



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

January 2025

### **Rough Sleeping Winter Pressures 2024/25 Funding Guidance**

MHCLG has approved this funding with the objective to enhance provision in those local authority areas with the highest rough sleeping pressures to prevent deaths this winter. This should include a focus on long term rough sleepers and veterans, care leavers and victims of domestic abuse at risk of or currently rough sleeping.

Local authorities (LAs) and their partners should determine how best to use this funding to meet these objectives. You should review your data to identify the key drivers leading to people sleeping rough in your area and use this additional resource to address these.

#### **Expectations of Funding Delivery:**

- LAs and their partners commit the funding to be spent before March 31st 2025.
- LAs and their partners are able to demonstrate interventions for individuals within their Target Priority Group (Target 1000 in London) have been progressed with long term outcomes as a result of the way the funding has been used.
- LAs and their partners are able to demonstrate that interventions supporting individuals not to return to homelessness or rough sleeping have been progressed as a result of the way funding has been used.
- LAs and their partners are able to demonstrate interventions have been progressed for individuals before they have slept rough as a result of the way the funding has been used.

#### **Suggested Interventions Include:**

- Provision of off the street accommodation, including surge accommodation and where appropriate short term communal settings to meet immediate pressures.
- Support and interventions (including accommodation) for single homeless people who are not in priority need or who are intentionally homeless, who otherwise have no option than to sleep rough. This may include additional support to individuals at imminent risk of losing accommodation without additional interventions.
- Support for veterans, care leavers and victims of domestic abuse at risk of or currently rough sleeping, including assessment and support of those veterans living on the street.
- Provision of staff and resources to support people into longer term accommodation.
- Resources to provide ongoing support to people when they are accommodated to help them sustain their accommodation, this could include engagement with faith and community-based organisations.
- Private Rented Sector access budgets.
- Personalisation budgets.
- Support and interventions (including accommodation) for individuals leaving institutions, who are unable to access existing accommodation pathways.

## **Circumstances and Issues to Consider When Making Decisions Around the Use of the Funding:**

**Long Term Rough Sleeping:** Rough sleeping is not just a housing problem and for those individuals who are furthest away from services there are often health and complex safeguarding concerns.

You and your partners should work together to identify particularly vulnerable cases where a range of agencies could work together differently to deliver a bespoke package of support alongside accommodation using this funding over the winter. This could include health and adult social care partners as well as faith and community-based organisations.

You should also identify cases where you could actively engage with adult social care and health colleagues to consider whether the individuals concerned could benefit from interventions via established health and adult social care structures. Your rough sleeping advisers can support you in how best to identify and escalate appropriate cases.

**Returners to Single Homelessness and Rough Sleeping:** We understand how hard it can be to find ways to support people who have slept rough once they are accommodated. Community networks play a crucial role in supporting individuals to sustain a life away from the streets and you should have conversations with your partners, especially faith and community organisations working in your area to see if there are different ways of providing longer term support to individuals when they are housed.

This could include exploring funding and delivery options beyond traditional short term floating support models for those individuals you have housed in emergency or temporary accommodation this winter, who pose the greatest risk of returning to homelessness and rough sleeping, so they do not have to rely on similar accommodation provision next winter.

Homeless Link provide related guidance on local partnerships, which can be found here: [Supporting local partnerships | Homeless Link](#) and Housing Justice do work in this space and would be a useful point of contact for advice and ideas: [Contact – Housing Justice](#).

**New Rough Sleeping:** Responding to new rough sleeping effectively, particularly in terms of managing the flow of people resorting to sleeping rough for the want of alternative or earlier support options, is crucial to the ambition to end street homelessness. You should work with your partners to review your local data, as well as your current response to people sleeping rough for the first time, so that you can ensure that the rough sleeping resources you have available locally are targeted and prioritised in the right place.

Such an approach would involve you, your housing options team and your partners taking conscious case by case decisions about the level and nature of support needed, depending on an assessment of individual circumstances. Where your assessment is that an individual has significant needs and, without support, would be likely to spend a prolonged period on the street, then verification processes should not be a requirement for, or a barrier, to providing accommodation and support.

This might also mean differentiating the offer for those with higher needs from those with lower needs or in short term housing crisis and less likely to sleep rough beyond a first night. Equally, it should include an ongoing assessment of your existing caseloads to ensure your available resources are targeted at those who are most likely to continue to sleep rough. This is especially important when considering the provision stood up in periods of severe weather.

**UK Service Veterans, Victims of Domestic Abuse and Care Leavers:** We would always encourage LAs and their partners to take conscious “case by case” decisions around the allocation of homelessness and rough sleeping resources. These decisions should be based on an assessment of need and an understanding of individual circumstances.

People who have served in the UK armed forces, victims of domestic abuse and care leavers are likely to feature in the cohort of individuals that benefit from this funding in your area this winter. You and your service networks should be especially mindful of assessing the support needs of individuals in these cohorts and progressing appropriate service interventions accordingly. We know that you and your teams are already aware of this but people sleeping rough from these cohorts may well not disclose the information when first met by professionals or volunteers. Please make sure that your assessments take this into account, making every effort to understand the circumstances of those people you are supporting as fully as possible to provide sustainable, long term solutions to rough sleeping for these cohorts.

**Restricted Eligibility:** Some individuals you encounter will be ineligible for statutory homelessness assistance due to their immigration status and we recognise that supporting this cohort can present unique challenges. The rules regarding eligibility relating to immigration status, including for those with restricted eligibility, have not changed.

However, this does not mean that you should not offer any support to this group. Any funding we have provided can be used to help anyone, as long as you are acting within the law in doing so. Therefore, we encourage areas to use this funding alongside existing interventions to exhaust all options to support this cohort with longer term sustainable solutions.