

Committee:	Dated:
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	26/04/2023
Subject: Annual SWEP Report 2022/2023	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: Clare Chamberlain, Interim Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
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Summary

This report presents narrative and analysis on the City of London's (COL) provision and outcomes in relation to its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) 2022/2023. It also includes references to previous years SWEP activations.

This report shows the significant increase in the number of nights in which SWEP was active during the winter of 2022/2023 compared to the previous year, and the significant increase in the number of individuals who accepted SWEP accommodation. There were 53 acceptances of SWEP offers by 50 unique individuals (three clients accepted twice across the SWEP season). This success is over double the achievement of the two financial years prior, when 21 individuals accepted SWEP each year. This report also notes that 79% of SWEP stays resulted in further accommodation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. SWEP aims to prevent loss of life during periods of extreme and freezing weather in the City of London (CoL).
2. SWEP is both a local protocol, with CoL-specific guidance and procedures; it is also a Greater London Authority (GLA) protocol. This is reflected in two main ways:

- SWEP Accommodation: GLA has Pan-London SWEP provision, though local authorities will also provide their own local provision. The expectation is that, under

normal circumstances, local authorities will exhaust their own accommodation before utilising the GLA Pan-London offer, though there are exceptions based on the client's needs.

- SWEP Activation: The GLA will activate SWEP when any part of the capital is forecast to be 0 degrees or lower overnight. CoL can activate its own SWEP protocol independent of GLA activation, but the scenarios where this would occur are rare.

- Once SWEP has been activated by the GLA and CoL officers, Thames Reach City Outreach team target all rough sleepers in the CoL to make an offer of accommodation. Accommodation offers consist of extra temporary beds in CoL-commissioned supported hostels, hotel accommodation, assessment centre beds, and temporary accommodation studio units.

Current Position

4. Provision

The local SWEP accommodation provision available for City Outreach consisted of a range of different accommodation projects within the CoL Pathway. This provided a varied set of offers for frontline services to deliver a person-centred approach and appropriate placement.

- This ranged from extra spaces at the CoL's 24-hour staffed support hostels, spaces in the new high-support accommodation, Grange Road, hotel bookings, and GLA provided Pan-London SWEP accommodation.
- Once clients accessed accommodation via SWEP bedspaces, they were assessed by the City Outreach Service and supported to enter the CoL accommodation pathway if eligible for services. This ensured availability within the local SWEP provision throughout the activation periods.
- The 'In for Good' principle dictates that local authorities operating under the GLA SWEP protocol should aim to retain all rough sleepers placed into accommodation during SWEP periods until there is a support plan in place to end their rough sleeping. This was adhered to by the CoL.

8. Activity

The following table shows the total amount of nights in Q3 and Q4 2022/2023 that were active under SWEP protocol:

2022/2023	
SWEP activation - deactivation	Nights
07/12/2022 - 20/12/2022	13
13/01/2023 - 25/01/2023	12
27/01/2023 - 30/01/2023	3
06/02/2023 - 08/02/2023	2
07/03/2023 - 08/03/2023	1
10/03/2023 - 13/03/2023	3
Total Nights	34

The number of nights that SWEP was active in 2022/2023 was significantly different to the previous year. The following table shows the total number of active SWEP in comparison to the two previous financial years:

SWEP Period	Frequency of Activation	Total Nights
2020/2021	8	42
2021/2022	8	15
2022/2023	6	34

During 2022/2023 there was two extended SWEP periods both of nearly two weeks. These were much longer than the average activation. These activations allowed for a longer duration of case working with clients who may be reluctant to accept accommodation, rather than the offer of SWEP accommodation being a unique opportunity on one night.

9. The following table shows the number of clients who accepted SWEP in each period of activation:

SWEP Period	Dates	Total Clients Accepting SWEP
1	07/12/2022 - 20/12/2022	30
2	13/01/2023 - 25/01/2023	14
3	27/01/2023 - 30/01/2023	1
4	06/02/2023 - 08/02/2023	1
5	07/03/2023 - 08/03/2023	3
6	10/03/2023 - 13/03/2023	4

10. The table above shows that the first two period of SWEP activation were highly successful, with very high levels of acceptance of SWEP. Weather at this time was forecasted as snow and ice, and this could be a significant factor related to the high frequency of client accepting SWEP accommodation.

