

Birmingham Neglect
Strategy 2022-26:



Working Together to Build
Strong Family Foundations



Housing & Neglect

Housing & poverty

Research carried out by Joseph Rowntree Foundation showed how housing can exacerbate the impact of poverty on family's lives

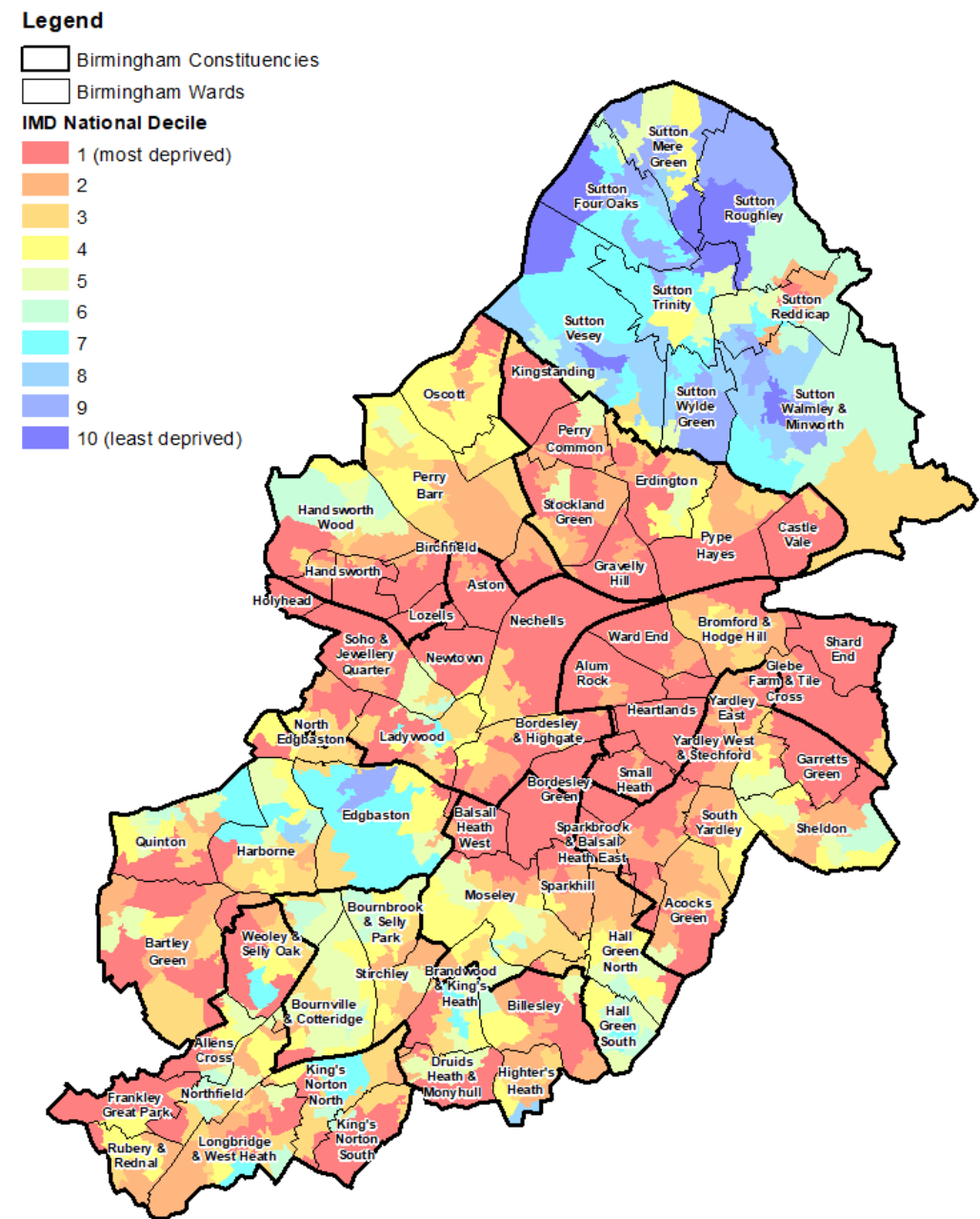
- Rising cost of housing
- Overcrowding and poor quality housing
- 'Poverty trap' caused by social housing and benefit
- Living in deprived or high crime neighbourhoods
- Isolation & access to community resources



<https://www.jrf.org.uk/housing/the-links-between-housing-and-poverty>

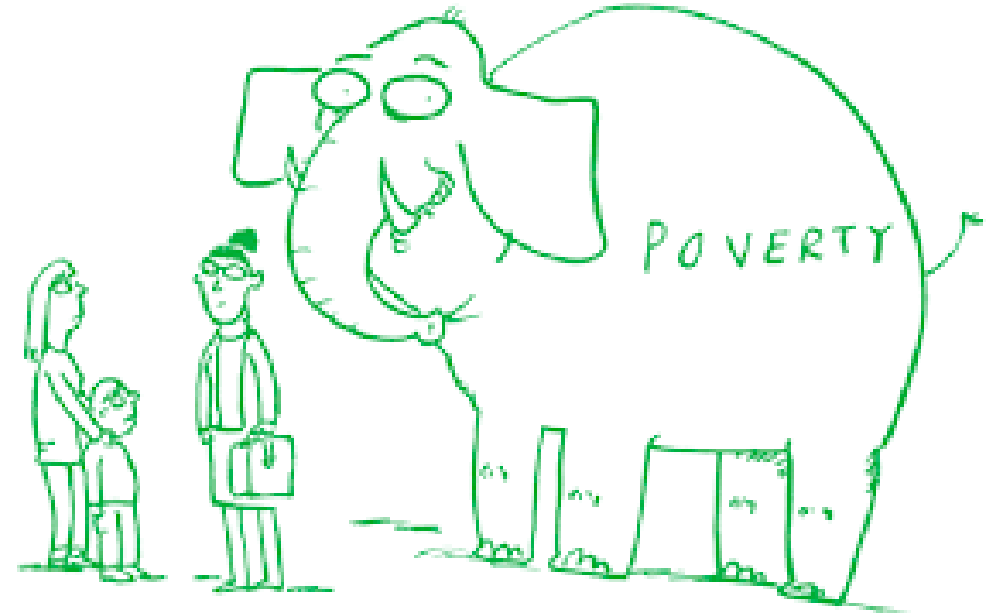
Poverty & deprivation in Birmingham

- More children living in poverty than national average.
- High levels of unemployment, income inequality and deprivation compared with the rest of UK
- Higher than average number of children from ethnic minority background and non-English speaking population – child poverty rates often much higher in these communities.



The link between poverty & child neglect

“There is a strong association between family poverty and a child’s chance of suffering child abuse or neglect...The greater the economic hardship, the greater the likelihood and severity of child abuse or neglect”



Paul Bywaters et al, 2016, *The relationship between poverty, child abuse and neglect: an evidence review*

What factors can reduce risk of neglect?

