

# MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

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Friday, 6 March 2020

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Mayor's Decision Log No. 191

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1. **MHCLG ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE 2020/2021 (Pages 3 - 28)**

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact: Matthew Mannion, Committee Manager, Democratic Services

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# Agenda Item 1

<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No:	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiatives 2020/21</b>	

<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>	N/A
<b>General Exception or Urgency Notice published?</b>	<b>N/A Exemption from call in notice published</b>
<b>Restrictions:</b>	N/A
<b>Reason for seeking an Individual Mayoral Decision:</b>	The MHCLG is late in announcing this funding award and sending an MOU for consideration resulting in less than 6 weeks to seek an agreement from Cabinet to vary service delivery contracts to continue and expand rough sleeping services

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Mayor is being asked to approve two contract variations, one for the council's commissioned Enhanced Rough Sleeping Outreach Service (EROS) number DR5450 for £635,501 and one for the council's commissioned Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers number PL5242 for £126,242.
- 1.2 These variations are the result of the council being successful in its bid to the MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/2021. This one year funding is to continue and expand a range of innovative and effective rough sleeping services. The MHCLG grant is ring fenced and delivery organisations are identified to ensure services are speedy expanded and the continuity of current MHCLG funded services are not put at risk. In addition, The City of London's is contributing £88,659 from their Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/21 award as agreed with the MHCLG to enable the expansion of the Rough Sleeping Navigators Service that is shared with, but lead by Tower Hamlets. In principle, a small amount of match funding from LBTH's DAT service, totally £35,000 is also included.

- 1.3 Mayoral approval is being sought as the grant exceeds the level of authority available to corporate directors under the Council's scheme of delegation.
- 1.4 The council has received notification of the award and the accompanying MOU. We expect to shortly receive the Grant Award letter.
- 1.5 The reasons for these decisions are:
  - 1.5.1 In the national Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, the Government has set out its aim to end rough sleeping by 2027, halving it by 2022. In January 2019, the council launched our five year Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which echoes this commitment. In December 2019, the Prime Minister committed to ending rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament in 2024 – 3 years earlier than the previous commitment. Without these new funding Government streams it is very unlikely we can achieve this aim.
  - 1.5.2 In addition, were these recommendations not to be approved, all new services which started under the MHCLG RSI 2018/19 and 2019/20 would need to cease by 31 March 2020. This action would leave rough sleepers who entered into new accommodation options, without support and at risk of returning to the street. This includes: rough sleepers in the council's new Housing First Pilot; those with complex needs currently in B&B and on Safe Seats; and those ear marked to enter the Crash Pad later this month
  - 1.5.3 In addition, it is likely that the gains made in the reduction to the council's rough sleeping figures would be lost. It would also put at risk the council's reputation with MHCLG – opening ourselves to challenge as to the level of our commitment to end rough sleeping as well as putting future funding opportunities at risk. It would also put our NFNO partnership with the City of London at jeopardy and as a consequence severely limiting the council's homelessness prevention options for those at risk of rough sleeping.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:
  - 2.1.1 Approve a variation to St Mungo's Enhanced Rough Sleeping Outreach (EROS) contract number DR 5450 for £635,501.
  - 2.1.2 Approve a variation to Providence Row's Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers contract number PL5242 for £126,242.

- 2.2 The funding is being awarded through:
- 2.2.1 Tower Hamlets' MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2020/21 Award that will enable roles and services that are currently funded under the MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2019/20 to continue and expand between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, totally £638,084.
  - 2.2.2 The City of London's MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/21 Award to enable the expansion of a Rough Sleeping Service (Navigators) that is shared with, and lead by Tower Hamlets, totally £88,659
  - 2.2.3 In principle, a small amount of match funding from LBTH's DAT service, totally £35,000 will be included.
- 2.3 The MHCLG RSI funding is ring-fenced for agreed services and named organisations. We have received the grant notification and a MOU containing these details. We are expecting to receive the Grant Award letter shortly.

