

The Rough Sleeper Outreach Service – North Somerset

Hundreds of households who are facing homelessness, including rough sleepers, are helped by our housing advice team every year.

We work closely with a range of partners to give rough sleepers the opportunity to access the support and accommodation they may need. Rough sleepers in North Somerset are being helped week-in, week-out by a range of organisations.

We commission homeless charity St Mungo's and we work very closely with YMCA. These agencies provide Rough Sleepers Outreach services which means that someone is available in North Somerset five days a week to provide support, advice and welfare checks.

The Rough Sleeper Outreach Team's seek out and engage with vulnerable rough sleepers in North Somerset. The main priority is to get people to move away from the streets and into accommodation. The team gradually builds up trusting relationships, working with people to offer routes out of homelessness and towards recovery.

Working together with a range of professional organisations and volunteers we can make sure rough sleepers can access daily meals, health care, help accessing accommodation, etc.

Anyone can become homeless, rough sleepers may not be known to local services because they remain out of sight, bedding down at different times of day or night, and moving from place to place, so sometimes making contact can be difficult.

If you know of someone rough sleeping in your parish there is something you can do to help. You can use **StreetLink** (the national rough sleeping helpline) to let the outreach team and the council know about someone who is sleeping rough.

Anyone concerned about a rough sleeper can use **StreetLink** by calling **0300 500 0914** or via **www.streetlink.org.uk** which alerts local services. This information can be used to help locate them and support them off the streets into suitable accommodation.

