

QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR



Question submitted by: Councillor Terri Beer

To Cabinet Member: Cllr Rebecca Smith, Cabinet Member for Homes and Communities

Question:

Can you explain your inability to ensure rough sleepers have a safe place to stay as I have noticed there are people camping out in tents at North Cross roundabout and on Citadel Road

Response: (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

Can you explain your inability to ensure rough sleepers have a safe place to stay as I have noticed there are people camping out in tents at north Cross roundabout and on Citadel Road

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness in the City and there are increasing numbers of people rough sleeping.

We estimate that over 25 people are rough sleeping and the reasons for this are diverse.

- Relationship Breakdown
- Addiction
- Trauma
- Mental Health Challenges
- Financial Difficulties
- Leaving institutions, care, prison, hospital

A holistic, multi-agency response is in place to support people away from the streets into safe, often supported accommodation:

Path, BCHA, Hamoaze House, Shekinah, Livewell, Salvation Army and PCC through the Plymouth Alliance, work closely with people who are rough sleeping in a co-ordinated way, to develop bespoke plans around housing and other related needs.

However, it is also worth noting the at the North Cross Roundabout and Citadel Road locations, there are individuals and couples rough sleeping with:

- No recourse to public funds, for example, waiting for their settled status. There is minimal housing they can access.
- Dogs and very few housing providers, hotels and B&B's will house dog owners who are homeless.
- A history of being evicted from housing services as a result of challenging behaviour often caused by trauma, mental health challenges, and addiction.

Plymouth Night Shelter funded through the Government's Rough Sleeper Initiative opened its doors to 12 individuals rough sleeping on the 1st October 2022.

In the last 3 weeks 25 people seen sleeping rough have been supported away from the streets and into temporary accommodation.

Week ending 16/09	8 people
Week ending 23/09	10 people
Week ending 30/09	8 people

Our aim is that rough sleeping individuals are only rarely, and briefly rough sleeping and we do all we can to ensure this is non-recurring.

Signed:



Dated: 10th October 2022

OFFICIAL