**APPROVALS**

**1. (If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor. I confirm that the Mayor and/or Lead Member have agreed to this decision being taken using this process.

Signed  Date .....

**2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed  Date 5/3/20

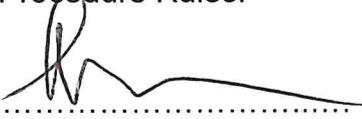
**3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

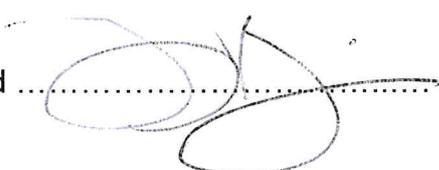
I confirm that this decision:-

- (a) has been published in advance on the Council’s Forward Plan OR
- (b) is urgent and subject to the ‘General Exception’ or ‘Special Urgency’ provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed  Date 5/3/20

**4. Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed in the recommendations above for the reasons set out in Sections 1 and 3 of the attached report.

Signed  Date 5/3/20

<b>Individual Mayoral Decision</b>	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>6 March 2020</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/2021</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Housing</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Karen Swift, Divisional Director – Housing and Regeneration
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	N/A Exemption from call in notice published
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	N/A
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	<b>Strong, resilient and safe communities</b>  <b>Better health and wellbeing</b>

### **Exemption from Call in**

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Constitution, Section 30) provides that the 'Call In' procedure shall not apply where a decision taken by the Mayor is urgent, i.e. that any delay likely to be caused by the 'Call In' process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public interests. This decision has been determined to be urgent and is therefore not subject to call in.

### **Executive Summary**

The Mayor is being asked to approve two contract variations, one for the council's commissioned Enhanced Rough Sleeping Outreach Service and one for the council's commissioned Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers. These variations are the result of the council being successful in its bid to the MHCLG for new and continued funding for a range of innovative and effective rough sleeping services.

The MHCLG grants are ring fenced and delivery organisations are identified to ensure speedy mobilisation of new services and the continuation of services that commenced in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Mayoral approval is being sought as the grant exceeds the level of authority available to corporate directors under the Council's scheme of delegation.

## Recommendations:

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Approve a contract variation to St Mungo's Enhanced Rough Sleeping Outreach (EROS) number DR5450 for £635,501.
2. Approve a contract variation to Providence Row's Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers number PL5242 for £126,242.
  - 2a. The funding is being awarded through:
    - Tower Hamlets' MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2020/21 Award that will enable roles and services that are currently funded under the MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 2019/20 to continue and expand between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021, totally £638,084
    - The City of London's MHCLG Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/21 Award to enable the expansion of a Rough Sleeping Service (Navigators) that is shared with, and lead by Tower Hamlets, totally £88,659
    - In principle, small amount of match funding from LBTH's DAT service, totally £35,000.
  - 2b. The MHCLG RSI funding is ring-fenced for agreed services and named organisations. We have received the grant notification and a MOU containing these details. We are expecting to receive the Grant Award letter shortly.
3. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.1.
4. Delegate to the Corporate Director Place the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to recommendation 1.

## 1. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

The reasons for the decision are: the MHCLG funding awards are ring-fenced and delivery organisations are identified and agreed by MHCLG. This is to enable existing services funded under the MHCLG RSI 2019/20 to continue without disruption and some can be expanded and mobilised by 1 April 2020.

- 1.1 In the national Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018, the Government has set out its aim to end rough sleeping by 2027, halving it by 2022. In January 2019, the council launched our five year Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy which echoes this commitment. In December 2019, the Prime Minister committed to ending rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament in 2024 – 3 years earlier than the previous commitment. Without the MHCLG RSI 2020/21 funding award, it is very unlikely we can achieve this aim.

