

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	28 June 2021
Subject:	Public
Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant Funding 2021/22	
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?	No
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 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 detail on the various City of London (CoL) interventions funded by the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) grant for 2021/22. This is 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. On 15 May, the MHCLG notified the CoL that it would receive a total of £1,028,677.00 from the RSI grant from April 2021 to March 2022 – the CoL's largest RSI grant to date.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. This report follows on from the *RSI Year 4 Funding Proposal* report presented at the April 2021 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.
2. The RSI was launched in March 2018 with a total grant funding of £30 million. The total grant fund for 2021/22 is £203 million and has been allocated to 281 local authorities.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. On 19 March 2021, the MHCLG informed the CoL that they would automatically be given continuation funding for the period 1 April to 30 June 2021, equal to three months of the CoL RSI Year 3 allocation, £147,575.
7. Further to this, MHCLG confirmed that each local authority's RSI allocation would provide additional resource to continue to support and protect clients from the COVID-19 pandemic in Quarter 1. The CoL received £200,000, which was apportioned to building costs for the Carter Lane hostel.
8. On 15 May 2021, Catherine Bennion, Deputy Director of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping at the MHCLG notified all local authorities of the outcome of the RSI Year 4 bids. The CoL was informed that they would receive a further £725,737.00 from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, and that all proposed interventions were approved.
9. The Quarter 2 funding – four amounts of £725,737.00 – took into account an unspent figure of £44,635 rolled over from Year 3. The Year 3 underspend was mainly due to salary savings whereby one post-holder resigned and a decision was made not to recruit into the role. With another post, there were significant delays due to the recruitment processes.
10. The CoL total RSI payment for the financial year 2021/22 is £1,028,677.00 ring-fenced revenue.

Current Position

11. The CoL's RSI Year 4 grant will fund 14 different interventions provided by a minimum of eight organisations. Most interventions fund new and existing posts, employed directly by the CoL or through commissioned partners. There are also various accommodation services, specialised services around immigration and talking therapy, as well as a personalisation budget.
12. The table below shows the Year 4 interventions, which organisations will provide, including whether they are existing or new interventions from Year 3:

	Intervention	Provider	Existing /New
1	Additional Outreach Worker	Thames Reach	Existing
2	Outreach Senior Practitioner		New
3	Mobile Intervention Support Team		New
4	Personalisation Budget		New

5	Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator	CoL	Existing
6	Carter Lane Hostel		Existing
7	Tenancy Support Officer		New
8	Pathway Liaison Officer		New
9	LBTH/CoL Navigator Service	St Mungo's	Existing
10	City Travelodge	Travelodge	Existing
11	Anchor House EU beds	Caritas	Existing
12	Psychotherapy Service	Providence Row Charity	New
13	Ad-hoc Emergency Accommodation	Various providers	New
14	EU Advisor	Unknown	New

13. Additional Outreach Worker

Year 4 RSI has enabled the CoL to continue to fund an additional outreach worker to enhance the core City Outreach service. Thames Reach recruited into this role at the start of the financial year and the recruit has quickly settled into the team. The additional staff member helps create a better balance between shift work and case work now that the service covers a seven-day rota. The role has also helped the City manage COVID-19 emergency accommodation placements without stretching the capacity of the service to carry out core work.

14. Outreach Senior Practitioner

The Senior Practitioner role will sit in the City Outreach team, providing co-ordination of some of the most well-known City clients. They will have a strong presence in multi-agency meetings, will co-ordinate other newly funded RSI interventions and provide additional managerial support to the team. Particular focus will include the Mobile Intervention Support Team (see paragraph 16) and the Living on the Streets (LOS) population. The Senior Practitioner will lead on the case management system of all CoL clients, ensuring that each have a clear move-on pathway and a City Credible Offer. Recruitment into this role has already taken place with a confirmed start date in June.

15. Personalisation Budget

The Outreach Senior Practitioner will have oversight and management of the £10,000 personalisation and welfare budget. This budget is there to give the outreach team the opportunity to finance items or opportunities for City clients, from essentials such as toiletries or food while other purchases could be tailored more to a personal goal such as training or education. The aim of the Personalisation Budget is to strengthen clients engagement with the City Outreach team and support individuals to move away from the streets and maintain accommodation.

16. Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST)

Thames Reach has provided the MIST service since April of this year. The aim of the service is to provide in-reach support to those accommodated in hotels and other City-funded temporary accommodation. The service consists of two peripatetic workers who work alongside the City Outreach team and partners, also providing a seven-day rota. The MIST service focuses on stabilising individuals while in accommodation and ensuring that clients get the right level of health intervention. MIST will also provide next-day follow-up with any Outreach

clients accessing the on-the-night assessment beds at Carter Lane. This service is currently funded till October 2021, when the service will end.

17. Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator

The CoL Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator (RSC) role remains essential to the needs of the CoL rough sleeping team, providing day-to-day liaison between the City and commissioned partners. The RSC played a vital role in the CoL's rapid response to COVID-19 and the rollout of the CoL's emergency accommodation at Carter Lane and City Travelodge. The RSC will also play an active role in the support and management of commissioned RSI interventions and the expansion of the rough sleeping hostel pathway. The post is currently vacant, however, recruitment is underway and we are hopeful to have someone in post by August.

18. Carter Lane Hostel

RSI Year 4 funds will support CoL to finance rental costs for Carter Lane for four months. Carter Lane hostel is a 45-bed hostel providing emergency and medium-term accommodation to those who previously slept rough in the Square Mile and were brought in under the 'Everyone In' approach. Carter Lane has been leased from the Youth Hostels Association until the end of this calendar year.

19. Tenancy Support Officer

The CoL have increased the size of the existing City Tenancy Support Team (TST) by recruiting a fourth TST officer, who started in their new role in April. This post-holder will carry a maximum caseload of 25 to 30 individuals, and each individual will have previously slept rough in the CoL. These individuals will have accessed the CoL accommodation pathway and been placed into semi/independent accommodation. The TST worker will either lead or work alongside CoL-commissioned support services to ensure that all aspects of a client's tenancy, benefits/income and wellbeing is managed effectively so the individual can settle in and maintain their new home. The TST officer will support and challenge individuals to acknowledge their assets to work towards personal goals and long-term independence.

20. Pathway Liaison Officer

The CoL recruited into this new role in April and the post-holder has made significant impact already. The Pathway Liaison Officer (PLO) carries a maximum caseload of 25 to 30 individuals, where the focus is to facilitate moves into, between, and out of the accommodation pathway. Under direction of the Pathway Co-ordinator, the post-holder works to reduce barriers to 'move on' within the pathway and works with internal and external partners to find solutions as issues arise. For the first six months the PLO will work one day a week at Carter Lane hostel to provide oversight and support to staff and clients. The PLO took a similar approach at the City Travelodge until its closure on 17 May 2021, working closely with the MIST service to ensure a smooth transition from hotel to move-on accommodation.

21. London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH)/CoL Navigator Service

The RSI Year 4 grant will fund the jointly commissioned CoL/LBTH Navigator service, provided by St Mungo's for a third year. The service has continued to achieve well against its aims to support CoL/LBTH transient rough sleepers away

from the streets and into their own accommodation. Navigator clients often have a history of being disengaged from services or excluded from housing services multiple times for many years. The extra capacity and focus that this team brings to CoL clients is invaluable. The cross-borough approach is very effective at breaking down barriers for the client, and also between the two local authorities. The navigator team has been able to solve significantly complex cases and accomplish some great achievements for some of the borough's most well-known LOS clients.

22. City Travelodge

The RSI Year 4 grant has funded the 20 block-booked beds at the City Travelodge from April to 17 May 2021. This provision was previously funded by the MHCLG Protect Programme, providing a much-needed on-the-night offer of accommodation to anyone met sleeping rough in the City by the Outreach team. These 20 beds at the Travelodge resulted in a minimum of 25 individuals being quickly supported away from the streets into hotel accommodation where they were rapidly case-managed by the MIST team and/or the PLO and provided with a City credible offer. Travelodge guests also received on-site support from health professions such as Doctors of the World, doctors and nurses from East London NHS Foundation Trust and the Rough Sleeping Mental Health Programme.

