

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Committee: | Dated: |
| Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee | 06/09/2018 |
| Subject: Health care provision for people sleeping rough in the City of London | Public |
| Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services | For Information |
| Report author: Simon Cribbens, Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships Department of Community and Children's Services | |

Summary

This report presents the findings of an assessment of health care provision for those sleeping rough in the City of London. It identifies a number of problems with the design, delivery and availability of current health services, and recommends solutions to address these.

City Corporation officers will use the findings to define and propose specific service responses to those responsible for their commissioning.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note and comment on the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City Corporation and the City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have commissioned an assessment of health care services for those who sleep rough in the Square Mile. It aims to inform a strategic and commissioning response to rough sleeping.
2. The assessment was undertaken by an independent consultant with relevant expertise. The assessment looked at existing levels of need, service delivery and examples of specialist and mainstream services delivered to those who are homeless and living on the streets. It also consulted with people with lived experience of rough sleeping to help inform its findings and recommendations.

Current Position

3. The report (Appendix 1) identifies a number of key problems in meeting the health needs of a population with multiple and complex issues, including:
 - unidentified needs
 - poor communication and sharing of information
 - accessing services and service delivery
 - unclear pathways of mental health service
 - reactive rather than planned or preventative health care delivery.

Proposals

4. The report proposes a range of solutions, including provision of:
 - specialist nurse practitioners
 - care navigators or co-ordinators
 - improved mental health assessment and service
 - single multi-disciplinary team approach.

Next steps

5. Engagement with key commissioners at the City and Hackney CCG, Tower Hamlets CCG and the workstreams of the Integrated Commissioning Board have already commenced.
6. City Corporation officers will use the report and its recommendation to propose a range of specific service responses to commissioners. The details of these have yet to be specified, but the initial focus is on three key services:
 - a specialist nurse practitioner to identify, treat and refer clients – based within existing service settings
 - peer-led service navigation and treatment adherence service to support access to and maintenance of health care
 - a specialist mental health practitioner to provide therapeutic intervention, referral and guidance to outreach practitioners.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. This work progresses the commitments of the City Corporation's Homelessness Strategy and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Conclusion

8. People who sleep rough face some of the greatest health inequalities in the population. This assessment is an important step in identifying the right health services to improve health outcomes for this group, and reduce their rough sleeping.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Health care provision for people sleeping rough in the City of London

Simon Cribbens

Assistant Director – Commissioning and Partnerships
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 020 7332 1638

E: simon.cribbens@cityoflondon.gov.uk