- 1.2 Mayoral approval is required given the size of the funding allocation. The amounts involved are too large to be approved under the authority devolved to Corporate Directors under the Council's scheme of delegation.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Were these recommendations not to be approved, all new services which started under the MHCLG RSI 2018/19 and 2019/20 would need to cease by 31 March 2019. This action would leave rough sleepers who entered into new accommodation options without support and at risk of returning to the street. This includes: rough sleepers accommodated in the council's new Housing First Pilot; those with complex needs currently in B&B and on Safe Seats; and those earmarked to enter the Crash Pad as first stage accommodation. In addition, it is likely that the gains made in the reduction to the council's rough sleeping figures would be lost. It would also put at risk the council's reputation with MHCLG – opening ourselves to challenge as to the level of our commitment to end rough sleeping as well as putting future funding opportunities at risk. It would also put our NFNO partnership with the City of London at jeopardy and as a consequence severely limiting the council's homelessness prevention options for those at risk of rough sleeping.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

### **3.1 Rough Sleeping Service Contracts**

- 3.1.1 St Mungo's is the council's commissioned provider of the rough sleeping outreach service whose team name is TH SORT and the contract is entitled Enhanced Rough Sleeping Service (EROS). Providence Row Charity is the council's commissioned provider of a day service for rough sleepers under the Contract name Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers.
- 3.1.2 Both the EROS and the Resource Centre for Rough Sleeper Contracts were procured through an open tender process. St Mungo's EROS contract started on 1 April 2017. It is a 3 year contract with a possible continuation of 2 years. Providence Row's Resource Service Contract commenced on 1 April 2018 and is a 3 year contract.

### **3.2 MHCLG's Funding Streams 2018 – 2020, the Records of Corporate Director's Action (RCDAs) and Individual Mayoral Decisions**

- 3.2.1 The Government is committed to ending rough sleeping by 2024. Since 2018, the MHCLG have asked local authorities with high rates of rough sleeping to bid for new annual funding. Quick service mobilisation was a key criterion to ensuring a successful bid.
- 3.2.2 In July 2018, the council's Housing Options service received notification that we were successful in our bid under the MHCLG's new Rough Sleeping Initiative fund (RSI) 2018/19 and was awarded £297,331. This funding was agreed with the condition that the new posts and services would be up and

running by September 2018. The funding was ring-fenced and allocated to named organisations.

3.2.3 The contract awards were approved under delegated authority via Records of Corporate Director's Action (RCDA):

- St Mungo's EROS Contract for £117,923 from 1 September 2018 to 31 March 2019
- Providence Row Resource Centre Contract for £106,807 from 1 September 2018 to 31 March 2019

Both RCDAs were approved and contract variations letters were signed off.

3.2.4 The council's Housing Options service also received funding to employ a Street Nurse and a Rough Sleeping Coordinator.

3.2.4 The MHCLG are very focused on hard outcomes, i.e. reduction of number of rough sleepers, although they do include a range of KPI and outcome measures in their monthly monitoring forms.

3.2.5 The MHCLG has praised the council's ability to mobilise funding and commence services in a timely manner. Moreover, it has congratulated Tower Hamlets in our reduction of rough sleepers as noted in the annual street count figures. In November 2017, our street count was 21. Since the introduction of the MHCLG RSI funding, our figure fell to 10 at our November 2018 annual street count. The counts are externally verified, using the same methodology year on year and hence, accepted as accurate snapshot figures of our rough sleeping population on the street on one given night.

3.2.6 In January 2019, the MHCLG indicated that LBTH was in a strong position to receive continued RSI funding for 2019/20. This was based on the reduction in our street count figures and the MHCLG's interest in the figure remaining low as well as the demonstrable effort that went into mobilising the RSI funding on time.

3.2.7 Working at pace in October 2018, the MHCLG announced further funding opportunities under their new **Rapid Rehousing Pathway Initiative (RRP)**. The RRP contained four distinct funding streams all aimed to meet gaps in rough sleeping prevention and responses.

3.2.8 The City of London (lead authority) and Tower Hamlets submitted a joint bid under two streams:

- Continuation funding for our tri-borough No First Night Out (NFNO) rough sleeping prevention project via the Social Lettings Funding Stream (unsuccessful – didn't meet the eligibility criteria)
- A Navigators service to support rough sleepers to exit the street. In this case we were successful and have been awarded £130,617.

