

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> Homelessness and Rough Sleeping – For Information	<b>Dated:</b> 09/12/2024
<b>Subject:</b> City of London Response to the Ministerial Letter on Rough Sleeping	<b>Public report:</b> For Information
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b></li> <li>• <b>provides statutory duties</b></li> </ul>	Providing Excellent Services Safeguarding Adults (Care Act 2015)
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	N/A
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Judith Finlay
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### Summary

In May 2024 ministerial letter was sent to Directors of Housing and Adult Social Care, and Safeguarding Adults Board Chairs, outlining recommendations for Safeguarding Adults Boards regarding individuals rough sleeping. The City of London (CoL) have reviewed the recommendations and provided a response to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB). The response provides assurance that a mature system is already in place to meet recommendations and additional measures being taken to strengthen it further. The independent chair of the CHSAB has expressed satisfaction and agreement with the CoL response.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to: Note the report.

# Main Report

## Background

1. On 20 May 2024, a ministerial letter was sent from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities jointly with the Department of Health and Social Care, to all Directors of Housing and Directors of Adult Social Services in England, and all Safeguarding Adults Board Chairs.
2. The letter, titled Recommendations for Safeguarding Adults Boards Regarding Individuals Rough Sleeping (Appendix 1), set out a series of recommendations to be considered by the statutory SAB in relation to,
  - Governance structure, accountability, and system-wide change.
  - Named board member for Rough Sleeping
  - Strategic plans, annual reports, and procedures
  - Safeguarding Adult Reviews
3. Following the ministerial letter the independent chair of City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board (CHSAB), Dr Ade Cooper, requested individual responses to the recommendations from both the City of London (CoL) and the London Borough of Hackney (LBH) to provide assurance to the board. A proforma was provided to enable consistently formatted responses from CoL, LBH and regionally.

## Current Position

4. The City of London response (Appendix 2), completed by the Assistant Director for People, Chris Pelham, who has responsibility for both Homelessness and Rough Sleeping and Adult Social Care, identifies that CoL has a mature system in place in relations to rough sleeping.
5. The CoL response was presented at the City of London Adults Safeguarding Board Sub-committee on September 3, 2024. As chair, Dr Ade Cooper formally noted that the subcommittee was happy with the CoL response.
6. The CHSAB has since forwarded the CoL response together with that of the LBH to the co-chair of the National Network of Adult Safeguarding Boards (SAB), Professor Michael Preston Shoot, who is collating regional responses.

## Overview of the City of London Response

7. The structure of the People directorate with the Assistant Director for People, being responsible for both ASC and HRS, representing CoL at the CHSAB, demonstrates an existing and long-standing representation of rough sleeping at board level.

8. In addition to the CHSAB there is a separate City of London Adults Safeguarding Board Sub Committee, attended by both the Assistant Director for People and the Head of Adult Social Care. The Head of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping has now been added to the core membership.
9. The CHSAB presents the Annual Report to all the key CoL Committees, including the Safeguarding Sub Committee, the Community and Children Services Committee, the Health and Well Being Board and the Safer City Partnership. Rough sleeping case studies have previously been included CHSAB Annual report and this will now become a standard addition with a section included for the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Service.
10. The Head of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping is already linked in with the Rough Sleeping Initiative Adviser role and will be able to utilise that established relationship to progress any future developments to support closer working between rough sleeping teams and Safeguarding Adults Boards.
11. The CoL Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Group have developed a process map to support identification, analysis, and decision making following the death of all rough sleepers in the CoL, including when a referral is triggered for a Safeguarding Adults Review to the CHSAB.
12. There is an existing commitment and pathway for Adult Social Care practitioners to engage in legal literacy training along with mandatory safeguarding training. This is also accessed by the Social Worker in the Homelessness and rough sleeping service.
13. CoL supports the approach to promote wider safeguarding and legal literacy in order to ensure there is professional understanding of how to work with people living on the streets. This will be reviewed by the CHSAB Training Sub Group.
14. CoL is already committed to Adult Social Care colleagues engaging in legal literacy training. We would support this approach in order to ensure there is professional understanding of how to work with people living on the streets within appropriate safeguarding and wellbeing legal and policy contexts. This will be reviewed by the CHSAB Training Sub Group.
15. The CoL Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Group have developed a process MAP (Appendix 3) to support the identification, analysis, assessment and, if applicable, referral for a SAR to the CHSAB following the death of all rough sleepers in the CoL

## **Options**

N/A

## Proposals

N/A

## Key Data

N/A

## Corporate & Strategic Implications

### Corporate Plan 2024-2029.

This links directly to **Providing Excellent Services**: Supporting people to live healthy, independent lives and achieve their ambitions is dependent on excellent services. Vital to that continued pursuit is enabling access to effective adult and children's social care, outstanding education, lifelong learning, quality housing, and combatting homelessness.

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Financial implications

None

Resource implications

None

Legal implications

Risk implications

Equalities implications –

The report provides a level of assurance around safeguarding work with individuals who rough sleep across all protected characteristics.

Climate implications - none

Security implications - none

## Conclusion

16. The City of London have reviewed the recommendations in the ministerial letter regarding individuals rough sleeping. Assurance has been provided to the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board that the CoL is able, from its perspective, to meet all recommendations, and the independent chair of the board has expressed satisfaction and agreement with the response.

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Recommendations for Safeguarding Adults Boards Regarding Individuals Rough Sleeping

Appendix 2 – CoL Response to SAB regarding Ministerial Letter

Appendix 3 – Process Map following the death of a Rough Sleeper

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