

Cambridge's Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is SWEP ?

SWEP is Cambridge City Council's provision to assist as many rough sleepers off the streets during periods when the weather conditions could pose a threat to life.

What is severe weather ?

Severe weather is a prolonged period of weather that includes consistent heavy rainfall, high winds, or cold temperatures (or a combination) which is deemed to be life threatening to those who live on the streets.

When does SWEP start ? How long does it last ?

SWEP runs from 1 Nov 2019 to 31 March 2020.

How does SWEP work ?

Cambridge City Council in partnership with Jimmy's Cambridge and Cambridge Salvation Army will run SWEP 2019/2020. The city council will monitor the weather forecasts to identify if any severe weather conditions are likely to occur and will initiate SWEP procedures, **ideally 72 hrs in advance** of the weather occurring, and will stipulate how long the SWEP will be required.

How many rough sleepers are catered for ?

Up to 20 can be accommodated

Where are the rough sleepers accommodated ?

All rough sleepers that wish to access accommodation during SWEP conditions will first present to Jimmy's. Then re-directed to the Salvation Army property in Mill Road.

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What do I do if I see someone sleeping rough ?

In any instance that you see someone sleeping rough (not just in SWEP periods), the first point of contact should be the Street outreach Team on 01223 366292 (opening hours 9-5), or refer the individual to Jimmy's Cambridge for assistance. If you feel the person is unwell then please call the Emergency Medical Services.

Are there any other measures in place other than SWEP ?

From 5th Dec 2019, CCHP Cambridge will run a Cold Weather Provision Service at nominated churches until the end of Mar 2020. This is in addition to SWEP periods but will operate on a continual basis rather than intermittently.

How can I get involved ?

Should you wish to assist during periods of severe weather then there are volunteer opportunities with Jimmy's Cambridge over the SWEP period. Please contact Jimmy's Cambridge on 01223 576085 for further details or see our website.