23. Anchor House EU beds

RSI Year 4 funding has enabled the CoL to continue to fund two European Union (EU) beds at Anchor House hostel, a Caritas-supported setting based in Newham. This service can provide a route off the streets for some of the City's EU clients, where professionals can start to build a picture of a person's situation and begin to investigate a client's immigration status. Due to language barriers and possible distrust of services, it is very hard for professionals to build up a working relationship with EU clients from the streets. Anchor House is able to offer accommodation and support to carry out a comprehensive assessment of a person's options and ensure that they are provided with a credible offer. Clients will be worked with intensely over a maximum period of 12 weeks, where the focus will be to stabilise the individual, investigate their immigration status and increase the client's opportunities to gain employment.

24. Psychotherapy Service

RSI Year 4 has enabled the CoL to continue to fund the Psychotherapy service provided through Providence Row Charity, which was previously funded through the Protect Programme. Providence Row Charity has provided an outreach psychotherapy service in LBTH since 2018 and has achieved some great outcomes for LBTH clients, particularly individuals who struggled with drug and alcohol or mental health support needs. The CoL feels this specialised and flexible approach could also assist CoL clients; particularly long-term street-attached clients who have recently come off the streets for the first time in many years. The CoL feel this service is desperately needed and often overlooked as part of the holistic approach to supporting those that have been through rough sleeping and other traumatic experiences, so they have the resilience and know how to live independently away from the streets permanently. The psychotherapist currently works part-time providing one-to-one sessions to clients accommodated at Carter Lane hostel.

25. Ad-hoc Emergency Accommodation

The RSI Year 4 grant has made funds available to the CoL Rough Sleeping team to finance ad hoc accommodation when needed. This could be utilised in various ways: by the City Outreach team through on-the-night offers of emergency accommodation to City clients, particularly when there are no available assessment beds at Carter Lane, or who were (up until 17 May 2021) accommodated at City Travelodge but need more time for their identified mid- to long-term accommodation options to become available. These individuals will be supported by MIST and/or the rough sleeping TST worker. Temporary accommodation and ad hoc hotel accommodation is also supporting the Rough Sleeping COVID-19 Recovery Plan, so individuals are more likely to take up the offer of COVID-19 vaccinations while in accommodation.

26. EU Advisor

The RSI Year 4 grant will enable the CoL to newly commission a specialised immigration service to provide qualified assessments to 15 to 30 City clients each year. This would involve thorough investigation, liaison and submission of applications to the Home Office and embassies, direct case management of the client and ongoing contact with referral services. The advisor would also provide training and support to other commissioned services, providing upskilling opportunities to all. This intervention will need to be newly commissioned and will need to go out to tender in the competitive market. CoL officers are at the early stage of tendering for this piece of work with a view to commissioning a provider by the end of July 2021.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial Implications

27. The CoL's grant funding total of £1,070,224 for 2021/22 is ring-fenced for the sole purpose of providing RSI-funded services that were approved by MHCLG.
28. The allocation will be split into three payments. Payment of second tranche funding is dependent on whether the agreed grant conditions have been complied with.
29. If an authority fails to comply with any of the conditions, MHCLG may reduce, suspend, or withhold the grant, or may require repayment of the whole or any part of the grant.
30. If repurposing interventions is required, the authority must engage with their advisor and MHCLG for prior written approval to discuss whether exceptional circumstances apply.
31. Resource implications – N/A
32. Legal implications – N/A

33. Risk implications – N/A

34. Equalities implications – N/A

35. Climate implications – N/A

36. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

37. The MHCLG have confirmed the CoL Year 4 RSI grant award of £1,070,224.00. This funding is to finance the commissioning and delivery of 14 different interventions that aim to support people sleeping rough to get off the streets and develop their wellbeing and stability, resulting in a reduction of people sleeping rough in the City. The majority of these interventions are new, however, most new interventions have already been recruited to or commissioned and are delivering as intended.

Appendices

- None

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