- Ensuring basic needs are met – food, heating, a bed to sleep in
- Consider flexible use of space
- Access to play and activities outside the home
- School & nursery attendance
- Community support services for parents & children
- Youth services
- Finance/budgeting/employment support
- Supporting families to access housing support/contact landlords



Assessing neglectful home conditions



Assessing poor home conditions

Top tips

- Use assessment tools such as GCP2
- Visit at different times of the day/different days of the week if you can
- Undertake unannounced visits if appropriate
- See where the child sleeps
- Consider effort made by parents to make the best of their circumstances
- Think about the impact on the child
- Consider the age of the child
- Evaluate how serious/long-term the problem is
- Carry out joint visits if you have the opportunity

GCP2 Training



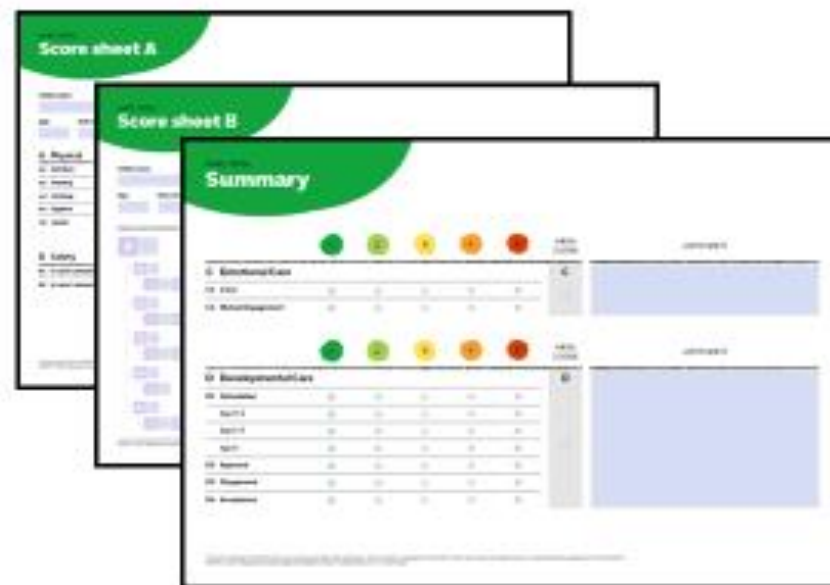
NSPCC

Graded Care Profile 2

MEASURING CARE, HELPING FAMILIES

The Tool

- The Tool
- Scorecards
- Handbook
- Guidance and Theory
- Parent leaflet



Introduction to Neglect e-learning – launches this week!



Different Types of Neglect

Birmingham's Neglect Strategy classifies childhood neglect into six different types based on the work of Jan Horwath (2007). For some children, only one area of their care will be affected and for others it may be several or even all areas. Understanding this can help us target interventions where they are needed most.

Physical Neglect

Nutritional Neglect

Emotional Neglect

Medical Neglect

Educational Neglect

Lack of Supervision & Guidance

What is Educational Neglect?

Educational neglect is the failure to provide a child with age-appropriate stimulation and learning experiences. This starts at birth with interaction and play. It can include school attendance and failing to respond to special educational needs. It is acknowledged that parents have the right to teach their children at home or an alternative setting if they choose (elective home education) however the Education Act states that children over five should receive a 'suitable' full-time education.

Some signs of Educational Neglect:

- Child not meeting developmental milestones
- Speech & language delay
- Baby or young child left without stimulation for long periods of time for example in cot or bouncy chair
- Lack of age-appropriate toys, books and activities
- No child-focused outings such as to the park
- Poor or inconsistent attendance at school or nursery
- Child is frequently late for school
- Child not on roll at school and not receiving adequate education at home
- Carers do not engage with education
- Carer does not seek or follow up on support where a child may have additional needs



<https://booking.lscpbirmingham.org.uk/elearning-list>

Learning from Case Reviews:



"I am 5% happy, 100% angry and 1000% scared"
– Hakeem Hussain, age 6

When a child is seriously injured, or dies, and abuse or neglect is suspected a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) is carried out.

These were previously known as Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), which aim to identify improvements that can help us safeguard children.

Neglect features in roughly 75% of all case reviews.

Hakeem Hussain was a seven-year-old boy from Birmingham who died in November 2017. His case review, along with others, can tell us a lot about neglect and how professionals can better respond to it.

Read the full case review [here](#)

On 26th November 2017, Hakeem was found dead in the garden of a flat in Nechells where he and he and his mother were staying.

He had died of asthma, and it was believed that he had gone outside in the night because he was having difficulty breathing. Hakeem's mother had not woken up because she had smoked three bags of heroin the previous evening. Police found the home conditions to be poor with evidence that Hakeem's asthma inhalers had been used to smoke crack cocaine.

Hakeem's mother was later sentenced to 20 years in prison for manslaughter and child cruelty. The case review, published in 2022, identified areas for improvement for all agencies involved with the family.

Physical Neglect:

Conditions in the home where Hakeem lived as well as the one where they were staying when he died were poor.

Hakeem was sleeping on a sofa rather than in a bed.

Birmingham Neglect Toolkit



<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk/learning-zone/learning-resources/neglect-and-gcp2>

Home Conditions Checklist

This is a short assessment of home conditions and whether these are likely to impact on the children who live there. It considers 10 aspects of home conditions such as odour, cleanliness, and decor. At the end there is a section to record a decision about how concerning the home conditions are and what actions should be taken to resolve any concerns.

The checklist should be completed jointly with the family where possible but can also be used as a desktop exercise. The scale is scored from 0-2 on each item and includes a column to make notes based on your observations. To score, consider each of the 10 areas and select the statement that best applies. If concerns are identified, follow-up actions can be agreed with the family and improvements can be tracked over time by reviewing the checklist. It may also be beneficial to complete a GCP2 Assessment to understand whether there are wider concerns about the care of the child(ren).

Child(ren)'s Name(s)		Child's Date of Birth or EDD	
Parent/Carer's name(s)		Date of visit	
Practitioner completing form		Agency	
Was assessment completed during planned or unannounced visit?		Was assessment completed with or without family?	

Home Conditions Checklist

	Area	0 – issue not present	1 – issue present to some extent	2 – issue present to a significant extent	Notes
1	Strong odour in home – such as rotting food, urine, mould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Kitchen is unclean – sink, draining board, worktops, cooker, fridge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Floors are dirty – covered in food, animal faeces, rubbish	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	Bathroom unclean or cluttered – toilet, bath, or basin dirty, broken, or not accessible due to clutter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5	A child not having an appropriate bed or clean bedding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6	Excessive clutter/rubbish bags in home – hoarding or home cluttered to extent where access is limited, or child has no space to play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7	Decorative order of home in general is poor – such as broken doors and windows, stained or damaged walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8	Inadequate furnishings – such as no chairs or table, no curtains or floor covering, curtains always closed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Risks to children – eg broken plug sockets, no smoke alarms, hazardous items such as cleaning products, lighters, drug paraphernalia within children’s reach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Garden uncared for/unsafe – very overgrown or containing rubbish, broken furniture etc	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Total score (add together all 1 & 2 scores)				

Home Conditions Checklist

Outcome	Tick
I am <i>not concerned</i> about the impact of the home conditions on the child(ren)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have <i>some concerns</i> about the impact of the home conditions on the child(ren)	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am <i>very concerned</i> about the impact of the home conditions on the child(ren)	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Agreed Tasks	Who will complete this?	When will it be completed?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Housing Register & Allocations

