

# HOUSING FIRST MONITORING

YEAR 3 – 1 OCTOBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

EDITION 10

The data collected by the Scottish Government captures Housing First tenancies which started between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024. Prior to this date, data on Housing First tenancies in the pathfinder areas was independently assessed and published [here](#).

## KEY POINTS

**Tenancies in Scotland** - It is estimated that a total of 1,820<sup>1</sup> Housing First tenancies have started across Scotland at 31 March 2024.

**New Tenancies:** Between 1 October 2023 and 31 March 2024, 149 new Housing First tenancies were started, with an additional 26 reported that commenced before 1 October 2023, totalling 175 new tenancies. This brings the total number of tenancies started since 1 April 2021 to 986<sup>2</sup>.

**Active Tenancies:** Of tenancies started since 1 April 2021, 854 tenancies remain active. A total of 132 tenancies have ended, none due to eviction.

**Transition Phases:** Currently, 119 tenancies are in the 'step down'<sup>3</sup> phase, and 49 are in the 'stand down' phase.

**Household Composition:** Within active tenancies there are 867 adults and 144 children, with an additional 106 households having access to 167 children but without full-time custody.

**Average Waiting Time:** The average time from referral to permanent tenancy is 311 days, with only 18% moving into their tenancy within 50 days.

**Demographics:** 93% of Housing First households are single people. The majority of participants (39%) are aged 35-49.

**Sustainment Rate:** Tenancy sustainment<sup>4</sup> rates are at 89% over 12 months after entry.

<sup>1</sup> Housing First tenancies which started before 1 April 2021 and those part of the Housing First Pathfinder programme have been included in this figure (Estimated 834).

<sup>2</sup> The overall estimated numbers have been revised in line with the most up to date local reporting, including the removal of duplicate records.

<sup>3</sup> The 'step down' process involves agreement from the tenant and lead support worker that support is no longer required, and a regular check-up process is agreed so that support can re-engage if required. The 'stand down' stage occurs when Housing First support is no longer required.

<sup>4</sup> Tenancy sustainment rates are calculated by dividing the number of individuals who were still housed in a Housing First tenancy 12 months after they entered (since 1 April 2021) by the total number of individuals who have been housed at least that length of time ago and multiplying by 100. Tenants who have passed away are excluded from the denominator used in the analysis.

## HOUSING FIRST ACROSS SCOTLAND

As of 31 March 2024, 26 local authorities are operating a Housing First programme, with one additional authority implementing a similar programme. Five authorities are not planning on delivering a Housing First programme or have an alternative support programme in place.

This monitoring report captures Housing First tenancies which have begun across all 26 local authorities who are currently delivering Housing First. The latest data shows varying levels of tenancy delivery across different regions, with Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, and Aberdeenshire starting the highest number of tenancies in this reporting period.

### TENANCIES

149 new Housing First tenancies started across 21 local authorities between 1 October and 31 March 2024. Five local authorities reported zero new tenancies started during this period. This brings the total number of Housing First tenancies started to 986 between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024. All tenants are in a permanent tenancy and are not in temporary accommodation.

132 tenancies have now ended; 119 people have now moved into the 'step down' phase; and a further 49 are in the 'stand down' phase of Housing First.

**Table A: Total number of tenancies started in each local authority between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024 and latest 6-month return.**

1 April 21 – 31 March 24		1 October 23 – 31 March 24	
Local Authority	Tenancies	Local Authority	Tenancies
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>986<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>149</b>
Glasgow City	103	Fife	23
Renfrewshire	95	Glasgow City	19
Aberdeenshire	92	Aberdeenshire	17
Fife	75	City of Edinburgh	14
City of Edinburgh	61	Dundee City	13
Midlothian	60	Midlothian	10
North Ayrshire	59	Renfrewshire	8
North Lanarkshire	54	North Ayrshire	6
Dundee City	53	Scottish Borders	6
Inverclyde	46	Stirling	6
West Dunbartonshire	46	Aberdeen City	5
Stirling	35	North Lanarkshire	5
Aberdeen City	34	Inverclyde	<5
Falkirk	22	Moray	<5
South Lanarkshire	21	Argyll & Bute	<5
Scottish Borders	19	South Lanarkshire	<5
Dumfries & Galloway	17	Dumfries & Galloway	<5
Moray	16	Angus	<5
Angus	14	East Ayrshire	<5
South Ayrshire	14	Falkirk	<5
Argyll & Bute	11	Highland	<5
East Ayrshire	10	West Lothian	0
West Lothian	10	Western Isles	0
Western Isles	8	South Ayrshire	0
East Lothian	7	West Dunbartonshire	0
Highland	<5	East Lothian	0

Information was gathered on whether or not households had a homelessness application (HL1) and/or Housing Options (PREVENT1) approach recorded. Data shows that 91% of Housing First participants had a homelessness application, and 70% had a Housing Options<sup>6</sup> approach recorded.

