

# Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

Minister for Housing  
January 2026

R.3/2026

## Contents

|                                                         |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Ministerial Foreword .....</b>                       | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Advancing the Jersey Homelessness Strategy .....</b> | <b>4</b>  |
| Understanding and defining homelessness .....           | 4         |
| The Housing Advice Service .....                        | 5         |
| Access to social housing .....                          | 5         |
| Supply of social housing .....                          | 6         |
| Emergency and supported accommodation .....             | 7         |
| Residential tenancies legislation .....                 | 7         |
| Violence Against Women and Girls .....                  | 8         |
| Free GP access .....                                    | 8         |
| Cross-sector partnership .....                          | 9         |
| Working with private landlords .....                    | 9         |
| <b>Strengthening our response to homelessness .....</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| Early intervention .....                                | 10        |
| Increasing access to accommodation .....                | 10        |
| Reducing our reliance on temporary accommodation .....  | 11        |
| Multi-agency collaboration .....                        | 11        |
| Enhancing data and evidence .....                       | 11        |
| Partnership with the Homelessness Cluster .....         | 12        |
| <b>The role of homelessness legislation .....</b>       | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Appendix: Supporting data .....</b>                  | <b>13</b> |

### Ministerial Foreword

Addressing Jersey's housing crisis has been at the heart of my Ministerial priorities since taking office. A key element of this work is addressing the plight of homelessness – a complex challenge that requires coordinated action across government, homelessness charities and social housing providers.

The publication of the *Jersey Homelessness Strategy* in 2020 marked a turning point in how we respond to this challenge. The strategy has improved support for Islanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, expanded accommodation options, and provided a stronger evidence base to understand the scale and nature of homelessness in Jersey.

These initiatives reflect my commitment to ensuring that everyone in Jersey has access to affordable, secure and good-quality accommodation.

This report outlines the progress made in delivering the strategy and identifies the areas where we must focus our efforts in the coming years to build a more coordinated and preventative approach to addressing homelessness.



**Deputy Sam Mézec**  
**Minister for Housing**

### Advancing the Jersey Homelessness Strategy

Since the publication of the *Jersey Homelessness Strategy*<sup>1</sup> in 2020, a range of actions have been implemented to strengthen support for Islanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Progress has been made across the following priority areas:

- **Defining and understanding homelessness:** A clear definition of homelessness has been adopted, providing a consistent framework for identifying and supporting individuals.
- **Improving evidence on homelessness:** Regular data collection and reporting have been introduced to build a more accurate picture of the scale and nature of homelessness.
- **Creating a housing advice hub:** A dedicated Housing Advice Service has been established as a single point of contact for Islanders seeking housing support, including those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- **Establishing a complex needs team:** Progress has been made towards establishing dedicated support for individuals with complex needs. Current efforts are aimed at enhancing collaboration with health, justice and social care services to deliver integrated housing and support.
- **Providing a housing safety net for all:** Emergency and temporary accommodation options have been expanded to ensure that more short-term accommodation options exist.
- **Strengthening the role and supply of social housing:** Work has continued to increase the supply of social housing, widen eligibility for social housing through the Affordable Housing Gateway and prioritise homelessness applications appropriately.
- **Supporting private sector tenants and landlords to foster positive relationships:** The introduction of the Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Amendment Law 2025 has been a major step forward in improving standards and relationships between tenants and landlords in the rented sector.

The following sections provide an overview of the actions taken across each priority area and set out the next steps required to further develop Jersey's response to homelessness.

### Understanding and defining homelessness

In October 2022, Jersey adopted a formal definition of homelessness<sup>2</sup> based on the *European Typology of Homelessness and Housing Exclusion* (ETHOS). This definition recognises four categories of homelessness:

- Rooflessness
- Houselessness
- Insecure housing
- Inadequate housing

---

<sup>1</sup> *Jersey Homelessness Strategy* (2020) <https://homelessness.je/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Jersey-Homelessness-Strategy-January-2022.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Homeless definition framework*, Minister for Housing and Communities (October 2022): <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Home%20and%20community/Homeless%20Definition.pdf>

## **Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey**

Endorsed by the Homelessness Cluster, this definition now guides service provision and data collection. It informs, for example, the Affordable Housing Gateway's banding system, ensuring that applications from households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are prioritised for social housing.

Importantly, the definition highlights that homelessness in Jersey can take many forms – not only rough sleeping but also insecure or inadequate housing. This broader understanding reinforces the need for a range of tailored accommodation and support options to meet the diverse needs of Islanders living in vulnerable housing situations.

### **The scale and nature of homelessness**

Improved data on the extent and nature of homelessness in Jersey is now being collected through the Housing Advice Service and our partners – FREEDA, JAYF, Sanctuary Trust and The Shelter Trust.

Since October 2024, quarterly *Homelessness in Jersey*<sup>3</sup> reports have been published, providing valuable insights into the demographics of those affected, the causes of homelessness and patterns of service usage.

This enhanced evidence base is helping us shape more effective policies and improve services for Islanders experiencing homelessness. The reports also play an important role in raising public awareness about homelessness in Jersey and the support available to those in need.

