

Ending rough sleeping across the UK: the No Second Night Out approach

The No Second Night Out approach has been operating in London since April 2011 and the standard has been adopted in a number of other places, both rural and urban. The principle aim of the approach is to make sure that no-one spends more than one night on the streets. Actions taken focus on making contact with people as soon as possible, and then developing a plan for helping them to find accommodation within a very short space of time.

Background

The statement of the Government's vision for tackling rough sleeping, No Second Night Out, was published in July 2011. This built upon a programme of work launched in London in April 2011, already using the same heading.

The policy initiative of the previous Government to reduce rough sleeping to as close to zero as possible, has led to many local authorities joining the European pledge to end rough sleeping by 2012. No Second Night Out marks a significant step towards that aim.

The latest estimate, derived from the 2010 counts and estimates, is that **1,768** people sleep rough somewhere in England on any one night. However, other data tells us that during the whole year of 2010/11, **3,975** people slept rough at some point in London. This was an increase of 8% on the previous year's total of **3,673**, and was considerably higher than the Government's previous official figure of **415**. Given this disparity, it is likely that the figures for other cities and towns around the country are also under-estimates, though by a smaller margin.

No Second Night Out – the key principles

The Government identified 5 key principles in their vision:

- **Identifying rough sleepers:** new rough sleepers should be identified and helped off the streets immediately so that they do not fall into a dangerous rough sleeping lifestyle
- **Involving the public:** members of the public should be able to play an active role by reporting and referring people sleeping rough
- **Assessing needs quickly and safely:** rough sleepers should be helped to access a place of safety where their needs can be quickly assessed and they can receive advice on their option
- **Accessing emergency accommodation and other services:** they should be able to access emergency accommodation and other services, such as healthcare, if needed
- **Reconnecting to support:** if people have come from another area or country and find themselves sleeping rough, the aim should be to reconnect them back to their local community unless there is a good reason why they cannot return. There, they will be able to access housing and recovery services, and have support from family and friends.



Translating the No Second Night Out vision into reality

No Second Night Out – the London pilot

The London programme of work in 10 London boroughs has several elements:

- A **24 hour helpline** and **website** for members of the public, as well as emergency services and homeless people, to report and refer rough sleepers to agencies which can help them
- A **rapid response** for new arrivals on the street
- A **central hub** carrying out assessments, and providing a place of safety while work is carried out to identify action to resolve the person's needs
- A **single offer approach** and **consistent message** across outreach teams
- **Tracking outcomes** through a rough sleeper database using real time intelligence
- A **multi-agency Delivery Board** overseeing the work, with a commitment to delivering a step change to tackling the problem, on an urgent basis

Many elements of the work which can be applied in other places, and the learning from the lessons of the London pilot can help to shape approaches being developed elsewhere.

Tackling rough sleeping for other groups

Homeless Link has made **four simple pledges** which incorporate the idea of the No Second Night Out campaign but go further to look at all of the cohorts of rough sleepers:

- ❖ No one new to the street should spend a **second night** out – tackle the problem at the start
- ❖ No one should **make their home** on the street – tackle entrenched rough sleeping
- ❖ No one should **return to the street** once they have been helped off them – tackle the revolving door problem
- ❖ No one should **arrive** on the street – tackle the causes of rough sleeping

Many areas aim to address the needs of all four groups. Effective work in all these tasks requires:

- Leadership and political commitment/ buy-in
- Effective partnership and co-ordination
- Robust tracking and monitoring
- Good publicity and communication
- Good ways of capitalising on the energy and ideas of former rough sleepers

Key references

Vision to end rough sleeping, CLG, 2011

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/visionendroughsleeping>

Effective action to end homelessness: Adopting the No Second Night Out standard, Homeless Link, September 2011 <http://www.homeless.org.uk/effective-action/NSNO>

No Second Night Out: A review of the first three months of the project, Broadway and No Second Night Out, September 2011:

<http://www.broadwaylondon.org/ResearchInformation/Research/NSNORReview/NSNO3monthreview.pdf>

Homeless Link rough sleeping resources:

http://www.homeless.org.uk/sites/default/files/Rough_sleeping_resources_flyer.pdf

Guidance to support the 4 Homeless Link pledges: <http://www.homeless.org.uk/effective-action>

London No Second Night Out website: <http://www.nosecondnightout.org.uk/index.htm>

Liverpool No Second Night Out standard:

<http://councillors.halton.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=14785>