

**Report to:** Housing and Homelessness Policy and Accountability Committee

**Date:** 25/07/2023

**Subject:** Rough Sleepers Homelessness Update

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## **Executive Summary**

1. This report provides a high-level summary for the Policy and Accountability Committee on rough sleeping and homelessness.

## **Rough Sleeping Prevention Plan**

2. We have a range of measures in place to prevent rough sleeping within Hammersmith & Fulham.
3. We work very closely with local partners within Health – GPs and A&Es in particular and also Department for Works and Pensions, and Metropolitan Police who have a duty to refer anyone suspected of being homeless or rough sleeping.
4. Our Rough Sleeper Outreach team, delivered by ThamesReach act on local intelligence shared by these agencies (and also local people via the Street Link telephone number) to engage with people sleeping rough and refer them to our Rough Sleeper Assessment Hub. From here onward referrals can be made into more settled accommodation and support where needed.
5. We recognise that Housing First (rather than the more traditional supported hostel route) is the most sustainable method of ensuring former rough sleepers don't return to the street.

## **Rough Sleeping**

6. At any one time the number of rough sleepers in the Borough is approximately 5 to 7 people which is low for an inner-London Borough. In addition to the flow of new people to the streets, there are a few individuals whose status or willingness to work with services means that finding them a solution is particularly challenging.
7. We have a range of services in place to help us respond to prevent rough sleeping, respond to it appropriately, and support people to recover and move away from the streets for good. A list of funded services for rough sleepers in H&F is set out in the **Appendix 1**.

8. Ensuing a good rate of people moving out of our rough sleeper hub and supported hostel pathway is key to achieve the following:
- To keep the number of rough sleepers low at any given time;
  - To reduce the number of people in costly and unsupported temporary accommodation which does not meet their needs; and
  - To build on success and promote independence by not keeping people in hostel services for longer than they need.

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1 – Rough Sleeping Services in LB Hammersmith and Fulham**

## Appendix 1 – Rough Sleeping Services in LB Hammersmith and Fulham

Service	Description
Rough Sleeping Street Outreach Team	This service is delivered by Thames Reach Charity and is tasked to collate and respond to intelligence and find rough sleepers across the Borough. The team provides assessment, support and makes an offer away from the streets.
Housing First	We have secured funding from the Greater London Authority to increase the total number of Housing First properties to 31 this year for former rough sleepers with complex needs. Increasing the amount of Housing First is a <b>manifesto commitment</b> .
Rough Sleeper Assessment Hub	A 20-bed assessment hub including limited provision for people with No Recourse to public funds. Access to Emergency Beds is key for the outreach team to offer rough sleepers an immediate route off the streets.
Supported Accommodation Pathway	Commissioned hostel pathway for rough sleepers and single homeless people with support needs. The support is delivered by St Mungo's and there are a total of 129 beds across 8 buildings.
Rough sleeping Navigators	Four posts employed by St Mungo's to work intensively with rough sleepers or people at risk of rough sleeping. Navigators will provide intensive support and co-ordinate referrals into a range of services.
Floating Support	Two posts through Hestia to support rough sleepers with low needs who are in unsupported temporary accommodation and/or who have moved on into the Private Rented Sector.
Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator	Employed by the council to co-ordinate all the various initiatives and to ensure a co-ordinated and holistic approach across council departments and our partners.
Homeless Health Project	This service increases engagement and access to healthcare services for homeless people, particularly those with multiple and complex needs who struggle to do this. The service aims to reduce non-elective hospital admissions and the inappropriate use of emergency services.
Homeless Health Nurses	Two Central London Community Healthcare funded nurses working in our high support hostels supporting residents with access to nursing care such as wound dressing, medication, vaccines etc.
Enabling Assessment Service London	This service supports the workforce to become more resilient so they can better manage the very complex cases and trauma prevalent amongst our hostel residents and rough sleepers. In 2023/24 we are offering this service to our Housing Advisers to support their wellbeing given the high number of complex and traumatic cases they manage.

## Appendix 1 - Continued

<b>Service</b>	<b>Description</b>
Dual Diagnosis Nurses	Two specialist Dual Diagnosis nurses working across our high-support hostels. Aim to reduce the number of incidents occurring in hostels, hospital admissions, and look at creative ways to increase peoples access to substance use and mental health services.
Domiciliary Care Worker	One worker to promote independent living skills for people in hostels through prompting and training for example on laundry, decluttering, cleaning, healthy eating.
Adult Social Care Social Worker (6-month pilot)	Based in Adult Social Care to assess hostel residents for Care Act eligible needs, reducing unsuitable placements including into extra or residential care and supporting people returning to a hostel from a hospital admission.