

Market Position Statement

Rough Sleeping

May 2024

Overview

What is considered rough sleeping?

- Rough sleeping is the most visible form of homelessness. It is typically associated with sleeping outside, but also refers to sleeping in a place not designed for living such as an empty building or a car. Some people are at a higher risk of rough sleeping than others.
- Monitoring of rough sleeping numbers and individual rough sleepers in London is assisted by the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN). Services that record information on CHAIN include outreach teams, accommodation projects, day centres and specialist projects such as the GLA-commissioned No Second Night Out.
- “CHAIN verified” individuals are counted as having been seen sleeping rough if they have been encountered by a commissioned outreach worker bedded down on the street, or in other open spaces or locations not designed for habitation, such as doorways, stairwells, parks or derelict buildings.
- Newham Council conduct bi-monthly street counts formally providing DLUHC information regarding numbers on the street in the borough. These are verified by Homeless Link. Officers couple this information with live intelligence from the outreach team.

Overview of commissioned services

A commissioned **Integrated Rough Sleeping Service (IRSS)** commenced 1st September 2021.

These are delivered by a contracted lead provider with sub-contracted providers. The lead provider and sub-contracted provider deliver services via distinct **Work Packages**. Current Work Packages are detailed in the table to the right.

Work Packages can be **flexibly amended and/or “called off”** (i.e. created anew) in response to changing demand.

The current set of Work Packages form **a distinct accommodation pathway** (Work Packages 1 and 5) and **wrap around support for rough sleepers** (Work Packages 2, 3 and 4).

The IRSS is **funded by** a combination of the Council’s General Fund, the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI), the Rough Sleepers Accommodation Programme (RSAP), and Integrated Care Board (ICB) funding.

Work Package	Services	Activated Yes / No
1	Street Outreach Floating, Move on Support, Housing Management & Tenancy Sustainment Housing First Accommodation based Support (high / complex needs)	Yes
2	Navigators	No
3	Day services/ Employment & Education support	Yes
4	Immigration, Advice and Support	Yes
5	Accommodation – Assessment & Step Down	Yes

