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## Executive Summary

Data from colleagues in the City Centre team show that recorded incidents of street begging in the city centre have reduced. It is likely that a combination of factors has contributed to this, notably:

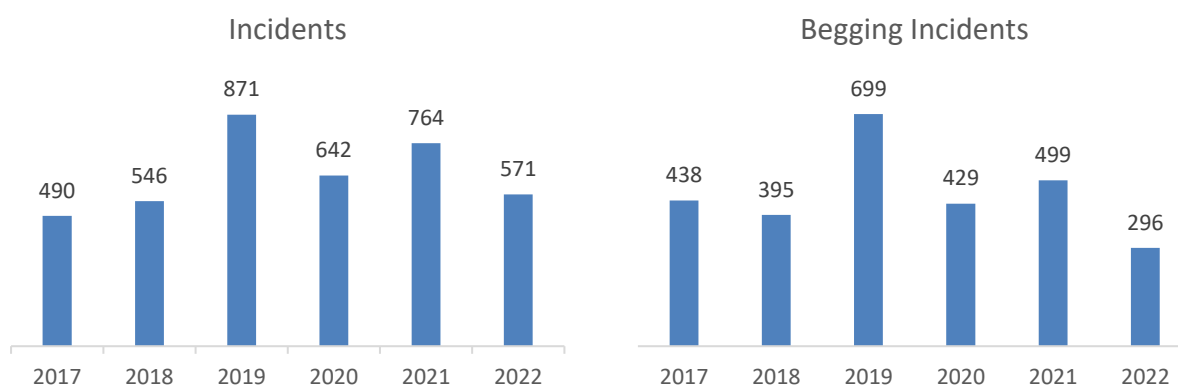
- Increased outreach support through services like Housing First, Changing Futures and Home At Last Team.
- Effective interventions from SCC housing colleagues leading to placements in accommodation
- Negative changes in circumstance including individuals being sectioned, being sent to prison, moving out of area or dying
- Incidents in the city centre being displaced to other parts of Sheffield, especially areas with clusters of retail units

It is important to note that there is a group of individuals where their incidents of begging have risen in 2022 but this is offset by a wider cohort with reduced recorded begging activity.

This analysis has produced defined cohorts of individuals which provides services and agencies with the opportunity for more targeted work to take place to offer support, implement harm reduction pathways and reduce incidents further across the city.

## Analysis

### Section 1. 2022 Summary



Overall, incidents in 2022 were lower than 2021 in Sheffield. Recorded begging reduced by **41%** to 296 in 2022 and was the lowest recorded total in the previous 5 years. In 2022 begging accounted for 52% of incidents recorded in the city centre by Street Ambassadors.

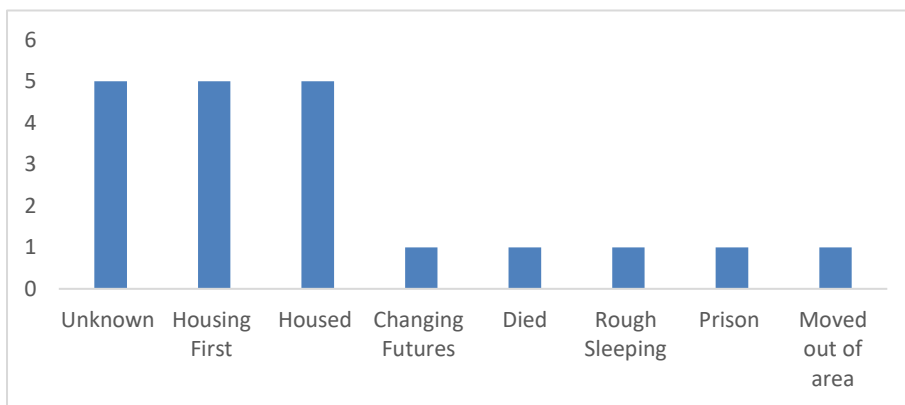
2020 saw a reduction in incidents, linked to the national lockdowns due to Covid-19. Expectedly, 2021 had a large increase in incidents, 129% higher than the previous year. 2022 saw a large decrease of 490 incidents, **77% lower** than the previous year.

