

# City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee:</b> Homelessness and Rough Sleeping – For Information Safeguarding and SEND Sub-committee – For Information	<b>Dated:</b> 01/07/2025
<b>Subject:</b> Safeguarding Adults who are Rough Sleeping or Homeless	<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  Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Mental Health Act 1983
<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, Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
<b>Report author:</b>	Ian Tweedie, Head of Service, Adult Social Care

## Summary

A report has been completed (Appendix 1) to provide an overview from an Adult Social Care (ASC) perspective of the work being done in the City of London (CoL) to safeguard adults with care and support needs who are experiencing Rough Sleeping and Homelessness. It specifically focuses on those areas where ASC interfaces with the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping service (HRS).

The report demonstrates that ASC and the HRS service have developed structures, systems and practices designed to support closer working in managing risk and safeguarding adults who are homeless and who rough sleep. Care Act needs assessments are carried out by the HRS social worker, with 52% leading to support being put in place. There are multi-agency high-risk panels in place to monitor and safeguard adults who are rough sleeping. An ASC Quality Assurance Framework is in place complete with an annual audit schedule across all ASC services. A specific audit on homelessness and rough sleeping practice is scheduled for later this year, and will be reported to Members.

## **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The CoL has duties and powers regarding the assessment, support and safeguarding of adults with care and support needs under the Care Act 2014. CoL has additional and related duties and powers under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 1983. Applying this legislation to the homeless and rough sleeping population brings with it a complexity that necessitates close working between the HRS and ASC services.
2. The Care Act requires every local authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area. The City and Hackney SAB operates at a strategic level, helping and protecting adults in its area who are at risk of, or experiencing abuse and neglect. The SAB ensures that there are multi-agency safeguarding arrangements and practices within the local authority area. The SAB has a specific CoL sub-committee attended by heads of service from ASC and HRS.

### **Current Position**

3. Both the HRS and ASC services sit within the People's Directorate of the Department of Community and Children's services. The heads of each service work together as part of the People's Senior Management team led by Assistant Director Chris Pelham.
4. A specific social worker post within the HRS service has been in place since 2021, jointly funded with ASC. While embedded within HRS, the post has professional supervision and management support from ASC for statutory casework.
5. As a local authority, the CoL has a duty to undertake an assessment, under the Care Act 2014, where an adult has the appearance of care and support needs. However, this does not apply if the adult refuses the assessment.
6. The HRS social worker undertakes the majority of assessments for adults who are homeless or rough sleeping. There are a number of challenges in assessing the needs of rough sleepers, including refusal to engage and being unable to locate the individual. Approximately 52% of all assessments led to support being put in place. The number of assessments per year has fallen from a high of 20 in 2021/22 to 11 in 2024/25. The impact of the pandemic and the temporary accommodation at Carter Lane may have accounted for the high figure in 2021/22. The more recent figures may have been impacted by the changes in the assessment centre, its systems, locations, and personnel. Other factors may include changes in the rough sleeping cohort, with the more transient adults

already connected with and assessed by other local authorities, or those for whom social care is not a primary need.

7. The ASC service provides long-term support to adults with care and support needs who have experienced homelessness and rough sleeping. There are currently 20 adults from this cohort in supported living placements, accounting for 50% of all ASC supported living placements. There are an additional 10 adults from this cohort in residential care, accounting for approximately 38% of all residential care placements.
8. An average of 10 formal Safeguarding Concerns are raised to ASC each year regarding adults who were rough sleeping or homeless, with approximately 40% leading to Safeguarding Enquiries. Self-neglect is the most prevalent type of abuse in the Safeguarding Enquiries.
9. Prevention is a key principle of adult safeguarding following the premise that it is better to prevent harm before it occurs. Approximately 50% of the HRS social worker caseload is aimed at engaging through a preventative lens with those who may not meet the criteria for ASC support. In addition, HRS and ASC have joint funded a strengths-based practitioner role which has led to consistent engagement with 13 adults to prevent a return to rough sleeping by supporting these individuals to manage their health, money, living space, time, and safety.
10. Multi-Agency Risk Panels are based on the principle that shared ownership and decision-making is the most effective, transparent and safe way to manage risk in complex or high-risk situations. There are several relevant high-risk panels operating within the city, each with their own specific purpose.
11. There is a Quality Assurance Framework in place across all ASC practice. The audit schedule includes a specific HRS audit every two years. The next will be later this year and the findings of the audit will be reported to Members.

## **Options**

12. N/A

## **Proposals**

13. N/A

## **Key Data**

14. N/A

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

### Corporate Plan 2024-2029

15. 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.

- Financial implications – None
- Resource implications – None
- Legal implications – None
- Risk implications – None
- Equalities implications – The report provides a level of assurance around safeguarding work across all protected characteristics for individuals who rough sleep.
- Climate implications – None
- Security implications – None

## **Conclusion**

16. Work to support and safeguard adults with care and support needs who are rough sleeping or homeless is a challenging and complex area of work. There are systems in place which foster close working between HRA and ASC in managing risk, and there is evidence of adults being supported through appropriate pathways. There are systems for oversight, and quality assurance in place to monitor and improve services.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – An overview of arrangements to Safeguard Adults with Care and Support needs who are Rough Sleeping or Homeless in the City of London

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