3.2.9 The MHCLG wrote a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the council and the City of London Corporation to review and sign. The MOU sets out the

conditions of the funding, including the funding was ring fenced for a named delivery partner: St Mungo's who run both the City of London's outreach service and Tower Hamlet's rough sleeping outreach service.

- 3.2.10 We have discussed with the City of London who would accept the funding and agreed that it would be Tower Hamlets. It has been noted and very much appreciated that the City of London has been the lead of the tri-borough NFNO project for the past 2 years, a project in which Tower Hamlets has gained the most benefits and housing outcomes. The amount of work the City of London has put into the NFNO project has been substantial including managing the staff team and negotiating a number of contracts with Private Rented Sector providers which has been time consuming.
- 3.2.11 LB of Tower Hamlets' agreement to take a lead on the Navigators funding, in which the council and the City of London will have equal access to the recourse and outcomes, is a way of sharing the responsibility of joint projects with the City of London and indeed thanking them for this hard work and continued commitment towards Tower Hamlets and NFNO.
- 3.2.12 The council's Private Sector Housing Policy team and Housing Options Services submitted two bids to the MHCLGs new PRS Access Fund in late 2018. We received written confirmation at the beginning of March 2019, that both bids were successful. One will enhance our Housing Options service while the other will provide continued funding for our cross-borough NFNO project. Bringing together the NFNO project underspend and the PRS Access Fund NFNO funding is enabling the City of London to continue to employ project staff and allot resources through to 31 March 2020. LB of Tower Hamlets continued to see the benefit from this combined funding making the argument for us to lead on the RRP Navigator funding even stronger.
- 3.2.13 In March 2019, Tower Hamlets was awarded £402,000 under MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative 2019/20. The Award letter was accompanied by an Appendix outlining the specific interventions alongside the named agencies to deliver these services. There was an expectation that the funding would be distributed to partner agencies forthwith to enable them to continue to run the 2018/19 RSI services and retain current workers on contract from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. It was agreed that the Street Nurse post would be deleted and replaced by a more generic Complex Needs Health Coordinator post. An Individual Mayoral Decision was agreed for variations to the EROS outreach contract (£356,121) and Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers contract (£142,509). These amounts included underspent, contributions from the City of London MHCLG RRP bid for the Navigators service and a small contribution from the DAT service. Contract variation letters were produced.
- 3.2.14 In October 2019, Tower Hamlets was awarded £100,000 under MHCLG Suspension of Derogation / Cold Weather Rough Sleeping Fund. Appendix 1 attached to the Award letter specified how the funding was to be spent and identified organisations to deliver the services. RCDAs and contract variation letters were approved as follows: the EROS outreach contract - up to £68,870 for a cold weather outreach worker, accommodation under the Suspension of

Derogation and personalisation funding for local rough sleepers; the Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers contract – up to £13,130 for a crash pad for complex needs rough sleepers. The remainder went to the employment of an additional Housing Options rough sleeping officer.

3.2.15 In November 2019, the Housing Options service and MHCLG coproduced a RSI 2020/21 bid. This was preceded by a number of monitoring reports and visits. MHCLG was happy with the progress and approach Tower Hamlets has taken to reducing and preventing rough sleeping and although our November 2019 street count was higher than the previous year (17 and 10 respectively) this was still much lower than surrounding boroughs and lower than the London and national picture.

3.2.16 In February 2020, Tower Hamlets was awarded funding for the initiatives and services that had been co-produced with the MHCLG. The total Award is for £712,477 (£635,961 new money, £76,516 underspend). The Award letter and MOU specify the specific interventions to be funded, amounts of funding for each and named organisations to deliver the interventions. The RSI and RRP funding streams have been rolled into one – both are now under the MHCLG RSI 2020/21. The Navigator service will continue to be shared across Tower Hamlets and the City of London but lead by LBTH. The No First Night Out Homelessness Prevention Project will also be shared across both authorities but lead by the City of London.

