

SBC Welfare Benefits Services

- in the context of

**Homelessness & Tenancy
Sustainability**

Claire Maher – Senior Supported Housing Co-ordinator



- Background
- Accessing the Service
- Aims, Objectives & Limitations
- Measuring Success
- Obstacles & Barriers

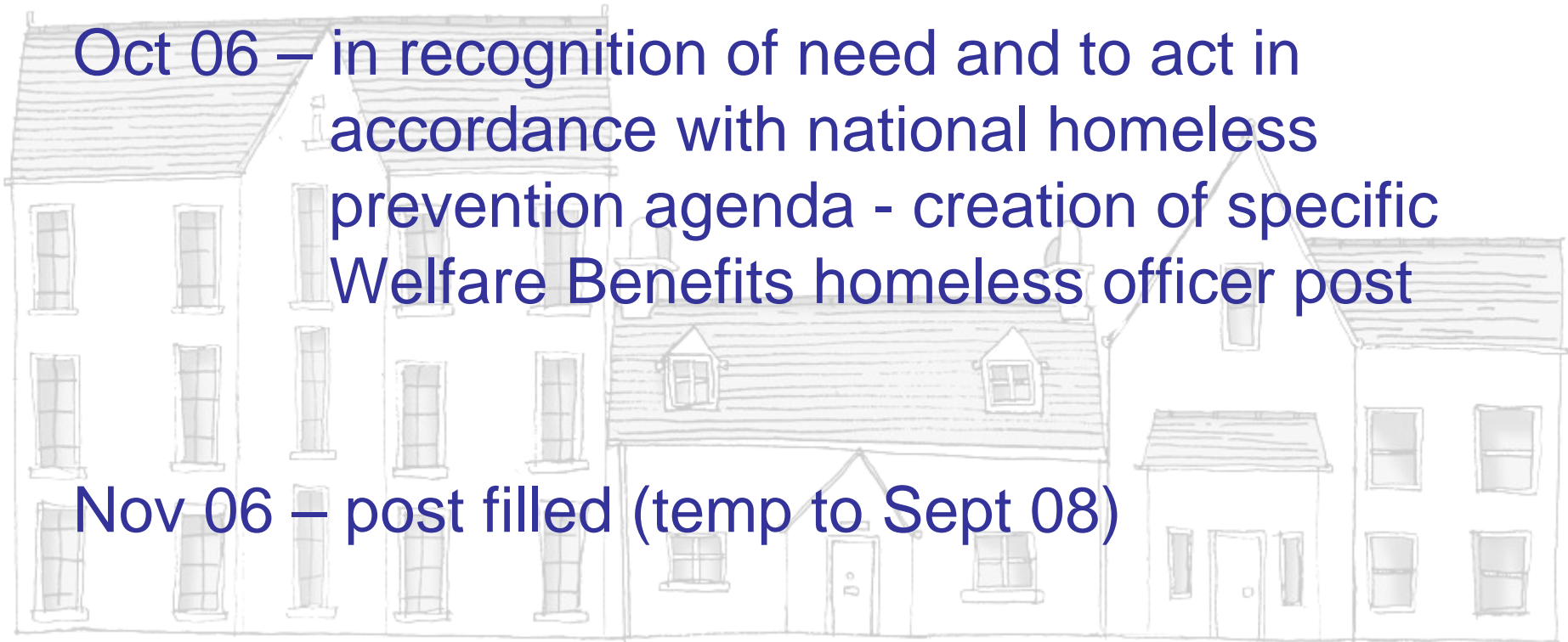


Background

Autumn 06 – funding identified

Oct 06 – in recognition of need and to act in accordance with national homeless prevention agenda - creation of specific Welfare Benefits homeless officer post

