



South Tyneside Council

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The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) continues to seek to end rough sleeping and build upon the work done to reduce rough sleeping during the pandemic via the 'everyone in' campaign and published the [ending rough sleeping for good](#) strategy in September 2022 to drive forward their commitment.

The latest national data published by government for rough sleeping found that in September 2024, 9,079 people were estimated to be sleeping rough over the month and was up 8% since September 2023 and up 9% compared to June 2024. Of these:

- 33% were new people sleeping rough
- 34% were people who had been sleeping rough long term
- 14% were people returning to sleeping rough and of these, 30% of people had moved into settled accommodation in the previous year
- 8% of people sleeping rough had recently left an institution and of these, 56% had recently left prison and 18% had recently left asylum support services.
- 2.3 times more people sleep rough over the month compared to on a single night.

There were 4,008 people estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in September 2024, which is 3% higher than the 2023 annual snapshot figure.

Rough sleeping is increasing across the majority of local authorities in England (53%).

Government have introduced legislation to improve the quality of housing stock and empowerment to tenants with the [Social Housing \(Regulation\) Act 2023](#), and the [Supported Housing \(Regulatory Oversight\) Act 2023](#). The government have continued to seek improvements to security of tenure within the Private Rented Sector, the major change being the abolishment of Section 21 (known as 'No Fault Notice') and quality of accommodation within the private rented sector via the [Renters' Rights Bill](#). It is hoped that this will help with sustainment of tenancies and prevention of homelessness.

Local Authorities continue to work with partners and the government to do what they can to continue the work to end rough sleeping.

There is an acknowledgement that there is far more demand than supply for safe, secure, and affordable accommodation and South Tyneside Council continues to

Nationally, regionally and across the local area there continues to be a rise in homelessness, and we have provided a summary of homelessness levels below:

Table.1 - South Tyneside Council Homeless Data

Period	Homeless Presentations	Advice and Guidance cases	Prevention cases	Relief Cases
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picture, which is increasing significantly, and South Tyneside Council continues to seek a more accurate picture of the rough sleepers in the borough and the barriers and challenges present preventing them from securing both short- and long-term accommodation. Commissioned outreach services continue to identify and work with rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping in the borough. The current rough sleeper data is shown below:

Table.4 - South Tyneside Rough Sleeper figures (data source South Tyneside RSAG):



For the period of the SWEP protocol, accommodation will be arranged **during office hours** via the Housing Options Team for anyone found to be rough sleeping or presenting as roofless and can be contacted on

without a local connection, as defined by the Housing Act 1996, Part 7, will be assisted to return to their area in the first instance.

If an individual loses accommodation provided to them due to violent behaviour or present a risk to others, we may not be able to provide alternative accommodation

Refer to partners for supported housing.

Reconnect to their home area if the individual wishes to return, and it is safe to do so.

Careful consideration will be taken to ensure that appropriate accommodation is sourced.

Any cost for emergency accommodation per night for each household.

Provide this information to the Housing Strategy Team following completion of each period of SWEPP activation.

The Housing Strategy Team will work with relevant partners to review the SWEPP on an annual basis to ensure that:

The needs of the rough sleeper are met during periods of severe weather;
and

Government priorities are reflected.

Lobby government for appropriate resources to respond to rough sleeping and winter pressures in the borough, providing evidence-based feedback.

If you have seen or suspect someone is sleeping rough it can be reported 24 hours a day via Street Link by visiting www.streetlink.org.uk. This information is then forwarded to the outreach and Housing Options Service to investigate and verify the referral.

Alerts can also be made to the councils Housing Strategy Team and Housing Options Team on the details in the 'Contact Information' section below.

Housing Options Team: 0300 123 6633,
Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm and Friday 9am to 4.30pm,
housing.options@southtyneside.gov.uk

Out of Hours Service: 0300 123 6633

Housing Strategy Team: 0191 427 7000,
housing.strategyteam@southtyneside.gov.uk

Cold: extreme cold can cause serious health problems and death for those who are exposed overnight or for long periods of time. Historically, SWEPP provision was triggered when the forecast was zero degrees or below for three days. It is now best practice to take a common-sense approach, where any forecast approaching zero is predicted; the impact of rain, snow and wind chill are considered; and the 'feels like' temperature is checked, along with conditions underfoot (e.g., ice). There are benefits to opening provision for temperatures that are above freezing as this can be just as harmful, and for maintaining this provision over longer periods. These benefits are discussed throughout the guidance.

Wind: high winds can lead to an increased risk of injury through falling walls, roofing, uprooted trees, debris from buildings or walls that people may be sheltering in or against. This should also be considered where people are sleeping in tents.

Rain: heavy or sudden prolonged rain can lead to flooding and landslides. People