**Section 2. Individuals with reduced recorded incidents of begging**

**\*Individuals in 2022 who had less incidents than 2021**

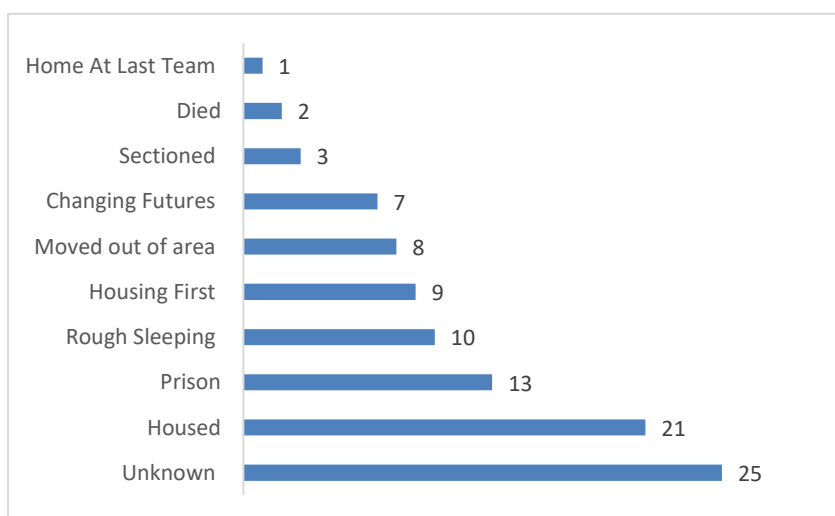
100 individuals had fewer recorded begging incidents in 2022 compared with 2021. 79% of those individuals had 0 incidents recorded in 2022.

The **20 individuals** with the most significant decline in incidents in 2022 were responsible for **81% of all street begging incidents** recorded since 2017. Below outlines their current situation:



For the **5 individuals who have been housed**, 2 are in Local Authority Tenancies, 1 has been placed with Target Housing, 1 has been placed with Thrive Housing and 1 has been placed in Temporary Accommodation.

For the 100 individuals with fewer recorded begging incidents in 2022 we have the following information about their situation during that period:



For those we have data on (excluding unknowns), 50% of individuals have a correlation between reduced recorded incidents of street begging and support being in place.

For the **21 who have been housed**, 6 are in Local Authority Tenancies, 3 have been placed with Housing Associations, 3 have been placed in Temporary Accommodation, 3 have been placed with Target Housing, 3 have been placed with Thrive Housing, 1 has been placed with Roundabout housing, 1 is living with family and 1 is living with their partner (where there are significant Domestic Abuse concerns).

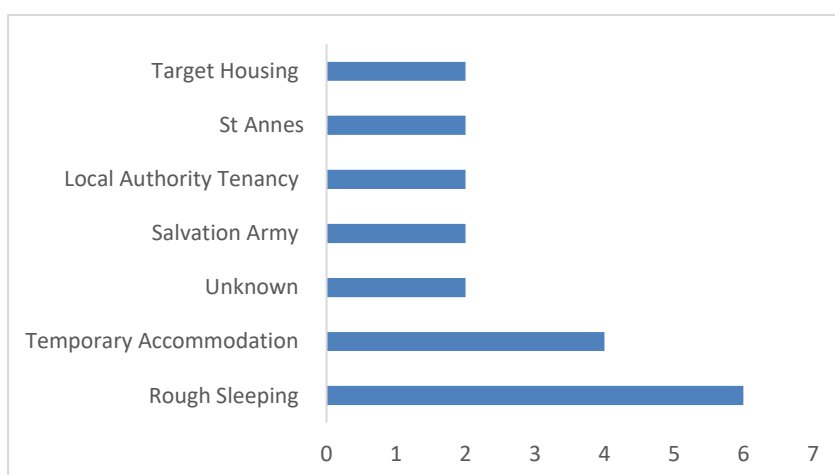
For the **10 who are still known to be rough sleeping** operational intelligence suggests they are still involved in street begging elsewhere in the city or have escalated in their offending behaviour e.g. shoplifting.

