

Jane Hunt MP



House of Commons

25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear local residents,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about ending rough sleeping.

I understand your concerns and, as you may be aware, I was elected on a [manifesto](#) which pledged to end rough sleeping under this Parliament by expanding programmes such as the [Rough Sleeping Initiative](#) and [Housing First](#). I was interested to read St Mungo's recommendations and I have been reassured that the Government is aware of them.

The COVID-19 outbreak has shown us what is possible but, at the same time, presents new challenges as we work to end rough sleeping locally and throughout the country.

A taskforce has been established, which is led by Dame Louise Casey, to support rough sleepers during the pandemic and to work with councils to support them into long-term accommodation once lockdown is lifted, ensuring as few people as possible return to the streets. The Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing has also [written](#) to local authorities to emphasise the importance of supporting those who are vulnerable and to set out plans for the next stage of accommodating rough sleepers.

Since the start of the pandemic, almost 15,000 rough sleepers and those at risk of doing so have been provided emergency accommodation, and a further £105 million was announced in June to help rough sleepers into stable accommodation by paying deposits and securing alternative rooms that are readily available.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has also announced a £6 million emergency fund to provide relief for frontline homelessness charitable organisations and £23 million toward addressing substance misuse.

In addition, a number of steps were taken prior to the pandemic to end rough sleeping. For example, in January 2020, the MHCLG announced allocations of a £112 million Rough Sleeping Initiative fund to provide support to those living on the streets. This funding will be used by local authorities, charities and other organisations in around 270 areas and will fund up to 6,000 bed spaces and 3,300 staff.

At this time of emergency we need to keep up the momentum and I would like to reassure you that I will continue to follow this matter closely.

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I hope that this information is helpful. If you have any further questions or concerns, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane".

Jane Hunt MP