

Rough Sleeping Outreach and Homelessness Prevention



CHANGE4LINCS

This leaflet provides information about our services. It explains what we do, how and when.

Who We Are

Change4Lincs is a partnership between North Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, South Kesteven District Council and West Lindsey District Council set up to tackle the issue of rough sleeping. Working with each of the council's housing services teams Change4Lincs has developed a new response that aims to identify and help new rough sleepers to get off the streets as soon as possible.

The service also helps longer-term rough sleepers by providing a chance to escape homelessness. We provide outreach services to those who are rough sleeping and homeless and help and advice to those who may be at risk of becoming homeless.

Areas We Cover

Our services are offered within North Kesteven, South Holland, South Kesteven and West Lindsey, as shown in green on the map below.



What is sleeping rough?

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness. It is typically associated with sleeping outside, but also refers to sleeping in a place not designed for living, such as an empty building or a car. Some people are at a higher risk of rough sleeping than others.

What does homeless mean?

You are homeless if you have nowhere to stay and are living on the streets, but you can be homeless even if you have a roof over your head and are, for example, sofa surfing.

Who can access the service?

- Rough sleepers
- The homeless
- Those at risk of being homeless or rough sleeping

The service is accessible to all new and existing rough sleepers in the four districts we cover, irrespective of gender, age, sexuality, disability, HIV status, appearance, ethnic origin and cultural or religious beliefs. You are rough sleeping if you sleep anywhere outside or in a building that is not designed to be lived in. This includes sheds and derelict shops and factories.

If you tell us you are rough sleeping, we will check this by visiting you where you sleep. You will then be invited to meet at an agreed time and place to discuss your

situation further and find out if you would like more help.

You don't have to be sleeping on the streets to be considered homeless. You can apply for help even if you have somewhere to live but it's not suitable, such as staying on a friend's sofa or your home is overcrowded, for example.

If you are at risk of being homeless or rough sleeping you can contact Change4Lincs and we can help with advice and support in preventing you from that happening. This may include referral to other services or support groups.

At risk of being homeless / rough sleeping

Change4Lincs can offer help and advice if you:

- Have been evicted from your home or are facing eviction
- Are asked to leave by friends or family
- Must leave due to violence
- Are sleeping on the streets

If you see someone rough sleeping

If you are concerned about someone over the age of 18 that you have seen sleeping rough in England or Wales, call StreetLink on 0300 500 0914.

You can use this website

www.streetlink.org.uk/ to send an alert to StreetLink. The details you provide are sent to the local authority or outreach service for the area in which you have seen the person, to help them find the individual and connect them to support. It is important to note that if you think the person you are concerned about is under 18 or the person you are concerned about is in immediate danger or needs urgent care, please call 999.

How can Change4Lincs help?

The aim of the service is to provide you with a service offer to prevent rough sleeping. This means we will work with other housing services to find the best solution for you. The offer will be based on your housing history, current circumstances and support needs as well as whether you have a local connection to one of the four districts we cover.

You have a local connection if you have:

- Been resident in the district for six months or more
- Been resident in the district for a period of three out of the last five years
- Family connections (blood relatives) in the district that have been resident for over five years

If you don't have a local connection your service offer may consist of help to return to another part of the UK or to another EU country where you have connections. Service offers to those with local connections may include hostel space, social housing or private-rented accommodation. These are only examples and your own service offer will depend on your individual circumstances.

Ways we can help:

- Outreach to provide support and help
- Referrals to partner agencies or support groups
- Provide details of faith groups and charities
- Help with completing your housing application to the local authority
- Help and advice to find accommodation
- Wellbeing and physical health support

- Help to prevent you becoming homeless
- Assistance in finding private rented accommodation – information, advice and support to find private rented properties, links with landlords, help with bonds and rent in advance (criteria apply).

What will I have to do?

The service has been designed to provide every rough sleeper with a route out of homelessness and, for those at risk of becoming homeless, support to help prevent this. The support includes help to find and access other services you may need to help you maintain future accommodation, such as health and employment advice. To provide the most effective service, we ask you to engage with the assessment process and co-operate with the agencies involved, including attending all appointments. You will be consulted at all stages of your progress through the service and we will ask for your permission to share information with partner agencies in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

De-registration from the service

You may be de-registered without receiving a service offer in the following circumstances:

- At your request
- On information received that you are no longer rough sleeping / homeless
- If we lose contact with you for four weeks or more
- Because of persistent and serious non-engagement




What next – Get in touch to find out more about our services

South Kesteven District Council

St Peters Hill, Grantham NG31 6PZ


 01476 406080

 www.southkesteven.gov.uk

West Lindsey District Council


The Guildhall, Marshall's Yard,
Gainsborough, DN21 2NA


 01427 676676

 www.west-lindsey.gov.uk

South Holland District Council

Priory Rd, Spalding PE11 2XE

 01775 761161

 www.sholland.gov.uk

North Kesteven District Council

Kesteven St, Sleaford NG34 7EF

 01529 414155

 www.n-kesteven.gov.uk

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