I am grateful to the organisations that dedicate time and effort to providing this data and for their ongoing partnership in producing these reports.

### **The Housing Advice Service**

The Housing Advice Service (HAS) now provides enhanced support for Islanders experiencing housing difficulties or homelessness. In recent years, the team has grown in both capacity and expertise, enabling a more proactive, responsive and person-centred approach to housing assistance.

The HAS is expanding its outreach capacity, engaging directly with individuals in the community to identify housing issues early and deliver tailored interventions. This early engagement helps prevent crises and promotes long-term housing stability.

Stronger collaboration between the HAS, other government agencies, homelessness service providers and social housing providers has created a more integrated and coordinated approach to resolving the complex housing challenges faced by Islanders.

By developing solutions that reflect individual circumstances, the HAS is better positioned to provide support before a crisis point is reached. This model of support places government in a stronger position to prevent homelessness and promote long-term housing stability.

### **Access to social housing**

Recent changes to the eligibility criteria for accessing social housing through the Affordable Housing Gateway have played an important role in preventing homelessness by widening access to secure, affordable homes for more Islanders.

---

<sup>3</sup> *Homelessness in Jersey* quarterly reports, Minister for Housing: <https://www.gov.je/government/pages/statesreports.aspx?reportid=5958>

## Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

Key changes introduced through the *Roadmap for improving access to social housing in Jersey*<sup>4</sup> (July 2023) include:

- Lowering the minimum age for applicants without children: the threshold was gradually reduced from 40 to 35, then to 30, and most recently to 25 in September 2024.
- Raising income thresholds: updated income limits now allow more households with higher incomes to qualify for social housing.

Eligibility criteria has also been revised to prioritise households experiencing immediate housing crises, including those at risk of homelessness, ensuring timely access to accommodation for those at risk of homelessness<sup>5</sup>.

A recent update to the 2023 *Roadmap*<sup>6</sup> details the next phase of actions aimed at making social housing more accessible and responsive to Islanders' needs. The policy addendum introduces several important changes:

- Lowering the age threshold for applicants without children from 25 to 18.
- Introducing a new general needs band so that households who do not meet priority criteria can access social housing, subject to availability.
- Removing restrictions on hardship cases, allowing those granted Entitled status on hardship grounds to access social housing.
- Reducing the continuous on-Island residency requirement for Entitled persons from six months to three months.

Lowering the age threshold promotes fairness and inclusivity by recognising the housing needs of younger adults who may be living independently or transitioning from education or family homes. This change helps to prevent housing insecurity, supports early stability and reduces reliance on emergency or temporary accommodation.

Removing restrictions on hardship cases provides individuals granted Entitled status on hardship grounds with the opportunity to access affordable and stable housing. This change is designed to reduce the risk of homelessness, ease financial pressures and address the health and social challenges that are often associated with housing insecurity.

Together, these changes break down barriers to secure housing and enable individuals to access accommodation before reaching crisis point.

## Supply of social housing

Delivering more homes for Islanders remains a key priority as the most effective way to meet housing need and address homelessness by ensuring a sufficient supply of homes.

Since its establishment in 2014, Andium Homes has delivered more than 1,400 new homes, with a further 583 homes for social rent or purchase either under construction or about to commence as of January 2026. These developments include a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom

---

<sup>4</sup> *Roadmap for improving access to social housing in Jersey*, Minister for Housing and Communities (July 2023): <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/Roadmap%20for%20improved%20access%20to%20social%20housing%20in%20Jersey%20July%202023.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> *Updated eligibility criteria for renting social housing*, Minister for Housing (December 2024): <https://statesassembly.je/getmedia/08dfb36d-3dd5-467f-b010-182df81b2a72/R-183-2024.pdf?ext=.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> *Roadmap for improving access to social housing in Jersey – policy addendum*, Minister for Housing (December 2025): <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/Roadmap%20for%20improving%20access%20to%20social%20housing%20-%20addendum.pdf>

## Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

properties, creating opportunities for high-priority applicants on the Affordable Housing Gateway to secure homes more quickly and avoid housing instability.

Andium Homes also manages the Partnership Pathway, which supports vulnerable Islanders with specific accommodation needs. The Pathway facilitates access to social housing alongside tailored support packages delivered in collaboration with a wide range of agencies, ensuring that individuals receive the assistance they need to access and maintain stable housing.

### Emergency and supported accommodation

Emergency and temporary accommodation is a vital part of Jersey's homelessness response, providing immediate safety and stability for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These services are essential to prevent rough sleeping, support recovery and enable tailored interventions for those with complex and multiple needs.

The Government of Jersey works in partnership with homelessness service providers, social housing providers and other agencies to deliver emergency housing options. Funding is provided both directly through grants to homelessness service providers and indirectly via Income Support arrangements, ensuring that those most in need have access to appropriate accommodation and support.

Recent achievements include the opening of Venetia House, a 21-bed women-only facility operated by the Shelter Trust, and FREEDA's new safe house, which offers secure accommodation for women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

Further arrangements are being developed in partnership with Andium Homes, the Housing Advice Service and other government agencies under the *Jersey Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements* (JMAPPA). These arrangements aim to meet the housing needs of Islanders with complex health, social and welfare needs, reducing public risk and reliance on unsuitable temporary accommodation.