**3.2.17 The MHCLG is asking for the MOU to be signed at the council's earliest convenience and thus, this Mayoral request has a level of urgency.**

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Rough Sleepers are some of the most marginalised members of our society. By agreeing the recommendations above, this diverse population of clients will have improved access to support and accommodation options. Tailored approaches can be created from a range of specialist services to meet the complex needs of this cohort. Demographic and support needs will continue to be monitored, compared against the pan-London rough sleeping data and reviewed to ensure that no one group is being inadvertently discriminated against.

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),

- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

- 5.2 Internal consultation has been conducted within the Housing Options Service and with homelessness stakeholders including the MHCLG. All have agreed the importance of these grant awards in being able to effectively support and accommodate vulnerable rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.
- 5.3 Supporting rough sleeping to exit the street and take up safe offers of accommodation reduces the risk of violence and harm associated with rough sleeping. The services provided through these grants will help to safeguard rough sleepers.
- 5.4 Moving rough sleepers into accommodation also helps reduce anti-social behaviour that often accompanies rough sleeping, therefore providing to support to all those who live and work in Tower Hamlets.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 The Council is considering varying two contracts, one for the council's commissioned Enhanced Rough Sleeping Outreach Service and one for the council's commissioned Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers. These variations are the result of the council being successful in its joint bid with the City of London to the MHCLG for new and continued funding for a range of innovative and effective rough sleeping services.
- 6.2 These MHCLG grants are ring fenced for rough sleeping and delivery organisations are identified to ensure speedy mobilisation of new services and the continuation of services that commenced in 2018/19 and 2019/20. Mayoral approval is being sought as the grant exceeds the level of authority available to corporate directors under the Council's scheme of delegation.
- 6.3 A contract variation is being proposed to St Mungo's Enhanced Rough Sleeping Outreach for £635,501 and to Row's Resource Centre for Rough Sleepers for £126,242. In total the contract variations are £761,743.
- 6.4 These contracts are being funded through MHCLG's Rough Sleeping Initiative 2020/21 Award of £638,084 to LBTH and £88,659 to City of London. The remaining balance of £35k will be met from within existing budgetary provision.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 As a local housing authority the Council has a duty under the Housing Act 1996 to secure that accommodation is available for eligible applicants who are homeless, in priority need and not intentionally homeless.

- 7.2 The Council has the legal power to undertake the actions detailed in this report.
- 7.3 This report seeks approval of the variation of two existing contracts relating to the Rough Sleeping services.
- 7.4 Whilst the report defines the actions required as a variation to existing contracts, under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 the variations constitute direct awards as the variation amount exceeds the values stated under Regulation 72. However, the Council is restricted from undertaking a meaningful competition exercise on the grounds that the MHCLG has granted the funds on the basis that the recipients of the funds will be Providence Row and St Mungos. It is clear that the Council has no intention to avoid competition or act anticompetitively.  
Therefore, running a competitive exercise to spend the grant would be a disproportionate use of the Council's resources. Also, the mandate relating to the use of the funds constitutes a technical reason why competition is absent for the purposes of regulation 32 (Use of the negotiated procedure without a prior notice). Therefore, the risk of a challenge should be considered extremely low.
- 7.4 It is also noted that these providers have previous involvement in the current projects and therefore there is a need for the continuation of existing work that cannot be separated from the new project.
- 7.5 The Council is required when exercising its functions to comply with the duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, namely to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Those with protected characteristics of race and disability are over-represented among rough sleepers, and this grant assists with the execution of the Council's Equality Duty in this regard.

## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Between Council and MHCLG on Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) Funding

### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE.

