

Homelessness advice for Church Leaders



If a person contacts you because they are homeless please contact either:

StreetLink for people who are rough sleeping who are over the age of 18. Provide *StreetLink* with information re the person and where they are sleeping.

www.streetlink.org.uk

Shelter for single people and families: www.shelter.org.uk

Contact Shelter online or via the free national emergency helpline. 0808 800 4444. The helpline is open: 8am – 8pm weekdays & 9am to 5pm weekends.

Local council - speak to someone in the Housing Options Team. If you think the person is under 18 contact the police.

Other useful sites:

Housing Justice provides support to churches - www.housingjustice.org.uk

Homeless Link supports and represents organisations working with people who are homeless - www.homeless.org.uk

Crisis provide information re; local services - www.crisis.org.uk

Foodbanks

Foodbanks can stay open but under strict guidelines where people must not congregate, and social distancing guidelines must be followed with individuals keeping 2 metres apart.

Can also deliver to those who are in self-isolation but are in need of food. Let the person know who needs food that you are coming, when you have arrived, ask them not to open their front door, knock on the door on arrival, leave the food and step back keeping a distance of 2 meters. Volunteers over the age of 70 and/or have underlying health conditions should remain at home.

Also visit - www.trusselltrust.org

Street kitchens

Should close due to risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus but could make food or food parcels for those who have been moved in to a local hotel. The local council can also advise where food parcels are required.

Night shelters

Night shelters are being closed due to the risks of Covid-19 in a shared space to individuals who are homeless and to staff. People are being helped to move by local authorities in to other accommodation i.e. hotels. Make contact with the local council or with the local homelessness forum.