

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing – 9 August 2022

Title: Rough Sleeping Initiative Grant

Report authorised by: Gill Taylor, Assistant Director for Communities and Housing Support (Interim)

Lead Officer: Maddie Watkins, Programme Lead for Rough Sleeping

Ward(s) affected: NA

Report for: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. The report seeks Cabinet Member approval for the receipt of grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) under the Rough Sleeping Initiatives (RSI) programme 2022-2025.
- 1.2. The grant has been awarded following a successful bidding process to the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Programme. The paper provides some detail as to how the grant will be spent, including the provision of directly delivered and externally commissioned services, as set out in our successful funding bid, and allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 17.3.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services, Private Renters and Planning is recommended:

- 2.1. To approve the receipt of grant funding from the Rough Sleeping Initiative Programme, in the sum of £3,641,429 over 3 years as permitted under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 17.1.

Year 1 (2022-23)	Year 2 (2023-24)	Year 3 (2024-25)	Total
£1,198,567	£1,228,378	£1,214,484	£3,641,429

- 2.2. Pursuant to CSO 17.3, to approve the award of grant funding to identified partner agencies listed in the table at 2.3, which were set out in the successful bid for funding.

Figure 1: Funding Allocation Breakdown

Provider	Intervention	2022-25 Costs, £
Haringey Council	Assessment and Crashpad Service	
	Co-located Housing Needs Officers	
	Employability and Reconnection Worker	
	Intensive Support Navigators	
	Move On and Resettlement Team	
	Peer Outreach Worker	
	Rough Sleeping Coordinator	
	Rough Sleeping Social Worker	
	Surge and Bespoke Interventions Fund	
	Sub-total	
Thames Reach Ltd.	Clarendon Night Shelter	1,194,188
	Haringey Street Outreach Team	548,844
Sub-total		1,743,032
St Mungo's	Housing First	132,934
Sub-total		132,934
	Total	3,641,429

2.3. To note that the following delivery partners were identified as part of the bid:

- 1) St Mungo's for the delivery of the Haringey Housing First Service for Rough Sleepers. This is an ongoing service that has been in place since 2018 and is for the provision of intensive floating support to 5 people. The service is part of an existing contract with St Mungo's for the provision of wider Housing First services across the borough.
- 2) Thames Reach for the delivery of an existing service which provides the Haringey Street Outreach Team. There is an existing contract in place with Thames Reach for 2021-23 with provision to extend for a further year (2023-24). The contract was funded in 2021-22 by the RSI 4 allocation, and it is likely that the service will be commissioned, beyond 2023-24 and to continue into 2024-25 on the same basis. Grant funding from RSI-5 of £548,844 is ringfenced for this intervention for a period of 3 years for 2022-25. Haringey were also granted a total of £1,194,188 for the delivery of a night shelter, with Thames Reach named partner in the bid for the delivery of the service. It is recommended that Cabinet approves the award of a new £1,194,188 contract to Thames Reach Charity Ltd for the delivery of the Haringey Night Shelter at Clarendon. In the first year, the service is expected to be fully functional from Autumn 2022 and will result in a part year cost of up to £228,577 and Haringey has received ring-fenced funding of this amount. A further 2 years funding has been agreed making a total of £1,194,188 over 3 years.

Y1 (2022-23)	Y2 (2023-24)	Y3 (2024-25)
£ 228,577	£ 476,118	£ 489,493

3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1 This funding has been awarded to the Council following a successful bid to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The funding is ringfenced for the purpose of reducing and ending rough sleeping, as set out in the bidding process and was awarded on the basis of specific initiatives and delivery partners. As such a tender process is not appropriate because grant monies cannot be awarded to other organisations or for other initiatives than those specified in the bid
- 3.3 Partner agencies Thames Reach Charity and St Mungo's were an integral part of designing the bid, in partnership with the Council's Housing-Related Support Service. The bid focused on the strengths of each organisation, a proven track record of working in partnership to reduce rough sleeping in the borough and the ability to mobilise initiatives at the required pace. Thames Reach were identified as the provider of the night shelter service on the basis of the discrete benefits to residents and to service delivery in having the same organisation delivering street outreach services and 'off the streets' accommodation.
- 3.4 The Clarendon building from which Thames Reach will run the night shelter is currently undergoing refurbishment; it is anticipated that this should be completed in September 2022, after which the service will commence.