<sup>5</sup> The overall estimated numbers have been revised in line with the most up to date local reporting, including the removal of duplicate records and inclusion of an additional 26 tenancies which started pre October 2023 but that were not included in previous reporting period.

<sup>6</sup> Housing Options is a process, which starts with housing advice when someone approaches a local authority with a housing problem. This means looking at an individual's options and choices in the widest sense.

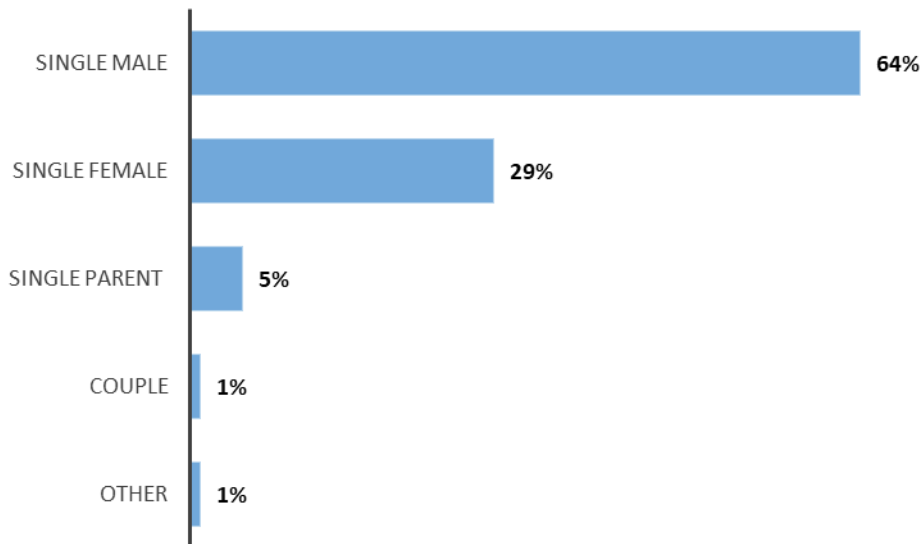
## HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The data for this section is based on the main Housing First participant in 'live', 'step down' or 'stand down' tenancies which began between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2024.

### Gender

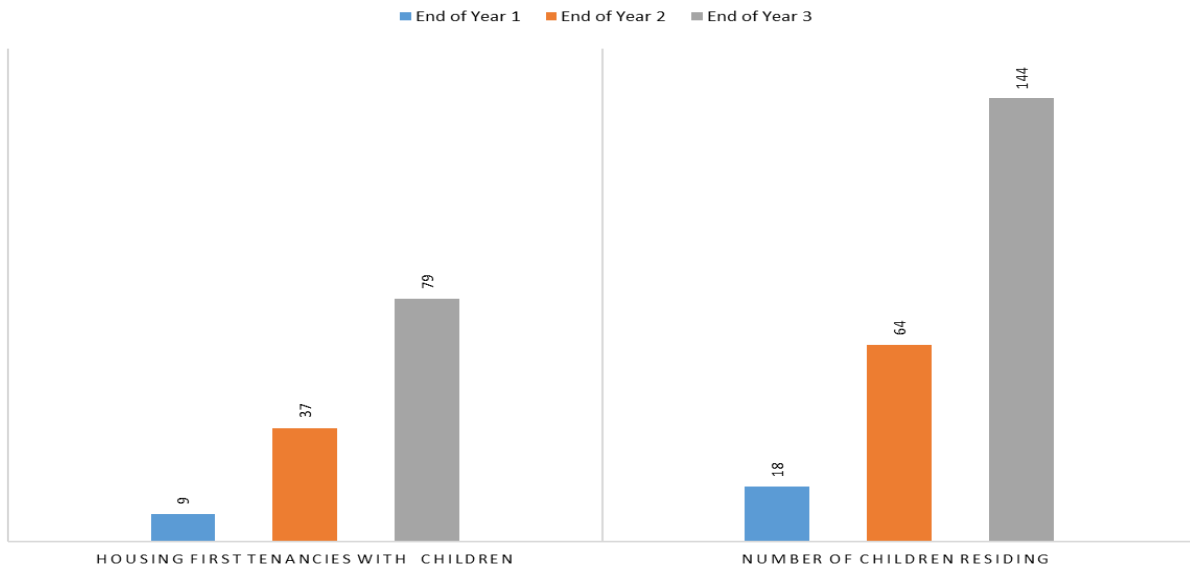
Across the 854 'live', 'step down' or 'stand down' tenancies, 66% of the main Housing First tenants are male and 34% are female.

