# **Housing Solutions**







#### Who are we and what do we do

#### Meet the team

Eleanor Hoyle – Director Linda Hibbs - Head of Service Claire Keeling - Housing Solutions Manager



- Homelessness services
- Temporary Accommodation
- Housing Register administration















# **Statutory Service for the Council**

We operate under Parts VI and VII of the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

- Part VI relates to our allocations function
- Part VII is Homelessness and the provision of TA

Other legislation we must work within including Equalities Act 2010, Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Also statutory instruments including The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012



All local authorities must have an allocations scheme

Set out how we prioritise and allocate social housing in the district

Can find ours on the website

<u>Housing allocation scheme – Tonbridge and</u> <u>Malling Borough Council</u>





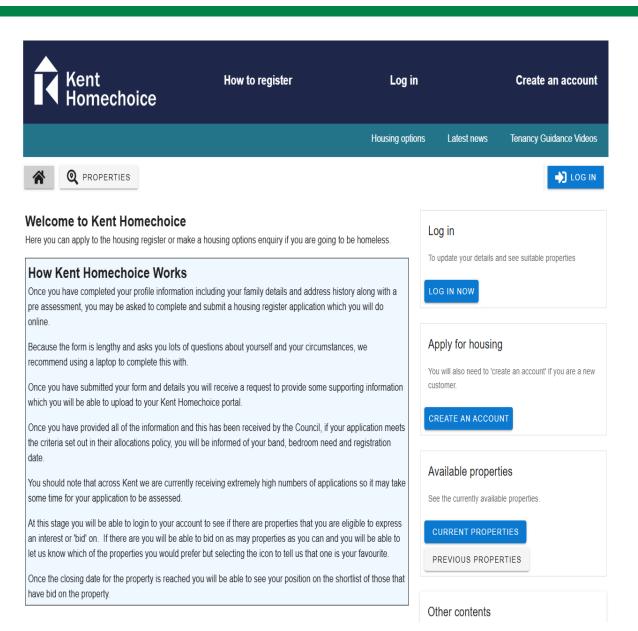
Applicants apply at Kent Homechoice

Home - Kent HomeChoice

Submit an application form online

Upload documents requested

We assess the application against our policy and determine outcome





Launched a new allocations scheme in 2023

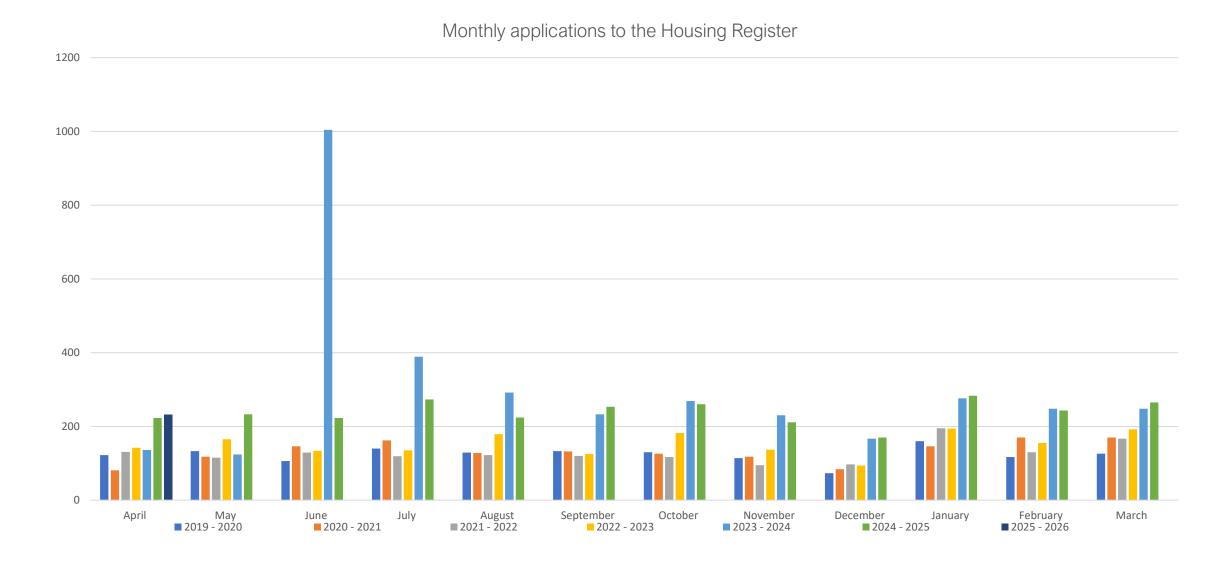
Reviewed and revised 2025

In 2023 – also changed systems

Seen an increase in demand since











Housed 540 applicants

anolications and a serious

1125 applications waiting to be assessed

293 applications live

2725 applications removed for not providing evidence



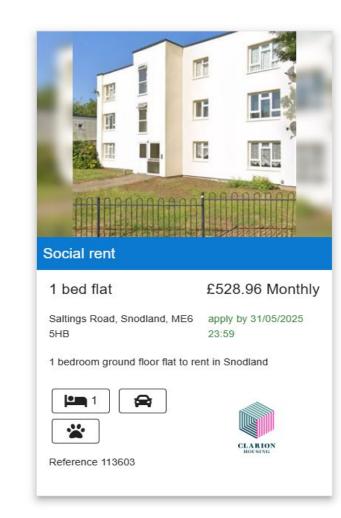
#### Average waiting times

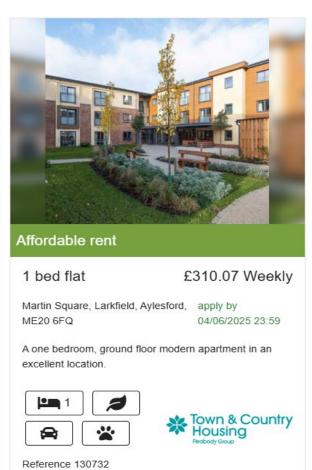
```
1 \text{ bedroom} - 12 - 18 \text{ months}
```

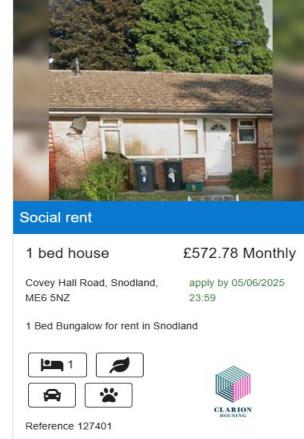
- 2 bedroom 2 years
- 3 bedroom 2 3 years
- 4 bedroom 3+ years
- 5 bedroom 3 4 years



But the team don't only assess applications ...









