

Committee	Date
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	14/12/2018
Subject: Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund Update	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter – Director, Department of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

This report summarises our progress in meeting the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Fund objectives. Our original proposal was spilt into four work streams; each will be summarised in the report, along with brief performance data.

Recommendation

- Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. A fund of £30 million was announced on 30 March 2018 to help local authorities with the highest number of rough sleepers target the problem. The City of London Corporation submitted a proposal to MHCLG on 18 May. On 8 June, we learned that we had been successful in our bid for an award of £215,348 for project costs to the end of the financial year 2018/19. A further provisional award for 2019/20 is dependent on a review of the success of the 2018/19 work.
2. The Government expects to see an impact on rough sleeping numbers within the 2018/19 timeframe. When drafting our proposals, we were invited to build on existing work that was known to be successful, and initiatives that could be implemented quickly. The four work streams are outlined below:
 - A Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Team
 - An increase in the timing of our Pop-up Hub to a monthly Assessment Hub
 - Extra capacity for our commissioned outreach to support Hub activity to focus on our most entrenched rough sleepers, as well as a new case worker at the Providence Row Dellow Centre to support Hub activity and focus on a cohort of City rough sleepers
 - Extra capacity in the No First Night Out homelessness prevention project.

3. These extra measures have seen the recruitment of two new full-time officers into roles at the City of London and two further full-time roles with our partners in the voluntary sector. The rest of the award has been invested in the operational activity associated with Assessment Hubs.
4. There are several benefits to this approach:
 - a) Four of the five proposal areas focus on our most entrenched rough sleepers, those that make up our 'living on the streets' cohort.
 - b) The increase in Hub activity and more frequent timing ensures that we stand a greater chance of reaching more rough sleepers. This will assist with engaging 'intermittent' rough sleepers, a group that form the largest cohort within our rough sleeping population.
 - c) Greater planning and partnership work around rough sleeping 'hotspots' – both from a prevention and response perspective.
 - d) Further development of a support and enforcement model to help communities and visitors, and to provide a co-ordinated approach to complex cases.
 - e) Increasing the scope and timing of our Pop-up Hub model provides a platform to test ideas around assessment. It also generates an evidence base that will inform future planning.
 - f) Increased capacity in our commissioned outreach team so that Assessment Hubs can become a sustainable 'business as usual' model that does not detract from regular case work.
 - g) Increased capacity at our nearest day centre, which expands our service offer and supports continuity of support during and in between Hubs.
 - h) Further investment in homelessness prevention as a key method in reducing rough sleeping numbers.

Current Activity

5. The project is monitored via the Government's DELTA software platform. Performance data for all four work streams is uploaded monthly. The City has been allocated a Rough Sleeping Special Advisor from MHCLG who undertakes monthly progress visits. During the visit in November, the advisor noted the City's effective implementation, sound 'tasking and action' approach and good partnership work.
6. The City is also required to undertake a monthly street audit to track trends and progress. The number of rough sleepers counted is as follows:
 - August – 25
 - September – 35
 - October – 36
7. **Work stream 1 – Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator role:** Simon Yong was recruited in September and took up the post on 22 October 2018. This role is accountable for the successful delivery of RSI-funded activity, as well as the co-ordination of various areas of work related to our rough sleeping cohorts. This includes a review

of our meetings and forums, finding further efficiencies in our accommodation pathway.

8. There are no performance measures associated with this work stream.
9. **Work stream 2 – Assessment Hubs:** Three Hubs have been provided since the RSI funding became available – August, September and October. Hub dates are currently confirmed to July 2019 and a location is confirmed to April 2019.
10. There have been 20 confirmed outcomes, between August and October, directly from the Hubs. More detail is available in the separate Assessment Hub report.
11. **Work stream 3 – Increased outreach capacity:** An outreach worker was recruited by St Mungo's and took up the post in late August. This provides enhanced case work throughout the month and focuses on targeting individuals for the Assessment Hub. The role links directly with the Hub staff and co-ordinates the handover of clients to the Providence Row Dellow Centre every morning during a Hub week.
12. There have been five confirmed outcomes through case work delivered by the RSI case worker.
13. **Work stream 4 – Increased No First Night Out capacity:** This work stream focuses on the homelessness prevention project that the City of London hosts with the London Boroughs of Hackney and Tower Hamlets. The project works with single people at risk of homelessness but who are not in priority need for accommodation. Prior to the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2018, this group contributed greatly to new rough sleepers. The project is led by a steering group chaired by the City of London.
14. A third case worker was recruited to the service in September. One-third of the projects' outcomes will be reported to the RSI Fund. To date the new case worker has received 16 referrals and prevented the homelessness of 10 individuals across the tri-borough area.

Conclusion

15. The addition of a Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator has allowed the progress of RSI activity to accelerate in the last four weeks. The Assessment Hubs build on an already successful model, so the main adaptation has been adjusting to the increased tempo (from quarterly to monthly Hubs). A key element of added value continues to be the partnership work between Providence Row at the Dellow Centre and the St Mungo's outreach team. Link-up between the night-time assessment service and ongoing case work provided by the Dellow Centre, both during a Hub week and in addition to this, is proving highly effective.

Appendices

- None

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