

Wandsworth Housing and Regeneration Department
2018/19 Equalities Information
Housing Advice/ Homelessness/ Provision of Temporary Accommodation

Introduction

Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 sets out the duties owed by local housing authorities to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Local Authorities have a duty to provide housing advice and assistance to everyone in their local area but the type of advice and assistance depends on whether the person is eligible for assistance (i.e. not subject to immigration control), whether they are actually homeless, whether they are intentionally homeless (they did or did not do something which caused their homelessness i.e. not pay their rent), whether they have a priority need for accommodation and local connection.

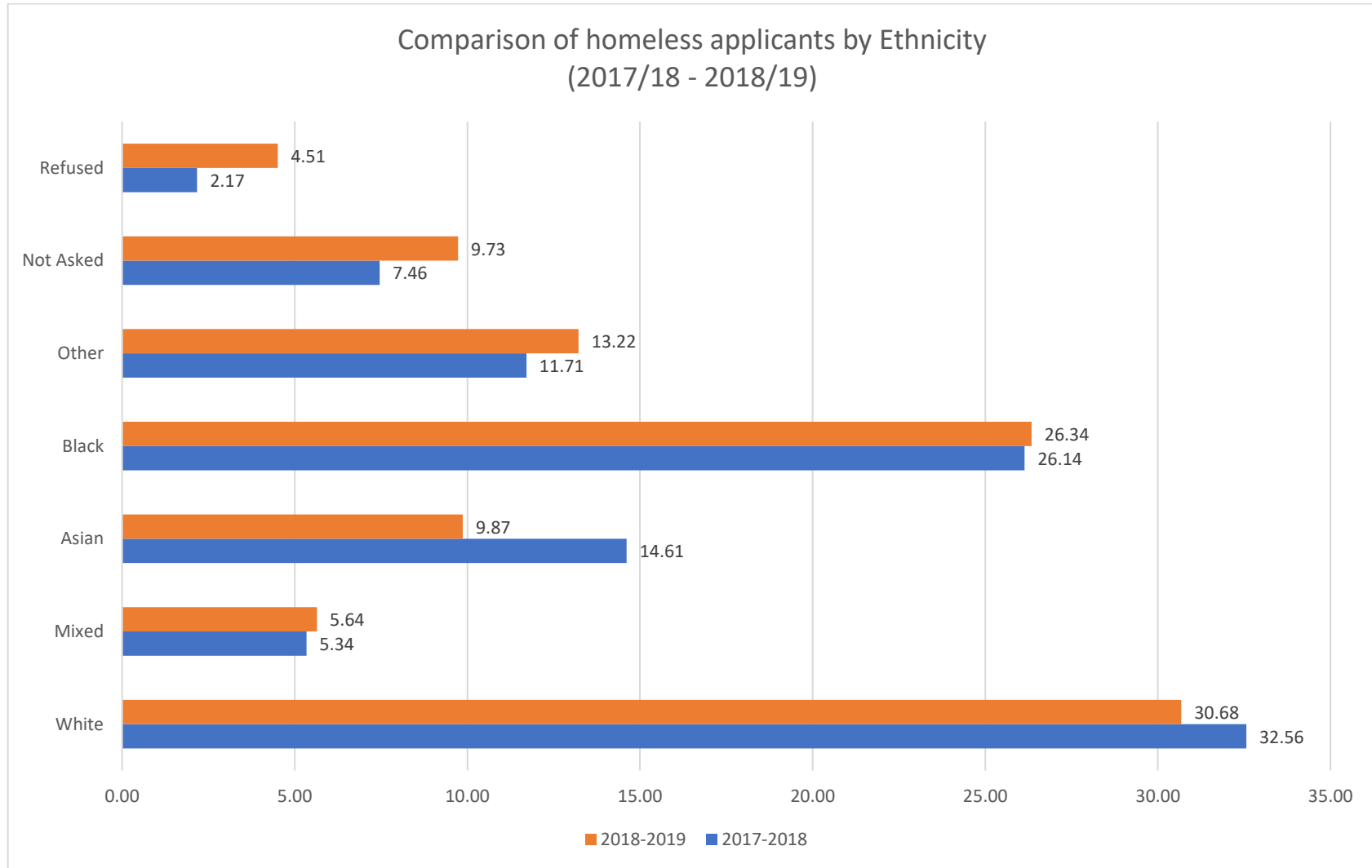
In April 2018 the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) came into force. Prior to the HRA much of the assistance provided to homeless applicants was predicated on whether after assessment a priority need was identified. A priority need included having dependent children, a disability and/or other instances of vulnerability. Those assessed as not having a priority need were less likely to be assisted. Within the HRA the emphasis on priority need has now been removed and all local authorities are expected to provide assistance in the form of prevention or relief of homelessness irrespective of the applicant's priority needs if they are facing homelessness within 56 days of approach.

