

Plymouth Rough Sleeper Strategy Group

Rough Sleeper Strategy 2018-2020

Working to prevent, reduce and ultimately end rough sleeping in Plymouth

Rough Sleeper Strategy

Complex needs

People sleeping rough in Plymouth mostly, if not exclusively, have complex needs. Their homelessness may exacerbate their other needs but may also be the result of them.

Responses to rough sleeping therefore need to be as much about mental health, well-being, substance use and trauma as about housing. However, stable accommodation and suitable support are vital to enable people to start to address those other issues and needs.

Level of need

Plymouth's Rough Sleeper Outreach team works with between 250 and 300 people each year, in terms of people who actually sleep rough.

On any single night, the number out may be between 10 and 25.

Rough Sleeper Partnership

RS Partnership

Plymouth has a partnership of organisations already working together to prevent and address homelessness. There is a specific group that meets and works together on rough sleeping. That group includes not just accommodation-related but other services, aiming to respond better to people's needs.

The RS Strategy Group includes all relevant services, including those addressing homelessness, housing, health, criminal justice and social inclusion.

In addition, there are now other, related groups and mechanisms to bring service providers together to change and improve responses. It is these groups and partnerships that will take the City's Plan forward, implementing, monitoring and reviewing it, in particular the Plymouth Rough Sleeper Strategy Group.

Below is a summary of specific actions and commitments from the partnership.

Plymouth Rough Sleeper Strategy on a Page (2018-2020)

Statement from the City: Plymouth believes it is unacceptable to have people sleeping rough in the 21st century. The Council and its partners are therefore committed to work together to reduce rough sleeping as a priority, with the intention of ending it by 2020.

System Goal

Prevent, reduce and ultimately end rough sleeping in Plymouth

Outcomes

Reduce rough sleeping

Prevent rough sleeping

Change lives

Objectives

- Maintain, increase and improve RS outreach
- Ensure and improve severe weather protocol (SWEP)
- Increase partnership approach, especially involvement of health services

- Add to range of accommodation options to better meet needs
- Provide additional support to people vulnerable to sleeping rough once accommodated

- Support people via personalised, strengths-based approach
- Work with partners in the community to better prevent and reduce RS

Our Priorities

Outreach

- Ensure every rough sleeper has a named case worker
- Secure additional funds / resource to increase RS team
- Improve access to other services and support, inc with other services being available on an outreach basis
- Ensure appropriate accommodation and support for SWEP

Accommodation

- Ensure appropriate 'safe space' to prevent people sleeping rough
- Review hostel and other temporary accommodation provision
- Trial Housing First for targeted group
- Ensure additional support for most vulnerable based around person not place
- Improve responses and options for EEA nationals
- Improve responses to people leaving hospital NFA

Community

- Work with partners to increase and improve training for staff to ensure better responses
- Further embed work of day centre and Soup Run into City's strategy and operational delivery
- Maintain and further develop links with community services to quickly identify and engage with people at risk of sleeping rough
- Develop an alternative giving scheme to better utilise and mobile support from the public

What will help us achieve our objectives? (Enabling Factors)

Partnership

- All partners in SOG asked to support this strategy, inc via commitment to flexible working, inc outreach
- Services to move towards MDT (multi-disciplinary team) approach

Approach

- Service providers and commissioners asked to develop and sign up to using a strengths-based approach

Focus

- Further join up working between key services, with shared focus on preventing and reducing rough sleeping

Aims and targets

Summary of ambitions

- Have an effective plan for severe weather (by Dec 2017)
- Have offer for people with no access to public funds (by Dec 2018)
- Ensure No Second Night Out approach (by Mar 2019)
- Have an accommodation offer that is unconditional and long term (by Mar 2019)
- Source additional funding streams (by Mar 2019)
- Set up an action plan for entrenched RS (by Mar 2019)
- Improve / maximise life choices of RS (by Mar 2019)
- Minimise need for unplanned contact with secondary services – no need for it or emergency (by Mar 2020)
- Nobody to be discharged from hospital to streets (by Mar 2019)
- Maximise access to secondary services (by Mar 2020)
- End rough sleeping (by Dec 2020)

Governance of the Strategy

The implementation of the Plymouth Rough Sleeper Strategy will be overseen and monitored by the Plymouth Rough Sleeper Strategy Group.

The Strategy Group consists of key service providers and relevant partners, including Community Connections.

Key services are commissioned as part of the Plymouth Complex Lives system, so that this strategy also sits within and is monitored in terms of that focus and group.

Rough Sleeper Strategy Group Members

The membership of the Plymouth Rough Sleeper Strategy is:

- Path (which administrates the Group)
- Community Connections / Plymouth City Council
- BCHA
- Westward Housing
- Salvation Army
- Shekinah Mission
- Shelter
- Devon And Cornwall Police
- Harbour
- Plymouth Soup Run
- Home Group