

**Homes and Neighbourhoods Directorate**  
**222 Upper Street, N1 1XR**

Report of: Ian Swift Director of Housing Operations

Meeting of: Housing and Communities Scrutiny

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Ward(s): All electoral wards

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## Subject: Rough Sleeping information.

### 1. Synopsis

#### **London wide rough sleeping data**

- 1.1. This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London and in Islington in April-June 2024. Information in the report is obtained from the 'Combined Homelessness and Information Network' (CHAIN), a database commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by Homeless Link.
- 1.2. In the rough sleeping figures in this report people are recorded into three categories:
  - New rough sleepers Those who had not been contacted by outreach teams rough sleeping before the period Living on the streets.
  - Those who have had a high number of contacts over 3 weeks or more which suggests they are living on the streets Intermittent rough sleepers.
  - People who were seen rough sleeping before the period began at some point and contacted in the period - but not regularly enough to be 'living on the streets.

- 1.3. People new to sleeping rough in the period April-June 2024 outreach teams recorded 1,931 people in London sleeping rough for the first time. Of these: 1,419 (73%) spent just one night sleeping rough, 440 (23%) slept rough for more than one night but did not go on to live on the streets 72 (4%) were deemed to be living on the streets.
- 1.4. The number of new rough sleepers recorded during this period was 20% higher than the same period last year. By comparison, of the 1,614 rough sleepers recorded as new to the streets in April-June 2023, 1,269 (79%) were seen sleeping rough just once. A lower proportion (19%) went on to spend more than one night without meeting the criteria for living on the streets, and 2% went on to live on the streets.
- 1.5. Living on the streets during April-June 2024 there were 624 people recorded who were deemed to be living on the streets. This total includes: seventy-two people who were new to rough sleeping in London and remained on the streets during the period. The number of rough sleepers deemed to be living on the streets is 52% higher than the same period last year, and 22% higher than the immediately preceding period (January-March 2024).
- 1.6. Intermittent rough sleepers the number of people who were seen rough sleeping during April-June 2024 who were not new and did not have enough contacts to be deemed as living on the streets, was 1740. This is 35% higher than the same period last year, and 6% higher than the immediately preceding period. Of these: 787 people (45%) were seen on just a single occasion, 454 people (26%) were seen just twice.

### **Islington data**

- 1.7. In Islington on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 period Islington recorded ninety-four people sleeping rough, this is an increase of nineteen people from the previous quarter and fifty-four people higher than the same period last year in 2023.

- 1.8. In Islington it is recorded that there are twenty people living on the streets, this is an increase of two people from the previous quarter and an increase of eight people sleeping on the streets for the same period in 2023.
- 1.9. The number of people intermittently sleeping rough in Islington was identified as fifty-one people intermittently sleeping on the streets of Islington, this is an increase of three people from the previous quarter and an increase of twenty-five people for the same period in 2023.
- 1.10. Therefore, in total in Islington during the April to June 2024 quarter, 162 people were identified as sleeping rough in Islington, this is an increase of nineteen from the previous quarter and an increase of eighty-five for the same period in 2023. A contributory factor in the increase in rough sleeping locally is a direct result of departures from Home Office accommodation, following settled status being granted. During April – June 2024, 18 NASS leavers were met rough sleeping in Islington, with some travelling to Islington/London from outside. Whilst the Council have been proactive in establishing an accommodation pathway for this cohort and providing 'in-reach' into Home Office hotels in borough, to support transition, the quick turnaround time of notice following status decision, coupled with the local housing allowance for under 35's, which make up the majority of this group, presents specific challenges.
- 1.11. Due to the increasing number of people 'living on the streets', it is even more important that the new homeless prevention and rough sleeping strategy underpins a commitment for cross departmental working to ensure the needs of these people living on our streets are met holistically. This is not simply a housing issue and as such ASC, public health and mental health input are essential to meeting the needs of people experiencing multiple disadvantages, which is also in line with the Councils Fairer Together 2030 commitment and the council's CARE values.
- 1.12. Islington will continue to seek funding opportunities and innovative ways of working through actively taking part in test and learn pilots and securing accommodation and support which are needs led. Islington has recently been successfully chosen to pilot two test and learn projects for personalised budgets

and accommodate and reconnect with Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI) to test these interventions impact on rough sleeping.