In order to monitor homelessness approaches and also local authority performance, the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have introduced a new set of data requirements known as H-Clic which supersedes the previous P1E data returns. Whereas previously the data submitted to MHCLG was a snapshot of a local authority's homelessness cases at the end of each quarter, H-Clic covers all cases that the Council has dealt with and includes case-level details such as client name, gender, national insurance number etc. At the time of writing the supply of client data is not required but it is anticipated to be introduced for the first quarter of 2019-2020. Such data is treated as mandatory within MHCLG's H-Clic Data Specification document.

Housing Advice Homeless Cases by Ethnic Group (2018-2019)

		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Not asked	Refused to disclose	Total	
Housing options and projects team interviews	No.	870	160	280	747	375	276	128	2836	
	%	30.68%	5.64%	9.87%	26.34%	13.22%	9.73%	4.51%	100.00%	
Cases presented	No.	301	71	158	254	131	92	37	1044	
	%	28.83%	6.80%	15.13%	24.33%	12.55%	8.81%	3.54%	100%	
Cases admitted	No.	287	62	147	235	113	76	35	955	
	%	30.05%	6.49%	15.39%	24.61%	11.83%	7.96%	3.66%	100.00%	
Cases not accepted (Total)	No.	76	15	38	44	24	16	4	217	
	%	31.41%	5.76%	15.18%	25.13%	12.04%	7.85%	2.62%	100.00%	
Cases not accepted (Not Eligible)	No.	2	0	1	2	0	1	0	6	
	%	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%	33.33%	0.00%	16.67%	0.00%	100.00%	
Cases not accepted (Not homeless)	No.	70	12	29	27	22	13	2	175	
	%	40.00%	6.86%	16.57%	15.43%	12.57%	7.43%	1.14%	100.00%	
Cases not accepted (No priority need)	No.	3	3	7	10	1	1	2	27	
	%	11.11%	11.11%	25.93%	37.04%	3.70%	3.70%	7.41%	100.00%	
Cases not accepted (Intentionally homeless)	No.	1	0	1	5	1	1	0	9	
	%	11.11%	0.00%	11.11%	55.56%	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	100.00%	
Cases accepted	No.	131	33	89	134	60	30	11	488	
	%	26.84%	6.76%	18.24%	27.46%	12.30%	6.15%	2.25%	100.00%	
Average time (in days) to serve s184		No.	155	154	133	168	127	176	153	152

In 2018/19, there was a 28% increase in the amount of applications recorded by the Housing Options team. As can be seen from the chart below, the breakdown of ethnicity has broadly remained the same for the last two years although it will be noted that there was a 13% decrease in applicants of Asian ethnicity for the last financial year.



In 2018-2019, the number of households who were accepted as homeless was – in most instances - proportionate to the number of households presenting as homeless for each ethnic group. However, the Asian and Black ethnic groups both received a greater proportion of acceptances when compared to presenting figures with increases of 3.11% and 3.13% respectively.

Only two groups waited less than the average time of 152 days for delivery of a s184 decision on their application: the Asian ethnic group with an average waiting time of 133 days and the Other ethnic group with a waiting time of 127 days. The group that waited the longest was the Not Asked ethnic group with an average wait of 176 days.

Housing Advice and Homelessness Cases by Gender

		Female with Children	Female without Children	Male with Children	Male without Children	Joint with Children	Joint without Children	Total
Housing options and projects team interviews	No.	428	981	41	1106	127	153	2836
	%	15.09%	34.59%	1.45%	39.00%	4.48%	5.39%	100.00%
Cases presented	No.	409	159	129	19	42	286	1044
	%	39.18%	15.23%	12.36%	1.82%	4.02%	27.39%	100%
Cases admitted	No.	383	133	135	15	44	246	956
	%	40.06%	13.91%	14.12%	1.57%	4.60%	25.73%	100.00%
Cases not accepted (Total)	No.	62	41	6	91	11	6	217
	%	28.57%	18.89%	2.76%	41.94%	5.07%	2.76%	100.00%
Cases not accepted (Not Eligible)	No.	2	2	0	2	0	0	6
	%	33.33%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%
Cases not accepted (Not homeless)	No.	54	36	4	68	10	3	175
	%	30.86%	20.57%	2.29%	38.86%	5.71%	1.71%	100.00%
Cases not accepted (No priority need)	No.	3	3	0	19	0	2	27
	%	11.11%	11.11%	0.00%	70.37%	0.00%	7.41%	100.00%
Cases not accepted (Intentionally homeless)	No.	3	0	2	2	1	1	9
	%	33.33%	0.00%	22.22%	22.22%	11.11%	11.11%	100.00%
Cases accepted	No.	202	58	93	11	27	97	488
	%	41.39%	11.89%	19.06%	2.25%	5.53%	19.88%	100.00%
Average time (in days) to serve s184		No.	131	158	128	159	175	188

