

<b>Committee:</b> Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-committee	<b>Dated:</b> 22 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b> Severe Weather Emergency Protocol – Midwinter Interim Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1,2,3,4,10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter – Director, Department for Community and Children’s Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Will Norman – Head of Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping	

### Summary

This report provides Members with an interim summary of Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) activity for winter 2020/21 to date. So far, this winter has been characterised by a high tempo of activations caused by forecast temperatures lingering on or close to the required threshold. We have also seen a recent spell of particularly cold weather requiring an activation of over 1 week, the first time this has happened in 3 years.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. SWEP measures are designed to safeguard rough sleepers through periods of extremely cold weather. The principle offer is open to any one currently rough sleeping within the City of London, without prejudice or discrimination.
2. The City of London provides SWEP accommodation every winter, usually covering the months of November to March. The degree of use is determined by the severity of the weather (the number of activations) and the level of demand from the rough sleeping population at the time.
3. The Greater London Authority (GLA) publishes SWEP guidance every year, which sets out the expectations of local authorities and clarifies any changes to SWEP

criteria or activation protocols. Each autumn we submit our SWEP plans, including the capacity and composition of SWEP accommodation, to the GLA.

4. Every year the GLA complements local SWEP arrangements with a Pan-London SWEP project. This is again the case with winter 2020/21.
5. SWEP is activated whenever the forecast temperature is expected to drop below zero centigrade in any London local authority area. In previous years GLA SWEP activations were used to indicate that local SWEP protocols should be triggered. This winter the GLA has re-emphasised that the GLA activation should be seen as a guide only and boroughs should make their own arrangements to track weather forecasts and activate as and when they see fit.
6. SWEP plans were adapted prior to this winter to ensure all settings complied with Public Health Covid-19 requirements.

### **Current Position**

Data covers the period to 10 February 2021.

7. The City of London Outreach Team have placed 36 separate individuals into SWEP accommodation since 23 December 2020.
8. There have been 32 nights covered by SWEP arrangements across 8 separate activations. On every occasion the GLA have activated SWEP, the City of London has pre-empted or followed.
9. 3 settings have been used to date: City Travelodge, Carter Lane and another hotel.
10. At the present time, and on the sixth day of the current SWEP activation, we have 4 clients in SWEP placements.
11. We continue to operate an 'In for Good' principle for rough sleepers, which given the enduring pandemic context, links to the 'Everyone In' call to action from Central Government. All individuals initially accommodated through SWEP who have been willing to retain their accommodation are housed in Carter Lane or additional hotel rooms.
12. Our commissioned outreach provider, Thames Reach, continue to provide daily/nightly outreach shifts throughout all SWEP activations.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

13. There are no corporate or strategic implication linked to this report

### **Conclusion**

14. There has been a high tempo of SWEP activity so far this winter and one particularly severe period of cold weather.

15. 36 individuals have been assisted and most of those remain in accommodation.
16. Hotel accommodation has been used effectively to provide Covid-19 compliant self-contained accommodation.
17. Our outreach team have been able to provide daily/nightly outreach shifts during SWEP activations.

## **Appendices**

- None

## **Background Papers**

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol planning 2020-21 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-committee, 01/12/2020

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