

Minutes

‘No Nights Sleeping Rough’ taskforce, 27 April 2017, City Hall

Attendees

Mark Baigent	LB Tower Hamlets	Tom Preest	LB Camden
Rosanne Diaz	DCLG	Jonathan Qureshi	GLA
David Eastwood	GLA	Howard Sinclair	St Mungo’s
Deborah Halling (notes)	GLA	Jon Sparkes	Crisis
Rick Henderson	Homeless Link	Jeremy Swain	Thames Reach
Debra Levison	GLA	Jennifer Travassos	Westminster City Council
James Murray (chair)	GLA	Dominic Williamson	St Mungo’s
Chris Pelham	City of London Corporation		

Apologies

Paul Davis	LB Lambeth
------------	------------

1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
	JT, rather than Barbara Brownlee, will represent Westminster City Council on the taskforce.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting	
	The group agreed that the minutes of the last meeting form an accurate record. DE confirmed that GLA was successful with bids for DCLG rough sleeping funding for a new Social Impact Bond (SIB), Safe Connections Service, and Hostels Clearing House. Its bid for funding to increase outreach on public transport was not successful, but officers are discussing alternative approaches to funding and delivering this with TfL.	
3	Rough Sleeping Innovation Fund and ‘No Nights Sleeping Rough’ taskforce fund	
	DE outlined plans for a Rough Sleeping Innovation Fund, intended to ensure a rigorous approach to the allocation of GLA’s small grants to stimulate innovative approaches to tackling rough sleeping in London. The group noted the importance of initiatives funded delivering clear outcomes; voiced some concern that impact, rather than the size of the organisation funded, should be the primary determinant of allocations; and suggested that sub-groups should be kept informed of allocations and initiatives. In response to questions, DE clarified that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applications will need to be supported by the relevant local authorities; • applications should not relate to an extension of existing services; and • some initiatives relating to tackling rough sleeping by non-UK nationals may be more suitable for the Government’s Controlling Migration Fund (CMF). (GLA will share any draft application with the group) 	GLA
4	No First Night Out	
	MB presented on Tower Hamlets, City and Hackney’s No First Night Out and Safe Connections projects, drawing on an interim evaluation. The final evaluation, due to be completed in June, is unlikely to be substantially different, although will address the relative costs of this approach and the Homelessness Reduction Act more directly. Agreed that the group should receive and consider the final evaluation. These projects are keen to work with other boroughs as they develop and are already sharing learning. RD to highlight at DCLG in relation to the new Homelessness Code of Guidance. Questions and discussion highlighted the likelihood that those assisted would otherwise have ended up on the streets, the importance of partnership working (particularly with community organisations) and the provision of short-term accommodation irrespective of	GLA RD

	<p>local connection. MB to check whether only eligible individuals were assisted.</p> <p>The taskforce agreed that it would be useful to have a meeting or an event to share the findings and evaluation of the project with other boroughs. GLA to work with DCLG, London Councils and members of the taskforce to get this arranged.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>GLA</p>
5	Update on sub-groups	
	<p>Using the accompanying slides, the sub-group chairs provided updates on the initial work of each group – and DE on the hostels sub-group, in PD’s absence. Agreed that sub-groups should all keep the taskforce informed of their work and that the taskforce will review how this is going, including whether there would be merit in the taskforce meeting more frequently, potentially having some ad hoc meetings, at its next meeting.</p> <p>Agreed that the data group should review CHAIN and other data, including insights from the local authority rough sleeping leads’ meeting, and share regularly insights with the taskforce. JSw also indicated that the data group is willing to take requests from others.</p> <p>For the hostels group, DE clarified that the idea of exploring minimum standards reflected an understanding among the group that contract monitoring is variable. JT added that the group considered the needs of older rough sleepers who may not be entitled to care packages.</p> <p>For the mental health group, CP confirmed that the group is seeking additional members to broaden representation and that Susan Harrison of the NHS’s London Homeless Health Programme will lead work on discharge from hospital.</p> <p>DL confirmed that the RSI group includes RSI providers, Clearing House and Tenancy Sustainment Teams. It will focus on maximising provision because only 96% of RSI properties are currently let to someone nominated through Clearing House.</p> <p>Agreed that a group on non-UK nationals sleeping rough may be helpful in future and that the taskforce will consider this in the light of any successful GLA bid for funding from the CMF.</p>	<p>GLA</p> <p>JSw</p>
6	Towards a new London Housing Strategy	
	<p>DH presented the accompanying slides and invited the group’s views on the new strategy’s treatment of rough sleeping. Comments included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing supply, particularly of affordable homes for different groups, and tackling affordability in the private rented sector must be central. • The needs of single homeless people also need to be considered and social housing providers should play their part in meeting them. This could include avoiding excessive conditions for new tenants and ensuring stock available on a short-term basis is used to meet housing need. • The adverse impact of welfare reform on vulnerable people should be recognised. • The uncertainty around revenue funding for supported housing is a key issue. • Ensuring revenue funding for any Government-sponsored Housing First initiatives and developing a model appropriate to London’s circumstances are important. • The Mayor should consider a clear target on rough sleeping. • Solutions for non-UK nationals sleeping rough must be considered. • Boroughs’ and services’ need for Police support should be reflected. • The wider public needs to be engaged more fully around rough sleeping. 	
7	Any other business and date of next meeting	
	DE presented the current rough sleeping commissioning framework priorities to the	

<p>group to see if these required any changes. The group agreed that the priorities were fit for purpose and should remain in their current form.</p> <p>The next meeting is to be scheduled. JM invited suggestions on the agenda. TP highlighted the impact of cuts in local authority budgets on their capacity to conduct street counts.</p>	<p>GLA</p>
--	-------------------