Homelessness part VII of the Housing Act

An applicant can come to us if they are

Threatened with homelessness within 56 days

Homeless

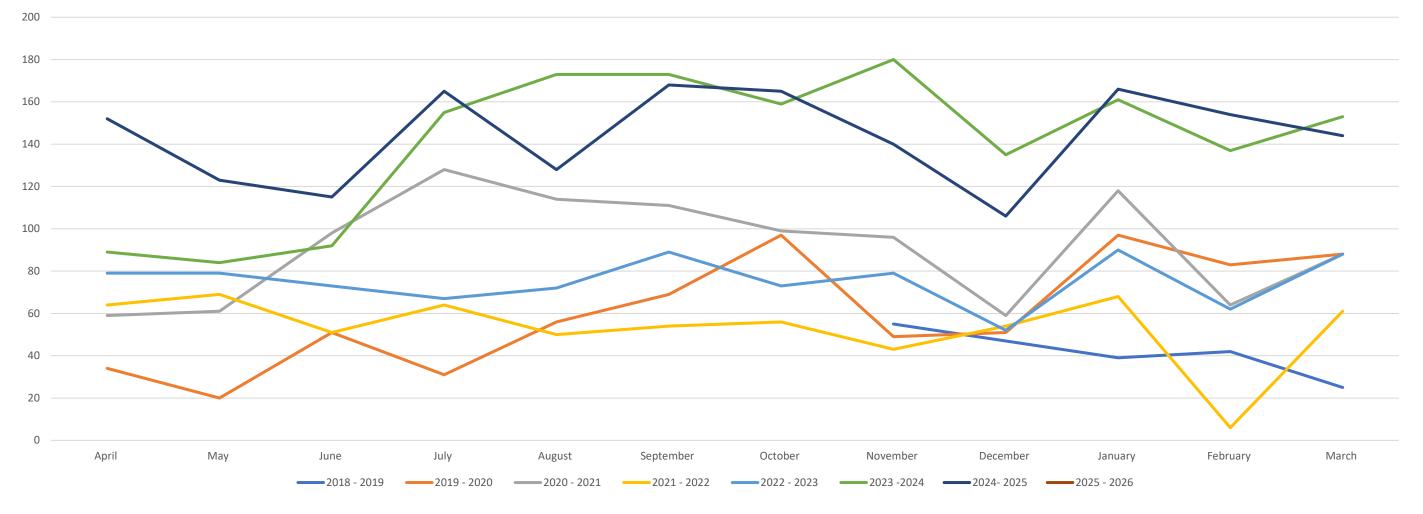
Complete a form on Kent Homechoice

Triage – always try and prevent

If we cannot prevent then we go to relief and may (or may not) provide temporary accommodation

