

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS SUB COMMITTEE

Friday, 14 December 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Members:

Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)
Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chairman)
Randall Anderson
Mary Durcan

Alderman Ian Luder
Dhruv Patel OBE
William Pimlott

Officers:

Andrew Carter	- Director of Community and Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Glory Nyero	- Community and Children's Services
Russell Pengelly	- City of London Police
John Peacock	- City of London Police
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Henrika Priest and Benjamin Murphy.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2018 were approved as a correct record.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members received the Sub Committee's Outstanding Actions list and noted that the items contained therein had either been covered by the Awayday on 15th October 2018; were on today's agenda or had been scheduled for the next meeting of the Sub Committee in February 2019.

5. **PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which informed Members of the level and nature of homelessness and rough sleeping activity, within the City of London Corporation, during Quarter 2 of 2018/19.

During the discussion on this item, the following points were noted.

1. The pan-London figures from the Annual Count had been embargoed until the end of January. Members suggested checking the 2011 Census records for a comparison.
2. Graph 1 in the report set out regional and season trends. Members noted that the City's figures were lower but neighbouring boroughs had seen an increase; with the City likely to follow in the next quarter.
3. The City doesn't have the same level of chaotic residential communities as surrounding boroughs and rough sleepers often travelled long distances into the City. Members noted some commonality with Westminster, although their numbers were far higher. It was agreed that Camden could be a good comparator, given its similar railway hubs and night-time economy.
4. Members asked if they could be given information over 2 or 3 quarters. Officers advised that most pathways off the streets were shorter term in the first instance, with longer term accommodation generally provided outside the City but a clearer breakdown could be provided in future reports.
5. Figures for 'No Second Night Out' were fairly low in the City and officers advised that CHAIN (Combined Homelessness and Information Network) data at source was not qualified. Furthermore, help was sometimes refused or hubs were full. In the case of the latter, Members requested a better understanding of what would be required in respect of resources; i.e. spaces available at the hubs and whether pathways beyond were being provided. Members were keen to know outcomes, wherever possible, and this had been discussed at the Member Away Day in October.
6. Members noted that the GLA defined many cohorts and categories of rough sleepers; with RS -205 representing the highest level of need. The recent uplift agreed by the Resource Allocation (RA) Sub Committee was based on this group. Officers advised that CHAIN data was recorded wherever rough sleepers were contacted in London. Officers generally found this data helpful and it had formed the basis of the successful RA Sub bid for additional funding.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL COUNT**

The Assistant Director, People, was heard and, as discussed during the previous report, Members noted that this information was embargoed until the New Year. Officers advised that the Count had a very specific and thorough methodology, different to normal outreach work, with the outcomes likely to influence future outreach work. Members would receive a full report at their next meeting, once the Count data had been analysed.

RESOLVED, that - the report be noted.

7. **ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's services which summarised progress in meeting the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund Objectives. Members noted that a new Co-ordinator was now in post in the team.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **ASSESSMENT HUB ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which summarised the Rough Sleeper Assessment Hub activity co-funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government through the Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund. The report covered the period between September and November 2018. Members noted that the latest hub would start this Sunday and last until 21st December. Crisis at Christmas would then open between 23rd and 29th December and rough sleepers in the City would be directed there. There would also be a full outreach rota over the Christmas period. Any Members who wanted to visit the Hub, were asked to contact Will Norman, the Homelessness Manager.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. **WINTER PLANNING REPORT 2018-19**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which set out the preparations made and work currently underway to ensure that the City of London were protecting the wellbeing of rough sleepers through the forthcoming winter months. The report covered the period November 2018 to March 2019.

During the discussion on this item, the following points were noted:

1. Local Democracy had a positive visit to St Mungo's the previous day and the Times also featured their work.
2. SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Plan) was activated at zero degrees or 'feels like' zero degrees.
3. The City of London Corporation were supporting the Mayor's Winter Campaign '*#Help London's Homeless*' and Members noted the advert

which appeared in 'City Matters'. The social media campaign would run throughout December and January. Members were also keen to promote a strong message about what the City was doing and noted that they would receive a further report on the Communications Strategy, as part of the wider Winter Campaign for 2018/19. Officers agreed to look at the twitter feeds for any active reporting of rough sleepers.

4. The Mayors' campaign had raised £30,000 in the last 3 weeks and 'Tap London' had been installed at 39 locations across London, close to begging hot spots. Currently there were just 2 tapping spots in the City but they would be rolled out if the campaign was successful and Members would receive an update report on alternative giving at a future meeting, once a full evaluation of the Winter Campaign and its costs were available.
5. Street link had a contact number but were encouraging on-line reporting as this was more effective than staffing a 24 hour phone line. Members noted that the Chairman was due to meet with Street link next week.
6. There were a number of empty TfL advertising spaces and Members were encouraged to write to the Mayor of London about this. Officers advised that the City Corporation intended to increase coverage in the City.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS 2019-2023 STRATEGY PROJECT PLAN

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which set out a project plan and consultation timeline for developing the 2019-23 Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Members noted that the Police would have a standing agenda item at future Sub Committee Meetings. The Police Officers in attendance advised that Operation Luscombe (begging) had been working well, with a visible reduction in hot spots. Member noted that the operation was developing intelligence in respect of begging gangs but this required a different policing approach to Luscombe, with different resource implications.

The British Transport Police had been working closely with the City Police, particularly in the Liverpool Street area. The Police were also in discussion with the Licensing Team in respect of supermarket sales of cheap alcohol but Members noted that a policy change in this area could take some time.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Agenda Item
15

Paragraph No
1,2 & 3

14. **QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE WHILE THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no questions.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

One item was discussed.

Next meeting 18 February 2019 at 11 am

The meeting closed at 11.25 am

Chairman

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