



Rochdale Borough Council Winter Homelessness Response Plan and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

There is no single definition of severe weather. Any weather conditions that increase the risk of harm to people sleeping rough can be classed as severe. This could include extreme cold, wind, snow, rain or heat.

The historic guidance is for SWEP provision to be triggered when the temperature is forecast at zero degrees or below for three consecutive days. However, Rochdale Borough Council take a flexible and inclusive approach to the offer of assistance during severe weather taking into account the impact of wind chill, rain, snow and heat, and therefore 'SWEP' will be activated throughout November 2023 - March 2024 (reviewed weekly). At other times throughout the year when severe weather is expected our response will be implemented again.

When offering assistance under SWEP, the eligibility criteria as set out in Part VII of Housing Act 1996 (as amended by Homelessness Act 2002 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) will not be applied.

Any person, regardless of eligibility, priority need, intentionality or local connection will be provided with assistance if they:

- Are at risk if they continue to sleep rough during the course of severe weather conditions;
- Have nowhere to sleep indoors or have inadequate shelter (such as vehicles or sheds) during the course of severe weather conditions;
- Agree to engage with assistance offered by the Rough Sleeper Partnership

Rochdale Rough Sleeper Partnership have committed to the below actions and will enhance the following accommodation and support provision over the period of November 2023 - March 2024.

RBC will review pressures and demands weekly and RBC Homeless Team will review placements daily. When extreme weather or demand is expected emergency planning will be led by Rochdale Borough Council Strategic Housing Lead Officers.

Regular partnership and provider forums will commence to ensure efforts and support can continue, pressure points and barriers will be shared and resolutions will be sought.

Homelessness Winter Plan 2023- 2024						
Rochdale						
Response	Intervention	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4	Action 5
	Temporary/ Emergency Accommodation (CWB)	24 additional emergency beds available for people who are rough sleeping or with an evidenced imminent risk of rough sleeping.	Flexible use of current OOH/emergency beds at statutory homelessness accommodation, when access is approved via Homelessness Team Seniors/Manager and Accommodation Managers	Local agreement amongst accommodation providers, for all voids in supported accommodation offered to RBC first. (Acceptance subject to assessment). Voids to be communicated to Homelessness Team via SPOC.	Direct access to emergency beds for RSI team for rough sleepers found bedded down on the night. Authority to RSI team to access agreed accommodation.	Petrus Hub, Brentwood MDC, Reaching Out Centre (ROC) to support with prevention and relief activity. Aim to secure alternatives to emergency accommodation where possible. Support to access alternative and move on accommodation after accessing emergency beds for the first night.

	Enhanced Support and Welfare Services	Increased welfare checks and support hours from Sanctuary Trust (RSI/Welfare Team). Fortnightly meetings with partner agencies to action and safety plan for anyone rough sleeping and not accessing accommodation.	Streetlink service linked to Outreach Team and Homelessness Service inbox. Ability to self-reporting function and report on behalf of someone else to alert appropriate services to rough sleepers. <i>See Appendix 1</i>	Rochdale-wide 'Warm Spaces' as well as open door policy at support hubs/day centres. <i>See Appendix 2</i>	Increased opening hours and support at hubs/day centres (Petrus Hub and ROC, Brentwood MDC and WHAG), resulting in 7 day, and gender specific/ informed offer of support across the borough of Rochdale. Warm clothing distribution via Petrus, WHAG and Sanctuary Trust. <i>See Appendix 3</i>	Pathway to assessment, prevention and relief work for people at risk of rough sleeping on the night. <i>(see daily protocol)</i>
	Health	HART health checks. Available as drop in's at Petrus Hub, Temp Accommodation, Supported Accommodation, Brentwood MDC. Turning Point Health and Wellbeing Checks for Turning Point Clients.	MASH pilot until 31st March 2024. (Manchester Action on Street Health). Outreach support twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday 7pm-11pm/midnight). MASH van providing safe and confidential support to women who are sex working in Rochdale	HCRG Sexual Health Outreach and MASH based at Petrus Hub and WHAG women's groups. HCRG able to provide quick access/open door access to sexual health treatment when for high risk patients.	HART health support extended to people who have moved into own tenancies. Support available on flexible appointment basis.	Turning Point Homeless Treatment Support Service (HATSS) Outreach Rota providing drop in sessions and key working at Hubs in Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton. <i>See Appendix 4</i>

