



Dear Colleague,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your continuing work alongside Government to ensure people sleeping rough receive the support they need during this unprecedented year. 2020 was a challenging year where we had to focus on the impacts of COVID-19, with outstanding effort and innovation that saw a huge number of vulnerable people accommodated. We know that you and your staff have gone, and continue to go, above and beyond to help vulnerable people. I would like to extend our thanks once again to you, your teams, and providers who are working tirelessly to support our local communities during this difficult time.

The Government has committed to ending rough sleeping. We have taken unprecedented steps to protect rough sleepers during the pandemic. Our annual statistics published in February show that the number of vulnerable people sleeping on our streets on a single night has fallen by 37% in the last year. The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) is crucial to ensuring we continue to make progress, and we are pleased to confirm allocations for the fourth year of the RSI.

We expect this funding to be used to continue to support all rough sleepers in your local authority area and to build on the progress made over the last 12 months. I appreciate that these continue to be unprecedented times, but I ask that you continue to do everything you can to support people off the streets working with your providers and wider community partners.

RSI 2021/22 Allocations - Tamworth Borough Council

We are pleased to inform you that your bid has been successful in securing **£100,000** ring-fenced revenue funding from the recent bidding round for the Rough Sleeping Initiative. As you will be aware, this is a key part of our approach to continue the work to reduce the number of people sleeping rough and enhance services for them and those at risk of sleeping rough. Where authorities are part of a joint RSI bid allocation will be confirmed to the lead authority. A full breakdown of the interventions funded is in Annex A and the payment schedule is set out in Annex B. All RSI funding is subject to the conditions set out in Annex C, which will also be given in the grant determination.

Funding Principles

All funding allocations have been awarded according to the following principles that will apply to the working relationship between MHCLG and all authorities regarding RSI funded services. These principles guide future relationships and while they do not constitute a legal or binding agreement, all parties are committed to honouring them.

Recipients of funding should:

1. Work with MHCLG to create a refreshed rough sleeping plan.
2. Ensure homelessness assessments are carried out for eligible people receiving services because they were rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping, so that their needs are assessed and a personalised housing plan (PHP) is provided.
3. Reduce the number of people accommodated in hotels and other emergency accommodation. Local move on plans should end the use of hotels and other emergency accommodation by the end of Q1, unless otherwise agreed with MHCLG.
4. Subject to individual assessments of people who are sleeping rough, make offers of safe and appropriate accommodation to people who are rough sleeping. RSI funding is designed to build upon existing local rough sleeping services and should not be used to substitute existing support offers e.g. SWEP accommodation.
5. Agree with MHCLG advisers an operational target for the reduction in the number of individuals currently sleeping rough. We expect funding to result in a reduction in both the number of people coming onto the street for the first time and the number of people sleeping rough repeatedly.
6. Reduce the number of people 'at risk' of rough sleeping.
7. Achieve an increase in the number of individuals supported through the RSI who sustain their tenancies beyond 6 months
8. Maximise collection of housing benefit or universal credit on all accommodation placements for those in receipt of benefits.
9. Partnership working is central to the delivery of the RSI programme and wider rough sleeping services. Recipients should actively develop and be able to evidence ongoing engagement with partner agencies including health, substance misuse, criminal justice services and the voluntary sector in local rough sleeping responses.
10. Evidence the role of lived experience and service user's voices in the development of rough sleeping action plans and RSI planning and delivery.
11. Ensure that support offered to non-UK nationals who are not eligible for homelessness assistance will comply with any legal restrictions (for example, the restrictions contained in Schedule 3 to the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002). Any funding provided for immigration advice is provided on the basis that this is to support individuals to determine or resolve their immigration status and not to challenge immigration decisions made by the Government. Any voluntary reconnections funded should be made if there is a reasonable prospect of an individual returning to their home country for a sustained period.

Thank you once again for your work to support rough sleepers and we look forward to working with you on your plans to support vulnerable people and end rough sleeping in your area.

Kind regards,

Catherine Bennion

Deputy Director for Rough Sleeping

Annex A - Breakdown of funding

Funding has been agreed for the following services:

RSI 4 (12 months: 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022)	
Intervention	Cost
1x FTE Outreach Worker	£32,880
1x FTE Mental Health Support Worker	£19,440
Off the street accommodation	£6,400

Annex B - Payment Information

The grant funding confirmed within this letter is ring-fenced for the sole purpose of providing Rough Sleeping Initiative funded services that were approved by MHCLG. This allocation will be split equally into two tranche payments, one in April 2021 and one in October 2021.

You will need to complete a return to MHCLG confirming progress against interventions, the total year to date spend, and forecast spend across all funding allocations confirmed in this letter. Your returns will inform adjustments to the second tranche payment. We will be in touch towards the end of August 2021 to request this information.

Payment of second tranche of funding is dependent on whether the agreed conditions upon which the grant is being paid have been complied with. The agreed conditions are covered above. If an authority fails to comply with any of the conditions, MHCLG may reduce, suspend, or withhold grant; or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant.

Annex C – conditions of funding

1. Funding has been used to establish or continue Rough Sleeping Initiative services agreed by MHCLG to immediately intervene in, prevent and reduce rough sleeping in financial year 2021-2022. If repurposing of interventions is required, the authority must

engage with their adviser and MHCLG for prior written approval to discuss whether exceptional circumstances apply.

2. The Chief Executive, section 151 officer, or Chief Internal Auditor of each of the recipient authorities must, in advance of tranche payments, sign and return to the team leader of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Division at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government a declaration in the following terms:

*“To the best of our knowledge and belief, and having carried out appropriate investigations and checks, in our opinion, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to Rough Sleeping Initiative No **31/5545** have been complied with”.*

3. Recipients of funding will need complete a return to MHCLG confirming the total year to date spend to enable the MHCLG to adjust the autumn payment. The returns will be submitted by 1 September 2021 and will include spend to date and forecast spend and signed declaration.
4. Recipients of funding must discuss and engage in communications on the RSI programme where requested, including regular meetings with their Rough Sleeping Initiative Adviser.
5. Recipients of funding must complete quality assured information returns, provided by the MHCLG at monthly intervals. The data must be submitted by a date to be specified by MHCLG and must include emergency accommodation and rough sleeping management information. Areas that reported rough sleeping numbers of 15 and over at the Annual Return 2020 must ensure they are conducting regular rough sleeping counts.

