**Committee(s):** Community & Children’s Services  
**Date(s):** 12 July 2013  
**Item no.:**  
**Subject:** Rough Sleepers Update  
**Report of:** Director of Community & Children’s Services  
**Public**  
**For Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This report, which is for information, provides details of working with rough sleepers in the City in accordance with Central Government and the Mayor’s strategy. The City continues to be part of a pan London approach to Rough Sleepers and has representation on the Mayors Rough Sleepers Group and the operational leads meeting for Rough Sleepers.</td>
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The national count in November 2012 found 21 rough sleepers. However, a recent unofficial count in March recorded 19 rough sleepers; an indicator that rough sleeping in the City of London continues to decrease, in comparison to other boroughs, where there is a general increase. This figure is a reflection of the hard work that has taken place with partners and projects such as Operation Poncho, Personalised Budgets, The Lodge and Pop Up Hubs. A new partner to the work is the City of London clergy and a member of the clergy has become a representative on the Rough Sleepers Strategy Group.

Based on the successes of Personalisation and The Lodge, The City Personalisation project was expanded to provide a pan London Service and St Mungo’s, in partnership with The City, have obtained funding for Lodge II to provide permanent move on accommodation from The Lodge.

The report gives more detail regarding the on-going work with rough sleepers in the City.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendations</th>
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<tr>
<td>- It is recommended that your Committee notes this report.</td>
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<td>- Agrees to the principal of involving members in exploring the challenges of working with rough sleepers. 4 members to be proposed to join a one off discussion on the City’s approach to rough sleepers.</td>
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Main Report

Background

1. The latest official count in November 2012 recorded 21 rough sleepers bedded down in the City of London. However the most recent hotspot (unofficial) count found 19, which was very encouraging in the current economic climate. It is important to note that the number of rough sleepers bedded down at any one time continues to fluctuate and thus any count should be considered as a snapshot of the activity on the night of the count. There continues to be a reduction in Eastern Europeans in the City of London.

2. The Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG) and Greater London Association (GLA) continue to monitor the counts.

3. The results of monthly street counts since January 2011 are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<tr>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>February 2013</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2011*</td>
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<td>March 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>April 2012</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>April 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>May 2012</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>May 2013</td>
<td>N/C</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>N/C</td>
<td>June 2012</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>June 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>December 2012</td>
<td>24</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Official count – these biannual counts are reported to the CLG in order to measure local authorities’ progress in meeting their targets. The target for the City of London, as with all London Boroughs, is zero by 2012.
- N/C – no count

Current Position

The Lodge and Lodge II

4. The Lodge has now been open for three years. It has been acknowledged as a very successful and innovative housing project for long term rough sleepers over the age of 40. In 2012, St Mungo’s, in partnership with The City, applied for funding to refurbish an additional building to provide permanent move on accommodation for guests from the Lodge to be titled Lodge II. Currently the City is in negotiations with St Mungo’s and Providence Row Housing Association (PRHA) exploring the feasibility of
Lodge II being developed at Middle Street, which is based in the City. Currently the building is used as a hostel for ex rough sleepers from the City and is managed by PRHA. The proposal is for the current provision at Middle Street to be relocated to Southwark. Funding for Lodge II will be provided by Central Government.

City Police – Operation Poncho II

5. Operation Poncho is an integral part of the approach to engaging with rough sleepers and highlights the effective partnership of Broadway, City of London departments and the police. The operation is running five days a week, financed from the homelessness budget and the Cleansing Services Department of the Built Environment. The funding arrangements are subject to review due to resource pressures of staff and monies. There are plans to move to a more targeted approach and change the timings from 1 am – 3 am.

