

16c. Labour Motion: London Charter to End Rough Sleeping

The following amendments are proposed by the Green Group with additional agreed text from Labour in green

All amendments have been accepted by Labour and Green Group respectively.

Underlined text = proposed additional wording ~~Strikethrough text~~ = proposed deletions new text = amendment inserted

Hackney Council notes:

1. Despite the Government's commitment in 2019 to end rough sleeping by 2024, estimates show there has been an increase in rough sleeping in all regions of England, with London and the south-east accounting for almost half of the rise.¹
2. Rough sleeping has increased under this Government, with the number of rough sleepers having increased by 74% since 2010.²
3. The most recent annual count by the London-only Combined Homelessness and Information Network (Chain) showed 10,053 rough sleepers spotted on London's streets between April 2022 and March 2023. A total of 4,068 people were counted between July and September 2023 for the most recent quarterly update with half of those new to the streets.³
4. The majority of people sleeping rough in England are male, aged over 26 years old and from the UK. Meanwhile the Office for National Statistics found men who are living on the street outnumber women at a ratio of six to one.
5. Women are often missing from rough sleeping counts because they tend to be less visible than male rough sleepers due to the risk of violence on the streets. A coalition of homelessness and women's organisations in London conducted a women's rough sleeping census in October 2022 and found 154 women, including trans and non-binary women, sleeping rough in London in a week. That number was higher than previously thought with an extra 71 women found across 13 London boroughs when the data was compared to the latest official rough sleeping count.
6. The cost of living crisis has exacerbated longstanding drivers of homelessness, such as a shortage of affordable housing, an often punitive welfare system and increasingly stretched health services.
7. Local authorities and homelessness charities state that street homelessness is just the tip of the iceberg and estimate the number of people living without a home is much higher than the figures show, with many people in informal living arrangements such as sofa surfing.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/feb/28/rough-sleeping-in-england-rises-cost-of-living>

²

<https://cityharvest.org.uk/blog/homelessness-uk-increased-by-74-since-2010/#:~:text=Recent%20statistics%20indicate%20a%2035,ongoing%20challenges%20in%20addressing%20homelessness.>

³ <https://www.bigissue.com/news/housing/britains-homelessness-shame-cold-hard-facts/>

8. The number of households living in temporary accommodation in England are at an all-time high. As of March 2023, 104,510 households were living in TA, including 65,000 households with children.
9. Over 3,000 households in Hackney were among more than 300,000 nationwide who spent Christmas without a home. In Hackney this includes 3,500 children, and around 50% of TA placements are now outside our borough, severing people from their livelihoods and support networks.
10. Like other local authorities, Hackney has seen a precipitous increase in the number of homelessness applications. The number of households seeking support is up by 44% from 2017/18 to 2021/22. The Council anticipates the number of approaches will continue to increase at around 8% per year.
11. Hackney's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, adopted at Cabinet in December, will ensure we strengthen the advice, support and tools available to people at risk of homelessness need, and make sure that no one in Hackney is left facing homelessness alone. This will include maximising access to short and long-term affordable housing, tackling rough sleeping and addressing homelessness among young people in Hackney.
 - [11a. The number of homelessness presentations made by refugees and people seeing asylum evicted from Home Office accommodation increased by 39% from September to October 2023, according to research by London Councils. \(1\)](#)
 - [11b. In 2023 homelessness among armed forces veterans in England rose by 14% \(2\). Hackney Council was an early adopter of the Armed Forces Covenant in 2011, and follows statutory homeless legislation regarding the rights of those who have served in the Armed Forces. ~~Local authorities must consider the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when making decisions about homeless applications and when drafting homelessness strategies.~~](#)

Proposer: Cllr Sharon Patrick

Secunder: Cllr Joseph Ogundemuren