

# NLC Equality Outcome 1 - Housing

## Proposed Outcome

Access and provision of warm, safe, affordable and accessible housing that meets people's needs is improved for people who share a protected characteristic (in particular young people, disabled people, minority ethnic people, women and LGB&T people).

## Equality Evidence/Reasoning

### Homelessness:

- 2 year consecutive increase in North Lanarkshire (13% and 16% respectively over 2022/23 – 2023/24). This compares to a 4% increase nationally over 2023/24.
- Second highest numerical homelessness applications level in the past decade (2,226 in 2023/24)
- Gendered analysis shows domestic abuse remains the leading cause of homelessness amongst women, both in North Lanarkshire and across Scotland
- Rise in the number of children associated with homelessness applications (12% increase in North Lanarkshire, although when considered as a proportion of all homelessness applications, families with children account for 31.4% of all homeless applications, this represents a 5.2% reduction over the past 6 year period)
- Majority of homeless applications are from single males (46%) followed by single females (18%), single female parents (15%), single male parents (11%), couples with children (5%).
- Increasing support needs associated with homeless households.
- Children in temporary accommodation – although reduced in North Lanarkshire over the past year (260 in 2022/23 to 220 in 2023/24), still high numbers and nationally the number of children in temporary accommodation is the highest ever recorded (10,110).
- Families spend longer in temporary accommodation in comparison to other groups (lone parents 120 days; couples with children 142 days; other households with children 164 days – this compares to overall average of 131 days in temp accommodation for all households in North Lanarkshire in 2023/24) – this however still compares favourably to the Scottish average of 226 days.
- Homelessness amongst 16-17 year olds has increased by 10.4% over the past year and 14.4% amongst the 18-25 year old group – overall 16-25 year old remain disproportionately represented in homelessness statistics compared to the general population – young people are more likely to become homeless for the reason of being asked to leave; the proportion becoming homeless from a private rented tenancy and owning own property increases with age

The homeless population has a much lower proportion with White ethnicity in comparison to Scotland overall

### Older and disabled people:

- Demographic change – although population is projected to decline over the next two decades in North Lanarkshire, households are projected to increase due to an increase in the number of older single person households
- This demographic change will bring significant consequences for housing, wider public services and communities – with a need for increased accessible, adaptable homes and equipment

Disabled people are over-represented in the social sector.

### Ethnic minority groups:

- Households from ethnic minority backgrounds are over-represented in the private rented sector
- Asylum dispersal and humanitarian programmes have had and will continue to have a significant impact – i.e. the Ukrainian resettlement programme has led to the refurbishment of two multi-storey towers in North Lanarkshire providing accommodation for Ukrainian households. The widening of asylum dispersal will lead to an increased requirement for

Scottish LAs to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers and permanent accommodation for those granted leave to remain

Ethnic minority households are under-represented in specialist older people's housing.

## **Women**

The leading cause of women's homelessness is domestic abuse

## **Gypsy Travellers**

- Number of unauthorised encampments generally reducing and continue to be concentrated around the spring/summer months
- Limited info on CHR applications and tenants due to non-completion of equalities monitoring data

## **LGB&T people**

National information indicates that these groups face additional housing barriers/challenges but not enough is known about housing experiences and challenges.

**We would like to invite you / your organisation to comment on this proposed outcome by completing the questionnaire linked below, or you can access this via the QR Code.**

**The questionnaire will be 'live' until 20 December. We will then gather all views submitted and finalise our outcomes and related actions and measures before publishing in April 2025.**

**If you would like more information or would like to comment in a different way, then please email [equality@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:equality@northlan.gov.uk)**

**Link to Questionnaire:** <https://forms.office.com/e/Z3rGJyjLgF>