**Chart 1: The household composition of Housing First tenancies.**



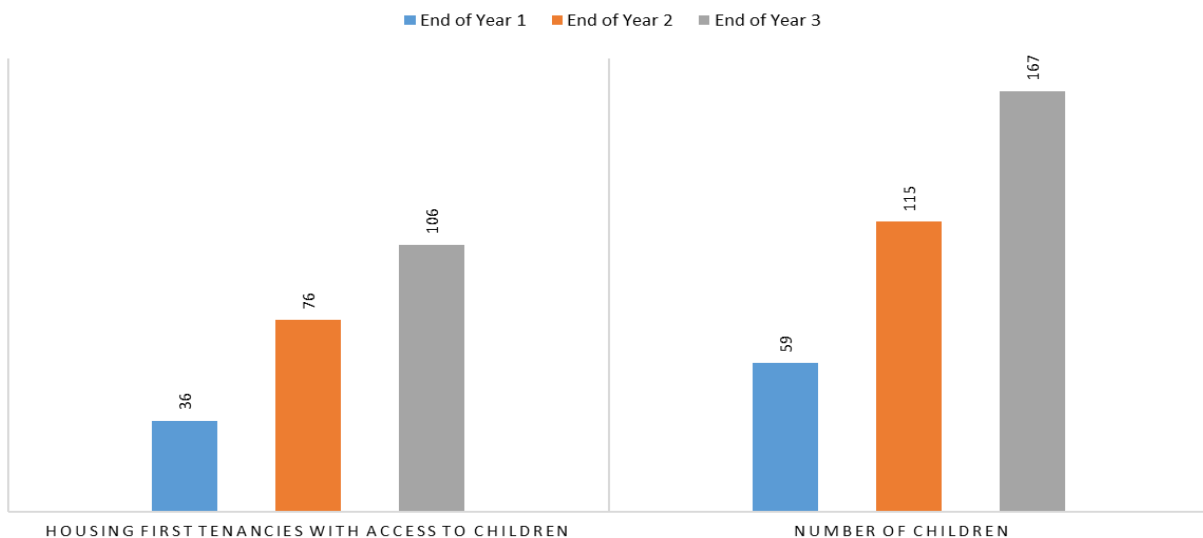
*Chart 1 note: 93% of Housing First households are single people. 'Single Parent' includes both Male and Female data.*

**Chart 2: Housing First tenancies with children**



Out of the 854 active Housing First tenancies, 79 include 144 children. The number of children residing in Housing First tenancies has significantly increased from 18 on 31 March 2022 to 144 by 31 March 2024, representing a rise of 126 children in 24 months.

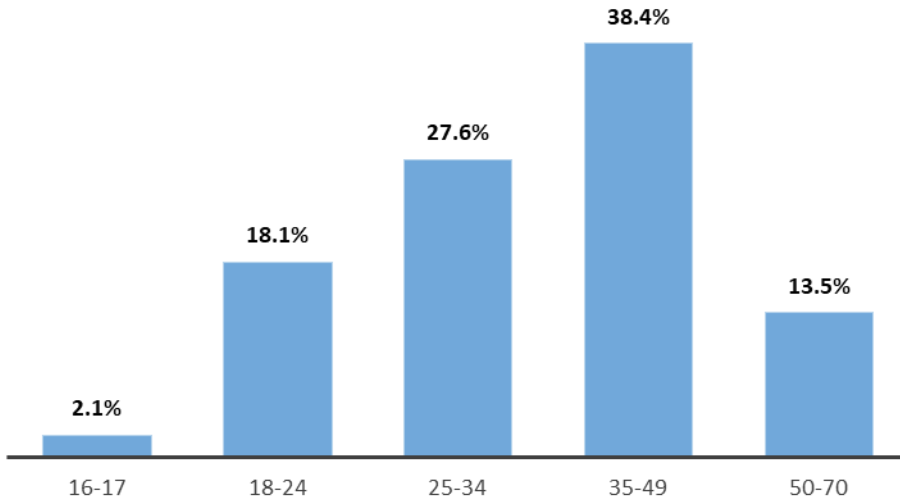
**Chart 3: Housing First tenancies with access to children**



106 households have access to 167 children but do not have full-time custody.

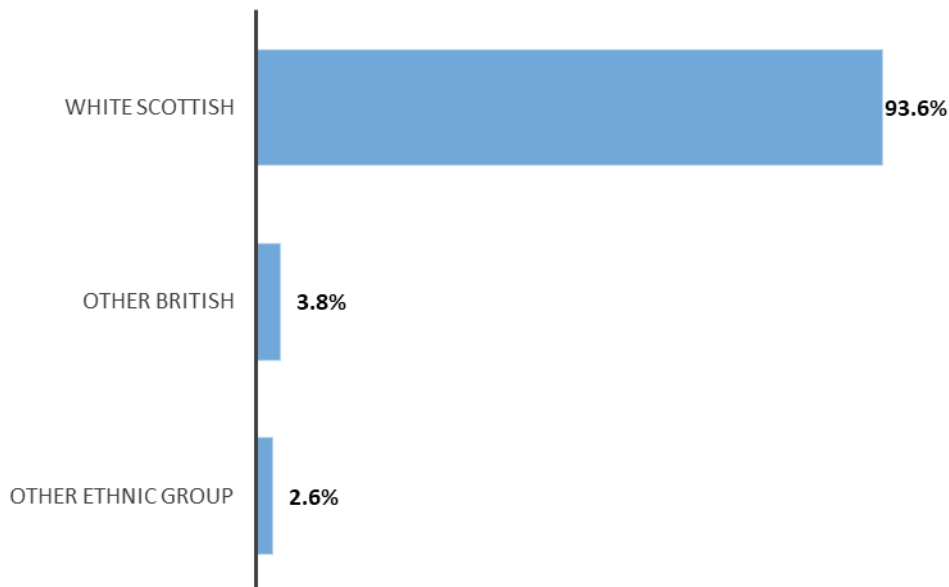
## Age

Chart 4: Age of main Housing First participant at tenancy start date.



