

Life Off the Streets Core Group

Minutes of meeting held on 21 February 2023

In attendance Jamie Carswell (Chairing) David Eastwood, Kathy Mohan, Jeremy White, Gabrielle Smart, Chris Pelham, Luke Oates, Ben McDonnell, Heather Clarke, Tom Preest, Jemma Gilbert, Liz McCulloch, David Orton, Lorna Brooke, Juliet Mountford, Emma de Zoete, Liza Collins, Saskia Prichard, Ajitha Sajeev, Paul Davis

New guest attendees Jason Marriott, Gabrielle Smart, Sara Bainbridge

Apologies Petra Salva, Richard Chapman, Candida Thompson, Karl Henson, Peter Smith, Mark Billings, Gill Taylor, Rose Clewlow, Riad Akbar.

1 Welcome and introductions

Jamie Carswell (Chair) welcomed members and new attendees.

2 Minutes and actions from previous meeting (7 December 2022)

Minutes approved. On-going actions and updates were circulated.

Jamie invited Tom Preest (DLUHC) to provide a brief update on the communication sent that week to Borough contacts regarding additional RSI funding directed specifically towards encouraging sub-regional rough sleeping bids. Tom informed members of the process by which the RSI funding would be applied for and advised that bids would need to be received by mid-April. After brief discussion by members, including David Eastwood noting the importance of the usual procurement processes being followed, the Chair thanked Tom for the important update.

It was agreed that Core members would shortly meet to discuss the detail of the pan-London bids and how bids could be submitted.

3 Rough Sleeping Data for London

Michelle Binfield (London Councils) introduced the new data approach item – a presentation and discussion of key London Rough Sleeping data sets side by side to Core Group. The papers had been shared in papers to Core Members and to borough commissioners.

She noted that the initial data (first three months) had been shared by DLUHC data team to the Core Group and while these were not yet significant statistically the Life off the Streets Group data workstream would be able, as planned and reported to Core Group, monitor a number of indicators over the next 3 quarters, especially around prevention of rough sleeping with the new data available.

Heather Watson (Westminster): thanked Michelle for the first part of the item and welcomed the new data presented, which Westminster could see providing points for work with DLUHC. She also suggested that in the future, putting the indicators into Power BI as opposed to a Q&A PDF could increase the reports useability.

Dave Eastwood noted that GLA were supporting further collaboration on London's Rough Sleeping data and stressed importance that any data changes are planned well across the year. Very much welcomed new data set.

Tom Preest noted that the Group's interest around making prevention rare, brief and non-recurrent has been instrumental in influencing rough sleeping policy and practice nationally. The Core members should reflect positively on the achievements of Life off the Streets around data, the numbers are high but we have started the key data work needed to end rough sleeping.

Jamie Carswell endorsed those comments and asked Jason Marriott (DLUHC) to begin his item on Delta Indicators.

Jason presented the DELTA Dashboard figures (see papers) which was in the Power BI format worked on with Borough sub-regions for Rough Sleeping, a new presentation of data to inform and assist the Core Group meeting.

Jamie Carswell thanked Jason for the game-changing sharing of Delta Dashboard information in this meeting. He noted that the move on figures indicated that surge accommodation in the winter months had kept people inside during severe weather conditions and broadly worked as intended.

Jamie invited Luke Oates (GLA) to present the third section of the data item, CHAIN

Luke presented the key Rough Sleeping in London (paper) summary slides prepared for Core Group showing the same time periods and key trends using CHAIN data and drew out insights and reflections on the picture across London as shown by Chain database information.

Tom Preest thanked Luke and made a comment of information that the CHAIN data is a version of outreach worker CHAIN, meaning that it does the reflect health or otherwise of the rough sleeping system.

Jamie Carswell affirmed this comment.

David Eastwood noted to Core members that Life off the Streets team have spoken a lot about how we talk about the data and data sets as a whole – telling the story of outreach workers working hard and adversity, as a partnership we are helping more people – but we need to reflect the complexity of the full situation and the achievements of public services.

