

# Life Off The Streets Core Group

Minutes of meeting held on 15 March 2022

## In attendance

GLA, Greater London Authority – Debra Levison (chair), David Eastwood, Emma De Zoete

LC, London Councils – Michelle Binfield, Joseph Small (minutes)

LHDG, London Housing Directors' Group – Jamie Carswell

HL, Homeless Link – Pete Smith

NHS HLP, Healthy London Partnership – Jemma Gilbert

DLUHC, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Tom Preest

SM, St Mungo's – Petra Salva

LA, Local Authorities – Chris Pelham (City of London), Mark Billings (Hillingdon), Paul Davis (Lambeth), Gill Taylor (Haringey), Kath Dane (Tower Hamlets)

HJ, Housing Justice – Kathy Mohan

LP, London Probation – Karen Tipping

*For specific item:*

UKHSA, UK Health Security Agency – Anita Roche

## Apologies

DLUHC – Catherine Bennion

## 1) Welcome and introductions

Debra welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

## 2) Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting (24 February 2022)

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of the meeting. Noted several matters arising that are being worked through – update next time. Debra noted that the action related to finding out how many T1000 clients were under 26 when they first slept rough had been completed and revealed that the figure was 13% or around 130. An interesting statistic and suggests a focus on preventing young people sleeping rough is appropriate.

Jamie noted the progress made on redefining what ending rough sleeping means. There was a Ministerial announcement on 1/3/22 to the effect that the rare, brief and non-recurrent methodology will be introduced nationally with London acting as one of the Early Adopter regions. Michelle noted that the first meeting of the group of local and regional authorities acting as Early Adopters has been convened by CHI/DLUHC and takes place on 23 March 2022.

Debra suggested, on behalf of the co-chairs, that the group moved to having business/programme meetings less often (6-8 weekly) and used some of the freed up time for topic-based discussions which would allow more in-depth consideration of important issues and could be held in person. There was agreement for this from those present. It was agreed that the first discussion/workshop (in April) should cover the rare, brief, non-recurring methodology to enable the group to understand the options around this for London and what it will mean to be an Early Adopter. David noted the importance of this in relation to London being ahead of other areas in terms of data collection – and how this might disadvantage us in any comparative work – ie: we have real numbers, but other areas may use less accurate estimates.

## 3) Social Impact Bond review

David talked to the review paper previously circulated, highlighting the success of the SIB in terms of the proportion of people helped into accommodation and then sustaining that accommodation. The learning has been carried into the Pan London Navigator service and the T1000 project.

Jamie noted that some of the biggest areas of savings in these kinds of social investment models relate to employment outcomes but with this group of more entrenched and complex rough sleepers those outcomes were hard to achieve. Harder to evidence cashable savings to the Treasury in that respect. David noted that health and treatment outcomes are hard to measure and attribute and attach savings to.

Petra noted that staff retention for this project was good and important to outcomes. Staff really appreciate the chance to work in depth and over time with clients in this type of service model and we need to try and apply that learning more widely. All noted that, with a cohort such as the one the SIB focused on, time to build trust is imperative to success. It's hard to evidence 'building trust' as a concrete outcome but it is extremely important.

Noted that the T1000 project is in many ways a successor project of the SIB and key people are still involved in order to ensure learning around what works can be carried forward. Michelle noted that a subset of the current T1000 cohort (around x%) were SIB clients.

#### **4) T1000 update**

Michelle talked through the paper previously circulated, highlighting the current position with the project in terms of active cases, numbers accommodated vs sleeping rough and key themes/barriers identified within the sub-regional meetings that are being worked on. Examples include working with couples, barriers to people with a dual diagnosis and/or personality disorder accessing services, lack of access to options linked to immigration status and so on.

Jamie reflected on the key learning from the SIB – that we need to accept that for many people in this cohort the key to sustaining a life away from the streets will be the length and strength of the relationship they have with their support worker and that time is allowed for building trust.

Tom urged that as we move towards a more determined focus on the need to make rough sleeping rare, brief and non-recurrent, we allow ourselves to tolerate the fact that for some of the most complex people within this cohort the journey away from the streets will take time.

Kath pointed out the benefits of the many navigators and navigator teams working together to learn from each other and the importance of boroughs and providers coming together to share success stories of where complex clients have been successfully supported away from the streets. Michelle explained that the sub-regional meetings provide an opportunity for this and, where appropriate, pan-London discussions are taking place – giving the example of the meeting tomorrow on working with couples being led by a LA specialist, a psychologist and a VAWG expert.

Pete reminded the group of the role of the Plus Project and made an offer to contribute to the practice sharing that may be required in support of this initiative.

#### **5) End of Protect & Vaccinate and winter services and associated risks**

Michelle reminded the group that after the last Core Group meeting where this had been flagged as a risk, local authorities were surveyed to better understand the scale of the risk in terms of emergency accommodation placements being ended as a result of the P&V and Winter Pressures funding coming to an end. 31 of 33 local authorities responded, alongside the GLA, and the high level findings were presented.

The headline figures are that LAs reported that they are likely to end 260 placements at the end of March and a further 260 are likely to be ended in May/June. It is impossible to state with any certainty how many may go on to sleep rough but it should be noted that those accommodated under P&V were all rough sleeping prior to being accommodated.

Some local authorities reported that they have managed to make good use of underspends to carry on funding placements to the end of June, others are waiting until after the elections to allow new administrations to decide the way forward and some have decided to pick up the funding and continue placements indefinitely. A very mixed picture. As might be expected, the majority of those for whom placements are being ended are non-UK nationals who have either exhausted all options or who are still waiting for a decision.

