

Rural Homelessness

- Seasonal employment can leads to rough sleeping
- Lack of local connection (to anywhere?) is common
- StreetLink is a fantastic resource – particularly in rural areas
- Social Media, especially Facebook, is great – look for community groups to join and engage with those groups (confidentiality in mind) encourage use of StreetLink.
- Tents, sheds, caves, makeshift huts, farmers who agree land use often temporarily, animals e.g. horses being looked after
- Think about the barriers for a person who is homeless out of town – transport, phone signal, address, access to all services including healthcare – are there other agencies that will come out to the person?
- Impact on the community is often greater (or perceived to be) when there is ASB – one or two people can become high profile in a small community
- Rural communities feel services are slow to act as they do not see the immediate impact of your support
- Rural communities can overload rough sleepers with ‘belongings’ – check with the rough sleeper to see if they have too much ‘stuff’
- Will the community still be there to support the rough sleeper if the individual does move into accommodation?