

# Room with a view

It's a building that looks right across the bay to Elizabeth Castle, but it's not a luxury home – it's a bus shelter used by Jersey's homeless. **Lucy Mason** spends a night out on the streets of St Helier with the Shelter Trust, who are currently witnessing a dramatic upturn in the numbers of people sleeping rough



The shelter team try to bring people found sleeping rough into the shelter in Kensington Place (00892315)

**L**OOKING out across the moonlit water to Elizabeth Castle, you can't help but be jealous of people who live with that view every day.

'People pay a fortune for that view,' I find myself saying to the man beside me.

'That's why they call it Room with a View,' he replies before returning to his search through empty lager cans and sniffing the air for urine.

The large bus shelter by the old Inn on the Park is indeed a room with a view – but it is also a regular refuge for Jersey's homeless.

Tonight, following the news that people are now regularly being found sleeping rough on the streets, Stuart Campbell, a support worker from the Shelter Trust, has agreed to show me what a night out with the trust's outreach team is all about.

The team, who are partly funded by the Jersey Homeless Outreach Group, currently go out around town two nights a week in the hope of bringing anyone found sleeping on the streets into the safety of the emergency shelter in Kensington Place.

Empty lager cans, food wrappers and the smell of urine are tell-tale signs that someone may have been using an area to sleep rough, and Stuart is well practised at sniffing out the signs.

It is during our tour of town's multi-storey car parks and public toilets that Stuart, who has been working for the trust for over seven years, reveals the true extent of the challenges his team are now facing.

'We are seeing a lot of new faces and a lot of new situations,' he says.

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