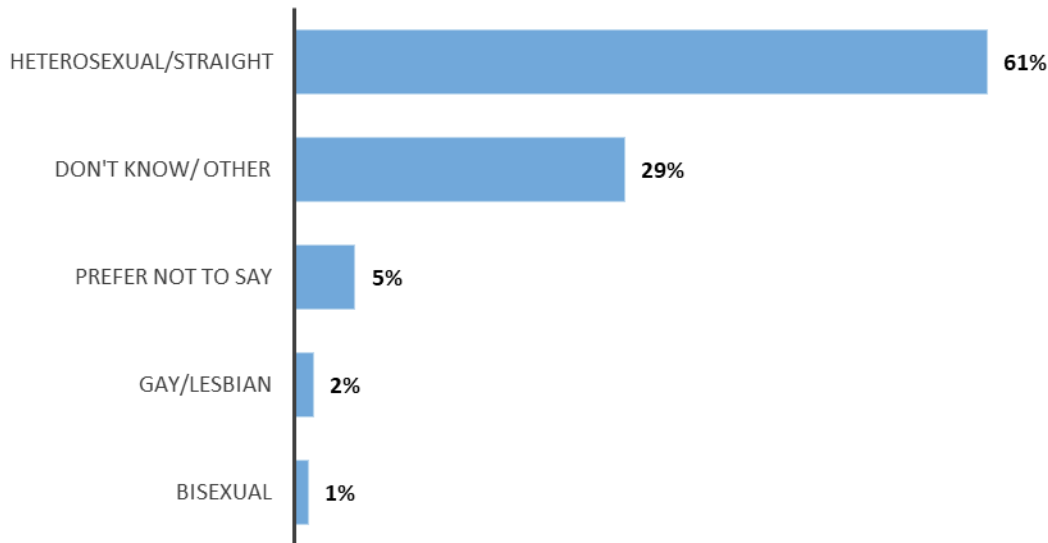
## Ethnicity

Chart 5: Ethnicity of the main Housing First tenant



## Sexual Orientation

**Chart 6: Sexual orientation of the main Housing First tenant**

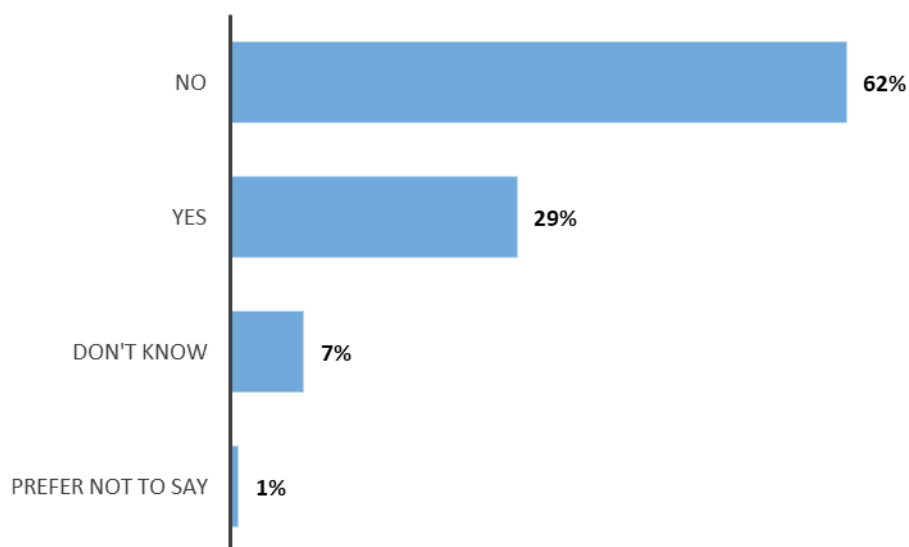


*Chart 6 note: Chart percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

Local authorities have been asked to collect information on the sexual orientation of the main Housing First participant. Due to this data not being collected in some local authorities and the potentially sensitive nature of this question, many responses were initially recorded as unknown.

