

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	22/04/2021
Subject: RSI Year 4 Funding Proposal	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4
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: Andrew Carter, Director, Department of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Kirsty Lowe, Rough Sleeping Service Manager, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report provides a brief explanation of the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant and also the City of London's (CoL's) current position with the recently submitted 2021/22 proposal. This will be the fourth consecutive year the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) has awarded the RSI grant to support local authorities to reduce overall rough sleeping numbers. The CoL has submitted the Year 4 proposal totalling £1,070,244.00 – the CoL's largest RSI request to date. The MHCLG will notify all local authorities in May 2021 of the Year 4 RSI awards.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. The RSI was launched in March 2018 with a total grant funding of £30 million, which was targeted at 83 local authorities with the highest numbers of people sleeping rough, based on the 2017 rough sleeping snapshot.
2. The initiative is part of the Government's ongoing Rough Sleeping Strategy which sets out the vision for halving rough sleeping by 2022 and ending rough sleeping by the end of the current Parliament.

3. The initiative seeks to support people sleeping rough to get off the streets and develop their wellbeing and stability, helping to reduce the number of people sleeping rough in both the short and longer term.
4. The RSI team within MHCLG includes rough sleeping and homelessness experts, drawn from other Government departments, local authorities and third-sector organisations with specialist knowledge and work experience across a wide range of areas. The team also has specialist advisors with knowledge in health, care leavers, employment, prisons and probation, and the faith sector to ensure a holistic approach to the rough sleeping issue. The RSI team is working closely with local authorities to help develop capability and deliver interventions to tackle rough sleeping.
5. The RSI grant is evaluated by the MHCLG each year according to the change in the number of people sleeping rough on a single night compared to the previous year.
6. The CoL's RSI grant allocation and annual street count figures from 2018 to the present are shown in the table below:

Year	Annual grant amount	Annual street count number
2018/19	£215,348	67
2019/20	£345,234	41
2020/21	£590,000	23

7. On 28 January 2021, the RSI team contacted local authorities stating: *“The Government remains committed to ending rough sleeping by the end of the current Parliament. The Rough Sleeping Initiative is crucial to meeting that commitment, and we are proud to launch the fourth year of the RSI.”*
8. Penny Hobman, Director, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping at MHCLG, confirmed in December 2020 that there would be no reduction in the overall RSI 2021/22 budget from 2020/21 and that funding for existing interventions are guaranteed from April to end of June 2021. This RSI Year 3 continuation funding will be automatically paid to local authorities in April.
9. Due to continuing pressures on local authorities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need to provide safe and appropriate accommodation, the MHCLG also committed to providing a one-off payment to contribute to additional emergency accommodation, support and move-on costs. This has been funded through the MHCLG rough sleeping delivery programmes, mainly the Next Steps Accommodation Programme (NSAP).
10. On 19 March 2021, the MHCLG CoL Rough Sleeping Advisor confirmed that the CoL would receive a quarter of the RSI Year 3 grant, with an additional £200,000 uplift for emergency accommodation. The total amount of £347,500 is to be paid to the CoL in April 2021.
11. On 12 March 2021, CoL officers submitted the Year 4 RSI proposal totalling £1,070,224, with the aim to reduce the annual street count figure in November 2021 to 10.

Current Position

12. The guaranteed existing CoL RSI interventions from Year 3 include:
- Rough Sleeping Coordinator post
 - Tower Hamlets and CoL Navigator Project
 - 1 x additional City outreach worker
 - 2 x Anchor House EU beds
 - Continuation of the No First Night Out (NFNO) principle of homelessness prevention, which will part fund emergency accommodation at Travelodge London City.
13. In addition to the five existing interventions, the CoL's Year 4 proposal includes a further eight interventions that all have the potential to start delivering from April 2021. CoL officers will be notified by the RSI team in May 2021 as to whether these additional workstreams have been approved. This news will be shared with Members in a future committee paper.
14. The £347,500 will finance all existing interventions from April to June 2021 and enable some new RSI interventions to start from 1 April 2021. These include a Rough Sleeping Tenancy Support Officer, Psychotherapy service, a Pathway Liaison Officer and the Mobile Support Intervention Team (MIST). The confirmed £200,000 uplift will go some way to financing the lease costs for Carter Lane hostel for April to June.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. The financial implications related to this report are set out in paragraph 14.

Conclusion

16. The CoL has been awarded RSI grant funding for the past three years and is in line to receive Year 4 funds from April 2021. Quarter 1 funds totalling £347,500 have been confirmed by the MHCLG. Once the full grant determination is published, Members will receive a detailed report on all RSI interventions for 2021/22. Each year the CoL has seen its RSI award increase, which in turn has seen CoL annual street count numbers decrease.

Appendices

- None

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