4. Alternative options considered

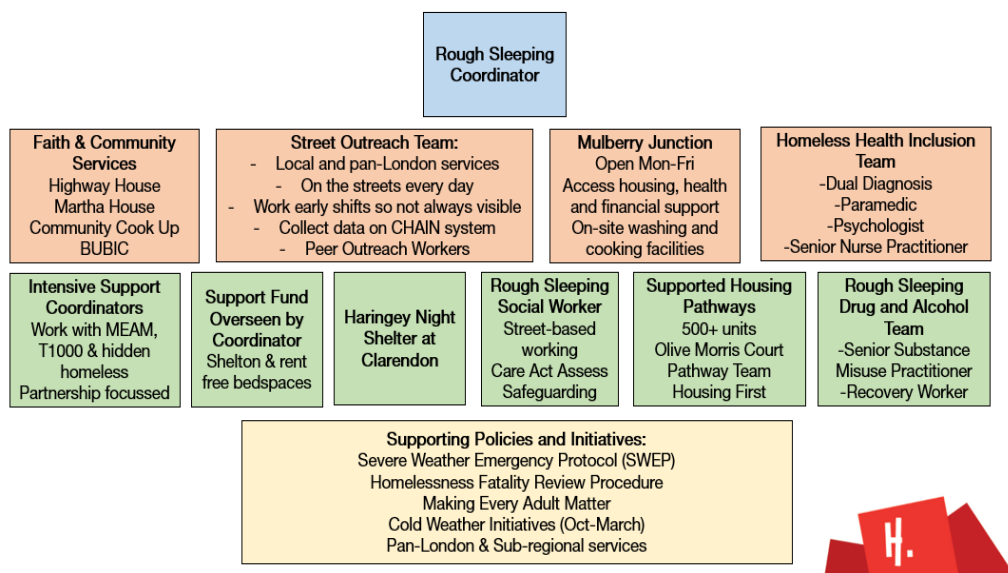
- 4.1 The Council could decide not to accept the grant. However, the successful bid was based on strong evidence of continued demand for services to tackle rough sleeping in the London Borough of Haringey, for which there is no other identified funding stream. Therefore, it is in the Council's interest to accept the grant in order to deliver against the commitments set out in the Borough Plan (2019-2023).

5. Background information

- 5.1. Successfully ending rough sleeping is a systemic and long-term project and not something that can be tackled solely on an individual, local or even regional level to truly sustainable effect. Haringey Council and partners work collaboratively to reduce rough sleeping in the borough, and to provide suitable and sustainable settled accommodation for those who have experienced rough sleeping.
- 5.2. In 2020/21 Haringey was awarded £953,000 from the Rough Sleeping Initiative. In 2021/22 a determination of £1,626,960 of funding was made, for both rough sleeping services and for the provision of accommodation under Everyone In and Protect and Vaccinate. Many boroughs provided feedback to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on the need for longer term funding which allows for more effective strategic intervention and for longer term planning. The award of a three year funding settlement for the period 2022 to 2025 is welcomed.