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

N/A



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Rough Sleeping Initiative: Memorandum of Understanding

Tower Hamlets

Agreed: 05/02/20

**Signatories**

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of

The Secretary of State for the Ministry of  
Housing, Communities and Local  
Government

Tower Hamlets

Name Catherine Bennion

Name

Position Deputy Director for  
Homelessness and Rough  
Sleeping Delivery

Position

Signature

Signature

Date

Date

# 1. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding

1. This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been drafted to set out the principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between MHCLG and Tower Hamlets with regard to delivering Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) funded services.
2. This new fund, to cover the 2020/21 financial year, combines the RSI and Rapid Rehousing Pathway (RRP) into a single, streamlined funding programme. The fund is designed to support the establishment or enhancement of coordinated local services, based around the Rapid Rehousing Pathway model, for rough sleepers or those at risk of sleeping rough, with the aim of reducing and, ultimately, ending rough sleeping in England.
3. The MoU sets out the monitoring arrangements and responsibilities, accountability, governance structures and financial arrangements of the project.
4. This MoU guides future relationships and is subject to review where appropriate to ensure that it continues to reflect activity on the ground.
5. While this document is not a legal or binding agreement, all parties are committed to honoring it. The agreement will need to be updated to take account of any possible future changes in the wider relationship between the parties involved.
6. The document outlines the actions which are necessary to provide Government and local partners with assurance that decisions over funding are proper, transparent, and that they deliver value for money. In performing their respective roles, the parties will continue to ensure that they act in a manner that is lawful, transparent, evidence based, consistent and proportionate.
7. The funding allocated as part of the RSI should in no way be used to fund support activities or provisions that would be deemed unlawful. If you are unsure if your intended use of funding will be within your legal powers you should seek clarity with your lawyers. If this will change the amount of funding you require this should be discussed before signing the MoU.

## 2. Funding Composition and Payment Mechanism

8. Funding for this project will be provided by MHCLG directly to Tower Hamlets via a Section 31 Grant Determination.
9. Total funding for the financial year 2020/21 is £635961 to be paid in 2020. Total funding is comprised of £0 capital funding and £635,961 revenue.
10. This allocation will be split into two payments, both to be paid in 2020. The first tranche will be confirmed immediately upon signature of this MoU and paid as soon as possible afterwards.
11. The second tranche of funding will be paid in October and is dependent on:
  - a) Whether the agreed actions upon which the first payment was made have been completed. The agreed actions will be covered in the delivery plan.
12. This funding is for the sole purpose of delivering RSI funded services in Tower Hamlets and the areas associated with the submitted proposal.
13. It is Tower Hamlets's responsibility to provide assurance to their MHCLG account manager that funding is accounted for and is only applied to activity agreed in the delivery plan.

### **3. Governance, Monitoring and Reporting**

#### **Governance**

14. MHCLG's Principal Accounting Officer is accountable to Ministers and Parliament and the Department will therefore require Tower Hamlets to provide performance reporting of projects funded through the programme.
15. In MHCLG the funding set out in this MoU will be managed at a strategic level by either an RSI or HAST adviser or a policy official.
16. For Tower Hamlets the rough sleeping coordinator, or equivalent lead officer, will have oversight of the programmes listed in this MoU.
17. Where Tower Hamlets identifies significant risks or issues of financial or delivery under-performance those must be escalated to the Head of Rough Sleeping Delivery in MHCLG for resolution.
18. Tower Hamlets and MHCLG will hold regular monitoring meetings to discuss progress and performance across the programme in this MoU.

#### **Monitoring and Reporting**

19. Tower Hamlets will appoint an account manager who will be responsible for providing monitoring and performance reports which will include:
  - A summary of progress made on each funded intervention in this MoU.
  - High level outcomes for each funded intervention.
20. In addition, Tower Hamlets will carry out a street count or informed estimate every 2 months during the funding period in order to keep close track of how many people are sleeping rough in your area. As with the annual rough sleeping statistics, these figures constitute a snapshot of those sleeping rough on a single night and are not intended to capture all those seen over a period of time. However, these counts are for management information purposes and will not be published or verified by Homeless Link. If you wish to carry out an informed estimate rather than a count, this must be agreed with your adviser. Further guidance on this will be provided separately.
21. Tower Hamlets and MHCLG, during the delivery of the RSI, will conduct an evaluation (detail to be agreed) to inform transformation and enable learning to be shared elsewhere. Tower Hamlets will supply data and participate in this evaluation.

