

Committee	Dated
Community and Children's Services Committee	13 January 2017
Subject: Update on Rough Sleepers	Public
Report of: Neal Hounsell, Acting Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

This report articulates our work with rough sleepers to fulfil the City's local authority function in accordance with the policy commitments of central government and the Mayor of London. The City continues to be part of a pan-London approach to addressing rough sleeping and is represented at the Greater London Authority's (GLA's) operational leads meeting. The Mayor's Rough Sleeping Group has been replaced with the No First Night Out Tasking Group, which the Assistant Director People attends.

The counts of rough sleepers during the past three months were as follows: September – 25; October – 29; and November – 50. The counts continue to fluctuate but there is a noticeable trend across London that rough sleeping is increasing and it is particularly high in the City. Rough sleeping is driven by a range of factors, many beyond the control of the City. The count does not reflect how long people are on the streets, what their complex needs are or the services they may have received.

The City continues to be engaged in four partnership-based projects – Home for Good, No First Night Out, Gold Standard and the City Lodge that all address rough sleeping.

Updates for these projects are as follows:

- The advice and homeless service are completing the challenges required to achieve the Silver award.
- Home for Good additional training will take place in February 2017.
- Work on the City Lodge is in progress.
- The No First Night Out project continues to attract interest on a regional and national level.

An independent review of the outreach contract was presented to the Members of the Rough Sleepers Group in November 2016. Members agreed to review the current specification with St Mungo's so that it was more outcome focused.

Recommendation

Members are asked to Note the report.

Main Report

Background

Rough sleepers count

1. The City outreach team continues to implement monthly counts. It is important to note that the counts are just a snapshot of the number of rough sleepers on the City's streets. They provide an opportunity to gather intelligence about who is actually sleeping out on any given night. The results for the City, as with all inner London boroughs, suggest that rough sleeping has increased between 2015 and 2016.

Month	No.	Month	No.	Month	No.
January 2014	31	January 2015	32	January 2016	35
February 2014	34	February 2015	N/C **	February 2016	36
March 2014	37	March 2015	39	March 2016	24
April 2014	25	April 2015	27	April 2016	28
May 2014	34	May 2015	25	May 2016	27
June 2014	24	June 2015	22	June 2016	33
July 2014	30	July 2015	26	July 2016	31
August 2014	22	August 2015	21	August 2016	29
September 2014	31	September 2015	29	September 2016	25
October 2014	27	October 2015	21	October 2016	29
November 2014*	50	November 2015*	48	November 2016*	50
December 2014	N/C**	December 2015	N/C **	December 2016	

*Official count – the annual counts are reported to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in order to measure local authorities' progress in meeting their targets.

**N/C – no count.

2. More detail on the profile of rough sleepers for the 2nd quarter (July to September 2016) is attached as Appendix 1. Key highlights for this period are:

128 people were recorded as sleeping rough, of which:

- 54 were new rough sleepers
- 34 were longer-term rough sleepers
- 42 are those who return to the streets intermittently

Current Position

Member involvement

3. The Members' Rough Sleepers Group met in November. There was a PowerPoint presentation outlining the pathways to accommodation for City rough sleepers. It was

noted that there is currently limited accommodation which the City can access. Officers were requested to do additional work on this and to bring it back to the next meeting.

4. The group also reviewed the report on the outreach contract and agreed with the recommendation of the Departmental Leadership Team (DLT) that the contract continue subject to changes in how the service is measured. The group requested that the new proposed outcome measures are presented to the next meeting for their agreement.
5. Noted that the bed at Anchor House that had been commissioned by the City was being used.