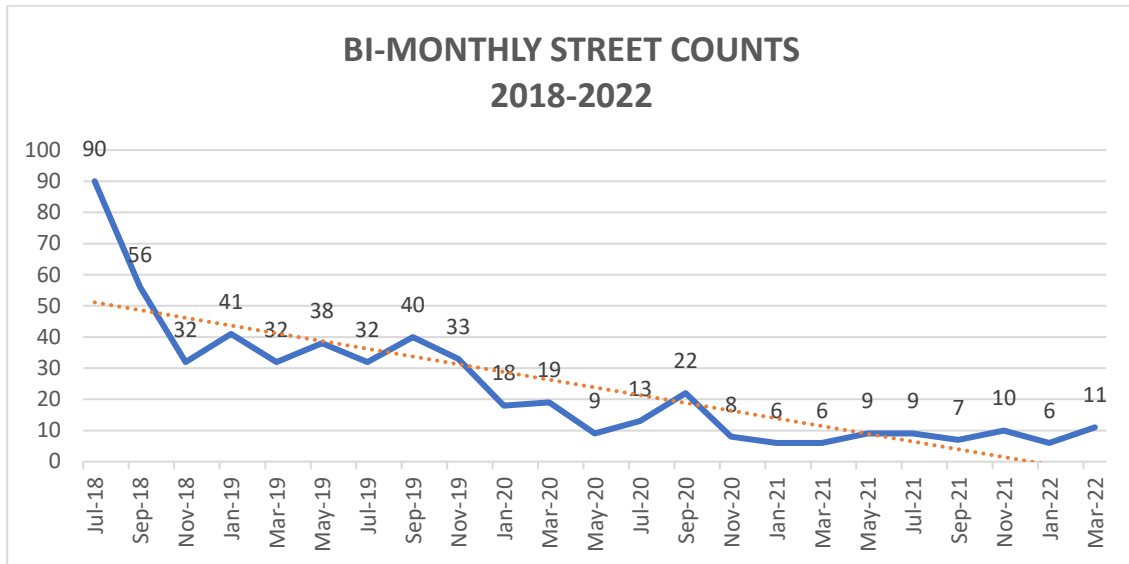
5.3. Since its inception in 2017, RSI funding has resourced a significant expansion of the boroughs rough sleeping programme. This has enabled the Council to respond innovatively and quickly to local demand and population changes which has resulted in national best practice and a strong track record for delivering positive outcomes for vulnerable residents. In particular, partly triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been major improvements in the response to people affected by rough sleeping from health services, both at the operational level in terms of practice development and multi-disciplinary working, and at regional level in terms of health commissioning and needs assessment.

Figure 2: The Haringey Rough Sleeping Programme



5.4. As a result of funding received from the Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Haringey Rough Sleeping Taskforce has achieved a sustained reduction in the numbers of people found rough sleeping in Haringey. In our annual street count in July 2018, 90 people were counted rough sleeping, by March 2022 this was just 11 people.

Figure 3: Bi-monthly Street Counts 2018-2022



- 5.5. Rough Sleeping and the street-based behaviour often associated with it, such as begging, street drinking and other forms of antisocial behaviour, are damaging to communities and individuals. People who are rough sleeping are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, as well as to hate crime and other forms of victimisation. Some groups are particularly vulnerable to this; women, young people, learning disabled adults, LGBTQ+ people and people from migrant communities. The provision of bespoke and trauma-informed accommodation and support services is a key mechanism through which the Council and its partners can prevent and respond to such experiences and inequalities.
- 5.6. During the life of the proposed contract with Thames Reach for the delivery of the Clarendon Night Shelter the Programme Lead for Rough Sleeping will undertake robust regular contract monitoring to ensure that service user outcomes and key performance indicators are met as well as any grant conditions set out by the DLUHC. The Programme Lead will develop a specification for the service, that identifies data submission requirements and deadlines.
- 5.7 Any funding granted under the Rough Sleeping Initiative will be governed by the following principles as set out by the Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities:
- 1) That local authorities work with DLUHC, public bodies, the VCS (Voluntary & Community Sector) sector and your local community for a continued focus on an end to rough sleeping.
 - 2) Local rough sleeping services will mature over the lifetime of RSI, developing approaches from emergency accommodation and crisis interventions towards a sustainment of a life away from the streets and preventing people rough sleeping for the first time.
 - 3) Interventions supported by the RSI should work with those people sleeping rough who have the highest/most complex need (including Target Priority

Groups), finding innovative and assertive ways to support these people off the streets.

4) Local authorities should consider how their interventions can be flexible and respond to seasonal demands, including winter and other surge provision (with no expectation of additional funding from the Department for this purpose in year).

