



Rough Sleeping 2026: Turning the Tide

Monday 23 March 2026

Your guide to breakout sessions

Interaction level guide

To help you choose the right sessions for you, we have included an interaction rating for each breakout session.

Interaction level 1: These sessions will focus on learning from our selected speakers but will have the opportunity for delegates to ask questions and share their thoughts on what is being discussed.

Interaction level 2: These sessions will have speaker presentations, but will also include time for questions and smaller group exercises or discussion topics.

Interaction level 3: These sessions will consist primarily of facilitated discussion allowing delegates to share with and learn from one another.

Sessions will run twice at 11:15 – 11:35 and again at 14:50 – 15:50.

Stopping rough sleeping before it starts: Practical prevention strategies

Interaction level: 2

- Fiona Colley, Director of Social Change, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Samantha Hall, Director Housing & Environmental Health, Test Valley Borough Council
- Karen Ransted, Head of Housing Operations, Aster

This session will explore practical ways to prevent rough sleeping before it happens. We'll look at how to identify people at high risk and intervene early, using real-life examples from Test Valley where proactive approaches have broken the cycle of homelessness. Participants will map life journeys to spot common risk factors and discuss how collaboration with partners can go beyond statutory duties. I'll share insights from creating a dedicated Prevention Support Worker role, which has already prevented 36 evictions in six months. The session will share adaptable strategies for early intervention and lasting impact.

An effective multi-disciplinary team approach to tackling multiple disadvantage and reducing long-term rough sleeping

Interaction level: 2

Session content could trigger an emotional response

- Matt Harrison, Deputy CEO, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Fraser Nicholson, Homelessness Partnerships Coordinator, BCP Council
- Sarah Reynolds, Housing, Health and Social Care Service Manager, BCP Council
- Karen, Person with Lived Experience, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

It is very encouraging to see a clear priority on reducing long-term and repeat rough sleeping in the new national Homelessness Strategy, including preventing and addressing the systemic causes. We will demonstrate how we have been focusing on this in Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) since 2023 as well as discussing the essential partnership response that has led to some tangible success in reducing this to date, as well as how we are planning to build on this further to ensure this is a sustainable position. This includes ensuring that the solutions are varied, person-centred and offer sufficient choice and dignity.

Maximising the potential of day services: Empowering people to move beyond rough sleeping

Interaction level: 1

- Vicky Album, National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Eve McCallam, Programme Lead, Housing Justice
- Matt Harris, Centre Manager, The Booth Centre (morning only)
- Jas Sahota, Head of Operations and Community Relations Manager, Woolwich Service Users Project (afternoon only)
- Andrew Ashley, Expert Link

Join us for the launch of Homeless Link's newly published Day Service Principles and a first look at Housing Justice's Day Services research. Day Services hold the key to a successful local response to rough sleeping. Through essential relationship building and an open-access approach, they provide a crucial bridge between people sleeping rough and the agencies aiming to support them.

In this session we will discuss the Principles and how they can be used to develop best practice, hear key insights from Housing Justice's ongoing Day Services research and learn from Day Services and Experts about how the right approach can empower people to move beyond homelessness.

Beyond the city: Innovative approaches to rough sleeper outreach in rural communities

Interaction level: 2

- Viv Griffiths, National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Shirley Hilton, Rough Sleeper Resettlement Manager, Cornwall County Council
- Stephen Lane, Rough Sleeper Strategic Lead, Cornwall County Council

Rural rough sleeping is often hidden and hard to reach. Our presentation explores how we manage outreach across vast rural areas using innovative strategies such as mobile units, community intelligence networks, and technology-driven coordination. We'll share practical solutions, lessons learned, and the impact of building strong local partnerships to ensure no one is left behind. Delegates will gain insights into adapting outreach models for dispersed populations and influencing policy to better reflect rural realities.

Working effectively with couples who are rough sleeping where domestic abuse is a risk

Interaction level: 1

Session content could trigger an emotional response

- Alex Smith, Interim Head of National Practice Development, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Amy Smith, Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation manager (Homelessness & Supported Accommodation), Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse
- Lucy Campbell, Assistant Director of System Change (Women's Homelessness and Multiple Disadvantage), and Domestic Abuse Organisational Lead, Single Homeless Project

Providing accommodation and support to couples who sleep rough together can be challenging, and this is even more complex if domestic abuse is known or suspected. This session will include presentations from Single Homelessness Project (SHP) and Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse (STADA) to enable participants to:

- Learn about what research and lived experience tell us about the challenges survivors face when rough sleeping in a couple, and what survivors want and need from services.
- Understand why supporting and accommodating perpetrators is a key part of responding effectively to domestic abuse as a homelessness organisation.
- Discuss key findings from SHP's Couples Housing First Feasibility Study and key framework points from Standing Together's Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation for homelessness services.
- Explore good practice and innovative solutions that can help to work safely and effectively with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse who are rough sleeping together.

Effective support for people released from prisons: the departure lounge model

Interaction level: 2

- Lucy Horitz, Senior Learning & Development Manager, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Gaynor Lester, Service Manager, Nacro
- Helen Thompson, Resettlement Advisory, Nacro

People are often at their most vulnerable when first released from prison. Offering support 'at the gate' capitalises on high levels of motivation and can prevent people become overwhelmed. The 'departure lounge' model offers immediate support and typically brings multiple agencies together to facilitate access to services. This is particularly helpful when people being released are expected to attend multiple appointments on the day of release. This session will outline the benefits of this approach, key success factors, and what lessons can be translated to other areas which may not have a departure lounge model in place.

The Wanderers' Forum: A multi-agency tool to coordinate services (including healthcare) for disenfranchised long-term sleepers

Interaction level: 2

Session content could trigger an emotional response

Homeless Link

- Jo Turner, National Practice Development Project Manager, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Iona Brown, Target Priority Group Womens Lead, St Mungo's
- Barney Wells, Director, Enabling Assessment Service London

The session will start with a presentation introducing the structure and framework of the Wanderers' forum, wanderers' alerts, and a couple of short case study examples of outcomes for people sleeping rough that previously struggled with access to health treatments. This will be followed by discussion in small groups with question prompts e.g. What are the main barriers to access treatment or health services for homeless HIU / Wanderers in your area? Blue sky thinking: What changes or small pockets of additional funding could be introduced to commissioning / service structures to address some of the issues with the most stuck, complex cases of people stuck in cycles of homelessness and repeat hospital admission. Final exercise: Interactive exercise – problem solving and creative approaches to working with the most vulnerable and excluded homeless wanderers

Migrant rough sleeping

Interaction level: 1

- Sophie Boobis, Head of Policy and Research, Homeless Link (Chair)
- Jo Walby, CEO, Mustard Tree
- Kas, Community Ambassador, NACCOM

The new Homelessness Strategy advocates for targeted prevention, acknowledging that migrants, particularly newly granted refugees, are at an increased risk of homelessness and rough sleeping. But what does this mean in practice?

In this session Jo Walby, Mustard Tree's CEO, will share learnings from their work providing a practical response to rough sleeping among refugees and people seeking asylum in Greater Manchester, including approaches to successful collaboration with local partners and achieving results within the current context.

We'll also hear from Kas, a NACCOM Community Ambassador with lived experience of destitution and immigration control, about the insights gathered from their asylum move-on research project, and where the system could be improved to better enable prevention. Attendees will be invited to pose questions to our expert speakers and discuss best practice and areas of challenge with their peers.