



Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee

Date: MONDAY, 4 MARCH 2024

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM 1 - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Eamonn Mullally (Chair)
Deputy Natasha Lloyd-Owen (Deputy Chair)
Anne Corbett
Helen Fentimen (Community & Children's Services Committee Deputy Chair)
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Henrika Priest
Ruby Sayed (CCS Chair)
Mark Wheatley
Munsur Ali (City of London Police Authority Board)
Paul Kennedy (City Churches)
Robert Atkin (Safer City Partnership)
VACANT (CoL Police Authority Board)
VACANT (External Member)
VACANT (External Member)

Enquiries: **Katie Davies**
Katie.Davies@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofLondonCorporation/streams>

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one civic year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 4 October 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 10)
4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**
Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 11 - 12)
5. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**
Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 13 - 20)
6. **CITY & HACKNEY PUBLIC HEALTH – SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND ROUGH SLEEPING**
Executive Director of Community & Children’s Services to be heard. Presentation by City & Hackney Public Health.

For Discussion
(Pages 21 - 30)
7. **ROUGH SLEEPING ASSESSMENT SERVICE UPDATE REPORT**
Report of the Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 31 - 36)
8. **POST ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE PLANNING REPORT**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services.

For Discussion
(Pages 37 - 44)

9. **FUTURE PLANNING FOR SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS**
Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
- For Discussion**
(Pages 45 - 54)
10. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**
Report of the City of London Police.
- For Discussion**
(Pages 55 - 56)
11. **ANNUAL ROUGH SLEEPING SNAPSHOT 2022 REPORT**
Report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services.
- For Information**
(Pages 57 - 62)
12. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**
13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
14. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
MOTION – 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
- For Decision**

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

15. **NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX IN RESPECT OF SWEP PLANNING (ITEM 9)**
Appendix to Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
- For Information**
(Pages 63 - 66)
16. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**
The City of London Police to be heard.
- For Information**

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

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

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Eamonn Mullally (Chair)
Deputy Natasha Lloyd-Owen (Deputy Chair)
Anne Corbett
Helen Fentimen (CCS Deputy Chair)
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Henrika Priest

Officers:

Chief Inspector Sarah Dobinson	-	City of London Police
T/Sgt Phillip Shuttleworth	-	City of London Police
Will Norman	-	Department of Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	-	Department of Community and Children's Services
Fleur Holley-Moore	-	Department of Community and Children's Services
Scott Myers	-	Department of Community and Children's Services
Rowan Wylie	-	Department of Community and Children's Services
Chandni Tanna	-	Town Clerk's Department
Richard Chamberlain	-	Surveyors & Property Services

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Wheatley.

Ruby Sayed (CCS Chair), Munsur Ali (CoL Police Authority Board), and Umer Khan (Safer City Partnership) attended the meeting virtually.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2023 be approved subject to the following amendment: -

In Item 7, City of London Police Update, that Criminal Behaviour Orders be replaced with Community Protection Notices.

Matters Arising

City of London Police

Further clarification was sought, following the terminology change, and Members were informed that, at the moment, there is no intention to set a length of time for Community Protection Notices.

'Daniel' Safeguarding Adults Review

After, a request for an update, Members were informed that training sessions have been arranged for South London and Maudsley Hospital for late this year or early next year.

Rough Sleeping on Trains and Buses at Night

Following a question, Members were informed that the Greater London Authority ('GLA') have commissioned a dedicated team to carry out casework for those rough sleeping on trains and buses at night. Last year the GLA carried out 248 shifts, split between 208 on bus routes and 40 on the night tube. They had contact with 197 people in total, 122 of those were new to chain, so they were discovered rough sleeping for the first time on buses or night tubes, 75 were known; and 36 those people received an immediate offer of accommodation on the night. A Member asked for a future presentation on this topic.

4. STREET LINK - HOME CONNECTIONS

The Sub Committee received a presentation from Home Connections on Street Link, and its new platform updates.

A query was raised regarding using the Street Link App to make referrals during the day. Members were informed that a notification will appear on the screen, but the alert will still be sent. It will be up to the individual local authorities to opt in or out for daytime alerts.

A member raised concern over not being able to accurately complete the description of an individual sleeping rough, and raised a question whether a picture could be uploaded instead. Members were informed that the technology is available; however, more research is required to ensure privacy protection is adhered to.

In response to a question, Members were informed that individuals are still able to self-refer. Those self-referring are prompted to go straight to their local councils, with details for out of office contacts provided.

Members were informed that the FAQ page is currently under construction. It will be published in the next iteration on the system in mid-November and going live in early December.

In response to a question, Members were informed that even though there is no anti-social behaviour, if you suspect an individual to be under 18 years old, the

procedure is to contact emergency services. Eighteen is the statutory cut off, and minors have the right to emergency care.

Concerns were raised over the requirement to enter the full postcode. Members were informed that this was a requirement of the current database, and will be changed when Street Link is on its own database. Future additional will also allow users to send a notification from a different location. In the meantime, users are able to use location service to auto populate. Following a request, a link to explain the What Three Words location service will be included.

Members were informed that Home Connections are looking to incorporate a chat bot to have in the back office to support the local authorities. They are also exploring ways to use AI to help pinpoint location once the user has moved from the area.

The Chair thanked Home Connections for their presentation and updates.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted.

5. **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members considered two revisions to the Sub Committee's Terms of Reference. First, to alter the Co-Opted External Membership. Second, to decrease the number of meetings to four meetings per year.

Members discussed the importance of having a versatile and diverse skill set represented by Co-Opted External Members. It was noted that the City of London Police are represented by the External Member representing Safer City Partnership, and a current Sub Committee member who also sits on the Police Authority Board. Members also expressed their desire to have a faith-based representative. In response, Members were informed that the City Churches have a reserved External Membership due to the working relationship between officers and the city churches.

In response to a question, Members were informed that by having four meetings a year, this would allow data to be reported more punctually and up to date.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee recommend the Community and Children's Services Committee to approve the update Terms of Reference, noting that:

- 1) The number of Police Authority Board Members be decreased from two to one.
- 2) The number of Co-Opted External Members be increased from two to three.
- 3) The Police Authority Board be given the opportunity to fill a vacant Co-Opted External Membership in the first instance.
- 4) The number of meetings per year decrease from five to four, to align with the production of reports.

6. **UPDATE ON THE HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2023-27**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 to 2027.

Prior to the meeting, the Sub Committee met in person to discuss the strategy's aims and actions in detail. Following requests from this consultation, Members were informed that the Strategy would include:

- Types of households that experience homelessness with the context section;
- Further clarity that the Strategy relates to those who are homeless;
- Clearly identifying individuals, couples, households with children or without children;
- Highlighting the very high cost of housing, whether that be to rent or to buy in London and the impact this has on the ability of households to secure affordable quality homes; and
- Strengthening the theme of health and well-being within the strategy.

A Members raised concern over the importance of improving the employability of former and current rough sleepers.

Members were reminded that setting the strategy and the details of delivery were two different documents.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee endorse the Strategy, with the above-referenced amendments, to the Community and Children's Services for approval.

7. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

Members received an update of the City of London Police.

Members were informed that there has been an increase in attendance at the hub, for support, help, and food. Police attend the hub, but not in uniform.

In response to a question, Members were informed that approximately 10% of the people begging are also homeless.

A Member raised a concern over reference on the Luscombe traffic light tickets to using powers under the 1824 Vagrancy Act when the sub-committee had previously discussed support for repealing the Act.

A member requested an update on the impact of Operation Luscombe and an equality impact assessment.

RESOLVED- That the Sub Committee:

- 1) Note the update.
- 2) Request a presentation, or further discussion, on Operation Luscombe.
- 3) Request an equality impact assessment.

8. **CITY OF LONDON WOMEN'S PROJECT ACCESS CRITERIA**

The Sub Committee received an update of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee note the update.

9. **2022/23 ANNUAL ROUGH SLEEPING DATA REPORT**

The Sub Committee received an update of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee note the update.

10. **ROUGH SLEEPERS ASSESSMENT CENTRE (RSAC) UPDATE**

The Sub Committee received a verbal update of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services.

Members were informed that the structural works of the Assessment Centre are extensively now completed and interior construction is in progress. A practical completion was reported of end of December.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee note the verbal update.

11. **SEVERE WEATHER EMERGENCY PROTOCOL (SWEP) UPDATE REPORT**

The Sub Committee received an update of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee note the update.

12. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk setting out the Sub Committee's outstanding actions list.

Members were informed that officers would organise a presentation on the Community Drugs Partnership to be scheduled.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee:

- 1) Note the Report; and
- 2) Request Officers to arrange a presentation on the Community Drugs Partnership.

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The December Sub Committee meeting has been cancelled. Members were invited to a site visit to the Rough Sleepers Assessment Centre in place of the meeting.

