

# 2019 Annual review of Southwark Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2022 - Analysis of Equality Data

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## Introduction

Equalities monitoring is a process of gathering equality information in relation to customers approaching the homelessness service at Southwark Council. Equality monitoring enables us to ensure that we continually improve our service delivery by providing services with customer insight, look at possible diverse needs and barriers to equal access so that they can be addressed. Equality Monitoring importantly helps to ensure that our customer base is representative of the wider population and that we are meeting our legal equality duties.

<sup>1</sup>The Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which gives additional responsibilities to public authorities, the duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations across all aspects of equality protected by the Act. Meaning public sector bodies are required to demonstrate equality across all protected characteristics, including age, sexual orientation and religion or belief. This builds on the existing duties relating to disability, gender and race, and improves the coverage in relation to gender reassignment.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have developed a new way of reporting homelessness data, Homeless Case Level Information Collection<sup>2</sup>. This includes significantly more detail than the previous format of P1E data. It should be noted that this annual data collection is experimental due to the difficulties many boroughs had in uploading their cases. The following data is from April 2018 till March 2019.

## Summary

- This is the first year of data of this complexity and quality.
- This report will not cover all protected characteristics, but will include all those covered in the HCLIC specification.
- Sexual orientation – members of the LGBT community made up 4% of the homeless approaches received by Southwark in 2018/19. The service will be working closely with Stonewall housing to improve how this cohort is supported.
- Gender – there was a disproportionate number of female homeless applicants when compared to population demographics of the borough, this has been historically seen in homelessness data.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/equality-act-2010-guidance>

<sup>2</sup> [https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HCLIC-Data-Specification\\_v1.4.4.pdf](https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HCLIC-Data-Specification_v1.4.4.pdf)

- Age – the age breakdown of homeless applicants in the borough closely compares to demographics.
- Ethnicity – continued over representation of applicants identifying themselves as African, the service will continue to use focus group analysis to ascertain what can be improved to support this group into lasting accommodation.

## Equality Monitoring Analysis

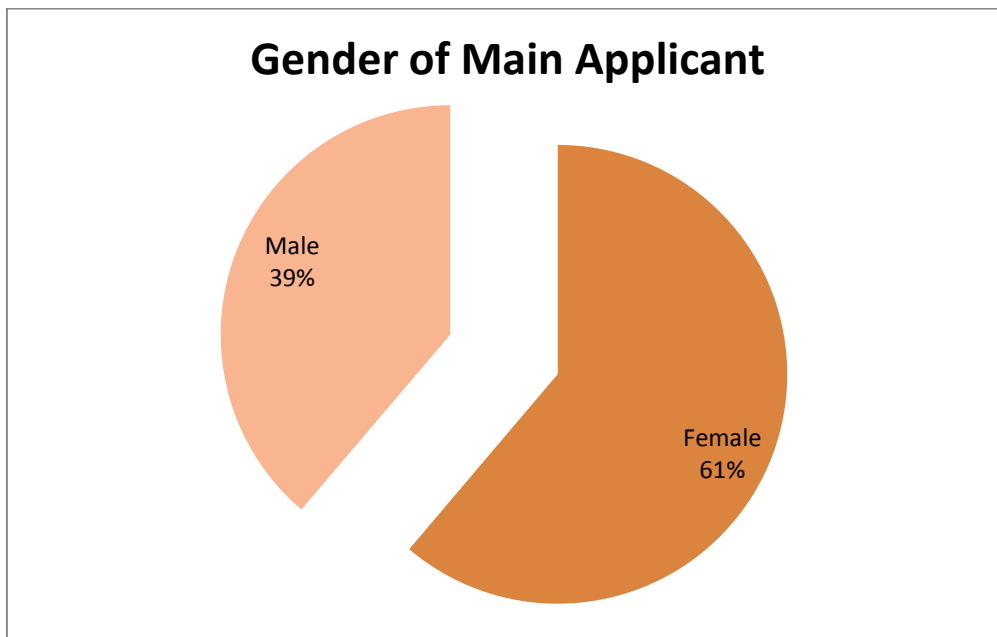


Figure 1 Gender as recorded from Southwark Homelessness Case Level Information Collection for 2018-2019

### Gender

In addition to the above percentages, clients who identified themselves as transgender or preferred not to say made up less than 1% of the total and have therefore been omitted from the above chart.