As with 2017/18 the vast majority of homelessness interviews were conducted with households of each gender without children who represented 73% of the approaches made. Similarly, negative decisions served follow patterns of the previous year with 60% of the negative decisions made being issued to this group. The largest single group to be found to have no priority need were the

Male without Children group who received 70% of this type of decision. It is worth noting that those single applicants who would, prior to HRA, have been assessed as having no priority need and their application consequently closed, are now entitled to more assistance from local authorities. Part of this assistance manifests itself in the identification of support needs which may impact on an individual's ability to find or retain secure accommodation. However, many of the cases in the above datasets will be legacy cases who made applications prior to April 2018 and therefore will have been assessed under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996 as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002. Female with children represented the largest group to receive a positive decision of duty to house (41.39%), although this figure is slightly lower than the previous year (44.89%). This will almost certainly be due to their having a priority need of dependent children.

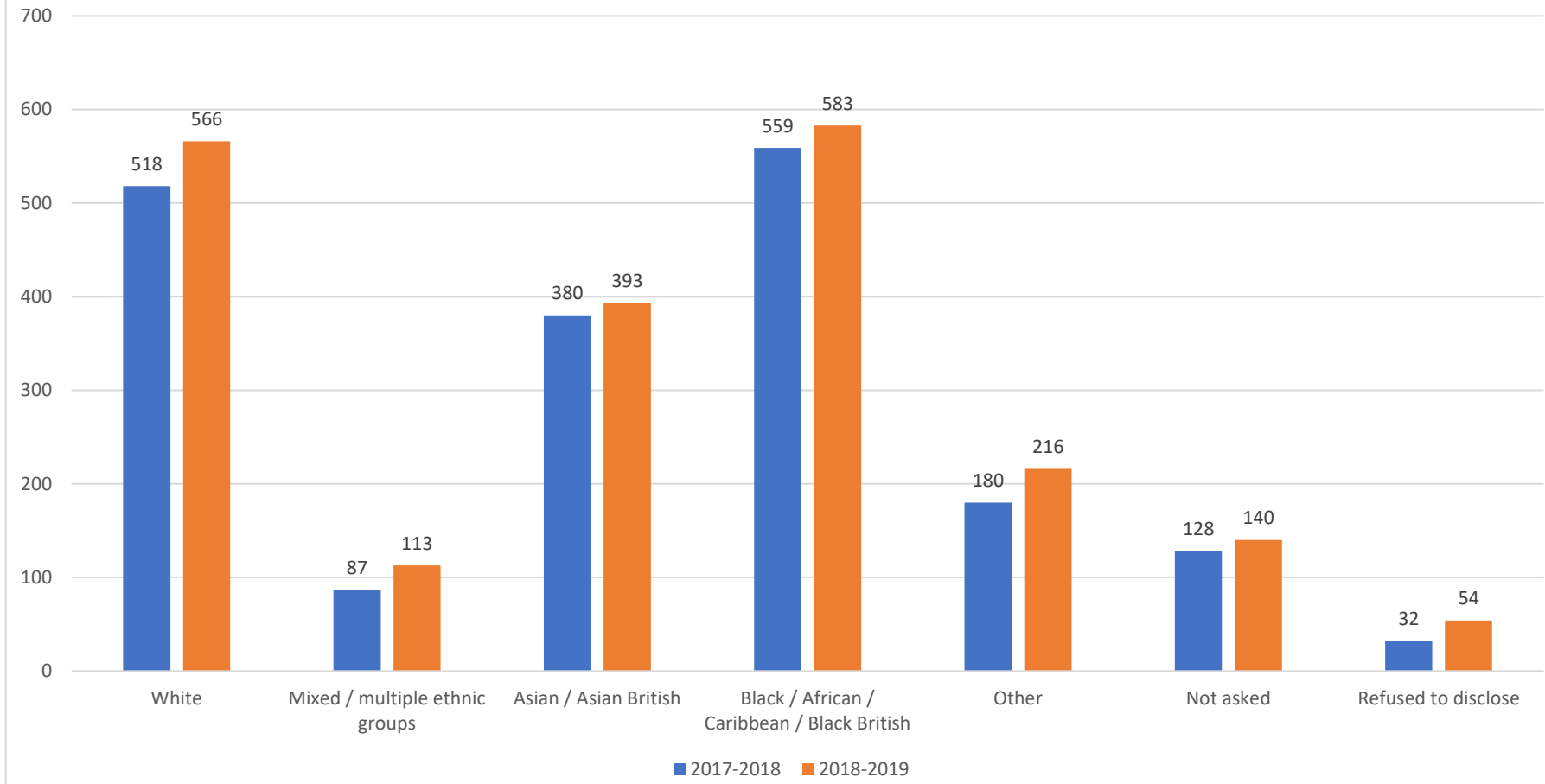
Households in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group

