

**Councillor Dave Sheppard, Cabinet Member
For Social Inclusion and Environment**

Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

E-mail: cllrdavid.sheppard@rotherham.gov.uk
Email the Council for **free** @ your local library!

Ref	Direct Line:	Please Ask For
DS/LH	01709 255948	Councillor Dave Sheppard

4th December 2023

Councillor Michael Bennett-Sylvester
Elected Member

Via email: Michael.sylvester@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Bennett-Sylvester

Question to Council – Wednesday 29th November 2023

Thank you for your question to Council as follows:

At the IPSC on October 24th we had for scrutiny the homeless and rough sleeper strategy. Am I correct that a positive lifestyle choice was not one of the key factors the rough sleepers team have to deal with?

I can advise that the Council has no evidence to suggest that people choose to sleep rough as lifestyle choice.

The causes of rough sleeping are complicated and multi-faceted and include a shortage of affordable and supported accommodation options.

Nationally, homelessness is at record levels, while in Rotherham the number of new homelessness cases rose from 987 in 2021-2022 to 1,409 in 2022/2023. In a typical month around 130 homelessness cases are accepted.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Dave Sheppard
Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Environment