

BIG HEARTED SEMBCORP FOUR HELP IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HOMELESS AND POVERTY



Ready to rough it! Sembcorp's heroes join Bianca Robinson of the charity CEO Sleepout (second right) at the start of the Tees event. Left to right Dave Thompson, Matthew Scrimshaw, Natasha Wilkinson and Nomi Ahmad.

They've done it!

Four hardy Sembcorp Energy UK employees slept rough on one of the coldest nights of the year so far to raise vital funds to fight homeless and poverty.

In total, Nomi Ahmad, Matthew Scrimshaw, Dave Thompson and Natasha Wilkinson netted more than £6,000 for the national charity CEO Sleepout – 12 per cent of the overall total raised on Teesside.



The team share a joke as the chill kicks in.

With the thermometer showing 5 degrees at 9pm – but with the wind chill making it feel substantially colder – more than 60 people representing a variety of businesses and organisations across the Tees Valley began to bed down on the outdoor Victorian Street at Preston Park for ten hours of total discomfort.



Natasha gets ready for one of the most uncomfortable nights of her life

“It was bone chillingly cold,” said Natasha. “How people can survive doing this night after night is beyond me. It’s appalling and gave everyone taking part a real understanding of the hardship that scores of people on Teesside struggle with every day of the week.”



Nomi beds down

The Sembcorp team thanked colleagues and business associates who have made donations so far.

Some of the money will be used to stock foodbanks in the area – which includes some of the most deprived wards in the country – and some will go to specific charities helping the needy including The Moses Project in Stockton which Sembcorp supported earlier in the year.

Matthew said: “It’s good to know that every penny we’ve raised will be put to good use.”

The inspiration for CEO Sleepout was businessman Andy Preston, Chairman of CEO Sleepout and now the Mayor of Middlesbrough. It is the sixth time the event has been held on Teesside.

He said: “The support for CEO Sleepout once again has been truly amazing and I’d like to thank Sembcorp for their tremendous support. The experience everyone had is the daily reality for a lot of people in this area.

“This is not just about demonstrating corporate social responsibility – the truth is that in 2020 and beyond businesses and their individual employees will need to show this level of commitment to the communities in which they operate, not least because society and their shareholders will demand it.”



The morning after the night before: Andy Preston (front) celebrates with those from Teesside businesses and organisations that took part in the CEO Sleepout.