Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee – For Information	06/12/2021
Subject: Rough Sleeping Q2 2021/22 Performance Report	**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**
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	**For Information**
Report author: Jack Deeprose, Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator	

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 2 (Q2) period, July to September 2021/22, with some reference to yearly and previous quarterly CoL and neighbouring borough comparisons. This report shows an increase of rough sleeping as reported on the Combined Homeless and Information Network (CHAIN) database during the quarter overall, a 38% increase on the previous quarter's total. Rough sleeping figures are still well below pre-pandemic levels, and there has been a general increase of rough sleeping in Q2 2021/22 across Greater London. This report also notes that the amount of new rough sleepers verified in CoL in Q2 2021/22 is disproportionally higher than neighbouring boroughs, with a 109.5% increase in new rough sleepers. This increase in new rough sleepers is the largest contributing factor to the total rise in CoL rough sleeping numbers in Q2 2021/22. Long-term rough sleepers, or Living on the Streets (LOS), client numbers rose in Q2 2021/22. This report notes analysis of this cohort, bedding down frequency, and steps being taken by services and CoL officers to address LOS numbers.

The amount of individual rough sleepers accommodated in Q2 2021/22 rose against the previous quarter by 19.4%. A total of 43 individuals were supported into accommodation or reconnection, and this number continues to be high when compared to our neighbouring boroughs. This rate of accommodation also represents a high outcome when represented as a percentage of all rough sleepers seen in Q2 2021/22, with accommodated clients making up 33.9% of total rough sleepers in CoL, which is also higher than our neighbouring boroughs.

This report notes the current challenge for CoL of a high number of new rough sleepers (44) coupled with high rates of accommodated individuals (43). It shows that for every person supported into safe accommodation, just over one new rough sleeper presented to rough sleeping services in Q2 2021/22. Long-term accommodation placements, such as Private Rented Sector (PRS) routes, have also risen again and remain high against Greater London Authority (GLA) averages and neighbouring boroughs.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The number of individuals sleeping rough in the Square Mile has risen overall since Q2 2021/22 (July to September). The table below shows the total number of individual rough sleepers in the CoL each quarter. The data shows a 20.95% increase from Q2 2020/21 (105) to Q2 2021/22 (127), and a 38.04% increase in total rough sleepers since Q1 2021/22 (92) to Q2 2021/22 (127). The total of Q2 2021/22 rough sleepers, although an increase on previous quarters, is below the peak number of 132 in Q3 2020/21 during the ‘Everyone In’ response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important to note that this quarter’s total for individuals sleeping rough is a 12.41% decrease against the last pre-pandemic quarter – Q3 2019/20.

2019/20	**2020/21**			**2021/22**	
Q3	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
145	105	132	102	92	127

2. The number of accommodation and reconnection outcomes for individuals have risen by 19.44% for Q2 2021/22 when compared to Q1 2021/22. This percentage increase is across both short-term accommodation outcomes, long-term placements into sustainable accommodation, and supported reconnections to other local authorities or countries. This is also an increase of 7.5% over the same quarterly period last year, during the pandemic accommodation response. When compared to the last pre-pandemic quarter, accommodation outcomes have risen by 38.71% in Q2 2021/22 against Q3 2019/20, which was the last quarter prior to the ‘Everyone In’ initiative. These increases show that more rough sleepers are now able to access accommodation in the Square Mile. Also, commissioned services and CoL staff are successfully building on lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic. The table below shows accommodation outcomes by number of people in these quarters.

Q3 2019/20	**Q2 2020/21**	**Q1 2021/22**	**Q2 2021/22**
31	40	36	43

Current Position

3. Total individuals seen sleeping rough during Q2 increased by 38.04% against the previous quarter, with the total rising from 92 to 127. This increase is higher than other neighbouring boroughs, though most of CoL’s neighbours also saw increases in total rough sleeping. For example, Westminster and Southwark saw an increase of 27.93% and 12.06% respectively during this period, while Greater London as a whole saw a 13% increase in rough sleeping numbers for Q2 2021/22. Other boroughs such as Islington and Camden saw total rough sleeping figures remain largely the same, seeing small increases of 3.33% and 0.8% respectively. The only directly neighbouring borough to see a decrease this quarter was Tower Hamlets, with a 23% fall in overall rough sleeping numbers.

