

Committee	Dated:
Homelessness Sub-Committee	01/10/2020
Subject: Rough Sleeper Data – End of Year 2019 /20 and Q1 2020/21	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
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Summary

This report updates Members on the level and nature of rough sleeping activity within the City of London for the first quarter (Q1) of 2020/21- with information on the year 2019/20 for information. The full Rough Sleeping Performance Dashboard can be found at Appendix 1, with the headline figures below

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation is one of the top five London local authorities with high numbers of rough sleepers recorded during the year 2019/20. The number of people seen rough sleeping has remained relatively stable in recent years, albeit the number of those seen for the first time during the year 2019/20 had decreased from the previous year.
2. The total number of rough sleepers in the City of London was 172 in Q4 2019/20 but this number has fallen noticeably to 140 in Q1 2020/21. This figure is also considerably lower than that reported for the same quarter in 2019/20- 174. The number of rough sleepers seen during Q1 2020/21 in the City of London is below the number recorded in the previous quarter and is lower than that of benchmark local authorities. The City of London Corporation’s rate of decline is faster than most in the benchmark group.
3. The rough sleeper ‘flow’ (number of new rough sleepers to the street) has fallen from the previous quarter and remains relatively low in comparison to other benchmark groups. Overall, the decline in the rough sleeper flow annually is the amongst the fastest in comparison with London and benchmark groups.
4. In Q1, the proportion of new and stock rough sleepers in the City of London is below that of the London average and other benchmark local authorities. However, the proportion of intermittent returners is high (51%) in the City of London.

5. 63% of new rough sleepers in Q1 2020/21 did not spend a second night out with four joining the living on the streets population. This is below the 65% recorded in Q4 2019/20- with four rough sleepers migrating into the Living on the Streets cohort during the same period.
6. A total of nine people are now identified as most entrenched, RS205 clients,¹ and difficult to engage rough sleepers in the City of London. This is one more than the eight reported in previous quarter.
7. Mental health support is the most prevalent need for those seen rough sleeping in the City of London.
8. The number of rough sleepers seen during Q1 2020/21 in the City of London is below the number recorded in the previous quarter and is lower than that of benchmark local authorities. The City of London's rate of decline is faster than most in benchmark group.
9. Covid-19 has significantly impacted the number of Rough Sleepers being put in emergency accommodation, which would have skewed the number of those living on the streets. In Q4 2019/20, Covid-19 emergency accommodation stays went up from 26 (locally and pan London) to 121 in Q1 2020/21- a 365% rise.
10. There has been a significant fall (15%) in the proportion of the City of London rough sleeping population that are longer term rough sleepers, referred to as being stock or returning clients.
11. There has been a considerable rise in the proportion of intermittent rough sleepers in the City (13%) in Q1 2020/21, compared to Q4 2019/20.
12. Thirteen (28%) of the 46 new rough sleepers spent more than one night out or were not seen rough sleeping again in the period. And a total of four of the new rough sleepers joined the 'living on the streets' cohort.
13. 185 individuals were provided with accommodation stays during 2019/20 and 9 where helped with reconnections with their local areas or countries. In Q1 2020/21, 101 people were provided with accommodation stays but none were helped with reconnection with their home area. This is forty two more than the 59 helped in the previous quarter of which 2 were helped with reconnections in Q4 2019/20.

Implications

14. The prevention and relief of rough sleeping in the City of London links directly to the 2018/23 corporate plan, particularly the aim of contributing to a flourishing society.
15. There are no direct financial or legal implications associated with this report.

¹ RS205 (rough sleepers 205) clients are identified as the most entrenched and prolific and hard-to-help rough sleepers

Health Implications

16. There are no direct health implications associated with this report. The service however continues to support rough sleepers with their health needs.

Conclusion

17. This report has summarised key data on rough sleeping in the City of London in Quarter 1 2020/21 with comparisons to 2019/20, which is detailed in full in the dashboard.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Q1 Rough Sleeping Dashboard (Final)

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