The City Lodge

6. The redevelopment of Middle Street is progressing well and is scheduled to be completed by April 2017.

Work with the City of London Police

Operation Alabama and Operation Fennel

7. Operation Fennel has been absorbed into Operation Alabama. This operation is targeting begging and anti-social behaviour in the City of London. Weekly shifts are completed by the police and Westminster Drug Project. During the shifts, Community Protection letters are issued to those people involved in anti-social behaviour. If one letter has been issued but the anti-social behaviour has continued, a Community Protection Notice (CPN) is issued. The outcome is that people are excluded from the City for a minimum of three months. Accommodation options are always considered. Since July 2016, there have been 37 letters issued and seven people have been given CPNs. Key locations are as follows:

- Bishopsgate/Liverpool Street
- Tower Hill
- Fenchurch Street
- Moorgate
- Barbican
- London Bridge

Operation Acton

8. Since April, 30 tickets have been issued and two people have been summoned to court. This operation is linked to the Vagrancy Act.

Immigration Compliance Enforcement (ICE)

9. Work with ICE has now been consistent at one shift a month and, in the last quarter, five people were detained and seven individuals had papers served.

Personalised budgets

10. The GLA has given additional money for the pan-London project, which will be extended for six months. The City of London will ensure that personalised budgets will continue to be available for City rough sleepers.

Pop-up Hubs

11. There have been no Pop-up Hubs this last quarter; the result of the outcome of the bid submitted to the City Police strategic finance board is still outstanding.

Work with the clergy and the Home for Good project

12. The Home for Good project training was held at All Hallows by the Tower in April. Six people attended the training and two agreed to be volunteers. It has taken a while to match the volunteers with clients. The training will be repeated in February 2017.

No First Night Out (NFNO) project

13. The NFNO project, as reported to Members in November 2016, continues to do well and was mentioned in the Autumn Statement by the Chancellor.
14. The City Corporation, together with LB Hackney and LB Tower Hamlets, has put in a bid for additional money to the DCLG rough sleeping grant funding to continue this work for a further two years. This bid was successful and was announced on December 21. This will give the three authorities the opportunity to develop the ongoing work of preventing people from becoming rough sleepers. The City has had positive outcomes from the current pilot; three people were prevented from sleeping rough and all accessed shared accommodation through the Crisis Private Rented Sector (PRS) scheme. The City will continue to have access to the PRS scheme.
15. An element of the bid is to ensure that additional accommodation can be developed for the under-35s that the City will have access to.

Going for Gold

16. The homelessness team has now completed two additional challenges and is hoping to submit a third challenge by January. If successful, we will have achieved Silver. The service remains on track to achieve Gold by July 2017.

Christmas Awareness campaign

17. The Christmas Awareness campaign was launched on 19 December. This involves posters in key locations in the City: at stations and on telephone boxes. A new leaflet has been produced, as well as a new card directing people to call StreetLink to report a rough sleeper. Leaflets and the new card were placed in Members' pigeon holes.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. 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.

Implications

19. There are no financial, legal, property or HR implications.

Conclusion

20. The work with rough sleepers continues to be challenging; however, there have been some real successes, none of which would have been achieved without the partnership approach with St Mungo's, the City of London Police and other departments within the City of London. The buoyancy of the numbers identified in the counts continues to be a concern, and we are constantly reviewing the impact of the different methods we use to address the issue and trying new approaches.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – July to September 2016 Rough Sleeper Performance Report

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Summary

- During July to September 2016 the number of rough sleepers in the City of London increased by 5 people (4.1%) to 128 people from the previous quarter. This compares to a 1.9% increase across London as a whole.
- The number of new rough sleepers increased sharply by 20 people to 54 people (58.8%) when compared to the previous quarter.
- 57% new rough sleepers spent just one night sleeping rough, which is lower than the previous quarter (68%).
- The number of longer term rough sleepers fell in the City of London, to 34 people (a 37% decrease). The number of longer term rough sleepers is also considerably higher than its statistical neighbours, Southwark (14 people) and Lambeth (22 people).
- The City also has a significantly higher proportion of longer term rough sleepers (27%), this compares to 12% across London as a whole.