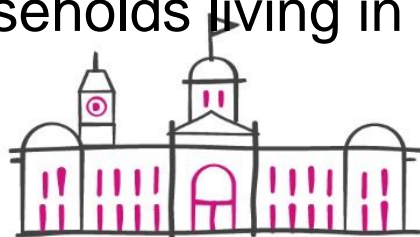
Hayley Prime

Head of Service Applications, Allocations & Accommodation
Finding



Headline Facts about Council housing in Birmingham

- The City Council has approximately 58,857 properties, and this is decreasing each year – in 1981 the council had over 123,000 properties.
- The City Council only has 1,741 properties that have 4 or more bedrooms.
- There are currently circa 24,000 households on the housing register.
- Of these, 7,000 are in Band A, 7,200 are in Band B and over 8,800 in Band C.
- Circa 15,000 applicants are living in overcrowded accommodation.
- The Council and all registered providers let 3535 properties between 1 April 2023 and 29 February 2024, and this is decreasing each year.
- 8% of our properties are designated for older people – aged 55 plus (sheltered properties).
- The Council has over 5000 households living in Temporary Accommodation (TA).



How to Register

- Average of 500 new applications made per week
- Online application process via Birmingham Choice - [Home - Birmingham City Council \(birminghamchoice.co.uk\)](https://www.birminghamchoice.co.uk)
- Aim to assess within 8 weeks of receipt.
- Applicant notified in writing, by email, of Band awarded and Registration Date
- Must upload following documents when submitting application:
 - Passport/birth certificate copy
 - A utility or Council Tax bill dated within the past three months, from the date of application
 - Details of any relevant unspent convictions
 - All financial records/bank statements for the three months prior to the date of application for each moving household member, for every separate account they hold
 - All legal records relating to property ownership, if applicable
 - Proof of their immigration status.



How Properties are Allocated

- The City Council operates a Choice Based Lettings System.
- Available properties are advertised on Birmingham Choice between Midnight Thursday and Midnight Monday.
- Applicants place a 'bid' on properties they are interested in and are eligible for.
- Property shortlists are generated based on Band award and Registration Date when the bidding cycle ends.
- In exceptional circumstances a Direct Offer of accommodation may be made to an applicant.



Other Housing Options to Consider

- Demand for Social Housing far outweighs supply.
- Even applicants awarded the highest priority, Band A, may have to wait several years before been successful in securing alternative accommodation.
- Applicants should consider **all** housing options available to them. These include:
 - Registering with Registered Providers (Housing Associations) [Registered Providers - Birmingham City Council \(birminghamchoice.co.uk\)](#)
 - Consider looking for accommodation in the Private Rented Sector.
 - For current Social Housing tenants, consider a Mutual Exchange. Further information can be found on the BCC website [What is a mutual exchange | Mutual exchange | Birmingham City Council](#)



Children Living In Temporary Accommodation

Jennifer Tennant Foster – Head of Service
Housing Solutions & Support Service



Level of TA / demand in Birmingham

- The demand for The Council to supply Emergency Accommodation (EA) for our homeless citizens and families has grown significantly over recent years
- As of this morning, there are over 5,000 families in TA
- Over the eight years from March 2014 to March 2022, the number of families in TA in Birmingham rose by 403% with Birmingham now having the highest number of families in B&B accommodation of any local authority in England
- B&B provides the flexibility needed to address immediate EA presentation needs, however the aim is to reduce and minimise B&B as the last resort for temporary accommodation (TA)
- The shortage of social housing stock and consequent lack of temporary accommodation means that increasing numbers of citizens and families presenting as homeless are spending extended placements in B&B EA
- We have a B&B Reduction Plan which gives us a target for households with dependents in B&B over 6 weeks



Scope of Temporary Accommodation (TA)

- If the council decides you meet the criteria for longer term housing, you might be given temporary accommodation until the council can find you a longer-term home
- Emergency temporary accommodation on the day will likely be in a homeless centre or a bed and breakfast. If there is nothing suitable within the city, we may offer temporary accommodation outside of Birmingham
- This can be one room for you and your family with bathrooms and/or kitchens sometimes shared with other residents such as a B&B
- Temporary accommodation is in very short supply. We use:-
 - City Housing stock
 - Private Sector Leasing via a block contract
 - Dynamic Purchasing System for Private Sector Leasing
 - Regulation 10 contracting for emergency TA – Cabinet Sept 2023
 - Property Acquisition Programme + Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) pt1 and pt2
 - Annexes
 - Temporary Accommodation Strategy and Investment.



Things that make TA different to a secure tenancy

- Housing granted to a homeless household as part of any function under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 will not be secure, so in almost all cases will be under a licence agreement
- Space standards are outside of legislative arrangements in social housing
- A family can be placed out of area
- If over three miles to a School, a family should be offered funding towards transport costs (Travel wise)



Role of TA Support Worker

- **Support to move on from TA (Part 6, the private rented sector)**
- **Housing related issues such as neighbour disputes, advice with repairs**
- **Safeguarding concerns**
- **Support with income maximisation**
- **Caseloads are ~200:1 so we are mostly delivering a reactive service**
- **General support such as signposting to other BCC services or partner organisations.**