4. While CoL saw larger increases overall in rough sleeping, the increase of new rough sleepers to CoL is disproportionally higher compared to other boroughs. Of the 127 total rough sleepers in Q2 2021/22, 44 of these individuals were new to rough sleeping. This is a 109.5% increase in the number of new rough sleepers from the previous quarter. This is a much higher increase than CoL's neighbouring boroughs in this new rough sleeper cohort. For example, Westminster saw an increase of 65.4%, while neighbours with more comparable levels of rough sleeping – such as Camden, Southwark and Islington – saw changes in new rough sleepers of 29.6%, 5.2%, 4.3% respectively. The large increase in this cohort is partially responsible for higher overall rough sleeping figures for CoL in Q2 2021/22. Unfortunately, CoL has limited scope in controlling the new presentation of rough sleepers to the Square Mile – for example, by using tenancy sustainment measures, due to its own residential population being very low. Across Greater London in Q2 2021/22, there was a 16% increase in new rough sleepers.

5. Of the 44 individuals new to rough sleeping in CoL during Q2 2021/22, 63.6% did not have a second night out on the street. This indicates a combination of the successes of CoL's high assessment accommodation rates, and the transitory nature of rough sleepers in CoL moving on to other boroughs before meaningful engagement can be made.

6. There has been a further decrease in individuals returning to sleep rough in the Square Mile, referred to as 'intermittent' or 'returning clients' in the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) dashboard, falling from 40 in Q1 2021/22 to 37 in Q2 2021/22 – an 8.1% decrease.

7. The number of long-term LOS has risen this quarter, with this cohort increasing from 37 in Q1 2021/22 to 52 in Q2 2021/22. The long-term LOS percentage overall in CoL has remained stable, not changing from 40% in Q1 2021/22. The overall GLA percentage for the LOS cohort this quarter also remains at 15%, and the CoL LOS cohort percentage remains high in comparison to this overall figure. Greater London has seen a 26% increase in LOS numbers as a whole against the same period last year.

8. Although there was an overall increase in LOS figures for Q2 2021/22, with three individuals moved from the new to rough sleeping cohort to LOS, the other 12 new additions to this cohort in CoL where designated as 'known' LOS on CHAIN. This means that they either migrated from other boroughs or were already accommodated but occasionally slept rough. Further analysis of the LOS cohort in Q2 2021/22 has shown that 14 of the total 52 LOS clients had five or fewer bedded-down contacts in the Square Mile and, of this number, nine were currently accommodated. One challenge of working with LOS clients is working with partners outside of CoL to ensure that they maintain their accommodation. Inspecting CoL LOS numbers on an individual client level has shown that, of the 52 present in Q2 2021/22, there is a core of 24 individual LOS clients who habitually sleep rough in the Square Mile, or do so on falling out of interim accommodation. The remaining 28 clients are largely transitory in nature, spending most of their time in other boroughs and with strong local connections to other boroughs. As with new rough sleepers, the challenge is in combating a LOS cohort that do not present for long periods of time and do not wish to engage with rough sleeping services in CoL. Ongoing work is being undertaken by commissioned services to ensure that these individuals are best supported and accommodated by local authorities where they spend most of their time and where they have strong connections. Of the core 24 LOS CoL clients, three have now been placed in long-term accommodation by commissioned services and CoL officers.

9. The number of accommodated rough sleepers rose again in Q2 2021/22 by 19.4% to a total of 43 individuals. Of these, 40 were accommodated and three were reconnected to other local authorities and countries. These accommodation outcomes are high when compared to other borough's outcomes, and high as a percentage of total CoL rough sleepers for Q2 2021/22. For example, the number of accommodated individuals in CoL make up 33.9% of all rough sleepers in the Square Mile for Q2 2021/22. Further to this achievement, the scale of the current challenge is illustrated by the number of accommodated individuals this quarter (43) being a near one-to-one trade against new rough sleepers being verified in CoL (44). The table below shows the comparison of these percentiles and the relationship with new rough sleepers against neighbouring boroughs.

Borough	**Total Rough Sleepers**	**New Rough Sleepers**	**Accommodated Rough Sleepers**	**% of Total Rough Sleepers**	**Ratio: New Rough Sleepers/ Accommodated**
City of London	127	44	43	33.90%	1.02
Islington	62	24	19	30.65%	1.26
Southwark	130	61	34	26.15%	1.79
Camden	227	70	57	25.11%	1.23
Tower Hamlets	87	24	18	20.69%	1.33
Lambeth	137	60	26	18.98%	2.3

10. Short-term accommodation events rose in Q2 2021/22. When compared against the previous quarter, Assessment Centre placements rose by 57.1%. This means that there has been a greater and more efficient throughput of rough sleepers through CoL assessment beds in Q2 2021/22. Other temporary accommodation remained stable in Q2 2021/22.

