping		Left youth custody in last 12 months	
Mental Health Problems		Street Activity: Drinking / Begging		Defined as 'looked after child'	
Addiction: Alcohol		Violence/Risk: from others			
Addiction: Drugs		Violence/Risk: to self			

**Emergency Intervention Required? YES / NO**

(Please provide details below if the client required an emergency intervention)

# Appendix 2

## Steering Group Membership


Belfast Steering Group Membership			
Representative	Organisation	Representative	Organisation
<b>Susan Duncan</b>	Welcome Organisation	<b>Richard Tanswell</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Ellen Hipsley</b>	Welcome Organisation	<b>Catherine Carey</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Alannah Burns</b>	Welcome Organisation	<b>Christine Crossan</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Denise Smith</b>	Belfast City Council	<b>Kerry Rogan</b>	Housing Executive (Belfast Housing Solutions / Complex Lives)
<b>Tracey Colgan</b>	Public Health Agency	<b>Imogen Orr</b>	Housing Executive (Supporting People)

Derry/Londonderry Steering Group Membership			
Representative	Organisation	Representative	Organisation
<b>Eileen Best</b>	First Housing Aid and Support Services	<b>Richard Tanswell</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Paul McCartney</b>	First Housing Aid and Support Services	<b>Catherine Carey</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Helena Bracken</b>	DePaul	<b>Christine Crossan</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Darren McPartland</b>	DePaul	<b>Ken Breslin</b>	Housing Executive (West Housing Solutions)

Newry Steering Group Membership			
Representative	Organisation	Representative	Organisation
<b>Susan Duncan</b>	Welcome Organisation	<b>Richard Tanswell</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Martina Flynn</b>	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	<b>Catherine Carey</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Shannon Creaney</b>	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council	<b>Christine Crossan</b>	Housing Executive (Homelessness Policy and Strategy)
<b>Ryan Duffy</b>	PSNI	<b>Niall Fitzpatrick</b>	Housing Executive (South Down Housing Solutions)
<b>Aidan McCabe</b>	Southern Health and Social Care Trust	<b>Paddy Rooney-White</b>	Housing Executive (South Down Housing Solutions)

To discuss or comment on this document,  
or to request an alternative format,  
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**Housing**  
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