This is more tilted towards the female gender than the make up of the borough population. In the 2011 census<sup>3</sup> the gender breakdown in Southwark was seen to be 49% male and 51% female. This could be partly due to the prevalence of domestic abuse as a cause of homelessness in Southwark. Domestic abuse more commonly affects women than men.

We will also be monitoring this further as we will now have the rich HCLIC data which shows where the trends are developing.

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<https://communitysouthwark.org/sites/default/files/images/Southwark%20demography%20from%202011%20Census.pdf>

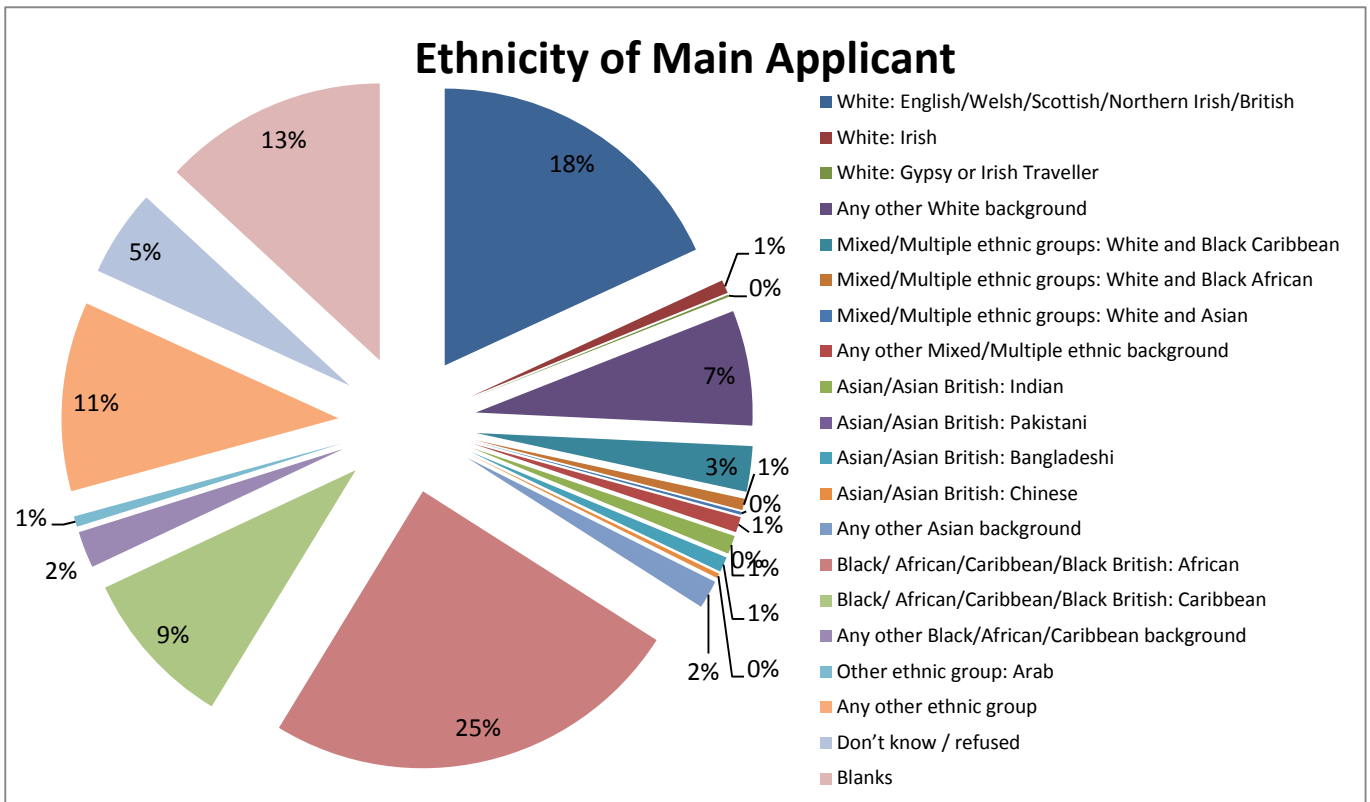


Figure 2 Ethnicity as recorded from Southwark Homelessness Case Level Information Collection for 2018-2019

## Ethnicity

Southwark is a diverse inner London borough with a population identifying as a number of different ethnicities. The H-CLIC data from 2018 – 2019 shows 1 in 4 customers approaching the service for homelessness assistance identify their broad ethnicity as African. While 18% of the approaches would identify as White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British. The above data closely reflects the ethnic make up shown on our housing register.