15. **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.

Item no	Para no
16	3
17	3
18	3
19	3
20	3

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

There were none.

17. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE NON-PUBLIC UPDATE**

There was no non-public City of London Police update.

18. **ROUGH SLEEPERS ASSESSMENT CENTRE (RSAC) REPORT**

The Sub Committee received a Non-Public update of the Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee note the update.

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

There were no non-public questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 3.38 pm

Chair

Contact Officer: Katie Davies
Katie.Davies@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee – Outstanding Actions
March 2024 update

Action Number	Agenda Item	Action	Progress Update
5/22/HRS	17. Homelessness and Drugs	An informal discussion session be delivered to the Sub-Committee, Police Authority Board and Safer City Partnership around the arrangements in place in the City of London to disrupt drug supply and support individuals affected by drug misuse	<p>Russell Pengelly, Deputy Director of Public Health/City of London Police, to deliver in November 2022 meeting.</p> <p>Delayed till return of Deputy Chair, and currently set for 10 June 2024 agenda.</p>

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Agenda Item 5

Committee(s) Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee – For Recommendation Community and Children’s Services Committee – For Decision	Dated: 04/03/2024 11/03/2024
Subject: Updated Terms of Reference	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8 & 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: The Interim Deputy Town Clerk, Gregory Moore	For Decision
Report author(s): Katie Davies, Governance Officer	

Summary

This report calls for an update of the Sub Committee’s own Terms of Reference, for recommendation to the Community and Children’s Services (CCS) Committee for final approval. This update focuses on External Membership and frequency of meetings.

The CCS Committee deferred the approval of this update at the 1 November 2023 meeting.

The revised update includes clarifications sought by the CCS Committee and a refresh on the profile of the Terms of Reference.

Recommendation(s)

Members are invited to:

- Approve, subject to any comments, the increased number of co-opted external members from two to three and removal of the vacant City of London Police Authority Board (CoL PAB) membership as set out in the updated terms of reference of the Sub Committee (**Appendix 1**);
- Approve, subject to any comments, the decreased number of meetings per year as set out in the updated terms of reference of the Sub Committee (**Appendix 1**); and
- Approve, subject to any comments, the Schedule detailing the Appointments, Member Scheme, and Annual Plan (**Appendix 2**).

Main Report

1. As part of the implementation of the 2011 Governance Review, it was agreed that all Sub Committees of Grand Committees of the Court of Common Council review their Terms of Reference on an annual basis.
2. In accordance with Standing Order 27.1(a), a Sub Committee may at any time alter the membership of a Sub Committee set up by them.
3. At the 4 October 2023 HRS meeting, the Sub Committee agreed to recommend the revised Terms of Reference to CCS for approval.
4. At the 1 November 2023 CCS meeting, the Grand Committee deferred approval seeking clarification on the appointment process and person specification of external members.
5. In response to the CCS Committee's comments, the revised Terms of Reference also clarifies the Sub Committee's monitoring of outcomes and collection of data.
6. To streamline the Constitution and Terms of Reference, a new profile was drafted with the addition of a Schedule detailing the Appointments, Member Scheme, and Annual Plan. The Schedule allows for more details, explanations, and flexibility as it is set, reviewed, and altered by the Sub Committee (**Appendix 2**).

Proposals

7. The Grand Committee is therefore requested to consider the following:
8. Increase the number of co-opted external members from two to three;
9. Actively recruit people who are currently working in or have recent experience of homelessness and people at risk of becoming homeless, i.e. those living in precarious/temporary accommodation, with one appointment to a person from the interfaith community. The Person Specification to be used in the recruitment posting is herewith as **Appendix 3**.
10. In the first instance, to offer two two-year terms, and one three-year term;
11. Reduce the two places currently allocated to the CoL PAB to one, but grant the CoL PAB the opportunity to fill one of the external members appointments in the first instance; and
12. Reduce the frequency of meetings from five to four times per annum, to better align with the most recent and up-to-date data and reports.

Conclusion

13. The Committee is requested to approve, subject to any comments, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Terms of Reference and Schedule.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Updated Terms of Reference

Appendix 2 - Schedule

Appendix 3 – External Member Person Specification

Katie Davies

Governance Officer

E: katie.davies@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE

Constitution¹

- i. The Chair & Deputy Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee;
- ii. A total of six Members elected by the Community and Children's Services Committee, consisting of:
 - a. Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee; with
 - b. Up to two Members of the Court of Common Council
- iii. One Member appointed by and representing the City of London Police Authority Board;
- iv. A representative of the City Churches;
- v. Chair of the Safer City Partnership or his/her/their representative;
- vi. Three external members in accordance with the Membership Scheme²

The **quorum** of the Sub Committee shall consist of any three Members of the Court of Common Council.

Terms of Reference³:

To scrutinise, give consideration, and make recommendations to the Grand Committee of:

1. Strategies and proposals to alleviate rough sleeping and homelessness in the City of London together with other associated activities.
2. Government and regional policies on rough sleeping; and their impact on the City of London Corporation's Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy and practice arrangements.

Suggested frequency of meetings – 4 times a year

¹ As set out in the Schedule approved by the Community & Children's Services Committee on 11 March 2024.

² As set out in the Schedule approved by the Community & Children's Services Committee on 11 March 2024.

³ As set out in the Schedule approved by the Community & Children's Services Committee on 11 March 2024.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee Schedule of Constitution and Terms of Reference

Appointments

1. The Representative of City Churches is appointed by the Community and Children's Services Committee, following recommendation by the Archdeacon of London.
 - a. This appointment is reviewed every 3 years
2. Even as an appointee, a City of London Officer does not have voting rights.

Member Scheme

1. The Sub Committee will have the power to co-opt up to three external members outside of the Court of Common Council.
 - a. These individuals will provide specialism and experience relevant to the subject matter; or
 - b. Who are currently working in the field of homelessness, or who have lived expertise and experience of homelessness, or expertise and experience of accessing services related to homelessness.
 - c. Two appointments are two-year terms, and one appointment a three-year term.
2. In the first instance of an external member vacancy, The City of London Police Authority Board has priority to appoint a second Member appointed by and representing the City of London Police Authority Board.
3. The external member appointment process is as follows:
 - a. Offer a vacant external membership to the City of London Police Authority Board. With up to two City of London Police Authority Board representatives on the Sub Committee.
 - b. Advertise the vacant external membership(s) on the City of London Corporation website.
 - c. The Town Clerk to redact personal information for a blind review of applications to the Panel.
 - d. The lead officers to create a shortlist of candidates.
 - e. The Recruiting Panel will consist of the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of CCS and HRS (or their representatives) along with a maximum of two officers appointed by the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.
 - f. The Panel to approve the shortlist, conduct interviews, and present to CCS Grand Committee recommendations of appointments for final approval.

Annual Plan

Officers will report on:

1. new approaches to working with rough sleepers;
2. financial implications in delivering a service to rough sleepers;
3. the health and wellbeing of rough sleepers, what services are required and how they can be delivered;
4. implications of any enforcement activities;
5. collection of data, including the number of rough sleepers on the City streets, and other relevant evidence of outcomes; and
6. officer liaison with other local authorities and agencies working towards tackling homelessness and rough sleeping.



Person Specification

Role	Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee – External Member
Department	Town Clerk
Date Agreed	TBC

Please find below the key skills, knowledge and experience which are essential requirements for this post.

1. Desirable experience and knowledge – not all need to be met

- Professional experience in the homeless sector including operational and/or strategic experience working to reduce homelessness and/or rough sleeping in accordance with legislative frameworks, guidelines and organisational objectives.
- Lived experience of homelessness and/or rough sleeping including experience of engagement with systems and organisations which deliver homelessness support and relief.
- Professional experience in the health, social care and addiction sectors including physical health, mental health, drug and alcohol services.
- Lived experience of engagement with the health, social care and addiction sectors including physical health, mental health, drug and alcohol services.
- Experience of working collaboratively with multidisciplinary forums and related professional services to engage, evaluate and motivate service delivery.
- Experience of managing own learning, training and staying up to date with social and current affairs and government policy.
- Understanding of the challenges faced by homeless people and rough sleepers gained through professional or lived experience.