11. Length of SWEP stay

The following table displays the length of time clients stayed in their SWEP accommodation:

Length of SWEP Stay (Nights)	Frequency of clients
1	4
2	3
3	3
4	2
5	1
6-10	18
11+	15
Not recorded on CHAIN	7

Most stays surpassed six nights, and only four clients stayed a single night in SWEP accommodation. Further analysis of the four clients who spent one night in SWEP accommodation found that one client moved into CIE, one client went into Crisis at

Christmas accommodation, and two clients abandoned the SWEP placement.

12. Move on:

The following table shows the destination on departure from SWEP accommodation:

Row Labels	Count of Move on
Adult Social Care – Hotel provision	1
Bridge Hotel (temporary accommodation)	2
City Inn Express	7
Crimscott Street	1
Crisis at Christmas	8
Detox	1
Grange Road	10
Hospital	1
No Second Night Out	1
Reconnection	3
Return to Rough Sleeping - Abandoned	9
Return to Rough Sleeping - Evicted	2
Supported Accommodation – Out of Borough	4
Temporary Accommodation	2
Unknown	1
Grand Total	53

13. The table shows that there was a broad range of accommodation solutions utilised post-SWEP. Of the 53 accommodation stays of 50 unique individuals, 42 (79%) concluded with accommodation being retained. Analysis shows that 11 (21%) of the 53 accommodation stays resulted in abandonment or eviction. Individuals who abandon accommodation or are evicted continue to be supported by outreach service from the street, and they would continue to be offered SWEP accommodation while SWEP is activated.

14. The most common accommodation solution in the cohort was access to the CoL Pathway. This includes Grange Road (10/53 SWEP stays), City Inn Express (7/53 SWEP stays) and temporary accommodation (including Bridge hotel, 4/53 SWEP stays). Of the 53 SWEP stays, 39% were concluded with access to accommodation provided by the CoL. Alternate resolutions were also sourced, including referrals to Crisis at Christmas (8/53 SWEP stays) and supported accommodation out of borough (4/53 SWEP stays).

15. The successful outcomes demonstrate that across Q3 and Q4 2022/2023, SWEP protocol enabled access to accommodation for 50 individuals in CoL across 53 accommodation stays, which was over double the success rate of both 2020/2021 and 2021/2022, where 21 individuals each year accessed accommodation via SWEP.

16. Demographics

The following table displays the amount of the clients who accepted SWEP offers, across genders:

Gender	Frequency
Female	7
Male	43
Non-binary	0
Grand Total	50

The analysis shows 14% of clients who accepted SWEP identified as female, which is in-line with national and London proportions of gender demographics.

17. The following table displays the different immigration status of clients who accepted SWEP offers:

Row Labels	Count of Immigration status
EEA - No status	4
EEA - Not known	3
EEA - Pre-settled	4
EEA - Settled	1
EU - Irish	1
Indefinite leave to remain	2
Non-UK - No status	1
Not Known	3
UK National	29
Grand Total	50

The varying immigration status shown above can be analysed to see the proportion of individuals who are eligible to public funds. Access to public funds can determine possible move on options. During the assessment period, clients are referred to relevant specialist immigration support services such as Praxis.

18. Support Needs

Clients who declined SWEP:

