

PASSPORTING THE ROUGH SLEEPER PREVENTION AND RECOVERY GRANT (25/26) TO THE PLYMOUTH ALLIANCE – COMMUNITY CONNECTION AND COMMISSIONING



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plymouth City Council receives funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to ensure the delivery of services to single homeless individuals and couples, including those with a history of, or at risk of rough sleeping. The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI), allocated by the Government from 2022-2025, aims to combat rough sleeping as part of a broader strategy to address homelessness and enhance services for those at risk.

Since 2018, Plymouth City Council has annually received RSI funding and collaborated with the MHCLG Rough Sleeper Advisory Team and the Plymouth Alliance to develop a comprehensive approach to preventing and supporting homelessness and rough sleeping.

The Labour government has extended the Rough Sleeper Initiative funding until March 2026, renaming it Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPRG) and incorporating the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders (AFEO) grant. Plymouth City Council will receive the same allocation in 2025/26 as in 2024/25 for both RSI and AFEO. Encouragingly, the Government has indicated plans to consolidate local authority homelessness funding streams into one multi-year settlement starting from April 2026.

RSI Funding Allocations:

2022/23: £1,652,240

2023/24: £1,581,352

2024/25: £1,512,851

AFEO Funding Allocations:

2023/24: £210,234

2024/25: £210,234

For 2025/2026, the RSPRG grant funding allocation is **£1,723,085** (£1,512,851 (RSI) and £210,234 (AFEO) combined).

Plymouth City Council is allocated £306,517 of this to deliver specialist service interventions as an integral part of the system response with the Plymouth Alliance and wider partners.

Funded Interventions 2025/2026:

Service Intervention/ Delivery	Funding
Adult Safeguarding Specialist	£52,000
Adult Social Care Specialist	£53,902
Local and Supported Lettings	£185,000
Multi-Agency Rough Sleeping Team (MARS)	£195,000

Navigators/Saturday Opening Day Centre	£173,000
Sleep Safely/Hamoaze Utility Costs	£187,000
RSI Technical Support	£66,469
Somewhere Safe to Stay (SS2S) and Primrose House	£423,834
Homelessness Support Service	£89,431
Youth Homelessness Intervention Specialist	£44,715
Hospital Discharge Worker	£42,500
Accommodation for Ex-Offenders – Targeted Support	£210,234
Total Committed Spend	£1,723,085

These interventions are part of a systemic approach to provide pathways out of homelessness and rough sleeping, ensuring comprehensive support and services.

This paper sets out the purpose and utilisation of the grant funding in line with Plymouth City Council governance.

2. BACKGROUND

Plymouth City Council receives funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to offer specialist services to single homeless individuals and couples, including those with a history of rough sleeping or those at risk of it.

The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) was allocated by the Government to local authorities from 2022-2025 to combat rough sleeping as part of a broader strategy to address homelessness and enhance services for those who are homeless or at risk.

Since its first application in 2018, Plymouth City Council has annually received RSI funding and has collaborated with the MHCLG Rough Sleeper Advisory Team and the commissioned Plymouth Alliance to create and implement a comprehensive approach to preventing and supporting those who are homelessness and/or rough sleeping.

In 2021, Plymouth City Council worked closely with MHCLG colleagues and The Plymouth Alliance to develop a three-year system offer aimed at reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.

Plymouth City Council, in collaboration with the Plymouth Alliance, has used this funding to provide a systemic approach alongside broader Alliance services and partners, offering pathways out of homelessness and rough sleeping wherever possible.

The Labour government was elected and came into power on the 4th July 2024. MHCLG extended most of the homelessness funding streams to local authorities to March 2026.

The Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding was renamed the Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPRG) and includes the Accommodation for Ex-Offenders grant into this allocation.

Plymouth City Council will receive the same allocation in 25/26 as in 24/25 for both RSI and AFEO

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 RSPRG
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RSI	£1,652,240	£1,581,352	£1,512,851	£1,723,085
AFO	0	£210,234	£210,234	
TOTAL	£1,652,240	£1,581,352	£1,723,085	£1,723,085

The service interventions are delivered by organisations who form part of the Plymouth Alliance. The Alliance Leadership Team (ALT) comprises of senior leaders from the following organisations.

Plymouth City Council
 Harbour Drug and Alcohol Service
 The Zone
 PATH
 BCHA
 Hamoaze
 Livewell
 Shekinah

As part of the governance arrangements the ALT have approved the following service interventions for 25/26. It should be noted that this is a continuation from 24/25 and not new service delivery

Lead Organisation	Service Intervention	RSPRG
<u>PCC</u> Adult Safeguarding Specialist	A dedicated complex needs social worker based in the Adult Safeguarding Team attached to The Alliance and homelessness services	£52,000
<u>PCC</u> Adult Social Care Specialist	This hybrid role will provide outreach and enable timely assessment and access to support as required. This role will work across homelessness and rough sleeper services, and work closely with Alliance and rough sleeper services, as well as the Health Inclusion Pathway Plymouth (HIPP) service.	£53,902
<u>PATH</u> Local and Supported Lettings	The service works with landlords to support people in sustaining and maintaining tenancies. This work complements and adds to the commissioned Private Rented Access Scheme delivered by the Alliance, providing Deposit Guarantees and access to wider funds and support.	£185,000
<u>PATH</u> Multi agency rough sleeping team (MARS)	The MARS team provide intensive support to individuals who have a long history of rough sleeping. The team have very low caseloads to enable the level of support that is required.	£195,000

<u>SHEKINAH</u> Navigators / Saturday opening Day Centre	Navigators work intensively with individuals who have a history of homelessness and rough sleeping to support them through their homelessness journey and linking in with specialist services to ensure the right support at the right time to enable move through to accommodation. This funding means that this service is extended to Saturday morning also.	£173,000
<u>BCHA</u> Sleep Safely	Sleep Safely is a night shelter with 8 self-contained bunk rooms which each have their own door and 4 individual self-contained pods in the courtyard area.	£187,000
<u>PCC</u> RSI Technical Support	Provides strategic oversight of homelessness/ rough sleeping pathways to ensure the operational and strategic links are in place to provide best for customer pathways and services.	£66,469
<u>BCHA</u> Somewhere Safe to Stay (SS2S) and Primrose House	SS2S provides 20 rooms and has 24-hour support available. Primrose provides 10 rooms with 24 hour supported houses	£423,834
<u>PCC</u> Homelessness Support Service	The Homelessness Support Service is made up of two Community Connections Officers providing Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) duties and applications ensuring equity of access to statutory duties under the Act for those experiencing rough sleeping.	£89,431
<u>PCC</u> Youth Homelessness Intervention Specialist	This service provides prevention and early intervention support to young people who are most at risk of rough sleeping and homelessness	£44,715
<u>BCHA</u> Hospital Discharge Worker	This is an additional post located with the team at Derriford and adds capacity to support and manage discharge where there is a risk of homelessness/rough sleeping.	£42,500
<u>PATH</u> TASS	This funds a Targeted Accommodation Support Service (TASS) for those moving away from the criminal justice system and vulnerable to homelessness/rough sleeping	£210,234

An Executive Decision paper has been drafted to:

Allocate the ongoing MHCLG RSPRG funding to the activity as set out in this paper

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

There are no alternative options as delivery of this programme of work has been developed in agreement with funder (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) .

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

The grant allocation is 100% revenue and will be used to fund service interventions.

The activity described will support prevention and relief of homelessness and support management of significant costs related to the statutory response to homelessness

Financial risk is minimised as this is funded revenue activity.

5. TIMESCALES

The services are currently being delivered as they are a continuation of the previous year (24/25) delivery.