

# Factsheet

## Rough Sleepers Lewes District

**HOMES FIRST**

Lewes and Eastbourne  
Councils  
working together for you

If you are rough sleeping in Lewes District, you can make an appointment with our Senior Housing Options Officer for Rough Sleepers at Lewes District Council. Lewes District Council has a duty to provide advice and assistance to anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness in the area.

If you have been verified as a rough sleeper, the Outreach team will contact our specialist Housing Options Officer for rough sleepers and arrange a joint assessment.

You can also present to Lewes District Council and make a homeless application directly. If you have access to the internet, go to [www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/housing/homelessness](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/housing/homelessness) or you can phone 01273 471600. If you do not have a phone and you are in Lewes, you can go to 6 High Street and use the phone there to speak with us and apply as a homeless person.

### Lewes Open Door

Lewes Open Door supports homeless, vulnerable and socially isolated people in the community. They provide friendly, non-judgmental human contact - someone to talk to and to listen. They signpost people to the appropriate agencies to help address their specific needs. Because they are based in the local community, they can offer individual support on a case-by-case basis. They have strong links with other local charities and organisations helping them carry out their mission.

Lewes Open Door provides short-term and longer-term help, including:

- Clean clothes, bedding and other essential items
- Support with general housing and benefits queries, filling in paperwork, and contact details of agencies that may be able to offer additional help
- Someone to contact, to chat with and who will listen
- Referrals to food banks
- Registering with a GP
- Accompanying them to a job centre interview
- Applying to local housing charities
- Getting access to benefits
- Getting started in a new accommodation
- Sourcing household necessities
- Making appointments with the relevant council departments
- Providing support where possible for medical appointments
- Liaising with other charities and organisations as appropriate

They can be found at Malling Food Bank, Kings Church, Unit 3, Brooks Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2BY, Mondays 12 – 2.00 pm, or by calling 07989 418079. Alternatively, call 07985 418079 or email [lewesopendoor@gmail.com](mailto:lewesopendoor@gmail.com).

### BHT Housing Advice

Provides free and confidential specialist housing advice for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping. Open Monday – Thursday 9 am – 5 pm, and Friday 9 am – 4.30pm. For an appointment with a housing advisor, email [eastbourneadvice@bht.org.uk](mailto:eastbourneadvice@bht.org.uk) or phone 01323 642615 or drop into Eastbourne Advice Centre, Unit 6 Highlight House, 8 St Leonard's Road, Eastbourne, BN21 3UH. Or BHT Advice Brighton, email [advice@bht.org.uk](mailto:advice@bht.org.uk) or call 01273 645455.

## **Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery**

The Rough Sleeper Prevention and Recovery (RSPAR) team work with the most complex rough sleepers across East Sussex. RSPAR provides intensive assessment and support work by a multi-disciplinary team and statutory services to break the cycle of rough sleeping. They help rough sleepers to access services, they provide support and can assist to access to short term and longer-term accommodation. Rough Sleeper Outreach and Street Engagement sessions between 5.30 and up to 8.30am on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Anyone can refer a rough sleeper to this service. The best way of doing this is via Streetlink <https://thestreetlink.org.uk>. If you are rough sleeping, you can self-refer via this link as well to access rough sleeper services in the Lewes district.

## **Havens Community Hub at the Hillcrest Community Centre Newhaven**

Havens Community Hub operates from the Hillcrest Community Centre and currently offers a free breakfast / warm space between 9.00am and 10.30am, Monday to Friday. The team there can signpost you to other local services. Hillcrest Community Centre is at Bay Vue Road, Newhaven, BN9 9LH. Call 01273 918226 or email [havenscommunityhub@gmail.com](mailto:havenscommunityhub@gmail.com) - you can also find them on Facebook and Instagram.

## **Newhaven Baptist Church**

Newhaven Baptist Church is on the corner of Brighton Road and Church Hill. They offer 'tea and chat' every Wednesday and Friday morning between 9.30am and 12pm. This service is available to all, they also provide free food bags and fresh fruit and vegetables. They also have a shower room, washing machine and dryer, and will provide fresh, clean clothes whilst the washing machine and dryer is being used. You can call them on Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 and 12 pm. Alternatively, you can use their contact sheet on their website, which is <https://www.newhavenbaptistchurch.co.uk/contact>

## **Lewes Victoria Urgent Treatment Centre**

The Urgent Treatment Centre provides assessment and treatment for minor injuries or illnesses that are urgent but not life threatening. It is a walk-in centre, but if you contact NHS 111 they can arrange for you to be seen by a doctor or an urgent care practitioner. If you are in doubt as to whether the UTC is the right place for you to be seen, please call 111.

Address is UTC, Lewes Victoria Hospital, Nevill Road, Lewes, BN7 1PE. Tel 01273 666492 Open 8 am to 8.30 pm 7 days a week (no new appointments are booked in after 7.45 pm).

Web: [www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

Tel: Lewes Council: 01273 471600 – Eastbourne Council 01323 410000