There has been a 9.5% increase in the number of households being placed into temporary accommodation when compared to the previous year. Although the Black ethnic group has shown a slight decrease in temporary accommodation placements they continue to remain the largest group accommodated (28%). This figure is much higher than is found within the borough demographic as members of the Black ethnic group constitute approximately 10% of the population (Census, 2011).

Households in Temporary Accommodation		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Not asked	Refused to disclose	Total
2017-18	No.	518	87	380	559	180	128	32	1884
	%	27%	5%	20%	30%	9%	7%	2%	100%
2018-19	No.	566	113	393	583	216	140	54	2065
	%	27%	5%	19%	28%	10%	7%	3%	100%

As can be seen from the comparison chart below, the distribution of ethnic groups that received a temporary accommodation placement is similar for the years and 2017/18 & 2018/19. In keeping with the increase in placements being made all groups have increased in numbers. The three largest increases in placements were for the Refused to disclose group (68.75%), Mixed/multiple group (29.8%) and the Other group (20%).

Comparison of Households in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnicity (2017/18 - 2018/19)



Households in Bed and Breakfast (not self-contained) Accommodation by Ethnic Group

The number of B&B placements being made has fallen by 25% since 2017/18.

Households placed into B&B (not self-contained) by ethnic group		White	Mixed / multiple ethnic groups	Asian / Asian British	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	Other	Not asked	Refused to disclose	Total
2017/18	No.	62	5	23	41	15	18	1	165
	%	38%	3%	14%	25%	9%	11%	1%	100%
2018/19	No.	41	4	20	27	13	13	5	123
	%	33%	3%	16%	22%	11%	11%	4%	100%

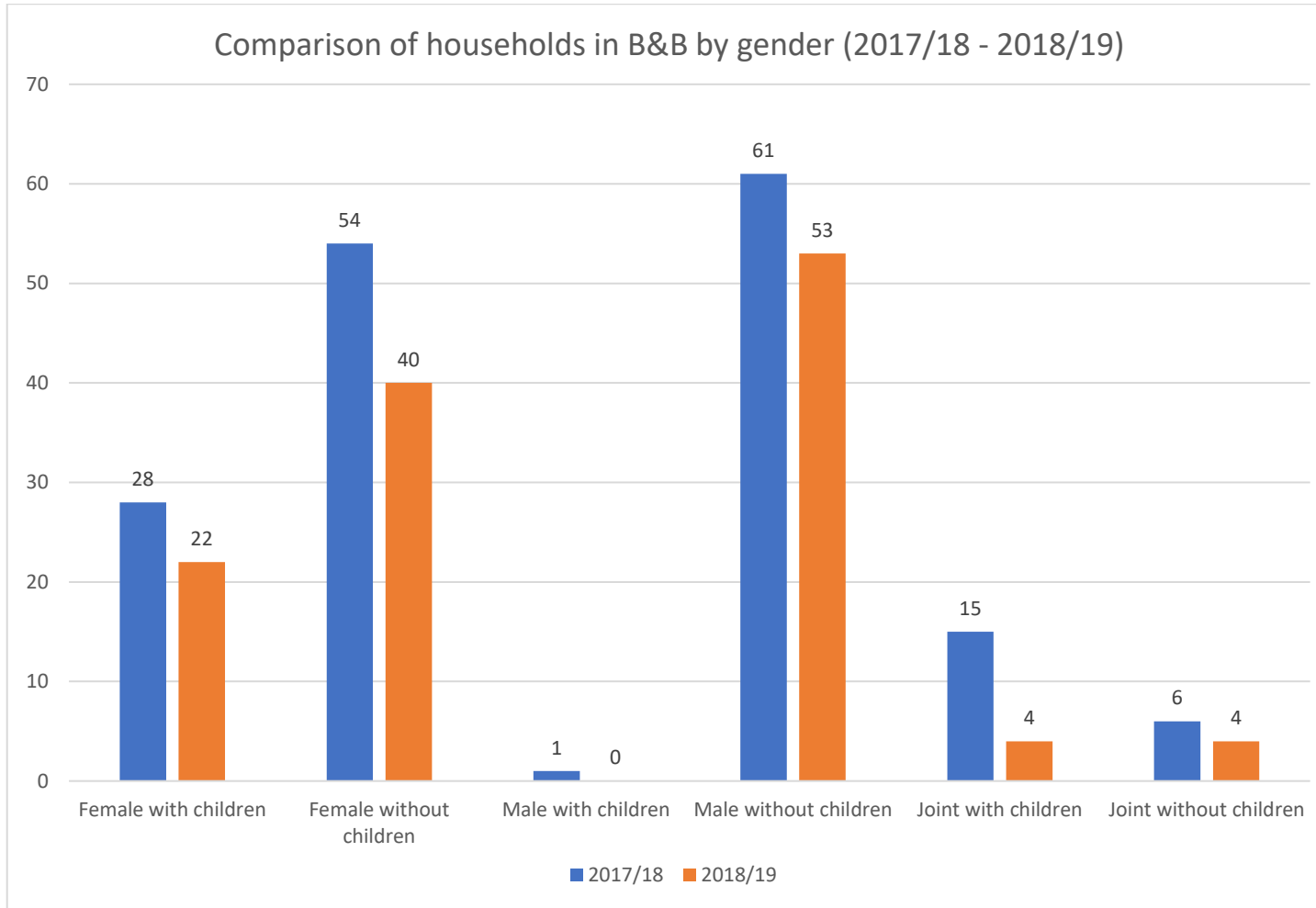
Where applicants are placed into B&B accommodation that is not self-contained, the largest proportion are in the White ethnic group at 33%, followed by households in the Black ethnic group at 22%. This is broadly in line with the proportion of homelessness approaches made by applicants from these ethnic groups.