### Section 3. Individuals with increased recorded incidents of begging

#### \*Individuals in 2022 who had more incidents than 2021

50 individuals had more recorded begging incidents in 2022 compared with 2021. 58% of those individuals had only 1 incident recorded in 2022.

The **20 individuals** with the biggest increase in begging incidents in 2022 were responsible for **43% of all street begging incidents** recorded in 2022. Below outlines their current situation:



The majority of this group are in accommodation with most of these in supported accommodation schemes. For those still rough sleeping all are known to the street outreach service Framework.

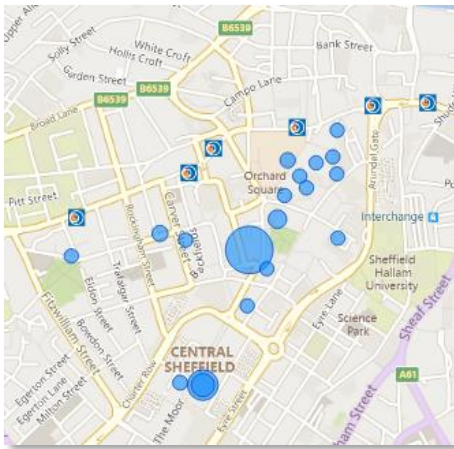
There is less assertive street outreach support services (Housing First, Changing Futures, Home At Last Team) involved with this cohort than with those who have reduced incidents of begging.

**14 of the 20 individuals** with the biggest increase in begging incidents in 2022 were also responsible for **62%** of all incidents in the city centre. The most common recorded incidents after street begging were:

- Street Drinking
- Drunk and Disorderly behaviour
- Breaches of bans or orders
- Rough sleeping

## Section 4. Location

### \*Individuals in 2022 who had less incidents than 2021



83% of incidents recorded in 2022 were located within the S1 post code.

Operational intelligence and anecdotal reports indicate there are instances of street begging taking place in other parts of the city centre (such as West Street and at the train station) which are not indicated on this heat map.

In addition, there are reported increases of street begging activity at various locations outside of the city centre especially in areas with clusters of retail units (e.g. Meadowhall, Queens road, St James). This may account for reductions in incidents in the city centre.

## Section 5. Voice of Lived Experience

Those who are or have engaged in street begging incidents in the city centre have also reported other reasons that may be contributing to the reduction in 2022:

- Reduced footfall in the city centre following Covid
- Begging taking place closer to their place of residence, away from the city centre
- Reduced income from street begging leading to an escalation in offending behaviour
- Income from welfare being maximised, e.g. Personal Independence Payments being established

## Summary and potential next steps

It is difficult to ascertain exactly why incidents of street begging have reduced in the city centre and it is likely that a combination of factors has contributed to this, including:

- Increased outreach support through services like Housing First, Changing Futures and Home At Last Team
- Effective interventions from Framework Outreach and SCC housing colleagues leading to placements in accommodation including within our Housing Related Support Pathway
- Negative changes in circumstance including individuals being sectioned, being sent to prison, moving out of area or dying
- Incidents in the city centre being displaced to other parts of Sheffield, especially areas with clusters of retail units
- Limitations on data recording where not all incidents are recorded and the absence of quantitative data outside of the city centre
- For 25% of the 100 individuals with reduced street begging incidents we are unaware of their current situation. This is a significant gap in data intelligence
- There is a cohort of individuals with increased street begging activity despite support services being in place evidencing the challenge of addressing this issue

This analysis has produced a defined cohort of individuals which provides the opportunity for more targeted work to take place to offer support, implement harm reduction pathways and reduce incidents further across the city. We could focus on:

- Engaging those who are or have engaged in street begging to understand more about effective responses to this behaviour
- The 10 individuals with reduced begging incidents who are known to still be rough sleeping and to have historically engaged in street begging
- The 16 individuals with reduced begging incidents who have entered some form of institution and could be supported upon discharge/release to prevent a return to this behaviour
- The 25 named individuals with reduced begging incidents for whom we have no intelligence on indicating a lack of support service involvement
- The cohort of 20 individuals responsible for a significant proportion of recorded street begging incidents and the majority of wider recorded incidents in the city centre. The data seems to suggest that access to accommodation alone does not reduce engagement in street begging.