

Gloucester City Council

Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25

Rough Sleeping Action Plan

February 2021

Introduction

A key priority within the council's Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-25 is to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping, and our approach to rough sleeping has the following objectives:

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.

This mirrors the Government's Rough Sleeping Strategy published in 2018 which aims to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and end rough sleeping by 2027. Our ambition is to eradicate rough sleeping within Gloucester by 2025.

Currently we participate with the county council and the other 5 district councils in Gloucestershire, along with a range of providers, in a comprehensive homelessness pathway.

This action plan details how we intend to deliver on our aims to reduce rough sleeping and to ensure that by 2025 no-one has the need to sleep rough.

Rough sleeper numbers

In the autumn of every year local authorities undertake an annual 'count' of rough sleepers. This provides a snapshot of the position in each local authority area on a given night and shows that in Gloucester the number of people sleeping rough is reducing year on year (Table 1).

Table 1: Annual rough sleeper numbers across Gloucestershire since 2014

Local Authority	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cheltenham	0	1	11	9	2	9	6
Cotswold	4	4	6	1	5	7	5
Forest of Dean	0	2	0	1	1	3	0
Gloucester	17	13	23	15	6	17	11
Stroud	1	1	2	2	4	2	5
Tewkesbury	4	0	0	2	1	2	1

In 2020, Gloucester had the highest incidence of rough sleeping within Gloucestershire, and this is likely to be attributed to the transport links and the location of support services for homeless households.

Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2020-2025

Gloucester City Council works in partnership with 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 and rough sleeping pathway. 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.

The action plan set out below details how we aim to eradicate rough sleeping in Gloucester by 2025.

Table 2: Rough Sleeping Action Plan 2020-2025

Action	Targets and Milestones	Target Date	Lead/Partnerships	Progress
We will work collaboratively with partners to ensure recently awarded funding opportunities are implemented effectively across the city, by reviewing outcomes.	Monthly partnership meetings Quarterly reviews	2025	Housing Services Districts and County Council Clinical Commissioning Group Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	On-going
The Rapid Rehousing Pathway: Somewhere Safe to Stay and navigator funding (Access to immediate, short-term accommodation for rough sleepers coupled with support and specialist Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Navigators)	Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub and Navigator projects delivered	Autumn 2019	CHIG and CHIG + county-wide partnerships P3	Completed

<p>The Rough Sleeping Initiative: Increasing the Assertive Outreach services to support rough sleepers into accommodation and increasing personalisation budget</p>	<p>Assertive Outreach services to support rough sleepers implemented</p>	<p>Summer 2019</p>	<p>P3 County Homelessness Co-ordinator</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Social Impact Bond: ActionGlos – supporting entrenched rough sleepers to live independently and into training, education or employment</p>	<p>Regular reviews of outcomes</p>	<p>Ongoing to summer 2021</p>	<p>P3 Pivotal County Homelessness Coordinator Housing Services</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<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 Co-ordinator Housing Services Districts and County Council Clinical Commissioning Group Police and Crime Commissioners Office CHIG and CHIG + county-wide partnerships</p>	<p>On-going</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>On-going</p>	<p>Housing Services Districts and County Council Clinical Commissioning Group</p>	<p>NSAP funding application successful Cold Weather Fund application 2020 successful</p>

			Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Protect Plus application 2021 successful
We will review outcomes from last winter's SWEP (severe weather emergency protocol) and agree any necessary adjustments ahead of 2021/22 winter	Approach to winter 2019/20 SWEP agreed, due to Covid 19 we need to review prior to 21/22	Summer 2021	Housing Services Districts and County Council Registered Providers & Faith Group Communities	Continual review of SWEP required to ensure it meets the needs of those it is designed to support.
We will support the Assertive Outreach Team in coordinating an annual count or estimate of the number of people rough sleeping in Gloucester	Agree with partners on this year's street count	Annual rough sleeper estimates	Housing Services District authorities P3	On-going
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 Co-ordinator Faith forum Wider stakeholders	Completed
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.	Completed
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	Completed

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	Completed
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.	On-going	Housing Services County Council	On-going
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	Ongoing	County Homelessness Co-ordinator Project Solace	On-going