Households in Temporary Accommodation by Gender

Households in Temporary Accommodation		Female with children	Female without children	Male with children	Male without children	Joint with children	Joint without children	Total
2017/18	B&B (not self-contained)	28	54	1	61	15	6	165
	Total	944	154	75	217	471	23	1884
2018/19	B&B (not self-contained)	22	40	0	53	4	4	123
	Total	1001	187	88	30	468	291	2065

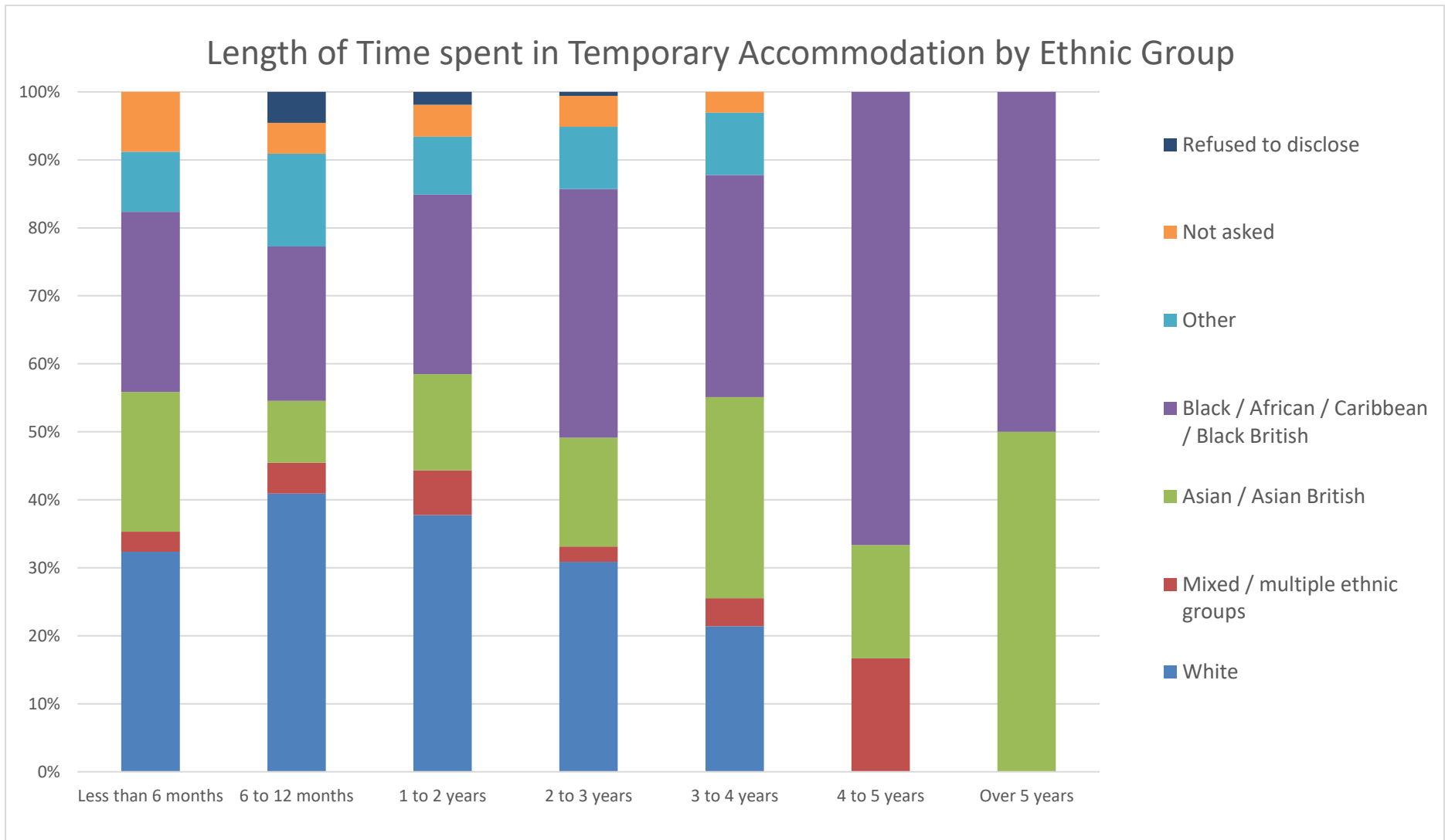
The largest proportion of applicants in any type of temporary accommodation are households with children. The combined total of these applicant groups is 1474 households which equates to 71% of all households placed into temporary accommodation. This represents a noticeable decrease from the previous year's figure of 79%.

