

Winter provision 2020/21

Due to Covid19 restrictions, the usual winter night shelter provision (NLWS) led by the churches and supported by the Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) will not be operating for this 2020/21 winter season, in accordance with Government guidance. This is due to the need to ensure the safety of those guests who would usually access the NLWS, as well as the staff and volunteers of the project.

The annual rough sleeping estimate on November 18 2020 reports there were no people rough sleeping in Basingstoke and Deane. However it is fully recognised that situation can fluctuate daily, with many factors contributing to heightened risks of people sleeping rough, including Covid related factors such as:

- Tiered Covid restrictions which may impact on options available for those sofa-surfing
- Changing personal financial implications during an economic recession
- Changes in Government sector support as lockdown rules are implemented

Every year, there is known to be a small group of people who access the night shelter but known not to be sleeping rough throughout the rest of the year. Outreach work is already underway by the specialist team at Julian House to understand the individual needs of this group for the winter period, with the aim of encouraging and assisting them into sustainable and suitable accommodation over winter as an alternative to relying on a NightShelter.

A wide range of welfare and support will still be available and coordinated and delivered by partners within the SIP throughout winter. Each partner within the SIP is committed to ensuring street homelessness is prevented and every potential rough sleeper is offered safe and secure accommodation together with the support to maintain it.





Process and access

Collaboration from all SIP members to identify and refer/send notification re any person at risk of, or known to be, rough sleeping. Useful info:

- Streetlink <https://www.streetlink.org.uk>
- Basingstoke and Deane housing team: 01256 844844 or housing@basingstoke.gov.uk
- Julian House outreach service: 01256 322791 or basingstoke-outreach@julianhouse.org.uk