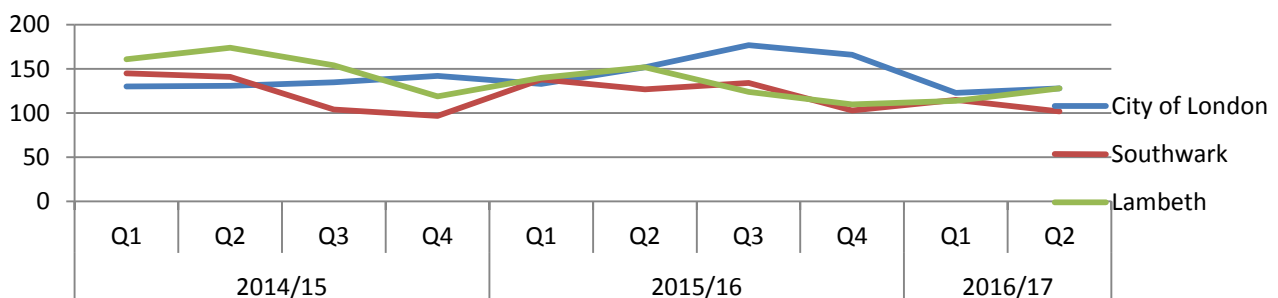
2 Total rough sleeping

During the period 1 April to 30 June 2016 a total of 128 individuals were recorded sleeping rough in the City of London. This is a slight increase of 5 people (4.1%) from the last quarter, but is a decrease when compared to the same period last year by 24 people (15.8%). This compares to a 1.9% decrease in the overall total number of rough sleepers (2,638) across London, from the previous quarter and a decrease of 8% from the same period last year.

The graph below compares the City of London to Southwark and Lambeth these local authorities have a similar scale of rough sleeping. Lambeth reported 128 rough sleepers in the quarter and Southwark reported 102.

In Lambeth, the total number of rough sleepers increased by 12.3% from the previous quarter but was 16% lower than the same period last year. In Southwark, the number of rough sleeping fell by 11.3% on the previous quarter and 19.7% on the same period last year.

Graph 1: Number of Rough Sleepers

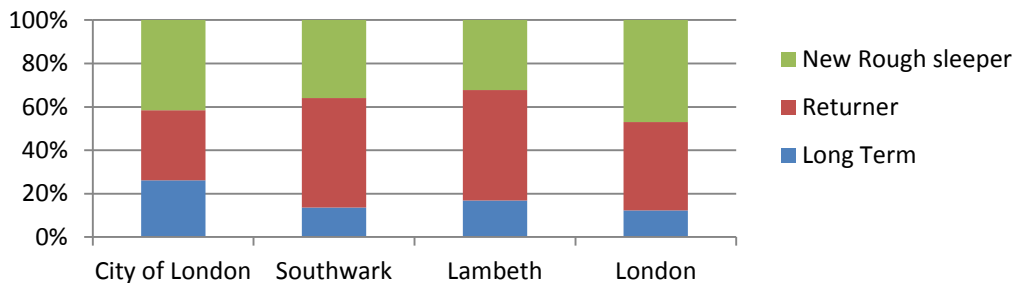


As exemplified in graph 1, the number of rough sleeper in the City of London rose from Q1 in 2015/16, but there was a sharp drop in the first quarter of 2016/17 with the most recent quarter showing a small increase.

The 128 people recorded sleeping rough in the City during the quarter can be broken down as:

- 54 people (42%) were new rough sleepers
- 34 (27%) were longer term rough sleepers described as living on the streets
- 42 (33%) were those who sleep rough intermittently have returned to the streets – either from accommodation or having spent a period outside of London

