Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	25/02/2020
Subject: Annual Street Count 2019	**Public**
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	**For Information**
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Summary

This report details the total number of Rough Sleepers met bedding down as part of the City of London's Annual Street Count figure. This report also presents data relating to previous Annual Street Counts, as well as the trends seen through bi-monthly street counts and monthly overall rough sleeping figures.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of this report.

Main Report

Background

- Every local authority in the UK must provide a 'snapshot' figure of rough sleeping to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government each year.
- The 'snapshot' is meant to provide an indication of the number of individuals who are rough sleeping within any authority's boundaries on a single night in November or December.
- The 'snapshot' can either take the form of a best estimate or a specific street count of rough sleepers on a single night.
- Within the City of London, we operate a street count as we believe this is the best method of capturing average night figures.
- We operate our street count on the same evening as surrounding boroughs to ensure that individuals are not double counted across multiple boroughs. This helps to ensure the most accurate picture of rough sleeping in London as a whole.
- During 2019 we also operated a bi-monthly street count, mirroring the same conditions and operation as an annual count, in order to help us develop a longitudinal understanding of a typical night at different points within the year.

Current Position

1. The Annual Street Count took place on 28–29 November 2019, and was conducted using the same methodology as all previous annual counts.

2. A total of 41 individuals were found during the count.

<u>Gender</u>

3. The gender of individuals found during the street count is generally representative of rough sleeping nationally; most individuals found were male, with only four of the 41 individuals met being female. All individuals identified as cisgender, (there was no identification of gender other than male or female).

Male	37
Female	4

<u>Age Range</u>

4. The age range of individuals seen during the street count comprise a relatively low instance of individuals aged over 35; these totalled 23 of the individuals seen. This equates to just over 50% of the individuals seen on the night of the count.

5. Data from across the whole of Greater London indicates higher levels of individuals aged 35 and over rough sleeping; 68% of all individuals found across Quarter 2 (Q2) 2019/20 in Greater London were above this age.

6. This data indicates that there is a younger rough sleeping population within the City of London compared to London as a whole.

Age	
18–25	3
26–35	15
36–45	9
46–55	9
56–65	5
66+	0
Total	41

<u>Nationality</u>

7. There was a wide breadth of nationalities represented within the street count cohort; individuals originated from one of 14 nations, excluding individuals with an unknown nationality.

8. The highest single country of origin for those rough sleeping within the Square Mile remains the UK. However, this is a somewhat misrepresentative picture in relation to the data due to the fragmented nature of presenting individuals from different nations from within the EU/EEA.

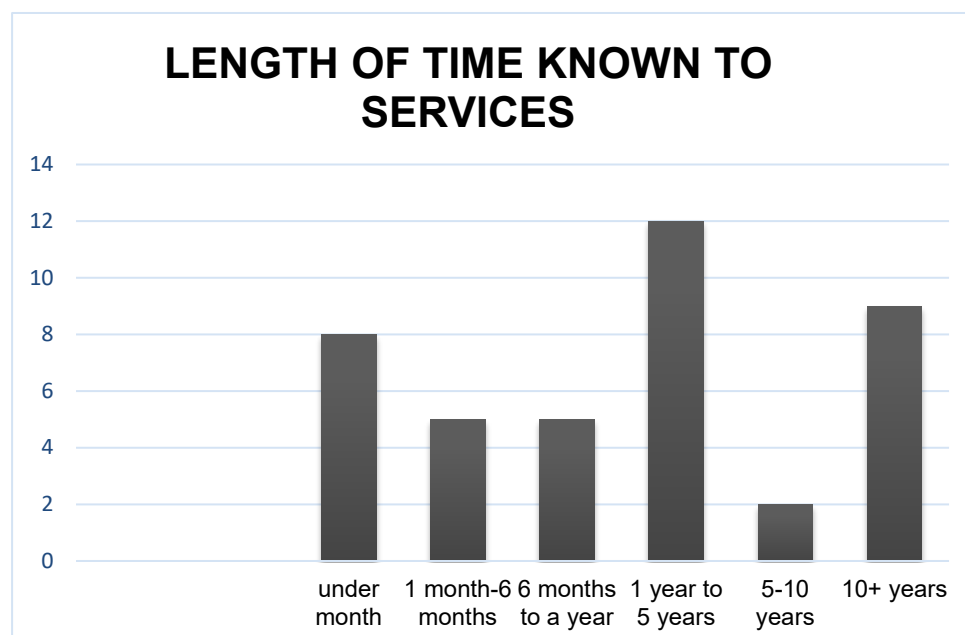| UK	16	Bulgaria	1
Italy	2	Nigeria	1
Romania	4	*Not Known*	5
Ghana	1	Estonia	1
Poland	4	Sudan	1
India	1	Chad	1
Spain	1	Switzerland	1
Slovakia	1	TOTAL	41