2. Other relevant information, for example working hours or working environment.

- Members are required to attend four meetings per year
- Subcommittee meetings are held at the Guildhall
- Preparation is required for each meeting, typically the reading of pre-prepared document packs
- Some sessions may be convened beyond the four scheduled Subcommittees
- Subcommittees are held in dedicated Committee rooms and hybrid in format
- Reasonable expenses for attendance are claimable

Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Substance Use

Simon Young
Principal Public Health Specialist
City and Hackney Public Health

Strength of research and data

- Published research outdated; 2003, 2015 etc.
- Different methodologies in assessing data creates comparative challenges
- Indications of significant deviation across nations and nationally- types of drugs used, prevalence of use, how used, regularity etc.
- Data utilised to manage and monitor services doesn't have level of texture to make confident assertions around specificity of presentation and prevalence
- Challenges in making claims about entirety of homeless populations due to engagement

Drug use amongst homeless populations

- Prevalence of drug use amongst homeless populations is higher than general population
- Estimates from 2010/2011 suggest that around half of all homeless people engage in harmful substance use ('substance misuse',
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d0a566eed915d0936ba5fb6/Drug-related_harms_in_homeless_populations.pdf)
- General population drug use estimated at 1 in 11 individuals - regular drug use is estimated at 2.6% of general population (16-59)

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/drugmisuseinenglandandwales/yearendingjune2022>

- Estimated 21% of individuals in general population drink alcohol at levels which increase harm (above 14 units per week)

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/health-survey-for-england/2021/part-3-drinking-alcohol#estimated-weekly-alcohol-consumption-by-sex-and-age>

Drug use across different homeless populations (England)

- Research suggests that differing homeless populations do not use substances to similar levels
 - Statutory homeless individuals (in TA) estimated:
 - 3% harmful alcohol use
 - 7% any drug use
 - 1% for a drug other than cannabis
 - Hostel residents
 - 16% harmful alcohol use/alcohol dependent
 - Night shelter residents
 - 44% alcohol dependent (31% more severely)
 - 29% drug dependence
 - Rough sleepers
 - Approximately half of rough sleepers alcohol dependent (36% dependent to a more significant degree)
 - 83% of rough sleepers with 'recent' (within one month of survey) drug use
<http://drugsandhousing.co.uk/homeanddrycrisis.pdf>

Drug and Alcohol issues as cause of homelessness

- Commonly held belief that appx 2/3rds homeless people attribute drug or alcohol use as one of the reasons for homelessness
- <http://drugsandhousing.co.uk/homeanddrycrisis.pdf>
- Study is from early 2000s, reasons were 'double counted' - as such drug use a potential contributory factor
- Challenging to find any recent data- gap in knowledge

London level 'CHAIN' data

- 22/23 annual data
- 10,053 individuals seen rough sleeping
- 58% individuals seen once
- Assessment challenges, challenges in relation to support offers
- Drugs not an attributable reason for losing accommodation- no data
- Substance use/support needs assessment- 7178 individuals
- 9% individuals alcohol as sole support need, 6% drugs sole support need, 3% alcohol drugs combination, 13% drugs and mental health combination, 10% alcohol/drugs/mh combination
- Equates to 31% individuals having problematic alcohol use and 32% with drug use as a support need (double counting)

ACMD paper on rough sleeping a drug use

- Instigated in response to drug strategy 2017 and 2018 ‘vulnerability and drug use’ report
- Key findings
 - Higher instance of drug use/drug risks amongst homeless populations,
 - Increased rate of drug related deaths,
 - Increased rate of infections amongst injecting populations,
 - Higher degree of co-morbidity
 - High proportion of homeless individuals who have substance use issues with adverse childhood experiences
 - Mainstream approaches to healthcare do not meet the needs of homeless individuals
 - Challenging to assess extent of drug use- but evidence is strong in suggesting links
 - Drug use varies widely regionally

ACMD recommendations

1. Housing policies, strategies and plans across the UK should specifically address the needs of people who use drugs and are experiencing homelessness by: recommending evidence-based housing provisions, such as Housing First; enabling collaboration across departments and agencies to ensure these interventions have a chance to succeed.
2. Services at a local level must be tailored to meet the specific needs of substance users who are currently experiencing, or have recently experienced, homelessness – including evidence-based and effective harm reduction and substance use treatment approaches with the capacity, resource and flexibility to reach them. Services need to consider people who are experiencing multiple and complex needs and adopt psychologically-informed approaches.
3. Substance use, mental health and homelessness services to use evidence based approaches such as integrated and targeted services, outreach, and peer mentors to engage and retain homeless people in proven treatments such as opiate substitution treatment.
4. Service providers should be aware of the levels of stigma experienced by people who are homeless and are engaged in substance use treatment or who choose not to engage due to the experiences of stigma and oppression they have had. Respect, choice, dignity and the uniqueness of the person should be at the core of the design and delivery of the service provision in respect of substance use and homelessness services.
5. The workforce in substance use and other services which have contact with the homeless need to have skills in dealing with complexity and in retaining homeless drug users in treatment.

Central Government response

- Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment grant - funding to tailor services to needs of rough sleeping and vulnerably housed populations
- Integrated ACMD views into 2021 drug strategy
- Current advocacy for developing services (OHID) focussing on meeting needs of local populations- culturally sensitive, peripatetic
- Combating Drugs Unit- central government interdepartmental approach to understanding drug and alcohol related harms and driving system development

Discussion

Further comments/questions/queries please contact:

simon.young@hackney.gov.uk

Committee(s): Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee – For Information	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: Rough Sleeping Assessment Service Update Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Fleur Holley-Moore, Rough Sleeping Services Manager	

Summary

This report presents an update on the City of London’s Rough Sleeping Assessment Centre. Now named Snow Hill Court, it will be a 14-bed assessment centre in the heart of the Square Mile and will be the primary off-the-street accommodation option for individuals sleeping rough in the City of London, and who are in need of assessment.

The planned opening date of 29 January 2024 has been delayed and the new provisional opening date is 13 March 2024. This report will provide an update on the impact of these delays, and detail how City of London and Snow Hill Court’s support provider have addressed and are effectively managing them.

This report references the following priority areas from the 2024-27 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective & tailored interventions

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. In recent years, the City of London (CoL) has had two consecutive temporary assessment services. The first was located on Carter Lane within the Square Mile, that was originally mobilised in response to COVID-19 and the 'Everyone In' directive. When the lease on the building expired, a new Assessment Service commenced in City Inn Express, Hackney. This interim arrangement concluded in October 2023, when a new Tri-borough (City of London, London Borough of Hackney and London Borough of Tower Hamlets) service opened on the same site, funded by new sub-regional funding from Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities.
2. While there has been a reduction of CoL beds at City Inn Express, these have been met through an increase in use of discretionary temporary accommodation and better use of existing beds in the rough sleeping pathway.
3. The building work commenced in April 2023 and is nearing completion, marking a transformation of a derelict building into a purposefully designed assessment service.
4. The service will consist of 14 sleeping pods, assessment and key work rooms, communal area with a kitchen and office space. Additionally, the project will include a landscaped garden.
5. The opening of this project will mark the first accommodation-based rough sleeping service in the Square Mile in a decade.
6. The project is now named Snow Hill Court, after the road it is located on.

Current Position

7. Following a competitive tendering process, Thames Reach was awarded the support contract and quickly appointed an Implementation Manager to lead on mobilising the project from their end.
8. Thames Reach will work with other CoL-commissioned services, including City Outreach and City and Tower Hamlets Navigator Service, to provide a seamless transition from street to accommodation-based support.
9. CoL and Thames Reach have been meeting weekly to oversee the mobilisation and implementation of Snow Hill Court. Through these meetings, the key performance indicators are currently being agreed, which focus on:
 - a. occupancy of Beds and Move On
 - b. completion of Risk Assessments and Credible Service Offers

- c. clients' health and wellbeing, including delivery and attendance of workshops/activities.

10. The team at Snow Hill Court will provide 24/7 cover consisting of:

- a. Lead Manager – responsible for leading the team to deliver a successful, fast-paced assessment service through best practice and continuous improvement
- b. Senior Practitioner – responsible for directly managing the staff team and overseeing the day-to-day management of the service
- c. Lead worker – bridges the gap between frontline and management by supporting the support workers to rapidly assess residents and support their liaising with external agencies for wraparound support
- d. Five x Support Workers – to conduct rapid risk and accommodation assessments and liaise with external agencies to ensure that clients are receiving wraparound support
- e. Two x Night Support Workers – as above, but overnight providing a 24/7 service
- f. First Contact Worker – facilitate access to the building, and manage the reception desk and telephone
- g. Concierge – an agency staff member to support with managing the front door of the service overnight
- h. Administration and Facilities Worker – ensuring that the service and building is health and safety compliant and that all Housing Benefit claims are made and monitored for residents.

11. A challenge of the delayed opening of Snow Hill Court has been the retention of staff appointed by Thames Reach. Key posts, including Senior Practitioner and Lead Worker have been inducted and redeployed to other Thames Reach services commissioned by CoL. For other posts, start dates have been delayed. For some posts where the appointed person has found employment elsewhere, Thames Reach have readvertised the roles and are confident they can recruit in time.

12. Snow Hill Court will operate on a 28-day target, with the aim of someone arriving at the service and being assessed, provided with a Credible Service Offer and supported to move onto alternative, longer-term accommodation within that time scale.

13. This will equate to a potential capacity of 84 clients being able to move through the service a quarter, although it realistically will be lower to account for turnover of bedspaces.