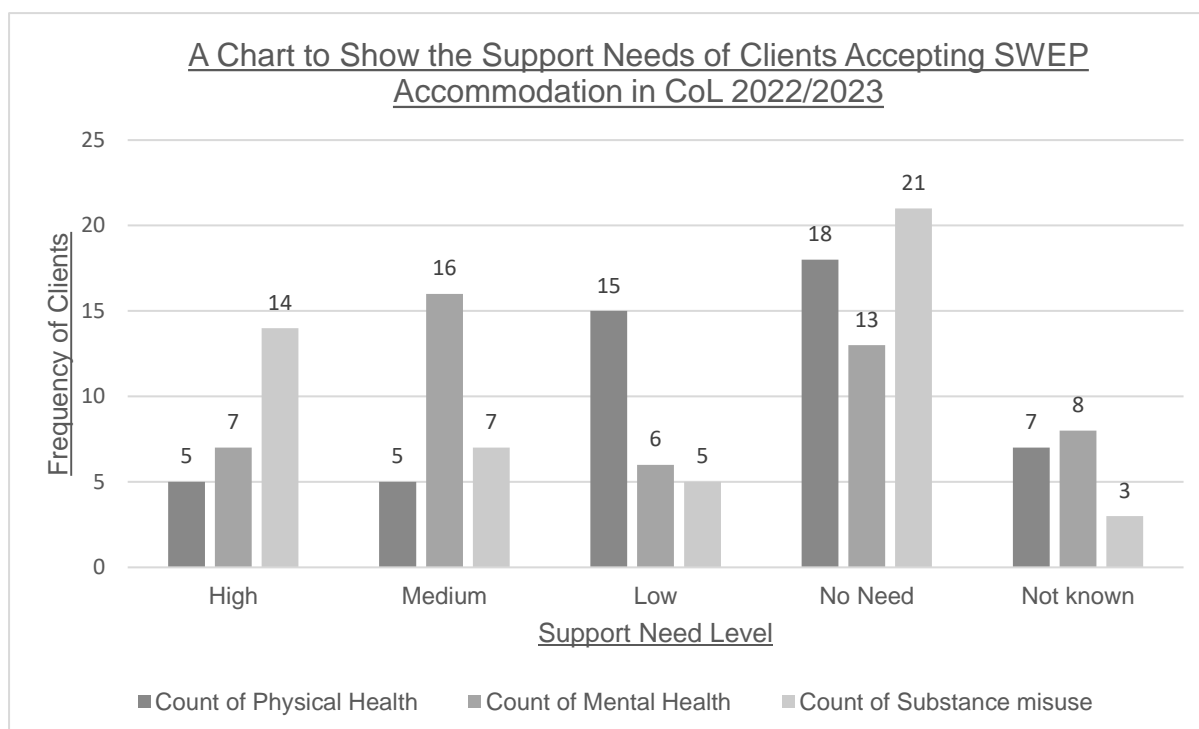
The following table shows the breakdown of the support needs of the 22 clients who repeatedly declined SWEP during the period.

Support needs of Individuals who declined SWEP	Count
Alcohol Only	0
Other Substances Only	1
Mental Health Only	9
Substances & Mental Health	3
Alcohol & Mental Health	1
Alcohol, Substances, & Mental Health	1
Alcohol, Substances, Mental Health & Physical Health	1
Mental Health & Physical Health	1
No support needs recorded	5
Grand total	22

19. The data displays that 'mental health only' is the most common support need in individuals who decline offer of SWEP accommodation for the period 2022/23. This is consistent with previous years.

20. Clients who accepted SWEP:

The following chart displays the different levels of support needs reported by the clients accepting SWEP in CoL 2022/2023:



Notably, the most common 'high' level support need was substance misuse, and the most common 'medium' level support need was mental health.

Out of the 50 individuals who accepted SWEP accommodation; 25 had a level of physical health support need, 29 had a level of mental health support need, 25 had a level of substance misuse support need.

21. Information regarding support needs was collated utilising SWEP risk assessment forms combined with data already held on the Combined Homelessness and information Network (CHAIN). Once support needs were identified, relevant support services were contacted, and clients were supported to engage with them.

22. Support Provided

The support provided by City Outreach, with the support of City Mobile Intervention and Support Team (MIST) and City and Tower Hamlets Navigators, had the primary aim of linking clients in with relevant services whilst there was opportunity of the client being inside safe accommodation. This included but was not limited to; access to GP, application of benefit claims and referral to relevant accommodation providers.

Options

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

Proposals

24. There are no proposals arising from this paper.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. 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

26. The SWEP period during winter months of 2022/2023 was significantly busier than the previous year, with increased success of clients accepting accommodation offers. While SWEP was activated six times, two times less than the previous two years, the total number of days activated was 34, over double the financial year previous (2021/2022 total nights = 15).

A total of 50 rough sleepers accepted offers of SWEP accommodation during activation periods in 2022/2023, while 22 individuals declined the offer at some point over the winter months. Mental health needs are identified in this report as a significant challenge to supporting clients who decline SWEP offers.

The successes of the 2022/2023 SWEP period are highlighted with most clients remaining in accommodation after SWEP was de-activated. Clients accessed accommodation via the CoL including the new Grange Road hostel and City Inn Express Assessment Service.

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