

Draft minutes

London Delivery Board

2.00pm, 15 July 2010

Committee Room 5, City Hall

Attendees	
Richard Blakeway	Greater London Authority (Chair)
Howard Sinclair	Broadway
Jim Barber	City of London
Michelle Binfield	Communities and Local Government
Leslie Morphy	Crisis
Janet Hill	Department of Work and Pensions
Simon Cribbens	Greater London Authority
Laura Smith	Greater London Authority (Minutes)
Jenny Edwards	Homeless Link
Kathy Prior	Jobcentre Plus
Jenny Dunne	LB Brent
Mark Benbow	LB Camden
Dave Page	LB Hammersmith and Fulham
Elizabeth Clowes	LB Lambeth
Claire Linnane	LB Southwark
Colin Cormack	LB Tower Hamlets
Dave Musker	Metropolitan Police
Paul Plant	NHS London
Laura Johnson	RB Kensington and Chelsea
Charles Fraser	St Mungo's
Petra Salva	Thames Reach
Hannah Gregory	United Kingdom Borders Agency
Rosemary Westbrook	Westminster City Council
Apologies	
Perry Singh	LB Brent
Jeremy Swain	Thames Reach
Colin Cormack	LB Tower Hamlets
Stephen Evans	London Development Agency
Phil Richardson	National Offender Management Service

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Apologies and introductions		
Richard Blakeway (GLA) opened the meeting and gave apologies. He welcomed Petra Salva who attended for Thames Reach.		
1	CHAIN annual monitoring report	
Howard Sinclair (Broadway) apologised that contrary to expectation the CHAIN annual monitoring report was not yet available. He reported that it would be published at 1pm on Monday 19 July and that it would then be circulated.		
		Broadway
2	Delivering success	
Simon Cribbens (GLA) presented a paper seeking the Board's backing to develop and seek funding for a pilot project to deliver the Board's agreed definition for ending rough sleeping. The aim would be to develop an approach that works across boundaries whilst responding to the disproportionate problem experienced in central London. This would be operational by the end of the year, drawing on the most successful elements of services delivering in London already. For that reason it is envisaged that the project would be delivered through a partnership of providers – in much the same way that emergency relief organisations work collaboratively under the banner of the Disasters Emergency Committee.		
It was suggested that the project would include features such as:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public involvement through a 24 hour phone line and website • 24/7 rapid response on the street • rapid assessment outside of main rough sleeping areas • supported reconnections service 		
If supported by the Board, the project would be developed in consultation with borough commissioners and providers. It was stressed that the paper is intended only as an initial outline and starting point. The GLA will be meeting with street population leads to develop the project's design.		
Janet Hill (DWP) suggested that the detailed proposal should be designed with the end recipient of government in mind and therefore address social return on investment. She also said that it would be worth carefully considering the timing of the submission given the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review.		
Michelle Binfield (CLG) agreed and suggested there was a clear case. The project would respond to the needs of a group who currently make heavy use of services such as A&E and prison resources.		
Jenny Edwards (Homeless Link) welcomed the approach. The project would need to respond to the shortage of services for this client group in some locations – particularly given the intention of reconnecting people rapidly.		
Rosemary Westbrook (Westminster City Council) said the project was an opportunity to map services and design a whole system response to ensure services are joined up and co-ordinated. The focus should be on the gaps and not on bringing in an additional layer of services. It will also have to identify what extra services are needed to ensure this really is a 24/7 operation. She welcomed the approach.		
It was clarified that although focused on central London areas where the problem is most acute, the pilot would be London-wide and cross-border and that it would be		

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	<p>designed to work with and around existing services.</p> <p>Claire Linnane (LB Southwark) queried how the removal of individuals from hotspots would work in practice. Simon Cribbens acknowledged that the role of enforcement would need to be considered, but has not been at this stage. A component of the pilot is focused on trying to shift the problem from the centre for example in setting up assessment centres and other services away from these areas where the problem is concentrated.</p> <p>Howard Sinclair (Broadway) stressed the need to ensure the project included ‘appropriate support’ as a key feature. Charles Fraser (St Mungo’s) added that there needed to be an emphasis on diversion away from homelessness services.</p> <p>Richard Blakeway asked for views on how the NHS, prison service and other stakeholders would play a role. Janet Hill suggested that following on from the Jobcentre Plus work in prisons the DWP would be able to offer assistance and invited the GLA to follow up with her directly.</p> <p>Rosemary Westbrook suggested that it would be useful to join this up with the action planning on soup runs and encourage the relevant groups to participate in this project.</p>	
	<p>The Board agreed to the development of a detailed proposal that will be presented to the next meeting in September and will form the basis of the proposal to government.</p>	<p>GLA/DWP</p> <p>GLA</p>

3 Government update

CLG Issues

Michelle Binfield referred to the recent CLG press release outlining Grant Shapps’ announcement to revise the street count methodology and the establishment of a ‘ministerial working group’. CLG will be consulting with stakeholders regarding reforms.

The ministerial Homelessness Working Group has had it’s initial meeting and next meets in October and will be attended by Richard Blakeway (GLA), Jenny Edwards and Leslie Morphy (Crisis) and will feed in key issues identified by the board.

