

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	Dated: 14/05/2025
Subject: Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant 2025/26 Summary	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes	Diverse Engagement Communities Proving Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Report author:	Kirsty Lowe, Rough Sleeping Services Manager

Summary

This report provides a draft summary of the interventions that will be delivered by the City of London (CoL) through the Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPRG) for the period of 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) confirmed the CoL award of £1,373,509 for 2025/26, which is similar to the amount awarded the previous year.

The grant will soon be paid in a single tranche as a Section 31 ring-fenced payment. The grant will be subject to a single, light-touch mid-year delivery report and an end-of-year declaration.

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

- Priority 1 – Rapid, effective and tailored interventions

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- 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. The previous 2024/25 Rough Sleepers Initiative (RSI) award funded 15 separate interventions including projects, posts and/or funds. Some interventions were funded by a mix of RSI grant and City Fund, and some were shared with other local authorities from their respective RSI awards.
2. The RSPRG 2025/26 award of £1,373,590 was announced late in 2024. The MHCLG has reduced the emphasis on co-production and moderation of funding proposals in favour of a ring-fenced grant award and has removed individual lines with funding allocations attached. This gives officers greater flexibility in how the grant is used.
3. This year's grant total closely reflects the RSI award of 2024/25. Due to increases to employers' National Insurance contributions and sustained inflation, changes to commissioning commitments for 2025/26 were necessary.
4. CoL posts, accommodation projects and personalisation funds previously funded by the RSI grant are now wholly or in part, funded by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping 2025/26 base budget. These interventions are:
 - Homeless Health Coordinator
 - Commissioning Manager
 - Strength Based Practitioner
 - Pathway Liaison Officer
 - The Lodge and City Lodge
 - Reflective Practice
 - Social Worker Personalisation.
5. This change has allowed space within the RSPRG 2025/26 funding envelope to address shifting demand and to pilot new interventions.
6. The education, training and employment outreach service, Street 2 Work delivered by St Giles came to an end on 31 March 2025.

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7. The CoL and London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) Navigator service delivered by St Mungo's came to an end on 31 March 2025. St Mungo's have agreed to provide a reduced, three-month CoL Navigator service while CoL go to market to procure a CoL Navigator service for a minimum of 1.5 years.
8. Additional to the CoL's award, MHCLG has awarded the north-east London (NEL) sub-region Winter Pressures Funds and RSPRG totalling £1,323,562. This fund is managed by the NEL Coordinator, based in London Borough of Redbridge and the NEL Sub-regional MHCLG Senior Rough Sleeping Advisor.
9. Sub-regional grant funds will now finance the Psychotherapy Outreach Service in 2025/26. This service was previously RSI funded through CoL, LBTH and London Borough of Hackney (LBH) individual RSI allocations. The psychotherapy service is to expand to include London Borough of Redbridge and London Borough of Newham as a five-authority partnership.

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Current Position

10. The draft CoL RSPRG spending plan for 2025/26 is as follows:

		Intervention	Provider	Status	CoL RSP+RG Funded
Continuation from RSI 2024/25	1	Senior Practitioner (City Outreach team)	Thames Reach	Delivering	100%
	2	Lead Worker (City Outreach team)			100%
	3	Mobile Intervention Support Team (MIST)			100%
	4	Co-production Service	Mayday Trust, Groundswell	Delivering	100%
	5	Housing First	St Mungo's	Delivering	100%
	6	Psychotherapy Service	Providence Row Charity (PRC)	Delivering	0%
	7	Client Personalisation Budget	CoL	Delivering	100%
NEW Interventions 2025/26	8	Rough Sleeping Coordinator (Rough Sleeping team)		Soon to Start	100%
	9	Housing/Reconnections Officer (Statutory Housing team)		In progress	100%
	10	Assessment Support team Officer	PRC	In progress	100%
	11	Winter Crash Accommodation	Unknown	In progress	TBC
	12	Rapid Response	Greater London Authority /Thames Reach	In progress	50%
	13	CoL Navigators	St Mungo's	Delivering	100%
	14	Rent Deposit Scheme (Snow Hill Court)	Thames Reach	Delivering	100%

