

# THE FACTS about homelessness and begging

You see someone begging in the street and your first thought is that they're homeless. However, that's often not the case and giving them money is not always the best way to help. Here we look at some of the facts around homelessness and begging.



## FACT

The figures do change, but there's usually no more than two people sleeping rough in town at any given time.

## FACT

Some rough sleepers or homeless people may have declined help for a variety of reasons. No one needs to sleep rough in Darlington as there is support for everyone. We work closely with partners and charities to offer support and/or accommodation to those who need it.

## FACT

Those who beg are rarely homeless. People beg for a variety of reasons including to feed an addiction, which is why it's better to donate to a charity that offers help rather than give cash to someone on the street.

## How can I help?

### If you want to help tackle homelessness and rough sleeping

- Don't give cash to people on the street
- Encourage them to seek help from the council or a charity
- Make a donation to the Have a Heart, Give Smart campaign to ensure help and support goes to those who need it.

### Let us know if you're concerned about someone on the streets

- **Housing Options Team** – call 405333 or email [housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@darlington.gov.uk) (during office hours)
- **StreetLink** – report online at [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk)
- **Outside office hours** call 01642 524552 – the team will provide advice for rough sleepers who want accommodation
- **If someone is unwell, unresponsive or distressed**, please call 999.

For more information visit [www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness](http://www.darlington.gov.uk/homelessness)

Have a Heart  
GIVE SMART

 **DARLINGTON**  
Borough Council

 **700 Club**



**Street Link**