GENERAL

The Mayor has placed reducing homelessness amongst one of the top priorities for Newham during her term. This gives the Council and partners the mandate to collectively work together and ensure all services are coordinated to deliver the best outcomes for our residents and our rough sleepers.

The Taskforce has been explicitly established to focus on addressing the challenges around rough sleeping, however, acknowledge that a holistic approach and one of partnership working is fundamental. Therefore, the work of the Taskforce will undertake will compliment the wider homelessness and housing strategy.

OBJECTIVES

1. To find innovative and practical opportunities to prevent and reduce homelessness, and develop solutions that can holistically support Newham’s rough sleepers off of the streets by understanding ‘what needs to be different’, based on an assessment of needs and what’s in place to meet these needs.

2. Work in collaboration with the community, collating and examining local evidence, receiving expert witness information and using desk research to develop a Stratford specific solution.

3. Listen and act on experiences of people who are impacted by rough sleeping

4. Map all accessible services for rough sleepers and people that need support and assistance to ensure they adequately get the support they need.

5. Develop plans to deliver change across systems, sectors and services, and professions, drawing on evidence of ‘what works’, and the strengths and assets of those in the borough.

6. Establish appropriate pathways in place to meet the wide variety of complex needs that impact on this specific cohort of people that are appropriate, accessible, timely, flexible and deliver quality value for money services.

7. Create a shared ambition to end rough sleeping

8. Develop recommendations, then to move to an implementation phase that ensures services are seamless, coordinated and the impact can be evaluated.
Actions and Aims

- Focus on action and solutions for both immediate and long-term change for vulnerable individuals and the Rough Sleeping community with an initial focus on Stratford Mall and the surrounding area.
- Receive expert witness/evidence to inform the development of long-term sustainable recommendations for change.
- Seek and suggest improvements in the quality of services for rough sleepers and maximise opportunities for homelessness prevention.
- Encourage the development of different housing options to meet the needs of economic and socially disadvantaged groups within Newham, including those who find it difficult to access housing services.
- Foster effective partnership working to maximise available resources and avoid duplication of effort and resources.
- Ensure stakeholder and user involvement and consultation in the development of strategies and services for those threatened with homelessness and those already suffering homelessness.
- Ensure homelessness issues are reflected in relevant local plans and strategies through contribution and representation on forums, networks and internal mechanisms.
- Influence commissioning decisions about services for those threatened with homelessness and those already suffering homeless.
- Support the production and implementation of a new Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy.
- Monitor subsequent action plans and strategies as required.
- Identify emerging issues for review and consideration during the lifecycle of the taskforce.

Principles

The Task Force will ensure that they tackle tasks in the context of the following principles:

- Nothing is ruled in and nothing ruled out in terms of recommendations. Except whatever the outcome is, it must be done with care and compassion.
- Act quickly, bringing evidence and ideas to the very first meeting and taking work on as necessary in between meetings to ensure rapid progress.
- Inspire and drive change and improvement.
- Draw on evidence, including direct personal experience of homeless and formerly homeless people.
- Ensure change leads to improvement throughout the system and this can be measured and evidenced.
- Lead across the whole system working with and through a wide range of partners.
- Maintain momentum at hot spots throughout the Borough in particular within the Strafford area.
- The Group will bring their different viewpoints together with the evidence to form joint recommendations. In the case of differences of opinion, the Group will ensure these are surfaced, addressed and do not get in the way of rapid work to set out solutions.
- Understand experiences of adversity result in trauma and this requires an environment of physical and emotional safety and a strengths-based approach in service delivery.
Membership

Chair

Councillor John Gray  Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Lead Member for Housing

Programme Team

Rochelle Paisley  Programme Manager
Xolani Annakie  Business Change Project Support

Councillors

Councillor Firoza Nekiwala  Deputy Cabinet Member – Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor James Beckles  Cabinet Member for Crime and Community Safety
Councillor Joshua Garfield  Stratford and New Town Ward
Councillor Nareser Osei  Stratford and New Town Ward
Councillor Shaban Mohammed  Deputy Cabinet Member – Housing Services
Councillor Zulfiqar Ali  Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor Terrence Paul  Stratford and New Town Ward

Council and Government Officers

Ajitha Sajeev  Street Population Manager,
Colin Ansell  Corporate Director, Adults and Health
Jason Strelitz  Director, Public Health
Margaret Gates  Strategic Lead, Homelessness Prevention and Advice, Housing Needs
Sheila Roberts  Director of Enforcement
Tony Jobling  Director of Operations, Adult Social Care
Annie Mulhall  Communications
Thomas Wilkinson  Senior Research Officer, Policy and Performance
Peter Smith  MHCLG
Karl Henson  Commissioning Lead for Rough Sleeping
David Eastwood  Greater London Authority

Partners and Stakeholders

Anchor House  Metropolitan Police
Bonny Downs  NewDay
Business Improvement District  NHS Newham Clinical Commissioning Group
Carpenters Café  Renewal
Docklands Settlement  Shelter
East London Foundation Trust  Single Homelessness Project
Frogmore  St Mungo’s
Home 4 Newham  Stratford Center (Stratford Mall)
Liberty  ThamesReach
Lola’s Homeless  Transition Practice
Governance / Roles and Responsibilities

Frequency of Meetings:

The taskforce will meet on a monthly basis and will be responsible for producing a **detailed project plan**, with clearly defined work streams.

Each **work stream** will have a lead and product will be feedback to the Taskforce (Project Board) for comments and approval. The workstreams and governance structure was agreed at the 1st Taskforce meeting held on the 5th of August 2019.

Minutes and an action log will be produced for each work stream and for the project board – The **Programme Manager** for the taskforce will ensure these are clearly synched together. A risk and issues log will be managed by the project manager and monitored by the Taskforce.

The **Chair of the taskforce** will work closely with the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny and enable sufficient time for recommendations and emerging evidence to be reviewed by Scrutiny in a timely manner and will be integral to the production of reports.

The terms of reference will be reviewed on an annual basis.
Engagement and Consultation

The Taskforce will develop an engagement and consultation plan which enables all parties to voice their opinions on Rough Sleeping and help shape future recommendations of the Taskforce and include exploring the use of Citizen Assemblies, Specific Forums, Surveys and full resident and member engagement.

The input from all stakeholders will be vitally important and cannot be underestimated, a collaborative approach with all parties will be undertaken including Members, Scrutiny, Local businesses, Voluntary organisations, Police, Central Government, Public Health, Transport for London, Home Office, DWP, residents and the homeless community with lived experiences.

Resource Plan

A dedicated Programme Manager and administration resource will be made available for the Taskforce.

A Consultation and Engagement expert will be identified to lead on this specific work stream.

Existing resource from within the Council will be identified to work on specific work streams. The project manager will matrix manage these resources as part of a project management approach.