Broadway

6. Broadway continues to be the City of London’s provider of services to rough sleepers. Key headlines for 2012/2013 are as follows:
   - National Count 19
   - 0 rough sleepers found one night during the Olympics
   - 149 Booked into accommodation
   - Introduction of Pop Up Hubs
   - Expansion of Personalisation – pan London
   - 2 rough sleepers accessed rent deposit scheme
   - 30 ex rough sleepers supported to maintain accommodation
   - 8 accessed permanent accommodation via Clearing House
   - 4 clients successfully moved from Middle Street into the City of London housing stock

BARKA UK

BARKA UK has successfully worked in partnership with the City of London and Tower Hamlets for the last 5 years. The service was funded from the Migrant Impact fund and The City Bridge Trust fund. BARKA achieved some very positive outcomes over this period. The following is an overview of the work:
   - Made contact with approximately 756 Eastern Europeans rough sleeping in The City and Tower Hamlets
   - 432 were reconnected back to Eastern Europe
   - Developed a Social Enterprise Model
Due to the successful endeavours of BARKA UK the City of London has seen a significant reduction in Eastern Europeans sleeping rough in the square mile. As a result BARKA will no longer be working in the City. If numbers increase in the future, Broadway will have access to London Reconnection Service which is funded by the GLA. There was a small event to celebrate the work of Barka on Friday 28 June 2013 in the Alderman’s Courtroom.

**Personalised Budgets**

7. Personalised Budgets is an innovative approach to try and engage with long term rough sleepers to encourage them to leave the streets. The personalised budget pilot was implemented in May 2009 and has seen some very positive results - of the 21 offered personalised budgets, 15 have accessed accommodation and maintained their tenancy. The use of personalised budgets has varied from paying for art courses, a hearing aid, clothes to attend hospital and work appointments, personalising accommodation and one to fund the initial costs of living on a travellers’ site.

As a result of this innovative work, the City of London in partnership with Broadway was asked to extend the work pan London. This new project has been funded by GLA, The City Bridge Trust Fund and the Oak Foundation. The new project has seen 65 people in total access the scheme. Currently the project is being evaluated and a report will be available in autumn.

**Pop Up Hubs**

8. The City of London, in partnership with Broadway, has now run three Pop up Hubs (PUH) in the City. They were located at St Botolph without Aldgate, St Andrew’s by The Wardrobe and at All Hallows by the Tower. The last PUH ran from the 24 to 29 June. The PUH’s have proven successful. The following is an overview of the three PUH’s:

- In total 33 clients seen
- 12 accommodated
- 2 referred back to their accommodation
- 2 reconnections back to Europe (Italy and Poland)
- 3 Mental Health assessment
- 1 waiting to access Middle Street
- 13 continue to work with the outreach team

**Work with the Clergy**

9. The City of London has held a seminar with the City clergy to develop a working partnership. Membership of the seminar comprised of Senior
Officers from the City of London, Broadway, the Archdeacon of London and clergy men and women of the City. The morning comprised of presentations from the Director of Community and Children’s Services, Chief Executive of Broadway and Manager of the outreach team. This was followed by smaller discussion groups to explore the needs of rough sleepers and how the City in partnership could work together to make a difference. An outcome from the sessions was a member of the clergy has agreed to be a member of the Rough Sleepers Strategy Group. A follow up seminar is planned for late autumn.

Champions for Rough Sleepers

10. It is proposed that 4 members be asked to join a one off group alongside key officers to discuss the challenges of the delivery of a service for Rough Sleepers on the City streets. The group will consider the action plan that has been agreed by the Rough Sleepers Strategy Group.

Financial and Risk Implications

11. There are no known financial implications

Legal Implications

12. There are no known legal implications.

Property Implications

13. There are no known property implications

HR Implications

14. There are no known HR implications

Community Strategy & Other Significant Implications

15. The aim of reducing the number of rough sleepers in the City links directly with the Inclusive and Outward Looking City theme of the Community Strategy as well as the Housing Business Plan.

Consultees

16. The Town Clerk, Chamberlain and Comptroller & City Solicitor have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Conclusion

17. There are positive indications that Broadway is proving to be effective at addressing the needs of the City rough sleepers. The aim to reach 10 rough
sleeping in the City of London by December 2013 is a challenging one; one that will require all partners to work together in order to achieve.

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