

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	30/11/2022
<b>Subject:</b> Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant Funding 2022–2023 progress report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 2, 3, 4
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Clare Chamberlain, Interim Director of Community and Children’s Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Kirsty Lowe, Rough Sleeping Services Manager, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

### Summary

This progress report provides an update on the 16 Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) interventions that the City of London (CoL) agreed to deliver in 2022–2023. The CoL has been successful in commissioning and/or recruiting all but one intervention. The final RSI intervention is currently out for tender and will be mobilised before the end of the financial year.

All efforts have been made by CoL officers and partners to deliver the RSI work package as scheduled, however, due to delayed confirmation of funding – and, in turn, delayed implementation of services and roles – an underspend of £131,000 has occurred. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the CoL have recently agreed to repurpose the RSI underspend to enhance existing provision and deliver new work streams.

In October 2022 the DLUHC made available the ‘Additional Pressures Fund’ to select authority areas. The City has been awarded a further £133,680 to provide enhanced support to CoL clients over the winter.

## Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

## Main Report

### Background

1. The RSI is part of the Government's ongoing Rough Sleeping Strategy which sets out the vision to end rough sleeping by the end of the current Parliament.
2. 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.
3. On 25 February 2022, CoL officers submitted the 2022–2025 RSI proposal totalling £3,709,566 with the aim to reduce the annual street count figure in November 2022 to lower than 20.
4. On 19 May 2022, the DLUHC notified the CoL that it would receive a total of £3,986,399 RSI funds from April 2022 to March 2025 – the CoL's largest RSI allocation to date.
5. In the July Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, the *Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant Funding 2022–2025* report presented that nine of the 16 2022–2023 RSI interventions were already being delivered, leaving a further seven that needed to be commissioned or recruited.
6. On 7 October 2022, DLUHC notified that the CoL had been selected as part of a small, targeted group of local authorities that may be facing additional pressures based on the analysis of monthly submitted rough sleeping data. The DLUHC stated that the Additional Pressures Fund (APF) will be made available to assist with the reduction of CoL rough sleeping figures and should include:
  - off-the-streets self-contained accommodation
  - specific interventions for entrenched rough sleepers to secure housing
  - move-on accommodation to free up off-the-streets accommodation.
7. On 28 October 2022, the CoL submitted a repurposing proposal for RSI 2022–2023 and an APF request to the DLUHC for approval. The repurposing of the CoL's 2022–2023 RSI grant totalled £131,000 and the APF totalled £133,680.

## Current Position

8. For RSI 2022–2023, the CoL set out to fund 16 separate interventions provided by a minimum of eight organisations.
9. The table below shows this year's 16 RSI interventions and their stage of delivery at 9 November 2022. The table also sets out each intervention start date and any forecasted underspend or overspend at the end of this financial year. The underspend and overspend is presented as a percentage of the total annual allocated for each intervention.

	<b>2022–2023 Intervention</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>EOY balance (% of annual amount - underspend/ +overspend)</b>
1	<b>Lead Outreach Worker</b>	Thames Reach	Delivering	01/04/2022	0
2	<b>Outreach Senior Practitioner</b>		Delivering	01/04/2022	0
3	<b>Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST)</b>		Delivering	01/09/2022	0
4	<b>EU Accommodation &amp; Reconnection</b>	Caritas	Delivering	01/04/2022	+23%
5	<b>CoL/London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) Navigator Project</b>	St Mungo's	Delivering	01/04/2022	0
6	<b>The Lodge</b>		Delivering	01/04/2022	0
7	<b>Flexible Surge Accommodation</b>	Various providers	Delivering	01/04/2022	+50%
8	<b>Co-production</b>	Groundswell	Delivering	26/09/2022	0
9	<b>Tri-borough Psychotherapy Service</b>	Providence Row Charity	Delivering	01/08/2022	-33%
10	<b>Reflective Practice</b>	Consultant	Delivering	01/04/2022	0
11	<b>ASC Support Worker</b>	CoL	Soon to start	19/12/2022	-50%
12	<b>ASC Personalisation Budget</b>		Delivering	01/04/2022	0
13	<b>Health Co-ordinator</b>		Soon to start	14/11/2022	-33%
14	<b>Commissioning Officer</b>		Delivering	30/08/2022	0
15	<b>Employment &amp; Progression Service</b>	Unknown	Out to tender	TBC	-50%
16	<b>Private Rented Scheme Framework</b>	Various providers	Delivering	01/04/2022	-100%

10. The table shows that five interventions will have an underspend and two interventions will be overspent by the end of the financial year.

