

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	4 October 2021
Subject: Q1 2021/22 Performance Report – Rough Sleeping	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?	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
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Summary

This report presents data and a brief narrative related to rough sleeping, and the accommodation of rough sleepers, in the City of London (CoL) during the Quarter 1 (Q1) period, April to June 2021/22, with some reference to yearly and previous quarterly CoL and neighbouring borough comparisons. This report shows a decrease of rough sleeping during the quarter overall, falling below the recent lowest levels of Q2 2020/21 during the height of the pandemic response. Overall, there has been a 34.3% reduction in the number of people seen rough sleeping between Q1 2020/21 and Q1 2021/22. Across key areas there has been a decrease in numbers including those new to rough sleeping in CoL and those returning to rough sleeping in CoL. There have been further important moves out of the Living on the Streets (LOS) cohort, although the numbers for this cohort slightly increase this quarter overall and remain a focus of CoL Rough Sleeping Officers and commissioned services over the coming financial year.

Short-term accommodation events in this quarter for individuals have fallen overall, due to the reduction of COVID-19 response initiatives at and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) beds at the start of Q1 2021/22. However, long-term and sustainable accommodation events have risen largely in this quarter, with CoL percentages of long-term accommodation such as Private Rented Sector (PRS) routes increasing well above neighbouring borough’s data, and comfortably exceeding PRS event percentages for the Greater London Authority (GLA) as a whole.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The number of individuals rough sleeping in the Square Mile continues to fall overall since Q1 2020/21 (April–June). The table below shows the total number individual rough sleepers in the CoL each quarter. The data shows a 34.3% drop from Q1 2020/21 (140) to Q1 2021/22 (92), and a 9.8% drop in total rough sleepers since Q4 2020/21 (102) to Q1 2021/22 (92).

2020/21				2021/22
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
140	105	132	102	92

2. Accommodation outcomes for individuals have fallen slightly, in terms of number of people, for Q1 2021/22 when compared against Q4 2020/21. This is due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic 'Everyone In' initiative coming to end during this quarter. However, when compared to the last quarter pre-pandemic, accommodation outcomes for Q1 2021/22 have risen by 16.6% against Q3 2019/01 which was the last quarter prior to the 'Everyone In' initiative being enacted. This increase in accommodation outcomes over Q3 2019/20 is also despite SWEP being enacted many times during Q3 2019/20 leading to further accommodation provision in this quarter. The table below shows accommodation outcomes by number of people in these quarters.

Q3 2019/20	Q4 2020/21	Q1 2021/22
30	53	35

Current Position

3. The decrease of those seen sleeping rough during Q1 was 9.8%, seeing the total fall from 102 to 92. This decrease is generally in line with other neighbouring boroughs, and in some cases other boroughs saw total rough sleeper numbers increase. For example, Southwark and Islington saw a decrease of 15.3% and 9.1% respectively during this period, while the neighbouring borough of Tower Hamlets saw a 9.7% increase in rough sleeping numbers for Q1 2021/22.
4. The number of new rough sleepers, referred to in the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) dashboard as 'flow', being seen in the Square Mile has fallen by a sizable amount this quarter. This quarter has seen new rough sleeper numbers fall from 29 in Q4 2020/21 to 21 in Q1 2021/22, equating to a 27.6% decrease. Compared with the same period last year, new rough sleeper numbers have fallen by 54.3%, a difference of 25 between Q1 2020/21 and Q1 2021/22. When compared against total GLA data for new rough sleepers in Q1 2021/22, CoL's new rough sleeper decrease outperforms GLA's overall decrease in this cohort of 25%.
5. There has been a decrease in individuals returning to sleep rough in the Square Mile, referred to as 'stock' or 'returning clients' in the CHAIN dashboard, falling from 40 in Q4 2020/21 to 37 Q1 2021/22 – a 7.5% decrease. When compared to

the same period last year, this figure has fallen from 71 in Q1 2020/21 which is a 48.9% decrease over the last year.