Jamie affirmed this and commenced with the final section, London Councils Return

Ben Ridley-Johnson (London Councils) noted that as approved this was the final presentation of London Councils survey data. The proportion of non-UK rough sleepers had gone down by about a third over the past year however there had recently been an increase which the Core Members may want to note as a concern – this is captured in the Life off the Streets work streams. He showed the final data slide on the London Councils survey on Rough Sleeping figures which as data has developed in London has increasingly focused on non-UK Nationals.

Jamie thanked the contributors to the main data agenda item.

4 Report on Crisis at Christmas activity

After a presentation by Ben McDonnell to the group setting out process of reviewing Crisis at Christmas activity, it was noted that there was to be a review on Monday 27 Feb of service outcomes.

Juliet Mountford, Director Crisis at Christmas introduced herself. Very happy to take reflections from group and more widely.

Action Chair requested written summary of recommendations learning from Winter SWEP following review.

5. Report on SWEP (cold) and SWEP (hot)

Michelle highlighted to Core Group in her report on the recent SWEP periods the following including: the in for good principle around keeping people in accommodation after SWEP.; that 6 people used rest centres, these are not traditionally used, the shortage of temporary accommodation.

Difficulties boroughs reported back on included the shortage of hotel and temporary accommodation relating to home office. Women with dogs, couples particularly hard to place borough leads told.

Some rough sleeping outreach workers did very long hours and Michelle noted the toll on frontline.

Another reflection she fed back to the Group was that keeping SWEP open for longer periods was easier to maintain operationally. Earlier the notice the better. Some sharing of rest centres.

Sara presented the paper on developing shared London approach to hot weather Severe Weather Protocol as per the Core Group activity action points. See paper written by Sara Bainbridge of Transformation Health Partnership. The guidelines are intended to be for this summer and she requested to come back once review complete.

Chair thanked Sara for paper, approved request and asked for item for decision to be at future Core meeting, once review completed.

5 RSAP SHAP

Jamie thanked Luke Oates for the paper. He suggested there could be benefits to greater brokerage and challenge in the way we worked sub-regionally in relation to this area.

Luke thanked Jamie for his support and welcomed all contact to GLA, (DLUHC and LCs also to feed through). Best forums DLUHC and Sub-Regional advisor groups for starting conversations.

6 Health Update

Core Members discussed the updates provided by Emma de Zoete and contributions made by Jemma Gilbert in relation to the adverse funding announcement made about the Out of Hospital Fund.

It was agreed by Chair that an urgent follow up meeting would be held.

Home Office asks

The item and paper were spoken to by Michelle Binfield, she asked for the Core Group's support to write back to Home Office regarding the meeting invitation on 6 March to discuss ending of advice contracts. There are real risks to vulnerable rough sleepers associated with this announcement and the papers show the scale of the policy and practice challenge.

The members led by Co-Chairs agreed to draft a letter for the Life off the Streets Board to send to the Home Office.

7 AOB

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 25 April, 2023, 15:00 – 17:00. David Eastwood to Chair

Outstanding actions from previous meetings

Date Originated	Action Owner	Action
13.12.22	Solace Women's Aid, SHP	Asks of Women's Census report to be developed, fully itemised and brought to Exec Board
13.12.22	GLA, LC	Meeting including Michelle, David, Tom to plan for next period of SWEP Meeting in new year including the above and Emma de Zoete to discuss longer-term plans for SWEP.
13.12.22	GLA	Bring item on RSAP to next Core Meeting
13.12.22	LC	Prevention Strategy: Follow up meeting on detail of reforming how CHAIN verification is used to avoid it becoming a barrier to services or a driver for people to sleep rough. Present Prevention Strategy paper to Exec Board
13.12.22	Peter Smith	Peter to take forward ask for data on contact to Streetlink by borough level to be shared regularly.

28.6.22	LC/HLP	Follow up on social care asks with sub-regional DASS groupings
28.6.22	LC/GLA	Funding for data system project manager
28.6.22	David Eastwood/ Pete Smith	New severe weather protocol for London relating to hot weather
10.05.22	David, Petra	David and Petra to meet to discuss reasons for low level of Pan London Substance Abuse referrals.
10.5.22	GLA, LC and sub-group	Expand inputting agencies into CHAIN to better capture women rough sleepers
24.2.22	Michelle David, Petra	Resurrect the project on providing high support beds for non-UK rough sleepers in hostels/supported housing