### Residential tenancies legislation

A major step in preventing homelessness has been the reform of Jersey's tenancy legislation. The approval of the *Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Amendment Law*<sup>7</sup> by the States Assembly in September 2025 delivered one of my key ministerial priorities to improve the experience of renters, recognising the vital role that the private rented sector plays in housing many Islanders.

This new legislation aligns with one of the eight priority areas identified in the *Jersey Homelessness Strategy* – “support private sector tenants and landlords to promote positive relationships”. It reflects the understanding that insecure tenancies and poor rental practices can increase the risk of homelessness<sup>8</sup>. Key measures introduced include:

- **Simplified tenancy structures:** periodic tenancies will become the standard lease arrangement, offering tenants greater stability and clarity.
- **Fair grounds for possession and notice periods:** clear and proportionate grounds for possession, alongside revised minimum notice periods, will protect tenants from arbitrary eviction and allow time to secure alternative accommodation.

---

<sup>7</sup> *Residential Tenancy (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 2025*, Minister for Housing (September 2025): <https://www.jerseylaw.je/laws/enacted/Pages/L-23-2025.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> See Appendix – Figure 1: *pre-service living situations*. This figure shows that the private rented sector is the second most common pre-service living situation for service users accessing support services when facing homelessness.

## Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

- **Rent stabilisation:** new measures will curb excessive and unjustified rent increases, reducing the financial pressure that can lead to homelessness. To ensure effective oversight, a dedicated Rent Tribunal will be established to adjudicate on rental disputes.

I am grateful for the support expressed by the Homelessness Cluster for this law<sup>9</sup>. I look forward to working closely with the Cluster to implement these reforms and ensure they operate effectively alongside broader efforts to address homelessness.

### Violence Against Women and Girls

In November 2024, I published a housing-focused response<sup>10</sup> to the recommendations of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Taskforce report. This response recognised the devastating impact of domestic abuse – particularly the heightened risk of homelessness faced by women and children – and made clear that access to affordable, safe and secure housing must never be a barrier for victim-survivors seeking to rebuild their lives.

The Q3 2025 *Homelessness in Jersey Report*<sup>11</sup> shows that being at risk of, having experienced or escaping domestic abuse is the main recorded reason for homelessness amongst females in 29% of all cases<sup>12</sup>. This underlines the urgency of action in this area.

Direct support for victim-survivors has been strengthened through regular drop-in sessions at the FREEDA safe house with the Housing Advice Service, and the appointment of a specialist officer within the HAS as a single point of contact for domestic abuse referrals.

Policy improvements also now ensure that victim-survivors can be prioritised for social housing, even if they fall outside standard eligibility criteria. The recent removal of restrictions on hardship cases, allowing those granted Entitled status on hardship grounds to access social housing, will further strengthen housing security for those most at risk.

Several areas remain under development and will require sustained focus, working alongside FREEDA. Work is ongoing to assess the demand for follow-on accommodation and to secure suitable housing options, particularly for families with 'Registered' residential status, who face additional barriers in accessing suitable housing when moving on from the FREEDA safe house.

Maintaining a collaborative partnership with FREEDA is essential. Their frontline expertise and deep understanding of the lived experiences of victim-survivors are critical to designing effective housing solutions that promote safety, stability and independence.

### Free GP access

Free GP services have been extended to residents in homeless accommodation, helping to remove social or financial barriers to accessing primary healthcare. This initiative forms part of broader efforts to provide a housing safety net and improve support for vulnerable Islanders.

The Q1 2025 *Homelessness in Jersey Report* highlights that the GP clinic at Aztec House, operated by The Shelter Trust, was the most frequently accessed external service amongst

---

<sup>9</sup> Letter from the Homelessness Cluster to the Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel on the Draft Residential Tenancy (Jersey) Amendment Law 202- Review (16 May 2025): <https://statesassembly.je/getmedia/9d87b1e5-6aaa-43be-87b1-b7f7494f9cbe/2025-05-16-The-Homelessness-Cluster.pdf?ext=.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> *Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) housing policy response*, Minister for Housing (November 2024): <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Caring%20and%20support/Response%20to%20VAWG%20taskforce%20report%20from%20Minister%20of%20Housing.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> *Homelessness in Jersey Reports*, Minister for Housing: <https://www.gov.je/government/pages/statesreports.aspx?reportid=5958>

<sup>12</sup> See Appendix – Table 1: *reasons for homelessness amongst females by percentage (%)*. This table shows that the main reason for homelessness amongst women was 'at risk of, has experienced, or is escaping domestic abuse' at 29%. 'Breakdown of relationships – abusive behaviour' was the fourth most common reason at 11%, meaning that abusive behaviour accounts for 40% of the reasons for homelessness amongst women.

## Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

homeless individuals, accounting for 22% of all referrals in the first quarter of 2025<sup>13</sup>. The clinic remains a critical resource, ranking as the third most accessed service in Q3 2025, representing 14% of all external referrals<sup>14</sup>.