			(including indoors and street sex work).			
	Increase Move On	Pathway to daily move-on/homelessness support at the ROC, Petrus and Brentwood MDC. <i>(See daily protocol)</i>	Increased offer to landlords as part of targeted work plan for RBC Homelessness Prevention Officer to 'unlock' PRS accommodation for people experiencing homelessness.	Rent in Advance and Bond payments for affordable private rented properties.	Access via homelessness 'front door' to discretionary shortfall payments for new and current PRS tenancies.	Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme (RSAP) continued on boarding. Access to move on accommodation for rough sleepers and those in temp who have experienced rough sleeping.
Prevention	Intervention	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4	Action 5
	Tenancy/Temp Sustainment	Freeze on NTQ's until March 2024 unless significant unmanageable risks. Commitment from Rochdale Accommodation Partners.	Quick access to pre-tenancy education. (SSP and WHAG floating support). Tailored and bespoke packages available for short interventions as well as or longer support	Tailored/targeted referrals to Bond Board Tenancy Advocacy Service. Support offered for people in private rented accommodation. Support with	Prevention activity available out of usual working hours. PHP workers at Petrus Hub available Saturdays 9am-1pm. WHAG support workers available Wed and Sun 6:15-8:45pm.	Increased financial resources to target homeless prevention. Fund sat in homelessness front door and access for prevention contract providers.

		Joint approach to support and risk management as part of 'Team Around Homelessness' forum.	offers for up to 6 months. <i>See Appendix 5</i>	tenancy sustainment interventions and homelessness prevention. <i>See Appendix 4</i>		
	Cost of Living Support	Household Fund. All homelessness/ support partners have access to the Household Fund to provide support where possible, with financial struggles and the set-up of a new tenancy. About the Household Support Fund Cost of living: Household Support Rochdale Borough Council	Welfare support at Petrus Hub, Brentwood MDC, ROC, WHAG Women's Drop In. <i>See Appendix 3</i>	Rochdale Borough Council and Trusted Partners schemes to support with the cost of living. Cost of living – Rochdale Borough Council . Residents who need extra support can also call our Cost of Living Helpline on 01706 923685. <i>See Appendix 6</i>	Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has also produced a Winter Wise booklet and conversation guide, specifically tailored to help older people across Greater Manchester. You can access these documents here: Winterwise guide - Greater Manchester Combined Authority (greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)	

	Increase support to maintain current placements or access non-homeless accommodation	Wrap around support from Team Around Homelessness to maintain at risk placements. Direct and a quick access to wrap around support.	Specific support for Young People via GMBOP/ Youth Pathfinder. Support for 18-25 (flex up to 35 in some circumstances). Focussing on sustaining current accommodation using negotiation (with family, friends and landlords), risk mitigation or other tailored support for specific needs.	Rent in Advance and Bond payment for affordable private rented properties in any area extended to prevention cases as well as relief.	Access to financial incentives to secure accommodation with family and friends for homelessness officers and prevention contract holders.	
	Reduce the number of people accessing temp accommodation especially B&B	Increased financial resources to target homeless prevention. Fund sat in homelessness front door and accessed by prevention contract providers.	Early Break/GMBOP Youth Pathfinder. Support for 18-25 (flex up to 35 in some circumstances). To prevent homelessness and need for temp accommodation. Early Break will also utilise Night Stop via Depaul where necessary.	Utilise and work in partnership with Home Office and AASC accommodation provider (Serco) to ensure pause on evictions are granted when severe weather/ temperatures hit. Activation of SWEP procedure from Home Office/ AASC will		

				be as per protocol.		
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Daily pathway/protocol for Cold Weather Placements

1. When placed by Rough Sleeper Team or Out of Hours on cold weather provision (CWP) and not open to homelessness, Duty to Refer (DTR) needed and assessment from homelessness to be done same day by RBC Homelessness Prevention Officer. DTR to be completed by organisation placing.
2. Initial evidence request/PHP to be sent by Homelessness Officer at earliest opportunity (within 48hrs of assessment). PHP/requests to form part on ongoing relief activity at Petrus Hub or the ROC.
3. Anyone placed on CWP, is placed on a night-by-night basis. Each person will be expected to attend one of the services providing a warm space and support through the day. This is essential to avoid temporary accommodation provisions being overloaded and ensure that effective/appropriate support can still be provided.
 - Anyone placed by RBC under SWEP should be directed to Petrus, anyone placed by Sanctuary Trust RSI should be directed to the ROC for ongoing support
4. Support workers at Petrus and ROC to complete referrals for accommodation and start addressing other support needs (health, benefits, and wellbeing support). Each person on CWP will need to confirm access to the provision for a further nights by contacting the Homelessness Team. Support workers might be expected to evidence activity undertaken to find alternatives before this accommodation will be agreed again. Financial incentives (for the individual for the purpose of move on) available to access by any service to secure move on accommodation.
5. If people present to day services in at risk of rough sleeping, Prevention activity/support to find friends and family to stay with where possible, re-iterating, higher priority is not given to someone who is in temporary accommodation so there is no benefit to getting temporary accommodation if this person can reside elsewhere.

