

A Bed Every Night is a commitment to provide a bed, welcome, hot meal and support over this winter. A Bed Every Night (ABEN) is for anyone who is sleeping rough or at imminent risk of sleeping rough in Greater Manchester and doesn't have a current housing solution.



ABEN has now been running for twelve weeks, and with support from across Greater Manchester, more people are inside this winter and receiving support than in previous years. There were also a large number of charitable donations received over the Christmas period, which coordinators are working hard to distribute. The provision available across all ten localities in Greater Manchester is being delivered with help from a wide range of public, private and voluntary sector partners. As of the end of January, more than 900 people have been accommodated and 285 assisted to move on to alternative accommodation.

There is a lot of work ongoing behind the scenes with buildings, maintenance, training staff and volunteers, gathering feedback and improving referral routes. There are areas where bed provision is lacking and we need more accommodation for people who are ready to move on. There have been many people accessing ABEN who have more complex needs, including health related issues. We have seen a really positive response from health commissioners and service providers in some localities, working closely with ABEN to ensure that support is available when it's needed. This has included providing flu vaccinations, alignment of existing outreach services and overdose training for front line staff and volunteers.

Funding has also been secured to pilot testing for Blood-Borne Viruses (BBV) in Salford and Wigan using dry blood spot testing (DBS), which is a very simple process suitable for delivery in ABEN provision, and provided by the Infectious Diseases Team at North Manchester General Hospital (who cover the whole North West area). This will also link in with a larger programme of work to eradicate Hepatitis C in Greater Manchester.

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