11. The reasons for the underspend or overspend are as follows for the intervention number (shown in brackets):

- (4) Prior to issuing the extended contract, CoL officers had negotiated better support rates with the provider where, for a slight overspend of the budget, an additional bedspace was commandeered.
- (7) The budget for this intervention was small due to the predicted need being smaller earlier this year. At the point of submission, the permanent City Assessment Centre was scheduled to open before the winter and so it was predicted that 'on the night' hotel accommodation reliance would reduce.
- (9) Overall procurement of the larger tri-borough service took longer than planned, resulting in a delayed start date.
- (11+13) Due to delays in the recruitment process and the appointed person's notice period.
- (15) Due to procurement delays, the service has yet to be awarded and has resulted in an underspend.
- (16) Pressures being experienced across the private rented sector (PRS), combined with cost-of-living reporting, has dissuaded referrers to recommend private tenancies for their clients. The PRS remains a viable option for lower-support clients. It is unlikely that an additional five placements will be made by the end of the financial year.

12. The DLUHC approved the CoL's request to repurpose the £131,000 underspend to be spent before 31 March 2022 in the following way:

	<b>2022–2023 Repurposing</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Stage</b>
1	<b>Pathway liaison officer</b>	CoL	Recruitment
2	<b>Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST) surge accommodation</b>	Thames Reach	Delivering
3	<b>MIST additional staffing costs</b>		Delivering
4	<b>EU accommodation</b>	Caritas	Delivering
5	<b>Flexible surge accommodation</b>	various providers	Delivering

### 13. Pathway Liaison Officer

The CoL will recruit an additional Pathway Liaison Officer (PLO) on a fixed-term basis to join the CoL Rough Sleeping Team. The PLO will work alongside commissioned services to ensure that clients move from the streets into temporary and emergency accommodation efficiently. The focus of this

post will be to maintain systems and assist with communication between CoL and various partners. To ensure that movement in and out of hotel accommodation is tracked, that movement from City Inn Express and temporary accommodation into the CoL accommodation pathway is timely and seamless. The post holder will also ensure that housing benefit claims are set up, and credible service offers are developed.

**14. Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST) Surge Accommodation**

Thames Reach MIST will book and manage short-term emergency accommodation stays, usually through hotels and B&Bs. There are a number of individuals who remain at the City Inn Express awaiting their move to Grange Road and other longer-term placements, which has created limited capacity for the service to receive those new to rough sleeping in the CoL. Therefore, this accommodation can provide some much-needed extra capacity.

**15. MIST Additional Staffing Costs**

While we increase the number of people being accommodated in emergency and temporary accommodation, it is vital that we enhance the in-reach support from MIST.

**16. European Union (EU) Accommodation**

There are three EU beds at Anchor House hostel, a Caritas-supported setting based in Newham. This intervention is a continuation of previous years for EU City clients with unknown immigration status who are supported to gain pre/settled status and take steps to return to work and independent living, or to be reconnected to their country of origin.

**17. Flexible Surge Accommodation**

Funds will afford the City more flexibility when offering ‘on the night’ offers of emergency accommodation, including Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) accommodation, and resources.

18. The DLUHC approved CoL’s APF request of £133,680 to be spent before 31 March 2022 in the following way:

	<b>2022–2023 APF</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Stage</b>
1	<b>Women’s Safe Accommodation</b>	TBC	Tender/Award
2	<b>Bridge Hotel beds</b>	Housing Action Management	Delivering

**19. Women’s Safe Accommodation**

CoL’s aim is to pilot a five- or six-bed gender-specific, women-only safe accommodation in a nearby borough. If successful, this will be the City’s first women-only homeless commissioned service to date. This accommodation will be for women who have approached CoL due to their experience of domestic abuse and their need for safe accommodation. This accommodation will also be available to women who have a history of rough sleeping in the City, many of whom have also experienced domestic abuse.

## **20. Bridge Hotel**

APF will enable CoL to extend and expand the block-booked arrangement with Housing Action Management (HAM) for six to 12 self-contained rooms for those with low to medium support needs.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

- 21. Finance – N/A
- 22. Resource implications – N/A
- 23. Legal implications – N/A
- 24. Risk implications – N/A
- 25. Equalities implications – N/A
- 26. Climate implications – N/A
- 27. Security implications – N/A

## **Conclusion**

28. CoL officers have successfully managed the expenditure and delivery of the RSI 2022–2023 grant by being on track to deliver the original 16 interventions by the end of the financial year. Work was also carried out to identify an underspend, which will be repurposed before March 2023. Also, CoL officers and partners will be delivering more support services to the CoL rough sleeping population thanks to an additional grant funding made available by the DLUHC.

## **Background Papers**

29. This report follows on from the *Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant Funding 2021/22* and the *Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant Funding 2022–2025* previously presented at the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

## **Appendices**

- None.

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