6. Support/incentives such as Household Fund vouchers to be applied for to help people stay with others.
7. Each case to be considered daily with homelessness temporary accommodation coordinator and CWP managers for extensions.

- **Appendix 1**



Streetlink_A5
Leaflet Option_02 v2

- **Appendix 2**

[Warm Welcome Spaces | Rochdale Borough Council](#)

- **Appendix 3**

Homeless specific, warm spaces and support hubs

Petrus Hub open 9 – 4. Any variations are stated below		
Location	Day & Time	What's on?
Petrus Hub	Monday – Friday 9 - 10am	Breakfast
	Monday 12 - 2pm	Women's Group
	Tuesday 10 – 2pm	Health and Wellbeing session
	Wednesday 9 -12:30 (closes)	Warm Space and Breakfast
	Thursday 12 - 2pm	Women's Group (Candlelight Café)
	Friday 12:30 - 2:30pm	Men's Group
	Saturday 9 – 12:30pm (closes)	Warm Space and Breakfast

Location	Opening Times	What's on?
Brentwood Middleton Day Centre	Mon 9-3 Tues 9-3 Wed 9-3 Thurs 9-1 Fri 9-3	Assistance with homelessness, welfare rights, benefits, housing, debt, health, referrals, access to food banks. Breakfast and hot lunch can be accessed daily.

Location	Opening Times	What's on?
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Location	Opening Times	What's on?
Reaching Out Centre	Mondays 4pm-6pm	Tea & Toast and a warm space
	Tuesday 4.30pm-6.30pm	Women's Group
	Wednesday 4.30pm-6.30pm	Men's Group
	Thursday 4pm-6pm	Tea & Toast and a warm space
	Sunday 9.30am-12pm	Breakfast

WHAG	Wed 8pm – 11pm Sun 8pm – 11pm (18 weeks starting 26 th November)	Female only offer. Assistance with homelessness/housing, wellbeing, health (physical and sexual), benefits. Access to warm space, food, showers and clothing.
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- **Appendix 4 (below)**

**HATSS Rochdale – Daily Outreach/Drop in
Timetable**



Day	Time	Location	Intervention	Partner Agency	Staff
Monday	9am-5pm	St Chads Court	Assessment/Drop in/Key-working	Turning Point	Sean/Suzanne/Connie/Jodie
	11am-2pm	Brentwood Day Centre	Assessment/Drop in/Key-Working	Brentwood	Sophia
	2pm-5pm	Middleton PCT (Middleton Shopping centre, 1 st Floor)	Assessment/Drop in/Key-working – Prescribing capacity if pre-arranged	NHS	Sophia
	9am-11am	ROC Café	Assessment/Drop in/Key-working	Sanctuary Trust	Danny
	9am-5pm	St Chads Duty	Duty	Turning Point	Suzanne
	12pm-1pm	Petrus Long street Middleton	Assessment/key-working	Petrus	Sophia
Tuesday	9am-11am	Petrus (Hub)	Assessment/Outreach/Key-working	Petrus	Danny
Once per fortnight	9am-11am	Petrus (Hub)	Prescribing clinic	Petrus	Danny and NMP
	930am- 1230pm	Jannat House/Waggon and Horses/Greave House/Redfearn House	Assessment/Drop in/Key-working/Outreach	Sanctuary/Stepping Stones/Lifeline	Suzanne
	1pm-4pm	St Chads Prescribing clinic	New Starter/Review of prescribed Medication clinic	Turning Point	All staff
Wednesday	930am- 1230pm	St Chads	Internal MDT	Turning Point	All staff
	9am-5pm	St Chads	Assessment/Drop in/client sessions	Turning point	All staff
	5pm-7pm	St Chads	Evening Assessment Clinic	Turning Point	All staff rotate
	1pm-3pm	Tekoa House	Assessment/outreach/drop in/key-working	Langley House Trust	Jodie
Once per month	1pm-2pm	St Chads	Sexual Health clinic – Paula	NHS	Connie
Thursday	9am- 12noon	Leopold Court	Assessment/Drop in/Outreach/Key-working	RBC	Connie
	9am-5pm	St Chads	Drop in/Key-working session	Turning Point	All staff
	1pm-3pm	Ashburn House – Heywood	Drop in/Key-working/Outreach/Assessments	Stepping Stones	Jodie
Friday	9am-5pm	St Chads	Drop in/Key-working/Assessment	Turning Point	All staff

- **Appendix 5**



SSP Rochdale
Referral Form 2021.c

SSP contact number: 01706 359600

Bond Board contact number: 01706 342 404

- **Appendix 6**



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