6. The number of long-term LOS has risen marginally this quarter, seeing the change in this cohort rise from 34 in Q4 2020/21 to 37 in Q1 2021/22 – an 8.8% increase. This increase, alongside overall rough sleeping figures this quarter falling by 9.8%, sees the long-term LOS percentage overall in CoL rise from 33% in Q4 2020/21 to 40% in Q1 2021/22. The overall GLA percentage for the LOS cohort this quarter is 15%, and the CoL LOS cohort percentage remains high in comparison to this overall figure.
7. Although there was an overall increase in LOS figures for Q1 2021/22, with three individuals moved from the new to rough sleeping cohort to LOS, there was still a reduction in known LOS rough sleepers by three, a 9.1% reduction. This is due to further positive outcomes this quarter for well-known rough sleepers, enabled by the combination of persistent and creative work carried out by the City Outreach team in conjunction with other commissioned homeless services in the Square Mile. The overall LOS increase in Q1 2021/22 is also attributed to the addition of four individual LOS 'RS205+' clients bedding down in CoL. RS205+ is used by CHAIN to refer to individuals "who have been identified as especially hard to help because of their prolific history of rough sleeping". The RS205+ can fluctuate quarter to quarter for CoL data due to the often cross-borough transience of this cohort.
8. A total of 48 accommodation events are recorded on CHAIN for Q1 2021/22. This is a decrease on the 94 recorded in Q4. This fall is largely due to a reduction in SWEP accommodation events from 29 (31%) down to (4) 8% and COVID-19 emergency accommodation from 36 (38%) down to just seven (15%). Both SWEP and new COVID-19 emergency accommodation came to an end at the beginning of this quarter.
9. While short-term emergency accommodation events reported on CHAIN fell significantly, instances of long-term accommodation moves made up a larger percentage of accommodation events in Q1 2021/22. For example, in Q1 2021/22 moves into PRS rose to 13% of all accommodation events, from 2% in the previous quarter. The increase in this type of accommodation event recorded on CHAIN illustrates that more CoL verified rough sleepers are gaining access to long-term and sustainable accommodation and are receiving robust support from CoL-commissioned homelessness services so that they are equipped to maintain more independent living arrangements.
10. To put the achievement of increased long-term and independent living accommodation events to 13% into perspective, CoL percentages of PRS accommodation events are well above neighbouring boroughs. In Q1 2021/22 PRS accommodation events, Tower Hamlets reported 9%, Southwark 3% and Islington 0%. This data has been taken from CHAIN Quarterly Reports for the mentioned boroughs. Against total GLA PRS events for this quarter, CoL also exceeds this total GLA percentage of 9%. This high usage of PRS routes away from rough sleeping in CoL is attributed to lessons learnt from the successful No First Night Out Pilot (NFNO), which ended in March 2021, and the application of

this methodology to CoL's new PRS project started in April 2021. The usage of supported PRS 'move on' options as a preventative measure to homelessness, and also as a rapid response to rough sleeping, is currently an area that CoL excels at, and remains a relatively unique approach across the GLA.

11. The table below lists all recorded accommodation events recorded on CHAIN for Q1 2021/22 compared to the previous Q4 2020/21.

Accommodation Event Type	Q4 2020/21		Q1 2021/22	
	No. Events	%	No. events	%
SWEP	29	31%	4	8%
COVID-19 emergency accommodation	36	38%	7	15%
City Assessment Service (Carter Lane)	13	14%	14	29%
Temporary accommodation	6	6%	10	21%
Hotel/Bed & Breakfast	8	9%	4	8%
Supported Hostel	0	0%	3	6%
Private Rented	2	2%	6	13%
Total	94		48	

12. In Q1 2021/22 the City Outreach team supported two individual rough sleepers to be reconnected back to the area where they have a local connection. These reconnection events support reconnections of EU nationals to countries where they would have recourse to public funds and access to local services. These reconnections were requested by the clients in question and were done so voluntary, with homeless service support.

13. The proportion of UK nationals sleeping rough in CoL during Q1 2021/22 dropped from 64% in Q4 2020/21 to 62% in Q1 2021/22, while the number of those from Central and East Europe rose from 16% in Q4 2020/21 to 22% in Q1 2021/22. Vital work is being carried out by the City Outreach team and the team at the City Assessment Service to: offer assessment beds to EU nationals who are open to receiving support with European Union Settlement Scheme applications; help with supported reconnections; help those in employment; and ensure that all CoL commissioned services are delivering Credible Service Offers to EU nationals to refer them to services that provide a route off the street.

14. The percentages of client support needs reported on CHAIN has changed only slightly. The biggest of these differences is that mental health in Q1 2021/22 is no longer the most prevalent support need among rough sleepers, as was the case in Q4 2020/21, falling from 21% to 15%. The most significant support need cohort in CoL is now once again 'Dual Diagnosis' clients with alcohol, drugs and mental health needs at 19%. 'Drugs and mental health' is also at 16% currently, giving a combined percentage of 35% for these two Dual Diagnosis groups. Public Health England have recently commissioned new Turning Point drug services and Dual Diagnosis teams within the Square Mile, and CoL officers have been linking up and integrating these new services with our own existing commissioned homeless teams. This is to ensure that our own services can be best supported

to respond to Dual Diagnosis clients and to provide the most cohesive and multi-agency response possible to this large cohort of clients with complex support needs over the coming months.

Options

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

Proposals

16. There are no proposals arising from this paper.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. There are no strategic implications directly related to this report

18. Financial implications – N/A

19. Resource implications – N/A

20. Legal implications – N/A

21. Risk implications – N/A

22. Equalities implications – N/A

23. Climate implications – N/A

24. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

25. There was a further decrease in overall rough sleeping in the CoL this past quarter, with Q1 2021/22 being the third quarter in a row to see a decrease of rough sleepers. This decrease was in line with some neighbouring boroughs, while other neighbouring boroughs saw an increase. There has been a decrease in rough sleepers returning to the streets since Q4 2020/21 and this figure has now almost halved since Q1 2020/21. Although overall LOS percentages rose slightly, three known LOS individuals left the street due to the hard work of the City Outreach team.

26. Overall accommodation events fell notably during this period due to SWEP and COVID-19 provisions coming to an end at the beginning of the quarter. However long-term and sustainable accommodation events such as PRS placements grew significantly, outperforming neighbouring boroughs in this area vastly and above GLA percentages this quarter. This increase is thanks to the work of City Outreach, the City Assessment Service team and CoL homelessness and rough sleeping officers working collaboratively.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – CHAIN reporting dashboard Q1 2021/22

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