

Gloucester City Council – Rough Sleeping Strategy Briefing

The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) published the Rough Sleeping Strategy in August 2018. It sets out Government's strategy for halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it by 2027 and is backed by £100m of funding.

The 2027 vision is that all parts of central and local government, in partnership with business, communities, faith and voluntary groups and the general public are working together to ensure that no one has to experience rough sleeping again. The strategy takes a three-pronged approach to tackling rough sleeping:

1. **Prevention:** understanding the issues that lead to rough sleeping and providing timely support for those at risk.
2. **Intervention:** helping those already sleeping rough with swift support tailored to their individual circumstances.
3. **Recovery:** supporting people in finding a new home and rebuilding their lives.

Gloucester's proposed vision is to mirror that of central government in seeking to minimise rough sleeping with immediate effect and fulfil the ambition that nobody will need to sleep rough by 2027.

One of the prevention commitments from the Government is that they will work with the Local Government Association and local authorities, so that by winter 2019; all local authorities update their strategies and rebadge them as homelessness and rough sleeping strategies and they are made available online and submitted to MHCLG and report progress and publish annual action plans.

Gloucester City Council currently have a [Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2015-20](#) and are in the process of reviewing and updating the strategy this will include incorporating the Rough Sleeping Strategy, therefore as interim measure we have produced a Rough Sleeping Action Plan stating our actions, targets, and who is leading on the actions and the partner agencies supporting us in the delivery of them.

Currently we participate with the County Council and the other 5 councils - Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Council and a range of providers in a comprehensive homelessness pathway outlined in appendix 2. This pathway has been modified and expanded upon as Gloucester and other authorities have taken up new funding opportunities to enhance the original pathway of services we have available. We believe our pathway provides a broad range of accommodation and support services to alleviate rough sleeping and our action plan indicates further options to continue to check that this remains as effective as it can be.

Please see **Appendix 1** for the Action Plan.

We will work collaboratively with partners to ensure recently awarded funds are implemented effectively across the city, these include the Rapid Rehousing Pathway, Rough Sleeping Initiative and Social Impact Bond. We will support the continuation of the Assertive Outreach Team, by seeking to ensure future opportunities are actively pursued with partners including other district and upper tier authorities, the Clinical Commissioning Group and Police Crime Commissioners office.

Please see **Appendix 2** for the Service pathway for homelessness & people in vulnerable circumstances.

The Severe Weather Protocol provides a key component in our response to rough sleeping and in line with previous practice, we will review the outcomes from last winter's SWEP and agree any necessary adjustments ahead of winter 2019/20 with partnership with the other 5 districts, County, Registered Providers and the Faith Group Communities.

We will support the Assertive Outreach Team in coordinating an annual rough sleeping count or estimate

Headline figures

A total of 4,677 people were counted or estimated by local authorities to be sleeping rough in England on any one night in Autumn 2018, representing 2% decreases from the 2017 figure of 4,751. This is the first time in eight years that the estimated number of rough sleepers in England has gone down. Homeless Link

From the figures below, you can see Gloucester and Cheltenham counts have reduced however other districts in the County have seen an increase.

Gloucester City Rough Sleepers Count

Year	total	
2012	11	Estimate
2013	11	Count
2014	17	Estimate
2015	13	Estimate
2016	23	Estimate
2017	15	Estimate
2018	6	Count

Cheltenham Rough Sleepers Count

Year	total	
2012	6	Estimate
2013	3	Estimate
2014	0	Estimate
2015	1	Estimate
2016	11	Estimate
2017	9	Estimate
2018	2	Count

Rural authorities

Local Authority	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Cotswold	7	5	4	2	4	4	6	1	5
Forest of Dean	2	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	1
Stroud	4	5	5	5	1	1	2	2	4
Tewkesbury	2	2	2	1	4	0	0	2	1

<p>We will work collaboratively with partners to ensure we continue to fund the Assertive Outreach Team</p>	<p>Quarterly reviews of outcome</p>	<p>2019 - 2022</p>	<p>County Homelessness Coordinator/Housing Services</p> <p>Districts and County Council</p> <p>Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>Police and Crime Commissioners Office</p> <p>CHIG and CHIG + county-wide partnerships</p>
<p>We will seek to ensure future funding opportunities are actively sourced.</p>	<p>As opportunities arise these will be picked up via monthly partnership meetings</p>	<p>2019/20</p>	<p>Housing Services</p> <p>Districts and County Council</p> <p>Clinical Commissioning Group</p> <p>Police and Crime Commissioners Office</p>
<p>We will review outcomes from last winter's SWEP (severe weather emergency protocol) and agree any necessary adjustments ahead of 2019/20 winter</p>	<p>Approach to winter 2019/20 SWEP agreed</p>	<p>Summer 2019</p>	<p>Housing Services</p> <p>Districts and County Council</p> <p>Registered Providers & Faith Group Communities</p>
<p>We will support the Assertive Outreach Team in coordinating an annual count or estimate of the number of people rough sleeping in Gloucester</p>	<p>Agree with partners on this year's street count</p>	<p>Autumn 2019 – 06.11.19</p>	<p>Housing Services</p> <p>District authorities</p> <p>P3</p>

We will be in discussion with the faith community and Homeless Link on to improve the participation arrangements in relation to rough sleeping, acknowledging the role the faith community play and other stakeholders	Discussion with partners to commence Sept 19	Autumn 2019	County Homelessness Coordinator Faith forum Wider stakeholders
Explore 'Move on' funding with Registered Provider partners to expand the availability of move-on accommodation from supported housing environments	Commencement August 19	Winter 2019	Registered Provider partners.
Keep under review 'No Recourse to Public' Funding arrangements in light of any changes associated with Brexit	Monitoring Government announcements and legislation	Autumn 2019	Housing Services
Embed the arrangements for the new 'Vulnerable Women' commissioned project and learn from the outcomes and findings	Support to vulnerable women in conjunction with the Nelson Trust	August 2019	Housing Services County Council Nelson Trust
Review arrangements for those clients with Mental Health (MH) or Learning Disabilities (LD) who are at risk of rough sleeping and improve partnership working if required.	Explore linkages with LD/PD Commissioners.	January 2020	Housing Services County Council
We will review intelligence concerning rough sleepers through Street Aware initiative and seek to adapt practices to ensure we divert rough sleepers from the streets at the earliest opportunity	Review outcomes	Winter 2019	County Homelessness Coordinator Project Solace