This underscores the importance of embedding healthcare within accommodation settings, reducing barriers to care and improving health outcomes for those experiencing homelessness.

### Cross-sector partnership

The HAS continues to expand its role, focusing on coordinated support for emergency and supported housing needs. It works closely with homelessness service providers such as FREEDA, JAYF, Sanctuary Trust and The Shelter Trust to deliver a joined-up response through active outreach, crisis prevention and tailored housing solutions.

The Homelessness Cluster brings together government agencies, homelessness service providers and social housing providers to deliver the *Jersey Homelessness Strategy*. Its purpose is to foster collaboration, share information and ensure that services meet the needs of Islanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

To strengthen cross-Ministerial engagement, I also convene quarterly meetings between Ministers and homelessness service providers. This forum is attended by the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Minister for Children and Families, the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, and the Minister for Social Security. This joined-up approach enables more holistic responses and demonstrates the political value placed on this work.

The importance of this collaborative model was recently highlighted in *the Power of Partnerships report*<sup>15</sup> (March 2025) by the Association of Jersey Charities, which recognised the forum as an example of good practice in cross-sector working. This approach ensures that responses to homelessness are joined up and helps to empower and motivate those involved in the forum.

### Working with private landlords

Greater collaboration with private landlords is beginning to play an important role in preventing homelessness by helping individuals who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, access suitable accommodation in the private rented sector.

This approach is being progressively introduced by the HAS in partnership with private landlords and letting agents. It matches prospective tenants with landlords and available properties, and provides ongoing support to reduce reliance on emergency accommodation and facilitate access to longer-term housing options.

Building on this work is essential, as it enables private landlords to play an active role in homelessness prevention and expands housing options. Tenants benefit from tailored support that helps them sustain tenancies and achieve housing stability.

## Strengthening our response to homelessness

The actions taken to date, delivered in partnership with the Homelessness Cluster, have established a strong foundation for a more coordinated and effective response to homelessness in Jersey.

---

<sup>13</sup> *Homelessness in Jersey Report (Q1 2025)*, Minister for Housing (July 2025): <https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Home%20and%20community/Homelessness%20in%20Jersey%20Report%20First%20Quarter%202025.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> See Appendix – Table 2: *engagement with external services used by percentage (%)* shows the Aztec House GP clinic as the third highest external service engaged with by service users. This category was introduced to the reporting process in Q4 2024 following service provider feedback.

<sup>15</sup> *The Power of Partnerships: A review of how Government and Charities work together*, Jersey Association of Charities (March 2025): [https://www.jerseycharities.org/site/userfiles/The%20Power%20of%20Partnerships%20March%202025\)%20FINAL.pdf](https://www.jerseycharities.org/site/userfiles/The%20Power%20of%20Partnerships%20March%202025)%20FINAL.pdf)

## Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

Building on this progress, the next phase of policy development must focus on improving the delivery, integration and impact of homelessness services and accommodation provision.

The following actions reflect my priorities for addressing homelessness, focusing particularly on prevention, early intervention and strengthened support mechanisms.

### Early intervention

Early intervention is crucial for preventing homelessness. The Housing Advice Service must be properly resourced and equipped with the right expertise to identify and support individuals who are at risk of homelessness before they reach crisis point. Key areas of focus include:

- strengthening outreach activities to engage individuals who might not otherwise seek help;
- conducting holistic assessments of housing and support needs; and
- establishing robust referral pathways<sup>16</sup> from key agencies such as the General Hospital, Adult Mental Health, HMP La Moye and Children's Social Care.

Key to this approach is the use of personalised housing plans, developed through comprehensive assessments of each individual's housing needs, personal circumstances and support requirements. These plans empower individuals to take an active role in identifying solutions and set out clear, achievable steps to secure and sustain accommodation.

Public awareness and accessibility of services must be prioritised. The Housing Advice Service will continue to actively promote its support, particularly to groups at higher risk of homelessness. Outreach initiatives will be strengthened through close partnerships with charitable organisations embedded in the community, which are often best placed to build trust with those in vulnerable circumstances.

Finally, we must empower individuals to access timely support through user-friendly digital services, enabling earlier intervention and reducing reliance on crisis provision.

### Increasing access to accommodation

We must increase the availability and accessibility of affordable, secure and good-quality homes for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, reducing reliance on temporary accommodation.

This includes working with social housing providers to deliver new homes that meet identified needs, particularly for at-risk groups such as care leavers and those leaving institutions like prison.

A key priority is expanding access to social housing for younger people<sup>17</sup>, recognising the affordability challenges they face in Jersey's housing market. As set out in the *Roadmap for improving access to social housing in Jersey – policy addendum* (December 2025), the minimum age for eligibility for single people and couples without children has been reduced from 25 to 18 years, effective January 2026.

The Affordable Housing Gateway plays a central role in reducing homelessness by facilitating timely access to social housing. To ensure it continues to operate effectively, a targeted review of

---

<sup>16</sup> See Appendix – Figure 2: *Service referral route by percentage (%)*. This indicates that 'self-referral (including verbal referral/signposting)' is the most common route to support agencies. Whilst this category includes signposting to relevant services, the data suggests an opportunity to strengthen formal referral pathways for individuals seeking assistance when facing homelessness.

