

**Minutes**

**‘No Nights Sleeping Rough’ taskforce, 16 May 2019, Union Street**

**Attendees**

Guy Arnold	LB Camden	Maya Walker (notes)	GLA
Kath Dane	LB Tower Hamlets	Rachel Pascual	MHCLG
Paul Davis	LB Lambeth	Chris Pelham	City of London Corporation
David Eastwood	GLA	Hannah Boylan	GLA
Debra Levison	GLA	Howard Sinclair	St Mungo’s
Matt Harrison	Homeless Link	Jon Sparkes	Crisis
James Murray (chair)	GLA	Bill Tidnam	Thames Reach
Luke Oates	GLA	Kristian Draper	Thames Reach
Petra Salva	St. Mungo’s	Jeremy Swain	MHCLG
Alison Samedi	Home Office	Jennifer Travassos	Westminster City Council

**Apologies**

LB Newham

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Non-UK national rough sleeping statistics overview</b>	<b>GLA</b>
	Luke Oates (LO) presented a statistical overview of the key trends taken from the CHAIN reports and GLA services.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Current issues facing Routes Home and No Second Night Out</b>	<b>St. Mungo’s and Thames Reach</b>
	<p>Petra Salva (PS) provided a summary on the challenges and trends affecting GLA-funded services. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how Brexit uncertainty and lack of clarity on the settled status scheme has led to a reduction in options for EU nationals;</li> <li>• how a lack of OISC-registered legal advisors is limiting the support and advice that can be provided;</li> <li>• how – as a result of the above – a high and increasing percentage of non-UK nationals in assessment bed accommodation services are stuck there;</li> <li>• how this lack of throughput results in services being unable to help non-UK nationals new to the streets, increasing their vulnerabilities and often resulting in exploitation such as engaging in unregulated and dangerous work; and</li> <li>• the lack of clarity for local authorities and the Department for Work and Pensions on their statutory duties to and entitlements of non-UK nationals.</li> </ul> <p>Kristian Draper (KD) provided an update on the experience London Street Rescue (LSR) outreach service. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LSR works in 13 boroughs and over half of the people they find on outreach shifts are non-UK nationals;</li> <li>• outreach workers’ offers to non-UK nationals include helping them to find work, offering reconnection if they wish to go back home and providing welfare checks and support to those not willing to take up previous offers.</li> <li>• in some cases where clients are being supported to find work, after assessment it becomes clear that they are often not suitable, usually due to substance misuse, and the need for more support;</li> <li>• immigration status is often hard to determine, which leads to difficulties in</li> </ul>	

	<p>assessing what support people are entitled to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heathrow and Stratford are specific hot spot areas; and</li> <li>• a lack of options and engagement often leads to people’s situation deteriorating on the streets.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Controlling Migration Fund update</b></p> <p>David Eastwood (DE) provided an update on the Controlling Migration Fund. The GLA has secured six months’ funding for the Government but are awaiting a response on the following 12 months of funding.</p> <p>While the group welcomed this funding, they emphasised that the lack of adequate support available for this client group was a systemic issue that required long-term commitment by the Government to funding and other changes to enact real change.</p> <p><b>Action</b> DE and JM to discuss next steps to escalate confirmation and clarity on the next part of funding.</p>	<b>GLA</b>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>The Rough Sleepers Support Service</b></p> <p>Alison Samedi (AS) updated the group on the Rough Sleepers Support Service. Key points were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Home Office have set up a Rough Sleepers Support Service with the primary objective of resolving rough sleepers’ immigration cases as quickly and efficiently as possible;</li> <li>• the service will always endeavour to grant people status within immigration law and provide documentation where they are legally able to do so. If they are unable to legally gain status to remain, enforcement would be the result. However, this is not the primary agenda of the service;</li> <li>• the service has been running for several months and has only taken internal referrals from other Home Office departments at this stage. Part of the reason for this is rough sleeping services’ concerns about enforcement and the data sharing protocol relating to public task and consent;</li> <li>• an external referral could happen in the following way: initial contact with a rough sleeper would occur and an outreach worker would collect their information. Based on this, they would refer to the Rough Sleepers Support Service if required. The client would then be able to take the time to decide if they wanted to take part. If they consented, from that point onwards, the case would be under a public task; and</li> <li>• the Home Office will provide feedback to rough sleeping organisations on what support and advice they can and cannot provide with OISC registration.</li> </ul> <p>The group welcomed the Home Office commitment to try and help those who have status but are currently awaiting decision. The group were clear that independent legal advice prior to any referral would be essential. James Murray (JM) stated that enforcement has no role in tackling rough sleeping and that there needed to be a guarantee that no enforcement action would take place as a result of engaging with the service before GLA services would refer any individuals to this service.</p> <p>The group stated that more consultation, particularly with the migrant sector, was essential, and an updated and clear referral process. Hannah Boylan (HB) said that there had been conversations with the Home Office about them attending the Mayor’s Migration and Refugee Advice Panel and a special meeting of this group</p>	<b>Home Office</b>

	<p>could be set up. The group agreed this would be a good way forward.</p> <p><b>Action</b> GLA Social Integration Team and Home Office to organise a meeting.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Discussions and proposals for possible ways of working</b></p> <p>It was suggested that as legal advice has been identified as such a key component whether the MHCLG £5m commitment in their rough sleeping strategy could fund this work.</p> <p>It was also suggested that outreach protocol could be updated to provide guidance on giving advice to non-UK nationals to ensure that all teams were operating in the same way. Howard Sinclair (HS) highlighted the need to be transparent and that policy direction from the Government is crucial to enact real change.</p> <p><b>Action</b> MHCLG to provide clarity to the NNSR taskforce on £5m.</p> <p><b>Action</b> DE and JM to draft a letter to MHCLG calling for policy direction on this issue.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Debra Levison (DL) provided a summary of the Mayor’s winter and summer rough sleeping campaigns. It was agreed that messaging across the GLA and local authorities should align, to give clarity to the public.</p> <p>The next meeting is on 31 October 2019 09:00-11:00, Meeting Room F, 169 Union Street.</p>	<b>GLA</b>