

Cardiff Rough Sleeper Strategy Update

January 2020

Rough Sleeping Monitoring (October 2019 - January 2020)

Since April 2019, a total of **158** rough sleepers have been supported into accommodation through multi-agency interventions, **67** of these during the period October- January.

37 rough sleepers received a homelessness assessment direct from the Outreach Service.

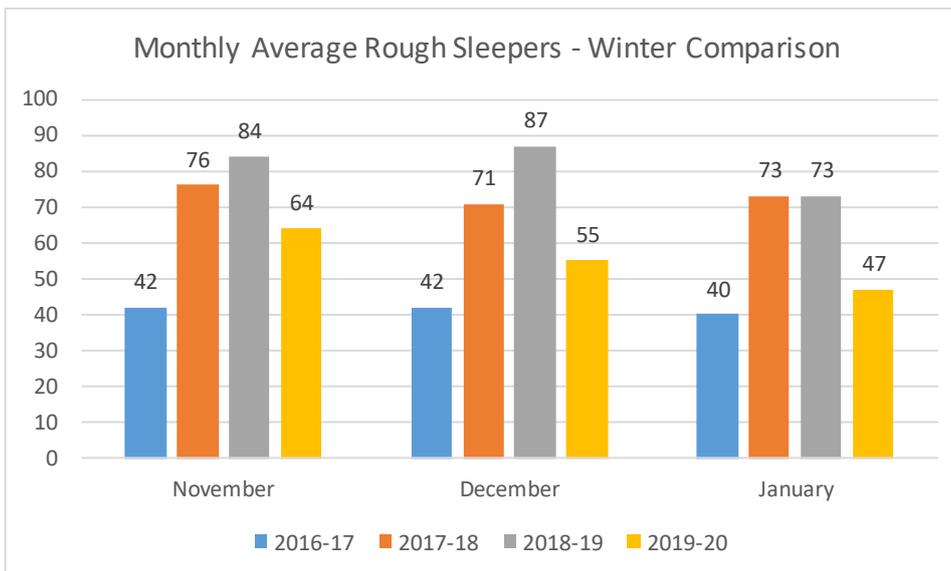
21 clients experienced successful outcomes through the Homelessness Reconnection Service.

Oct 2019 - Jan 2020	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Total Rough Sleepers (average over 4 weeks)	68	63	55	47
4-Month Average	58			
No Local Connection (at month end)	10	27	24	19
EEA - No Housing Benefit (at month end)	4	4	3	3

Support Needs (as at January 2020) - **72%** of rough sleepers have identified lead support needs relating to substance misuse, **24%** to mental health and **4%** to alcohol.

Winter Rough Sleeping Trends

When compared with recent years, levels of rough sleeping in Cardiff have reduced significantly this winter, despite an increased number of people needing assistance. This has been achieved through additional provision of good quality emergency accommodation and improved engagement and support through the Outreach and Multi-Disciplinary Teams. This is a positive first step but it is recognised that services must be ready to keep adapting to what is a fast-changing environment.



*As at 31st January, there were just **36** rough sleepers recorded in Cardiff, a further drop against the monthly average of **47**.*

Multi-disciplinary Team

To date, the Multi-disciplinary Team has received **367 referrals**, with **323 cases opened** to specialist workers. Of the **168 cases that have closed**, **121 clients (72%)** have successfully secured accommodation or maintained their existing accommodation.



Housing First

Housing First is proving successful in accommodating rough sleepers with high and complex support needs, including the first prison leavers to be housed through the scheme. At the end of January there were a total of **29 live tenancies** across the three projects (Cardiff Council, Salvation Army and Cardiff Council/HMP Cardiff), with a further **15** clients receiving **pre-tenancy support**. **94%** of Housing First clients were considered to have broken the cycle of homelessness.

City Centre Tents

Daily engagement with tent users by the Outreach Service has continued, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of city centre tents since the beginning of 2019. **At the end of January 2020, there were only 4 tents in the city.** Regular multi-agency meetings are held regarding each individual and tailored action plans created. Accommodation outcomes are detailed below:

Tent Dwellers Assisted into Accommodation February 2019 - January 2020						
Emergency Overnight Accommodation	Front Line Hostel	Supported Accommodation	Return to own property	Rehabilitation Services	Rough Sleeper Project	TOTAL
27	4	4	7	1	4	47

New Cold Weather Provision at the YMCA Gym

A new format of Cold Weather Provision has opened at the YMCA Gym, offering up to 12 units of good quality emergency accommodation and supporting Cardiff's commitment to 'no second out'. Rapid access to this kind of accommodation means individuals are much less likely to become entrenched in sleeping out and other negative aspects of street culture activity.

Feedback from clients has been very positive, with many stating that they feel safe and welcomed at the accommodation. The layout of the bed spaces allows for an enhanced level of privacy, plus the provision of actual beds and mattresses has greatly improved service user satisfaction. In addition, individual lockers have minimised concerns about personal items being stolen and give a better sense of security.

Staff members use a psychologically-informed approach to build positive, supportive relationships with those staying each night. The vast majority of clients have managed to retain their place, giving them the chance to start to engage with the services offered by Outreach and the Multi-disciplinary Team.

Being able to offer a placement at this provision has given Outreach workers greater confidence that the accommodation is suitable to meet client needs; service users reliably accept a referral and continue to access the space until move-on options are made available.

