



Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

Cornwall Council (CC) and its Partners are committed to doing all they can to protect the health and ensure the wellbeing of rough sleepers during periods of severe weather. A range of emergency accommodation options will be made available and many who refuse to come in at other times can often be persuaded to access accommodation when the weather is very severe.

Due to current and forecast low temperatures over the course of this week– including ‘feels like’, we are activating our Severe Weather Protocol as of 05/12/22.

Please refer any rough sleepers to the **Homeless Assessment Hub on 0300 1234 161**
If you are concerned about someone who is rough sleeping, you can also raise an alert via **Streetlink** at www.streetlink.org.uk

Further details on the SWEP process and the accommodation that will be made available for rough sleepers during this period can be found below:

Accommodation

This includes provision made available within current supported housing projects. Other emergency provision such as B & B accommodation will be secured should additional provision be required.

Activation

When severe weather is forecast, the Rough Sleeper Service within Cornwall Council will advise Providers that SWEP has been **activated** so arrangements can be made to ensure rough sleepers are referred in and accommodated as far as possible.

SWEP provision will be activated no later than 10am on the day the provision will start; the provision will then remain open until the period of severe weather ends.

Deactivation

SWEP will be **de-activated** once the severe weather event is forecast to conclude. SWEP will remain in place until the next working day if the severe weather is forecast to subside over a weekend or a Bank Holiday.

Agencies and occupiers will be informed by 5pm on the evening before provision is de-activated.

Eligibility

Single people over 18 years and childless couples are **eligible** to access SWEP. Risk history is not a reason to preclude individuals from access and any exclusions are a last resort and always open to review and in such cases all attempts will be made to find a solution with another provider. Should this not be possible and accommodation cannot be secured, an individual will be referred to the outreach team and a safety plan implemented.

Referral process

Referrals to SWEP can be made by via a call to the **Homeless Assessment Hub on 0300 1234 161** or via the Duty to Refer route. This will generally take place on any week-day when SWEP is officially called and most individuals will be placed. The process will be the same for those who require access to provision out of hours. Individuals will be supported by Cornwall Council with transport where required.

Move-on

Cornwall Council teams will liaise with all SWEP clients and providers to endeavour to secure suitable **move-on** accommodation following the end of SWEP. It is also expected that other agencies working with clients will continue to support them within their SWEP accommodation.