14. The aim is to ensure that the move-on accommodation is as diverse and as person-centred as possible. This includes CoL's supported accommodation pathway, Private Rented Sector, reconnection and return to family home, if appropriate.

15. As a 24/7 service, City Outreach will be able to accompany, often by foot, new referrals to an accommodation option during late or early shifts (6am–9am and

11pm–2am respectively). Having an immediate accommodation option in the Square Mile will support City Outreach being able to offer rapid interventions to those sleeping rough.

16. Snow Hill Court's Implementation Manager has been working with other CoL-commissioned services to set up the necessary processes to underpin excellent joint working and smooth handover from one team to another.
17. Snow Hill Court will be a low-threshold service, accessible to anyone rough sleeping in the City of London. There will be no preconditions on someone before they can be referred, except for a risk assessment to be completed with their Outreach worker.
18. When there is a waitlist, the service will prioritise those rough sleeping who have not received an offer of accommodation and/or a Credible Service Offer.
19. Snow Hill Court will manage the waitlist, and City Outreach will be its sole referral agency.
20. As part of the implementation process, several health and wellbeing offers are being linked to Snow Hill Court, including:
 - a. GP and/or nurse practitioner via the weekly deployment of a wellbeing hub to facilitate GP registrations and referrals to relevant screening programmes
 - b. Monthly in-reach services from a community hepatology nurse for liver scans and case management if any risks of liver cancer found
 - c. Sexual and reproductive health in-reach with referral pathways into specialist treatment if required
 - d. Provision of individual wellbeing packs, including vitamins, dental care, etc.
 - e. A substance use drop-in service, Naloxone supply, and needle bins.
21. Thames Reach has also facilitated the provision of food from low-cost food providers and charities, enabling clients to access meals and ingredients. Breakfast will also be provided each day by Thames Reach. This initiative is to encourage group cooking activities aimed at fostering the development of independent living skills among the clients.
22. The CoL Rough Sleeping team are currently working with City Outreach and the Snow Hill Court team to identify and refer the first 14 clients. The aim is for staggered arrivals over the first four days, and to achieve full occupancy by the end of the first week.
23. A follow-up report will be submitted to a future Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee to provide an update on referrals and outcomes once the project is operational.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

- 24. Strategic implications – None
- 25. Financial implications – None
- 26. Resource implications – None
- 27. Legal implications – None
- 28. Risk implications – None
- 29. Equalities implications – None
- 30. Climate implications – None
- 31. Security implications – None

Conclusion

- 32. The opening of Snow Hill Court will mark a significant milestone in the City of London's efforts to support individuals experiencing homelessness within the Square Mile. The service will adopt a low-threshold approach: working quickly and effectively with those placed there to achieve a longer-term accommodation outcome within 28 days; and also undertaking a holistic support approach as underpinned by its key performance indicators.
- 33. Despite some delays, the City of London and Thames Reach have been working dynamically and collaboratively to minimise their impact, redeploying staff where appropriate to support other Thames Reach services commissioned by the City of London. Once the project opens, ongoing monitoring and evaluation will ensure that it has the intended impact and meets the needs of those rough sleeping in the City of London.

Appendices

- None

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Agenda Item 8

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: Post Rough Sleeping Initiative Planning Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Will Norman – Head of Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping John Barker – Commissioning Manager, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping	

Summary

This report provides Members with a summary of the projects, posts and funds currently funded wholly, or in part, by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant. The current three-year award enters its final year in 2024/25. Decisions regarding levels of funding from 2025/26 are yet to be made by DLUHC. This report explains the evaluation process underway to assess the impact of each funded intervention, sets out plans for actions that are required now and through the next financial year. A budget summary demonstrating how the RSI fund contributes to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping local risk budget is also provided.

This report references the following priority areas from the 2024–27 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective and tailored interventions
- Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation
- Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership
- Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The RSI is part of the Government's ongoing Rough Sleeping Strategy which sets out the vision to end rough sleeping by the end of the current Parliament. The initiative makes grant awards to local authorities to assist them in supporting people sleeping rough to move away from the streets and develop their wellbeing and stability, helping to reduce the number of people sleeping rough in both the short and longer term.
2. In February 2022, City of London officers submitted the 2022–2025 RSI proposal totalling £3,709,566. This multi-year fund was preceded by four single-year funds which commenced in 2018/19. Funding over this period increased steadily year on year to the annual average between 2022 and 2025 of £1.2 million.
3. The current RSI award covers 14 projects, posts or funds. Most are funded wholly by the RSI grant. Some are funded by a mix of RSI grant and City Fund, and some are shared with other local authorities from their respective RSI awards.
4. An additional contract – the Tri-borough Staging Post, is funded by the RSI through a separate fund known as Targeted Funding. This non-recurring fund expires on 30 September 2024.
5. Posts have been created at the City of London as well as with partner organisations. Funds refers to small budgets held either by the City or by a commissioned service to support the delivery of a particular area of work.
6. Two challenges emerge from the uncertainty around any grant award in April 2025:
 - The level of funding is unknown. If less than the current award, we will need to consider ending or amending current work funded through the RSI or funding work from City Fund.
 - The timing of any grant determination has a bearing on decision-making. Some contracts are set to expire during 2024/25 and, without notification of further funding, all contracts will need to come to a close by 31 March 2025.
7. Some contracts have an extension clause taking us beyond 1 April 2025, however, we cannot execute these without a confirmed source of funding.

Current Position

8. The table below sets out the 14 interventions currently funded by the RSI.

	Intervention	Type	Contract end date	Extension end date
1	Outreach Senior Practitioner	External role	31/10/2024	31/03/2025
2	Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service	Project	30/06/2025	N/A
3	City & Tower Hamlets Navigator Service	Project	31/03/2025	N/A
4	Lead Outreach Worker	External role	31/10/2024	31/03/2025
5	Mobile Intervention Support Team	Project	31/08/2025	N/A
6	Homeless Health Co-ordinator (City of London)	Internal role	31/03/2025	N/A
7	Co-production Programme	Project	30/04/2025	N/A
8	The Lodges	Project	31/12/2024	31/03/2025
9	Commissioning Officer (City of London)	Internal role	29/08/2024	N/A
10	Employment & Progression Service	Project	01/08/2025	N/A
11	Housing First	Project	31/03/2025	N/A
12	ASC Strength Based Practitioner, PB & Reflective Practice (City of London)	Internal role	06/07/2025	N/A
13	Pathway Liaison Officer (City of London)	Internal role	31/03/2025	N/A
14	Personalisation Fund	Fund	N/A	N/A

9. The total level of funding for these 14 interventions is £1,373,840.

10. In April 2023 the City applied for and received £606,114 from Targeted Funding at the RSI. This has been used to create the Tri-borough Staging Post service at City Inn Express which is shared with Hackney and Tower Hamlets. The City of London is the commissioning body and funding was awarded based on the project meeting the needs of three local authorities.

11. The Targeted Funding is a distinct fund, which differs from the core RSI award despite being administered by the same team. The funding covers the period 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024 and is non-recurring.

12. The Tri-borough Staging Post was extended after City of London's funding for the City Inn Express came to an end and the opening of the new Rough Sleeping Assessment Centre at Snow Hill Court was delayed.

Notes on interventions (numbered as per table above)

1) The Outreach Senior Practitioner has a contract end date which aligns with the core Outreach service contract. This review begins in March 2024. The post sits with the Outreach service. Funding from RSI takes us up to the extension end date.

2) The City of London is the commissioning body for the Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service. Equal financial contributions are made by London Borough of Tower Hamlets and London Borough of Hackney from their respective RSI awards. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.

3) Tower Hamlets is the commissioning body for City & Tower Hamlets Navigator Service. Payments are made from our RSI allocation to Tower Hamlets.

- 4) The Lead Outreach Worker role has a contract end date which aligns with the core Outreach service contract. The post sits with the Outreach service. Funding from RSI takes us up to the extension end date.
- 5) The Mobile Intervention and Support Team (MIST) supports rough sleepers placed in discretionary temporary accommodation, B&Bs, Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) placements and the City of London Women's Project. This is effectively an extension of the Outreach team. Funding for any contract extension beyond 31 March 2025 is dependent upon a new RSI award. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.
- 6) The Homeless Health Co-ordinator is post is based in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service. The role provides operational co-ordination and strategic level inputs to address health inequalities faced by rough sleepers and the wider homeless population. The post has a fixed-term contract duration aligned with the funding.
- 7) The Co-production Programme is commissioned to develop mechanisms and procedure to ensure lived experience is fully integrated into service design, delivery and governance. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.
- 8) The Lodges are shared with Westminster City Council which provides an equal level of funding from their RSI allocation. A contract extension is available to 31 March 2025.
- 9) The Commissioning Officer post is funded jointly between the RSI award and the City of London on an equal share basis. Work is underway to secure funding internally in Community and Children's Services to sustain the post to 31 March 2025 in the first instance. This is a priority.
- 10) The Employment and Progression Service is commissioned to deliver a wide-ranging programme of learning and training opportunities for rough sleepers and our Pathway residents. A break clause exists should the contract need to be terminated on 31 March 2025.
- 11) City and Hackney Housing First is a scheme that provides support to rough sleepers living in social housing or private rented sector tenancies. Hackney is the commissioning body.
- 12) The Adult Social Care (ASC) Strength Based Practitioner role supports the Rough Sleeping Social Worker post in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service. The role comes with a small budget for personalised spending (PB) and a budget for team reflective practice sessions.
- 13) The Pathway Liaison Officer post is one of two roles which straddle the Rough Sleeping and Pathway teams. The other post is already established with the

Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service. The roles drive efficiency and clarity of purpose among our partners delivering rough sleeping and accommodation services.