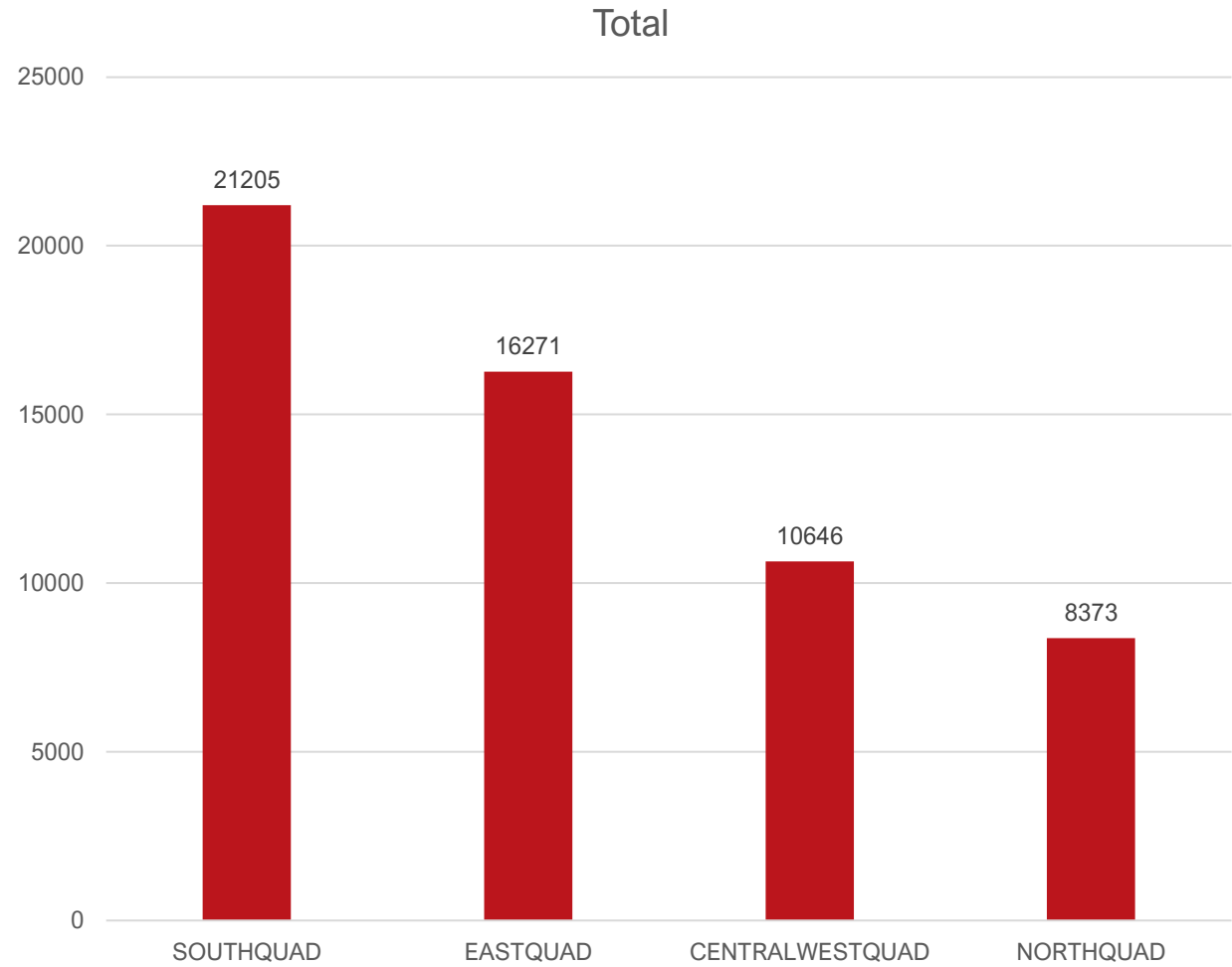
Introductions

- Housing Management



BCC stock

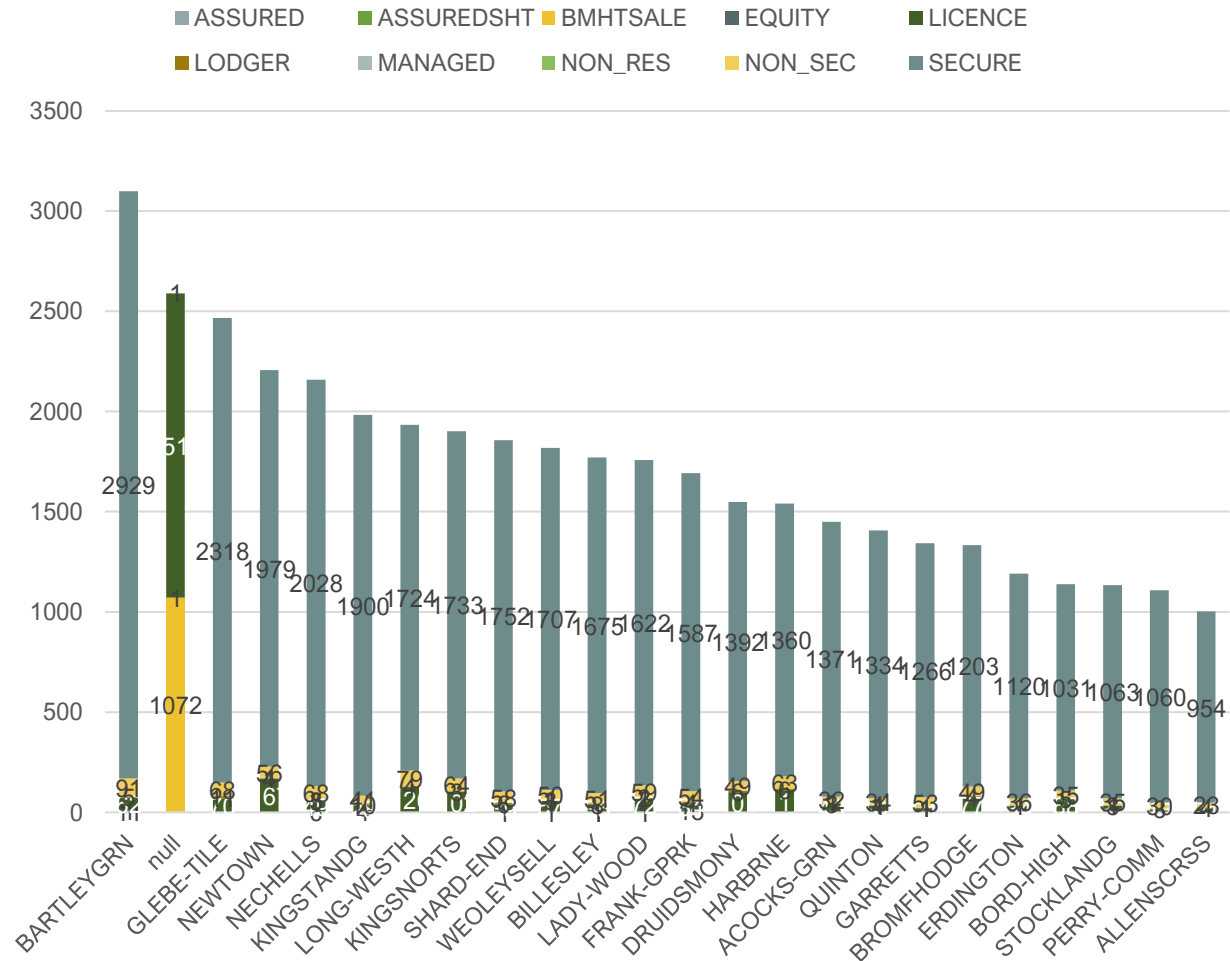
- Largest Social Landlord 60000 stock



BCC stock – over 1000

- There are 23 wards in this group with a total of 38,838 properties. The top ten are as follows:

