

## HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness was identified as one of the key policy objectives of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001. Local Authorities have responsibilities relating to the prevention and alleviation of homelessness, particularly through the identification of appropriate strategies to tackle the problems of homelessness.

The figures within the table below show the total number of applications made to the local authority under the homeless person's legislation and includes those that might have priority need for accommodation if\*:

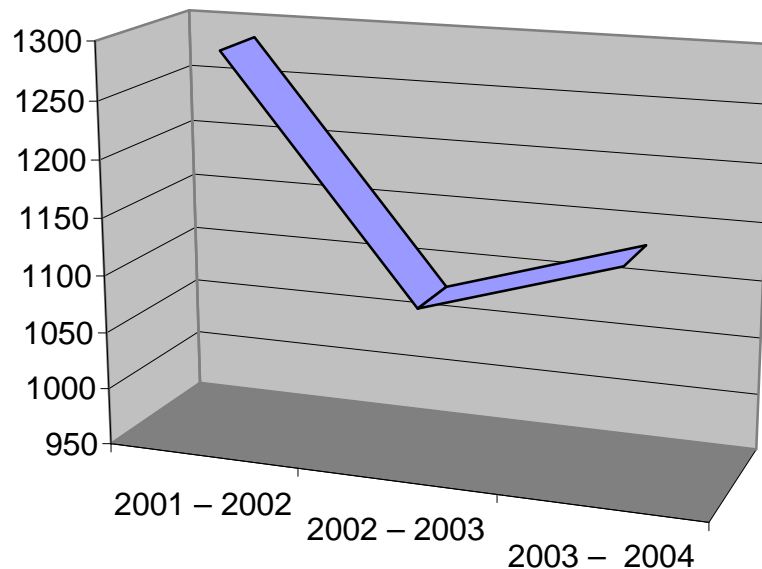
- It contains dependant children
  - A member of the household is pregnant
  - A member of the household is vulnerable because of old age, physical disability, mental illness/disability, youth or other special reasons.
  - The household is homeless due to an emergency
- \* There is more than the above list but these are the most common reasons. For full list get in touch with Aberdeenshire Council, Housing and Social Work.

### Homelessness in Aberdeenshire 2001/02 – 2003/04

Homelessness in Aberdeenshire	Total number of cases
1 April 2001 – 31 March 2002	1289
1 April 2002 – 31 March 2003	1083
1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004	1136
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3508</b>

Source: Aberdeenshire Council, Housing and Social Work

### Homelessness in Aberdeenshire

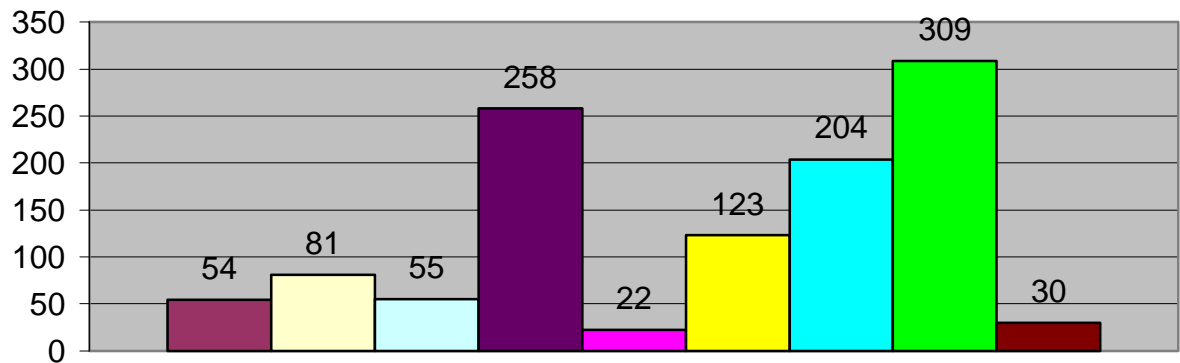
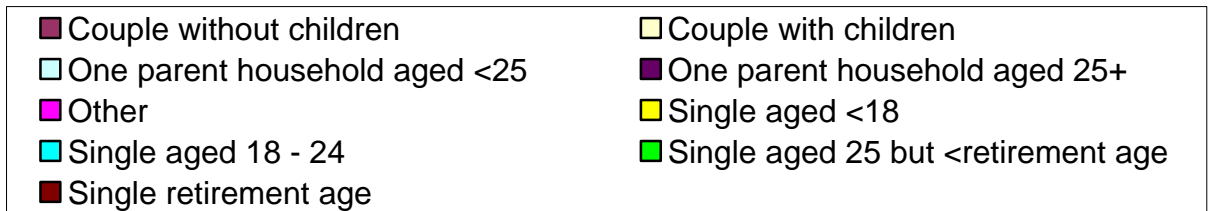


