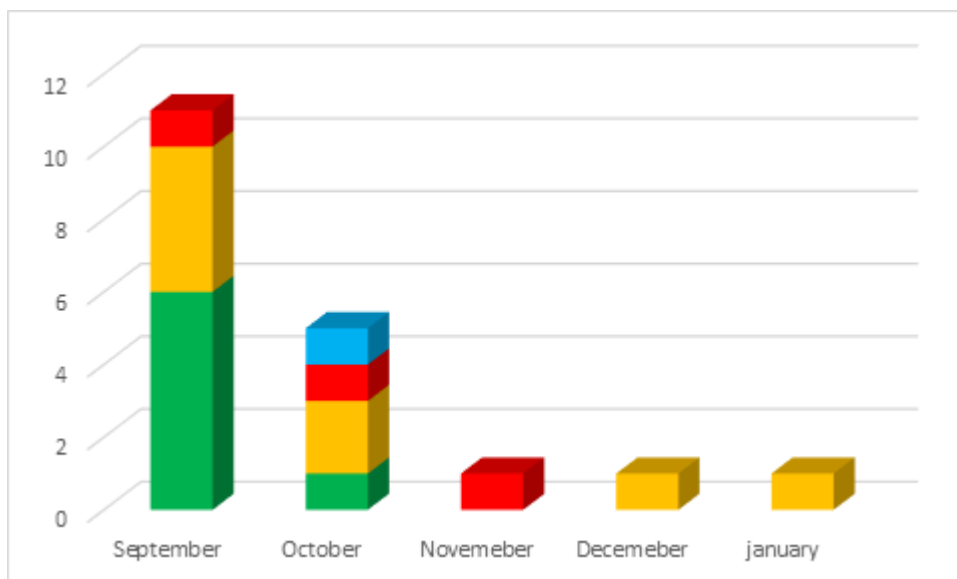


Meeting: City of London Homeless and Rough Sleeper Sub Committee	Date(s): 21 st January 2025	Item no. TBC
Subject: City of London Police update on Begging/rough sleeping		
Report of: Chief Inspector Nikki Gander		
Document Classification: Official		
For Information/Decision: Information		

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. People found begging within the City are referred to the hub as an alternative to continued begging. This partnership hub takes place fortnightly at St Botolph's Church Hub with Turning Point and Thames Reach/Out-Reach Team in attendance with a view to assessment and offers of support. CoLP and Parkguard also attend. Practical support such as food/clothes are also available here. Those who continue to beg receive several warnings "tickets" which are further referrals to the hub, before eventually being prosecuted for the offence, at which point Community Behaviour Orders are also considered.

Tickets issued 1st September 2024 - 18th January Green 7, Amber 8, Red 3 and Blue 1.



One CBO application was applied for on conviction for breaching the red ticket. This was heard at court on 6th January 2025 but the court refused the CBO application due to their previous convictions last being 2017.

The hub is an essential element of Operation Luscombe to ensure that a support referral mechanism is in place to provide alternatives to begging, and prevent the need for enforcement. Police Funding for the hub stops in April 2025. Alternatives are being discussed.

Proactive Luscombe days are in place with dedicated officers on the day of the Hub being tasked to identify those begging and refer them to the hub "live-time" as a means of prevention.

Rough-Sleeping within the City is an issue currently subject to a partnership approach, particularly where multiple rough sleepers use the same location as a place to sleep and store personal possessions, bedding, or indeed shelters. Where reports are received of Anti-social or criminal behaviour, Police will work in collaboration with CoL services and commissioned outreach to agree a proportionate and welfare based approach, whilst ensuring that where necessary criminals acts and ASB are dealt with appropriately. The City Community MARAC (CCM) is used to co-ordinate and agree an approach.

Formation of a Joint Working Group (CoLP/CoL and partners)

The City of London Joint Working Group (Rough Sleepers / Tented encampments) (CoLJWG) consists of individuals representing statutory partners and other organisations, or people that are well placed to make a valuable contribution to reduce Harm, ASB, crime and disorder within the City of London.

Objectives

- Work in partnership to make the city a safe place to live, work and visit, for everyone.
- Provide a forum, specific to rough sleeping and tented encampments that embeds a partnership approach focused on prevention and sustainable solutions in order to minimise harm, ASB, crime and disorder.
- Reduce demand on service providers and partners.
- Support those who are providing advice, support to rough sleepers with the aim of moving them into suitable accommodation.
- CoLJWG will seek to identify and implement best practise and learning from other areas to ensure innovative and modern ways of working are considered and where appropriate implemented to reduce the negative effects of rough sleeping.
- Ability to respond appropriately and promptly as a multi-disciplinary team, to any incident of risk, emerging threat or rise in demand.

First meeting was yesterday, very positive, key actions were set around safety within encampments and a specific public health issue.