

Mayoral Mandate

Accommodation and Wider Support for Those Who Need It Most

Introduction

As Mayor of London, I am determined to support Londoners who face barriers to accessing safe and appropriate accommodation. Three of the highest priority groups are people sleeping rough, survivors of domestic abuse with accommodation needs, and vulnerable migrants. These groups can also face a range of intersecting needs, social exclusion, and multiple risk-factors, including for their safety, health and financial security.

As London's strategic authority, the GLA leads on assessing London-level need, sector leadership and convening partners. We also have significant programmes in place to support these groups, particularly in relation to accommodation.

But I have committed to going further and this mandate commissions my City Hall team to work across the sector and in close collaboration with central government to respond to my ambitions to: end rough sleeping by 2030; establish a pathway of support and safe accommodation for all survivors of domestic abuse and their children; and champion the rights and contributions of migrants and ensuring they are free from exploitation. Partnership working will be fundamental to achieving these ambitions.

Given the importance of accommodation in this mandate, I expect it to be read alongside two other mandates: *Building More Homes* and *Improving London's Housing Stock*. Other important interactions should be with: *Reducing Inequalities* and *Supporting Londoners to Benefit from Growth*. I expect to see these connections come through the delivery plan for this programme. I also expect it to be aligned to the priorities set out in my Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy.

Strategic objectives

The GLA has defined a number of London-level, long-term outcomes which reflect Londoners' aspirations for the city and to which the GLA, in partnership with others, is working towards. The core outcomes to which this programme should contribute are: Londoners are not homeless; Londoners live in homes they can afford; and Londoners are treated fairly and with dignity. However, this programme should also contribute to ensuring the most vulnerable groups of Londoners are safe.

The delivery plan for this programme should recognise the benefits of a cross-cutting and partnership-based approach. It will be vital to work closely with London Councils and the wider sector to establish the most effective approach to achieve our objectives. This includes making the best use of existing resources, making the case for new resources, and clarifying roles and responsibilities.

Programme approaches and priorities

The delivery plan for this programme should focus on three key areas of activity:

Access to accommodation: People sleeping rough (including those who are at risk of rough sleeping or have experienced rough sleeping previously), survivors of domestic abuse, and vulnerable migrants should have access to safe and appropriate accommodation and support in sustaining tenancies. For survivors of domestic abuse, the GLA supports these aims through the government-funded Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) programme. The GLA's

rough sleeping programmes are funded using a combination of government grant (through programmes such as the Single Homeless Accommodation Programme and the Rough Sleeping Initiative) and GLA funding.

The GLA's work in these areas should mean that rough sleeping (and wider homelessness) in these groups can be prevented more often – or, where it does occur, that it is rare, brief and non-recurrent. This is key to meeting my commitment to work with the government to end rough sleeping by 2030. Achieving this goal within a challenging wider context will require working closely with the sector and central government, as well as new approaches to prevent and respond to rough sleeping.

The delivery plan should include the production of a revised Rough Sleeping Plan of Action and a new DASA Strategy during 2024-25. In producing these, we should consider how the GLA works with London Councils, the government, local authorities and wider partners to create and support sustainable solutions to the accommodation needs of those who need the most support.

Wider support services: Vulnerable groups often need access to a range of other relevant specialist advice and support services, including in relation to health, social welfare, immigration advice, employment and skills. We should continue to support wider outcomes through coordination with partners. Specialist support services should be planned in a person-centric way, so that they meet a broad set of individuals' needs as required. Any services commissioned by the GLA should reflect the GLA's strategic role; complement national, borough and sub-regional provision; and seek to address the systemic causes of the inequalities these groups face, as well as their immediate needs.

Sector support and systems change: Civil society and voluntary-sector groups are pivotal to addressing the needs of these groups, especially given the equalities dimensions and inherent specialist needs. They vary in size, scope, maturity and operation – from 'by and for' organisations serving specific groups and bringing in vital lived experience, to established national charities running a range of services and infrastructure organisations. The GLA should continue to work with London Councils and public-sector partners across health, housing and education, to convene partners across the system to harness their expertise; and support them to get the best outcome for these Londoners.

Contribution to cross-cutting priorities

The programme should identify where it can make a substantive positive contribution to the areas identified as cross-cutting priorities for the GLA. I expect that the key areas of focus for this programme will be around:

- Addressing structural inequalities – improving equitable outcomes for these groups and ensuring their intersecting needs and voices shape the programme
- Health in all policies – recognising particular health risks for these groups.

Resources

In 2024-25, the GLA's spend (excluding staffing) in these areas is around £66m and £43m for revenue and capital respectively. Large parts of this are committed to externally funded programmes, but circa £12,270,000 is funded from the core GLA budget.

I have committed to providing an additional £10m funding for rough sleeping over the course of this Mayoral term and expect the delivery plan to demonstrate what can be achieved within this level of funding.

Senior Responsible Owner

I expect the Assistant Director for Housing to be the Senior Responsible Owner of this programme, with my Deputy Mayors for Communities and Social Justice, Housing and Residential Development, and Policing and Crime to provide ongoing oversight and political direction, along with other colleagues from my office, on my behalf.

Next steps

I expect the Mayoral Delivery Board to recommend a delivery plan for this programme to me in line with our governance and oversight arrangements.

January 2025