

# Concerned about a rough sleeper?



If you are concerned about someone you've seen sleeping rough in the District, you can get help for them by creating an alert through the website [thestreetlink.org.uk](https://thestreetlink.org.uk). Please include a description of the person, the time and the location they have been seen.

## **What is being done to help rough sleepers in the District?**

St Albans City and District Council works with Hightown Housing Association, the Open Door Charity and other external partners, to provide practical help for individuals, including overnight accommodation. We work with these, and other external organisations, including St Albans Cathedral, St Albans Community Mental Health Team, Herts County Council and the Probation Service to make sure our responses to individual cases include the most appropriate professionals.

## **What is the Councils response in the winter?**

The Council look to operate an every night winter bed service in partnership with the Open Door charity and City Centre churches.

## **Why, if help is being provided, do I see people sleeping rough?**

Why people don't take the help on offer can be complex. Some individuals prefer to do their own thing. Others will not take the help available because of their alcohol and drug use (Open Door does not allow alcohol or drugs on the premises). There are also social reasons why people may choose to hang around consuming alcohol in the City Centre, even those who have homes to go to.

## **How can I help?**

You can support individuals experiencing rough sleeping by contacting [thestreetlink.org.uk](http://thestreetlink.org.uk). If you want to help further, please support your local charities. They are working to provide support for people in the short term, and help them to turn their lives around for the longer term.

**Further information on rough sleeping can be found on:**

[www.stalbans.gov.uk/homeless-or-threatened-homelessness](http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/homeless-or-threatened-homelessness)

[www.thestreetlink.org.uk](http://www.thestreetlink.org.uk)

[www.opendoorstalbans.org](http://www.opendoorstalbans.org)

[www.hightownha.org.uk](http://www.hightownha.org.uk)