

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Dated: 04/03/2024
Subject: Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot 2022 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?	N
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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Report author: Rowan Wyllie, Rough Sleeping Coordinator, Department of Community and Children's Services	

Summary

This report presents local data analysis of the recent 2023 Annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot. The City of London (CoL) found 61 individuals sleeping rough in the Square Mile on the night of 28 November 2023. This is a 41% increase on the 43 individuals seen on the snapshot count in 2022. This report provides an overview of previous snapshot counts and audit shifts, showing an overall upward trend from the previous snapshot count in November 2022.

All local authority snapshot intelligence remains embargoed and so comparative data is limited. Analysis of this report is made between previous snapshot data in the City and reflects on upwards trends across the current financial year.

This report references the following priority areas from the 2024-27 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy:

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective & tailored interventions

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. It has been a requirement of all local authorities in England since 2010 to conduct an annual Rough Sleeping Snapshot. The total number of people sleeping rough in their locality on a 'typical night' is recorded. This activity is conducted in the autumn of each year between 1 October and 30 November. The recording of this single-night figure is submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
2. The purpose of a Rough Sleeping Snapshot in a local authority area is to:
 - estimate the number of people sleeping rough on a single night in autumn
 - assess changes in the number of people sleeping rough over time
 - compare local authorities and regions in England
 - understand some basic characteristics about people who sleep rough.
3. The methodology of the Rough Sleeping Snapshot is regulated by an external adjudicator, Homeless Link. As an organisation, they provide guidance and oversight to each local authority to ensure accountability and transparency in the conduct of officers and the recording of data. The methodology of the shift must follow Homeless Link's guidelines, and the data submitted must be verified by a representative of the organisation before submitting formally to DLUHC.
4. For the purposes of a Rough Sleeping Snapshot, the official definition of 'people sleeping rough' is:

'People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes' which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). The definition does not include people in hostels or shelters, people in campsites or other sites used for recreational purposes or organised protest, squatters or travellers.

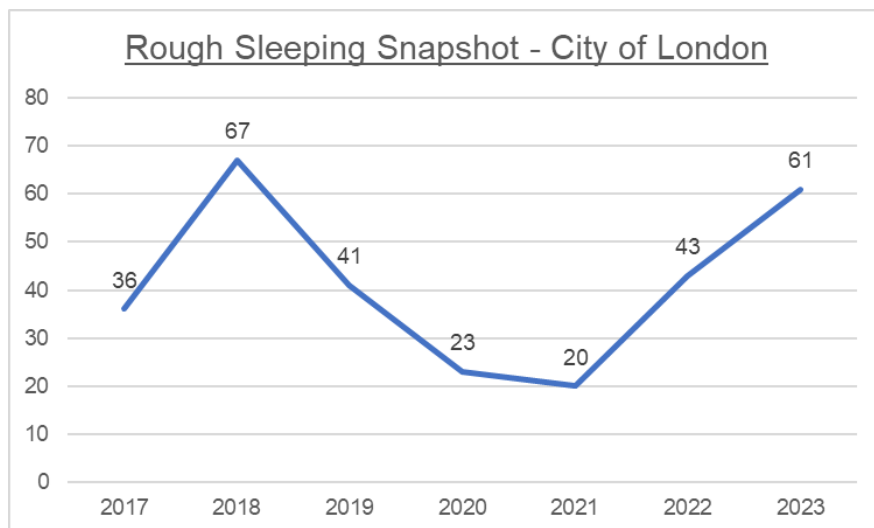
Bedded down is taken to mean either lying down or sleeping.

About to bed down includes those who are sitting in/on or near a sleeping bag or other bedding'¹
5. A Rough Sleeping Snapshot is conducted by local authorities in conjunction with local commissioned and non-commissioned services, such as Outreach teams, police, health services, faith sector representatives, and voluntary services.

Current Position

¹ Homeless Link. *Rough Sleeping Snapshot Estimates: A guide for local authorities* (2023, p. 6)

6. The City Rough Sleeping Snapshot took place on the evening of Tuesday 28 November 2023 and carried on into the early hours of Wednesday 29 November 2023. This date was chosen to align with CoL's five neighbouring boroughs: the same date was chosen to minimise risk of data duplication.
7. The method and approach taken to complete the 2023 Snapshot was a 'count-based estimate'. This is one of the three official options of count-style that Homeless Link approve of. The count-based estimate was chosen as it best suits the characteristics of the Square Mile and is most likely to produce an accurate figure. This count-style was also used in 2022.
8. On the night, there were seven teams of either two or three professionals, covering each ward, and every road was walked down within the Square Mile. A total of 18 professionals were involved in the Snapshot shift, including two 'independent partners' to ensure accountability in data recording, in line with the requirements of Homeless Link's code of practice.
9. Attendees included CoL officers, CoL's elected member, City Outreach, City/London Borough Tower Hamlets Navigators, CoL Police, CoL Rough Sleeping Drug & Alcohol Team Grant, Supporting Transition & Empowering People Service, NHS staff, London Councils, and a Homelessness Link invigilator.
10. A total of 61 individuals were recorded as bedded down between the hours of 00:00am – 03:00am, a figure verified by Homeless Link the following week.
11. The graph below shows the CoL Rough Sleeping Snapshot trends from 2017 to 2022. 2023 is the second year of upward trend in CoL Snapshot figure.