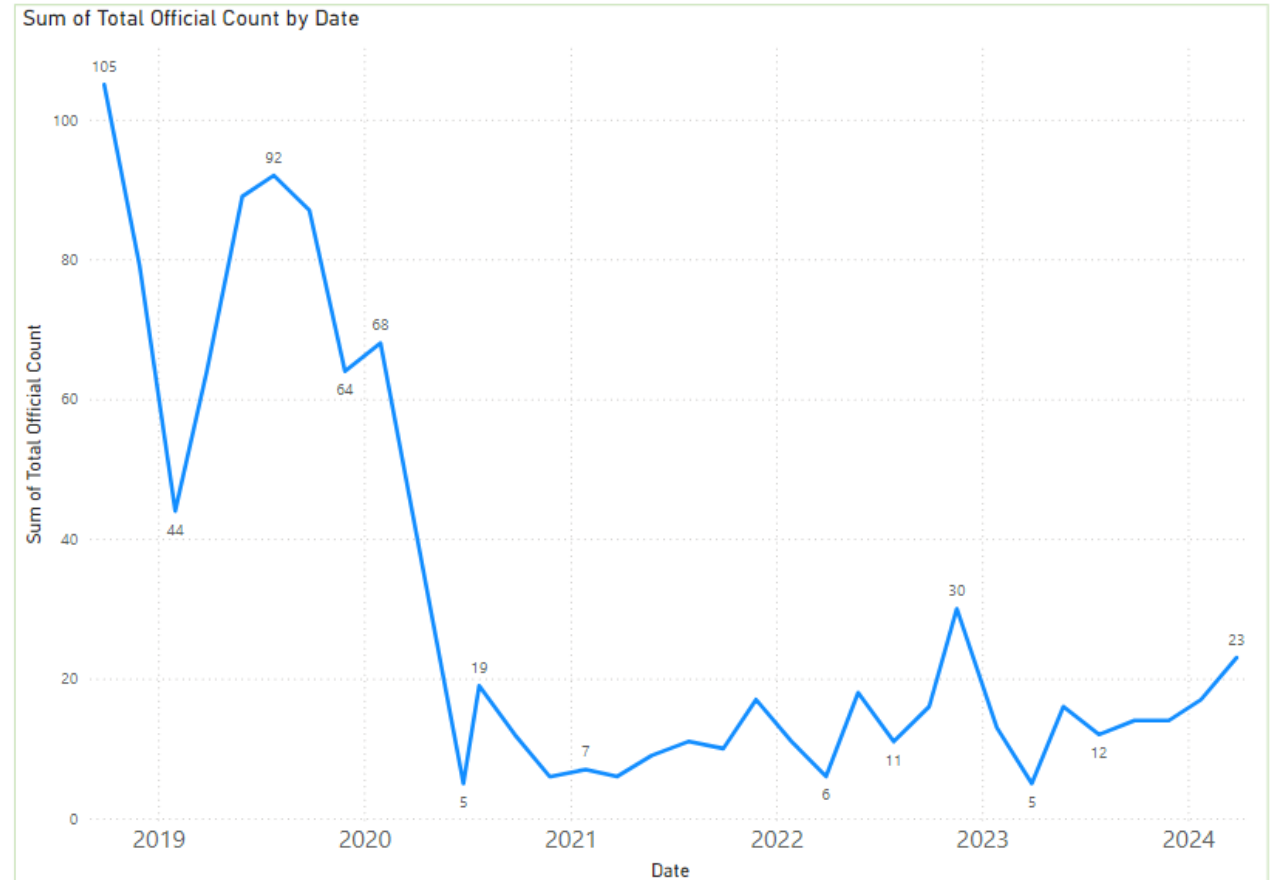
Demand

As of May 2024 there are currently **42** people rough sleeping in Newham, of which **2** are female.

As of May 2024, **11** females and **51** men are accommodated across the rough sleeping pathway of support services. Of these, **10%** have a diagnosed mental health condition that could be considered 'severe'.

78% of the rough sleepers currently supported by the Council have now registered with a GP.

84% of rough sleepers who have been supported to move on have not returned to the street.



Commissioned activity



Newham's single night rough sleeper snapshot figure in September 2019 was **105**. This has steadily decreased to date (with variables such as weather and access to work leading to spikes in date) to the most recent official count of **40**.

Following Newham's successful response to the 'Everyone In' directive, the IRSS service was commissioned in 2021 following Cabinet approval.

There are currently **62** people accommodated in accommodation via the LBN Rough Sleeping pathway.

7 of this current cohort have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), meaning the Council fund the full cost of their accommodation. Newham work closely with immigration advice services to progress claims in seeking status for these individuals, and provide access to funding to enable stable move on. Since the service began, Newham have supported **108** people with NRPF into stable tenancies.

Since 2021, **862** individuals have moved through the pathway. **68%** have moved on into long term accommodation, with the remaining **32%** either abandoning/being evicted from their accommodation (**24%**), leaving their accommodation of their own accord (**5%**) or going to prison (**3%**).

Of those currently rough sleeping **9** have recourse. This indicates that the cost of living crisis is impacting Newham residents, and that the Council has an insufficient supply to meet demand for accommodation at all times.

Equity and Protected Characteristics

Newham is experiencing a growth in the number of asylum seeing men under 35 accessing services through our in-house service supporting asylum seekers and refugees, Welcome Newham. This is reflective of a pan-London trend, resulting from changes to eviction timeframes in hotels provided by the National Asylum Support Service (NASS).

Of those currently accommodated in the pathway, **51** are men and **11** are female.

A small proportion of those in the pathway occupy the over **55** bracket (**15%**).

38% are UK citizens, with the remaining **62%** either settled, pre-settled refugee or indefinite leave to remain.

38% identify as either British or English, with **11%** Romanian, **9%** Lithuanian and **5%** Indian making up the other significant demographic numbers. The remaining in the pathway are from mixed backgrounds, with **1%** recognised as stateless.

Commissioning Priority 1: Review the IRSS and decide on its extension

The Council is in the process of reviewing the first three years' delivery of its Integrated Rough Sleeping Service. This will outline a recommend to either extend the contract or re-commission the service.

