

<b>Meeting:</b> City of London Homeless and Rough Sleeper Sub Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	<b>Item no.</b> 4
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Police update on Rough sleeping and begging in the City		
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Inspector Nikki Gander		
<b>Document Classification:</b> Official		
<b>For Information/Decision:</b> Information		

**Op Luscombe** is a three-stage approach created not only to deal with begging but also assess vulnerability of people rough sleeping in the City by offering support at an intervention hub. This partnership hub takes place fortnightly at St Botolph’s Church Hub with Turning Point and Thames Reach/Out-Reach Team in attendance with CoLP and Parkguard. This approach is currently being reviewed by City of London Corporation. On average five people attend the Hub. This is also somewhere for people to get food and other support functions.

Tickets issued since April 2024

20 green tickets (Invitation to the hub)

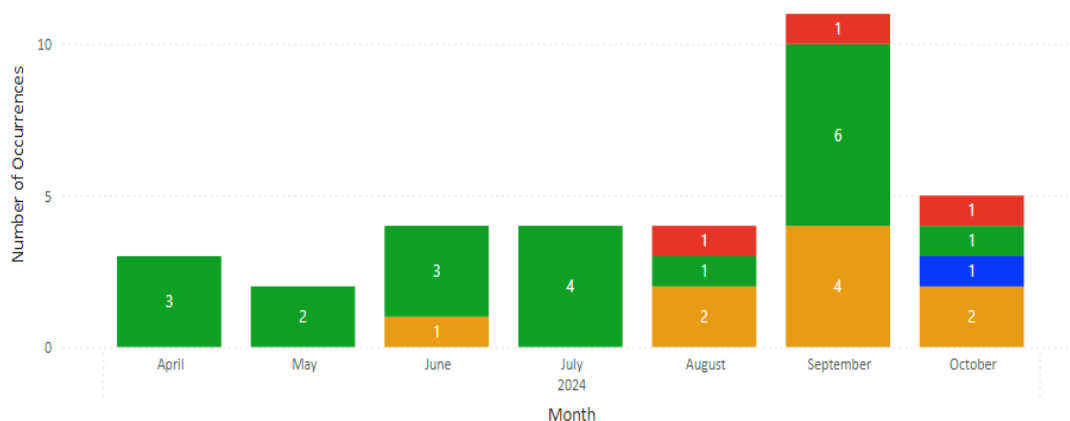
9 amber tickets (Equivalent of a Community Protection Warning)

3 red tickets (Equivalent of a Community Protection Notice)

1 blue tickets (Reported for begging offence)

Op Luscombe Tickets Issued

Ticket Issued ● Amber ● Blue ● Green ● Red



Currently only one CBO has been issued by the court and the individual has not been seen in the City since. We are currently processing a further CBO application for continued begging despite all warnings/referrals being given. Awaiting update from the officer in the case – but I have asked for court details to ensure this Sub-committee are aware.

Hub attendance has been mixed, with some days being low, but others being really busy. This is still essential to ensuring a welfare and diversion approach to begging prior to any enforcement activity.

Proactive Op Luscombe days are in place for some days when the hub is operating. This is advantageous as enables those given a ticket for begging the opportunity to obtain immediate support from the hub.

The following dates are in place for Op Luscombe activity.

- 20/11/2024
- 4/12/2024
- 18/12/2024
- 15/1/2025
- 29/1/2025

And every two weeks until April 2025

### **Rough-Sleeping / Tented encampments – Update**

In the last 6 months, Community MARAC Referrals have been made regarding tented encampments at Peninsular house and Castle Baynard Street. This has led to a “Welfare and diversion first” partnership approach between Corporation, Outreach provision and Police.

This in turn has identified a need for a joint policy/approach to tackling the negative impacts of rough-sleeping – ongoing work being led by Simon Cribbens supported by CI Nikki Gander.

The local Ward officers regularly patrol and engage in these areas. There have been joint approaches with police and corporation regarding ASB issues in the area which when conducted in Peninsular House drastically reduced ASB being reported.

An incident at Castle Baynard Street in September (non-fatal stabbing) led to the temporary housing of all rough sleepers at the site due to the crime scene in place. Some later returned, with a key issue being that many have no Recourse to public funding. CoL and CoLP reviewed the risk of leaving empty/abandoned tents in situ and agreed a low-level joint operation to remove abandoned tents and provide a cleanse in the area. This also provided a further opportunity for all those present to engage with outreach services and receive support. Positive feedback from all parties. There has been a slight increase in new tents since. Engagement and policy work ongoing along with regular partnership engagement enabling bespoke response to changing situation.

Due to the ongoing and challenging nature of the issues around rough-sleeping and tented encampments it has been agreed within the CCM to create a specific partnership team, using the SARA model to focus on identifying appropriate solutions, engagements, processes to ensure a balanced, risk assessed approach.

**Snow Hill Assessment Centre Engagement** – Ongoing engagement with management, staff, neighbours and church. Continued joint work to address any issues and identify solutions to any problems.