

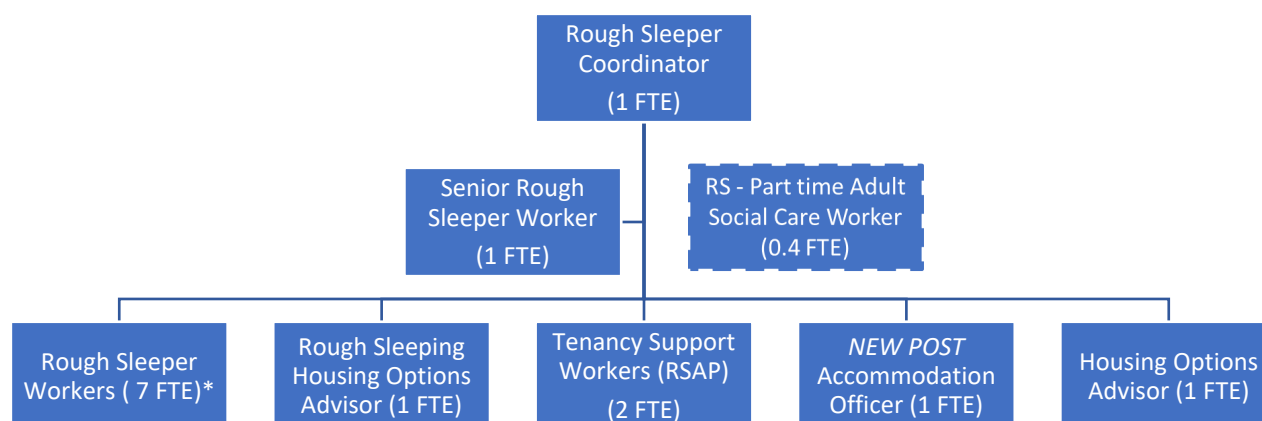
## Appendix B - Rough Sleeping data to support specialist Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services for people sleeping rough or at risk or rough sleeping in North Northamptonshire

### 1. North Northamptonshire Rough Sleeping Service

The Rough Sleeping Team structure chart provides an overview of the current Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funded posts within North Northamptonshire Council. The Rough Sleeper Coordinator leads the team of Rough Sleeper Workers who cover dedicated areas alongside a Senior Rough Sleeper Worker who oversees complex cases and a dedicated Housing Options Advisor solely for supporting rough sleeper cases. The team is now well established and offering an effective and efficient rough sleeping service across North Northamptonshire.

Additional RSI funding has recently been secured to further develop the service offer which will fund a new Accommodation Officer to help develop relationships with Supported Accommodation providers and a part time Adult Social Care Worker that will be managed within the Adult Social Care Team at the Council but work directly with the Rough Sleeping Team and cohort to improve timely access to support.

Having access to drug & alcohol, and mental health services on the ground will expedite the offer of support, allowing the team to build trusting working relationships, helping this vulnerable cohort, often with complex needs, to access the appropriate support and treatment and help to work towards ending their rough sleeping.



### 2. Single night snapshot of rough sleeping numbers

**Table A** provides data on the numbers of individuals seen rough sleeping each month across North Northamptonshire on a single night snapshot broken down by location and gender since April 2022. The Rough Sleeping Team carry out regular night-time outreach to build intelligence and provide rapid interventions where required. On a chosen night each month across all areas of North Northamptonshire a snapshot figure is taken to give the total number of individuals seen rough sleeping which is then reported to Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Since the expansion and alignment of the Rough Sleeping Team across the Council there has been an increase in the numbers of rough sleepers seen on night-time outreach locally. One of the reasons for this may be due to the introduction of regular assertive outreach sessions in areas where this may have not been happening previously, along with improved understanding and links to access the

service and partnership working with voluntary, community and faith centres. This has allowed the team to work with individuals who may have been sofa surfing for many years or on and off rough sleeping and being able to provide support to prevent individuals who are one step away from long term repeat rough sleeping.