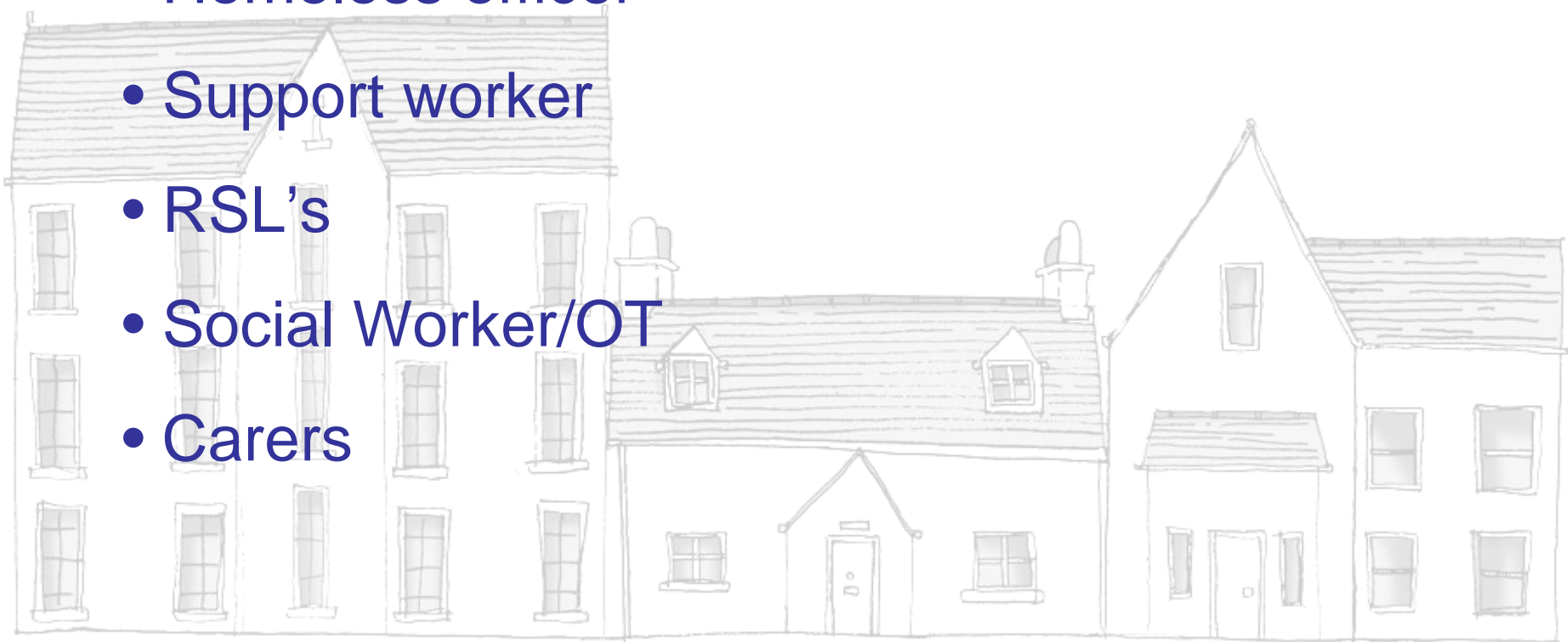
Nov 06 – post filled (temp to Sept 08)