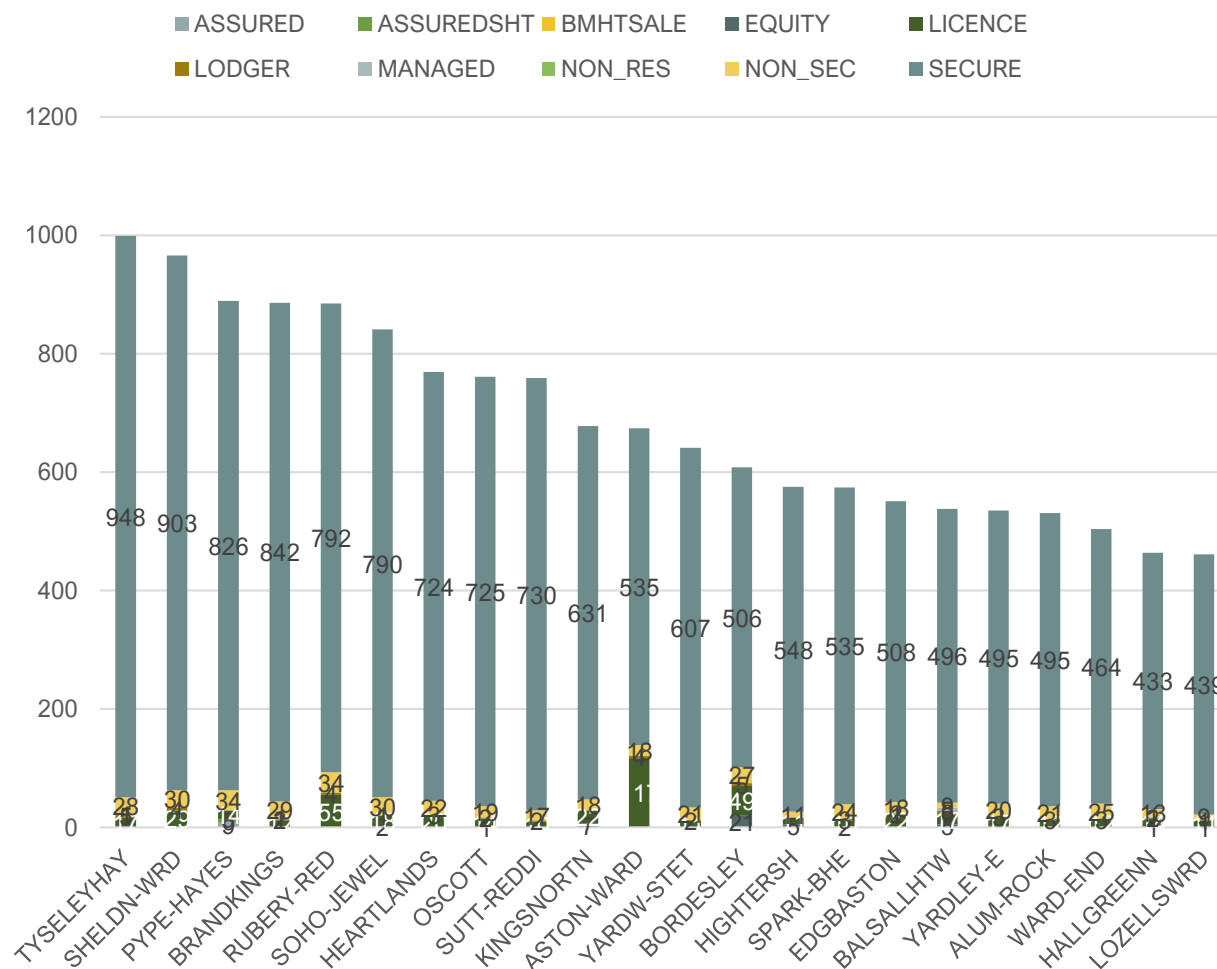
1. Bartley Green	3,099
2. Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	2,467
3. Newtown	2,207
4. Nechells	2,159
5. Kingstanding	1,983
6. Longbridge & West Heath	1,933
7. King's Norton South	1,902
8. Shard End	1,856
9. Weoley & Selly Oak	1,819
10. Billesley	1,771



BCC stock – between 460-999

- There are 22 wards in this group with a total of 15,089 properties.

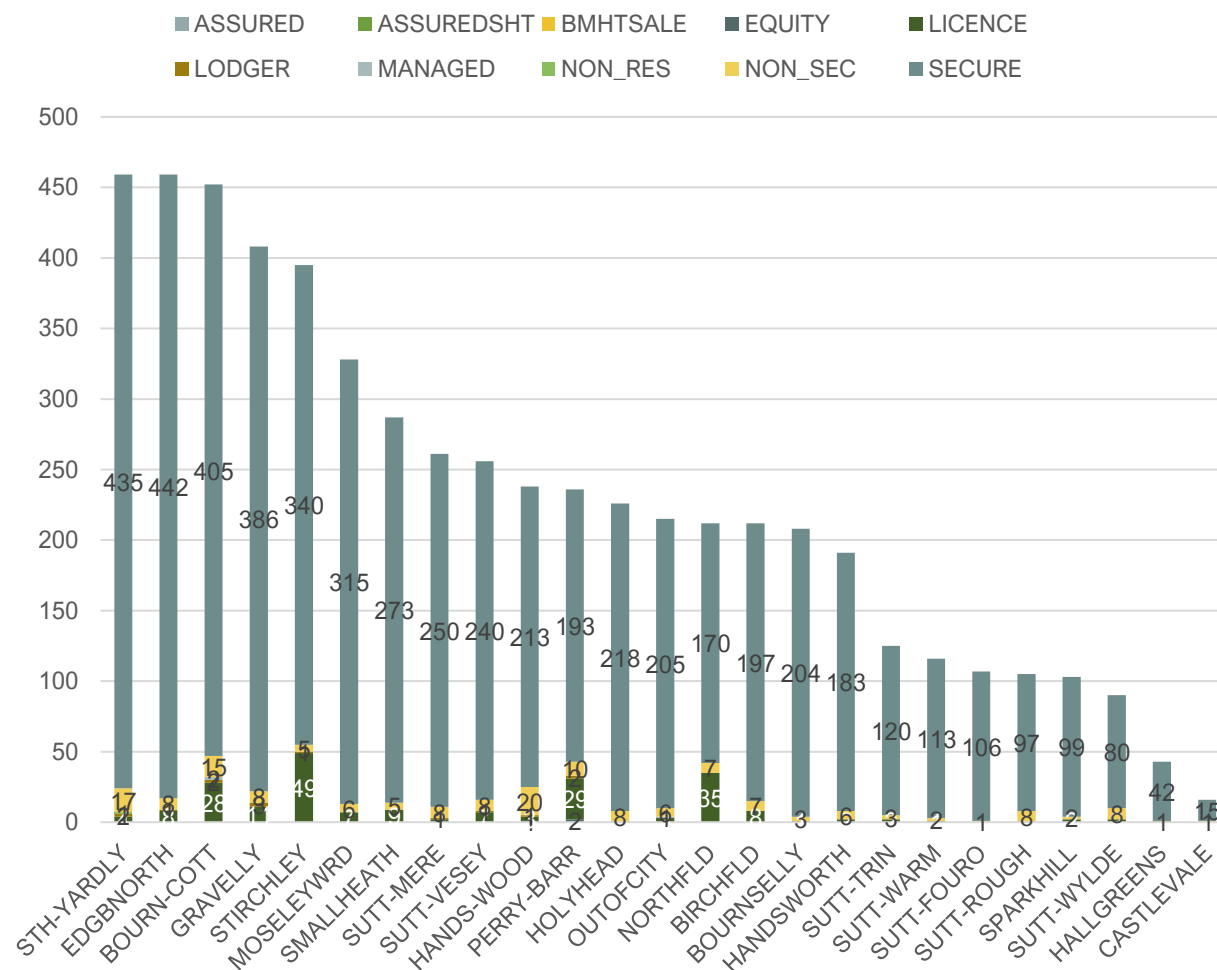
24. Tyseley & Hay Mills	999
25. Sheldon	966
26. Pype Hayes	889
27. Brandwood & Kings Heath	886
28. Rubery & Rednal	885
29. Soho & Jewellery Quarter	841
30. Heartlands	769
31. Oscott	761
32. Sutton Reddicap	759
33. King's Norton North	678



BCC stock – below 460

- There are 25 wards in this group with a total of 5,748 properties.

