

Tackling the rough sleeping crisis: Westminster SOS

We are currently in a homelessness crisis, and it is most severe in London. Last year, the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) recorded **more than 2,000 people sleeping rough in London in a single month**; the highest number since records began.

Rough sleeping is the most visible and dangerous form of homelessness, exposing people to extreme weather and serious health risks. The average age of death for women sleeping rough or in emergency accommodation is 43 years old. For men, it's just 41.

Westminster has the highest number of people rough sleeping across the whole of the UK.

Between April and June 2024, **4,223** people were seen sleeping rough in London, with **752** of them being in Westminster.

To meet this need, our Westminster Street Outreach Service (SOS) team go out every night and early morning 365 days a year, looking for people sleeping rough and helping them into safe accommodation.

Philanthropic donations help provide this essential frontline service and meant over 2,000 people received support to end their rough sleeping last year.

“Volunteering with the outreach team is a really important part of my relationship with St Mungo’s. Not only does it show me first hand how important our donation is to the Westminster SOS programme but it allows me to feel like an active participant. It also gives me the opportunity to meet some of the incredible people who do this important work.”
Jo, Philanthropist and St Mungo’s Outreach Volunteer





Last year

2,102

people were supported by our Westminster Street Outreach Team.

633

people were directly supported into accommodation.

Nearly 50%

of the people we assessed had a mental health support need.

For

54%

of the clients we worked with, this was their **first time** rough sleeping.

“I lost my job and became homeless. I spent three years in a cycle of sleeping on the streets and asking for money to stay in hostels. It was difficult and dangerous – especially as a woman. St Mungo’s helped me, and I moved into their women’s only accommodation. I have my own room, bathroom and kitchen – no more sleeping in the cold and rain. They’ve also helped enrol me on to different training courses. Soon, I’ll be moving into my own home. I now love my life every day.”

Carla, St Mungo’s client

