

E-Mac Derby Ltd., - A8/A2 Countries – Central / Eastern Europeans people sleeping rough

To Glynis Hawkes

In reply to your telephone and e-mail of 23rd March 2009; these are our replies.

Please note these are E-Mac figures and are sensitive to E-Mac; we have a comprehensive monitoring system and are able to prove our data.

1. Are you aware of peoples of Central and Eastern Europe sleeping rough in your area?

We have documented evidence of an increased pattern of homelessness and destitution occurring in peoples from the A8/A2 countries. Although not all are sleeping rough, many are residing with friends on a temporary basis. The ethnic groups are as follows: Polish are in the majority. Slovaks and Czechs followed by Latvians, Lithuanians and now Romanians and Bulgarians. Although the numbers from the latter two groups are small, in the case of the Romanians, two, both women, Bulgarians two males.

Our Organisation has managed to get some accommodation for both the above groups.

2. Can you provide an estimate of those numbers sleeping rough?

Actual figures of known migrant workers are as follows:
people arriving at our surgery who are homeless and sleeping rough are :

Polish people	- 15	2 are women.
Slovakian Romas	- 6	all male.
Lithuanians	- 4	
Latvians	- <u>2</u>	

Total **27** **these are documented figures** (not 'gestimates')

There are also some people who are on the periphery of being homeless and I would estimate this as approximately 25.

Our surgeries, which are held on Tuesdays and Fridays between 4 - 6 and Sunday morning between 11 and 1.30pm, have seen a marked increase of both people facing unemployment and those losing their home.

3. Please tell us how this information has been gathered.

We have monitored the situation for the past 18 months and are in the process at looking at ways of tackling these pressing issues particularly homelessness, unemployment and access to the benefits system. One issue that has surfaced is the fact that a number of migrants are not registered with the Home Office and therefore have no entitlement to any form of benefit.

Further that those who have arrived in recent months and have lost their jobs have no immediate future, or possibility of attaining employment. The other major barrier to dealing with these issues is the fact that most migrant workers have little or no English.

E-Mac's foresight, of training quality interpreters in Eastern European languages, is and has been the major reason that our Organisation is able to deal with many of the issues arising from the current economic climate.

E-Mac is an independent organisation and seeks to address the profound needs of migrant workers. We need now to specifically organise and develop a task-force capable of identifying the needs of these ethnic groups in order to address their problems empathetically.

Please note one of the major difficulties is that many of these peoples have a fear of the police and authority and it would be difficult for organisations such as City Councils to address this matter without the support of organisations like ourselves who understand the issues because our members are from these communities.

4. Could you indicate if people are sleeping out individually or in specific sites?

At the present time most people are sleeping rough individually. Areas of note are around the hospital and some of the usual sites: the parks, etc. However, there are no camp sites operating within the City of Derby that we know of.

One of the strategies that we wish to discuss locally, and particularly within the DE23 area of Derby, is the use of the Churches in the Walbrook Epiphany area, to see if there is provision for providing distribution of food across the City and the availability and access for all groups in need. Further to see if there is any bed provision, or half-way house proposals for those who have no recourse to benefit. One of the other things is the provision of financial support for those who wish to return to their country of origin. We have, in our own limited way, been able to deal with 15 cases of people who wanted to return because of the conditions and the situation they were facing here in this country.

Kind regards

Zbigniew Wojcik M.B.E., Co-ordinator of E-Mac