**NACCOM – Night Shelter guidance (October 2020)**

The below **summary** is taken from the latest Government guidance for the re-opening of night shelters. Please note that the Government may change this advice, and that its principles are applicable to **England only**.

Anyone wishing to provide night shelter provision **must** read the full guidance (link below) and ensure that they are in communication with relevant Local Authorities and local Public Health teams as a priority.

Link to the Government’s full guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-provision-of-night-shelters?mc_cid=b17159c4e0&mc_eid=fa40b43b48#general-advice>

**Summary of the key principles:**

* Night shelter projects *should consider* whether they can provide **self-contained accommodation options as a priority**.
* Rotating night shelter models ***should not*** be used as they carry a higher risk of infection.
* Providers of night shelters should **work closely with their Local Authority,** including local housing and rough sleeping teams, and **local Public Health teams**.
* Local housing and rough sleeping teams within Local Authorities **must consider** whether the **risk** of people sleeping rough in their area is so great that it requires a night shelter to open, or whether there is a **more Covid-safe option, such as self-contained accommodation**.
* This should be informed by an assessment of current numbers of people sleeping rough and/or availability of self-contained accommodation units.
* **All** local housing and rough sleeping teams should **engage** with their local **Public Health teams**, as well as **delivery partners** and shelter providers, to make these assessments as soon as possible.
* **Assessments should be made regularly** in order to respond to changing circumstances and involve planning for possible future **changes in circumstances**.
* Local Authorities should ensure that they are **communicating** proactively with the **faith and community groups** who usually provide shelter accommodation.
* If a Local Authority deems that a **shelter provision is not** **required** in an area, voluntary and faith groups who usually provide shelter provision **should *not* open** their shelter in this area.
* Any accommodation option ***must*** include access to Local Authority **self-contained accommodation** if guests need to **self-isolate.**
* Consider, for safety reasons, whether you can provide individual rooms and individual washing facilities. These facilities should be the default to appropriately protect individuals from Covid-19.
* If there are **special measures in place** **for the local area** where the shelter is to be located, providers may need to take additional measures.
* Providers of shelters should make an **assessment** on how they are able to **meet current guidelines** on [social distancing](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing), [shielding](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19) and [self-isolation](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance).
* **Covid -19 risk assessments** should be carried out in line with [Health and Safety Executive guidance.](https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/assets/docs/risk-assessment.pdf)
* You **must** **consult** with the local **Director of Public Health**, who will work with the local PHE Health Protection Team, about reopening and establishing appropriate protocols, pathways and measures to reduce transmission risk. See contacts for your [local Public Health team](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contacts-phe-regions-and-local-centres).
* Providers should **ensure** that they have understood how they can **apply guidance on COVID-19 case management and isolation** to the shelter setting; particularly how the definitions of [household](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) and [non-household](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-contacts-of-people-with-possible-or-confirmed-coronavirus-covid-19-infection-who-do-not-live-with-the-person) contacts will apply to shelter guests.

For the full guidance please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-provision-of-night-shelters?mc_cid=b17159c4e0&mc_eid=fa40b43b48#general-advice>

For additional information please also see the following from NACCOM members [Housing Justice](https://housingjustice.org.uk/news/2020/housing-justice-welcomes-clarity-on-night-shelter-re-openings-but-warns-no-return-to-business-as-usual).