<sup>17</sup> See Appendix – Figure 3: *reported age range (in years) of service users by percentage (%)*. This figure shows that those aged up to 25 years make up 23% of service users accessing support services.

## **Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey**

Band 1 criteria and management will identify the most urgent housing needs and remove procedural barriers that may delay rehousing.

### **Reducing our reliance on temporary accommodation**

Charitable organisations deliver exceptional support to some of Jersey's most vulnerable people, often under extremely challenging circumstances. Their role is integral to our homelessness response, and government must champion their work – advocating for their value, ensuring sustainable funding and access to premises, addressing gaps in provision and supporting service development.

This is essential if we are to reduce reliance on temporary accommodation and improve long-term outcomes for Islanders experiencing homelessness, breaking cycles of homelessness and offering stability.

Reducing the use of hotel accommodation<sup>18</sup> is a priority, as it is neither a sustainable nor appropriate solution for Islanders experiencing homelessness. Instead, our focus must be on increasing access to suitable, long-term settled housing.

Achieving this requires a coordinated and sustained housing and support model for individuals with complex and multiple needs. This work is already underway, with Andium Homes providing suitable housing options, appropriate homes, and offering tenancies backed by consistent multi-agency support.

We must also develop move-on opportunities to support individuals' transition from supported or emergency accommodation into longer-term housing<sup>19</sup>. This is particularly important for victims of domestic abuse, care leavers and those exiting the criminal justice system who require tailored pathways towards independent living.

### **Multi-agency collaboration**

Deepening multi-agency collaboration is essential to delivering effective homelessness services. Existing arrangements such as JMAPPA provide a strong foundation, but further progress requires formal partnership agreements, shared protocols, and regular strategic forums to ensure agencies work together seamlessly.

The Housing Advice Service will continue to adopt a multi-agency approach, working closely with health, justice, and social care services to address the complex and overlapping needs of Islanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This integrated model will help deliver more holistic and sustainable solutions.

### **Enhancing data and evidence**

Robust data collection and analysis must underpin policy development and service delivery.

The *Homelessness in Jersey* reports will be reviewed and refined to ensure that the data accurately reflects the scale and nature of homelessness, enhances public understanding of homelessness, and provides an evidence base for policy development and service delivery.

---

<sup>18</sup> See Appendix – Table 3: *HAS service users by active case and those with HAS assistance to secure accommodation* shows that the HAS assisted 9 people to secure accommodation during Q3 2025. This includes those supported into accommodation before Q3 2025, where support is ongoing.

<sup>19</sup> See Appendix – Figure 4: *number of service users' continuous residency over time as a %*. This figure illustrates the medium- to longer-term nature of stays with homelessness accommodation providers, showing the proportion of service users with continuous residency over time. It indicates that 45% of residents remain for up to six-months, a further 12% for up to 12-months, and 19% for up to two years. This data suggests that emergency accommodation often functions as a medium- to long-term living arrangement, rather than solely short-term provision.

## **Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey**

Strengthening this evidence base will also enable more targeted interventions, improve service planning and ensure resources are directed where they are most needed.

### **Partnership with the Homelessness Cluster**

Delivering these priorities requires close collaboration with the Homelessness Cluster, which plays a central role in coordinating the delivery of the *Jersey Homelessness Strategy*, promoting best practice, and ensuring that accommodation and services meet the needs of Islanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Effective delivery in addressing homelessness also depends on strong partnerships with other Ministers whose portfolios intersect with homelessness issues – including the Minister for Children and Families, the Minister for Health and Social Services, the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs, and the Minister for Social Security.

Regular engagement and joined-up working between Ministers is essential to ensure that homelessness is addressed holistically across government, homelessness service providers and social housing providers.

### **The role of homelessness legislation**

We have made strong progress in building a responsive and coordinated approach to homelessness. By enhancing data collection, expanding accommodation and support services, and strengthening multi-agency collaboration, we are laying the foundation for more effective provision.

As this foundation develops, it is timely to consider whether legislation could improve consistency, accountability and the long-term sustainability of homelessness accommodation and support services.

Legislation has the potential to formalise key aspects of Jersey's homelessness arrangements:

- A statutory definition would create a shared understanding of homelessness across government, homelessness service providers and the wider public.
- It would establish clear duties to prevent and relieve homelessness, including structured referral pathways, personalised housing plans and accessible advisory and support services.
- Integration with health, justice and social care would ensure coordinated responses to the complex and overlapping needs of those experiencing homelessness.

Whilst legislation offers clear benefits, introducing it may be premature at this stage. Jersey's understanding of homelessness, and its accommodation and support services to address homelessness, are still evolving. Introducing legislation too early could risk embedding approaches that need further refinement, reduce flexibility in service delivery and create a statutory framework that is not yet fully resourced or culturally embedded.