46. South Yardley	459
47. Edgbaston North	459
48. Bournville & Cotteridge	452
49. Gravelly Hill	408
50. Stirchley	395
51. Moseley	328
52. Small Heath	287
53. Sutton Mere Green	261
54. Sutton Vesey	256
55. Handsworth Wood	238

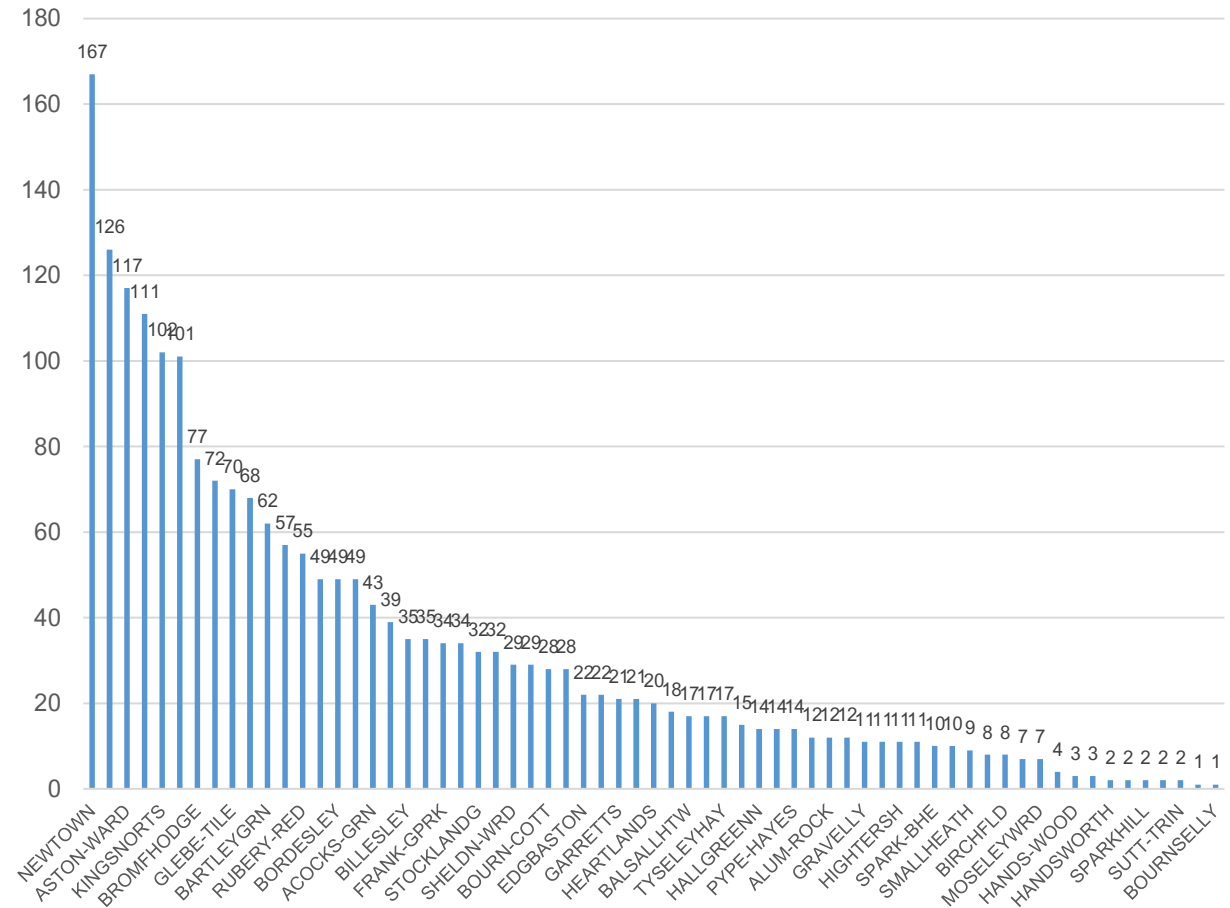


Licensed properties

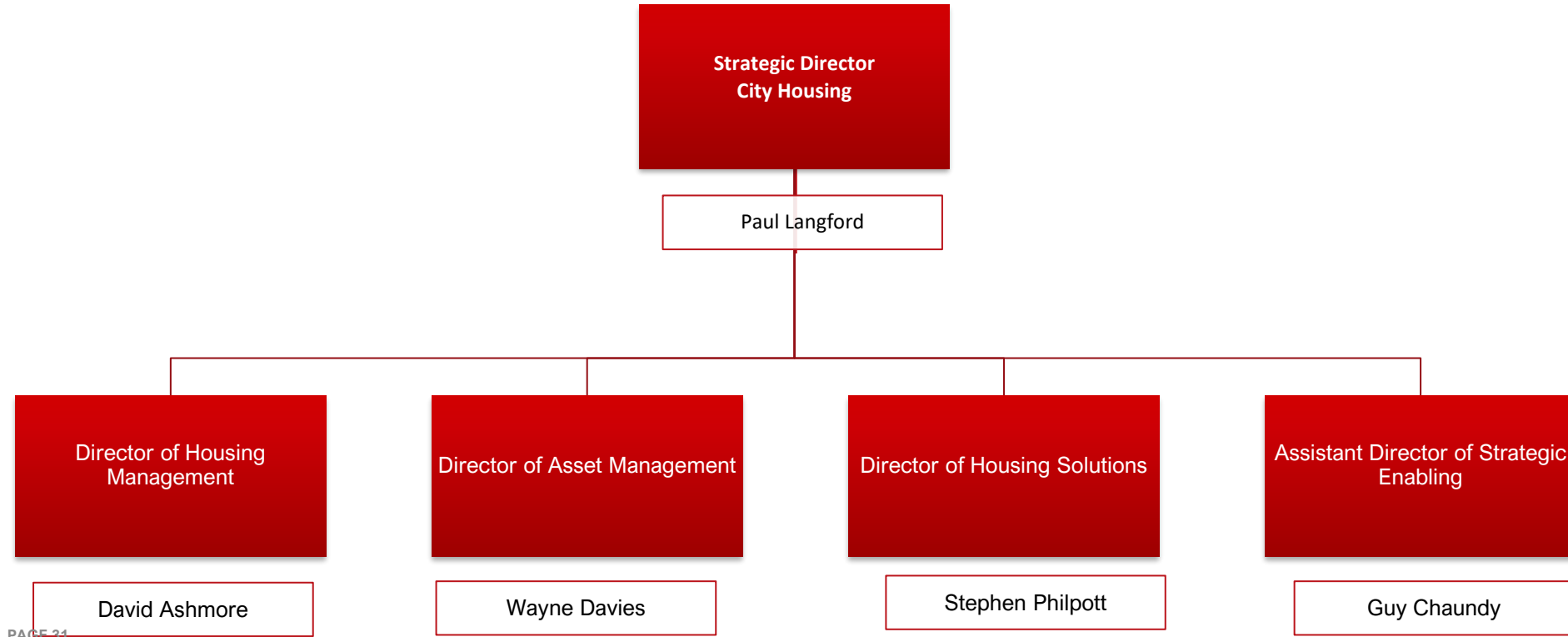
- There are 3,640 licenses identified using the Tenure selection. 2,123 of these are considered to be Dispersed licenses using BCC stock. Top ten as follows:

1. Newtown	167
2. Longbridge & West Heath	126
3. Aston	117
4. Harborne	111
5. King's Norton South	102
6. Druids Heath & Monyhull	101
7. Bromford & Hodge Hill	77
8. Ladywood	72
9. Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	70
10. Bordesley & Highgate	68

Total licensed properties by Ward



City Housing Senior Leadership Team (28/3/23)



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Central North 19,019

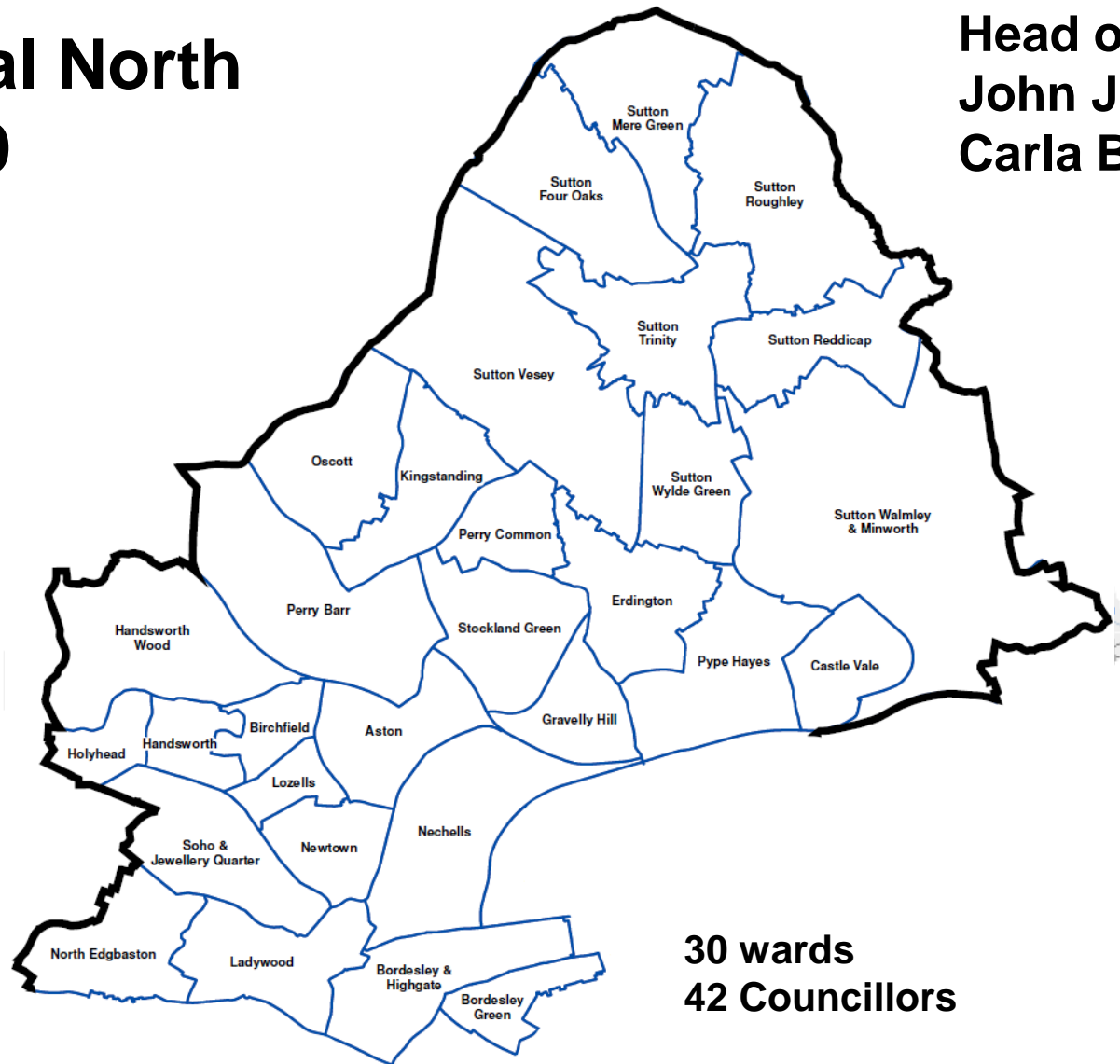
Head of Service
John Jamieson
Carla Bates – SSM

