



Coventry City Council

SWEP


2025-2026

Scrutiny Board 4


23rd October 2025

coventry.gov.uk


SWEP

- SWEP = Severe Weather Emergency Protocol
 - Local authorities are required to implement SWEP in line with national guidance at times of severe weather
 - In Coventry SWEP is triggered when
 - Temperatures are at a 'feels like' 0c' or
 - A yellow weather warning
 - The Salvation Army, following discussions with CCC send email to inform them SWEP has been triggered & website updated
 - The Rough Sleepers Outreach Team (RSOT) inform all rough sleepers on the morning outreach and revisit everyone during the day
 - Rough Sleeper Team rarely find anyone who's used SWEP rough sleeping in between periods of SWEP
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2024/25 Overview

- SWEPP was on for 60 nights – longer than last year (42 nights)
 - 342 people used SWEPP (increase of 148 people from last year)
 - 101 people (30%) who were referred for SWEPP did not turn up
 - 4 people stayed 30+ nights- same as last year but different people
 - 34% of people stayed just one night- increase from 27%
 - People who stayed for 1-5 Nights = approximately 50%
 - Post SWEPP review lots of people have UNKNOWN whereabouts or outcome
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So..... in Coventry

- SWEP is used by lots of people unknown to the rough sleeping service, people who haven't been found rough sleeping either before or after SWEP
 - MHCLG state we see significantly more people accessing SWEP compared to statistical neighbours and for shorter periods
 - Most take up the offer of shelter but not the support
 - For a third it's a one night only stay
 - Creates a situation of a high number of unknown people utilising SWEP and resources taken up by non rough sleepers
 - Those known by the Rough Sleeping Outreach Team (RSOT) who attend for support are automatically accommodated, unless extremely complicated circumstance
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Other Areas

- There is no 'one way to do SWEP'
 - Areas like Wolverhampton and Walsall have significantly lower numbers
 - Statutory guidance exists (0 degrees for 3 consecutive nights)
 - Coventry has operated a '*feels like 0*' approach
 - Coventry has activated on the first night (not the statutory 'third night')
 - Some areas operating a two-tiered model
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How we are going to operate SWEP in 2025/26



Westminster Approach

Tier 1 (0°C)

– focus on pre-identified list of known individuals

Tier 2 (0°C for 3 nights or more)

- Referrals extended

Conditions

SWEP Protocol/ Provision

What you can do

Tier 2

Below 0°C temperatures anywhere in London for a minimum of three consecutive days or where the Met Office issues an Amber Alert.

Referral rights extended to a broader range of delivery partners.

Westminster scale up to a total of **218** single occupancy hotel spaces with additional bed spaces in the Rough Sleeping & Mental Health pathways and with our charity partners. Further resources to be accessed via the GLA SWEP overflow when local capacity is met.

Submit a Street Link referral and if necessary contact emergency services **as below**. In addition, please contact ReferralsCW@stmungos.org if you need to refer in a client into the service

In addition resource Centres

Tier 1

Below 0°C temperatures anywhere in London.


Initial focus on a Pre-identified list of clients who are especially vulnerable to the cold, as agreed in partnership with health services or those presenting as at higher risk prioritised.

Provision of up to **183** beds delivered via hotels, supported housing and shared occupancy models dependent on circumstances of the individual referred.


Submit a Street Link for any rough sleeper seen bedded down at streetlink.org.uk. Include as much information as possible and the individual will be targeted at that location by the Street Outreach Service who will assess them for SWEP access or alternative accommodation and make referrals where appropriate. If you are immediately concerned about an individual, contact the emergency services.

Tier One


0c or 'feels like' 0c

- First night for those known to be at risk of harm i.e. known rough sleepers, either currently rough sleeping or have been known to sleep rough
 - These are **pre-identified** by the outreach team – visits undertaken to everyone currently out
 - Liaise with Hospital Discharge Nurse at UHCW re any imminent **hospital discharges**
 - Consider any imminent **prison releases**
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Tier Two

- 0 or below for three consecutive nights or when met office issues an Amber Alert
 - **widens eligibility** and **referrals are invited** in for a SWEP assessment
 - The outreach team operates a 5pm-9pm weekdays and 9am – 8pm Weekends and bank holidays all year round
 - Outside of this **people call EDT** and are offered a place and need to present to services the next
 - EDT advise to seek support the next day and if SWEP is continuing and they need it to present to the RSOT by 3pm (provision is available and accessible beyond this time)
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Additional Provision

- EDT phoneline operates 24/7
 - RSOT on-call operates until 9pm (8pm at weekends)
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Recommendations for SB4

1. To note the focussing of SWEP provision for 2025/26 on people known to be at risk of harm through the 2-tier model
 2. To invite officers to report back to the Board later this municipal year to provide information on the SWEP usage and the impact of the changes made
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