



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
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Dear Leader,

ADDITIONAL SURGE SUPPORT FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS

Thank you for your continuing work in response to the COVID-19 crisis. I know this is a particularly challenging time and that you and your staff are going above and beyond to help vulnerable people. I would like to extend my thanks once again to all those working tirelessly to support our local communities during this difficult time.

Your work to support rough sleepers since the start of COVID-19 saved lives, and we recognise the continuing efforts you are making alongside Government to support rough sleepers through your work on 'Everyone In', local Next Steps plans and longer term accommodation plans. By September we had successfully supported over 29,000 people, with over 10,000 still in emergency accommodation and nearly 19,000 provided with settled accommodation or move on support.

These efforts have been backed by significant government support, which includes.

- Over £6.4 billion provided to councils to help them to manage the impacts of COVID-19, which we have been clear includes their work to support rough sleepers. This is alongside wider additional funding for councils to support local test, trace and contain activities, and their local businesses.
- Working with councils to develop tailored local plans to support rough sleepers over the coming months.
- A £266 million Next Steps Accommodation Programme which aims to ensure that as few people as possible return to the streets. This includes the £91.5 million allocated to 274 councils in September to fund their individual local plans for rough sleepers over the coming months, and £150 million which is being used to bring forward 3,300 new homes for rough sleepers this year.
- £112 million provided to local areas through the Rough Sleeping Initiative.
- A £10 million Cold Weather Fund for all local authorities to bring forward COVID-secure accommodation this winter; a new £2 million Transformation Fund for the voluntary sector; and comprehensive guidance on reopening night shelters more safely, where not doing so would endanger lives.

Supporting rough sleepers during lockdown

Our work to support rough sleepers during the pandemic is ongoing. In light of the recently introduced national restrictions, we will work with all local authorities and their partners, to build on this work and make sure that they have updated plans in place to protect some of the most vulnerable in our society.

I am asking you now to update your plans to support rough sleepers during this time and consider interventions for anyone sleeping rough. To this end, please complete the Local Authority Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan template in Annex A, which once agreed with MHCLG, will be made publicly available. We ask that this template is returned to us by Thursday 12 November. If you believe this timescale is not feasible please do get in touch with my officials as soon as possible.

It is important that you focus on those who are clinically vulnerable, as well as those with a history of rough sleeping. I expect all areas to carry out a rapid assessment of need for everyone that you accommodate and consider time limited interventions for those new to rough sleeping.

The aim should be to enable the population to protect themselves against COVID-19 so they can follow Government requirements and guidelines, as well as enable them to recover and minimise the impact of ill-health in a safe environment. This approach aims to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on individuals rough sleeping and ultimately on preventing deaths during this public health emergency.

As part of this approach we would expect you to bring together local housing, social care, public health and NHS partners to consider provision in your local area. Taking into consideration the needs of individuals who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19, individuals who would be considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable and those who would not fall into either of these groups - triaging these groups appropriately.

Cold Weather Funding

As I have set out, there has been a significant injection of support for this work already through our COVID-19 related funding and specific funding for rough sleepers. I know many of you had already developed plans for support this year and for future years.

I am pleased to provide further detail on the £10 million Cold Weather Fund, which is designed to help you to provide Covid-secure accommodation this winter up until March 2021. This fund is available to all local authorities in England. To ensure the Cold Weather Fund has an immediate impact, we are providing funding on an underwritten basis and local authorities will be reimbursed for their spending up to the agreed amount. Details of how to access this funding is at Annex B.

I will continue to work closely with local areas and the sector, to ensure that together we can once again protect vulnerable people, and save lives this winter.

Thank you for very much for all that you continue to do to protect rough sleepers.



KELLY TOLHURST MP

Annex A

Published Local Authority Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan

Local Authority:	
Total NSAP Funding Allocated (short-term immediate move on)	£
Total RSI Funding Allocated	£
Total Cold Weather Funding Allocated	£
Total RSAP Funding Allocated (long-term capital and/or revenue for homes)	£
Total Rough Sleeping Funding Allocated 2020/21	£

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy

What is your local area target for reducing rough sleeping during this year, and subsequent years?
Do you have a published Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy? If so, please provide a link

Key Objectives

End rough sleeping

What is the overall plan for ending rough sleeping in your local authority?
<p><i>Please provide a brief strategic overview of your ambitions for achieving a reduction in rough sleeping in your local authority and demonstrate how the NSAP work links to this.</i></p> <p><i>This may include, but is not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Plans for continued delivery of other rough sleeping programmes (e.g. RSI, Housing First etc.),</i><i>Specific measures to target key vulnerable groups (care leavers, young people, those with substance misuse problems).</i><i>Efforts to combat flow to the streets</i><i>The issue of wider rough sleeping in your area</i>

Entrenched Rough Sleeping Cohort (Target Priority Group/Target Thousand Group)

How do you plan to move your long-term and repeat rough sleepers into sustainable accommodation with support?

Shorter-term/Interim Accommodation & Immediate Support Plan

How do you plan to move people currently in Emergency Accommodation into longer term provision to prevent a return to rough sleeping?

Longer-term Move-on Accommodation Plan

How do you plan to deliver and design longer term accommodation and support options to tackle rough sleeping?

Winter Planning

What are the current winter plans for your local authority?

This may include

- *How you will bring forward Covid secure accommodation this winter and what is the possible role of night shelters in your plans?*
- *How do you plan to utilise your Cold Weather Fund Allocation (if applicable)?*

Please delete as appropriate: DRAFT / FINAL

- *Please indicate whether this is a draft of your published LA Rough Sleeping Delivery Plan or the final version.*

Annex B

To access this funding, we are asking local authorities to complete a template in accordance with the spending allowance determined for their area. A tiered ranking system was developed using the average share of numbers in emergency accommodation as at 23 September 2020 and 2019 Rough Sleeping Snapshot figures.

The RSI team will email your officials to confirm your maximum funding amount.

To claim your allowance, please populate the template which will be sent in due course, detailing the funding amount that you are applying for and how you intend to spend this funding. The deadline for template submissions will be 4 December. If we haven't heard from you by this date, we will assume that you do not wish to request Cold Weather funding. We will be in touch with local authorities by the 20 December to inform you whether your application has been approved.

The procedure for receiving funding for all areas from MHCLG is below:

- Local authorities to submit Cold Weather Fund application form by 4 December.
- Advisers to confirm outcome of each application by 20 December.
- Local authorities to send updated forecast of spend in mid-February.
- Local authorities submit their grant claims by the 31st March to receive payment for activity from December to the end of March.
- Local authorities to receive payment.