Housing Managers

Alison Nicholls
Emma Price
Samantha Jones
Paul Humpherson

Tenancy Services Team Manager

Parminder Nahal

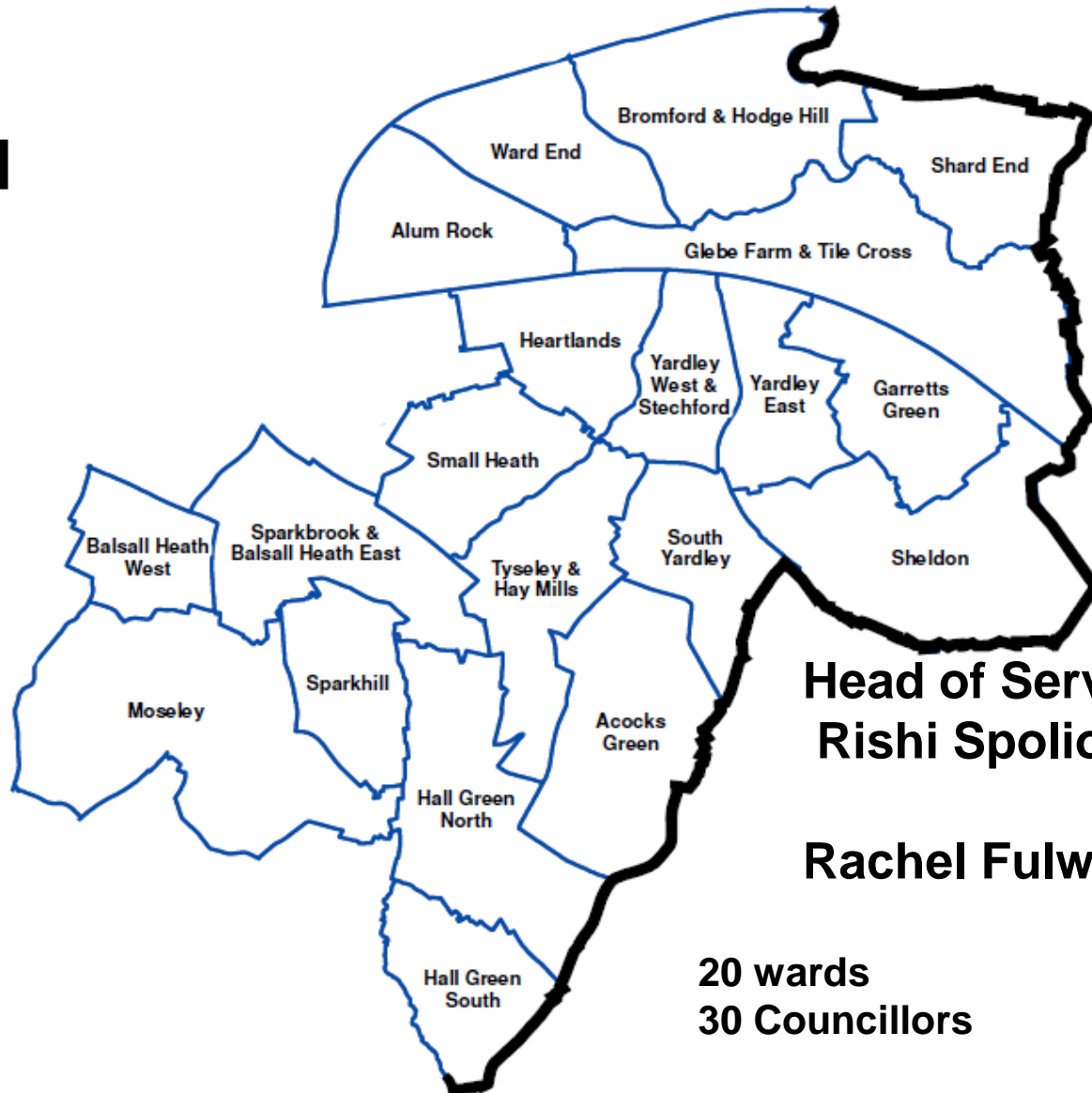


Neighbourhood Services

Chris Robinson



East 16,271



Housing Managers

Rizwana Latif
Mushtaq Hussain
John Dunleavy
Tessa Walden

Tenancy Services Team Managers

Hilary Davies
Doreen Hannon

**Head of Service
Rishi Spolio**

Rachel Fulwell - SSM

**20 wards
30 Councillors**

**Neighbourhood
Services**

Peter Barratt



South
21,205

Head of Service
Natalie Smith
Salim Miah- SSM

Tenancy Services
Team Manager

Jayne Owen

Housing Managers

Jayne Windsor Price
Melvin Powell
Danny Kilbride
Denise Lock



Neighbourhood
Services
Sue McKenzie



Key areas of support

- Think Family Service
- Care leavers Housing Team
- 12 week support new tenants
- Housing Officers- Pro active tenancy visits
- Nais – Neighbourhood advice and information support
- Domestic Abuse
- Anti Social behaviour- Injunctions
- Repairs 0121 216 3330
- Wise Move
- [Pay your rent | Birmingham City Council](#)



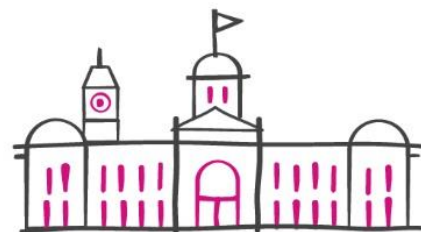
Safeguarding Leads

Temporary Accommodation- Jennifer Tenant Foster Jennifer.Tennant-Foster@birmingham.gov.uk

Housing Management – Natalie Smith Natalie.P.Smith@birmingham.gov.uk

Repairs – Mark Rodgers
Mark.Rodgers@birmingham.gov.uk

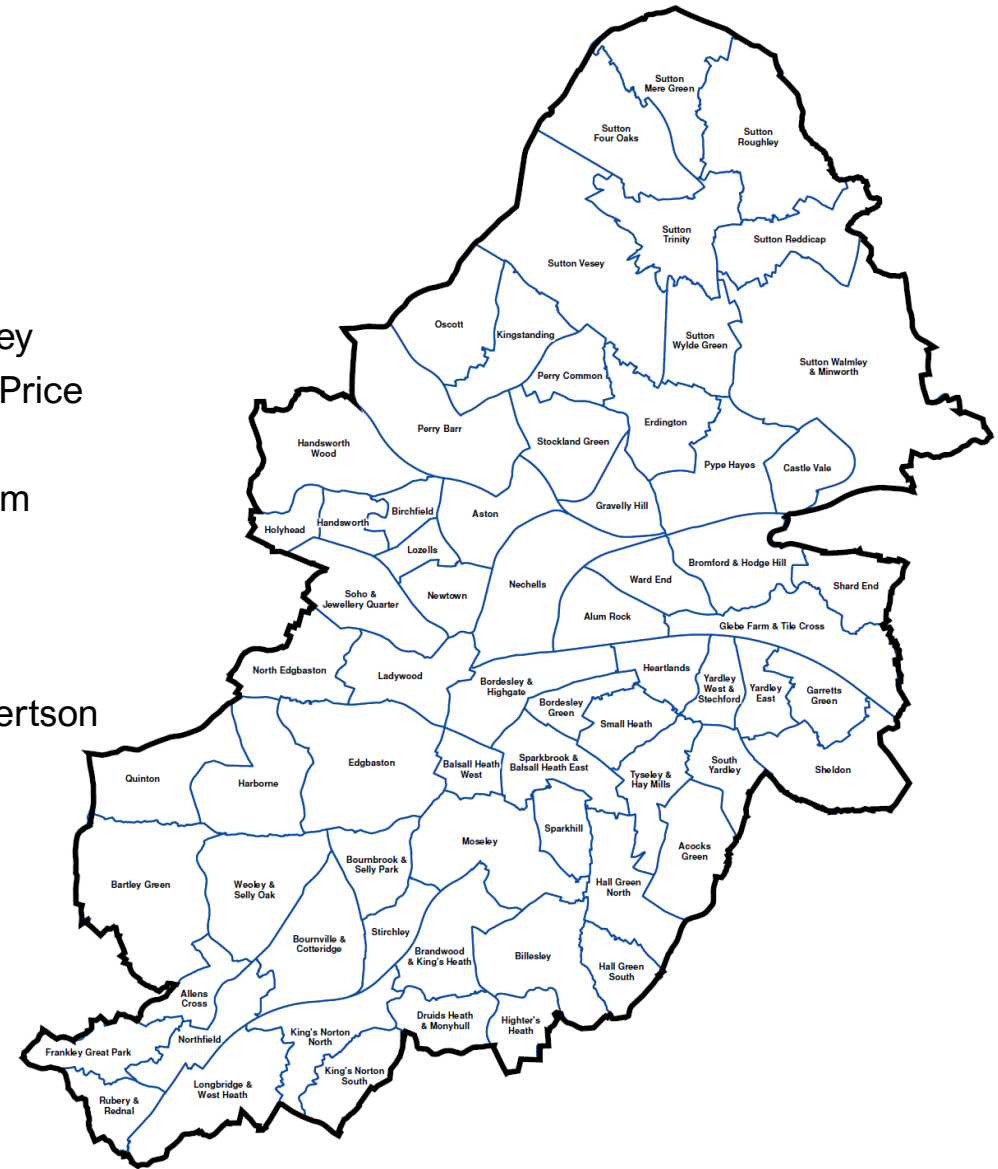
Allocations -Hayley Prime
Hayley.Prime@birmingham.gov.uk



Citywide services by Housing Managers

- Careline & Night-Time Security
- Services for Older People
- Domestic Abuse
- Think Family
- Apprenticeships & CCTV
- Neighbourhood Services intelligence
- Health & Safety for estate based services
- Resident involvement
- Lettings
- Care leavers
- Voids Empty Properties

Tracy Lee
 Wendy O'Malley
 Julie Windsor-Price
 Sally Bramble
 Dave Billingham
 Dave Prosser
 Wendy Carroll
 Colin Hanno
 Jonathan Robertson
 Muna Masood
 Mitchell Davis



Questions?