## 4. Interventions

22. The types of interventions we are supporting through the RSI 2020/21 fund and have supported through the RSI and RRP to date, can be classified in four different groups which support the establishment of a coordinated pathway. We expect all local authorities to adhere to the following principles and practice when delivering these interventions. They are:

- a) Street-based response. Assertive outreach that performs a function intercepting and engaging with those who are sleeping rough in order to direct them into services away from the street. This is the crucial first stage in getting people into a pathway of services and while there is no one model for delivering such provision, the following features are advised:
  - I. An unrelenting commitment and focus on ending homelessness and ability to bring in support from other local services to achieve this.
  - II. Outreach shifts that correspond with patterns of rough sleeping in a local area; these should be dynamic and respond to seasonal and other changes including early morning and/or night time coverage.
  - III. A personalised approach focussed on client need, including in particular those who are the most difficult to engage, rather than being driven by institutional restrictions. Teams should work flexibility to find solutions and be focussed on achieving outcomes for individuals.
  - IV. The ability to gather data from the street and use it to influence the operation of all other services downstream.
  
- b) First stage accommodation. The first line of accommodation providing a safe space away from the street, mitigating the risks individuals face when sleeping rough. There are various models of shelter provision and rapid assessment hubs and they will need to be tailored to local need. The approach we have piloted through the RRP is the Somewhere Safe to Stay approach, for more detail see the RRP prospectus.
  
- c) Housing support and housing-led solutions. Options for the supply of longer-term accommodation options. These tend to be most appropriate for clients with lower and medium needs. They work best when combined with appropriate floating support, particularly for more complex clients. Services can include:
  - I. Local Lettings Agencies which work to make the most efficient use of local rental accommodation, brokering relationships with landlords and managing properties if necessary. They can also include flexible funds to enable clients to access accommodation and provide reassurance to landlords, such as rent deposits. Crucially they

unlock housing supply that would otherwise be out of reach for this cohort. See the [RRP prospectus](#) for further details.

- II. Supported lettings tenancy sustainment support, which can include floating support workers and flexible personalised budget funds to support clients to overcome challenges they face in sustaining their tenancy. See the RRP prospectus for further details.
  - III. Housing-led solutions for rough sleepers, or those at risk of sleeping rough, with more complex needs who require intensive on-going support to recover from multiple need such as mental ill health or substance and alcohol misuse and an environment that is flexible enough to promote this recovery.
- d) Specialist Support workers. Relevant at all stages of an individuals' journey through services, specialist workers are skilled at getting the necessary support to those who are most vulnerable and have the most complex needs. This may be through having expertise in a specific work area such as substance misuse or that they play a role in co-ordinating the resources available locally. Such roles may take the form of:
- I. Rough Sleeping Co-ordinators who work to ensure services are interlinked, that data is accurate, reporting information is collected, blockers in an overall system are identified, changes are made as necessary during service delivery and that case plans are in place for identified individuals.
  - II. Rough sleeping navigators who work with a small caseload of individuals with the most complex needs to support them through services. See the RRP prospectus for further details.
  - III. Other specialist roles focussed on issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, mental ill-health and prison leavers.

23. Across all these groups of interventions we expect local authorities to embed preventative action for those at risk of sleeping rough, not just for rough sleepers. This could include liaison and diversion approaches from hospitals and prisons and work with accommodation providers to reduce short notice eviction.

24. We also expect local authorities to work proactively and flexibly with other local authority areas seeking to reconnect rough sleepers who do not have a local connection where they are sleeping rough, and do have a local connection to the area to which they are being referred.

## **5. Non-UK Nationals**

25. Regarding the provision of support to Non-UK nationals we expect local authorities to be aware of the legal restrictions that can apply when offering assistance to this group, depending on their immigration status (for example, the restrictions contained in Schedule 3 to the Immigration and Asylum Act 2002).

## **6. Data Protection**

26. MHCLG and Tower Hamlets will co-operate with one another to enable each party to fulfil its statutory obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) (2016/679) as amended, superseded or replaced from time to time.

