

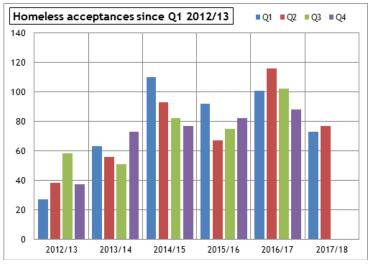
# Meeting Basic Needs Factsheet Poverty Needs Analysis 2017

### **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.

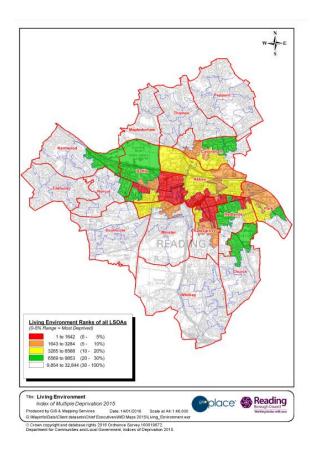
The highest rates of decent homes failure are recorded for the wards of Battle, Park, Caversham and Redlands. Failure rates in these wards exceed one-third of ward housing stock. Source: Private Sector House Condition Survey 2013



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## Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015: Living environment domain

Reading ranks 49th out of 326 local authorities nationally on the IMD living environment domain (measuring quality of housing, air quality and road traffic accidents). A total of 29 Lower Super Output Areas fall within the 20% most deprived nationally (17 in 2010) and 10 in the 5% most deprived (none in 2010).



### Fuel poverty

	% fuel poor
Reading	13.9%
SE	9.4%
England	11%

Source: Dept for Energy & Climate Change 2015

An estimated 9,000 households (13.9%) are fuel poor in Reading, an increase from 10.8% in 2014. This reflects the national trend, though is higher than both the national and regional figures. Rates of fuel poverty tend to be above average for households living in the private-rented sector, in multiple occupations and in pre-1919 terraced

Source: Department for Communities and Local Government

### Food poverty

Readifood provide emergency food parcels to families and individuals across greater Reading and has seen unprecedented growth in demand over the past few years, at least partly due to recent welfare reform changes.

- Readifood distributed around 7,000 food parcels to Reading residents in 2016/7
- This equates to over 130 parcels per week, up from 25 parcels per week in 2013.
- Readifood works with more than 70 local agencies who make referrals for food parcels.