



SEVERE WEATHER PROVISION FOR PERSONS SLEEPING ROUGH¹

BACKGROUND

Local authorities are required to take all possible steps to avoid deaths on the streets from residents sleeping rough. Rough sleepers are particularly at risk during periods of severe cold weather.

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and its partners will ensure a humanitarian response to the problem of rough sleepers during these times and will take prompt action to ensure people have access to shelter and support. **The trigger for initiating severe weather provision will be when the temperature falls to zero degrees or below.** The response may involve:

- The provision of emergency accommodation to provide shelter; and/or
- Paying reasonable travel costs to access emergency accommodation.

OUTREACH

The Council works in partnership with EMMAUS (Hull and East Riding) to provide a rough sleeper outreach project across Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire. During periods of severe weather the outreach team will make every effort to engage early with long term rough sleepers who may previously have refused a move to more settled accommodation and assist them to access emergency shelter. Persons accommodated in emergency accommodation under the terms of the Protocol will be referred to EMMAUS at the earliest opportunity after their placement and signposted/assisted to access other support services, e.g. health.

EMMAUS will complete an assessment of support and other needs and monitor numbers etc. Clients wishing to be reconnected with another area will be assisted to do so and this may include the cost of travel.

EMMAUS can be contacted on 07539 029 314 or 01482 223722 or via email at outreach@emmaushull.org.uk. Referrals can also be made via the national StreetLink website at www.streetlink.org.uk

REFERRAL ROUTE DURING PERIODS OF SEVERE WEATHER

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm

The following options are available to seek assistance from the Council's housing team during office hours.

Telephone: 01482 396301

E-mail: housing.services@eastriding.gov.uk

Face to face: Visit a Council Customer Service Centre

Alternatively you can make a referral to one of the homeless resettlement schemes in Bridlington:

The Haven: 01262 401510

Deputy Manager: 07442 532839

Angie.mansfield@sanctuary-housing.co.uk

Quay Road: 01262 671607

Manager: 07989 528037

sonya.thomas@sanctuary-housing.co.uk

¹ Reviewed October 2018



Out of hours

During out of hours (weekdays between 5:30pm – 8:30am & weekends), a senior housing officer is on duty. Please call the Emergency Duty Team on 01482 393939. Please note that due to the lack of direct access accommodation in the East Riding it is important that you notify the authority as soon as possible of cases of concern so that alternative steps can be taken to try to find suitable temporary accommodation. If we have to revert to bed and breakfast then that needs to be “booked” during the day time or early evening. Proprietors will not take bookings later in the evening.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Emergency accommodation

There is no direct access provision in the East Riding of Yorkshire. For those aged over 18, The Haven has two emergency one-bed spaces, for stays of up to 28 days, plus provision for three additional one-bed spaces during the winter. Bed and Breakfast is considered suitable for the majority and will be used where other alternatives are not available. Housing Services uses a small number of established properties. These have the advantage of being located throughout the East Riding and can therefore enable residents to stay in their locality close to support etc.

For vulnerable young people (aged 16-25) the Y.M.C.A in Goole may be able to accommodate someone in an emergency. However, no units of accommodation are kept available for this particular situation and therefore the opportunity to place somebody in an emergency is dependent on there being an existing vacancy in the hostel. Nightstop operated by SASH may also be available although placements out of hours are not possible.

It is recognised that, although Bed and Breakfast accommodation is not suitable for 16 – 17 year olds, in some emergency circumstances young people will be accommodated in Bed and Breakfast accommodation to prevent street homelessness. These arrangements are exceptional and will only be used as a last resort and will be short term. The Council will adhere to its protocol for access to accommodation for young people aged 16 & 17 to ensure that these young people have a risk assessment and a lead professional to coordinate services and act as a single point of contact.

In addition some faith groups may have access to accommodation in church rooms and similar and in periods of severe/extreme weather this may be made available for respite emergency accommodation.

Hostel accommodation

The Haven, Marshall Avenue, Bridlington is a 12 bed resettlement scheme for non statutory single homeless people (18+). Sanctuary Supported Living provides the housing management at this property and also for Montague House at 66 Quay Road, Bridlington which provides 10 beds for vulnerable homeless young people (aged 16-25). Sanctuary staff are on-site seven days a week (9.00am to 5.30pm) with security cover outside these hours. Placements are via referral only using the above contact details. If eligible, support will be available to help residents move on to independent living within 3-6 months.

Existing social housing stock

Wherever possible those rough sleepers to whom the Council owes a duty under the terms of the Homelessness Act 1996 (as amended) will be accommodated into settled housing (with housing related support if needed). This may be within our own stock or with another social landlord. The Council also has good contacts with private rented landlords and this may be an option in some cases. However, it is acknowledged that social housing may not be available in an emergency and may not therefore be the solution to rough sleeping in severe weather.



OTHER SUPPORT

The Council and other designated partners will hold a small number of sleeping bags and “spare blankets” which may be provided to those who cannot or choose not to access accommodation. The issue of these must be carefully considered and will only occur where we have reason to believe that it will increase the safety of the rough sleeper. Where transport is an issue then rough sleepers will be assisted with travel arrangements.

SPECIAL PROVISION

Anyone presenting under the influence of drink or drugs may not be considered suitable for emergency provision. In the case of drink, the person will be advised to walk off their intoxication and to present again in an hour's time. The emergency services will be called for any person deemed to be incapable of looking after themselves. Bedding will not be provided to those severely under the influence as falling asleep in that condition without shelter will be dangerous.

Agencies seeking to refer cases will be expected to have completed an assessment of the person being referred to ensure that they are suitable to be accommodated and that any risks have been identified. This is particularly relevant where the only option may be bed and breakfast accommodation and we need to be happy that the person does not pose a risk to other residents.