

# City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee:</b> Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 14/05/2025
<b>Subject:</b> Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023–2027 Update Report	<b>Public report:</b> For Information
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024–2029 outcomes</b></li> </ul>	Links to Corporate Plan outcomes 1,2,3,4,10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	NA
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	NA
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	NA
<b>Report of:</b>	Judith Finlay – Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services
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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 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Delivery Plan (SDP). The first part of the report offers members a high-level summary of SDP actions underway and completed. Appendix 3 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

	<b>Priority 1</b> Providing rapid, effective and tailored interventions	<b>Priority 2</b> Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation	<b>Priority 3</b> Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership	<b>Priority 4</b> Providing support beyond accommodation	Total
Not started	1	3	3	2	9
Risk	0	0	0	0	0
Underway – issues	2	0	0	0	2
Underway – no issues	6	3	5	3	17
Complete	5	4	9	3	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>49</b>

- There are currently 49 actions on the SDP
- Two new actions have been added in the period
- 40 actions have commenced – two more than in the last period
- 19 actions are currently live (underway with/without issues) – four fewer than the previous period.

- 21 actions are now completed – seven more than the last period.
- No significant risks have been identified at this stage.

3. The actions (identified by their unique SDP reference) completed in the period are:

- ✓ **1.8** Improve safety at rough sleeping hotspots – Creation of new materials utilising various media to explain service offer
- ✓ **1.12** Review statutory processes – Commissions independent review of statutory process to test resilience, quality and effectiveness
- ✓ **3.2** Deliver clinical mobile outreach service – Coordinate with local health and rough sleeping network to increase engagement with primary care
- ✓ **3.6** Review multi-agency meeting arrangements – Use multi-agency meeting action plan developed as a response to the Homeless Link review report
- ✓ **3.8** Establish clear procedures with Community Safety Team (CST) for hotspots and anti-social behaviour perpetrators – Implement new memorandum of understanding and refine the approach to cleansing and hotspot action planning
- ✓ **3.15** Develop protocol/policy approach to tents and/or rough sleeping hotspots – Utilise internal/external stakeholders to develop a consistent approach to tents and encampments
- ✓ **3.16** Collaboration with London School of Economics (LSE) to explore problem-solving opportunities through the LSE entrepreneurship programme – Consider and potentially deliver a programme with the LSE to team which focuses on practical problems withing the HRS sector.

#### General commentary

4. More actions were closed in the period than is typical: three closed actions (1.8, 3.8, 3.15) are thematically linked to the development of the Tackling the Detrimental Effects of Rough Sleeping protocol and policy position seen by Members at the December 2024 Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee.
5. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) Homelessness Advice and Support Team visited the City of London in January 2025 for a diagnostic visit. The advisors retuned and provided written feedback in March 2025. This closes action 1.12 and a new action will be added to reflect the introduction of the resulting service improvement plan.
6. The SDP has progressed steadily across the six reporting periods to date. As the strategy moves into the middle part of its lifespan, the number of actions has increased from 41 to 49. The number of live actions has reduced in the last period as a greater proportion of the actions underway are substantial, long-term pieces of work.

#### Performance Scorecard and Dashboard Commentary

7. The Scorecard and presentation slide Dashboard can be found at appendices 1 and 2 respectively.

## *Quarter 4 (Q4) and annual (2024-25) Commentary*

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

### **Priority 1 – Providing rapid, effective and tailored interventions**

- 1.1** Quarter 4 (Q4) saw a decrease in the number of prevention and relief outcomes from six to three. The average number of outcomes attained per month on 2024/25 was 3.5, compared to 4.25 in 2023/24.
- 1.2** During the period, 257 individual rough sleepers were reported, a 23% decrease on Q3. The average number of rough sleepers seen per quarter in 2024/25 was 286 compared to 227 in 2023/24. The unique number of individuals seen rough sleeping in the year (which accounts for people seen across more than one quarter) is published by the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) in June. We are expecting an increase on the figure reported in 2023/24 (656).
- 1.3** The number of 'T1000' priority rough sleeping cohort seen rough sleeping in the quarter increased slightly from 17 to 20. The average per quarter for the year was 20.25.
- 1.4** There were 104 accommodation outcomes achieved in the period, 22 more than the previous quarter. This includes Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) placements, and there are typically higher values in Q3 and Q4. The average number of accommodation outcomes per quarter in 2024/25 was 70, 10 more than 2023/24. A total of 280 accommodation outcomes were recorded in the year, an increase of 17% on 2023/24.