- 14) The Personalisation Fund is a small budget delegated to the Outreach team to use directly with clients.

Budget info

13. The table below sets out expenditure and income for the Homeless and Rough Sleeping Budget for 2024/25 with some key areas of income and expenditure highlighted.

	2024/25
	£'000
Local Risk	
Employee expenses	(791)
Transport related expenses	(3)
Supplies and Services:	
High Support Hostel	(770)
Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)	(1980)
Outreach Contract	(400)
Rough Sleepers Assessment Centre	(500)
Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP)	(50)
Other Supplies and Services	(206)
	(3,906)
Third Party Payments:	
Other Bodies	(294)
Client accommodation	(900)
Client subsistence & travel	(5)
	(1,199)
Total Expenditure	<u>(5,899)</u>
Homelessness Prevention Grant	134
Joint Financing - Rent Allowance	444
RSI Grant Income	1980
Total Income	<u>2558</u>
Total Local Risk	(3,328)

14. The total Local Risk of £3,328,000 is augmented with £2,558,000 of income from two government grants – the Rough Sleeping Initiative (£1,980,000) and

the Homelessness Prevention Grant (£134,000). A further £444,00 is expected from rent income from temporary accommodation placements.

15. Local Risk combined with grant and rent income creates a total budget of £5,899,000.
16. Expenditure is shown as employee related expenses, supplies and services (most of our commissioning activity) and third-party payments (client related costs etc.)

Procurement

17. The Corporation's Procurement Code applies to each externally provided intervention funded by the RSI, and Commissioning and Procurement Activity takes place in line with this code. In turn, this runs alongside existing Commissioning and Procurement commitments and undertakings. To resource adequately, Commercial Services are involved in future planning to ensure that internal governance is not compromised, and resources are available to undertake the work.
18. Routes to market for services funded by the RSI are overwhelmingly by competitive tender as set out in the Procurement Code to satisfy Public Contract Regulations, to ensure the best quality and value of services and equally to ensure that the Corporation's wider commitments to social value, responsible procurement and climates can be assured.
19. Additionally, for services where the Corporation is satisfied that exercising the contract extension is the appropriate course of action, the same diligence and governance needs to be applied by a host of officers from various departments under the Category Boards or relevant committee.
20. Certain services that have been running for some time are coming to an end and will need a full review and potential redesign to enable the Corporation to tender a new service fit for purpose.

Evaluation Process

21. Due to the uncertainty of RSI funding levels beyond 31 March 2025 we have commenced an evaluation process for each intervention funded by the RSI. This process will review the interventions by considering impact, cost of delivery and risks associated with ending the service.
22. Some interventions were intended to be time limited; others may prove less impactful than we hoped. The evaluation process is designed to provide an objective lens through which to view each intervention, and the findings will go on to inform planning for 2025/26 and beyond. Where applicable, performance against key performance indicators will be included in the evaluation.
23. Given that we cannot know what level of funding will be available from DLUHC. Officers will plan based on three potential outcomes:

- Levels of RSI funding remain roughly where they are for a period of at least 12 months.
- RSI funding is reduced by approximately half the level currently awarded.
- RSI funding ends completely at the end of 2024/25.

24. Officers are in contact with commissioners in Tower Hamlets and Hackney regarding contracts which are shared or where another authority is the commissioning body.

Next Steps

25. All interventions will have undergone an initial evaluation by 31 March 2024.

26. The following RSI-funded interventions are subject to a contract extension review and report during 2024/25:

- The Lodges
- Employment & Progression Service
- Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service
- Mobile Intervention and Support Team (MIST)
- Outreach Lead Worker (as part of the contract extension review for the host Outreach service)
- Outreach Senior Practitioner (as part of the contract extension review for the host Outreach service).

27. The Tri-borough Staging Post contract will be decommissioned or re-tendered depending on RSI funding available from 1 October 2024. This decision will be undertaken in collaboration with Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

28. Members will receive an update on this report at the June Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee meeting.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

22. Financial implications – financial implications are not known at this time; however, RSI funding could end or be reduced to the extent that current contracts are at risk. Should these contracts be considered critical to service delivery, it may be necessary to ask Members to consider an increase to the local risk budget. This risk also exists in the event that funding certainty is not achieved, and procurement timelines make further delays to contract extensions impossible.

23. Resource implications – N/A

24. Legal implications – N/A

25. Risk implications – N/A

26. Equalities implications – N/A

27. Climate implications – N/A

28. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

29. The RSI currently funds 14 interventions with a combined value of just over £1,373,840. An additional £606,114 was received from a separate fund at the RSI for the Tri-borough Staging Post project.

30. The total budget available for Homelessness and Rough sleeping in 2024/25 is £5,899,000. This made up from £1,979,954 of RSI grant income, £134,000 from the Homelessness Prevention Grant and £440,000 of expected rent income from temporary accommodation placements.

31. DLUHC have not issued any communications regarding future awards from 2025/26 onwards.

32. An evaluation process has commenced to review each intervention in the event we must end or modify service delivery after 31 March 2024.

33. Members will continue to be briefed on the evaluation process as it develops at future Sub-Committee meetings.

34. Some contracts have extension periods that can be activated should a funding award be made and break clauses exist for those contracts which must be brought to an end on 31 March 2025.

Appendices

- None

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Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: Future Planning for Severe Weather Emergency Protocols	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services	For Discussion
Report author: Will Norman – Head of Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping	

Summary

This report sets out the background to how and why the City of London delivers a Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) and the methodology currently in use. The report describes the costs of delivering SWEP and places this cost in the context of the changes we are seeing in the sector regarding expectations and demand pressures. The report provides potential options designed to meet emerging demand and future proof SWEP delivery.

Three options are set out for Members to consider: a) changing nothing; b) increasing the budget and retaining the existing delivery model; c) increasing the budget and redesigning our SWEP delivery model. Appendix 1 sets the anticipated cost of SWEP for 2023/24 and describes a potential option C. This appendix contains information which is commercially sensitive so can therefore be found in the non-public section.

This report references the following priority areas from the 2024–27 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective and tailored interventions
- Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and consider what option they would prefer to recommend to the Community and Childrens Services Committee.

Main Report

Background

1. SWEP is a set of measures triggered by weather conditions that are considered an acute risk to the health of rough sleepers. Historically this involved only cold weather. More recently, hot weather is also included and, in rare cases, storms and high winds. SWEP is not a statutory requirement, however, over the last decade it has become a standard operating procedure for local authorities.
2. Local authority SWEP compliance, budget and capacity has witnessed notable change over the last five years. 2017/18 was the first year that the Greater London Authority (GLA) published annual SWEP guidelines, and approaches across local authorities varied enormously. February and March 2018 saw the 'Beast from the East' with night-time and daytime temperatures around or below zero. The risk to life among rough sleepers was significant and local and Pan-London capacity was quickly exhausted.
3. 2018/19 saw the introduction of the 'In for Good' principle. This asks local authorities to keep anyone coming into emergency accommodation off the street until such a time as a viable plan to end their homelessness has been formulated. While widely recognised as being a helpful objective, 'In for Good' can effectively extend a SWEP stay beyond the deactivation day, for days and potentially weeks or months.
4. The history of activation protocols has also changed. Prior to 2017/18, Homeless Link advice was that local authorities should activate SWEP when the weather was forecast to drop below zero degrees for three consecutive nights. This advice is still widely followed outside London, particularly in rural areas. The first GLA protocol of 2017/18 suggested that a single night forecast of zero degrees was more reliable and provided better safeguards for London's three larger rough sleeping populations. In 2018/19 the GLA adopted a co-ordination role on behalf of all 33 London authorities for activations and, to help achieve this, adapted the activation criteria further to a single night forecast of zero degrees anywhere in Greater London.
5. As part of its SWEP commitment, the GLA commissions a Pan-London SWEP project, which accepts referrals from all London local authorities. The expectation is that local provision will be exhausted before Pan-London SWEP is accessed.
6. Hot weather SWEP was first introduced during the heatwaves of summer 2021/22 where record temperatures in excess of 40 degrees were recorded in central London. 2022/23 was the first year that Hot Weather SWEP was formalised, and the GLA published a RAG-rated activation framework based on UK Health Security Agency guidance.
7. Hot Weather SWEP deviates from the cold weather model by not focusing on accommodation at night. Instead, Outreach teams work to get rough sleepers into cool daytime spaces.

