

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Dated: 03/02/2025
Subject: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027 Update Report	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024–2029 outcomes 	Links to Corporate Plan outcomes 1,2,3,4,10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	NA
What is the source of Funding?	NA
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	NA
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Summary

This report provides Members with a summary of progress against the aims set out in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027. Strategy delivery is administered through a Strategy Delivery Plan (SDP). The first part of the report offers members a high-level summary of SDP actions underway and completed. Appendix 4 provides Members with a summary of completed actions to date from the SDP.

The second part of the report provides Members with a commentary on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027 Performance Scorecard and Dashboard (Appendices 1 and 2).

This report references the following priorities from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027:

- Priority 1 – Providing rapid, effective and tailored interventions

- Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation
- Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership
- Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Background

1. This report provides Members with an update on our progress in meeting the objectives set out the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027. The update forms part of a regular reporting cycle to every Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee meeting.
2. At the June 2024 meeting of the Sub-Committee, Members were introduced to the metrics we will be using throughout the lifespan of the strategy and the formats that will be used to track and present progress.

Current Position

Service Delivery Plan (SDP) Update

	Priority 1 Providing rapid, effective and tailored interventions	Priority 2 Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation	Priority 3 Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership	Priority 4 Providing support beyond accommodation	Total
Not started	1	3	3	2	9
Risk	0	0	0	0	0
Underway – issues	1	0	0	0	1
Underway – no issues	6	5	8	3	22
Complete	4	2	6	3	15
Total	12	10	17	8	47

- There are currently 47 actions on the SDP.
- There are no new actions added in the period to date.
- 38 actions have commenced – the same as in the last period.
- 23 actions are currently live (underway with/without issues) – two fewer than the previous period.
- 15 actions are now completed – two more than the last period.

- No significant risks have been identified at this stage.

3. The actions completed in the period are:

- ✓ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Homelessness Advice and Support Team officers undertook a review of our statutory homelessness functions on 21 January 2025. A summary of their findings will be presented to Members at a future meeting (Priority 1).
- ✓ Advisory Groups facilitated by Groundswell and Platform and attended by participants with lived experience are underway on an every two month basis. Co-production champions have been established in our commissioned services to promote the principles of co-production (Priority 3).

Performance Scorecard and Dashboard Commentary

4. The Scorecard and presentation slide Dashboard can be found at Appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

Quarter 3 (Q3) Commentary

This section is designed to be read alongside the Performance Scorecard (Appendix 1).

Priority 1 – Providing rapid, effective and tailored interventions

- 1.1** This is the third successive increase in the number of statutory prevention and relief outcomes. The six recorded in Q3 increases the likelihood that we will match or exceed the number of outcomes for the year.
- 1.2** During the period, 332 individual rough sleepers were reported, a 30% increase on Q2 and the highest quarterly figure so far this year. The trend in rough sleepers recorded during the year continues to match annual City and Greater London data.
- 1.3** This is the third successive quarter that we have recorded a decrease in the number of 'T1000' priority rough sleeping cohort. The 17 recorded in Q3 is four fewer than Q2 and six fewer than Q1. This metric is trending down in 2024/25 in a similar way to 2023/24. Every year a new cohort is assigned to each local authority: 37 was starting figure in 2023/24. After last year's success we began 2024/25 with 23, therefore this year's progress is measured against the starting point of 23.
- 1.4** There were 84 accommodation outcomes achieved in the period. This includes Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) placements and there are typically higher values in Q3 and Q4.

Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation

2.1 The average length of stay in temporary accommodation increased from 373 days to 452 days in the period. A number of factors are contributing to this rise, both between the last two quarters and Q3 this period and the position in Q3 2023/24 when

the figure was 137 days. Demand on the City of London housing register means that of the 15 bidding cycles in the quarter, only 5 had properties available. The private rented sector remains unaffordable for many applicants resulting in a longer timeframe for officers to safely discharge duties. The numbers of households we have in statutory TA is still relatively low compared to other local authorities, this means a small number of applicants can skew the data quite quickly.

2.2 The number of supported accommodation beds at our disposal remained the same at 89, however, six more temporary accommodation rooms were secured through a block booking. These placements will be supported remotely by the Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST).

2.3 Three placements into the private rented sector were achieved, all through the Statutory Homelessness team. This is the highest quarterly value so far this FY.

Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership

3.1 There were 12 referrals received through the ‘Duty to Refer’ (S213B of the Housing Act 1996), which equals the highest value recorded on two occasions since Q1 2023/24. This will be driven by demand and communication efforts to drive awareness of the Duty to Refer function.

3.2 The number of individuals sleeping at high-impact rough sleeping sites and encampments (49) increased for the third successive quarter. This is driven by the continued presence of tented encampments at Castle Baynard Street and Peninsular House.

Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation

4.1 There were 21 rough sleepers with an assessed substance misuse need and were referred to a specialist organisation. This is the third consecutive quarter we have seen a decrease in this number. Officers continue to work with commissioned services to ensure that all eligible clients are being directed to treatment options.

4.2 The number of rough sleepers registered with a GP decreased slightly from 27% in Q2 to 24% in Q3 but remains mostly stable for the year to date. A clearer picture is beginning to emerge around the rate at which City rough sleepers are known to be registered. This value is confirmed registrations and does not take into account where the outreach team cannot confirm if someone is registered or not.

4.3 A total of 15 individuals across our rough sleeping and accommodated cohorts accessed some kind of structured employment, training or education offer. This is a decrease on Q2 but fairly consistent with data since Q1 2023/24.

Options

5. There are no options for Members to consider.

Proposals

6. There is no proposal for Members to consider.

Key Data

7. Metrics data can be found in Appendices 1 and 2.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. Financial implications – none

9. Resource implications – none

10. Legal implications – none

11. Risk implications – none

12. Equalities implications – none

13. Climate implications – none

14. Security implications – none

Conclusion

15. Two actions on the SDP were completed in the period. This brings the total of completed actions to 15. No new actions were added. A total of 23 further actions remain underway, and nine are yet to commence.

16. Rough sleeping numbers increased in the period after a small drop in Q2. Rough sleeping levels remain higher this year than at the same point last year.

17. The number of rough sleepers found at hotspots and tented encampments rose for the third successive quarter. However, we have seen success in working with long-term and complex needs clients with another decrease in the number of T1000 priority clients recorded rough sleeping.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Performance Scorecard (table)
- Appendix 2 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Performance Dashboard (charts)
- Appendix 4 – Strategy Delivery Plan Completed Actions

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