

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

Winter 2014/15 Executive Summary

Bath and North East Somerset operate a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP), put in place to prevent Winter deaths amongst the rough sleeper population. SWEP is triggered by three consecutive nights of sub zero temperatures. Other weather extremes; high winds, sustained rain and wind chill are also considered.

This Winter, SWEP has been implemented in B&NES for a total of 24 nights covering the following periods

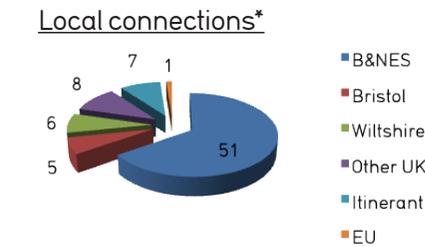
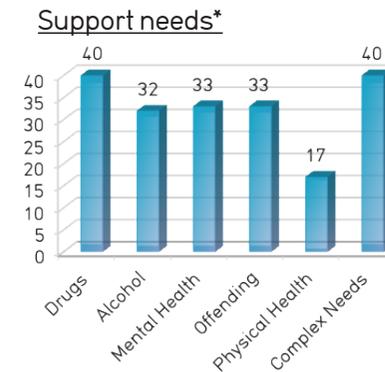
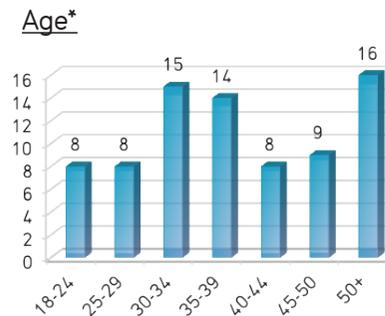
- 29th-30th December
- 14th January
- 16th-25th Jan
- 29th Jan - 8th February

During SWEP periods, Julian House Hostel at Manvers Street provides additional emergency crisis accommodation and 24 hour access for rough sleepers. The Assertive Outreach Service provided by Julian House and Developing Health & Independence (DHI) undertake increased street outreach and mobilize support from the Police, Bath Business Improvement District and other stakeholders. By arrangement Genesis Lifeline centre also extends its opening hours during SWEP. There are 20 beds for rough sleepers, augmented by 9 lower dependency beds at 2 properties in central Bath.

As important as getting people in to the Hostel during SWEP, is making sure that they do not return to the streets again afterwards. As SWEP period came to an end plans were put in place for all additional clients accommodated during severe weather. In partnership with B&NES Housing Options Team, plans were developed to effect prompt move on from Manvers St Hostel for those clients who were ready to move, freeing up bed spaces for SWEP clients to continue their engagement with services, whilst remaining in emergency hostel accommodation and not returning to the streets.

Further enquiry into the present housing status of SWEP users as at 31st March, shows that 18 service users remain in the Hostel, 13 are in supported housing, 3 in the Private Rented tenancies, and 1 in his own RSL tenancy. The two service users from site have been given a permanent pitch. 11 people abandoned the service and have not been seen sleeping rough by the Assertive Outreach Team. A further 8 are sleeping rough including 3 who refused reconnection & suitable accommodation.

John Isserlis
Operations Director

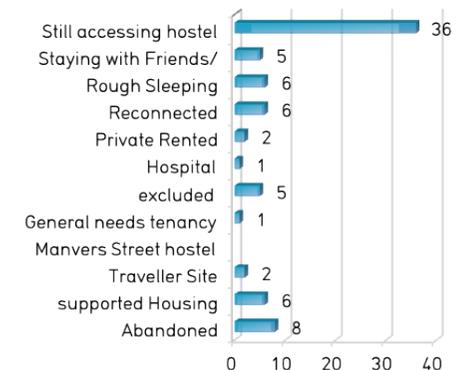


1,362 bed nights provided, 1362 times when someone did not have to sleep on the streets of Bath.

161 extra bed nights provided at Manvers St. Hostel, with a high of 14 additional beds provide on two consecutive nights in February. Of the 43 people who stayed on these two nights, 10 were women.

78 individual people (62 male & 16 female) stayed at the hostel during the period 29th December- 8th February.

Move-on destinations*



*figures relate to service users accessing Julian House Homeless Services during the periods when SWEP was enacted.