8. An earlier draft of this report was seen by the Department of Community and Children's Services Departmental Leadership Team meeting on 17 January 2024.

Current Position

9. The City of London has a SWEP document that is reviewed annually, with key data and findings shared with relevant operational and strategic groups and the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

City Cold Weather SWEP

10. Activations are made by the GLA by mid-morning on the day preceding the night-time forecast and immediately relayed to commissioned services and stakeholders. Along with other local authorities, the City will not normally deviate from GLA protocol, regardless of the weather forecast in the Square Mile. Zero degrees in Barnet could mean 4 degrees in the Square Mile.
11. SWEP is deactivated in a similar way, but we are more likely to follow our own protocol if it makes more logistical and operational sense to extend a SWEP activation – for example, over a weekend or bank holiday.
12. The 'In for Good' principle in the City is taken to mean until such a time as a rough sleeper has a Credible Service Offer (CSO). The accommodation resources available each year vary depending on the assets available to us. This winter we have 11 spaces available in our Pathway (all in communal or repurposed rooms) plus B&B bookings and use of discretionary temporary accommodation.
13. Over the last three years we have averaged 30 nights of SWEP activation per winter period (taken to be 1 November to 31 March, although April has seen SWEP in the past). In 2022/23 there were 34 nights of SWEP activation, and we achieved 53 stays for 50 unique individuals.
14. At time of writing, so far in winter 2023/24 we have seen 18 nights covered by SWEP activation. We have made 90 placements for 46 unique individuals across 3 activations.

City Hot Weather SWEP

15. Hot Weather SWEP focuses on access to advice, guidance and cool spaces during the day. Rough sleepers with health conditions are less able to take precautions to safeguard themselves, so there is an additional emphasis on health needs assessment.
16. Hot Weather SWEP guidance uses the Heat Health Alerts, issued by UK Health Security Agency, which alert us to what impact the heat could have. There are four alert levels:

- Green: When there is expected to be minimal impact on health (and no alert will be issued)
- Yellow: When people who are more vulnerable may struggle to cope. This may be issued when temperatures are forecast to reach 30°C for a couple of days
- Amber: When the impact from the heat is likely to be felt across the entire population. This may be triggered when temperatures are forecast to approach 32°C
- Red: When there is significant risk to life, for the entire population.

17. Activations are sent from the GLA in the same way as cold weather activations. Yellow alerts (not an activation) are common and only require advice, guidance and signposting. Amber and Red activations require access to dedicated 'cool spaces' during the day. Last summer we took the discretionary step of extending cool space provision into the evening for Red activations (not required).

18. Summer 2023 (which was cooler than expected) saw 19 days under Yellow alert and seven days under Amber activation. During 2022, which pre-dates the first dedicated Hot Weather SWEP protocols, cool spaces were provided on two separate occasions. Applying the UK Health Security Agency activation criteria retrospectively, two of these activations would have been Red.

Challenges

Expectations upon local authorities

19. As detailed above, prior to 2016/17, SWEP was managed locally with guiding principles set out by Homeless Link and the GLA. Incremental steps taken over recent years have increased expectations from regional bodies and central government. Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) funding has opened local service delivery up to greater scrutiny and reporting. Every autumn each local authority is asked to share its SWEP arrangements in advance. Individual borough SWEP performance data is widely shared.

20. Hot Weather SWEP means that two sets of arrangements are now required and we are in a state of perpetual planning and review. 'In for Good' is a valuable principle for capitalising on SWEP activations and important learning arises from each season, however, the delivery of both protocols is increasingly resource intensive.

Fluctuating demand

21. SWEP demand is difficult to predict, both during an activation and in the preparation stages of planning. Single night activations on or around zero degrees somewhere in London can result in no rough sleepers accepting a SWEP offer. A week of sub-zero night-time temperatures combined with snow or freezing rain can see SWEP capacity quickly exhausted. Delivery models which meet the needs of both while also returning value for money are hard to

achieve. Containing our SWEP offer within our existing pathway makes costs easier to track.

22. Differences between boroughs in rough sleeping numbers has a knock-on effect for the City. The second SWEP activation of this winter saw the GLA-funded Pan-London SWEP project near capacity. A risk emerges of London-wide demand exceeding combined local and Pan-London provision.
23. The increasing probability of severe weather (hot and cold) and rising rough sleeping numbers present a challenge to current and near future planning.
24. Seasonal projects designed to operate continually through the winter can be helpful in offering additional baseline capacity, but they have limitations as to what they can offer should temperatures drop into SWEP criteria. Spaces will need to be held back to accommodate the extra demand created by the SWEP offer.
25. Despite obvious discomfort created by cold weather, not every rough sleeper will accept an offer of SWEP accommodation. Our Outreach teams are determined in their attempts to restate SWEP offers. Data from recent activations tells us that approximately 80% of City rough sleepers accept SWEP during long activations (over a week). Depending on the measure used, this equates to between 24 and 37 SWEP spaces required for a lengthy activation at current rough sleeping levels.
26. Should rough sleeping numbers decline, the number of SWEP spaces required would track that figure. Short activations would require fewer spaces.

Cost

27. Prior to 2017/18 there was no dedicated SWEP budget for the provision of emergency accommodation. A £10,000 budget was used to fund an annual winter awareness campaign aimed at the public and businesses. Printed materials advertised StreetLink. SWEP provision was offered at no cost by existing commissioned providers and the only additional costs were B&B placements if this was exhausted. The winter promotional campaign has been discontinued and the budget increased to £20,000 from within the local risk budget.
28. The severe winter of 2017/18 saw most local authorities exhaust their core provision, and contingency plans were widely mobilised. The City temporarily increased the burden on existing providers to ensure that no one was left out. To manage risk, additional funding was supplied to providers to boost security and night staffing cover.
29. During the COVID-19 pandemic, providers came to the aid of commissioners more than once to expand, modify and extend service provision to meet the 'Everyone In' challenge. Funding from the RSI often made this possible. Providers now face requests from across London for SWEP solutions and demand on them has increased significantly.

30. More detailed projected costs for delivering SWEP in 2023/24 can be found in Appendix 1.

Resources and infrastructure

31. Traditional SWEP responses use spare capacity in existing supported accommodation pathways. Spare offices, vacant rooms and communal spaces can all be used. The total number of 11 spaces this year is indicative of the spare capacity within our pathway rather than the level of need found in the rough sleeping population. If we had more spare capacity, we would use this to increase the size of our core SWEP offer.
32. The City's flexible SWEP offer uses hotel rooms so, should demand exceed the core 11 space allocation, SWEP offers remain at the Outreach team's disposal throughout any activation.
33. Buildings and spaces that could be used for surge or tier-two SWEP are hard to find and mobilise. The City would require delivery partners to operate such a service, and it would need a model that could be mobilised at pace with minimal preparation.
34. Hot Weather SWEP presents a distinct set of challenges. 'Cool spaces' must be available during daytime hours (and into the evening for a Red activation), accessible to a rough sleeping client group, and appropriately staffed. During the heatwaves in 2022, a conference room in the Guildhall North Wing was hastily commandeered (but not used). This is not seen as a sustainable solution.
35. The City Outreach team are doubly busy during winter under normal conditions and SWEP adds additional pressures. The more integrated we become into wider social care, community safety and health systems, the more demands there are of the Outreach team to engage with various initiatives, schemes and projects.
36. Sub-regional and multi-borough SWEP solutions do not currently exist but could in the future. While a SWEP offer distant from the Square Mile is less likely to prove effective, a more limited SWEP service shared with immediate neighbours is viable, subject to funding.

Procurement

37. The increase in the cost of delivering SWEP, unpredictable sources of funding and fluctuating demand has created challenges to securing compliant procurement processes. Contract variations can be used for existing providers, where possible, and open market tenders are required for new and novel pieces of work. The annual cycle of review, plan and commission is inefficient, resource intensive and introduces unnecessary risk. Short-term and late notice grant funding awards present technical and resource challenges for procurement and legal colleagues.

Options

A. Change nothing

38. It is possible to continue to deliver SWEP in the way we currently do. This will necessarily limit the scope of our SWEP offer to what can be contained within the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping local risk budget. The new Rough Sleeping Assessment Centre mobilises in early 2024 and this will offer an additional two safe spaces. On this basis 10 to 14 spaces within our existing pathway is sustainable. Assuming that contract terms can be agreed, Hot Weather SWEP at the Dellow Centre could continue to be the solution. £50,000 has been set aside from our Local Risk for the 2024/25 period.

