

News release: 23 September 2020

## Funding awarded to help prevent homelessness

Vulnerable people across the district who were housed during the pandemic will continue to be supported.

Lichfield District Council is one of 274 councils that have successfully bid for Next Steps Accommodation funding from the government.

This programme helps with the next stage of the Covid-19 rough sleeping response, to make sure no one is sleeping on the street during the coronavirus outbreak.

The council has been awarded £24,000 so it can continue to keep people who were sleeping rough in the district in emergency accommodation and make sure it has the resources to house and support rough sleepers over the winter months.

The money will be spent in three areas. The first is on the housing costs for people who were sleeping rough on local streets but were placed in emergency accommodation when the country went into lockdown.

It will also be used for booking accommodation for anyone who would normally have used the Churches Together emergency night shelter, which will not be running this winter due to concerns over Covid-19.

A proportion of the money will also help former rough sleepers to maintain their accommodation and find employment. This will be overseen by Spring Housing Association, which provides an outreach service for homeless people with complex needs in the district on behalf of the council.

**Councillor Angela Lax, Cabinet Member responsible for Housing, said:** “We’re delighted to have been awarded this funding, which will help us to make sure we can house anyone who has been, or is at risk of, rough sleeping on local streets.

“I am also pleased that, with the help of the team at Spring Housing, we have further funding to support people who have been street homeless to help them rebuild their lives.”

For more information about the district council’s services for rough sleepers and the work it does to prevent homelessness, visit [www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/homelessness](http://www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/homelessness).

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### Media enquiries

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