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11. The table above shows that half of all interventions are a continuation from previous years, and the majority of interventions are delivering, with only five interventions in progress. Officers are still working to finalise the proposal, so it is important to note that those interventions categorised as 'in progress' might change in the coming months.
12. City officers have and continue to carefully consider the best way to apportion the 2025/26 grant funds. The current pressure points and gaps in provision have been identified while also considering realistic timeframes for newly commissioned services and/or internal recruitment. Consultation was carried out with the wider Homelessness, Prevention & Rough Sleeping team, existing commissioned services, the Greater London Authority and MHCLG advisors. City officers have also been heavily involved in identifying and agreeing how the sub-regional grant funding should be used this financial year. Once this is confirmed, details will be shared with members.
13. The following provides a brief description of the 14 interventions:
 - I. **Senior Practitioner:** A deputy manager post in the City Outreach team who also manages the MIST team. This post has been grant funded for the past five years.
 - II. **Lead Worker:** An additional Outreach worker post to increase capacity in the City Outreach team. The post has been grant funded for the past five years.
 - III. **MIST:** A team of four including the Senior Practitioner who provides case management and accommodation support to those in temporary and unsupported settings, such as hotel accommodation, staging post and B&Bs. The service has been grant funded for the past five years.
 - IV. **Co-production Service:** A team of four and an advisory panel of individuals with lived experience identifying best practice for City officers and partners to commission and deliver co-produced services in the future. The project has been grant funded for the last 1.5 years.
 - V. **Housing First:** A joint-funded Housing First team delivering a service to LBH and CoL individuals. There is a CoL caseload of 12 individuals who have been identified as most in need of a housing first approach. The team will source accommodation of the individual's choosing while providing robust person-centred support to ensure that the accommodation is sustained. The service has been grant funded for the past five years.
 - VI. **Psychotherapy Service:** This was a tri-borough psychotherapy outreach service funded by the CoL, LBTH and LBH RSI grant fund for the past three years. This service is now expanding to five-authority area provision and will be fully funded by the sub-regional RSPRG. Therapists take sessions to the individual, whether that is building-based or out on the streets. Session structure, length and quantity of sessions are bespoke to the individual's needs. Each individual can access up to 24 sessions.

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- VII. **Client Personalisation Budget:** A small fund to enable personalised purchases for CoL clients as part of their resettlement into accommodation or to incentivise engagement.
- VIII. **Rough Sleeping Coordinator (RSC):** A second RSC has been recruited to increase overall capacity in the Rough Sleeping team. This will allow the Services Manager to delegate operational and contract management duties to focus on forward planning and provision growth. Both RSC posts are currently vacant, however, the newly recruited RSCs are confirmed to start in mid-May 2025.
- IX. **Housing/Reconnections Officer:** An additional statutory Housing Officer will work closely with Rough Sleeping Support Services to ensure that individuals with a local connection elsewhere in the UK receive the support they are legally entitled to through the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and other Housing legislation.
- X. **Assessment Support team Officer:** Providence Row Charity are based in LBTH where they provide a homelessness day centre called the Dellow Centre. The day centre is only a short walk from the CoL and is already providing a service to known CoL clients. There are various teams working from the Dellow Centre, one being the Advice and Support team. RSPRG will now fund a full time CoL Advice and Support Officer to deliver assessments, signposting and joined-up support to those rough sleeping in the CoL and who would benefit from accessing the day centre facilities.
- XI. **Winter Crash Accommodation:** The aim is to partner with a CoL business or church within the Square Mile who can lease a building over the winter period. This opportunity will enable CoL to pilot a winter hub, a shared space of temporary camp beds for individuals seen rough sleeping in the CoL. The winter hub would increase the ability of commissioned support services to offer off-the-streets safe accommodation where individuals can access the support they need. A support service would be commissioned to provide casework support and manage the building.
- XII. **Rapid Response:** This is a Greater London Authority commissioned pan-London outreach team that responds to Streetlink rough sleeping referrals on the evening and weekends on behalf of local Outreach teams or local authorities. CoL would look to fund a six-month trial, which would enable the local Outreach team to apportion more of the team's time to case management during the day.
- XIII. **CoL Navigators:** This was a joint provision with LBTH which ended last financial year. CoL are in the process of commissioning a City Navigator service to provide personalised and intense case support to the most street-attached individuals who rough sleep in the CoL.
- XIV. **Rent Deposit Scheme:** A small budget will be made available to the team at Snow Hill Court to help individuals whose move-on accommodation has

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been identified as private rented. This fund will help avoid delays in moving individuals on, it will incentivise landlords to prioritise tenants from CoL and to provide a minimum two-year tenancy.

Options

14. There are no options for Members to consider.

Proposals

15. There are no proposals for Members to consider.

Key Data

16. There is no data related to this report.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. **Financial implications** – N/A

18. **Resource implications** – N/A

19. **Legal implications** – N/A

20. **Risk implications** – N/A

21. **Equalities implications** – N/A

22. **Climate implications** – N/A

23. **Security implications** – N/A

Conclusion

24. MHCLG has confirmed that CoL will receive £1,373,590 from the new RSPRG for 2025/26. This grant programme has replaced the RSI grant.

25. The award is similar to that provided through the 2024/25 RSI grant. The grant will be provided in a single tranche in April 2025 with less co-production and moderation than previously associated with the RSI programme.

26. Some salary and project costs have been moved to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping budget to allow officers to develop and evolve our existing programme of work to address changing demand and service pressures.

27. There is a draft plan to deliver 14 RSPRG 2025/26 funded interventions, 13 of which will be funded by the CoL RSPRG; the other one is to be funded by the sub-regional RSPRG. Half of the CoL interventions are a continuation of services/posts from previous years, and half are newly developed or funded in 2025/26. Of the 14 interventions, nine are currently delivering and a further five are in progress.

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28. Members will receive further details of the sub-regional NEL RSPRG interventions in the next Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant 2025/26 Update Report – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee – 3 February 2025

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