

## COLD WEATHER RESPONSE (SWEP) FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS

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	<b>Introduction/Advice</b>	
1.0	It will be mandatory for all Local Authorities to have a Severe Weather Emergency Plan (SWEPE) in place, as from April 2017. This must be set up in partnership with voluntary and statutory organisations that operate within the Local Authority area.	Legislation
1.1	The Council and its partner organisations must review its Plan every year.	
1.2	The aim of any Severe Weather Emergency Plan is to minimise the risk of damage to health or death as a result of overnight exposure to cold.	
1.3	As part of the Council's statutory responsibilities towards homeless vulnerable persons, Welsh Government makes funding available to Local authorities every year, so that emergency accommodation can be provided in the event of severe cold weather.	
1.4	There is no set definition of what constitutes cold weather. Each Local Authority is responsible for defining it and estimate the amount that they anticipate spending on the provision of emergency accommodation each year.	
1.5	The information is fed back to Welsh Government and in the event of severe cold any money spent will be claimed back from them.	
1.6	<p>Wrexham Council has formed a Severe Weather Emergency Plan in cooperation with the following key partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wallich</li> <li>• CAIS</li> <li>• Tŷ Croeso</li> <li>• Salvation Army</li> <li>• Shelter</li> <li>• AVOW</li> <li>• Wrexham Churches organisation</li> <li>• North Wales Police</li> <li>• Pennaf</li> </ul>	Housing Options Lead
1.7	The Council has decided that a period of severe cold weather will be defined as a minimum of two consecutive nights of sub-zero temperatures where MET Office reports indicate the presence of ice or a severe wind chill factor. MET Office reports of severe weather will be supplied via the Council's Emergency Planning Team.	Housing Options Lead/ Policy

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1.8	The Council's Housing Options Team will own and lead the Local Authority's Plan. This reflects the fact that the Council has statutory duties with regard to rough sleeping and that Welsh Government make all payments for costs incurred to the Council for it to manage and reimburse partner agencies as appropriate.	Housing Options Lead/ Policy
1.9	When a MET Office report is received indicating that there is the likelihood of an imminent spell of severe weather, the Housing Options Lead, will, after discussion with partners, declare the SWEP to be in operation	
1.10	Partner agencies will be informed of this by email and by telephone.	
2.0	<p><b>SWEP Implementation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once partner agencies have been informed that the SWEP is in operation, they will make every effort to relay the message to known service users, or those who are thought to be rough sleeping.</li> <li>2. Any rough sleeper identified during this period can access the Housing Options Team for assistance, during office hours. The Housing Options Team will try to accommodate those rough sleepers who do ask for assistance, in B&amp;B accommodation, for the duration of the cold weather period.</li> <li>3. If a rough sleeper has been unable to access this service, partner agencies will direct them to Tŷ Nos, advising them that they may not necessarily be sleeping at Tŷ Nos but that staff there will advise them where they can go.</li> <li>4. Staff at Tŷ Nos will accept service users up to capacity as usual. Anyone who would normally be turned away, due to there being no capacity, will be issued with a ticket and advised to go to Tŷ Croeso, in the first instance.</li> <li>5. Tŷ Croeso will provide an additional 8 bedspaces. These will be male only, as there is only one room available.</li> <li>6. Tŷ Nos will also be notified whether Trinity Church House is providing overnight accommodation.</li> <li>7. If all the female bedspaces at Tŷ Nos are occupied, any further female rough sleepers who present there will be directed to Trinity Church House, where two rooms will be available, one male one female.</li> </ol>	

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2.1	The Housing Options Lead will keep in regular contact with all partner agencies for the duration of the SWEP.	Housing Options Lead/ Policy	
2.2	The Housing Options Lead will contact North Wales Police on a daily basis to advise them that the SWEP is in operation, to register the premises that are in use and to log an incident number. This incident number will be fed back to the partner agencies that are operating premises. In the event of any disturbance at the premises, this will enable North Wales Police to identify what the premises is being used for and to respond accordingly.		
2.3	The Housing Options Lead will also contact WCBC's cleaning team, to advise them that the SWEP is in operation and to organise cleaning of the premises in use the following mornings, during the period the SWEP is in place		
2.4	Housing Options Lead will also contact WCBC's out of hours security patrol and the CCTV team. This will enable them to keep a look out for rough sleepers and to make them aware of any possible incidents that might occur at the premises being used.		
2.5	PCSO's will also visit the premises on a regular basis.		Policy
2.6	Staff at Tŷ Croeso and Tŷ Nos will keep in regular contact during the evening. In the event of Tŷ Nos being at capacity, or not, by 11.30 pm and there does not appear to be any further rough sleeper requirements, the Co-ordinator will stand the operation down for the night.		
2.7	Tŷ Croeso (The Wallich) Manager will communicate back to Housing Options Lead the following morning, during the duration of the SWEP.		

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3.0	<p><b>Contact Details:</b></p> <p>The Wallich</p> <p>Pennaf</p> <p>Cleaning –WCBC</p> <p>WCBC Out of Hours security</p> <p>NW Police- 101 - make report and record incident number</p> <p>CAIS</p> <p>WCBC</p> <p>Salvation Army</p> <p>Wxm Churches</p> <p>Trinity Church house minister</p>	

