

Cardiff Rough Sleeper Strategy 2017-2020 - Update June 2018

The Cardiff Rough Sleeper Strategy 2017-2020 was approved in March 2017, with an overall vision to: **'Work towards ending rough sleeping in Cardiff'**. This document provides an update on progress against key commitments made in the Strategy.

Addressing Begging

A partnership approach to address begging has been launched by Cardiff Council, The Big Issue and South Wales Police. A **begging pathway** has been established around a five stage approach, incorporating support from the Outreach Team and Big Issue to try and tackle the main causes of this behaviour. The pathway is intended to avoid police action and support people to access appropriate benefits and address wrap-around support needs. The pathway will be piloted and subsequently reviewed before a full launch is made across the city.



South Wales Police
Heddlu De Cymru



55 rough sleepers were assisted into accommodation during April - June 2018.



HUGGARD, Helping
The Homeless



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Rough Sleeping Monitoring

During 2017-18, the quarterly average number of rough sleepers was consistently above 60 individuals, peaking at over 80 rough sleepers during the months of September/October. **Figures for Quarter 1, 2018** are set out below:

Quarter 1 2018	April	May	June
Total Rough Sleepers (average over 4 weeks)	61	70	67
Quarterly average	66		
No Local Connection (as at month end)	33	32	21
EEA - No Housing Benefit (as at month end)	1	1	1

Rough Sleeper Lead Needs identified by Outreach (week ending 22nd June 2018):

- **Substance Misuse – 42** (19 with Mental Health as secondary need)
- **Mental Health - 8**
- **Alcohol – 5**
- **Learning Disability – 1**

A total of 204 rough sleepers were assisted into accommodation during 2017-18, against a target of 144.

Reconnection Service

36 people presented to the service during April-June 2018. Of these, **26** clients (72%) went on to achieve a positive outcome. A further **58** potential clients were engaged at outreach surgeries.

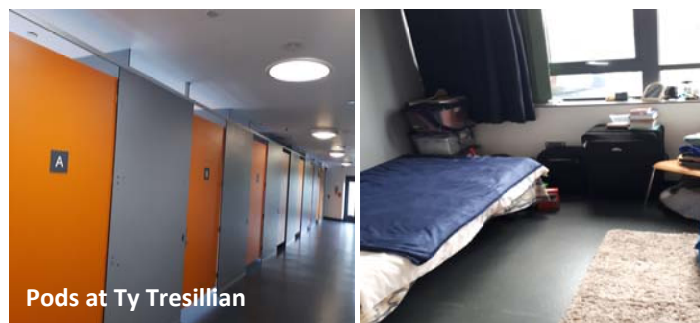
Homeless Advocacy Programme

Single Persons Gateway monitoring identifies a high number of homeless clients repeatedly being evicted, abandoning placements or experiencing a placement breakdown. During April-June 2018, **76** people were evicted from accommodation - **66%** had at least 1 previous eviction. **52** people abandoned placements over the period - **37%** of these had previous abandonments.

To try and address this 'revolving door' effect, the Council has introduced a **Homeless Advocacy Programme**. The advocate will identify reasons and triggers for placement breakdown, and represent the views of the service user, with the aim of sustaining the current placement or supporting a move to an alternative provider where appropriate.

Accommodation Review

Emergency Provision - Ty Tresillian are running additional provision for up to 20 people on a night by night basis, on top of the existing 8 emergency pods and 5 planned spaces. This comprises of 3 emergency cabins and 15 people on floorspace, with 2 meeting rooms opened for the most vulnerable clients. A further 5 internal pods are planned for September 2018. An Emergency Overnight Stay Support Co-ordinator has been recruited to tailor support to the needs of clients accessing this provision.



Pods at Ty Tresillian

Other hostels have committed to increasing their provision on an emergency basis, subject to demand.

Night Shelter – Work has started to expand provision at the Night Shelter. Outreach continue to refer rough sleepers on a night by night basis into 4 dedicated rooms.

Litchfield Court - Fully supported model to be in place in 2018. There are plans for extensive refurbishment work, including extra ground floor, wheelchair accessible units.

Offers of Accommodation – The Council's Outreach Team and Housing Options Centre are working closely together to provide rough sleepers with their ideal housing placement. The Outreach Team work with clients to identify their preferred option and they are then prioritised for any vacancies at that scheme.

Innovative Projects

A number of innovative projects have been developed by the Council and partners to address identified gaps in provision and meet specific needs:

Housing First - A pilot of **up to 10 direct placements into Council, Housing Association and private tenancies with intensive wrap-around support** commenced in December 2017. To date, 5 clients have settled in accommodation, maintaining over 100 weeks of tenancies in total.

Compass Project – 4 self-contained units attached to Ty Gobaith offering **intensive, specialist support to people with multiple complex needs**. 15 rough sleepers were supported in 2017, all of whom moved on to frontline services. During 2018, 4 individuals have been supported to date, all of whom are currently still within the project.

Cardiff Solutions Service - An **alternative drop-in facility** for rough sleepers not accessing other services. During April - June 2018, 558 contacts were made and 160 individuals supported, 26 of whom requested and secured accommodation and 15 of whom accessed the Single Persons Gateway/Outreach/Housing Options Centre.

Ty Tarian - 5 units of specialist accommodation and support for **women with high support needs and at risk of exploitation**, commenced in September 2017. Of the 5 current clients, a total of 82 weeks of tenancies have been maintained. Weekly group work, structured activities and one to one counselling are ongoing, with clients beginning to make significant progress.

Rough Sleeper Project - based on Housing First principles, providing **direct referral into self-contained accommodation** for chronic rough sleepers who have previously failed to engage or sustain other provision. All 15 current clients are engaging well with staff, with 7 having maintained placements for longer than a year.

Let's Do Something DIFFerent

The Let's Do Something Different Forum has been established to improve communication between agencies working with homeless people and encourage a partnership approach to tackling the issues surrounding homelessness.

A befriending / peer mentoring forum has met twice, bringing together frontline organisations working with homeless clients. Benefits include sharing good practice, training and education and awareness sessions on issues such as safeguarding. To date, 2 organisations are ready to go and just awaiting referrals to support and another 3 organisations plan to set up new schemes.