

LBHF's Rough Sleepers' Commission

In 2015/16 241 people were seen sleeping rough in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (CHAIN, 2015/16). Of these 147 people were only seen once, reinforcing that fact that Rough Sleepers are transient. The Homeless Reduction Bill will make amendments to the Housing Act 1996 which places more duties on local authorities in the prevention, relief and early identification of homelessness.

The council has a vision to reduce the number of rough sleepers in the borough and prevent people who are sleeping rough from becoming entrenched rough sleepers. The long-term goal is to reduce the number of rough sleepers to **zero**.

LBHF has set up the commission to explore the following:

- Review and Identify areas of good practice in services provided to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping in London and the UK.
- Review current services in LBHF and measure these against good practice, also identifying any gaps in provision.
- Formulate recommendations for interventions and/or service redesign, to deliver better outcomes for the people that are rough sleeping in LBHF, to support those at risk of rough sleeping and to reduce the number of rough sleepers down to zero

Who is involved?

Jon Sparks – CEO of Crisis (Chair)

Steven Platts – CEO of Glass Door

Michael Buraimoh – Operations Manager of The Upper Room

Thomas Neumark - CEO of The Peel Institute

Michael Angus – Director of The Barons Court Project

There will be additional people involved in this work.

The Commission will:

- Identify the scale of and nature of rough sleeping in the borough
- Review available literature on rough sleeping, drawing on studies and commissions from across the UK and where relevant internationally
- Take written evidence from leading experts, policy makers and practitioners and explore these submissions through oral hearings
- Take evidence from local third sector, council funded and Independent service providers.
- Obtain evidence from residents who have interacted with the Council's current rough sleeping services and who are part of the Housing First Pilot

Aims of the Commission:

- Identify key principles on which to base services for rough sleepers
- Make recommendations to the council on how best to support rough sleepers and prevent those at risk becoming rough sleepers.
- Recommend interventions and service design for implementation locally or more widely that will help people who are sleeping rough

Timescale

6 Meetings, over 6 months.