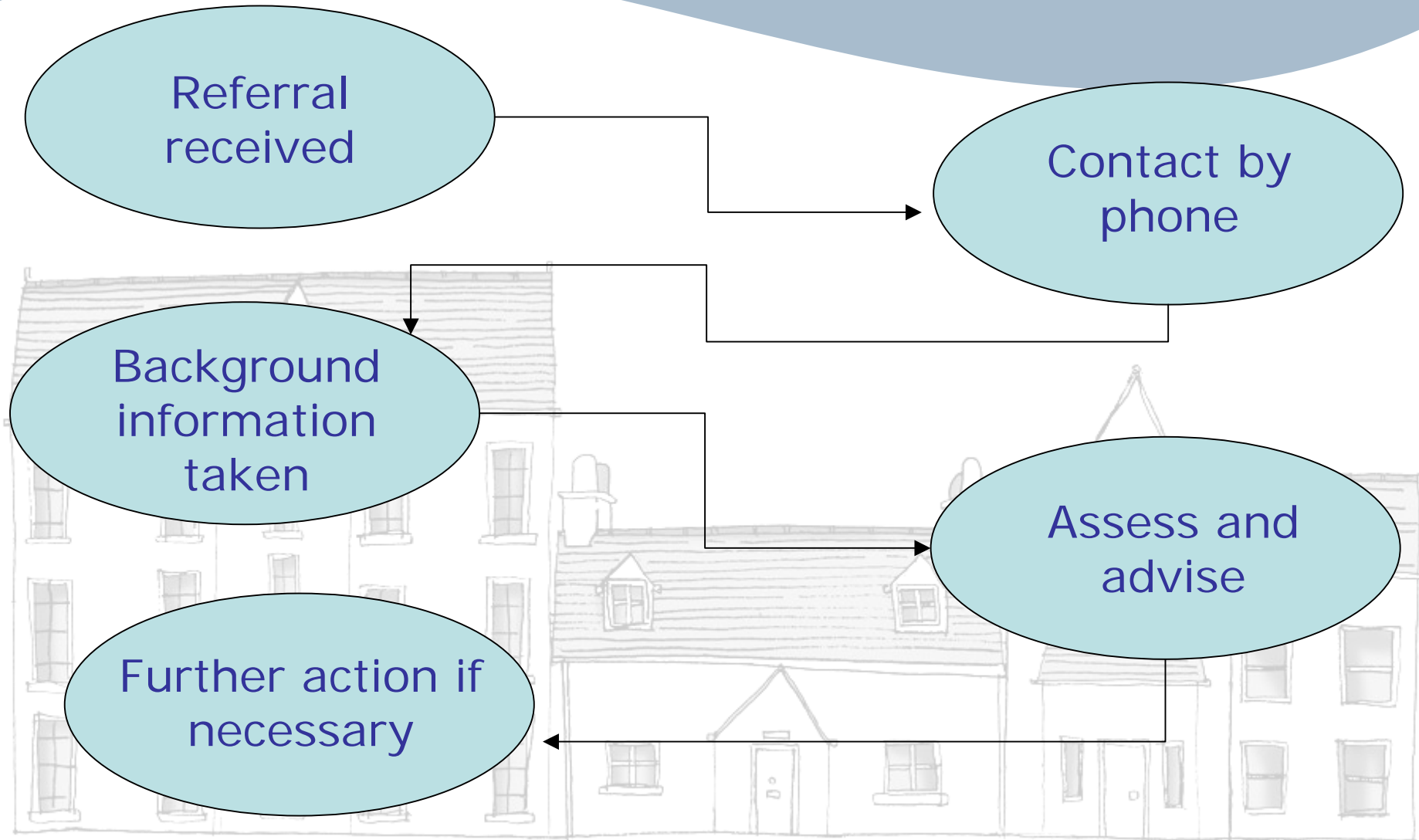
Accessing the Service

Referral route by form through:

- Homeless officer
- Support worker
- RSL's
- Social Worker/OT
- Carers

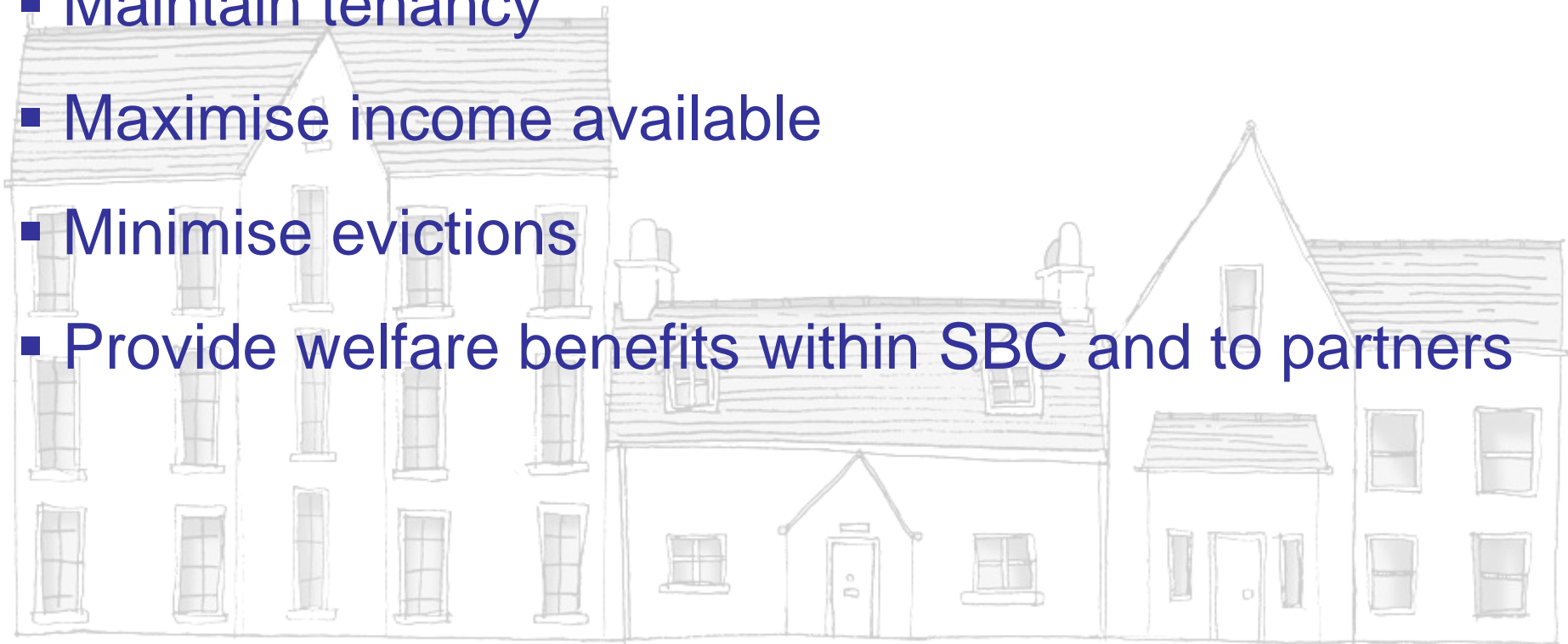


Accessing the Service



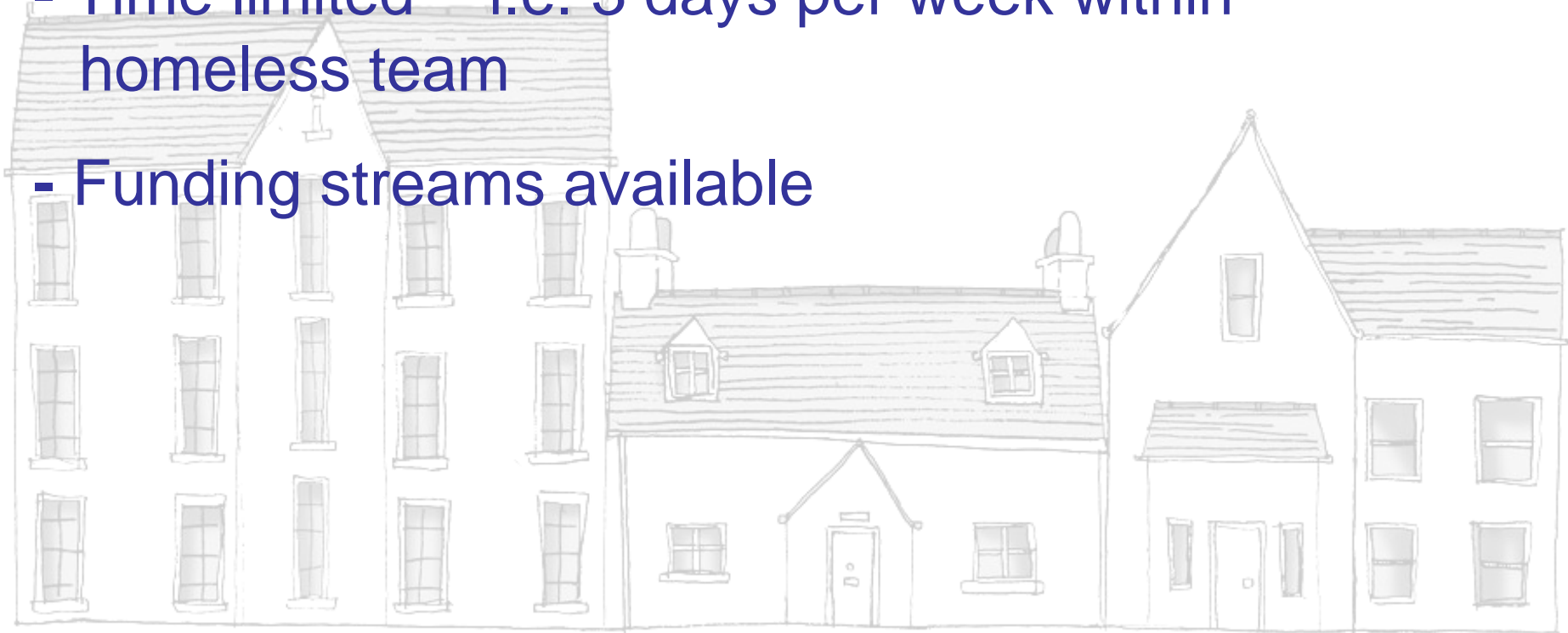
Aims, Objectives & Limitations

- Prevent homelessness & repeat homelessness
- Maintain tenancy
- Maximise income available
- Minimise evictions
- Provide welfare benefits within SBC and to partners