As the comparison chart below demonstrates the distribution of households by gender accommodated in B&B for the years 2017/18 & 2018/19 remains equivalent.

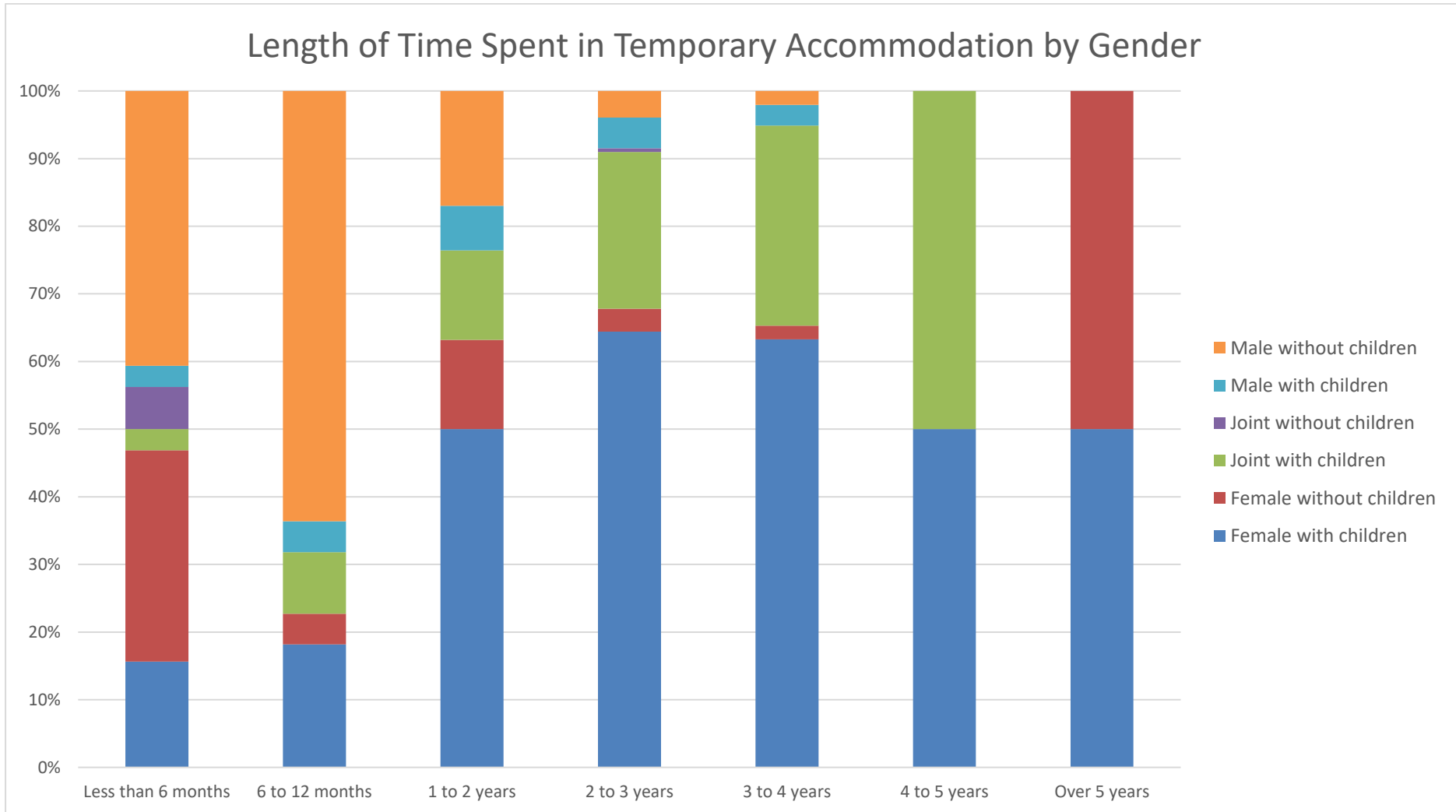


The largest proportion of applicants accommodated in B&B that is not self-contained is comprised of households that do not have children. A total of 97 households make up this group which equates to 79% of the B&B placements.

Length of Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation by Ethnic Group