## Disability

**Chart 7: Proportion of Housing First participants with a disability.**

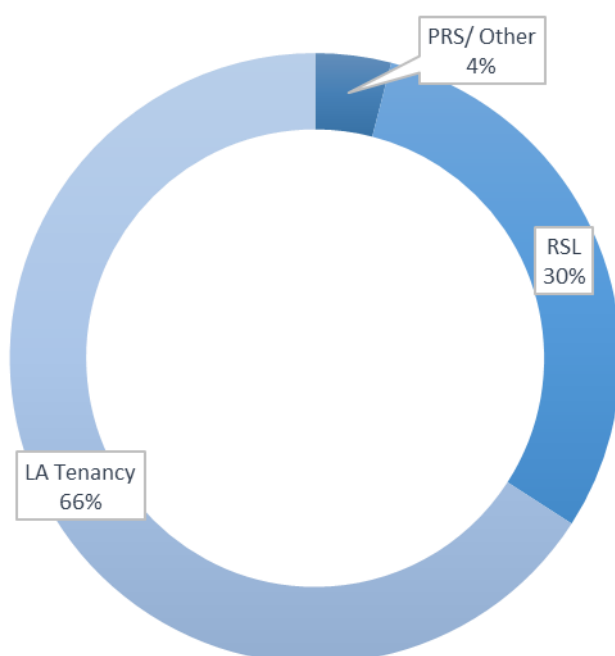


*Chart 7 note: Chart percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

## HOUSING FIRST TENANCIES

For the 'live', 'step down' or 'stand down' tenancies which have begun since 1 April 2021, the average length of time between participants being referred for Housing First support and being offered a permanent tenancy is 284 days across the 26 local authorities. This has increased from 231 days in the previous biannual report. The average time from referral to permanent tenancy has increased to 311 days from 257 days.

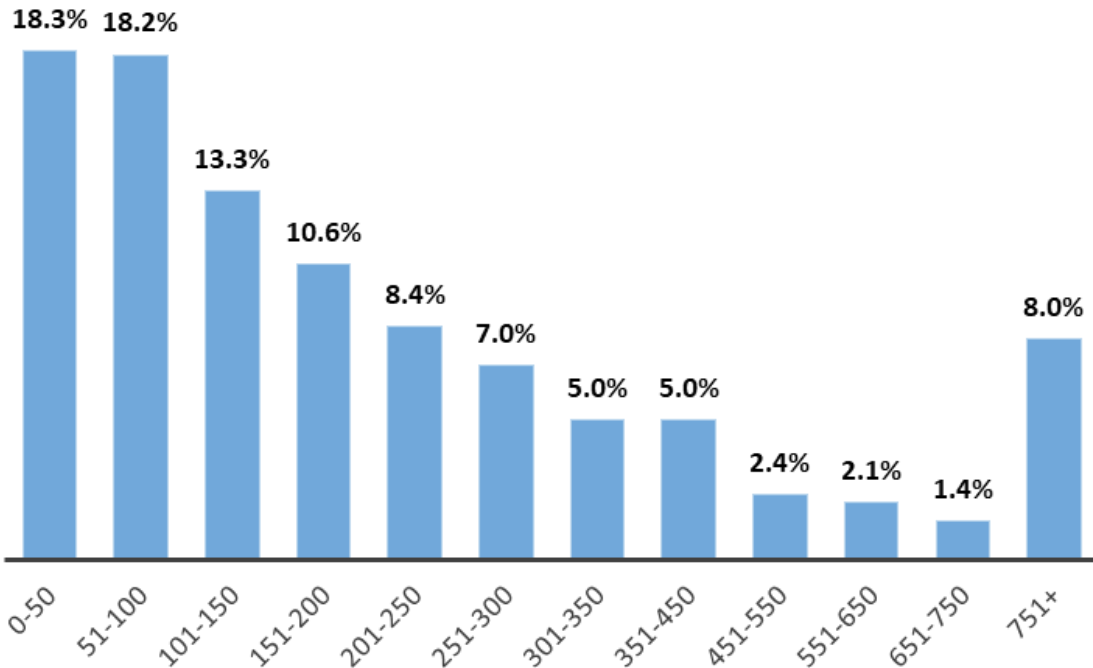
**Chart 8: Tenancy type of 'live', 'step down' or 'stand down' tenancies.**



Of the 854 'live', 'step down' or 'stand down' tenancies, the proportion of local authority tenancies has decreased by 2% to 66%. Registered social landlords (RSLs) have provided a steady proportion of Housing First tenancies over the last three reporting periods. 29 tenancies are either the private rented sector (PRS) or 'Other'.