11. Long-term accommodation events maintain a high relative percentage in Q2 2021/22, further carrying on the successes in this area from Q1 2021/22. PRS rose by 16.7% showing the continued positive outcomes of CoL's PRS pathway working with rough sleepers. PRS move-ons with tenancies of at least six months are now up to 15% of all accommodation events in this quarter, which maintains a higher proportion when compared with neighbouring boroughs. For example, PRS as a percentage of accommodations in Q2 2021/22 were 4% for Tower Hamlets, 3% for Southwark and 0% for Islington. Against total GLA PRS events for this quarter, CoL also exceeds the total percentage of 10%. Moves to supported hostels have also risen by 166% from Q1 2021/22 to Q2 2021/22, though it is worth noting that there is no differentiation between short-term or long-term hostels in this data.

12. In Q2 2021/22, the City Outreach team supported three individual rough sleepers to be reconnected back to the area where they have a local connection. There were two cases supported to reconnect EU nationals to countries where they would have recourse to public funds and access to local services, and one reconnected to another local authority in the UK. These reconnections were requested by the clients involved, and were voluntary, with homeless service support.

13. The proportion of UK nationals sleeping rough in CoL during Q1 2021/22 rose from 62% in Q1 2021/22 to 65% in Q1 2021/22, while they remained the same (22%) across both

quarterly periods. Work is ongoing to support European Economic Area (EEA) clients in our City Assessment Service to receive their settled status decision via the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS), and channels have opened with the Homelessness team within the Home Office to expedite this decision-making process for clients who give their consent.

14. The percentages of client support needs reported on CHAIN have changed only slightly again in Q2 2021/22. ‘Mental Health Only’ rose to 18% of all individuals, while ‘Dual Diagnosis’ clients with alcohol, drugs and mental health needs rose from 19% to 23% from Q1 2021/22 to Q2 2021/22. ‘Drugs and mental health’ is also currently at 14% in this quarter, giving a combined percentage of 37% for these two Dual Diagnosis groups. Public Health England commissioned services such Turning Point drug services and the Dual Diagnosis ‘Steps’ teams within the Square Mile are now well integrated into CoL commissioned rough sleeping services, and important work is being carried out in conjunction with Rough Sleeping teams to best support this complex cohort. The Dual Diagnosis ‘Steps’ service works very closely with our City Outreach team, and has been very helpful in supporting a number of very entrenched and complex individuals into accommodation.

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

- Financial implications – N/A
- Resource implications – N/A
- Legal implications – N/A
- Risk implications – N/A
- Equalities implications – N/A
- Climate implications – N/A
- Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

18. There was an increase in rough sleeping in CoL this past quarter, which is the first increase in total rough sleepers for three quarterly periods. Quarterly rough sleeping numbers are still below pre-pandemic levels for CoL, but Greater London as a whole has seen large increases in rough sleeping generally in Q2 2021/22. A large component of CoL’s increase in rough sleeping figures for this quarter is the very high (109.5%) increase in new rough sleepers found in the Square Mile. The post-pandemic

increase in new rough sleepers quarter to quarter is disproportionally high when compared to other boroughs, and more research and analysis will be needed over the coming months to try and understand this. CoL has limited control over the prevention of new rough sleeping due to its very small residential population. The rise in LOS numbers has also contributed to increases in rough sleeping. Client-level analysis of this current cohort has shown that many of these individuals are highly transitory in nature. However, increased scrutiny and resources are currently being applied to CoL's core LOS population by commissioned services to ensure that these individuals continue to be helped off the streets.

19. Accommodation outcomes for rough sleepers in CoL rose again in Q2 2021/22, with both short-term and long-term accommodation placements rising. This is a great achievement by our commissioned services to maintain the accommodation momentum of the pandemic, and converting emergency accommodation events into long-term and sustainable offers (such as PRS) for homeless individuals. Our accommodation outcomes remain high when compared to other boroughs. This report illustrates that services' hard work to achieve these high accommodation rates is challenged by the high level of new rough sleepers also presenting in CoL. There is almost a one-to-one ratio of a new rough sleeping individuals being verified for every accommodation placement in Q2 2021/22.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – CHAIN reporting dashboard Q2 2021/22

Jack Deeprose
Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator
Department of Community and Children's Services

T: 075 5443 7909
E: jack.deeprose@cityoflondon.gov.uk