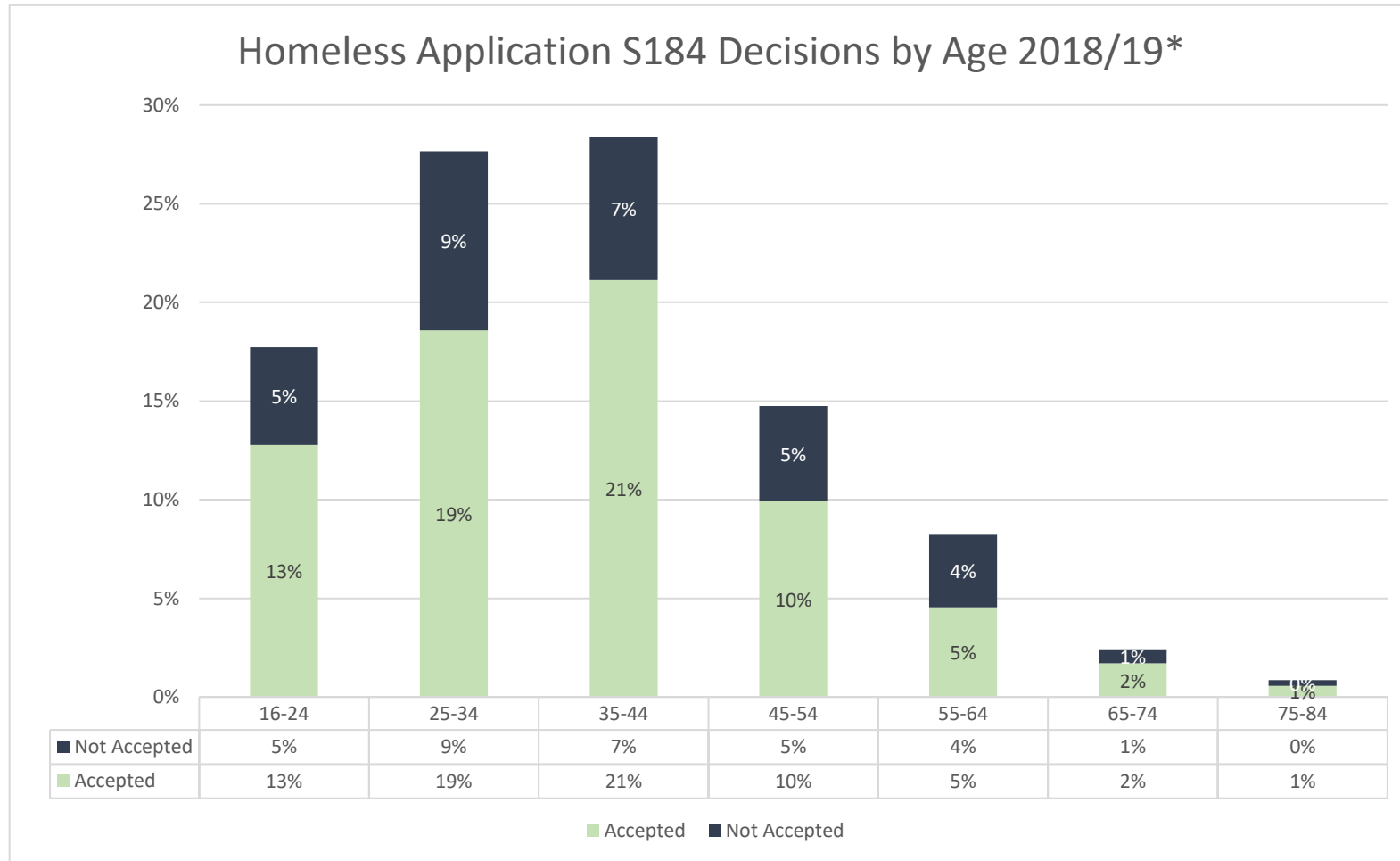


Length of Time Spent in Temporary Accommodation by Gender



The groups that spent the least amount of time in temporary accommodation were those who presented without children as household members. This is possibly due to the relative ease by which applications from single individuals can be resolved when compared to larger family units (noticeably when it comes to securing accommodation following a positive decision)