Aims, Objectives & Limitations cont.

- Temporary nature of post
- Time limited - i.e. 3 days per week within homeless team
- Funding streams available



Support Available

Housing benefit
overlap

Appealing
benefit
decisions

Applying for
benefits –
JSA, IS, DLA

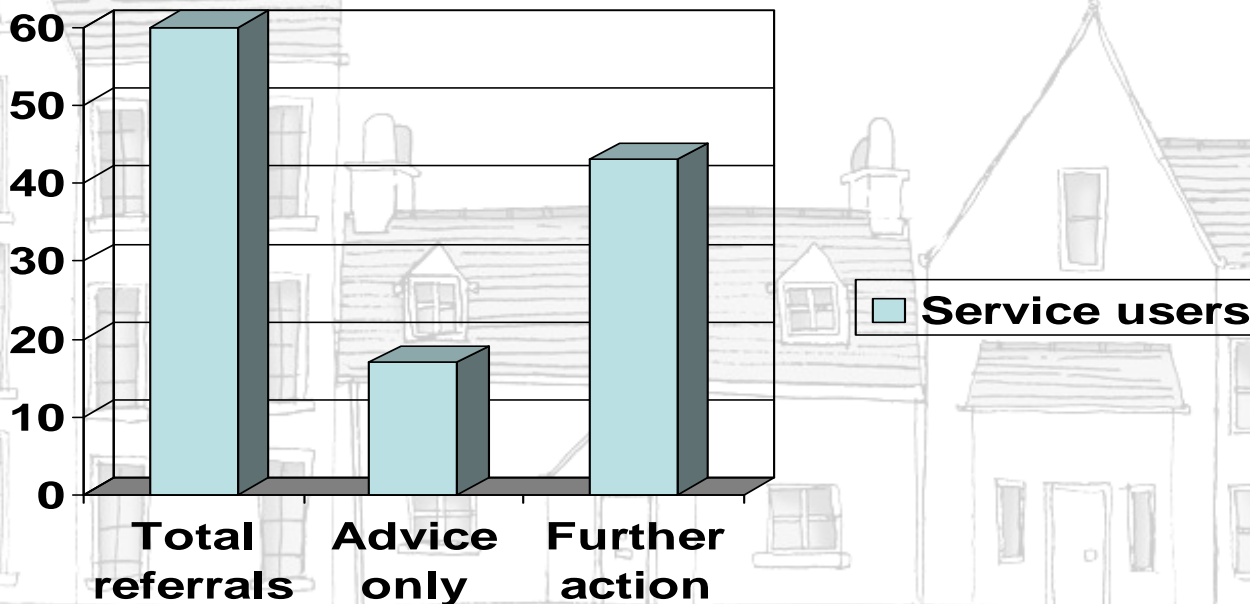
Liaison with
court,
solicitors,
landlords