- 1.13. As part of our commitment to put the resident at the centre of all that we do, we will ensure that we continue to listen to the voices of those with lived experience of homelessness through consultation and co-production. Arts International are currently supporting consultation of draft Homelessness Strategy.

### **Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government data**

- 1.14. The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government dashboard data for the same period (April-June) in Islington which also provides an insight into where the pressures in Islington are which shows that 52% of people seen sleeping rough in the period were new to living on the streets of Islington. Whilst there is extraordinarily little prevention that can take place for people arriving in the borough from other areas, the approach to piloting the Ending Rough Sleeping Risk Assessment Tool and the Prevention Hub will hopefully begin to address some of this pressure.
- 1.15. Eighteen percent of individuals seen in the period were recorded as long-term or repeat (34 people). This is much lower than both the National (34%) and the London (38%) average.

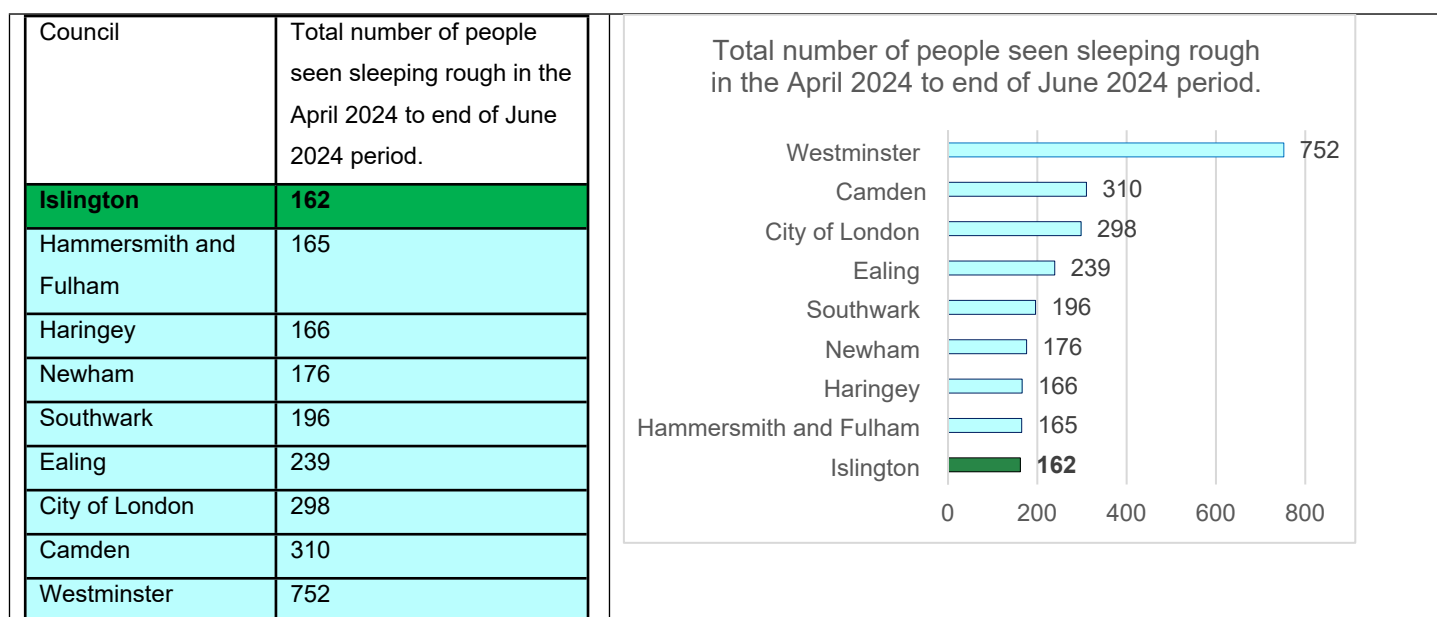
### **Conclusion**

- 1.16. The data shows that rough sleeping in London increased by 29%. This is the highest ever recorded, not including the COVID period. Even during the COVID period in 2020 the number of people sleeping rough over this period was 4,227 – just four more than this year.
- 1.17. Central Government must adopt a cross departmental strategic approach to ending homelessness and eliminating rough sleeping if Islington Council will address this housing crisis. Practically, a more collaborative approach between the Home Office and MHCLG in the case of refugee discharges would vastly improve Islington's ability to support people at risk of homelessness and prevent rough

sleeping. Additionally, given the increasing number of individuals joining the ‘living on the streets’ cohort, acknowledgment and investment is needed to offer tailored support to individuals experiencing multiple disadvantage and co-occurring conditions. This requires a cross departmental approach, with input from Health, Social Care, Housing and DWP.

1.18. Increased numbers of people are finding themselves living on the streets due to rising rents, unaffordable bills, or the unexpected loss of employment. Islington Council’s outreach teams are out every day trying to help people out of homelessness, but it is harder and harder to find options.

1.19. Eight councils in London recorded higher numbers of people sleeping rough compared to Islington. These councils are illustrated in the table and graph below.



## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the contents of this report and make suggestions for the elimination of rough sleeping in Islington.
