

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	01/12/2020
<b>Subject:</b> Rough Sleeping Data Q2 2020/21	<b>Public</b>
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 11
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
<b>Report author:</b> Simon Young, Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator	

### Summary

This report presents data and brief narrative related to rough sleeping within the City of London (CoL) during the quarter 2 (Q2) period July to September 2020/21. The report reflects on a general reduction in the number of rough sleepers seen during the period, as well as an increase in the number of longer-term accommodation outcomes. Some context is provided in relation to previous rough sleeping levels, accommodation outcomes, and the overall change in service delivery related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Q1 period April to June 2020/21 saw particularly high levels of rough sleeper placement into accommodation. This was predominantly emergency accommodation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Rough sleeping in Q1 2020/21 decreased in the CoL to 140, down from 172 in the previous three months, (Q4 period January to March 2019/20).
3. The rate of reduction in rough sleeping figures within the CoL is higher than other boroughs in close geographical proximity to the Square Mile.

## Current Position

4. We have seen a reduction in the number of rough sleepers in the CoL during Q2 2020/21, from 140 in Q1 to 105. A decrease in the number of rough sleepers moving into the authority area to secure offers of accommodation to isolate from COVID-19 has been attributed as a driving reason for this.
5. The reduction from the same quarter in the previous financial year is 42%, having fallen from 181 individuals in Q2 2019/20.
6. New rough sleepers seen within the authority area decreased from the first quarter, falling from 46 individuals to 21. The decrease from Q2 in the previous year is higher still, representing a decrease of 75% from 60 to 21 people.
7. During this period, the Outreach team reflected that they engaged with a high number of new rough sleepers who did not engage in offers. This indicated that a number of those seen for the first time in the CoL may be long-term rough sleepers who are known to other authorities and reluctant to accept service offers.
8. Rough sleepers with fluctuating rough sleeping patterns also decreased in the period, having represented the highest proportion of rough sleepers through Q1. This mirrors qualitative understanding of rough sleeping seen during the initial phase of our COVID-19 response, where it had been noted that a high number of rough sleepers who had not been seen anywhere in London for some time returned to rough sleeping in prominent areas. This is either due to loss of accommodation or through a desire to accept previously rejected offers of support. After Q1 it was noted that fewer individuals were reporting that they had lost accommodation, and a significantly lower number of individuals were reported as having returned to the City to access emergency provision.
9. There was a rise in the number of individuals seen as living on the streets during this period. It has been noted that, through both Q1 and Q2, a number of individuals rejecting support were consistently seen in the CoL. Often this has been outright rejection of any engagement, resulting in a high proportion of unknown individuals within the 'Living on the Streets' cohort. The Outreach team continued to offer accommodation to all individuals living on the streets, including this cohort. Over time we are seeing an increase in acceptances of these offers. We are also seeing an increase in statutory interventions from partner agencies to ensure that individuals with support needs affecting their decisions receive the right support to move away from rough sleeping.
10. There was a significant decrease in the number of accommodation outcomes recorded during the period, having fallen from 136 outcomes affecting 101 individuals in Q1 to 46 outcomes affecting 37 individuals in Q2. This has occurred due to fewer individuals entering the authority area with need of accommodation. The outcome is also related to the number of individuals with longer-term street attachments who continued to reject offers. It is of note,

however, that there was a significant increase in the number of outcomes into long-term accommodation provision.

11. The increase in outcomes to longer-term provision directly correlates with the second phase of the response to COVID-19, transitioning from the need to offer emergency accommodation to a significant number of individuals, to ensuring that those who have come into accommodation do not need to return to rough sleeping.
12. This approach has also ensured that emergency bed spaces have consistently been available within the emergency pathway, ensuring that off-the-street offers can continue as part of the CoL's ongoing commitment to the 'Everyone In' principle.
13. There were three supported reconnections to an area of local connection through Q2, an increase from Q1. All three individuals had specifically asked services for support to return to their home areas, with two individuals returning to another country where they were able to access accommodation and support from friends and family. All three individuals had been supported into emergency accommodation by services ahead of return to their home area.

### **Proposals**

14. There are no proposals arising from this paper.

### **Options**

15. There are no additional options arising from this paper.

### **Key Data**

16. Key data is included in Appendix 1 of this paper, in the form of a reporting dashboard amalgamating data recorded and reported through the Pan-London rough sleeping database, Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN).

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

17. There are no strategic or financial implication directly related to this report

### **Conclusion**

18. Rough sleeping has reduced significantly within the quarter, continuing the trend from the first quarter of the financial year. An overall reduction from the same quarter in the previous year of 40% represents a high rate of reduction.
19. The 'Living on the Streets' cohort remains high, with a number of individuals refusing all offers of support from services. Activity during the period and

through subsequent quarters is focussed on restating offers of emergency support to this cohort, as well as increasing engagement from partner agencies with those who would benefit from enhanced levels of statutory intervention.

20. Activity during the quarter remains high, with individuals receiving support to move out of emergency accommodation and into longer term placements, including individuals returning to vital support networks.

## **Appendices**

- Quarter 2 2020/21 City of London Rough Sleeping Report Dashboard

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