9. To best assess the needs of those found during the street count in relation to nationality/rights of access, it is important to view the data along lines of three distinct definitions – namely those from within the UK, those from EU/EEA states, and those from outside the EU.

NATIONALITY – UK/EEA/REST OF THE WORLD

UNKNOWN
12%

NON-EU
12%

EU/EEA (inc. Swiss)
37%

UK
39%
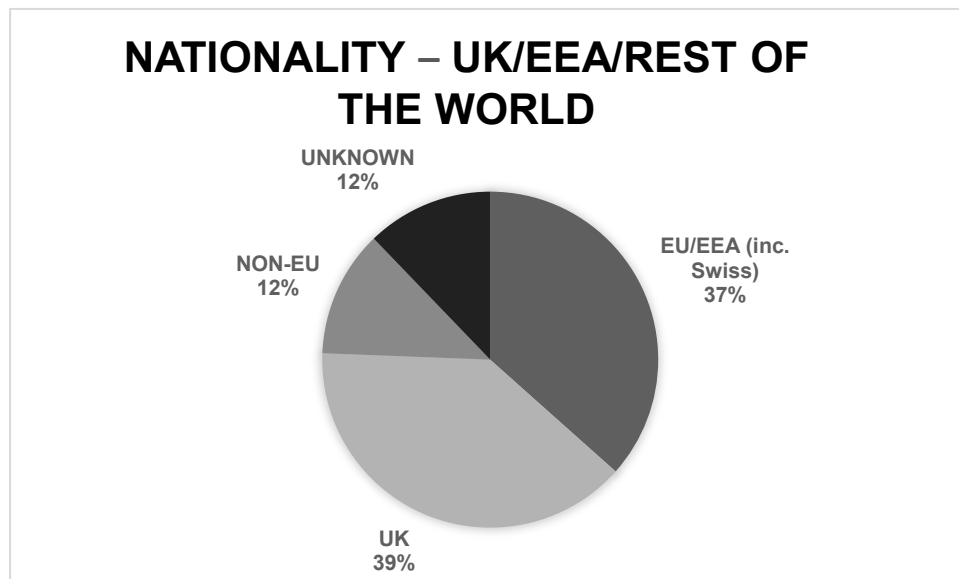
10. Viewed in this manner, it is apparent that the instance of EEA national rough sleeping is of a similar level to rough sleepers in the Square Mile originally from the UK.

Length of time known to Rough Sleeper Services

11. The chart represents the length of time individuals have been known to rough sleeper services within Greater London. This data does not take into account individuals having been accommodated or what authority areas people have been known to. This data is used to give an indication of the levels of street attachment individuals may exhibit, along with enabling an understanding of the effectiveness of previous service interaction with them.

LENGTH OF TIME KNOWN TO SERVICES

Category	Value
under month	8
1 month-6 months	5
6 months to a year	5
1 year to 5 years	12
5-10 years	2
10+ years	9

12. It is particularly evident that individuals found during the street count often have long histories of working with rough sleeper services: 23 of the 41 individuals have been known for more than a year, and nine of these individuals have been known to services for more than 10 years.

Support Needs

13. Support needs identified for the individuals in the street count mirror those seen in other data relating to rough sleepers in the City of London.

14. There are high levels of comorbidity, with 32% of all individuals met during the count having more than one support need.