- 2.2. We must remember there is a human behind all this data and the council needs to use all its Housing Operations services abilities both strategic and operational work to eliminate rough sleeping in Islington.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The housing crisis continues to be challenging for Islington Council and all council's with a 25% increase in the use of temporary accommodation for homeless households in Islington, a reduction in available lettings for Islington Council and Housing Association homes, an increase in households joining the housing register, an increase in Home Office evictions for people with a legal right to remain in the country with limited eviction notices provided to these people and reduction in new build affordable housing due to the current economic environment. However, it remains of the greatest importance to eliminate rough sleeping and ending homelessness in Islington.
- 3.2. Two separate sets of statistics released by the government reveal the extent of England's rapidly escalating housing emergency. The new statutory homelessness figures, which cover the period January to March 2024, reveal:
- The number of children who are homeless and living in temporary accommodation with their families in England has rocketed to 151,630- an increase of 15% in a year - and the highest figure since records began in 2004.
  - The number of homeless families living in emergency accommodation such as B&Bs and hostels has reached 8,860 – a rise of 29% in a year. This type of emergency accommodation is notoriously overcrowded, expensive and unsuitable.
  - Overall, there are now a record 117,450 homeless households living in temporary accommodation in England – the highest figure ever and up 12% in a year.
  - The loss of a private tenancy remains the leading trigger of homelessness accounting for more than one in four households found to be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless
  - Meanwhile, the latest Ministry of Justice figures on repossession and eviction, which cover April to June 2024, show:
  - 2,916 privately renting households were removed from their homes by bailiffs because of a Section 21 no fault eviction –the highest for over 6 years, and up 31% in a year.

- Between April and June 2024, 8,322 landlords in England started Section 21 no-fault eviction court proceedings in the past three months – up 11% from the year before.

## 4. Implications

### **Financial Implications**

- 4.1.1. There are no direct or quantifiable financial implications because of this report. If any recommendations follow from this report, they will need to be reviewed separately by Finance.

### **4.2. Legal Implications**

- 4.2.1 There are no known Legal Implications associated with this report.

## **5. Reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1 To assist the council's commitment of improving homelessness services and to provide the best rough sleeping and homelessness services in the country.
- 5.2.1 The council is committed to working collaboratively with all residents and partners to deliver this important work to ending homelessness and eliminating rough sleeping.