

Needs and wants of a person who is homeless.



- 1. Low cost** – remind pupils that someone who is sleeping rough is unlikely to have a job and so might not have much or any money to pay for things like rent.
- 2. To share a home with other people** – refer back to the powerpoint slide on student accommodation. Making a property where people share the living spaces but have their own bedroom can make rent a lot cheaper. This also provides vital opportunity to socialise, stopping them from feeling alone.
- 3. Support** – they might need help finding somewhere to live with low rent, adjusting to living in a house again, learning how to budget, finding work experience, getting a job, getting qualifications or exam results, help to get money via benefits, or mental health support to recover from the trauma of sleeping rough. At Porchlight's supported accommodation schemes we have coaches who are there to support, advise and help people as they turn their life around.
- 4. A job** – some people who are sleeping rough were unable to finish school or get the qualifications and experience they need to get a good job. Porchlight have a work, health and learning team who offer advice and support to help people get a job. A job is vital as we all need money to pay for rent, food, and bills.
- 5. Food** – living on the streets it can be difficult to find food, especially if you can't pay for it. So, a full fridge where they know they can always find a snack is key. They might also need help to learn to cook, at Porchlight our work, health and learning team also teaches people how to cook.
- 6. Safety** – living on the streets alone can be terrifying. It is vital that the homes we offer to people who are homeless feel safe from danger but also from judgement or criticism. Porchlight coaches focus on being supportive and encouraging.
- 7. Time** – it is rarely a quick fix to get someone off the street and back to living independently. It can take time and patience to help someone turn their life around. So, the accommodation cannot be temporary.
- 8. T.V** – interestingly, when people sleep on the streets, they get used to a lot of noise being around them and find a house uncomfortable and too quiet. A TV can be left on to provide some background noise.
- 9. A bathroom** – for someone sleeping rough hygiene can be impossible or a very low priority. Ask the pupils if they would rather be incredibly hungry or very dirty.
- 10. A bed** – it could be weeks, months or years that people who are homeless will sleep on the floor or in a sleeping bag. A bed that belongs to them is vital. It can actually take people a while to get used to sleeping in a bed again so even when they move into Porchlight supported accommodation they might sleep on the floor for a little while.

Encourage pupils to include what they think a homeless person would want or need in a new home.