**Table A – Single night snapshot of rough sleepers across North Northamptonshire**

Month	Number sleeping rough on single night in NN	Kettering	Corby	Wellingborough	East Northants	Male	Female
Apr 22	13	5	2	5	1	12	1
May 22	11	6	1	3	1	9	2
Jun 22	12	1	6	4	1	10	2
Jul 22	26	5	10	9	2	23	3
Aug 22	20	2	11	6	1	18	2
Sep 22	18	3	6	8	1	18	0
Oct 22	18	5	8	3	2	17	1
Nov 22	16	3	6	5	2	15	1
Dec 22	14	3	5	4	2	12	2
Jan 23	12	3	3	4	2	11	1
Feb 23	20	7	5	7	1	18	2
Mar 23	20	5	6	7	2	19	1
Apr 23	18	4	6	7	1	17	1
May 23	23	7	9	6	1	21	2
Jun 23	16	3	7	5	1	15	1
Jul 23	13	4	4	3	2	12	1
Aug 23	12	1	4	5	2	10	2
Sept 23	13	2	6	4	1	11	2
Oct 23	19	7	4	4	4	16	3
Nov 23	9	3	3	2	1	9	0

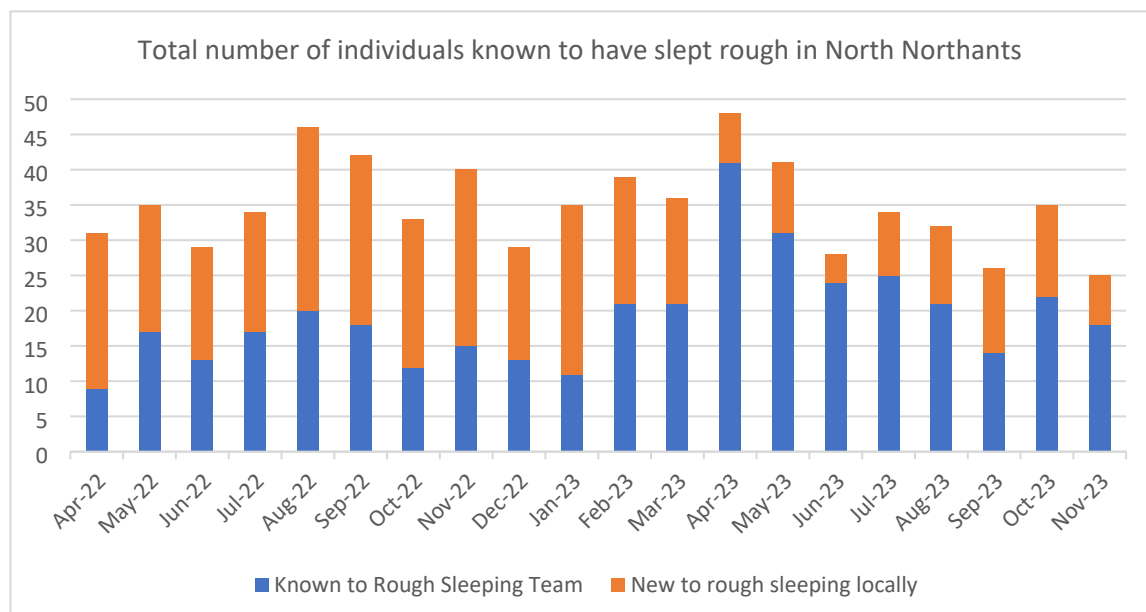
The data shows that the number of people rough sleeping on a single night does fluctuate month on month which can be influenced by warmer weather but there has recently been a decrease in numbers with the team now at full capacity. The gender breakdown shows that rough sleepers are predominantly male in North Northamptonshire, although the team are seeing an increase in female rough sleepers through working with the Police and the Women’s Centre in Kettering to help try and support the hidden homeless including sex workers.

### 3. Total monthly number of people rough sleeping

Along with the single night snapshot figure the Council also monitors the monthly total of people seen rough sleeping across the month which is provided in **Chart 1**. This is the total number of individuals seen bedded down across the whole area by the Rough Sleeping Team when conducting outreach sessions. The data also indicates the number of rough sleepers who are new to the team, along with anyone who is already known to the team.

