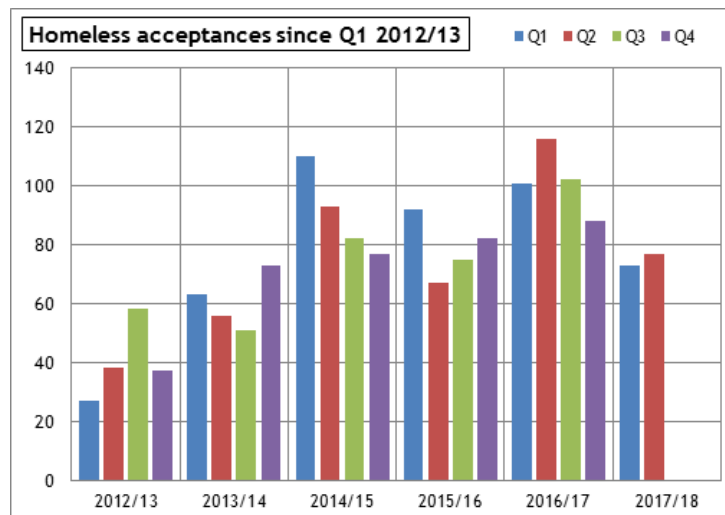


Summary

The recent economic situation and welfare reform has resulted in a marked increase in the number of people unable to meet their basic needs. Although both fuel and food poverty have increased over recent years, homelessness has now started to fall from its previously high levels. There is still a significant proportion of non-decent housing stock, which is expensive to heat.

Homelessness

Overall levels of homelessness have been increasing in Reading since 2010, with the number of households accepted as statutorily homeless almost doubling from 2012/13 to 2016/17. However, since the beginning of 2017, the Council has started to see a decline in the numbers of households eligible for homeless assistance.



Source: Reading Borough Council

Non-decent homes

The number of non-decent homes has reduced by 40% since the last stock condition survey in 2006. However, 12,200 dwellings (23.4% of total private sector housing) still fail to meet the requirements of the decent homes standard. This compares with 25% for England (2011/12).

Rates of non-decency in the private rented sector are around the national average at 34.8% (national average 35%), but significantly higher than the private sector owner occupied average of 21.9%. 31.5% of vulnerable households live in non-decent homes.

The highest rates of decent homes failure are recorded for the wards of Battle, Park, Caversham and Redlands. Failure rates in these wards exceed one-third of ward housing stock. Source: Private Sector House Condition Survey 2013