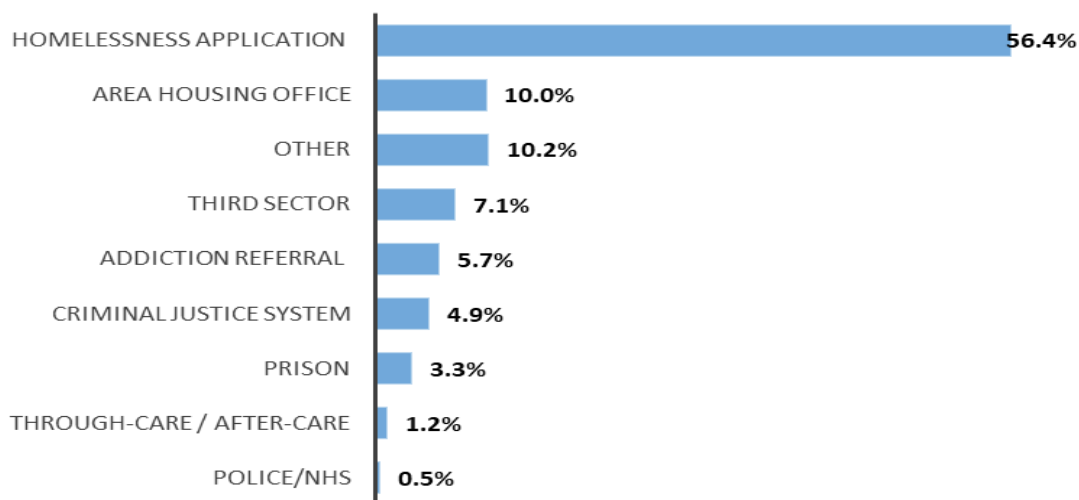
**Chart 9: Banded national average in days to access a permanent tenancy from referral date.**



**Chart 9** shows that just over 18% of Housing First participants move into their tenancies within 50 days. The proportion of participants waiting over 350 days is just under 19%. This is a slight drop from 20% in the previous reporting period. This average has been calculated on a national basis due to the small number of tenancies in some local authority areas at present.

## Referral Route

**Chart 10: Referral route of Housing First participants.**



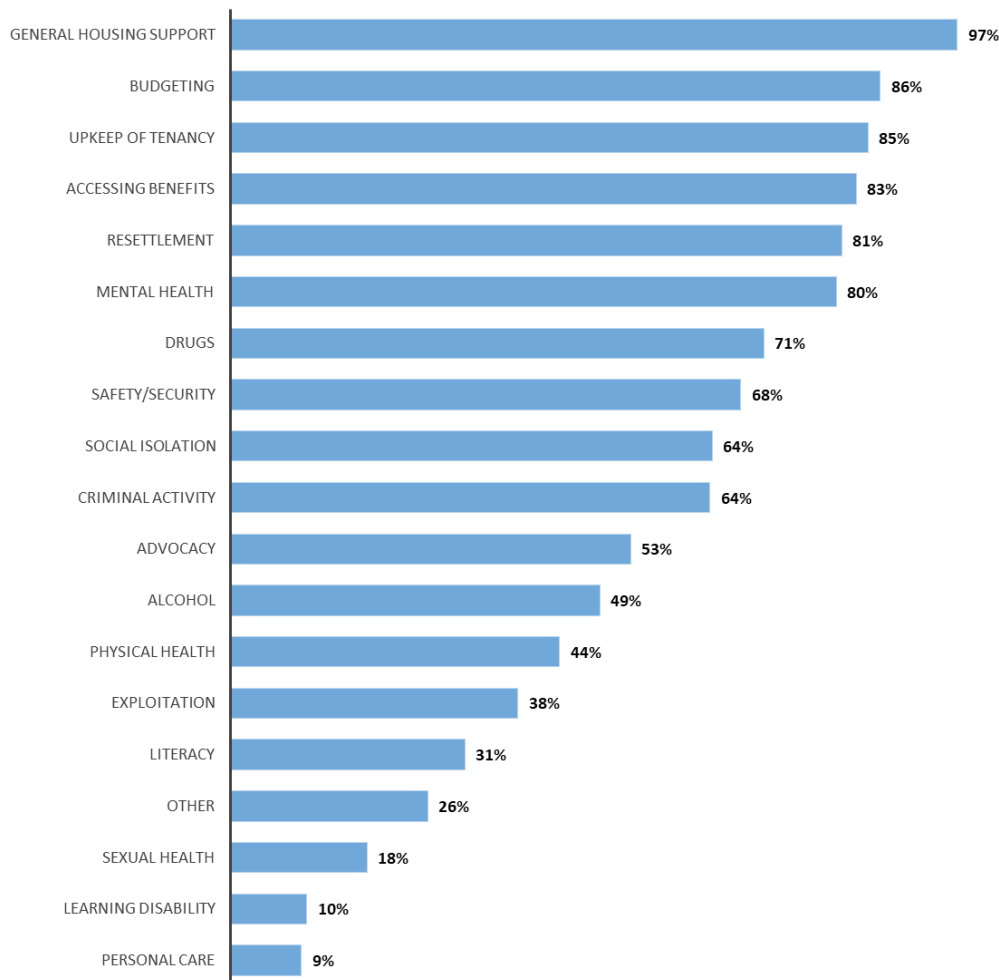
*Chart 10 note: Chart percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

## HOUSING FIRST SUPPORT

The data for this section is based on the main Housing First participant in 686 tenancies where support continues to be provided, and the tenancy is 'live'. This excludes tenancies which are in the 'step down' or 'stand down' phase.

