



### **Safer, Cleaner, Greener: Falmouth Town Council advises how to help the homeless**

When thoughts are filled with Christmas cheer, those without hearth or home, for whom 'no room at the inn' is a grim reality, are not always at the forefront of our minds.

This latest instalment of Falmouth Town Council's **Safer, Cleaner, Greener** public information campaign explains how you can help if you are concerned about someone sleeping rough.

Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness and is seriously detrimental to a person's physical and mental wellbeing. People who sleep rough are 17 times more likely to be victims of violence than the general public. The average life expectancy of a rough sleeper is 47 years for men and 43 years for women, and even those who sleep rough for a few months are likely to die younger than if they had never lived on the streets. Long-term rough sleepers are also prone to developing complex physical and mental health needs, and issues relating to substance misuse. This can make it much harder for them to access help from support services and rebuild their lives.

Working in partnership with Cornwall Housing Ltd, Coastline Housing, voluntary sector providers, Safer Cornwall, Cornwall's Drug & Alcohol Action Team, St Petroc's Society and Devon & Cornwall Police, Cornwall Council has allocated £850,000 to tackle rough sleeping and secured a further £292,000 from the Government to fund Nos Da Kernow (No First Night Out). The overall aim of this initiative is to try and identify alternatives for people who are at risk from sleeping rough in the first place, and prevent new rough sleepers from accepting homelessness as a way of life from which there is no escape. Whilst the results are encouraging with national charity, Homeless Link citing Cornwall as the only local authority in the UK to report a significant reduction (31%) in its number of rough sleepers, there are still more people who need our help so what can you do to show that you care?

If you are concerned about someone sleeping rough, please contact Streetlink - a government-funded service that enables members of the public to alert local authorities to rough sleepers in their area and connect them to the help they need. This can be done by 'phoning 0300 500 0914, visiting <https://www.streetlink.org.uk/> or sending an alert via the Streetlink mobile app.

Further information is available from <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/> (search for Rough Sleeping) or <https://www.homeless.org.uk/>

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This campaign article is issued on behalf of Falmouth Town Council by Curlew PR Limited. For further information, please email [curlew@hotmail.com](mailto:curlew@hotmail.com) or call Jilly Easterby on 07743 164434