Kath noted the letter from DLUHC that appears to preclude LAs from using P&V underspend into the next financial year and asked for more clarity on this, stating that without formal permission to use underspend, her Head of Audit would not allow this. Jamie suggested that the letter – as written – is much stricter about reporting and underspends than usual Section 31 letters. Tom offered to chat to any local authorities wanting more information but was unable to provide anything in writing other than the letter that had already been issued.

David updated on the GLA position stating that, while the estimates quoted by Michelle do not currently include any GLA placements ending, it is likely that GLA – as it moves towards closing the hotels over Quarter 1 – will be unable to resettle everyone and may end up having to release some people to the street as they await their immigration decisions.

Michelle noted that local authorities are working very hard to secure move on accommodation wherever possible and there is a push with the Home Office to get as many cases as possible escalated and decided before the end of the month. Two pan-London meetings – one focused on that group that has exhausted all options and one focused on those who have pre-settled status and no prospect of work – are scheduled for April.

## 6) Living with COVID update

Anita Roche was welcomed to the meeting from UKHSA. Emma reported on the latest guidance relating to COVID and how it has been updated for homelessness services noting that the key messaging remains the same in all the key areas and the Find and Treat team are being funded to continue the role they currently play.

It was noted that there is an issue relating to who bears the cost of testing for staff and a decision is awaited on this. Petra noted that homeless organisation Chief Executives have written to the Minister on this point and she will circulate the letter to this group.

Emma outlined plans for a webinar for homelessness services on the new guidance.

Jemma reported on the excellent progress made with the development of an online directory of key contacts for hospital discharge teams and services to use in making the right contacts in London local authorities. Link to be shared.

Jamie asked about the vaccine take up and need to consider whether the figures are correct and whether there is any data on whether the lower than average levels of vaccinations within the homelessness population has led to any increase in mortality. Emma responded that this is impossible to track and noted that work is being undertaken between Huda, NHSE and London Councils to refresh the baseline denominator but that this has been held off to the end of April to allow time for the change in accommodation locations linked to the end of March to work through the system.

Jamie asked that the T1000 cohort be considered a priority for any vaccine take up work and efforts are made to understand the levels currently. Tom agreed with this. David stated that CHAIN does contain fields for vaccination status, but they are not always accurately or fully completed.

## 7) Monthly data return

Circulated previous to the meeting. Michelle noted that several questions were removed this time around (mostly as they duplicated HCLIC data) and the remaining questions were more fully aligned with DLUHC's Delta system. Future intention is that this data is obtained directly from Delta avoiding the need for LAs to report twice. The LC return now has the detailed immigration status breakdowns for all rough sleepers as well as those in emergency accommodation, First time this was collected, and it was a bit painful, but we got a mostly complete set of data.

In terms of the content of the return, nothing remarkable to note. Rough sleeping numbers down across the board as a result of continuing access to P&V/winter provision and emergency placements up by a similar number.

## 8) Programme update

Michelle noted that she and David had updated a couple of areas of the programme plan and adjusted a couple of the risk scores, but the circulated documents were largely as they had been when considered at the last Core Group three weeks ago.

## 9) AOB

Debra noted that Eddie Hughes is attending the next Executive Board meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

## 10) Dates of Next Meetings

- 26 April 2022 – 3.30pm to 5pm – in-person meeting at Centre for Homelessness Impact offices to discuss the rare, brief, non-recurrent methodology and what it means for London to be an Early Adopter. CHI will facilitate this meeting.
- 10 May 2022 – 3pm to 4.30pm – online business meeting as usual



3) Update on the SIB.docx



Kerslake update from Core Group to Comm



T1000 and end of March position



4) T1000 Report for March Core Group.doc

## Outstanding actions

<b>Date Originated</b>	<b>Action Owner</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Latest Updates</b>
18.1.22	Michelle	Bilateral between RS Minister and HO Minister	Waiting for response from Ministerial offices
24.2.22	Michelle	Briefing for Housing Directors on using safeguarding panels to make the case for action around vulnerable rough sleepers	Outstanding
24.2.22	Jamie	To support a conversation with Housing Directors about care leavers and the importance of Joint Housing Protocols	Outstanding
24.2.22	Michelle	Get data on how many T1000 clients started rough sleeping aged <26	Data obtained and passed to YP workstream leads. For info: 31 (4%) of the current T1000 cohort are currently aged 25 or under, but 113 (13%) were aged 25 or under when they were first recorded rough sleeping in London.
24.2.22	Michelle David	Complete survey and draft letter for Executive Board showing the quantum of risk around the ending of emergency accommodation placements from the end of March	Waiting for survey results
24.2.22	Michelle David Petra	Resurrect the project on providing high support beds for non UK rough sleepers in hostels/supported housing	Meeting set up to take forward
24.2.22	Michelle	Set up new prevention workstream involving Petra, Jo, David, Emma and develop outline action plan	Meeting set up to take forward
24.2.22	Michelle Tamiru	Look at recommendations from Bloomberg event and ensure they are embedded in LOTS programme plan as appropriate	First meeting has occurred; more work planned
24.2.22	Michelle David Petra	Ensure better join up between the NSNO data on flow and CHAIN and review the data categories around flow	Meeting set up to take forward
15.3.22	Michelle	Change meeting cycles and set up workshop discussion on new methodology	Done
15.3.22	Emma Jemma	Webinar for homelessness services on Living with COVID and current guidance	In development