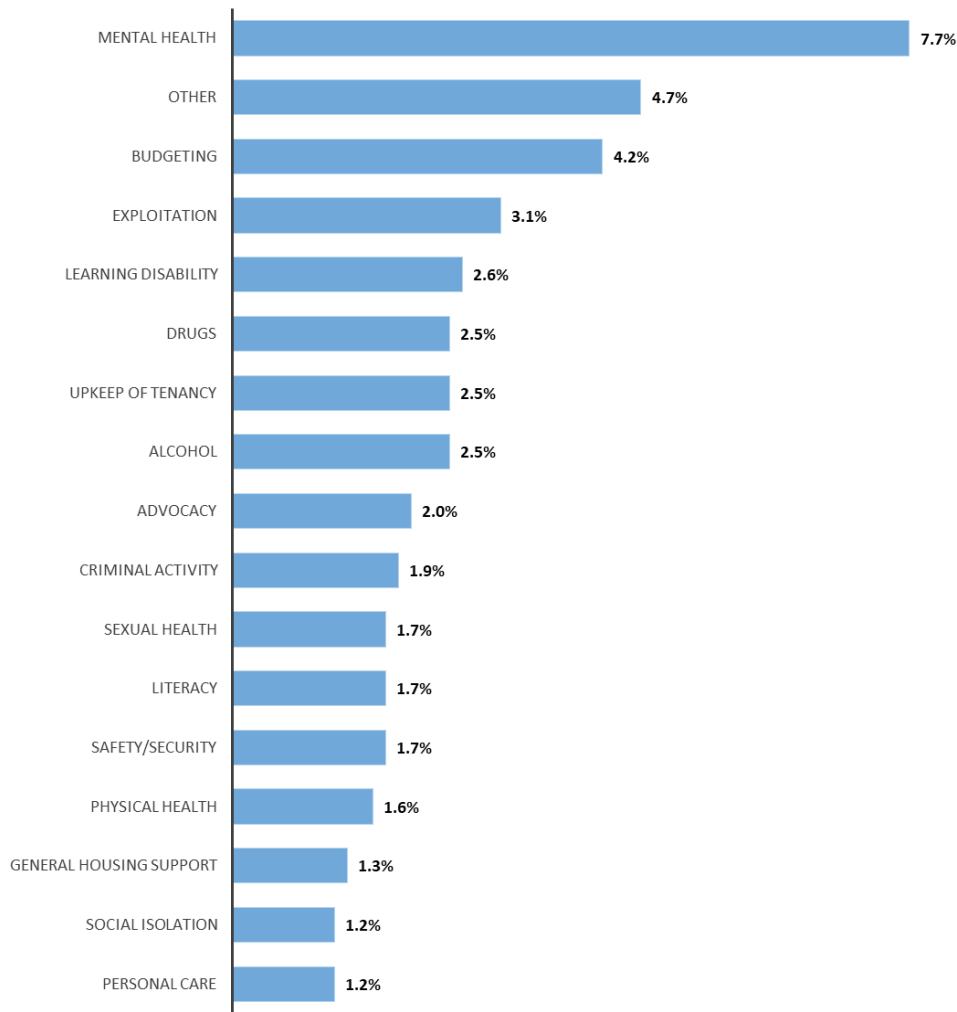
Local authorities were asked to record the support that each Housing First participant is currently receiving or has previously received. Given the small numbers in a number of categories, information on 'current' and 'previous' support needs have been combined for disclosure control purposes.

**Chart 11: Proportion of Housing First participants with support needs.**



**Chart 11** shows the proportion of participants who were recorded as having a 'current' or 'previous' support need across 19 categories.

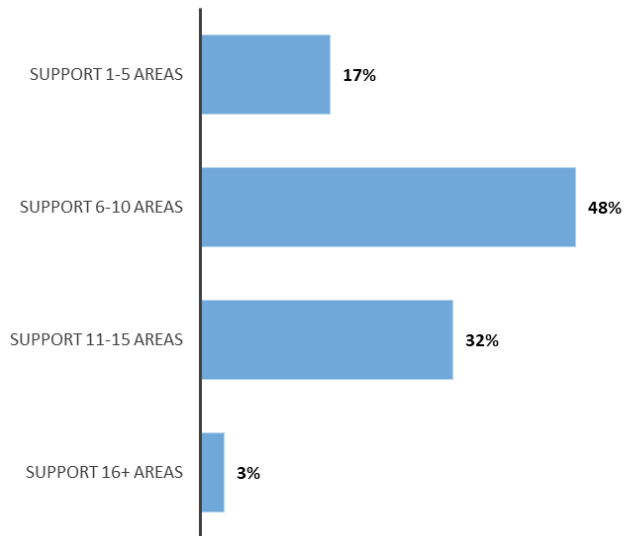
**Chart 12: Proportion of Housing First participants with support needs which are not catered for.**



