

2020 Sleep Count Volunteering Opportunity

When

Bi-monthly.
10.30pm - 4am.

Where

Departs from
St. Mungo's office,
Rochester Row, SW1.

Minimum age

18 years old

*You will need to be able
to walk a considerable
distance on the night
and comfortable
footwear is advised.*

What is the purpose of the bi-monthly Homeless Sleep Count?

The count gives a snapshot on trends, patterns, gaps and numbers for the various areas of Westminster and allows the Council and Homeless agencies to target their work at the changing landscape of homelessness.

How is the data used?

Westminster is divided into 16 patches and 4 geographical areas with coordinators who are responsible for each area. The data is used to try and reduce rough-sleeping and help with preventing homelessness. This information is shared with the respective governmental agencies to inform strategic policy decisions. It is also used by service providers to ensure they align their work to the data collected from the count.

What happens if the weather is really bad – do you still go out?

If the weather is extremely bad, then a decision would be made prior to the count. The council works with the Meteorological service, the MHCLG, GLA and charitable homeless organisations to ensure that there is an effective and robust planning process, enabling a seamless count.

How do I sign up to volunteer?

You will have to sign up with the pathway coordinator and sign a consent form.

Is it safe for volunteers? Will I be volunteering alone?

It is very safe, and you will be with a dedicated and experienced Outreach Worker. There is also a dedicated police team who work with the entire team on the night of the count.

What should I wear?

Warm outdoors clothing and comfortable footwear, which should also be appropriate for the weather conditions.

Will there be refreshments and restrooms available?

Tea, coffee, pizza, soft drinks, and snacks will be provided at the base.

How will I get home after the Sleep Count?

A taxi will drop you off after the count. This is paid for by the Council.

Do I need any experience of working with the homeless?

No, but we are looking for volunteers with a strong passion to work with the vulnerable and marginalised, and a desire to learn.

What skills are you looking for in volunteers?

An empathetic, professional and diligent attitude.

Am I insured by Westminster?

You are not insured by Westminster. You will be working with an experienced Outreach Worker who knows the patch very well and will be leading on the patch. Health and Safety protocols will have to be maintained; hence you will be taking directions from the Outreach Worker who will also be reporting to the Count Coordinator and the Police Team on the night of the count.

Please email community@marble-arch.london if you'd like to participate.

getinvolved@marble-arch.london

www.marble-arch.london

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