Think Before You Give

MYTH Busters

Myth
“People who beg in Leeds do not have access to Food”

Truth
Free food is available to all on a daily basis. The money given to beggars is often spent on drugs and alcohol.

Myth
“People who beg are unable to access support for substance misuse or mental health issues”

Truth
On a daily basis people who beg are offered support and assistance by street based services. This enables them to gain access to treatment, advice and support.

Myth
“The majority of people who beg do not have access to benefits or accommodation”

Truth
The majority of beggars have access to accommodation and benefits. Support is available to those who don’t.

Giving small change to beggars might make life a bit easy, but in the worst case, it can feed a dependency to keep people on the street and away from the help they need. It takes more than money to turn a life around.

Here are some truths around street begging in Leeds:

Text TBYG99 to Donate £1*