

Committee(s): Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Dated: 03/07/2023
Subject: Hot Weather SWEP Update 2023	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 10
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 introduces Members to the Greater London Authority's Hot Weather Severe Weather emergency arrangements (H-SWEP) for Summer 2023. The report sets out why City of London (CoL) has developed a specific H-SWEP and included is a summary of CoL's proposed response to extreme hot weather for those who sleep rough in the square mile.

The City of London is currently finalising its Hot Weather Severe Weather Emergency Protocol for Summer 2023. The Greater London Authority's H-SWEP guidance is included as Appendix 1 and should be read alongside this report.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. Summer 2022 saw dangerously high temperatures in London putting those who sleep rough, and other vulnerable groups, at risk of poor health outcomes or even death. We can expect to see an increase in regular periods of extreme hot weather due to climate change.

2. Those who sleep rough are at a very high risk of poor health outcomes, or even death, during extreme hot weather. Government guidance - 'Supporting vulnerable people before and during hot weather: people homeless and sleeping rough'¹ states that people sleeping rough are more at risk from hot weather because:
 - they are more likely to be exposed to heat
 - they are likely to be more vulnerable to the effect of heat due underlying health conditions
 - they may be less able to take preventative steps for a variety of reasons, especially as a result of social exclusion
3. For Summer 2023, the Greater London Authority (GLA) has issued official H-SWEP guidance for London Local Authorities and the City of London.
4. The H-SWEP guidance uses the Heat Health Alerts, issued by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), that alert to what the impact the heat could have. There are four alert levels:
 - Green: When there is expected to be minimal impact on health (and no alert will be issued)
 - Yellow: When people who are more vulnerable may struggle to cope. This may be issued when temperatures are forecast to reach 30 °C for a couple of days
 - Amber: When the impact from the heat is likely to be felt across the whole population. This may be triggered when temperatures are forecast to approach 32°C
 - Red: When there is significant risk to life, for the whole population.
5. Under this new guidance, GLA will now activate H-SWEP when UKHSA issues an Amber or Red heat alert for London.
6. During periods of Yellow alert, the GLA will circulate an email notifying that local authorities should be taking appropriate action, but this will not be formal notification that H-SWEP is activated for London.
7. GLA will then notify when H-SWEP is deactivated, or the Yellow alert has come to an end.
8. Please note that the forecast temperature is a considerable factor of the Heat Health Alert level issued, but several elements are considered together. This means the alert level set by the UKHSA may be lower or higher than what the forecast temperatures indicates it could be.
9. The H-SWEP guidance states that the London's response will be reflective of the alert level issued, to ensure services respond appropriately and proportionately to the different level of risk that comes with varying temperatures and conditions.

¹ [Supporting vulnerable people before and during hot weather: people homeless and sleeping rough - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/supporting-vulnerable-people-before-and-during-hot-weather-people-homeless-and-sleeping-rough)

10. As it is new guidance, it will be kept under review by the GLA throughout Summer 2023

City of London H-SWEP Response

11. In response, CoL is developing new standalone H-SWEP guidance for the corporation and its commissioned providers. This is to ensure there is a distinct service offer to keep rough sleepers safe and protected when Yellow, Amber and Red Heat Health Alerts are in place.

12. This guidance builds upon what has already been in place since 2022 in City of London when hot weather arrangements was an appendix to the winter SWEP.

13. The protocol will focus on daytime interventions when the temperatures, and risk, are highest. To reduce risk to health, the protocol focuses on three main areas:

- Effectively utilising a hot weather assessment tool to identify those most at risk during hot weather.
- Providing effective day time coverage providing practical advice, guidance and support to keep cool.
- The provision of daytime 'cool spaces' when the alert level reaches Amber or Red

14. We have developed a Hot Weather Assessment Tool specifically designed to assist CoL's Outreach team in evaluating risk factors associated with extreme heat in the context of rough sleeping and its related complexities. The identification of these risk factors and their impact has been informed by peer-reviewed research, including 'Hot Weather and Heat Extremes: Health Risks'² and government guidance 'Supporting Vulnerable People Before and During Hot Weather: People Homeless and Sleeping Rough'.³

15. The tool results in a score that can then be used to determine those at highest risk from heat related health complications, and resources are prioritised accordingly.

16. CoL's H-SWEP can be summarised as follows:

Alert Level	CoL's H-SWEP response
Green	No specific provision
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased daytime targeted coverage• Water and suncream provision

² [Hot weather and heat extremes: health risks - The Lancet](#)

³ [Supporting vulnerable people before and during hot weather: people homeless and sleeping rough - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and advice of keeping cool and out of the sun • Signposted to existing open access spaces to keep cool
Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Accommodation offer for those at increased risk of poor health outcomes caused by hot weather • Cool space daytime provision at Providence Row Day Centre
Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • At this level there may be an impact on support services, infrastructure etc, and this will need to be considered on a case by case basis

17. CoL's H-SWEP provision align with the GLA's Pan-London response. During periods of Amber and Red activation, the GLA will also use any available bedspaces in its pan-London supported accommodation and hubs as 'overflow' emergency accommodation, should local provision not be able to meet demand.

18. We are currently in the process of confirming CoL's cool space daytime provision at Providence Row Charity. Providence Row Charity is a homeless day centre and support provider on Wentworth Street, London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Critically it is a safe, air-conditioned, and appropriate space that many clients are already familiar with.

19. CoL plans to fund an additional daytime staff member to be based at Providence Row Charity during weekdays of Amber and Red H-SWEP activations to support additional demand placed on the service from CoL's rough sleepers.

20. To ensure a 7-day service, during weekends when the centre is usually closed, we are working with London Borough of Tower Hamlets to jointly fund a day time provision on Saturday and Sunday during Amber and Red activations.

21. For accommodation, voids in City Inn Express will be utilised first, and then hotel bookings will be made.

Options

22. There are no additional options arising from this report.

Proposals

23. There are no proposals arising from this report.

Key Data

24. There is no key data arising from this report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications – N/A

Resource implications – N/A

Legal implications – N/A

Risk implications – N/A

Equalities implications – N/A

Climate implications – H-SWEP is in response to the increase in extreme weather conditions caused by climate change. To reduce the risk of poor health outcomes and even death for the rough sleeping population, additional resources such as air conditioning will need to be utilised. We acknowledge that these are a contributing factor to the climate emergency, but not doing so could directly lead to hospitalisation or even loss of life for an individual.

Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

25. The City of London's Hot Weather Severe Weather Emergency Protocol is being developed to provide guidance to the City of London Corporation and its commissioned services when responding to hot weather throughout Summer 2023

26. Amber and Red H-SWEP for Summer 2023 will now be activated and deactivated for London by the GLA, instead of locally as it has been in previous years. An alert will be circulated during periods of Yellow heat alerts. This brings it closer in line to how Severe Weather Emergency Protocol operates over the winter months.

27. In line with Pan-London guidance, CoL H-SWEP provision will be appropriate and proportionate to the risk from the hot weather, and will be tiered depending on UKHSA's Heat Health alert level (Green to Red)

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Hot Weather Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (H-SWEP): Guidance and activation procedure for London (2023) (GLA)

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