

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee – For Information	09/05/2022
Subject: Rough Sleeping Bulletin	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 Deeprise, Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator	

Summary

This report serves to provide an accompanying narrative to the data provided in the accompanying Appendix 1 Rough Sleeping Bulletin Data. The data illustrated and discussed in this report shows that rough sleeping in the City of London (CoL) has decreased since 2018. This is true both when looking at all unique rough sleepers in each quarterly period, as recorded on the Combined Homeless and Information Network (CHAIN) database, and when comparing annual street counts and monthly street audits which count an ‘on the night’ figure for rough sleepers in the Square Mile on a given night. The report notes that rough sleeping in CoL was lowest during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, but that overall figures have not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The provided data also shows the linear trend for rough sleeping in CoL is trending steadily downwards.

This report also includes cohort and demographic breakdowns for rough sleepers found on the most recent street audit, which highlights the different approaches taken with those found by City Outreach during this audit. Also included is a breakdown of clients housed in assessment and emergency accommodation as of 31/3/22, showing the amounts of rough sleepers placed into temporary accommodation, and the amount of those who have since been supported into long-term and settled accommodation.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. This paper is designed to serve as accompanying analysis and narrative to the Appendix 1 Rough Sleeping Bulletin Data attached to this paper. The rough sleeping data and analysis displayed in this report and appendix is an overview of important metrics captured on both the CHAIN database and City of London's own databases. This report is being submitted to this Sub-Committee so that long and short-term rough sleeping trends can be observed and discussed by the Sub-Committee, in place of a Quarterly or Annual Performance report. The issues with, and proposed changes to, the reporting schedule and performance reports at this Sub-Committee are discussed in the paper 'Performance Reporting Changes Proposal', also submitted to this Sub-Committee on 9 May 2022.

Current Position

The following will reference the slide titles from the accompanying Appendix 1 – Rough Sleeper Bulletin Data.

2. Unique Rough Sleepers – Last 4 Years

This slide shows the quarterly totals for unique rough sleepers found bedded down in CoL from Quarter 1 (Q1) 2018/19 to (Q4) 2021/22. This data shows an overall decrease in rough sleeping in the Square Mile during this period.

The four-year period illustrated has been a period of change and challenge for CoL rough sleeping services, and this is reflected in the data. For example, the decreases in overall rough sleeping in CoL seen between Q1 2020/21 and Q1 2021/22 was during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic and CoL Rough Sleeping response to it as part of 'Everyone In'. The recent increase in quarterly numbers shows the fluctuation in rough sleepers presenting in CoL, though Q4 2021/22 shows a fall to near previous levels.

Whilst these quarterly figures do fluctuate quarter to quarter, the linear trend line of this data shows that overall the amount of unique rough sleepers in CoL is steadily decreasing.

3. Street Counts & Audits – 2018 to Present

The data for street counts & audits shows a similar picture of decrease to the cumulative quarterly data. This data shows the figures for 'on the night' rough sleeping in CoL, in which overnight counting shifts are conducted once a month to manually record the amount of people rough sleeping in the Square Mile.

As highlighted in a previous report to this Sub-Committee (Q3 Performance

Report), whilst overall rough sleeping numbers can fluctuate quarter to quarter, CoL street count and audit figures remain low, showing that these increases do not necessarily lead to a long-term cumulative increase for 'on the night' numbers. These snapshots of rough sleeping in CoL have shown large decreases since 2018.

The linear trend line for this data reflects a steady decrease, and this averaged decrease is very similar when compared to quarterly data from the same period.

4. March Street Audit Breakdown

There were 27 individual rough sleepers counted during the street audit conducted in March of this year. This slide shows a breakdown of different cohort and support designations assigned to the rough sleepers counted. Seven of those found on the night of the count were new to rough sleeping in CoL, and had previous and recent rough sleeping history in neighbouring boroughs. Twelve of the individuals had recently been offered accommodation by commissioned services prior to be counted at the street audit. These offers of accommodation will be continued to be offered to these individuals.

Two rough sleepers were known to have settled accommodation out of borough, though had still chosen to rough sleep. City Outreach continue to encourage and facilitate returns to client's accommodation. Two of those found also had recently abandoned or been asked to leave temporary accommodation offered to them.

Of the 27 individuals found, 11 of are designated as 'Unknown' on CHAIN. This cohort of clients were unwilling to engage with City Outreach and unwilling to share their name or details. Rough sleeping commissioned services are working currently to share intel with colleagues in neighbouring boroughs, City of London Police, and other statutory services, to help identify these clients so that they can best be supported away from the streets.

5. Unique Rough Sleepers – Last 6 months

This slide shows how many unique individuals were seen bedded down in CoL in each of the last six months. This illustrates the general decrease in rough sleeping between Q3 and Q4 of 2021/22, and that this fall in numbers has stabilised.

6. Assessment and Emergency Accommodation

As of 31st March 2022, CoL had 44 rough sleepers accommodated in some form of short-term assessment accommodation. The City Assessment Service (CAS), operating out of premises at Carter Lane during the pandemic, had finished the decanting of clients by this point, before being decommissioned, and these clients at this time were housed in a combination of hotels and temporary accommodation units. These clients were receiving in reach support from commissioned rough sleeping services such as City Outreach, the Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST), and City Navigators.

This slide shows a nationality breakdown of the clients accommodated on this date. Also included is a three month record of moves in and out of CoL rough sleeping assessment accommodation. 22 clients had come in off the street for an assessment period. Between 1/1/22 and 31/3/22, 13 clients had either abandoned their accommodation, or had their placements closed as they were not using their bedspace. 16 clients had moved onto to longer term accommodation, such as placements within CoL's supported pathway, or into Private Rented Sector accommodation. Four clients were reconnected to other Local Authorities and were made accommodation offers in areas in which they held a local connection.

Options

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

Proposals

8. There are no proposals arising from this paper.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. 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

In conclusion, there has been an overall decrease in rough sleeping in CoL since 2018. This is illustrated by the data provided on both quarterly unique rough sleepers recorded on CHAIN, and by the street count and audit data provided. Whilst total rough sleeping figures recorded for CoL can fluctuate quarter to quarter, when shown in perspective of the last four years, there is a steady downward trend across both recording metrics, as shown by their linear trend lines. There has been a relative increase in rough sleeping in CoL since the easing of 'Everyone In' during the Covid-19 pandemic, but numbers have not risen back to pre-pandemic levels. The most recent quarterly total for unique rough sleepers shows a decrease back to Q2 2021/22 levels.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Rough Sleeping Bulletin Data

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