For these reasons, I favour a phased approach – one that focuses on strengthening operational practice, building service capacity and embedding a shared understanding of homelessness. This will ensure that any future legislation is robust, responsive and capable of meeting the needs of Islanders who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Legislation remains a long-term goal of the *Jersey Homelessness Strategy*, and I support its development in principle. The work that we have undertaken during this term has laid strong foundations for advancing legislation in a future government.

Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

In the meantime, the priorities outlined in this report will help to ensure that Jersey is well-prepared to deliver statutory duties effectively when the time is right.

Appendix: Supporting data

The Minister for Housing has been publishing the Homelessness in Jersey report on a quarterly basis since Q2 2024. These reports provide anonymised data collected from the Island's homelessness accommodation and support services about people who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Jersey.

The following figures and tables are drawn from the *Homelessness in Jersey Reports*, which are published quarterly. All data presented in this Ministerial update refers to the reporting period for Q3 2025 unless otherwise stated. It should be noted that overall, the themes highlighted reflect a similar pattern across reporting quarters<sup>20</sup>.

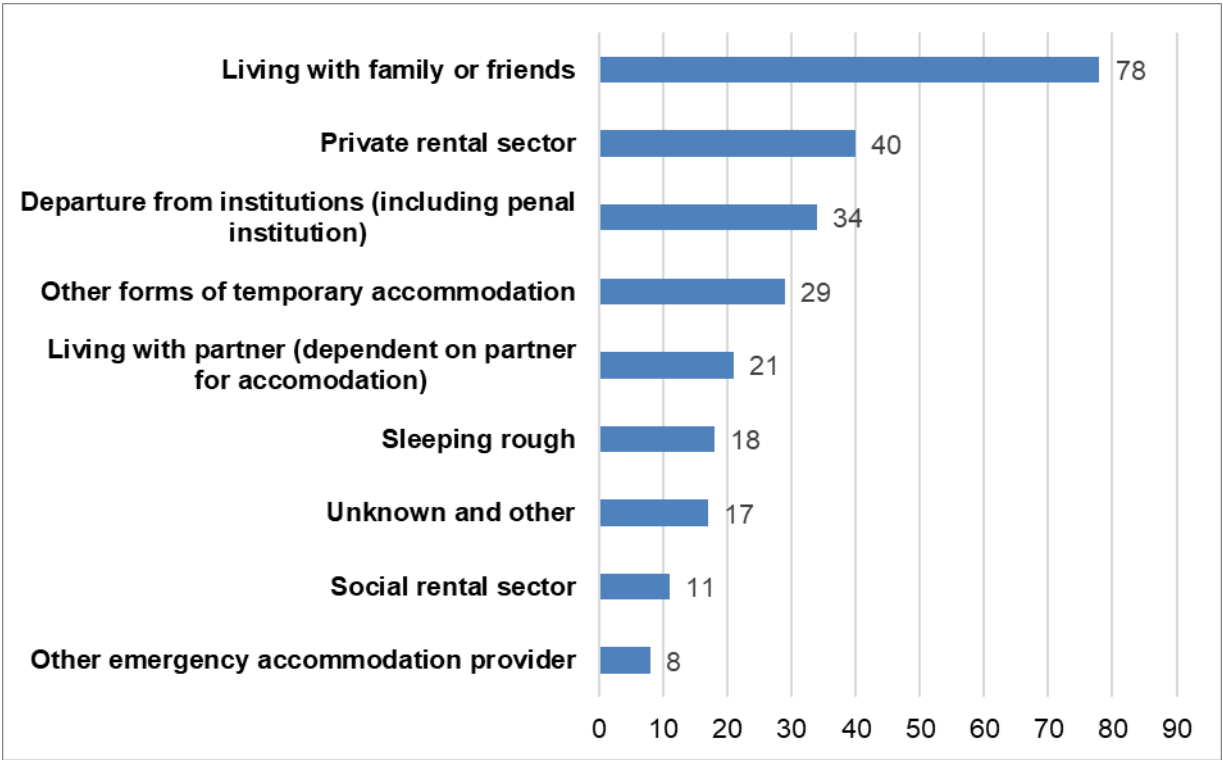


Figure 1: Pre-service living situations

<sup>20</sup> Figure 4: *number of service users' continuous residency over time (%)*, indicates that a significant proportion of individuals stay for longer than a single quarter. Some of the figures and tables therefore reflect the same group of people across multiple reporting periods. This means the data has a historical dimension and should not be interpreted as representing entirely new demand each quarter.

## Ministerial update: Progress on addressing homelessness in Jersey

| Reasons for homelessness amongst females                             | %  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| At risk of, has experienced, or is escaping domestic abuse           | 29 |
| Parent, family or friend no longer willing or able to accommodate    | 12 |
| Person aged 18 to 25 years requiring support to manage independently | 12 |
| Breakdown of relationships – abusive behaviour                       | 11 |
| Other                                                                | 11 |
| Substance use (alcohol and drugs use)                                | 7  |
| Mental health problems                                               | 7  |
| Breakdown of relationships                                           | 4  |
| Uncategorised                                                        | 4  |
| Family breakdowns                                                    | 4  |