15. Excluding unknown data, it is evident that the majority of rough sleepers in the street count had some form of serious support need related to mental health, alcohol use or substance misuse.
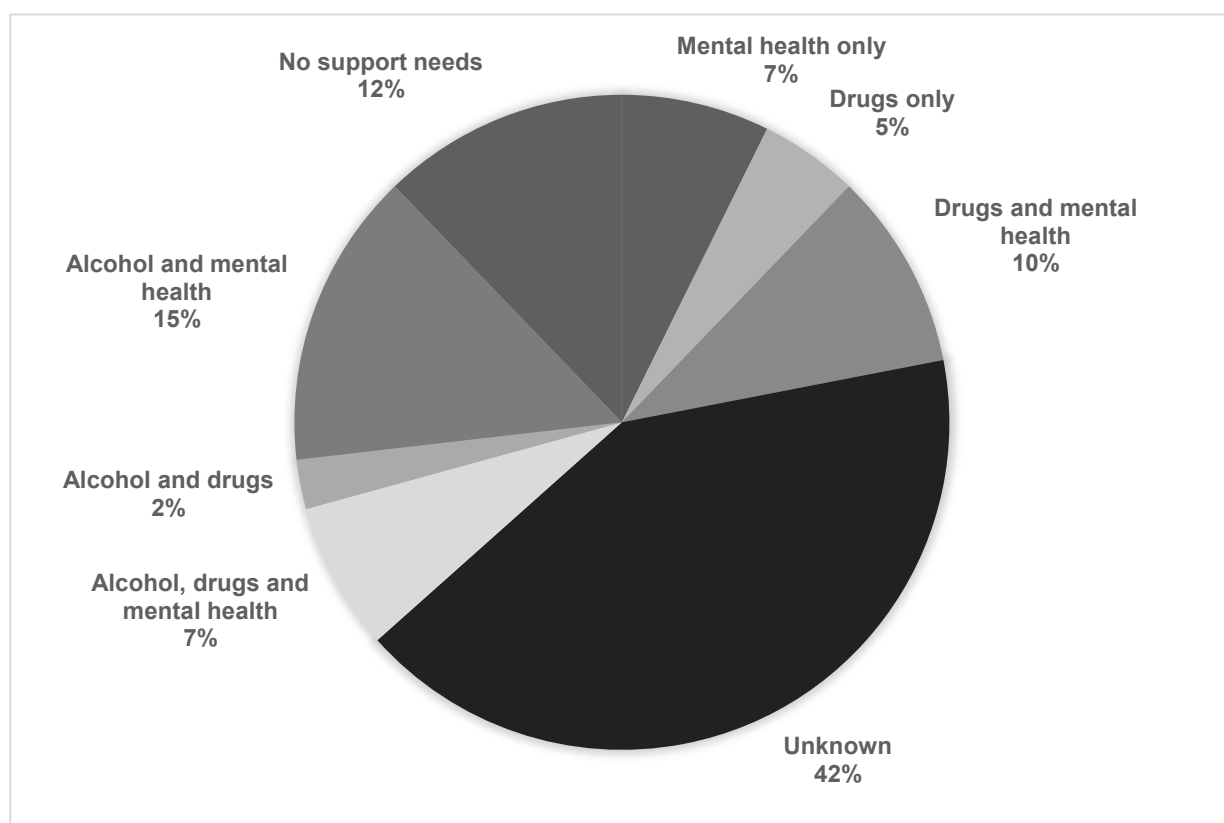

16. There is a high level of 'unknown' support needs for those found during the street count.

17. This is partly related to the relatively high number of individuals known for under a month: seven individuals were met for the first time during the count, with a further four having had their first contacts during late October/early November 2019.

18. Excluding these individuals from support needs data, we see a remaining seven individuals for whom there is no recorded support needs data. Information for these individuals is generally limited, indicating a lack of engagement with services. This is

conducive with anecdotal information from services concerning the challenges in individual engagement within the City.

Comparison to previous street counts

19. Through collating the bi-monthly street count outcomes, we can see that, since the Annual Street Count 2018, there has been a general reduction in the number of individuals found. However, there are distinct fluctuations within the data set, with a notable increase in July 2019.