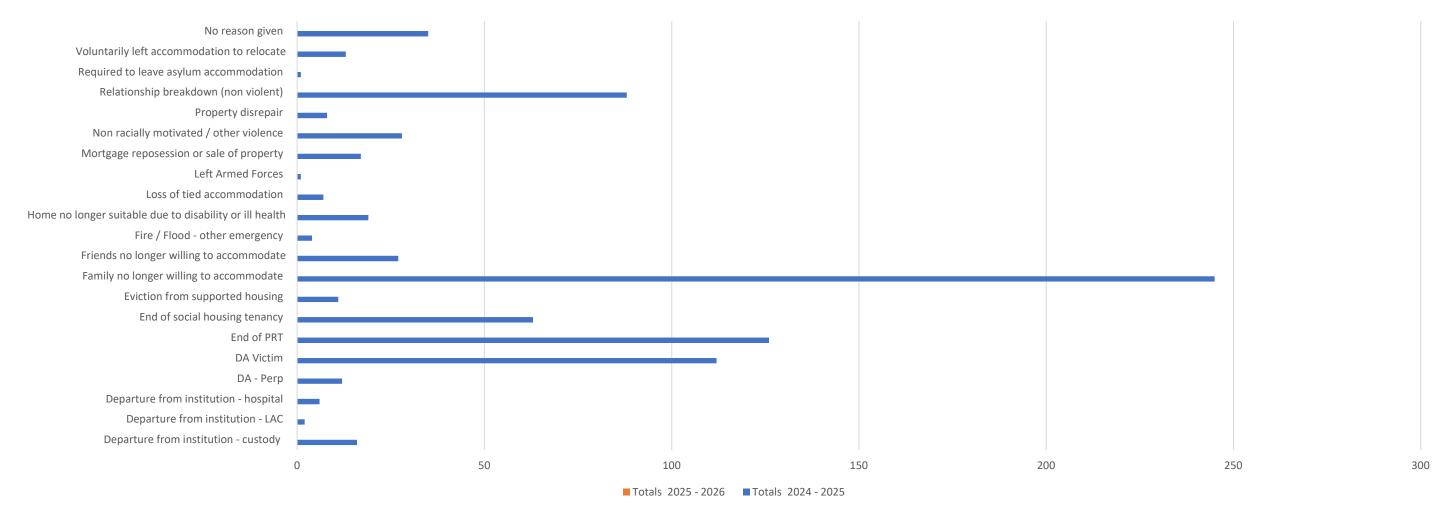






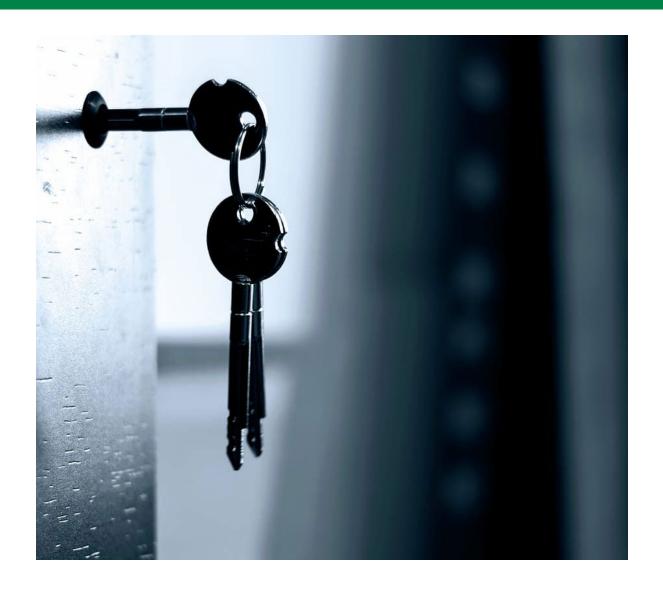


#### Reason for loss of last settled home











**Rough Sleepers** 

Rough Sleeping Initiative funding from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the last 5 years

Additional year funding given – now renamed Rough Sleeping Recovery and Prevention Grant

