

Everyone should have a home

**Craig Dunlop**

**Policy Officer**

**Current Issues in Temporary  
Accommodation**

Shelter

## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### Overview of Presentation

- Setting the scene
- Unsuitable Accommodation Order Extension
- Temporary Accommodation Guidance
- Standards for Temporary Accommodation
- Section 7 Regulations
- New developments in practice

## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

Housing Act (Scotland) 2001 placed a duty on local authorities to provide temporary accommodation for all homeless households

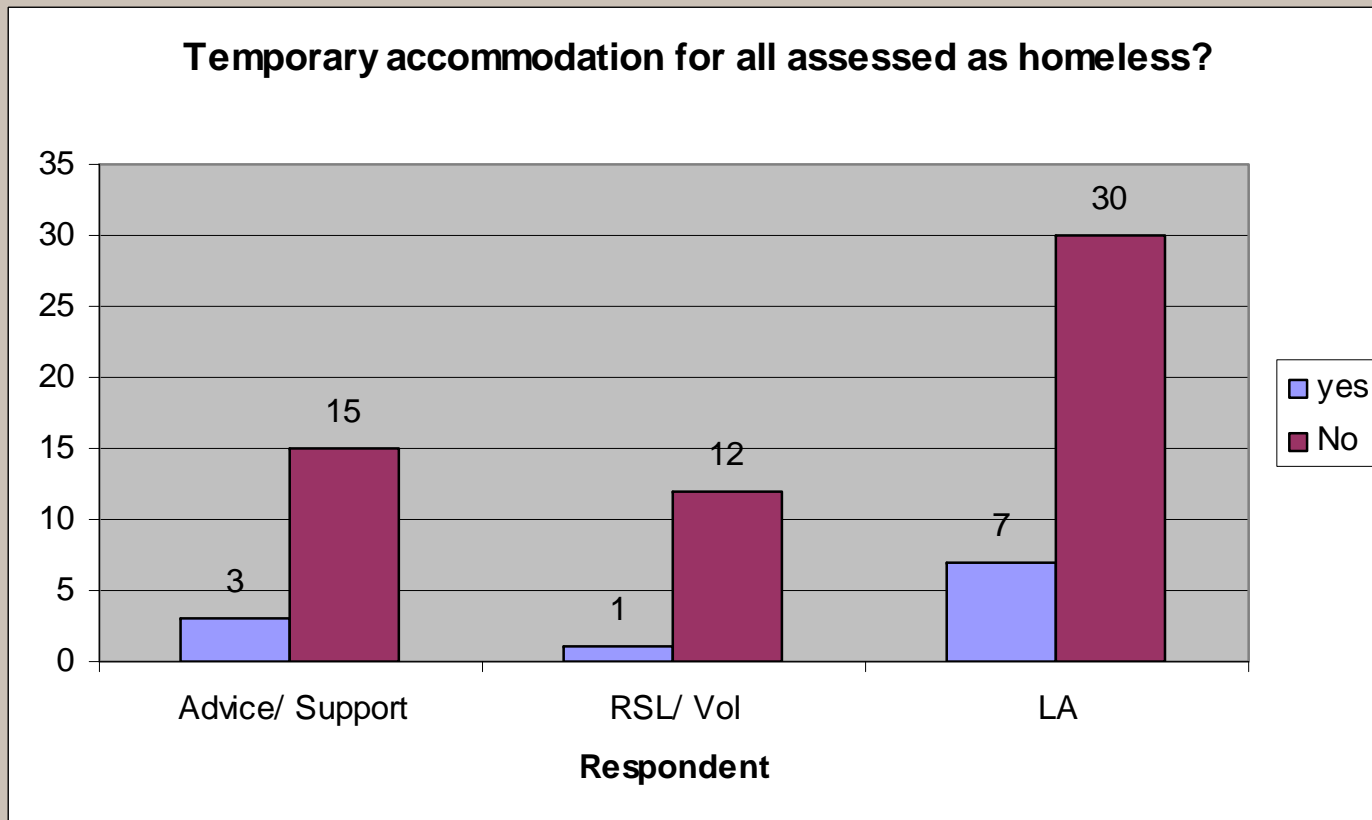
Evidence of councils struggling to be able to do this

2001 Act is not the only driver of increased demand for temporary accommodation:

31 March 2002 – 4153 Households in TA, 1329 of these containing children

31 March 2006 – 8135 households in TA, 2798 of these containing children

## Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation



## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### Unsuitable Accommodation Order (2004)

Temporary accommodation for families with children must meet certain basic standards with adequate cooking/ washing facilities

Families can only be placed in accommodation that does not meet these standards (usually B&Bs) in certain circumstances

Proposals to extend the unsuitable accommodation order...

## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### Temporary Accommodation Guidance

Being published later this year

Intended to help authorities take a strategic approach to planning and delivering temporary accommodation

Guidance will cover

- Different accommodation types/ providers
- Management of temporary accommodation
- Accommodation Standards
- Performance Monitoring

## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### Standards for Temporary Accommodation

Little in the way of standardised guidance in expected standards

Covered in the proposed Government guidance but to what level of detail should guidance achieve?

Would detailed standards be useful and/or welcome?

## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### Section 7 Regulations

Provision of 2001 Act to develop and implement regulations defining the minimum rights of hostel dwellers.

Draft regulations published in December 2004 and consultation held on these....



## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### New developments in Practice

Use of the private sector

Homeless at home

Section 5 referrals for temporary accommodation

...just a few examples, any others?

## Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation

### Shelter Resources

“A Summary 10-point plan for temporary accommodation.” Available in policy library at [www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk)

Coming Soon....

“But Why Here?” Practical resource for dealing with community opposition to new social housing provision. Mainly targeted at permanent housing but some issues in common with temporary accommodation.

## **Current Issues in Temporary Accommodation**

### Key Questions/ Starters for Discussion

Are supply issues still constraining abilities to provide temporary accommodation for all homeless households?

Should the Unsuitable Accommodation Order be extended?

What hopes and fears for temporary accommodation guidance?

Detailed standards for temporary accommodation?

What is the future for section 7 regulations?

What new projects/ means are available for maximising available temporary accommodation

Everyone should have a home

Shelter