**Table 1: reasons for homelessness amongst females by percentage (%)**

| Engagement with external services                      | %          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Other government agency/service                        | 20         |
| Adult Mental Health                                    | 16         |
| Aztec House GP clinic                                  | 14         |
| Alcohol and Drugs Service                              | 11         |
| Adult Social Services, Children's Social Care Services | 8          |
| Probation & Aftercare Service                          | 7          |
| Other                                                  | 7          |
| Charitable organisations                               | 6          |
| Domestic Abuse                                         | 6          |
| Housing Advice Service                                 | 5          |
| <b>Total</b>                                           | <b>100</b> |

**Table 2: engagement with external services used by percentage (%)**

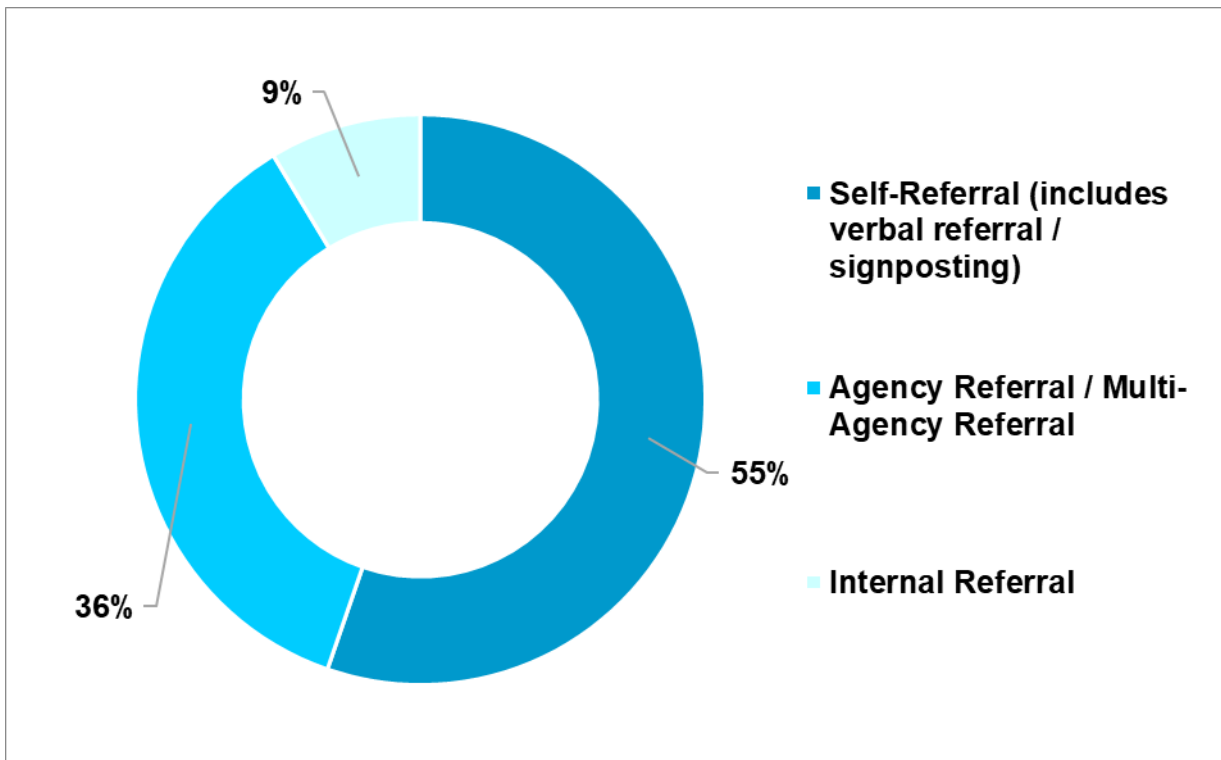


Figure 2: Service referral route by percentage (%)