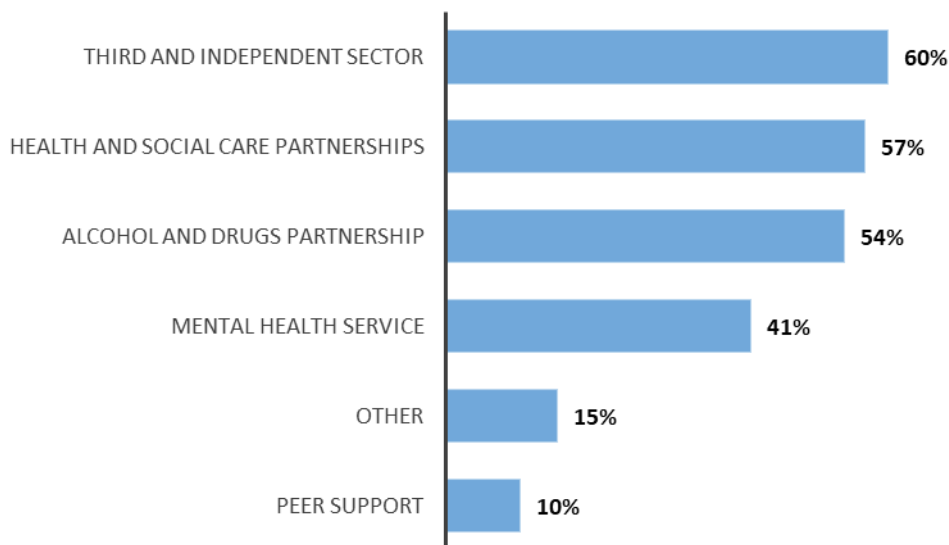
*Chart 12 Note: The 'Other' category includes Housing First participants who have unmet support needs across 'Accessing Benefits', 'Resettlement' and 'Other' categories. Due to the small numbers within each area, we are unable to provide a more detailed breakdown.*

**Chart 12** shows where support was required, but not provided, for Housing First participants across the same 19 categories. Nearly eight percent of participants require mental health support which is not provided, this is a slight reduction on the last reporting period.

**Chart 13: Housing First participants with current multiple support needs.**

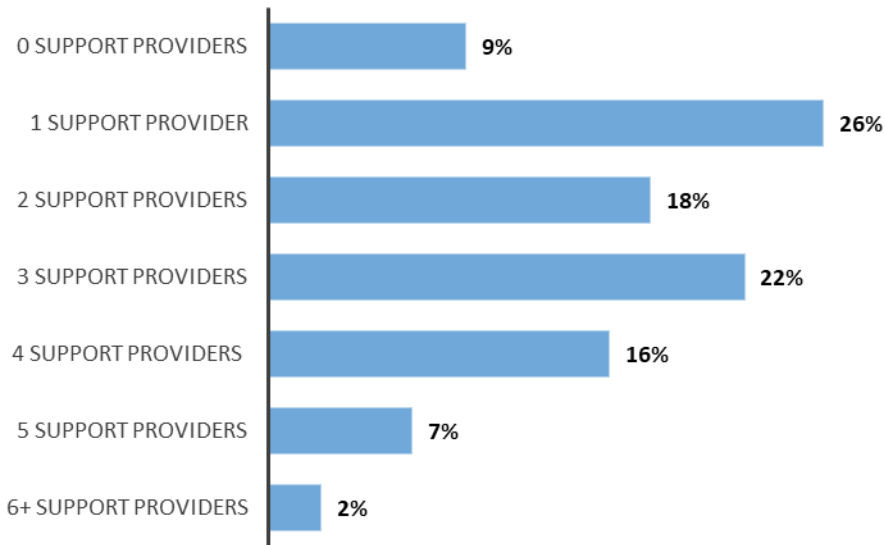


**Chart 14: Housing First participants receiving support by provider.**



**Chart 14** shows a breakdown of the services involved in delivering support to Housing First tenancies.

**Chart 15: Housing First participants receiving support from multiple support providers.**



*Chart 15 note: Informal support was also provided for 35% of Housing First participants.*

**Chart 15** provides detail of the number of partners providing Housing First support. In 26% of Housing First tenancies, support was provided solely by one provider, likely where a local authority has undertaken a procurement exercise to commission Housing First support from an external provider. Nine percent of participants were recorded as having no support provider and 35% receive informal support.

### Employment status

20 Housing First participants are employed either full-time or part-time, and 10 participants are engaged in voluntary work.

## Summary

The Housing First initiative in Scotland has shown substantial progress in providing stable housing to individuals. With 986 tenancies started since 1 April 21 and an impressive 89% sustainment rate over 12 months, the programme demonstrates effective support and housing stability for participants. The significant engagement across 26 local authorities highlights a widespread commitment to addressing homelessness through permanent housing solutions. However, the programme faces challenges, such as long waiting periods for tenancy placement and unmet support needs, particularly in mental health services. Addressing these gaps could further enhance the programme's effectiveness and provide more comprehensive support to participants.