5) Rough sleeping is resolved through a partnership response. RSI will be most effectively used when it is delivered in partnership with other agencies, the VCS sector, and the local community. Local authorities should actively develop and be able to evidence ongoing engagement with partner agencies including health, substance misuse, criminal justice services and the voluntary sector in local rough sleeping responses.

6) Services can be improved and targeted where they are most needed through shared intelligence, data, and information. Local authorities will be expected to provide regular information on the performance of services, local rough sleeper numbers and the emergency of issues for DLUHC's attention.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

6.1. This decision supports the delivery of the Housing Priority in the Borough Plan (2019-2023) '*A safe, stable and affordable home for everyone, whatever their circumstances*', in particular to;

- Reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by a third to under 2000 by 2022
- Aim to end street homelessness by 2022
- Ensure access to high quality housing support that prevents or relieves homelessness for people with additional needs

6.2. The decision also directly links to achieving the Adults Priority, '*Enable all adults to live healthy, long and fulfilling lives*', in particular to:

- All residents will be as healthy as possible for as long as possible.
- Health related quality of life will improve over time (including mental health and wellbeing)

6.3. The receipt of this grant and consequent services will contribute to the strategic objectives of Adult Social Care and their partners to offer preventative interventions at individual and community levels, preventing escalation of need and offering viable options to residential care.

6.4. The receipt of this grant and subsequent services will contribute to the delivery of the Council's Rough Sleeping Strategy, which is currently being re-drafted for 2022-2026.

6.5. The service also contributes to the Council's statutory responsibilities under a range of legislation including the Homelessness Reduction Act (2018), the Care Act (2014) and the Equality Act (2010), by providing housing-related support to

vulnerable people in order to ensure they are able to live independent, fulfilling and active lives in the community for as long as possible.

7. Statutory Officers comments

7.1 Finance

7.1.1 The report requests approval from Cabinet to accept £3,641,429 grant funding from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities under the Rough Sleeping Initiative and award £1,875,966 of the grant to partnering agencies detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report.

7.1.2 The grant funding is ring-fenced to be spent within the financial years 2022-25.

7.2 Procurement

7.2.1 The receipt of grant funding from the rough sleeping initiative as set out in 3 above was due to the successful application by the Council and partner agencies to deliver services for vulnerable rough sleepers.

7.2.2 In accordance with Contract Standing Order 17.01 the Council may approve the receipt of grant funding.

7.2.3 A tender process is not appropriate as this is an award of grant. The grant award is contingent on delivery by partners outlined at 2.3 above. The approval of grants to external bodies is made in line with CSO 17.3

7.2.4 Commissioning should ensure that any grant conditions are met and where appropriate regular contract monitoring is undertaken to secure outcomes and best value.

7.3 Legal

7.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of the report.

7.3.2 Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 17.1 Cabinet has authority to approve receipt of the grant referred to in 2.1 above.

7.3.3 Pursuant to 17.3 Cabinet has authority to award the grants referred to in 2.2 and 2.3 above.

7.3.4 The Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing Cabinet from approving the recommendations in the report.

7.4 Equality

7.4.1 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

7.4.2 The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status apply to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

7.4.3 The proposed decision is to approve the receipt of grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the provision of services under the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI). The objective of this decision is to ensure that the needs of those who are rough sleeping in Haringey are met through a thorough programme of interventions that are tailored to meet their needs.

7.4.4 The decision will affect individuals who are sleeping rough in the borough. This decision will help the Council to meet its equalities duties and address known inequalities affecting individuals with protected characteristics, particularly relating to age, race, and disability. Rough Sleeping and the street-based behaviour often associated with it, such as begging, street drinking and other forms of antisocial behaviour, are damaging to communities and individuals. People who are rough sleeping are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, and trafficking, as well as to hate crime and other forms of victimisation. Some groups are particularly vulnerable to this; women, young people, learning disabled adults, LGBTQ+ people and people from migrant communities. The provision of bespoke and trauma-informed accommodation and support services is a key mechanism through which the Council and its partners can prevent and respond to such experiences and inequalities.

7.4.5 Accordingly, the decision represents progress to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity.

8. Use of Appendices

Not applicable.

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Not applicable.