



## Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP)

The SWEP sets out the local approach to support those who are at an increased risk of harm or death due to severe weather because of rough sleeping.

### 1. Operational Periods

This protocol is operational between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 31<sup>st</sup> March (inclusive) and will be triggered during this period when any of the following weather conditions are forecasted by the Met Office (<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk>):

- Temperature: Where the forecast indicates the overnight temperature in Barnsley will fall to zero degrees Celsius or below.
- Storms: where there is a severe storm forecast to affect the Barnsley area
- High Winds / Heavy Rain: Where an amber or red forecast for heavy rain / wind is forecast to affect the Barnsley area.
- Winter weather: The protocol will also be invoked in situations where it is felt that severe weather occurring is likely to cause increased risk of harm to individuals sleeping rough.

A flexible approach for triggering SWEP, based on empathy for people sleeping rough in severe weather conditions, will be adopted.

### 2. Triggering SWEP

BMBC Housing Options Team will monitor forecasted weather daily during the operational period and will be responsible for triggering SWEP based on the forecasted definitions outlined above. When the protocol is triggered, a designated Housing Options staff member will communicate the decision to the following protocol members via email before 12 noon:

- Housing Options Team – ([R](#))
- Emergency Accommodation Providers:
  - Centrepoint: ([R](#))
  - Humankind: (R)
- BMBC Communications Team: ([R](#))
- BMBC Wardens: (R)
- Health: (R)

### 3. Referral Process

Individuals can self-refer to the Housing Options Team in the following ways:

Visit the office (1st Floor, Wellington House, 43 Market St, Barnsley S70 1SN)	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am to 4pm Wednesday, 1pm to 4pm
Call the office on 01226 773870 or Freephone 0808 1963530	Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday - 9am to 5pm Wednesday - 1pm to 5pm Friday – 9am to 4.30pm
Out of Hours on 01226 773870 or Freephone 0808 1963530	Monday to Friday 6pm to 6am. Available 24 hours Saturday & Sunday.

A SWEP Assessment Form (attached at Appendix A) will be completed for each referred individual, with an update provided for subsequent presentations in the event of a change in circumstances (risk / need etc). The referring agent will notify the relevant accommodation provider by telephone of each referral and forward the completed SWEP assessment form to the appropriate accommodation resource by email.

Placements will be made for the duration of the SWEP period. Where SWEP is triggered on a Friday, individuals may access the SWEP provision on Saturday and Sunday.

### 4. Referrals from other agencies

Any agency wishing to refer an individual for support under SWEP should either:

- Contact the Housing Options Team via the details above, with the customer present
- Email [adviceservices@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:adviceservices@barnsley.gov.uk) with the customers contact information and/or rough sleeping location

### 5. Accommodation

#### **CENTREPOINT– Individuals aged 16-30 years:**

Centrepont will provide accommodation for **2** individuals. There will be one placement in the Crashpad, where available, and one placement available in the communal lounge. This will be delivered at the Quarry View site, Smithies Lane, Barnsley, S71 1NN. Where a 16/17 year old presents for SWEP accommodation, an immediate referral will also be made to Social Care ([MASH@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:MASH@barnsley.gov.uk)) and a manager notified.

SWEP accommodation at Centrepont can be accessed by referred individuals between 7pm – 9am. Individuals must arrive at Quarry View by **no later than 9pm**. Any individual who arrives after this time will not be allowed access that evening and will need to make their own arrangements. Individuals must not attend under the influence of substances.

A hot drink and light meal will be provided upon arrival and exit. Other facilities including washing, laundry and leisure facilities will be made available at the discretion of the accommodation provider.

Referral contact details:

- Telephone: 0207 423 6876
- E-mail: To be sent to member of staff on shift

**THRIVE: Individuals aged 25 years and over**

Thrive will provide a sit up service for a maximum of **6** individuals in the communal lounge, and **1** individual in the Crashpad, where available. This will be delivered from the Beevor Court Assessment Unit, Beevor Court, Barnsley, S71 1HG.

SWEP accommodation can be accessed by referred individuals between 8pm – 9am. Individuals must arrive at Beevor Court by no later than 12am. Any individual who arrives after this time will not be allowed access that evening and will need to make their own arrangements. Individuals must not attend under the influence of substances.

A hot drink and light meal will be provided upon arrival and exit. Other facilities including washing, laundry and leisure facilities will be made available at the discretion of the accommodation provider.

Referral contact details:

- Telephone: 01226 321892
- Email (referrals should be copied to all accounts):

(R)

**QUEENS HOUSE: Individuals aged 18+**

One CrashPad facility at Queens House will be available for any individual over the age of 18.

SWEP accommodation can be accessed by referred individuals between 7pm – 9am. Individuals must arrive at Queens House by no later than 9pm. Any individual who arrives after this time will not be allowed access that evening and will need to make their own arrangements. Individuals must not attend under the influence of substances.

A hot drink and light meal will be provided upon arrival and exit. Other facilities including washing, laundry and leisure facilities will be made available at the discretion of the accommodation provider.

Referral contact details:

- Telephone: 01226 775590
- Email: [queenshouse@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:queenshouse@barnsley.gov.uk)

If the vacancies within Centrepont, Thrive & Queens House are full, hotel accommodation for the period SWEP is activated will be sourced.

An end of day handover with room availability and referred individuals will be sent to the officer on OOH cover.

## **6. Assessment process / onward accommodation**

SWEP operates outside usual eligibility and entitlement frameworks that govern access to housing. It should be accessible to everyone, including all those who may otherwise be excluded from services: people with no recourse to public funds, people who may have previously been banned from services, and those with no local connection.

However, any individual that approaches the Housing Options Team for accommodation under SWEP will be subject to an assessment to determine whether there is reason to believe they are rough sleeping, or at significant risk of rough sleeping that evening, before they are referred for accommodation. This is to ensure that the people who are most in need are prioritised for accommodation, although a flexible approach will be taken to ensure that individuals do not need to be 'verified' before accommodation is offered.

All referred individuals will be offered a full homelessness assessment, and, where appropriate, be provided with alternative accommodation to prevent further rough sleeping and repeat presentations to SWEP emergency accommodation.

Any known rough sleepers will be proactively approached through street outreach or partner agencies to be offered accommodation under SWEP.

## **7. Exclusions**

There will be no blanket exclusions from the SWEP accommodation. Where a referred individual has previously been excluded from the commissioned accommodation provision, their placement will be agreed between the referrer and the provider on a case-by-case basis. Likewise, where an individual has been excluded from hotel or B&B providers, placements will be considered on a case-by-case basis.