The review will provide an overview of its performance, issues to date and recommend actions to improve service delivery. Areas of focus will include:

- **Service accessibility:** Investigating how accessible the IRSS is to rough sleepers, including outreach effectiveness and potential barriers to engagement.
- **Service effectiveness:** Evaluating the effectiveness of the various services offered under the IRSS umbrella, such as street outreach, move-on support, and specialist support for complex needs. This will ensure the right interventions are provided.
- **Outcomes and sustainability:** Assessing the success of the IRSS in reducing rough sleeping and supporting individuals in staying housed long-term. Sustainability of support structures will also be examined.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Evaluating the financial efficiency of the IRSSS, ensuring resources are utilised optimally.
- **Contract structure:** The review will examine effectiveness of the lead contractor / sub-contractor structure of the contract.

Commissioning Priority 2: Continue to reduce numbers on the street

As of May 2024, Newham has seen recent increases in numbers on the street.

There are multiple external variables that can influence increases and decreases of this figure throughout the year, most notably the weather.

Newham performed well during 23/24 in a relatively forgiving winter period, but are aware that RSI funding has reduced in 24/25, reducing our resources to provide support at times of strain in the system.

Plans are currently underway to develop processes to work in partnership to mitigate weather-related rough sleeping risks over the summer and provide assertive outreach to people rough sleeping.

We plan on managing continued reductions in our numbers on the street by strengthening the throughput in our accommodation-based provision, and increasing our accommodation offer through onboarding of additional HMO style accommodation, subject to the granting of planning exemptions.

Commissioning Priority 3: Promote efficiency in the pathway

Our rough sleepers' accommodation pathway currently includes assessment centre style provision intended to support rough sleepers with 'off the street' accommodation and an assessment of their needs.

Feedback from providers suggests that we are experiencing increasing levels of acuity in this setting, making it difficult to support people to move-on into stepdown accommodation where less support is provided.

In the short term we continue to create capacity in the pathway by moving service users that are currently in our rough sleepers' accommodation pathway into stable accommodation.

In the medium are working to strengthen the pathway by increasing accommodation supply, but this has been a challenge due to local planning restrictions. Following the securing of exemptions, commissioners intend to increase our supply of HMO style accommodation for rough sleepers.

Commissioning Priority 4: Focus on prevention

During 2024/25, commissioners will develop and implement significant procurement activity that will impact the wider ecosystem of support services available to rough sleepers, most notably preventative services.

This will be completed via the Supporting Vulnerable Adults (SVA) Dynamic Purchasing Vehicle (DPV), a wide-ranging DPV establishing vehicles from which to procure various kinds of services.

In summer 2024/25 commissioners intend to establish two types (or Categories) of the DPV enabling future call-off of contracts via mini competitions. These Categories are:

- Category 2: Supporting Vulnerable Single Homeless Adults (SVSHA). This will enable Newham to call off accommodation-based support services to meet the needs of our single homeless population, reducing numbers in Temporary Accommodation as well as on the street and providing meaningful independent living outcomes.
- Category 3: Floating Support. This will enable Newham to call of a multi-disciplinary floating support service providing housing-related support to residents while they are living independently.

Commissioning Priority 5: Focus on prevention

Commissioners are currently in the process of developing a standalone tender to deliver support for those owed a relief duty under the Housing Act (1996).

The service proposed is a large-scale supported housing service of 110 units, provided from a Council-owned property in Stratford.

The service proposed will be an early example of a service commissioned under the Newham Living model. The Newham Living model represents the Council's intentions to better utilise its own assets in the provision of accommodation-based support and care services.

This service will further enable us to alleviate cost pressure in Temporary Accommodation as well as rough sleepers.

The building will provide wider benefits for rough sleepers to access information, advice, guidance and training via face to face sessions, including group workshops.

Commissioning Priority 6: Deliver upon year 3 of HRSS

Newham's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy (HRSS), launched in 2022 and covering the period until 2026, outlines a multi-faceted approach to tackling homelessness and eradicating rough sleeping within the borough.

The key principles of the HRSS are a focus on prevention, an intelligence-led approach, a public health framework to understanding homelessness and rough sleeping, improved access to housing, provision of holistic support and improved collaboration across departments and agencies supporting people experiencing homelessness and rough sleeping.

The Year 2 (2023/24) Report analysing performance against objectives set in the HRSS Action Plan has been completed and an Action Plan for Year 3 (2024/25) is under development. Actions in Year 3 will include improving rough sleepers' access to health interventions and improving local partnership arrangements between the statutory, commissioned and faith and voluntary sectors in Newham.

Commissioners will continue to track agreed actions via a specific HRSS steering group.