12. Demographic information of the 61 individuals met on the 2023 count are as follows:

Gender	
Women	4
Men	50
Not known / prefer not to disclose	7
Age	
Under-18 (add further detail below)	0
18-25	0
26-40	14
Over 40	26
Not known / prefer not to disclose	21
Nationality	
UK national	24
EU national (excluding UK)	11
Non-EU national	8
Not known / prefer not to disclose	18

13. The above chart displays the information that was either already known about the individuals seen rough sleeping during the count, or the person was awake to disclose the information. If the person was asleep, it was recommended best practice to not wake them up in an attempt to gather this information. This is the cause of the high proportion of 'not known/prefer not to disclose'.

14. Further analysis found that 37 of the 61 clients seen on the night of the count were known to services and seen 'bedded down' by the City Outreach Team in the 30 days prior to the count. On the night: 17 people were new to City of London on the night; four clients had accommodation open to them at the time of being counted; and 17 clients did not provide any identifying information such as name or date of birth, therefore recorded as 'unknown' clients on Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN). At the point of writing this report, the following table shows the whereabouts, if known and the outcomes achieved in supporting the 61 individuals met on the count to date:

<u>Location of individual</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Assessment bedspaces (Staging Post, temporary accommodation, hotel)	5
Accommodated (medium to long term)	3
Hospital	1
Reconnection	3
Unknown location, not seen since count	19
Rough sleeping	30

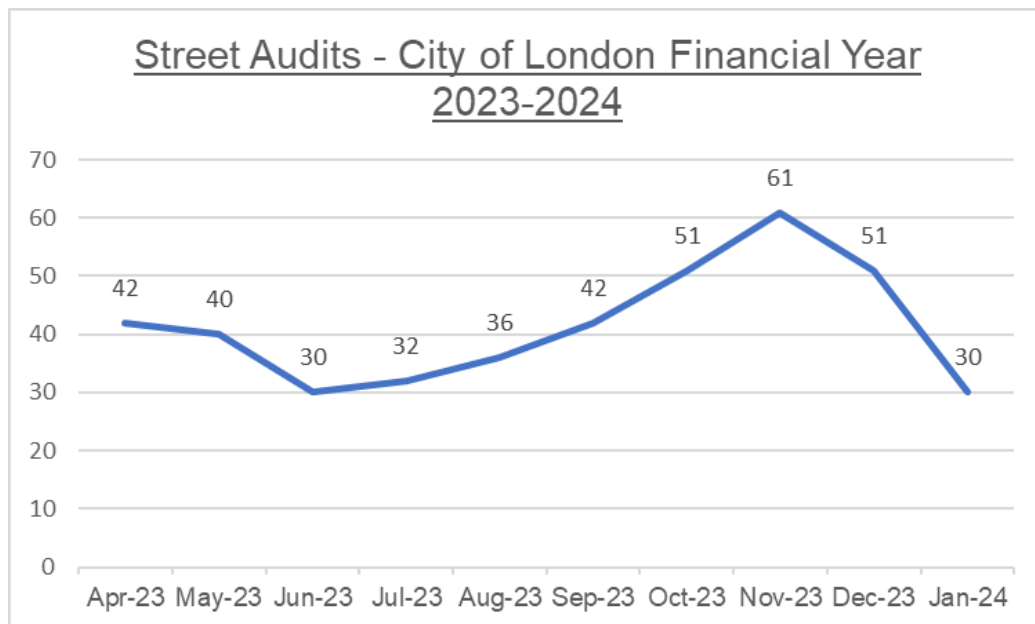
15. At the point of writing this report, national rough sleeping Snapshot data is embargoed and so it was not possible to present comparative data for England or Greater London

Monthly Street Audits

16. The number of people seen rough sleeping fluctuates from month to month as clients are accommodated and new rough sleepers are found. Street audits are conducted monthly to measure the changes and shifts in rough sleeping trends. As for the Annual Snapshot data, this information is also submitted to DLUHC for information and monitoring, but it is not published or released online.

17. CoL officers and the City Outreach team have been conducting monthly Street Audits since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. These night-time shifts are in place to emulate the process of a physical street count. The aim is to keep a regular record of a Snapshot figure, to inform CoL officers and City Outreach of likely 'on the night' figures at a given point during the year.

18. The graph below shows the monthly street audits of the current financial year 2023/24:



19. This chart illustrates the increase in rough sleeping across the financial year, and the annual Snapshot was the peak in rough sleeping this year so far.

20. The most recent dip in the number of those met on the audit shifts in December 2023 and January 2024 is thought to be due to the increased up-take of emergency accommodation across London when temperatures dropped, and Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) was activated with the aim of preserving life.

21. Currently (February 2024) there are a total of 42 individuals accommodated in emergency/temporary accommodation where support services are carrying out detailed needs assessments and identifying appropriate move-on options. By way of comparison, there were 29 individuals accommodated in emergency/temporary accommodation in November 2023.
22. CoL officers work with commissioned services to draw understanding from the monthly Street Audit data and seek resolutions to the rough sleeping cohort's homelessness, both within the CoL pathway and through collaboration with other providers.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

23. Financial – N/A
24. Resource implications – N/A
25. Legal implications – N/A
26. Risk implications – N/A
27. Equalities implications – N/A
28. Climate implications – N/A
29. Security implications – N/A

Conclusion

30. On the night of the Rough Sleeping Snapshot, 61 people were found in the City of London. The verified figure increased for the second consecutive year. Increase in rough sleeping figures has been seen across the financial year, and City of London has followed trends in line with London as a whole. On the night of the count, 61 individuals were found rough sleeping.
31. The figures for the monthly street audit have decreased in December 2023 and January 2024 following the Snapshot, after following a general upward trajectory from quarter 2 in 2023/24.

Appendices

- None

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