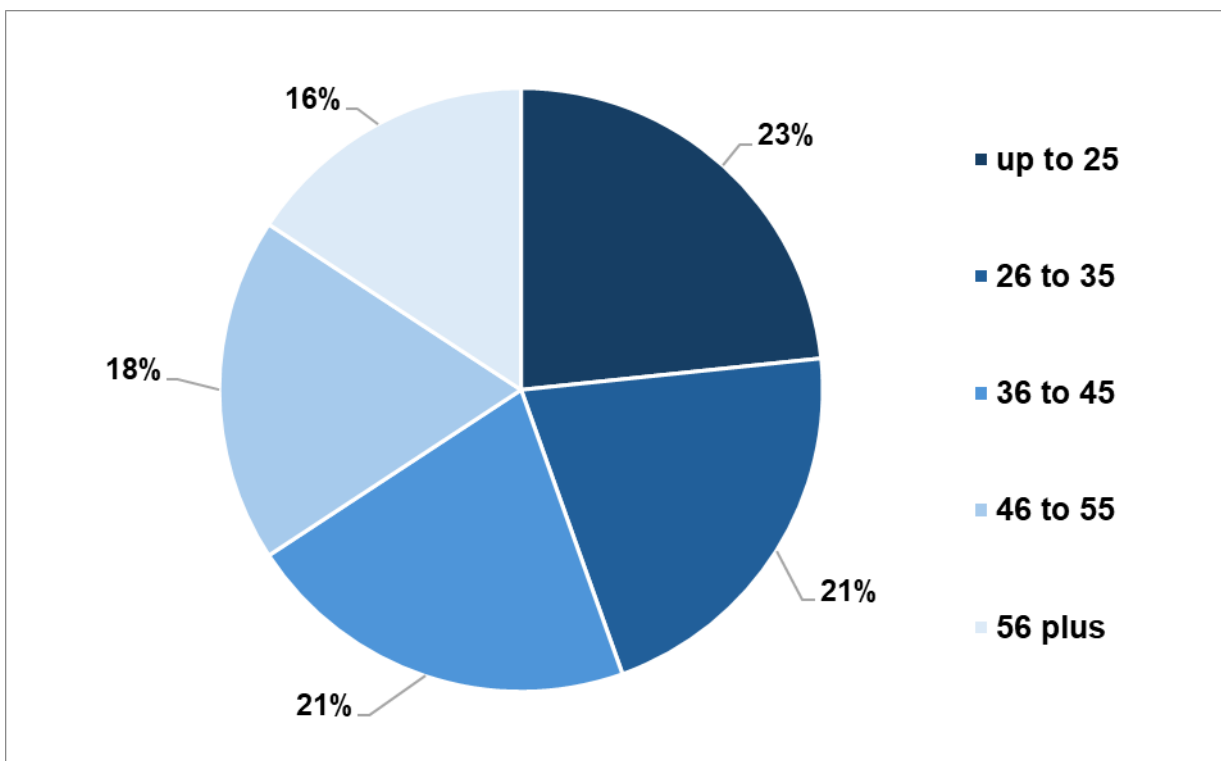


Figure 3: reported age range (in years) of service users by percentage (%)

| HAS service users | Count of active cases | HAS assistance to secure accommodation |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Active case       | 34                    | 9                                      |

Table 3: HAS service users by active case and those with HAS assistance to secure accommodation

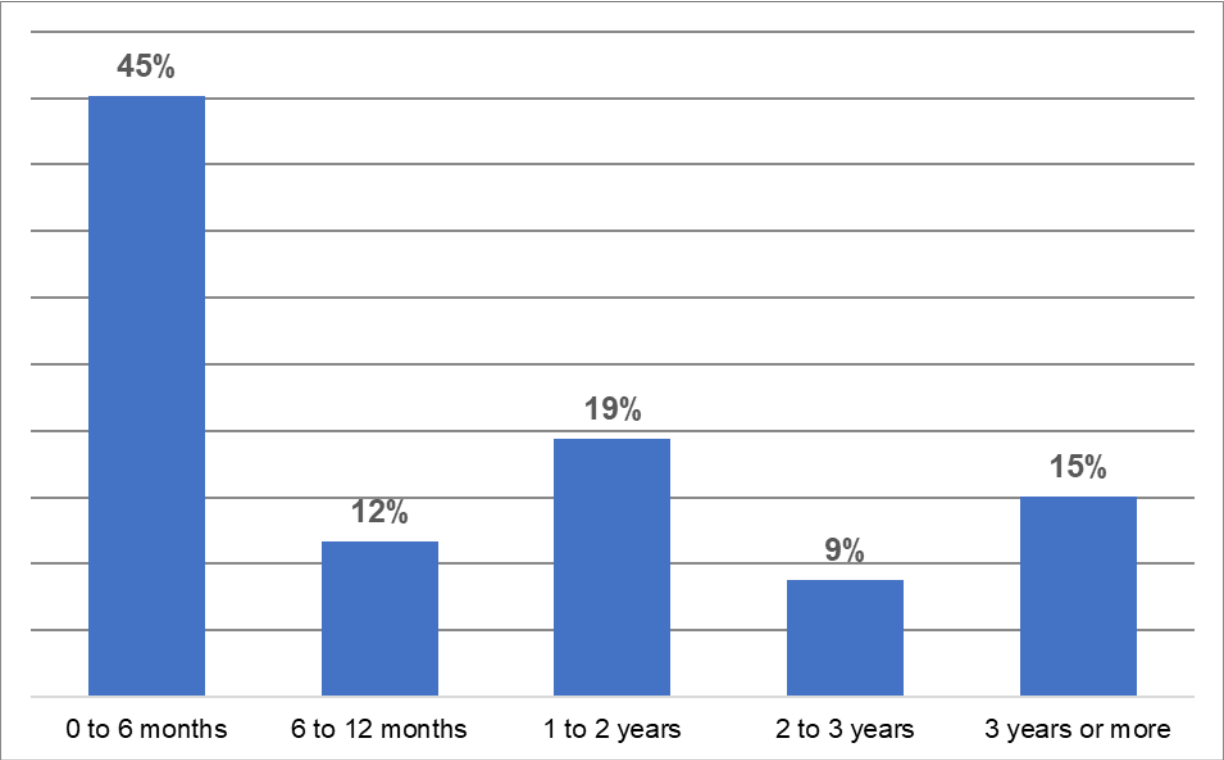


Figure 4: number of service users' continuous residency over time (%)