Source: Aberdeenshire Council, Housing and Social Work

There was a decrease of **16%** in the total number of cases in the period between period 2001/2002 and 2002/2003. This was then followed by an increase of **4.8%** in the total number of cases in the period between 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

The following statistics are for the financial year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

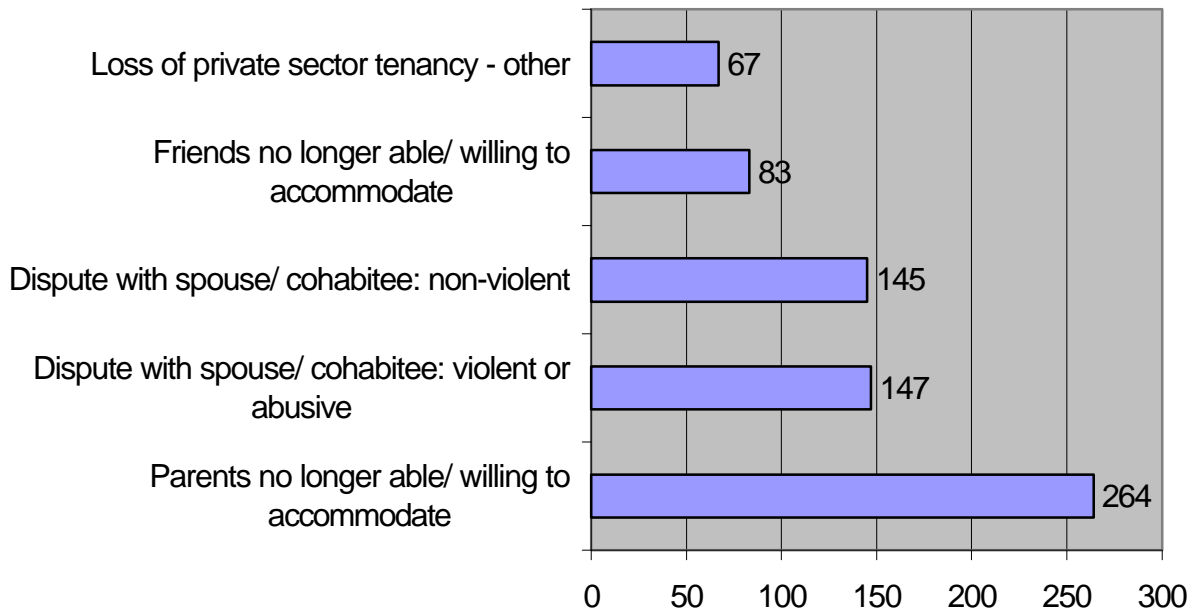
### Homelessness in Aberdeenshire by Household Type



Source: Aberdeenshire Council, Housing and Social Work

During the financial year 2003/04 in Aberdeenshire, the household type with the most claimants for homelessness was the '**Single aged 25 but < retirement age**'.

## Top Five Reasons for Homelessness in Aberdeenshire



Source: Aberdeenshire Council, Housing and Social Work

The most common reasons for homelessness in Aberdeenshire during 2003/2004 were

1. **Parents no longer able/ willing to accommodate**, which accounted for **27.2%** of all cases.
2. **Violent/ abusive disputes with a spouse/ cohabitee**, which accounted for **15.1%** of all cases.
3. **Non-violent disputes with a spouse/ cohabitee**, which accounted for **14.9%** of all cases.

### WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- There has been an increase of 4.8% in the total number of homelessness cases in the last financial year (2003-04).
- The age groups with the highest number of a presences are 'single aged 25 but below retirement age' and 'one parent household age 25+'.
- The most common reason for homelessness in Aberdeenshire is because Parents were no longer able/willing to accommodate them.