

Protecting Chatham-Kent's Most Vulnerable

Prepared by Employment & Social Services

April 6, 2020

Homelessness Numbers today

COVID-19 has resulted in changes to service delivery for all of Chatham-Kent's homeless serving partners. The following number is based on review of multiple information systems.

Current Homeless Estimate:

- ▶ Current estimate is 145 homeless individuals today. 2019 Average was 85
- ▶ CK recorded 84 homeless individuals in February 2020
- ▶ 305 people experienced homelessness in 2019, 60% were couch surfing

Homeless Response Line

Turn-Aways

- Number of individuals unable to secure emergency accommodations due to either no vacancy or motel choosing not to house them.

March 2020	March 2019
37	11

Admissions

- ▶ Number of individuals/families that received at least 1 nights accommodation in March 2020.

March 2020	March 2019
53	36

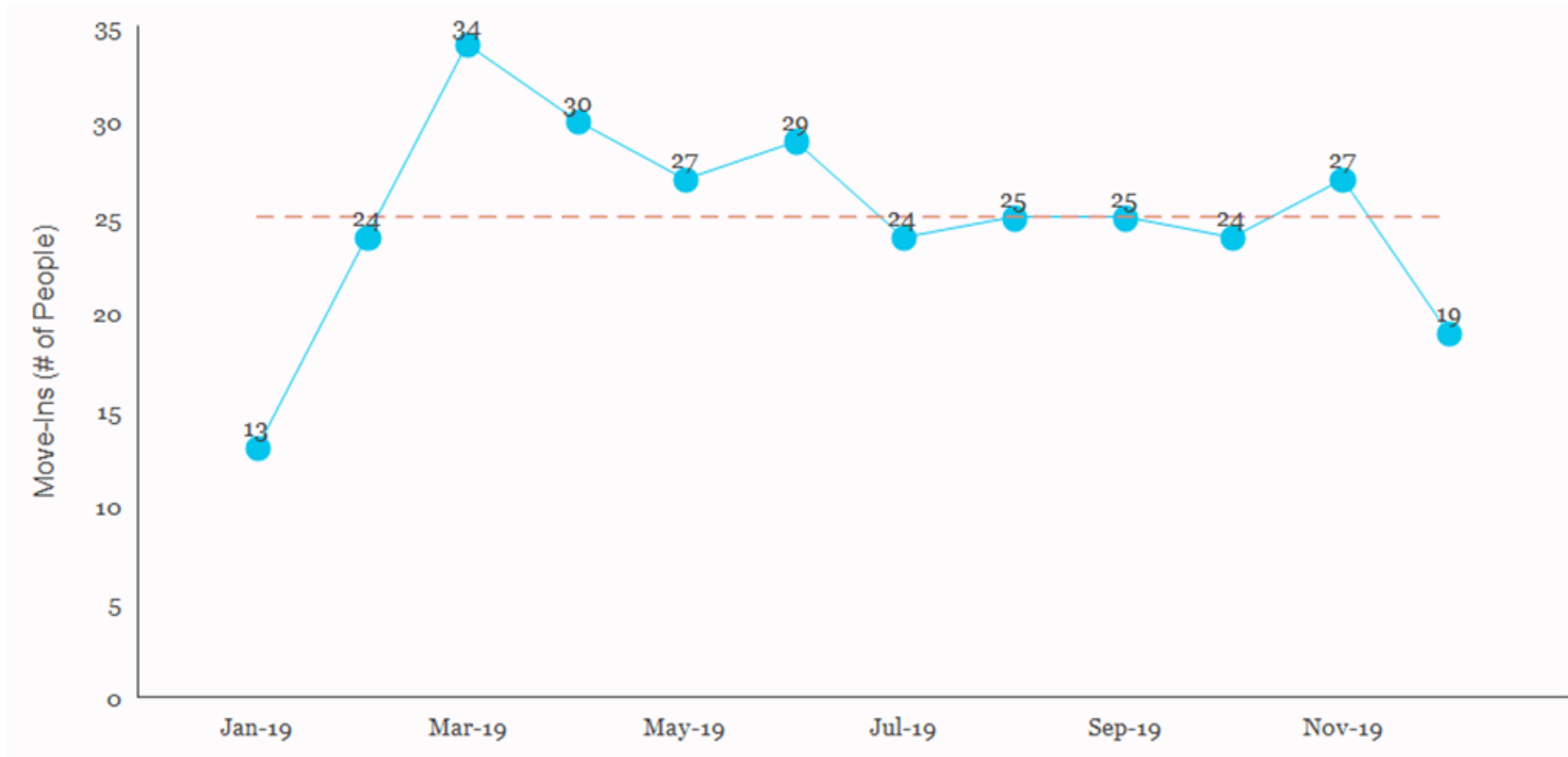
Motel Capacity Issues

- ▶ Employment & Social Services works with four local motels willing to accept homeless clients on a monthly basis.
- ▶ Total Motel rooms : 75
- ▶ All Chatham motels willing to house our clients are reporting no vacancy
- ▶ ESS is currently supporting 31 financially
- ▶ A hotel is available at approx. \$2400 a room for isolation and families. Not suitable for high acuity clients.
- ▶ If the CKHA contacts us with referral to discharge a homeless client, we have no where to discharge to.

Chatham-Kent Health Alliance

- ▶ ESS has been working with the CKHA since August 2019 in assisting with preventing discharges to homelessness. We have averaged two referrals per month.
- ▶ CKHA has notified us that they are looking to discharge 20-30 seniors who are currently pending long-term care. These individuals do not have a suitable home to be discharged to so they are looking at hotels.
- ▶ CKHA has expressed concern that if we cannot assist with discharges (homeless) then they are at risk of running out of capacity/spaces.
- ▶ CKHA is agreeing to providing appropriate community supports if a location is secured.

Housing Placements



Why an Isolation Shelter?

- ▶ The message being delivered by Canada's Prime Minister, by Ontario's Premier, and by Chatham-Kent's Medical Officer of Health is "Stay Home" - that is hard to do when you are homeless.
- ▶ Having the ability to isolate homeless individuals in a shelter system where they can receive appropriate services protects them and the Chatham-Kent community.
- ▶ A shelter will allow staff to create a prioritized approach to emergency housing, reserving motel rooms for those that are at highest risk of harm while also ensuring that those at reduced risk have a location to follow current social distancing measures.
- ▶ CK will work together with our partners: CK Public Health, CMHA, Salvation Army, Chatham-Kent Women's Center, CK Police, the CKHA and the United Way to ensure that daily supports are in place.