Life Off The Streets Executive Board
Weds 16th February 2022, 13:30-15:00

In attendance
London Councils Deputy Chair (Housing and Planning)/Labour Group representative – Cllr Darren Rodwell (chair)
Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development – Tom Copley
GLA, Greater London Authority – Debra Levison, David Eastwood
LC, London Councils – Eloise Shepherd, Michelle Binfield, Aura Di Febo (minutes)
DLUHC, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Catherine Bennion, Richard Chapman, Tom Preest
ADPH London, Directors of Public Health – Sarah Crouch (Westminster)
Senior Advisor to the Mayor (Health Policy) – Dr Tom Coffey
HMPPS, Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service – Kilvinder Vigurs, Matt Grey
HH, Homeless Health– Angela McNab
SM, St Mungo's – Steve Douglas
HL, Homeless Link – Rick Henderson, Pete Smith
TR, Thames Reach – Bill Tidnam
CHI, Centre for Homelessness Impact – Rob Anderson

Apologies
Conservative Group representative – Cllr Colin Smith
Liberal Democrat Group representative – Cllr Jayne McCoy
ADPH London – Rachel Flowers
DLUHC - Penny Hobman
HD, London Housing Directors' Group – Jamie Carswell
Crisis – Matthew Downie

Welcome and introductions
Cllr Darren Rodwell welcomed all attendees, noting that this is the second meeting of the new Life Off The Streets Executive Board.

Minutes from previous meeting (November 12th)
The minutes were approved by all parties as a comprehensive and accurate account of the meeting. Darren noted that all actions agreed in the previous meeting have been completed.
As a matter arising, Steve Douglas noted appreciation for the joint statement against the use of communal shelters released by LC, GLA and DLUHC following the previous Board meeting.

Success Measures: What does Ending Rough Sleeping mean?
At the previous meeting, Executive Board members challenged the Core Group to define success measures for the programme so as to better evidence whether interventions to end rough sleeping were working. Debra introduced the work done by London Councils and GLA with the Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI) to develop a data-led definition of ending rough sleeping and associated success measures. Rob Anderson (CHI) provided an overview of the framework defined so far (*See Supporting Documents – Slide deck*) and a new definition of ending rough sleeping which looks at preventing rough sleeping, and if prevention is not possible, making it rare, brief and non-recurring.

Questions and comments from the group:

- General agreement and positive feedback shared by the group.
- Sarah Crouch (attending on behalf of Rachel Flowers) asked whether these measures will only be used at a pan-London level or there is an ambition for inter-city comparison. Rob replied that while there is an intention for these parameters to be applied to inter-city comparison – to gain a better understanding of local circumstances – this implies a set of methodological questions which will be addressed in the next stage.
- Sarah stressed the challenge of pinning down health measure, especially in the prevention space, and offered help in scoping out this area of work. Rob thanked for the offer and highlighted the potential for this framework to bring statutory agencies together.
- Tom Coffey echoed these considerations by stressing the need for clear definitions for data points such as hospital discharge.
- Richard Chapman commented on the importance of placing prevention at the core of this work and expressed general agreement with the vision shared: although more work is needed to define these measures in detail this is moving in the right direction. He raised two points in particular: 1. Need to understand to what extent these measures are applicable to areas outside London; 2. Need to strike the right balance between producing something simple enough to be easily understood and communicated, but which is applicable everywhere and has enough scope to accommodate local needs Richard also shared that DLUHC is also working with CHI on a similar piece of work and they intend to share their planned way forward at a webinar scheduled for 31st March.
- Kilvinder Vigurs noted how data on homelessness following prison discharge (collected by MoJ) should also be integrated in this framework and highlighted the importance of preventive activities targeting ex-offenders to prevent homelessness and re-offending.
- David Eastwood raised an issue with the quality of data available in London. This work so far relied extensively on data inputted on existing systems (CHAIN, H-CLIC) but this is not always robust. For this framework to work effectively there is a need to work on improving the quality of the data coming in.
- Angela McNab also offered to help with health data (especially on hospital discharge) and advised to take into account data from Mental Health and Substance Misuse services, which can offer some precious insights on the factors causing or contributing to homelessness. Angela also stressed the importance of sharing this vision with the general public. Buy-in from the public is key to maximising the impact of this work.
- It was noted how the comments touched on systemic approaches to prevention (hospital and prison discharge) but homelessness often happens when people fall out of systems. A challenge for this work going forward is to take into account more complex pathways into homelessness and understand how to capture and support these people (e.g. hidden homelessness, clients with no or limited recourse to public funds).
- Steve Douglas reiterated the triple challenges related to data: 1. Availability; 2. Quality; 3. Data sharing across organisation. On the latter, he noted how the comments shared by some attendees hinted at a willingness to work toward more openness/better data sharing practice. Steve also suggested that the Core Group.

The methodology/definition was agreed by those present with an encouragement to take the next steps outlined around further refining the success measures and developing the data architecture needed to underpin measuring success.

Programme Update: Risks and Achievements
An updated Programme Plan and Risk Register were circulated in advance of the meeting (See *Supporting Documents*).

David Eastwood provided an overview of the Programme workstreams and successes achieved since the last Executive Board. These included: a reduction of numbers on people sleeping rough, early action from core group to protect clinically vulnerable rough sleepers as the omicron risk emerged, progress in the data review work, the establishment of new workstreams (e.g. women's homelessness), the work done to set up immigration services at sub-regional level.

He also invited Kilvinder Vigurs and Matt Grey to share the work being taken forward in collaboration with LC and GLA on preventing homelessness at release from prison and re-offending. This is a core area of prevention due to the high incidence of prison leavers that have no place to go to at discharge. Matt updated the group on CAS3, a community accommodation scheme, offering transitional accommodation to prison leavers within community settings. This is meant as a complimentary measure to the work done in prison by the resettlement team to help clients plan their move into settled accommodation.

