

Barnabus- Data Narrative Builder

Assisting the journey off the streets through data-driven insight

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Overview of the Data Fellowship

Over the summer, I worked as a Data Fellow at the homeless charity Barnabus, supporting their transition to a new client management system, Lamplight, which was introduced in October 2024. My role was twofold: firstly, to reconcile data between the previous system and Lamplight to ensure accuracy, completeness, and consistency; and secondly, to design a dashboard to track key operational and impact metrics more effectively.

Data Analysis

To establish the number of individuals seen across 2024-25, I first removed duplicate entries from the dataset. Several client names appeared multiple times with additional notes such as "BARRED" or "NUT ALLERGY", which had been incorrectly recorded as separate individuals. After cleaning these duplicates, I identified a slight decrease in total service users compared to 2023-24, but an increase relative to the three preceding years.

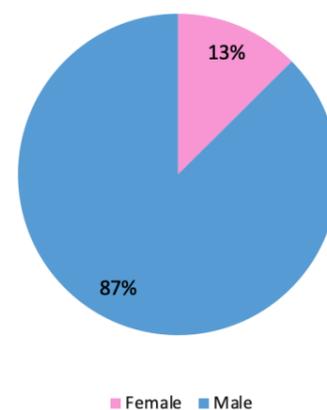
In analysing causes of homelessness, breakdown of relationship emerged as the largest named cause in 2024-25 (37%), followed by immigration (27%). The prominence of relationship breakdowns reflect rising housing costs, insecure renting, and cuts to local welfare, which have increased housing vulnerability.

Findings

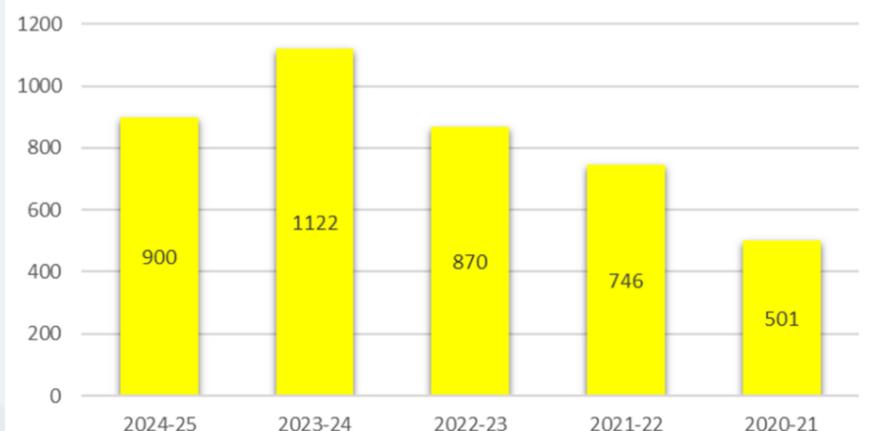
2024-25 stats

- 900 service users seen.
- 417 accommodation referrals.
- Bank accounts opened for 137 service users.
- Service user gender split was 87% male & 13% female.

Gender Breakdown of Service Users (2024-2025)



Total service users seen by year



Key Skills Learnt

I was honoured to be Barnabus's first Data Fellow, a role that strengthened my data analysis and Excel skills. I also enhanced my project management abilities by coordinating meetings, setting milestones, and delivering work to a fixed deadline.

Beyond data work, working in the Wednesday Music Sessions improved my communication skills and confidence. Across the Fellowship, I learned to adapt my approach for different audiences, from service users to senior leadership. I gained insight into how compassion, teamwork, and data-driven decision-making underpin Barnabus's mission to assist people in their journey off the streets.