

Terms of reference for the ‘No Nights Sleeping Rough’ taskforce

1.1 Purpose

The ‘No Nights Sleeping Rough’ taskforce brings together partners key to tackling rough sleeping in London, in order to

- identify interventions that will contribute to tackling rough sleeping in the capital, building on and complementing existing work to do so
- where possible, implement the interventions identified, or
- where necessary, lobby for the interventions identified, and
- monitor the effectiveness of interventions in tackling rough sleeping.

Interventions supported and/or implemented by the taskforce will, broadly, focus on preventing people from rough sleeping and on preventing those who have ended up on the streets from becoming (more) entrenched there.

1.2 How the taskforce will operate

Drawing on relevant data and briefings and on members’ insights, as well as responding to the proposals and plans of other agencies, the group will identify issues for investigation.

Taskforce members will contribute to the investigation of these issues and to developing proposals to address them on an ongoing basis between meetings.

Interventions proposed may include the following:

- lobbying Government and other agencies, and/or
- contributing to the development of the Mayor of London’s Housing Strategy;
- provision that can be made within the operation of existing commissioned rough sleeping services, and/or
- new initiatives. GLA funding will be available for these, including for necessary research and development work, but taskforce members will also seek further resources, including potentially contributing their own resources.

Members of the taskforce will commit to supporting, and potentially leading, the interventions agreed by the group.

Meetings of the taskforce will be used for the following:

- considering proposals for interventions to tackle specific problems, developed in advance of meetings
- monitoring the effectiveness of interventions already agreed through and pursued by the taskforce, identifying changes in approach where appropriate
- identifying emerging issues for future consideration
- responding to proposed policy changes.

Where the group decides to lobby a Government department or other agency to which a member belongs, that member will not be expected to participate, in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

1.3 Organisational arrangements

The taskforce will meet bi-annually, but members of the group will be active between these meetings, investigating and identifying possible interventions to address issues agreed by the group and implementing interventions already agreed by the group. The GLA will work closely with members of the group between its main meetings, to ensure progress is being made towards agreed goals.

The GLA will coordinate the taskforce, including providing secretariat support and working with members to collate, analyse and disseminate data, so that the taskforce has an accurate and current picture of the number and profile of those sleeping rough in London.

The minutes of each group will be circulated to core members (and associate members who have attended the meeting) for a minimum of two weeks for agreement before being published.

These terms of reference and membership of the taskforce will be reviewed annually.

2 Membership

The taskforce will be chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development.

Its core membership, committed to developing and implementing interventions, will include the following:

- the Department for Communities and Local Government
- senior representatives from the five London local authorities that have seen the highest numbers of individuals sleeping rough in the previous year, currently:
 - Westminster City Council
 - London Borough of Camden
 - London Borough of Lambeth
 - City of London Corporation
 - London Borough of Tower Hamlets
- senior representatives from four voluntary sector organisations that play a leading role in tackling rough sleeping in the capital, including the membership body Homeless Link, through which insights from smaller homelessness organisations can be reflected.

The group will also receive intelligence from the local authority rough sleeping leads' group convened by GLA. This will ensure that the concerns of local authorities with lower levels of rough sleeping are represented.

Members of the group who represent (potential) providers of GLA-commissioned services may need to absent themselves for some decisions that relate directly to those services, due to the potential conflict of interests.

The taskforce will also have associate members, who can be invited to attend meetings or contribute to its work to investigate and identify interventions to tackle specific problems, as is appropriate to the taskforce's workplan. These associates will include the following:

- Home Office
- Department for Work and Pensions

- Metropolitan Police
- Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime
- Probation Service Community Rehabilitation Company
- Association of Directors of Public Health (London)
- NHS London
- Transport for London
- London Councils
- Shelter
- Centrepont
- New Horizons
- City of London Police