The number of new rough sleepers has reduced since the new Ending Rough Sleeping Data Framework was introduced by DLUHC at the start of 2023/24 in which a new rough sleeper is now defined as an individual who has not been seen rough sleeping in the area during the past 5 years. Overall, like the single night snapshot, the numbers seen across the month does fluctuate and remains high in North Northamptonshire and can be due to multiple reasons.

**Chart 1 – Monthly total of rough sleepers seen across North Northants**



**4. Support needs of individuals affected by rough sleeping**

To help understand the support needs of the cohort the Rough Sleeping Team record this for everyone they have supported. **Table B** provides a breakdown of support needs for people seen rough sleeping each month across 2022/23 which highlights that out of the 199 individuals, 52% had drug and / or alcohol support needs which were either combined or single support needs.

**Table B – Support needs of rough sleepers seen in North Northants during 2022/23**

Total of RS seen over the year 2022/2023	Alcohol /Drugs	Drugs	Alcohol	Mental Health & Drugs	Mental Health & Alcohol	Mental Health, Drugs & Alcohol	Mental Health	Unknown	None
199*	22	9	22	15	3	34	18	43	33
<b>100%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>17%</b>

*\*Please note this total figure will appear lower than the breakdown of monthly figures, due to individuals being seen multiple times across the year.*

The Rough Sleeping Team already work closely with Change Grow Live (CGL) to encourage individuals rough sleeping to attend drop-in surgeries, but this is challenging both when they are on the streets or accommodated within discretionary temporary accommodation. Being able to respond and carry out assertive outreach to bring the services to rough sleepers in the community would be a beneficial development. This will reduce the level of non-engagement with services and allow the team to build effective rapport to support this vulnerable cohort to access the appropriate treatment and support services to meet their needs.

In addition, 35% of the 199 rough sleepers supported by the Rough Sleeping Team suffered with their Mental Health. The main barriers the team face is supporting and diagnosing mental health support needs of rough sleepers particularly when the individual is not already working with services in the area. Mental Health along with substance misuse often run hand in hand for individuals affected by rough sleeping, and the cohort who suffer with dual diagnoses is much harder to engage with and are less likely to accept help and attend appointments. Introducing dedicated specialist support roles that can work on the ground with these individuals to address their support needs will allow the team to immediately assess their needs accurately, intervene by helping to remove vulnerable individuals off the streets and ultimately save lives.

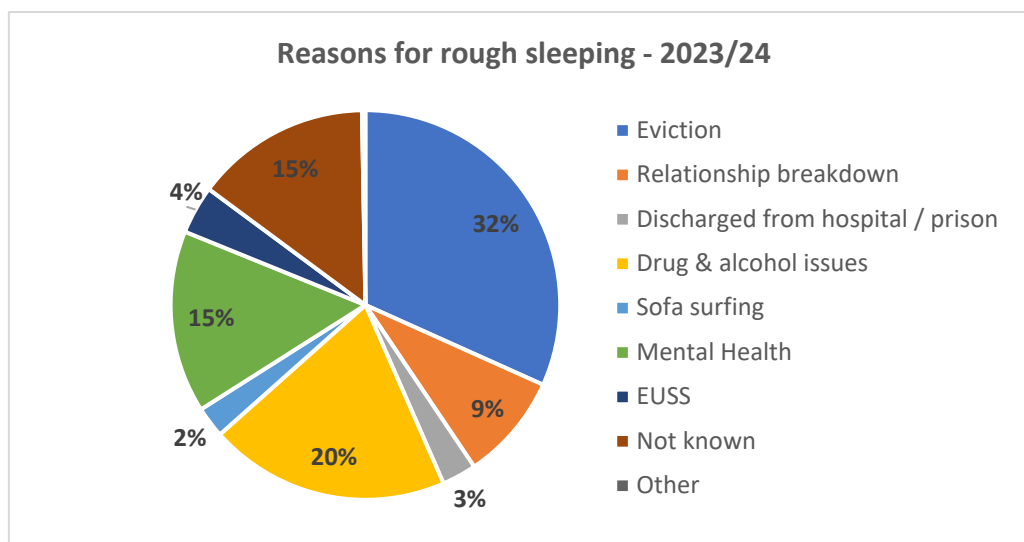
During 2023/24 the main support needs of rough sleepers seen in North Northamptonshire continues to be mental health, drug and alcohol misuse and individuals experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness.

