

Improving Housing Options for Young People



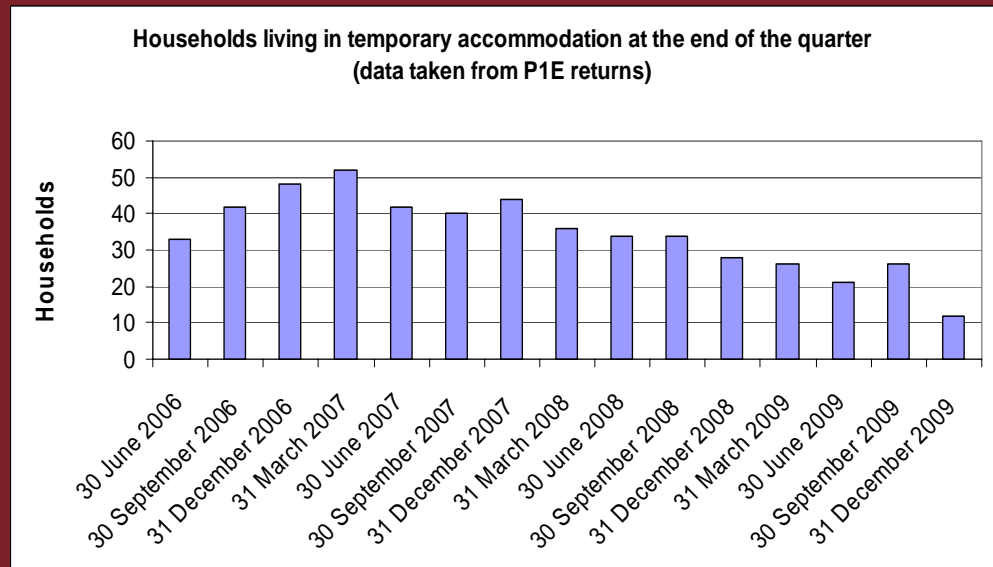
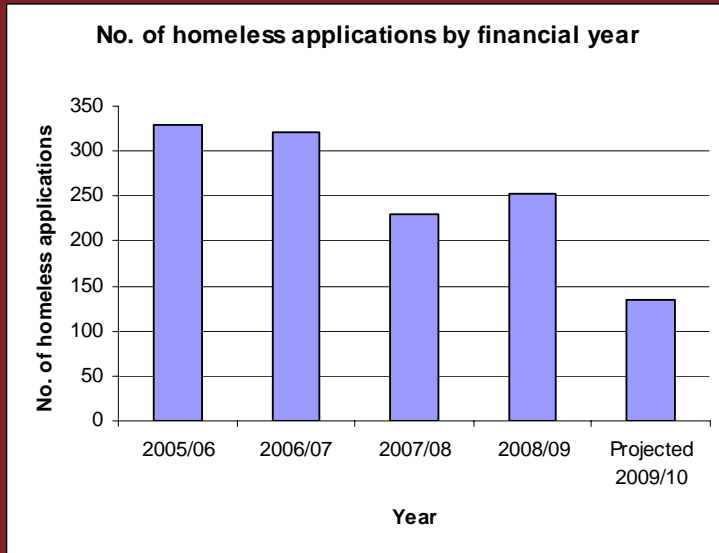
The Housing Options service

- A more proactive approach with a focus on the prevention of homelessness
- Providing a customised approach to housing advice bespoke to the individual client
- Staff recruited for their customer focus and can-do attitude, not their technical skills
- Implemented in August 2006



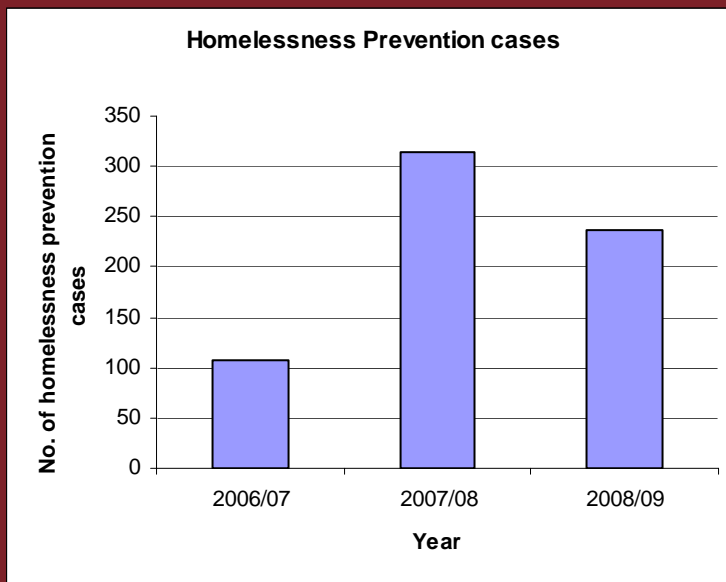
The impact of the Housing Options approach

- Reduced homeless applications
- Reduced households in temporary accommodation



The impact of the Housing Options approach

- Increased homelessness prevention
- Received national recognition



Trailblazers: Enhanced Housing Options Service



- Four parts to our Trailblazer bid:
- Introducing a LifePlan programme
 - Enhancing our life skills training programme
 - Developing a HomeMove project for under-occupying tenants
 - Enhanced Housing Options for vulnerable clients

- Most aspects of the bid have implications on our Housing Options service for young people

Enhanced Housing Options for Young People



- Aim to build upon previous achievements
- Designated 'Youth Centre of Excellence'
- Tenancy training- 'Move On Move In'

Planned improvements to the service for young people

- Provide more comprehensive, joined up service
- Bespoke tenancy training sessions
- 'Lifeplan'
- Enhanced Housing Options for young people



A change of emphasis

- Wandsworth et al, Hammersmith & Fulham and most significantly Southwark
- Most homeless 16/17 year olds expected to be child in need for the purposes of Children Act 1989
- Children Act 1989 supersedes Housing Act 1996

‘More than just housing’



- Empirical evidence already supports the belief that most 16/17 year olds require more than a roof over their head
- Young people not equipped with the life skills to cope with independent living
- High tenancy failure rate

Proposal for the future

- New countywide protocol
- Better partnership working-
the right agency carrying
out the right role
- Dialogue with North
Northants authorities
revealed that local
authorities 'in harmony' in
terms of what's required
for successful outcomes



ANY QUESTIONS?

