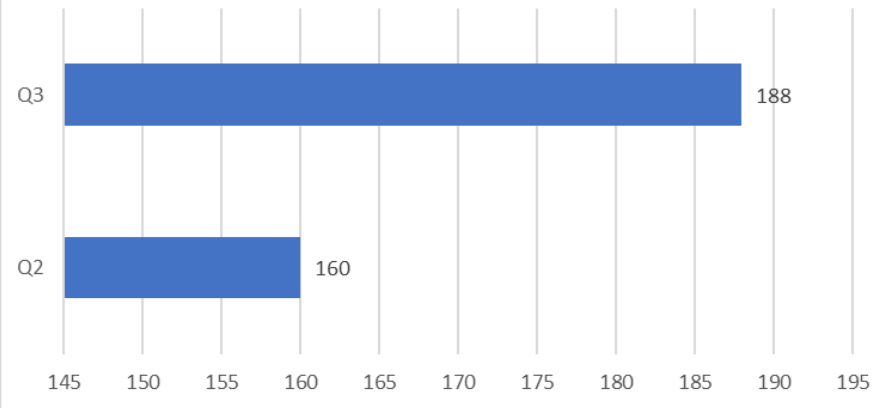


## **Community Services - Q3 Service Panel – Additional Information and Questions & Answers**

The following sets out additional information that was requested by Members during discussions at the O&S Service Panel:

<p>After the presentation at O&amp;S from Farnborough College, what work are we doing to bring them into the work we are doing around skills and employment?</p>	<p>Hart has an effective working partnership with FCOT. The Hart Employment and Skills Coordinator (Laura Wakefield) is in regular contact with the College's Associate Director of Apprenticeships &amp; Business Development (Karen Morris). Hart promotes the range of apprenticeships and professional qualifications that are on offer, in particular, the fully funded short courses available to those seeking employment/with low level qualifications. FCOT has is also connected with the Berkeley / St Edwards Hartland Village through the employment and skills plan, to deliver ongoing onsite activities for the College students. Both representatives also sit on the Hart and Rushmoor Business Strategy group which meets quarterly to share updates on economy and employment related activities. Recent discussions have include how Hart can support T-Level students in relation to the mandatory work placement hours.</p>
<p>Do Cllrs get a copy of the Community Safety newsletter automatically?</p>	<p>As of January 2022, the Community Safety Newsletter is only sent to those that have requested it, having given advance notice that this would be the case – can easily add any councillors interested; please email Rachael Wilkinson.</p>
<p>On the data around increased homelessness presentations post covid – can we better demonstrate the jump in requests for housing advice / applications, this is referenced in the text?</p>	<p>We gave advice to 160 households across Q2 compared to 188 Q3</p>

No of approaches to housing service per quarter  
21/22



We can do a year-on-year comparison at next service board which will show the increase in its entirety.

On the affordability project, Nicola, how do we currently assess affordability of homes?

Our research found that whilst there is no universal definition of rent affordability, Shelter and the National Housing Federation have suggested that an accepted measure of affordability is a ratio of no more than a third of household income to be spent on housing costs. Thresholds used in assessments can vary from 25% to 50% of household income. The report for Hart took an average of 35% to measure affordability which we felt was a sensible threshold to apply.

The report found that in many cases, affordable rents required more than 35% of household incomes. This is being analysed further and the implications of this will be explored.

	For affordable rented or social rented homes each housing association (or RP) carries out their own affordability checks on any nominations to homes they receive from the Council. Their affordability thresholds vary but most housing associations (RP's) operating in Hart use 35%-45% as the measure of affordability.
What income do people need to buy a shared ownership property on average?	From the Help to Buy shared ownership report for Hart 2020-21 the average household income for households who purchased a shared ownership home was £37,459, (this could be a couple purchasing with joint incomes of that amount), and on average purchasers bought a 40% share.
How can we access empty properties at Quetta Park & other military housing schemes locally	We will follow this up and report back at next service panel
On KPI 1, can we add actual data / calculations in to show scale of the 77%?	Across Q3 we prevented & relieved 10 of 13 formal approaches. We gave advice to 188 individual households.
Discussion around risk How are we going to mitigate the <i>risk</i> of loss of homelessness grant 23/24?	Grant award for 22/23 is confirmed and is as anticipated. We will work over coming months to establish a plan to mitigate any reductions in grant funding in future years