Numbers are low in the district



# **Temporary Accommodation**

Don't provide TA for everyone

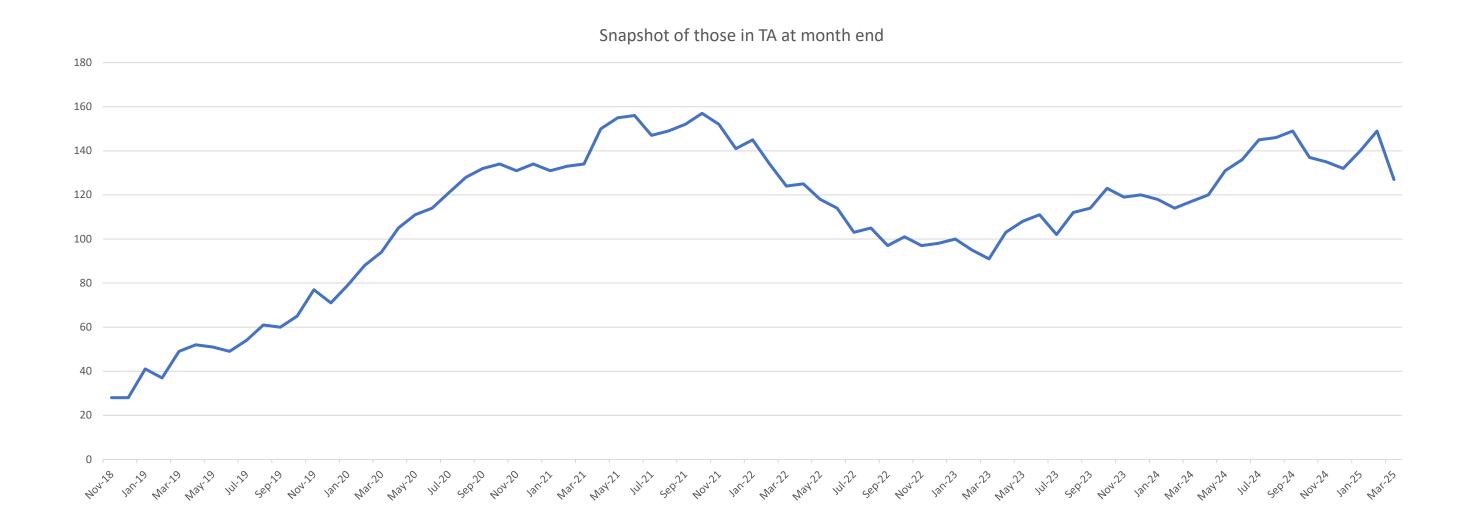
Only those with a priority need





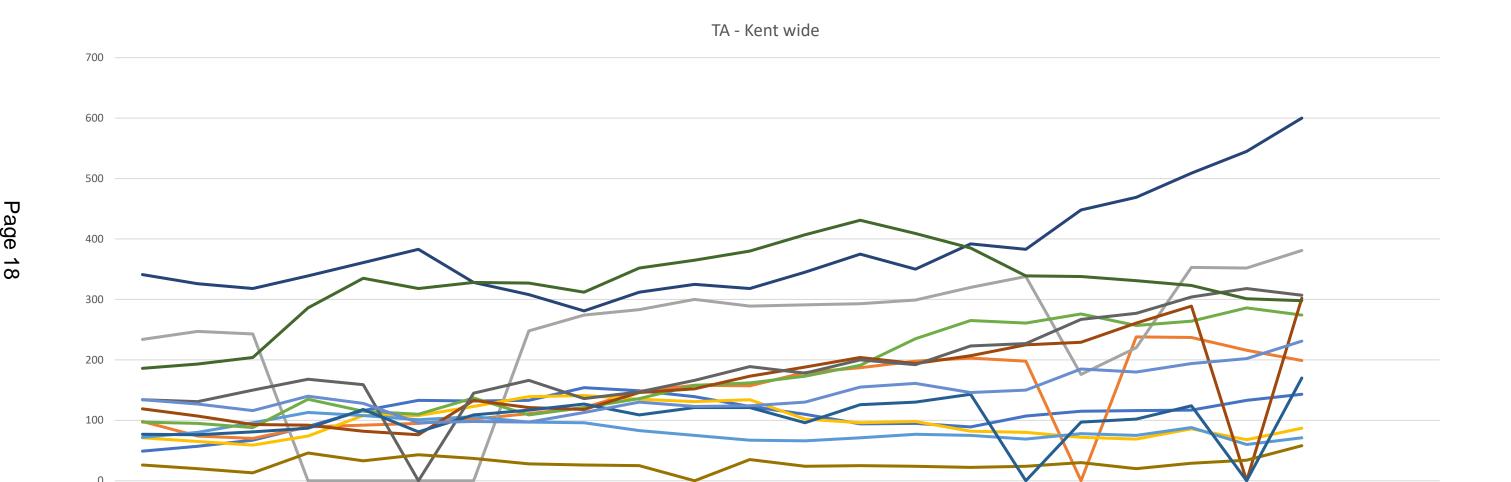
# Page 17

# **Temporary Accommodation**





# **Temporary Accommodation**



30.06.19 30.09.19 31.12.19 31.03.20 30.06.20 30.09.20 31.12.20 31.03.21 30.06.21 30.09.21 31.12.21 31.03.22 30.06.22 30.09.22 31.12.23 31.03.23 30.06.23 30.09.23 31.12.23 31.03.24 30.06.24 30.09.24 31.12.24 31.03.25

—Tonbridge and Malling —Gravesham —Dartford —Sevenoaks —Tunbridge Wells —Maidstone —Medway —Thanet —Dover —Folkestone —Canterbury —Swale —Ashford



# **Useful webpages**

<u>Housing – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council</u>

Housing options – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council

Housing services detailed guidance – Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council





# Can we help you?

Contact us

Housing.services@tmbc.gov.uk

Claire.keeling@tmbc.gov.uk

Rachael.scullion@tmbc.gov.uk

Lisa.grimes@tmbc.gov.uk

Kimberley.allen@tmbc.gov.uk





# Questions





This page is intentionally left blank