

Information Item

Subject:	Assertive Outreach with Rough Sleepers
Officer Contact Details:	Sarah Johnson
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Sarah is employed by Wiltshire Council to support those who identified as sleeping rough throughout the County. This is part of a wider strategy by the Housing Options Team who work in partnership with other agencies to address this issue.

She attends the various third sector drop in centres that take place each week at Devizes, Trowbridge, Chippenham and Salisbury. Her role is to work with service users at the drop in and to engage them sufficiently to address the barriers that prevent their housing being addressed, as well as supporting them to access other services that would support sustaining a change in lifestyle.

This often involves assisting them to engage with the Council's Housing Options Team to look at housing solutions suitable to their circumstances and helping them be aware of what they can do to help themselves.

Most of those sleeping rough have a variety of problems that compound their situation and these problems need to be worked on, often before housing can be considered as otherwise they won't be able to sustain accommodation. Sarah will arrange registration with Drs and banks, attend with individuals at the surgeries, Substance Misuse Services, Mental Health Teams and where else an individual may need help.

There is no formal referral route to take but if you are concerned about someone you see sleeping rough in Wiltshire you can make a report through the STREETLINK site: <http://www.streetlink.org.uk/tell-us-about-a-rough-sleeper> or alternatively email Sarah at sarahh.johnson@wiltshire.gov.uk