

Committee(s): Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee	Dated: 10/06/2024
Subject: Operation Luscombe Review	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	[insert relevant number(s) from Corporate Plan outcomes listed below]
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y/N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	Y/N
Report of: Judith Finlay – Executive Director – Community and Children’s Services	For Discussion
Report author: Simon Cribbens – Assistant Director, Community and Children’s Services	

Summary

This report shares a review undertaken of Operation Luscombe – an operation that seeks to reduce begging in the Square Mile. It recommends a changed approach given the limited impact of the current delivery model.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Consider and comment on the recommendations of the review

Main Report

Background

1. At the request of the Safer City Partnership, a review of Operation Luscombe has been undertaken. Operation Luscombe provides progressive and staged interventions aimed at reducing begging within the City of London.
2. The review is appended.
3. The current model combines an approach to deter begging through a ticketing system which can result in powers used to deter begging, and could – where such powers are breached – result in arrest. It includes a “Hub” – a space in

which welfare support services are made available, with the intention this will meet vulnerability and reduce rough sleeping and the underlying causes of begging.

4. The evidence demonstrates that a minority of those begging in the Square Mile are currently street homeless, and of those, a smaller proportion would be entitled to support from City services.
5. The review concludes that the current approach is not reducing begging, and that the Hub is not effective.
6. It also points out the wide and more effective range of delivery that targets those with support needs and vulnerabilities.

Proposals

7. The review proposes replacing the Hub, developing a strategy to reduce begging – including enforcement – and adjusting the support offered by the Clinical Welfare Van to increase its reach and impact.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications

8. The proposals – if adopted would require financing. It is suggested that both POCA funding and partnership with the City's BIDs offer a potential to meet this need.

Resource implications

9. As noted in the report.

Legal implications

10. None.

Risk implications

11. None.

Equalities implications

12. As noted in the report.

Climate implications

13. None.

Security implications

14. None.

Conclusion

15. Operation Luscombe has been a valuable project in driving a shared approach to begging and recognising the complexity of cause and response, and the role of many partners within that. However, it is not impacting as desired or an effective use of resources in its current form.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Operation Luscombe Review

Simon Cribbens

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