Benefits

- Represents a continuation of our current practice, so is relatively easy to arrange.
- Costs are rising but still represents the cheapest way of delivering SWEP.

Risks

- Costs are forecast to exceed the £20,000 budget set aside in Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Local Risk for 2023/24.
- Trends seen over the last six years indicate that costs and demand are more likely to increase than remain the same or reduce. This puts the larger amount (£50,000) set aside for 2024/25 under pressure.
- The City is less prepared for known factors such as climate change, fluctuating rough sleeping numbers and public health crises.
- Capacity is arbitrarily limited to available space within the existing pathway. Meeting demand over and above this will require in-year emergency planning.
- Long-term procurement challenges created by rising aggregated spend and repeat contract variations.

B. Increase budget to extend existing measures

39. Continuing to deliver the existing year-round SWEP offer from the existing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping budget has required the budget to be profiled differently for FY2024/25. Going forward should this approach be repeated, funding for other service delivery areas or interim/agency posts could be affected. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping local risk budget needs to increase to reflect current costs plus the need to be flexible to extend current measures to account for worsening weather conditions, increasing rough sleeping numbers and rising expectations on Outreach teams.

40. Extending current measures could mean different things – additional B&B use, spot purchasing voids in services commissioned outside the City of London pathway or procuring temporary accommodation.

41. Extending existing measures should also include additional Outreach resource to co-ordinate SWEP activity.

Benefits

- Builds on existing measures so is relatively easy to deliver, depending on scope and complexity of expanded offer.
- Covers realistic cost of current SWEP delivery and gives scope to expand offer to create a more comprehensive solution.
- Addresses some of the emerging need identified in option A.
- Introduces efficiencies which should limit the need for in-year emergency planning (in the event surge or tier-two capacity is included).
- Improved service delivery continuity for the commissioned Outreach team.

Risks

- Additional in-year planning will be required if capacity is exhausted.
- Additional use of B&Bs and temporary accommodation introduces risk and stretches support span of existing commissioned services.
- Procurement challenges remain.

C. Increase budget and develop new SWEP model

42. Option C represents a more comprehensive rethink of how we deliver SWEP. It is designed to consider current pressures, learning from previous models and future demand.

43. Current SWEP delivery is based around the principle of safeguarding life and wellbeing during severe weather. Over time, it has also become increasingly important as a method for capturing rough sleepers previously overlooked or ineligible for assistance. SWEP can be a catalyst for change given the opportunity it presents Outreach teams to reframe support offers and engage hard-to-reach individuals. An increased SWEP budget combined with more comprehensive internal partnership work could create a year-round SWEP offer which is resilient to current and future pressures. The components of this offer could be:

- A two-stage or phased model using a commissioned provider and dedicated space to complement the core offer found within the Pathway
- A building-based resource within the Square Mile to locate a regular SWEP service
- A dedicated 'playbook' with corporate level buy-in to ensure that resources are allocated for more severe or lengthy activations
- A model that can be mobilised to support other critical and business continuity risks such as hostel evacuations
- A year-round model adapted for winter/summer SWEP activations
- The potential for co-ordination shared with the City of London Resilience Forum
- Access to centrally sourced volunteers and resources to support planning and delivery

- Procurement solutions sought as required – for example, City of London SWEP provider contract
- Additional Outreach capacity during winter.

Benefits

- Flexible capacity is integrated into the plan, creating a high degree of confidence that any level of SWEP demand can be met
- The ‘playbook’ can be mobilised for other contingencies – critical service failures, public health emergencies, etc. This offers additional value.
- Link to Resilience Forum strengthens the approach and mitigates the risk held locally within the Department of Community and Children’s Services
- Procurement on a more stable footing and reduced contract compliance risk
- Improved efficiency within the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Team – less officer time spent organising and troubleshooting
- Improved business continuity for the Outreach team – ability to remain focused on objectives.
- Year-round preparedness and resilience.

Risks

- Greater cost and complexity
- Challenges remain in sourcing suitable accommodation within the Square Mile and keeping that available year on year
- This option would require additional funding being agreed for 2025/26 onwards.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

- 44. **Financial implications** – SWEP costs are currently met within existing local risk budget. However, future SWEP demands led by weather events or expanded delivery models will increase costs.
- 45. **Resource implications** – N/A
- 46. **Legal implications** – N/A
- 47. **Risk implications** – N/A
- 48. **Equalities implications** – N/A
- 49. **Climate implications** – there are no implications arising from this report or the measures contained within the protocol and Appendix documents. However, this SWEP protocol is directly related to year-round weather events.
- 50. **Security implications** – N/A

Conclusion

- 51. The City of London has a SWEP protocol with two appendices which cover cold and hot weather arrangements respectively. These are reviewed and updated annually.
- 52. SWEP demands placed upon local authorities are increasing as expectations upon local authorities and rough sleeping numbers increase. This creates a number of challenges, including budget and resource pressures.

53. Sustaining the current SWEP approach of a core offer sourced from within our Pathway plus additional temporary accommodation and hotel room bookings can be contained with the local risk budget.

54. Expanding that model to create more confirmed capacity ahead of each winter or a more fundamental redesign of our SWEP model to match forecast future demand will require an increase in budget.

Background Papers

- City of London Severe Weather Emergency Protocol 2023/24

Appendices

- Appendix 1 (non-public) – Projected SWEP costs 2023/24 and estimated costs for SWEP model option C.

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Committee(s): Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: City of London Police Update	Public
Report of: City of London Police	For Discussion
Report author: PC Phillip Shuttleworth, City of London Police	

Equality Impact Assessment

Operation Luscombe is designed to tackle begging and in doing so provide support to individuals before prosecuting. When dealing with any person begging there are different characteristics including gender, ethnic background and age of the people who beg. When dealing with each individual there maybe vulnerabilities that are deemed by the officer for them to complete a Public protection notice (PPN) for the individual. Begging is not subjective and there is no clear evidence that any characteristic is targeted in regard to going through the Luscombe procedure.

Tickets issued since January 2024 to 14th February 2024

Green- 5 (issued to individuals identified as begging for the first time and to those that have not previously been involved with the process)

Amber – 1 (issued to someone who has previously had a GREEN ticket (within 12 months) or been through the whole of the system and the previous RED ticket has expired)

Red- 4 (issued to any person begging who has had an AMBER ticket within a 12-month period)

No breaches or court dates

We have been working with British Transport Police (BTP) around joint patrols for Op Luscombe. I don't have their number of tickets issued at this stage but may have by time of meeting.

Hub

At the hub, outreach are still attending and Turning Point have been attempting to send staff but have been short so we have had a workaround where if someone has drug or alcohol dependency, we can take details and send information to Turning Point.

We still have food donated by Andaz Hotel which consists of cold sandwich, fruit and a drink we also have soup which is made by them which can be warmed up and hot drinks.

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Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2022 Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4,11
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Information
Report author: Rowan Wyllie, Rough Sleeping Coordinator, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

This report presents local data analysis of the recent 2023 Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot. The City of London (CoL) found 61 individuals sleeping rough in the Square Mile on the night of 28 November 2023. This is a 41% increase on the 43 individuals seen on the snapshot count in 2022. This report provides an overview of previous snapshot counts and audit shifts, showing an overall upward trend from the previous snapshot count in November 2022.

All local authority snapshot intelligence remains embargoed and so comparative data is limited. Analysis of this report is made between previous snapshot data in the City and reflects on upwards trends across the current financial year.

This report references the following priority areas from the 2024-27 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective & tailored interventions

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. It has been a requirement of all local authorities in England since 2010 to conduct an annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot. The total number of people sleeping rough in their locality on a 'typical night' is recorded. This activity is conducted in the autumn of each year between 1 October and 30 November. The recording of this single-night figure is submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
2. The purpose of a Rough Sleeping Snapshot in a local authority area is to:
 - estimate the number of people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn
 - assess changes in the number of people sleeping rough over time
 - compare local authorities and regions in England
 - understand some basic characteristics about people who sleep rough.
3. The methodology of the Rough Sleeping Snapshot is regulated by an external adjudicator, Homeless Link. As an organisation, they provide guidance and oversight to each local authority to ensure accountability and transparency in the conduct of officers and the recording of data. The methodology of the shift must follow Homeless Link's guidelines, and the data submitted must be verified by a representative of the organisation before submitting formally to DLUHC.
4. For the purposes of a Rough Sleeping Snapshot, the official definition of 'people sleeping rough' is:

'People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes' which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). The definition does not include people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes or organised protest, squatters or travellers.