Graph 2: Composition of rough sleepers in 2016/17 Q2



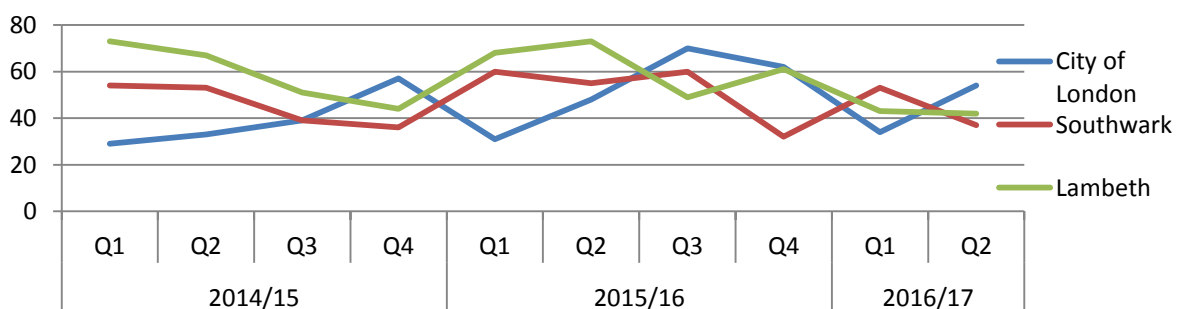
The graph above shows that for this quarter the City of London has much higher proportion of longer term sleepers, compared to its neighbours and London as whole. This composition is explored in more detail in the next three sections.

3 New rough sleepers

During the last quarter there was a 58.8% increase in the number of new rough sleepers from 34 people to 54 people. Graph 2 shows that the number of rough sleepers tends to fluctuate between the quarters with numbers in Q2 (July to September) usually being higher than Q1.

Across London as a whole there was a 2.2% increase in the number of new rough sleepers in the past quarter and 7.9% decrease from the same period last year.

Graph 3: Number of New Rough Sleepers



Both Southwark and Lambeth have seen a decrease in the number of new rough sleepers 30.2% and 2.3% respectively.

Of the 54 new rough sleepers recorded in the City, 31 (57%) spent just one night sleeping rough, which is lower than the previous quarter (68%). Across London 81% of new rough sleepers spent just one night out, in Southwark the proportion was 84% and in Lambeth 67%.

21 people who were new rough sleepers and spent more than one night out, only 2 remained sleeping rough for long enough to be counted as “living on the streets”.

Living on the streets (longer term rough sleepers)

The total number of people (34) recorded living on the streets fell from the last quarter (54 people), and from the same period last year (47 people). The number of longer term rough sleepers is also considerably higher than its statistical neighbours, Southwark (14 people) and Lambeth (22 people).

Table 1 Number of longer term rough sleepers

	Q2 2016/17	Change from last Quarter	Change on same period last year
City of London	34	-20	-13
Southwark	14	0	-4
Lambeth	22	2	6
London	325	-64	-51

Of those living on the streets 11 are identified among London’s most entrenched rough sleepers (known as the RS205).

Graph 2 shows that City of London has a higher proportion of longer term rough sleepers (27%). This compares to 12% across London as a whole, and its statistical neighbours Southwark (14%) and Lambeth (17.2%)

Intermittent rough sleepers (returner)

During the period 42 people recorded rough sleeping in the City had done so having returned to the streets after a period away. The number of intermittent rough sleepers is also considerably lower than its statistical neighbours Lambeth (66 people) and Southwark (52 people).

In the City the number of intermittent rough sleepers increased by 16.7% compared to the last quarter but is 32.2% lower than the same period last year. Both Southwark and Lambeth have seen an increase in the number of intermittent rough sleepers 8.3% and 26.9% respectively.

Across London as a whole there was a 2.2% decrease in the number intermittent rough sleepers in the past quarter.

43% of this group were seen just once, and further 26% had two contacts. London wide 50% of intermittent rough sleepers were seen just once. In Southwark 50% and Lambeth 36% were seen once.

The proportion of City rough sleepers recorded as intermittent (33%) is lower than that of London as a whole (at 41%). In Southwark 51% of rough sleepers are intermittent, and in Lambeth 52%.