20. It is of note that this is the first year we have conducted bi-monthly street counts, and it is challenging to attribute these fluctuations to any distinct reason. We do believe that there is a seasonality to the changes, particularly as the steepest increase in the period relates to a street count occurring on the hottest day on UK record.

ROUGH SLEEPING TRENDS NOV 18 to NOV 19
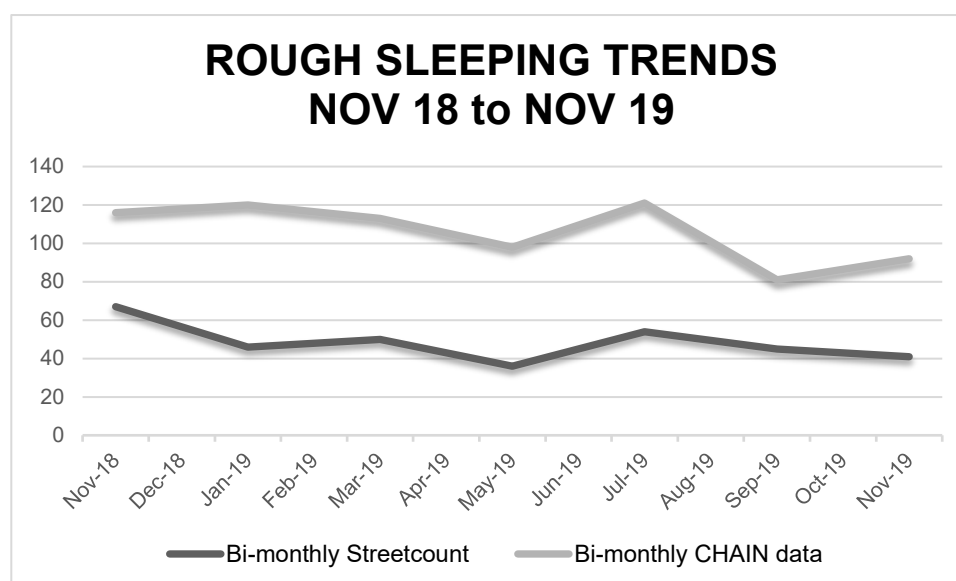
21. When looking at the number of individuals met throughout 2019 on a bi-monthly basis, we can see a similar picture to the levels of rough sleeping identified with each street count, particularly the large spike in rough sleeping in July.

22. Broadly the fluctuations in the street count figure is mirrored in the total number of rough sleepers found each month, though the unpredictability of finding individuals during a street count does amplify the appearance of these fluctuations.

Accommodated individuals

23. In previous street counts, particularly the Annual Street Count 2018, a high number of individuals were counted who had access to accommodation.

24. None of the 41 individuals met during the night of the Annual Street Count 2019 were assessed as having access to accommodation.

25. Following the high number of accommodated individuals seen in the Annual Street Count 2018, accommodation providers were engaged to ensure that offers of support were more specific to an individual's needs and that accommodation was being used regularly.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

26. This paper directly relates to the aims of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019–2023. Namely:

- Homelessness is prevented and, where it does occur, its impact is minimised, and the resolution is rapid and sustainable.
- Everyone has a route away from homelessness.
- The impact of homelessness is reduced.
- Nobody needs to return to homelessness.

Implications

27. There are no financial or legal implications associated with the report.

Conclusion

28. The general trend within the City of London since November 2018 has been one of decreasing levels of rough sleeping.

29. The Annual Street Count 2019 fortifies other data and anecdotal information relating to rough sleeping in the Square Mile; mainly there are challenges with the engagement of those found rough sleeping within the authority's boundaries.

30. There is a high instance of long-term rough sleepers within the cohort and there is an increased level of younger rough sleepers compared to Greater London. There is an almost equal level of individuals from EU/EEA member states rough sleeping in the City of London as there is from the UK.

31. The decline in the number of individuals seen on the street count with accessible accommodation is an indication that the efforts to ensure that individuals are using accommodation have been beneficial.

Appendices

- None

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