Homepoint
Level 3
accreditation



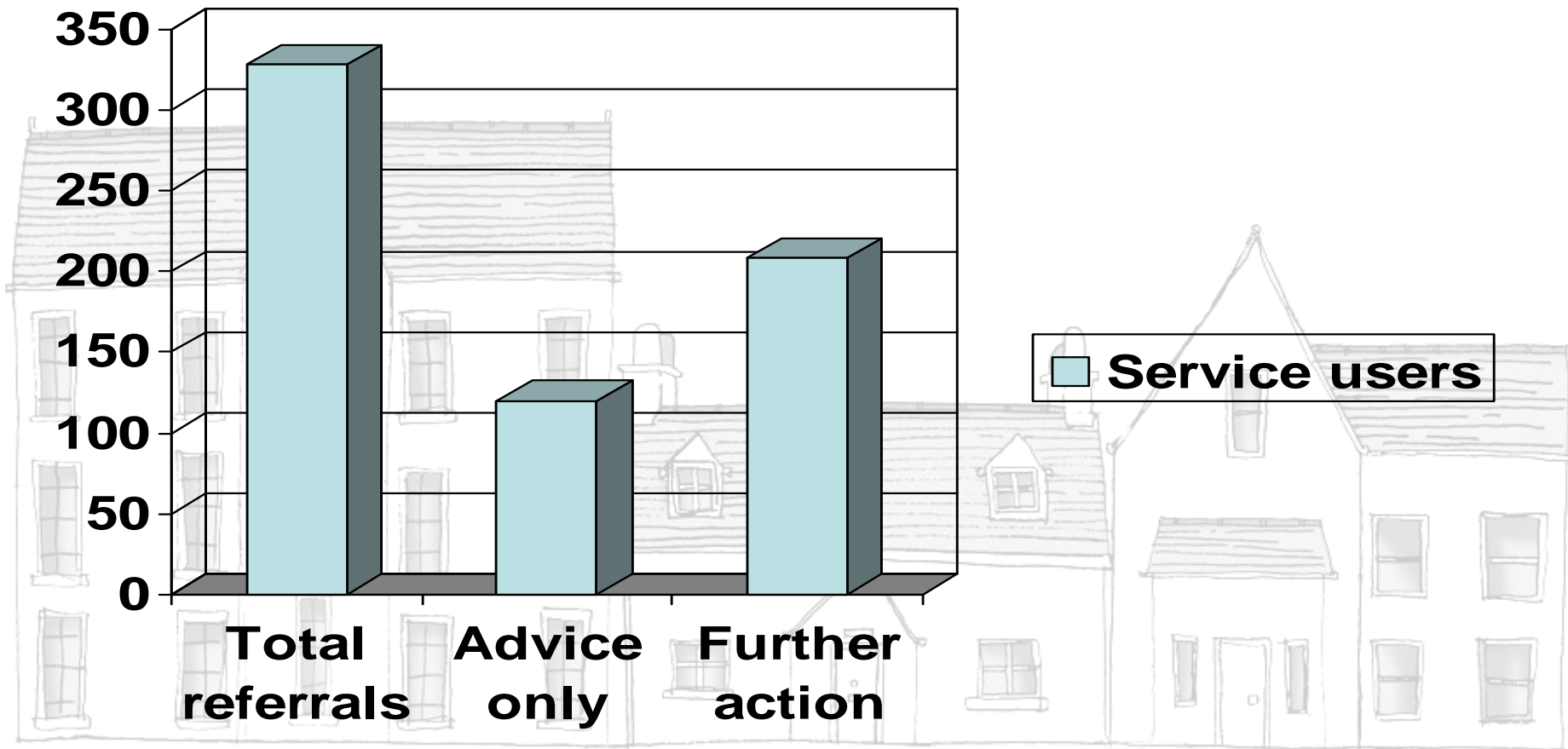
Measuring Success Nov 06 – March 07

- Prevention of 8 evictions
- Lump sum payments to cover arrears - **£9104.93**
- Weekly income gains of **£629.72** with a projected annual **£32,745.44**



Measuring Success March 07 to date

- Prevention of **56** evictions



Obstacles & Barriers

- Timescales of benefit applications
- Community Care Grant delays & appeals
- Service user engagement
- Difficulty in obtaining Housing Benefit overlap
- Timing of RSL eviction/arrears process
- Letters to WB worker as well as service user