We will also be monitoring this further as now we have the HCLIC data which shows where the trends are developing as this is a new level of data.

The ethnicity data for Southwark in the 2011 census shows a different picture, customers of Black African background are heavily over represented in the homeless approaches for 2018 – 2019. This was highlighted in Southwark’s Homelessness Strategy 2018-2022: Equality and Health Analysis and mitigating actions continue to be followed. Actions set out in the Southwark Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2018-22 cover this issue too, with focus groups being held to listen to a diverse range of homeless households and address issues identified.

Ethnicity	Number of people	% of total
White	156,349	54.2
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	77,511	26.9
Asian/Asian British	27,192	9.4
Mixed/multiple ethnic group	17,778	6.2
Other ethnic group	9,453	3.3

Figure 3 Ethnicity as recorded in 2011 census of Southwark population<sup>4</sup>

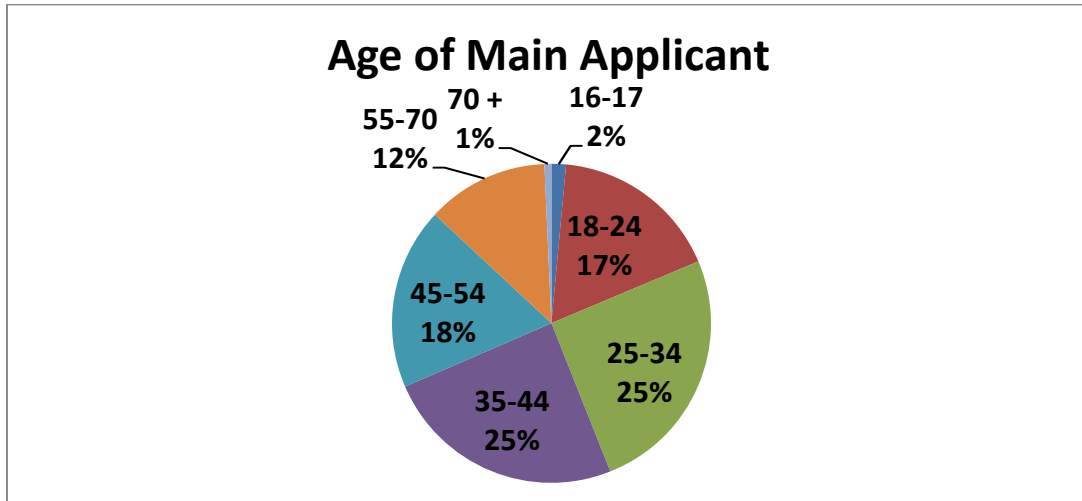


Figure 4 Age as recorded from Southwark Homelessness Case Level Information Collection for 2018-2019

### Age

The Age of Main Applicant data above is from the H-CLIC records 2018-2019 and shows a high proportion of households whose main applicant is aged between 25 to 44 years on approach to the council.