Homeless Decisions by age



*Age of applicant at date of decision notice

In 2018/19 the largest percentage of decisions issued were to the 25-34 & 35-44 age groups which equated to 56% of all section 184s served. When comparing the type of decision issued to each age category as a distinct group, the age groups of 16-24 and 35-44 both received the highest percentage of positive decisions at 72% and 75% respectively. The lowest amount of positive decisions was issued

to those applicants falling within the 55-64 age bracket. This is possibly because households in this age group are less likely to have dependent children or as serious a health condition as people in an older age bracket and follows last year's results.

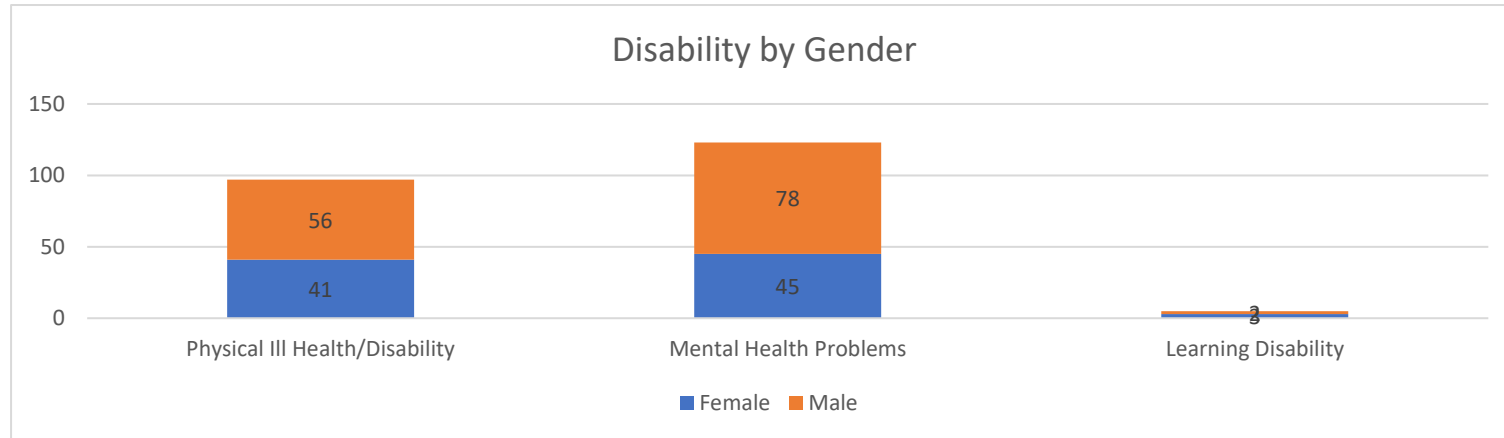
Accepted Housing Duty by Age

Age	Accepted Housing Duty (2017/18)	Percentage of Accepted Cases	Accepted Housing Duty (2018/19)	Percentage of Accepted Cases
16-24	139	19%	90	18%
25-34	236	31%	131	27%
35-44	206	27%	149	31%
45-54	107	14%	70	14%
55-64	39	5%	32	7%
65-74	17	2%	12	2%
75-84	7	1%	4	1%

The total amount s184 decisions issued across all age groups in 2018/19 had fallen by approximately 30% when compared to the previous year. However, the distribution of positive decisions by age group is similar for both years with the only noticeable change being that the age group of 35-44 was now the top recipient of positive decisions (31%) as opposed to the previous year when the top group was those aged 25-34.

Disability

Since the advent of the HRA in April 2018, there has been emphasis on local authorities to identify support needs of applicants' and/or household members. It should be noted that an applicant that has not had a disability identified at Initial Assessment as a support need may subsequently have a disability identified during Main Duty. These have been factored into the tables and below.



The most common disability identified is for applicants who are experiencing mental health issues which account for nearly 55% of all disabilities. As is shown in the chart above, the majority of identified disabilities are found within male applicants at 60%.

HRA Support Needs Assessment	Female	Male	Total
Physical Ill Health/Disability	34	41	75
Mental Health Problems	35	61	96
Learning Disability	3	2	5
Main Duty Priority Need*			
Physical Disability	7	15	22
Mental Illness/Handicap	10	17	27
Totals	89	136	225
*Not assessed as such at Initial Assessment			