### **Priority 2 – Securing access to suitable, affordable accommodation**

- 2.1** The average length of stay in temporary accommodation increased from 452 days to 497 days in the period. This is the third consecutive quarter this figure has increased. The reasons for this remain the same as that reported to Members in February 2025 – significant difficulties in sourcing affordable, suitable private rented sector accommodation, long waits on the City social housing register, and an increase in front-door demand. This latter point should be considered in the context of the City's relatively small TA cohort, meaning a small number of cases can skew data quite significantly.
- 2.2** The number of supported accommodation beds at our disposal increased from 89 to 94 with the introduction of five new block-booked TA premises. 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 Rough Sleeping and Pathway teams, and nine individuals were placed in the private rented sector during 2024/25, one fewer than 2023/24.

### **Priority 3 – Achieving our goals through better collaboration and partnership**

**3.1** There were 11 referrals received through the ‘Duty to Refer’ (S.213b of the Housing Act 1996), one fewer than Q3. The average number of S.213b referrals received per quarter on 2024/25 was 11, compared to 10 in 2023/24. The figure for last year was the fourth consecutive year that the number of referrals has increased, which indicates that we are communicating the S.213b referral option clearly through our professional networks and website.

**3.2** The number of individuals sleeping at high-impact rough sleeping sites (HIRSS) and encampments (35) decreased from the 49 seen in the previous quarter. Without longer-term trend data, this decrease should not be seen as indicative of a reduction in the size or number of these sites. The number of individuals actually sleeping at high-impact rough sleeping sites can be difficult to gauge, with some tents used for storage or unoccupied, and other tents used by more than one person. It is expected that there will be fluctuations in the number of unique individuals seen.

### **Priority 4 – Providing support beyond accommodation**

**4.1** A total of 25 rough sleepers with an assessed substance misuse need were referred to a specialist organisation. This is an increase of four over the last period. A total of 106 individuals were referred in 2024/25, although this could include some duplicates where individuals were referred more than once during the year. The number referred in 2024/25 is half of the 2023/24 number, despite rough sleeping numbers increasing. 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 increased slightly from 24% in Q3 to 27% in Q4 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 – an average of 27% for the year (32% in 2023/24). This value includes confirmed registrations and does not take into account where the Outreach team cannot confirm if someone is registered or not.

**4.3** Nine individuals across our rough sleeping and accommodated cohorts accessed some kind of structured employment, training or education offer. This is the third successive quarter-on-quarter decrease in 2024/25, and the annual total of 57 is only one fewer than the total recorded for 2023/24.

### **Options**

8. There are no options for Members to consider.

### **Proposals**

9. There are no proposals for Members to consider.

### **Key Data**

10. Metrics data can be found in appendices 1 and 2.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

- 11. Financial implications – none
- 12. Resource implications – none
- 13. Legal implications – none
- 14. Risk implications – none
- 15. Equalities implications – none
- 16. Climate implications – none
- 17. Security implications – none

## **Conclusion**

- 18. Seven actions on the SDP were completed in the period. This brings the total of completed actions to 21. Two new actions were added. A total of 19 further actions remain underway, and nine are yet to commence.
- 19. Rough sleeping numbers decreased by 23% in the period. Using the average number of rough sleepers seen each quarter as the measure, rough sleeping levels remain higher in 2024/25 than in the previous year (26% increase). Fuller annual rough sleeping data is published in June each year.
- 20. The service is assisting more rough sleepers. The number of accommodation outcomes achieved increased from Q3 to Q4(17%) and from 2023/24 to 2024/25 (17%).
- 21. The average length of stay in 2024/25 increased to 497 days from 452 in 2023/24. This confirms the persistence of front-door demand and challenges to discharging statutory duties into the private rented sector.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Performance Scorecard (table)
- Appendix 2 – Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Performance Dashboard (charts)
- Appendix 3 – Strategy Delivery Plan Completed Actions Q4

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