This highlights work still needs to be done with the younger population but isn't the most significant cohort in approaches so more resources will remain on preventing homelessness for families and singles from 25 to 44 age group. This will be monitored further as the new H-CLIC data shows where trends are developing.

The Age Group table contains data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS)<sup>5</sup> from 2016 and shows the age profile of the borough population. This corresponds with the data from the homeless approaches for 2018 – 2019, the bulk of the population is aged between 25 and 34.

Southwark has a relatively young, transitional population as high private rents and living costs make it an expensive place to live and a proportion of households migrate out of central London and Southwark in their thirties and move towards the suburbs.

Age group	Southwark	%
0-4	21,700	7%
5-9	18,700	6%
11-14	15,100	5%
15-19	14,900	5%
20-24	24,500	8%
<b>25-29</b>	<b>39,600</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>30-34</b>	<b>36,600</b>	<b>12%</b>
35-39	28,400	9%
40-44	22,400	7%
45-49	21,000	7%
50-54	19,200	6%
55-59	15,600	5%
60-64	10,500	3%
65-69	8,100	3%
70-74	5,900	2%
75-79	4,600	1%
80-84	3,300	1%
85-89	2,000	1%
90+	1,200	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>313,300</b>	

Figure 5 ONS Mid-year resident population estimates, 2016

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/5718/JSNA-Factsheet-2017-Protected-Characteristics-20171130.pdf>

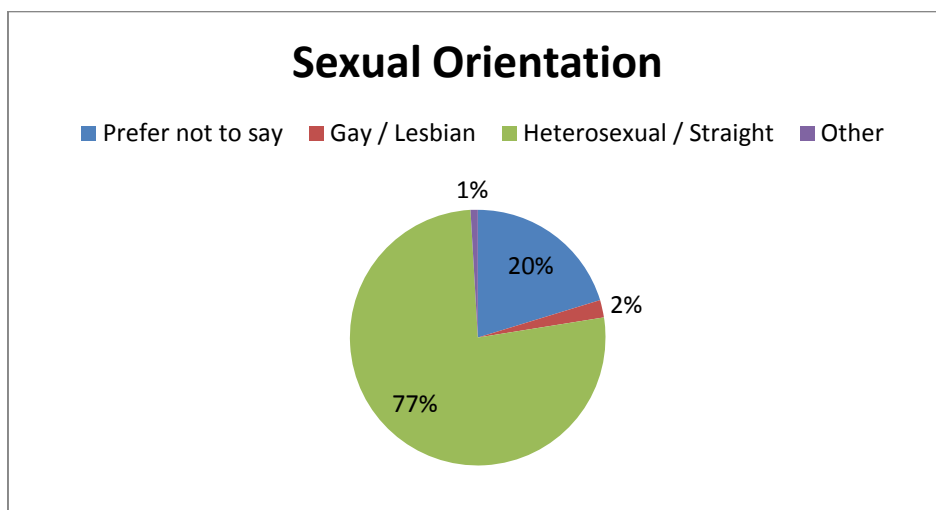


Figure 6 Sexual Orientation as recorded from Southwark Homelessness Case Level Information Collection for 2018-2019

### **Sexual Orientation**

There is an over representation of ‘prefer not to say’ answers in this H-CLIC 2018 – 2019 data. The Housing Solutions service has scheduled further training on supporting members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community who are threatened with or become homeless, which will hopefully lessen the number of clients preferring not to divulge this information.

<b>Sexual orientation</b>	<b>2017</b>
Heterosexual or straight	93.2%
Gay or lesbian	1.3%
Bisexual	0.7%
Lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB)	2.0%
Other	0.6%
Do not know or refuse	4.1%

Figure 7 ONS Annual Population Survey 2017

The above table from the ONS annual population survey in 2017<sup>6</sup> shows that Southwark’s homelessness approaches in 2018 - 2019 equal the national average generally, however this statistic could be low due to under reporting.

Other protected characteristics, e.g. marital status, pregnancy and disability, have not been included in this analysis as the data is not collected through HCLIC.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/sexuality>