

Minutes

'No Nights Sleeping Rough' taskforce, 22 May 2018, City Hall

Attendees

Joe Apea	LB Newham	David Orton (notes)	GLA
Guy Arnold	LB Camden	Chris Pelham	City of London Corporation
Mark Baigent	LB Tower Hamlets	Jonathan Qureshi	GLA
Paul Davis	LB Lambeth	Howard Sinclair	St Mungo's
David Eastwood	GLA	Jon Sparkes	Crisis
Rick Henderson	Homeless Link	Bill Tidnam	Thames Reach
Debra Levison	GLA	Bill Thorpe	MHCLG
James Murray (chair)	GLA	Jennifer Travassos	Westminster City Council
Luke Oates	GLA		

Apologies

Jeremy Swain (Bill Tidnam deputising)

1	Welcome, introductions and apologies
2	<p>Severe Weather Emergency Provision (SWEP) Review</p> <p>Luke Oates (LO) provided an overview of the review of SWEP and winter services which is currently being undertaken. Further details, including findings and recommendations to date, can be found in the appended document.</p> <p>The group made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a lack of adequate preparation for SWEP this winter, which had to be compensated for by a huge effort from many brilliant staff members in homelessness services when SWEP was activated. • The boroughs which referred the largest number of people to pan-London overflow SWEP should be identified and work undertaken to ensure they have greater local capacity in place next winter. • Many rough sleepers were resistant to attend SWEP accommodation as they know it is only a very short-term offer so don't believe it's worthwhile. • Whilst the principle of offering everyone a route away from the street before they leave SWEP accommodation is desirable, it's often not possible within current funding constraints and with available accommodation options, especially in areas with large numbers of people entering SWEP accommodation. • The suggested recommendations are welcome but need to be supported with extra resources or else they would lead to cuts to other areas of the provision. • Many people are already successfully supported into emergency accommodation during periods of very cold weather, largely thanks to dedication and diligence of staff in the sector during these periods. It's important this spirit is not diluted during efforts to add more structure to SWEP processes.

<p>3</p>	<p>Plan of Action Update</p> <p>Jonathan Qureshi (JQ) updated the group on progress with the Plan of Action since the extraordinary meeting of the taskforce in April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the Plan of Action, including key recommendations, has been given to taskforce sub-groups, local authority rough sleeping leads, outreach managers and Homeless Link’s Communities of Practice. The response has been very positive and useful feedback has been received. • The Plan of Action is now in the process of being written and is due to be published at the end of June. It will be circulated to the taskforce before it is published. <p>Rick Henderson (RH) queried whether the Plan of Action will be aligned with the Government’s own rough sleeping strategy, due to be published in July. JQ explained that as the GLA is represented on all the task and finish groups developing recommendations for the Government Advisory Panel, attention has been paid to how these fit with the Plan of Action. An early draft of the plan will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG), to ensure this can feed into the Government’s strategy. The Plan of Action will also be circulated to all the core members of the taskforce before publication.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>MHCLG Update</p> <p>Bill Thorpe (BT) provided an update on current relevant work within MHCLG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions are ongoing around the future funding of housing costs in supported accommodation. Responses to the consultation are being fully considered. • MHCLG’s rough sleeping advisors have met with 83 local authorities who were eligible to apply for funding through the £30 million RSI fund. The funding will be allocated by mid-June. • The new Secretary of State remains committed to the Government’s aims to reduce rough sleeping. • The Advisory Panel and related task and finish groups have done a lot of good work, producing wide-ranging recommendations that will feed into the strategy, to be published before the summer. MHCLG are working to get commitments from other departments on the recommendations under their remit. • The strategy will seek to ensure there is an offer for everyone on the streets and those at immediate risk of rough sleeping e.g. people leaving prisons. <p>JM asked whether the strategy will be setting out the additional funding which is needed to tackle rough sleeping. BT said the strategy would signal intent on what more needs to be done but will not explicitly state additional funding required.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Sub-group updates</p> <p>Chris Pelham (CP) provided an update from the Mental Health sub-group. Full details can be found in the appended update document.</p> <p>The group discussed the paper further:</p>	

	<p>The group discussed the future direction of the sub-groups. It was suggested that there could continue to be four groups but with each related to one of the four sections of the Plan of Action, supporting the implementation of the recommendations. It was agreed that in this scenario, very clear terms of reference and set of objectives would need to be established for the groups. This suggestion will be considered further and DE will circulate more details of plans for the sub-groups.</p>	GLA
6	Rough Sleeping Innovation Fund Update	
	<p>David Eastwood (DE) informed the taskforce that the 2nd round of the Mayor’s Rough Sleeping Innovation Fund closed to applications in April. The applications have been assessed and the projects selected for funding will be announced in June. The projects which scored highest and will receive funding cover a range of different areas, including LGBT specific provision and improving support for migrants who are sleeping rough.</p>	
8	Any other business	
	<p>No other business raised.</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on 6 November at 9am, Meeting Room F, 169 Union Street.</p>	ALL