Michelle Binfield presented some headlines related to the main risks currently faced by the Programme and the actions taken to mitigate them. Two of them – workforce issues in the sector and non-UK rough sleepers – were examined in more detail in later items. Another major risk identified was the end of the Protect and Vaccinate (P&V) funding in March 2022, which combined with the closure of winter shelters risks impacting on rough sleeper numbers especially for those not from the UK with limited entitlements.

Darren asked DLUHC colleagues about their strategy for addressing the end of March issue. Catherine Bennion mentioned the additional funding provided to boroughs under RSI and to faith and community groups to expand their offer. More broadly, there is an awareness of the risk and additional contingency measures are being discussed. In parallel, the co-production of RSI5 bids is also ongoing.

Catherine also noted that the department has been trying to shift from a reactive approach to winter pressures (i.e. emergency funds) to a more proactive approach where winter provision is planned in advance as part of a business as usual approach by boroughs. The shift toward a longer timescale for RSI5 (three-year funding) represents a step in this direction.

Steve echoed the importance of long-term planning and decision-making, also in relation to some of the other issues discussed in the meeting (notably workforce shortage in the voluntary sector) and agreed that the extension of RSI funding from one to three years will help in this respect.

Tom Copley acknowledged the good work done over Christmas and especially the efforts that went into managing the Crisis hotels.

Tom Coffey reported on a meeting with Tech nation, a youth hub offering technology training for youth and upskilling for employment. Tom asked for a reference contact they could liaise with, to open a conversation about their potential contribution to the Programme.

ACTION: Tom Coffey to put Tech Nation in contact with David Eastwood. David to introduce them to Tom Copley and Darren Rodwell

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Tackling Workforce Shortages in the Voluntary Sector

Pete Smith provided an update on workforce shortages in the voluntary sector, which represent one of the key risk mitigation areas for the Programme. Pete updated the Board on the work done since the November meeting. A working group was convened, which benefited from the

input of voluntary organisations, representatives of local authorities, DLUHC and Bloomberg Associates. After outlining the main challenges emerged in the areas of data, recruitment and retention, volunteer pool, and skills, Pete updated the group on the actions planned for the next months, which include:

- Two Workforce Summits to be held in London:
  - Managers summit (late March, virtual) – to explore workforce challenges and examples of good practice, define actions and recommendation
  - CEO summit (May, in-person) – to reflect back and present recommendations, gain sign-up and commitment from CEOs
- Recruitment campaign and London portal
- Skills – considering options for accreditation and training, consultation (based also on the Kerslake recommendations)

Darren suggested that local government can support these efforts, for example by finding ways to promote this career pathway among local residents (e.g. through local job shops). Pete welcomed the offer, highlighting how this problem is by no means circumscribed to the voluntary sector but also affects local authorities. Collaboration across the sectors is instrumental to finding effective solutions.

ACTION: Michelle to put relevant London Councils employment leads in touch with Peter Smith to explore ways of working together on this issue.

Tackling Non-UK Rough Sleeping

Non-UK rough sleepers represent a substantial proportion of London's rough sleepers and thus an important focus for the programme. Michelle updated the Board on work ongoing in this space, including: positive work with HO (on the 28-day notice, prioritisation of cases for EUSS application, review of the HO Rough Sleeper Support Service, work to map immigration advice capacity and design sub-regional advice services in collaboration with local authorities and DLUHC, and the work toward a bilateral meeting with the HO minister Tom Pursglove).

David shared an overview of the new services funded by GLA and outlines the main risks related to this area of work, which include the end of the P&V funding, the closure of GLA hotels, the lack of offer for clients with no or limited entitlement, HO policies and casework backlog and concerns regarding the ability of local authorities to continue operating under "Everyone In" principles.

Questions and comments:
- Tom Coffey noted how clients with no recourse to public funds who have complex needs often face barriers to access healthcare and specialist services (e.g. mental health and substance misuse support). This issue would be worthy of further investigation.
- Rick Henderson expressed optimism for the level of innovation and collaboration across agencies achieved in this area, and the progress made despite the limitations of the legal framework. He suggested that creating a system to address this issue could put the Programme in a better position to formulate asks to the government.
- Tom Copley echoed this comment, adding that highlighting the cost saving in healthcare that more preventive action and support to this group could achieve could be an effective strategy.

Protect and Vaccinate Update

Adding to the update shared earlier in the meeting, Catherine mentioned that a communication outlining DLUHC position on P&V was issued this week. This also stated that underspent funding should be returned to the department. She also updated on the progress of the RSI5 bidding progress, highlighting the added complexity of managing a multi-year scheme.

Winter Pressures Update

David provided an overview of the last SWEP activations, expressing gratitude to the boroughs for their efforts and noting how the "In for good" principle has proved successful. He also reiterated previous comments on the importance of planning an annual basis, preferable to adopting reactive measures to address winter pressures.

Questions and comments:
- Tom Copley invited to celebrate the successes achieved over the last months (notably the substantial decrease of rough sleeping figures).
- Darren expressed optimism about the work done, noting how the pandemic has brought together parts of the system that had never worked together (or not to this degree)

AOB

1) Date of Next Meeting: May 24th, 2-3:30 pm

Supporting Documents

Agenda Item	File
Minutes from the previous meeting (November 12th)	1) Life Off The Streets Executive Bo…
Success Measures	2) Ending Rough Sleeping in London…
Programme Update	3) London Rough Sleeping Programme 4) London Rough Sleeping Programme
Meeting slide deck	Life Off the Streets Exec Board 16.2.22.p…