

HOMELESS PREVENTION



Homeless Prevention
work

Sub Regional update
– November 2022



Behind the statistics

A closer look at three key areas of work

- 1) Rough Sleeping
- 2) Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation
- 3) Accommodation for Ukrainian families





Rough Sleeping

Continues to remain an important priority for government. Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk authorities have been able to secure rough sleeping funding, including RSI 5 funds.

In 2020 there were 56 recorded rough sleepers in Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk during the November estimate. The 2022 numbers are currently being verified but initial estimates indicate an increase.

LA	2020	2022
Cambridge City	17	23
East Cambs	1	TBC
Fenland	8	14 (5NRPF)
Huntingdon	8	4
Peterborough City	9	24
South Cambs	3	4
West Suffolk	14	6



Cambridge City's Rough Sleeping update:

CCC has been awarded a sum of money, as a supplement to its RSI allocation, in recognition of the additional pressures that we face as a consequence of being perceived as a 'hub' of housing, support and assistance for rough sleepers originating from outside of Cambridge. This money is being spent on a full time, street based, officer on a fixed term contract and a part time officer who will assist with move-on from our winter provision accommodation, looking particularly at assisting people with restricted eligibility to either find work or voluntarily return to their country of origin. The award also includes a sum of £10k to assist non-locally connected rough sleepers to return to accommodation in their home authority.



Fenland's Rough Sleeping update:

There are currently 14 rough sleepers in Fenland, 5 of whom have no recourse to public funds. Officers have been lobbying government (DLUHC and Home Office) and took part in a review of the Rough Sleeper Support Service review.

The RSI 5 offer has been very successful, since covid we have rehoused over 100 rough sleepers/those at risk of rough sleeping. We have bid for funding under the Next Steps Accommodation Programme, and Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme working with Ferry Project Clarion and Places for People, we have facilitated new homes with support including 6 modular homes. We have also benefitted from working in partnership with CCC colleagues under the Housing First programme and two providers to deliver much needed homes for our clients needing extra support, all have been life changing and in some case life saving.



Peterborough's Rough Sleeping update:

There are currently approximately 24 rough sleepers in Peterborough - two thirds who have restricted eligibility. The majority of these have been offered accommodation but persistently fail to engage with our offers to support them. This is an issue we have been raising with DLUHC.

RSI5 has enabled the rough sleeper team to grow. We are hoping that some of the preventative posts based both in the hospital and prison will reduce the number of rough sleepers returning to sleeping rough from these institutions. With the growth of the team, we have expanded our outreach officers which has enabled us to conduct outreach at least 5 times a week - either very early in the morning or late at night.

Over the winter we will be really proactive with communications, ensuring the public know how they can support rough sleepers in the right way - encouraging people to refer anyone seen rough sleeping via streetlink and donating to Safer off the Streets.



Hunts, East Cambs and South Cambs:

Received successful RSI5 funding to continue the outreach support for rough sleepers, currently provided by P3. Thanks to Hunts for leading on this work, including any procurement for new contracts.

West Suffolk:

The establishment of a multi agency Homelessness Reduction Board for Suffolk which will oversee delivery of new accommodation options and joined up commissioning of support services. (West Suffolk)

Ensure Clients being supported through RSAP funding are receiving personalised healthcare (West Suffolk)



DAHA Accreditation

All Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Authorities are currently working to improve their response to domestic abuse and seeking accreditation (or reaccreditation) from Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)

Actions include:

- Updating domestic abuse policies and procedures for customers and staff,
- Enhanced training offer for staff and the creation of Domestic Abuse Champions,
- Awareness raising and publicity

Cambridge City Council held their annual Domestic Abuse Survivors Conference on 18th November organised by Community Partnership colleagues but with guest speakers from Housing teams.





Accommodation for Ukrainian families

Update from Fenland:

We currently have 37 hosts and 66 guests. We have commissioned the Rosmini Centre in Wisbech to provide an information and advice service for guest and meeting events for hosts which have been very successful. We are currently surveying our guests (via Rosmini) to ascertain their next steps and how we can support them.

Update from Cambridge City:

Cambridge City Council's response to homelessness demand from Ukrainian households has largely been from within existing staff resources. We are in the process of creating an asylum seeker and refugee team, split between the Housing Advice Service and our Community Safety team. Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council are currently working together to encourage new hosts.





Accommodation for Ukrainian families

Update from South Cambridgeshire District Council:

We currently have 261 Ukrainian households living with hosts/sponsors in South Cambridgeshire. Because of the large number of hosts, we invested time and resources in creating dedicated Housing Advice posts to support Ukrainian households, including dedicated work to re-match households to new host families. We have also been able to bring some empty properties back into use to accommodate Ukrainian households. Work is also focussing on encouraging new hosts to come forward. <https://youtu.be/nHEJ0CmsiFQ>, especially as are aware there has been a spike in visas.





Challenges Ahead for 2023

- Working with rough sleepers, including those who have NRPF.
- Increase in demand for housing, including the impact from asylum seekers and refugees, especially as host arrangements with Ukrainian families come to an end.
- Affordability (authorities are reporting an increase in contact with Housing Advice teams as households feel the impact of the cost of living crisis)

Questions