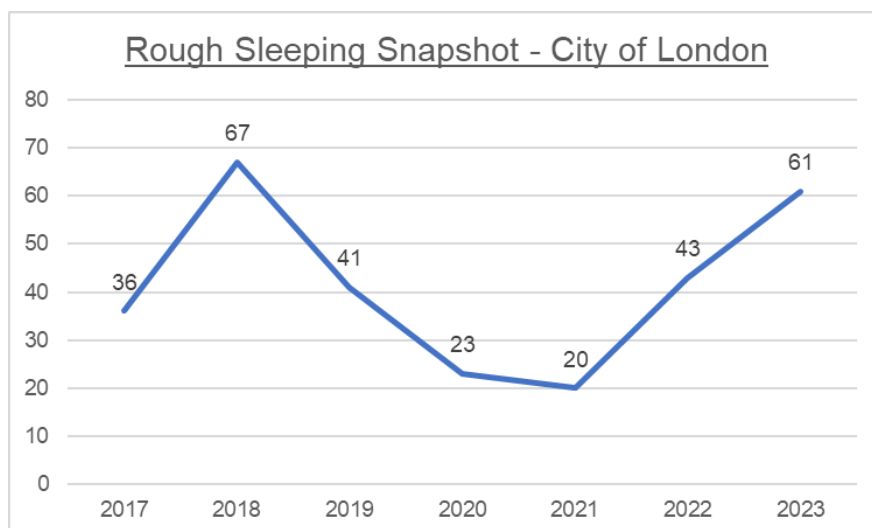
Bedded down is taken to mean either lying down or sleeping.

About to bed down includes those who are sitting in/on or near a sleeping bag or other bedding'¹
5. A Rough Sleeping Snapshot is conducted by local authorities in conjunction with local commissioned and non-commissioned services, such as Outreach teams, police, health services, faith sector representatives, and voluntary services.

Current Position

¹ Homeless Link. *Rough Sleeping Snapshot Estimates: A guide for local authorities* (2023, p. 6)

6. The City Rough Sleeping Snapshot took place on the evening of Tuesday 28 November 2023 and carried on into the early hours of Wednesday 29 November 2023. This date was chosen to align with CoL's five neighbouring boroughs: the same date was chosen to minimise risk of data duplication.
7. The method and approach taken to complete the 2023 Snapshot was a 'count-based estimate'. This is one of the three official options of count-style that Homeless Link approve of. The count-based estimate was chosen as it best suits the characteristics of the Square Mile and is most likely to produce an accurate figure. This count-style was also used in 2022.
8. On the night, there were seven teams of either two or three professionals, covering each ward, and every road was walked down within the Square Mile. A total of 18 professionals were involved in the Snapshot shift, including two 'independent partners' to ensure accountability in data recording, in line with the requirements of Homeless Link's code of practice.
9. Attendees included CoL officers, CoL's elected member, City Outreach, City/London Borough Tower Hamlets Navigators, CoL Police, CoL Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Team Grant, Supporting Transition & Empowering People Service, NHS staff, London Councils, and a Homelessness Link invigilator.
10. A total of 61 individuals were recorded as bedded down between the hours of 00:00am – 03:00am, a figure verified by Homeless Link the following week.
11. The graph below shows the CoL Rough Sleeping Snapshot trends from 2017 to 2022. 2023 is the second year of upward trend in CoL Snapshot figure.



12. Demographic information of the 61 individuals met on the 2023 count are as follows:

Gender	
Women	4
Men	50
Not known / prefer not to disclose	7
Age	
Under-18 (add further detail below)	0
18-25	0
26-40	14
Over 40	26
Not known / prefer not to disclose	21
Nationality	
UK national	24
EU national (excluding UK)	11
Non-EU national	8
Not known / prefer not to disclose	18

13. The above chart displays the information that was either already known about the individuals seen rough sleeping during the count, or the person was awake to disclose the information. If the person was asleep, it was recommended best practice to not wake them up in an attempt to gather this information. This is the cause of the high proportion of 'not known/prefer not to disclose'.

14. Further analysis found that 37 of the 61 clients seen on the night of the count were known to services and seen 'bedded down' by the City Outreach Team in the 30 days prior to the count. On the night: 17 people were new to City of London on the night; four clients had accommodation open to them at the time of being counted; and 17 clients did not provide any identifying information such as name or date of birth, therefore recorded as 'unknown' clients on Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN). At the point of writing this report, the following table shows the whereabouts, if known and the outcomes achieved in supporting the 61 individuals met on the count to date:

<u>Location of individual</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Assessment bedspaces (Staging Post, temporary accommodation, hotel)	5
Accommodated (medium to long term)	3
Hospital	1
Reconnection	3
Unknown location, not seen since count	19
Rough sleeping	30

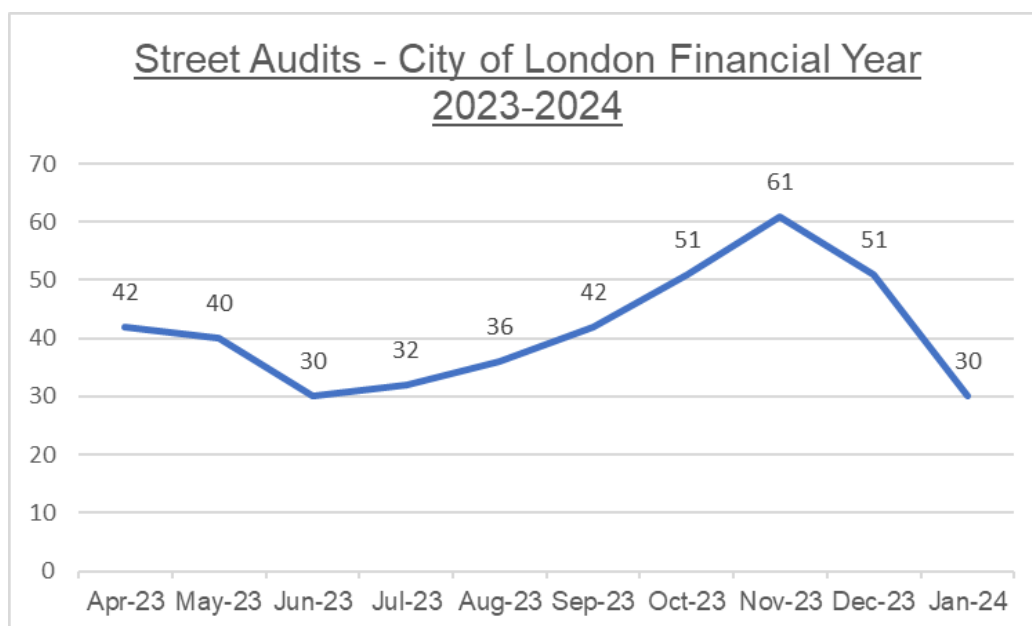
15. At the point of writing this report, national rough sleeping Snapshot data is embargoed and so it was not possible to present comparative data for England or Greater London

Monthly Street Audits

16. The number of people seen rough sleeping fluctuates from month to month as clients are accommodated and new rough sleepers are found. Street audits are conducted monthly to measure the changes and shifts in rough sleeping trends. As for the Annual Snapshot data, this information is also submitted to DLUHC for information and monitoring, but it is not published or released online.

17. CoL officers and the City Outreach team have been conducting monthly Street Audits since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These night-time shifts are in place to emulate the process of a physical street count. The aim is to keep a regular record of a Snapshot figure, to inform CoL officers and City Outreach of likely 'on the night' figures at a given point during the year.

18. The graph below shows the monthly street audits of the current financial year 2023/24:



19. This chart illustrates the increase in rough sleeping across the financial year, and the annual Snapshot was the peak in rough sleeping this year so far.

20. The most recent dip in the number of those met on the audit shifts in December 2023 and January 2024 is thought to be due to the increased up-take of emergency accommodation across London when temperatures dropped, and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was activated with the aim of preserving life.

21. Currently (February 2024) there are a total of 42 individuals accommodated in emergency/temporary accommodation where support services are carrying out detailed needs assessments and identifying appropriate move-on options. By way of comparison, there were 29 individuals accommodated in emergency/temporary accommodation in November 2023.
22. CoL officers work with commissioned services to draw understanding from the monthly Street Audit data and seek resolutions to the rough sleeping cohort's homelessness, both within the CoL pathway and through collaboration with other providers.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

23. Financial – N/A
24. Resource implications – N/A
25. Legal implications – N/A
26. Risk implications – N/A
27. Equalities implications – N/A
28. Climate implications – N/A
29. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

30. On the night of the Rough Sleeping Snapshot, 61 people were found in the City of London. The verified figure increased for the second consecutive year. Increase in rough sleeping figures has been seen across the financial year, and City of London has followed trends in line with London as a whole. On the night of the count, 61 individuals were found rough sleeping.
31. The figures for the monthly street audit have decreased in December 2023 and January 2024 following the Snapshot, after following a general upward trajectory from quarter 2 in 2023/24.

Appendices

- None

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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