

Extra help for rough sleepers with drug and alcohol dependency



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£23 million investment for 43 areas this year, boosted by a further £52 million in 2021 to 2022

Initial £10 million funding confirmed to provide extra accommodation for rough sleepers throughout winter

Rough sleepers across England will receive extra support to help them recover from drug and alcohol misuse, Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Kelly Tolhurst MP announced today (14 December). England will receive support from a £23 million with drug and alcohol support needs to get the help they need to rebuild their lives. The programme will be boosted by a further £52 million in 2021 to 2022.

Rough sleepers who are being provided with emergency accommodation during the pandemic as part of the government's 'Everyone In' programme, and people who are currently rough sleeping, will be eligible for support.

In partnership with the Department for Health and Social Care, and managed by Public Health England, the funding will enable them to access drug and alcohol treatment, including detox and rehabilitation services.

This will be alongside wraparound support, such as access to mental health and substance dependence workers and peer mentors, who are key to working with vulnerable people in treatment services.

The minister has also confirmed an initial £10 million funding for nineteen areas, plus the Greater London Authority, under the government's £15 million 'Protect Programme'. This is to provide accommodation for rough sleepers during the

pandemic in areas that required extra support during the restrictions and throughout winter.

Taken together, government spending on rough sleeping and homelessness this year is over £700 million, with the 'Everyone In' campaign helping to protect thousands of lives during the pandemic by housing rough sleepers in safe accommodation.

Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing, Kelly Tolhurst said:

We know that one of the main issues facing those sleeping rough, or at risk of homelessness, is misuse of drugs or alcohol and what a crippling effect these substances have on people's lives.

While our 'Everyone In' campaign has helped to protect thousands of lives, we still need to work hard to break the cycle of rough sleeping for good.

This funding will provide thousands of vulnerable people with the support they need to get on the road to recovery to rebuild their lives away from the streets for good.

Health Minister Jo Churchill said:

The need to support the most vulnerable groups in society has never been more important or more apparent than this year.

We are committed to supporting those who want to break the cycle of addiction.

This funding will not only help those personally fighting addiction, but also benefit their loved ones and the communities who suffer from the often very difficult consequences of substance misuse.

Rosanna O'Connor, Director of Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco and Justice at Public Health England said:

Those sleeping rough with substance misuse problems can find it difficult to access services that can help them - their health continues to deteriorate and it becomes harder for them to turn their lives around.

This grant will help people who sleep rough struggling with addiction to improve their health and break this pattern and we are looking forward to seeing the positive impact this will have now and in the future.

Further information

A full breakdown of funding allocations for the substance misuse fund is available [here](#):

Barnet

£286,598

Bedford

£222,563

Birmingham

£792,075

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

£494,218

Brent

£389,423

Brighton and Hove

£354,035

Bristol

£711,064

Cambridge

£403,839

Camden

£349,980

Cornwall

£841,495

Croydon

£480,955

Dorset

£306,713

Ealing

£454,688

Enfield

£271,339

Hackney and the City

£642,445

Haringey

£256,360

Hillingdon

£171,665

Islington

£498,493

Kingston

£354,595

Lambeth

£326,858

Leeds

£560,903

Lewisham

£449,839

Liverpool

£490,957

Luton

£409,881

Manchester

£854,310

Milton Keynes

£243,160

Newham

£601,960

Northamptonshire

£367,234

Oxford

£584,834

Peterborough

£310,300

Portsmouth

£682,243

Preston

£551,173

Reading

£473,123

Redbridge

£192,964

Richmond

£178,895

Sheffield

£373,398

Southampton

£469,603

Southend

£317,818

Southwark

£339,245

Tower Hamlets

£615,285

Wandsworth

£293,729

Westminster

£1,124,541

Pan-London Inpatient Detox Provision

£402,580

Pan-London Homelessness Drug and Alcohol Service

£77,600

A full breakdown of funding allocations for the Protect Programme is available [here](#):

Local Authority

Allocation

City of Bristol

£ 565,671.00

Brighton and Hove

£ 106,255.00

Cornwall

£ 591,444.00

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

£ 337,000.00

Manchester

£ 453,965.00

Salford

£ 372,500.00

Leicester

£ 299,915.00

Birmingham

£ 430,000.00

London

London (GLA)

£ 3,955,571

Westminster

£ 856,916.00

Islington

£ 128,500.00

Hillingdon

£ 80,500.00

Camden

£ 209,025.00

Ealing

£ 200,000.00

Southwark

£ 411,150.00

City of London

£ 174,069.00

Newham

£ 303,000.00

Tower Hamlets

£ 196,296.00

Lambeth

£ 141,600.00

Total

£ 9,813,377.00

Over the past year alone, 61% of those sleeping rough in London said they needed help with addiction problems, with 39% reporting alcohol misuse and a further 39% reporting drug misuse.

The department has also today published the initial findings a survey of more than 500 rough sleepers, to build a better understanding of people who sleep rough, their support needs, and the associated costs.

The findings show that the vast majority (96%) of the respondents experienced another support need in addition to sleeping rough, such as physical or mental health vulnerabilities, substance misuse support needs, time spent in prison or having been a victim of domestic abuse or a recent victim of crime, while 91% had been affected by two or more of these issues.

The research also found that the estimated average annual cost of an individual that sleeps rough was £12,260, compared with £3,100 for all individuals of a similar age, who can access comparable services.

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