27. Nothing in this MoU is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between the parties, constitute either party as the agent of the other party, nor authorise either of the parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other party.

## 7. Delivery Plan

Funding rolled over into 2020-21 from 2019-20's RSI and RRP allocations is: £76,516. This has been removed from your total funding allocation of £712,477 to provide a final total of £635,961 as set out at paragraph 9.

Rough Sleeping Initiative Delivery Plan					
Lead Local Authority		Tower Hamlets			
	Outputs (Please detail expected milestones and deliverables required to make each element operational)	Cost (Not applicable to all outputs)		Delivery Date (not applicable to all outputs)	Comments (as appropriate)
		Revenue (e.g. training, staffing)	Capital (e.g. equipment purchase)		
Intervention 1: First Stage Accommodation	1 x Complex Needs Worker from St Mungo's	£43,006	N/A	Already in post	1 x worker already in post
	2 x Winter Crash Pads at Providence Row Charity	£27,242	N/A	01/11/20	£13,621 each.
	1 x Personalisation Budget to provide emergency accommodation and unblock housing options through St Mungo's	£40,000	N/A	N/A	Flexibility and creativity are keys to the success in use of this funding.
Intervention 2: Housing Support and housing-led solutions	1 x Housing First worker recruited and in post at St Mungos	N/A	N/A	April 2020	Recruitment is expected to take 12 weeks from funding announcement
	2 x Housing First workers' salaries via St Mungos	£51,012	N/A	01/04/20	1 x Housing First post already in post. 1 x New post. Total cost of two Housing First workers is £86,012. In principle, DAAT have agreed to match fund the second worker up to £35,000.
	Housing First personalisation budgets held by St Mungos	£9,000	N/A	N/A	This is integral to the success of the scheme. 1,500 x 6 new HF clients. LBTH will match fund £1000 per client through our Resident's Support Grant.
Intervention 3: Specialist Workers	1 x Rough Sleeping Coordinator within Tower Hamlets council	£54,393	N/A	N/A	1 x Rough Sleeping Coordinator already in post.
	1 x Navigator Manager recruited and in post at St Mungos	N/A	N/A	01/04/20	Recruitment is expected to take 12 weeks from funding announcement
	2 x Navigators recruited and in post at St Mungos	N/A	N/A	01/04/20	Recruitment is expected to take 12 weeks from funding announcement
	1 x Navigator manager salary : St Mungos	£28,500	N/A	01/04/20	The cost of the manager is £57,000. This costing is being evenly split between LBTH and the City of London to support the 5 navigators across the two local authorities.
	4 x Navigators salaries: St Mungos	£235,890	N/A	01/04/20	2 x Navigators already in post; 2 x New posts. All 4 posts are shared equally with the City of London.
	1 x Navigators personalisation budgets held by St Mungos	£28,434	N/A	N/A	4 Navigators working with 10 clients each total 40 clients @ £677 per client and the Navigator Manager working with 2 clients @ £677 per client. If clients require additional funding, this will be match funded by the respective local authorities.

	1 x Health Needs Co-ordinator at St Mungos	£54,000	N/A	01/04/20	1x Coordinator is already in post
	1 x Immigration Advice and Support through St Munogs as the lead agency	£22,000	N/A	01/04/20	Partnership already in place between LBTH, St Mungo's and Praxis
	1 x Street Psychotherapist recruited and in post at Providence Row Charity	N/A	N/A	01/04/20	Recruitment is expected to take 12 weeks from funding announcement
	2 x Street Psychotherapists and on-costs in Providence Row Charity	£99,000	N/A	01/04/20	1 x Psychotherapist already in post. 1 x New Post. Providence Row is currently fundraising to match fund 0.5 the 2 <sup>nd</sup> post.
	1 x Metropolitan Police Support	£20,000	N/A	01/04/20	Section 92 Contract between Met Police LBTH Rough Sleeping Team already in place. Two months to vary this contract from funding announcement.



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