## 5. Reasons for rough sleeping

Looking at the reasons for rough sleeping since April 2023 the data shows that evictions are the highest reason for rough sleeping (32%), followed by drug and alcohol issues (20%) and mental health (15%).

Please note individuals may have multiple reasons for rough sleeping which can be interlinked but for monitoring purposes a main reason has been provided. Again, this data highlights the need for additional tailored services to support individuals with complex needs.

**Chart 2 – Reasons for rough sleeping in North Northants during 2023/24**



## 6. Target priority group (TPG)

The Council are required by DLUHC to identify a Target Priority Group which is made up of individuals who have been seen sleeping rough in two or more years out of the last three, or in two or more months out of the last 12.

Within North Northamptonshire the team have identified a Target Priority Group of 33 individuals since April 2023. As it stands, out of the 33 identified, 27% are Rough Sleeping, 67% are in

accommodation (Supported Accommodation, Social Housing, staying with friends or accommodated within the RSAP properties), and unfortunately 6% have died (two long-term rough sleepers).

Out of the individuals who are still rough sleeping, 66% have drug and alcohol support needs, and are infrequently engaging with services, 34% have mental health support needs, and all of which are not working with services so are unable to get diagnosed. These individuals are entrenched rough sleepers who have no trust in services and are reluctant to attend drop-in sessions when arranged. This is a main barrier within the rough sleeping pathway at the Council and has been for a long time in terms of getting individuals the required support to meet their complex needs. Having a dedicated support service as part of the rough sleeping pathway across the area provided through outreach will allow the team to access timely support for the most vulnerable rough sleepers and those placed in temporary discretionary accommodation.

## **7. Transient rough sleepers**

Out of the 199 rough sleepers that were found bedded down in 2022/23 on nighttime outreach sessions across North Northamptonshire, 34 individuals were transient rough sleepers and therefore not supported by the team. This means that they were only seen once or twice and did not want to engage with the team for help and support and then were never seen rough sleeping again in that same period in the area. Some individuals were known to the team for being sofa surfers, but they were only seen once, and not repeat rough sleeping during that time. This is another group of individuals that could be targeted by the new service to try and increase engagement on the streets.

During 2023/24 the number of transient rough sleepers seen was less than 10% each month showing that they are a small proportion but a group of individuals that could be targeted.

## **8. Veterans**

The number of veterans rough sleeping in North Northamptonshire is low and during 2022-2023 the Rough Sleeping Team only worked with one veteran who is a long-term rough sleeper. This individual was provided with accommodation between February 2022 to September 2022. This was a discretionary temporary accommodation placement provided by the Rough Sleeping Team and after a short while unfortunately the individual stopped staying at the property and has not been seen rough sleeping in the area since September 2022. There have not been any known veterans rough sleeping since in North Northants.

## **9. Repeat rough sleeping**

A repeat rough sleeper is defined by DLUHC as someone returning to rough sleeping again after no contact for 2 or more quarters (180) days, whichever is shorter, measured from when the person was last seen rough sleeping.

Out of the 199 rough sleepers seen by the team over the course of 2022-2023, 15% were classed as repeat rough sleepers. They were individuals that the team may have known to have slept rough within the past 5 years, or they were individuals who have been supported more recently into supported accommodation but then they have failed their tenancy.

Within this repeat rough sleeping cohort 80% had either a drug or alcohol, or both support needs, and were using substances regularly whilst rough sleeping, showing the impact these support needs have on individuals trying to remain successfully within their accommodation.

**Table C – Repeat rough sleepers seen in North Northants during 2023/24**

2023/24	Total number of people returning to rough sleeping
April 23	4
May 23	13
June 23	6
July 23	5
August 23	5
September 23	4
October 23	8
November 23	7

Between April 2023 and November 2023, there has been 52 individuals that meet this criterion by returning to rough sleeping based on the DLUHC definition and therefore indicating that their support needs have not effectively been met. The new proposed service will be able to intervene and support these individuals to ensure they do not return to rough sleeping by offering the appropriate treatment and wraparound support to ensure they can sustain a housing solution.