Following a meeting between Grant Shapps and Boris Johnson, CLG are looking into the transfer of rough sleeping responsibilities for London from CLG to the GLA. This will not include Homelessness Grant, but implementation resources that fund projects such as the Street Doctor.

CLG Specialist Advisors on rough sleeping will be leaving the department at the end of September. The next meeting of the Board will be Michelle Binfield’s final meeting in her current role.

Jim Barber (City of London) asked for clarity as to the continuation of Homelessness Grant given its role in funding services for rough sleepers. CLG is confident there will be grant next year, but cannot guarantee the level at this stage.

It was also noted that the CLG has published a guide about effective ways of recognising and meeting the needs of people who have experienced homelessness, are sleeping rough or living in insecure accommodation, in particular rough sleepers with histories of complex trauma/personality disorder.

DWP issues

Janet Hill gave an update. The new minister with responsibility for severely disadvantaged adults – including homelessness is Maria Miller, Parliamentary Under

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Secretary of State (Disabled People). She is very interested in homelessness and it is hoped that the proposed review of homelessness and employment will be undertaken.

Janet Hill will feedback to DWP ministers and relevant teams the concerns raised by Board members regarding proposed reforms to Housing Benefit and other benefits. Concerns raised included:

- Absence of regulation or monitoring of private sector rented accommodation and the implications of this for quality and standards
- Reduction of the LHA rate from 50th to 30th percentile will lead to increased arrears and evictions which will lead to higher levels of overcrowding, homelessness and rough sleeping. It will also deter landlords from housing those on benefits.
- The impact of hostel residents benefits being transferred from ESA to JSA and a link to increased eviction and abandonment. A 10 per cent cut in Housing Benefit for those claiming JSA for a year while living in a hostel will have a very negative impact for clients and hostel providers. A snapshot St Mungo's survey suggests the vast majority of their tenants in hostels have been on JSA for over a year. This impact is likely to be compounded by other likely imminent cuts in local government funding.
- Local authorities are also experiencing impacts. It was reported that in Kensington and Chelsea they will no longer be able to offer a private rented sector access scheme for single homeless people. Of the 600 people already helped by that scheme, ninety per cent will be over the cap limits. It will effectively stop homeless prevention schemes developed in central London.
- Housing Benefit changes are being made without regard to wider welfare reform.

It was suggested that supported housing and hostels should be exempt from some of the changes. Janet Hill could not comment on this, but agreed to facilitate a discussion between providers and the lead of the policy strategy division. She asked that providers prepare some case study examples to illustrate the impacts on individuals.

DWP

Richard Blakeway reported that Boris Johnson and the Chair of London Councils, Jules Pipe, have written to Iain Duncan Smith, outlining some of the issues for London arising from housing benefit reform has been sent to requesting a meeting to discuss transitional arrangements. It was suggested that any meeting Janet Hill facilitates happens ahead of the Mayor's proposed meeting.

Health issues

Paul Plant (NHS London) gave an overview of significant changes to the NHS. The major changes are:

- the creation of GP commissioning clusters
- the transfer of the broader health improvement role to local government.
- the creation of a public health service
- the dissolution of NHS London
- PCTs ceasing to exist by 2013

The health sub group will need to work out how they can best work within the new system to minimise any negative impact on rough sleepers, and how they can best help commissioners to provide for this group. The sub-group will work through the

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detail and implications of the reorganisation and report back at a later board meeting.

Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)

Jenny Edwards gave an overview of the work Homeless Link have been doing around the CSR. The final submission is due to go to CLG during the week commencing 19 July 2010. The CSR states that the aim is to ensure expenditure is focused on protecting key front line services and provide support to the worst off in society as a priority. However this is in the context of cuts of 25 per cent or more and the consequences of this for homeless people and people in supported accommodation. The key message is to demonstrate that investment in supporting vulnerable people can lead to greater savings in the long term. The Homeless Link will argue strongly that provision needs to be preserved, and that demand for that provision is likely to go up.

4 Migrant rough sleeping/A10s – WCC/UKBA update

Rosemary Westbrook (WCC) and Hannah Gregory (UKBA) presented an update on the Operation Ark pilot in Westminster that aims to reduce the number of A10 rough sleepers presenting on the streets of Westminster. The project has been a considerable success showing a 50 per cent reduction in A10 nationals over the course of the pilot. The project has engaged with 130 A10 rough sleepers of which 11 have been removed.

At this midpoint through the pilot the next steps are to develop the continuation strategy, mitigate the effects of the curtailed Migration Impact Funding and seek clarity of potential changes to A8 status post 2013.

Jenny Dunne (LB Brent) commented that similar work that is being carried out in Brent. However she wishes to raise some issues with UKBA. It was suggested she write to Steve Fisher and copy in Hannah Gregory and Michelle Binfield. It was noted that the different areas across the country where these pilots are taking place are all at very different stages and that although there is a time lag it can be confidently stated that learning is being shared across UKBA.

Simon Cribbens and Petra Salva (Thames Reach) reported that the 'Routes Home' website - an online directory of services and good practice to assist the voluntarily reconnection of A10 nationals (www.routeshome.org.uk) – is now live. Thames Reach would be grateful for any comments and feedback on the site.

Petra Salva stressed the need share the learning of the pilot and try and ensure consistent practice across different boroughs.

Michelle Binfield reported that Nick Ward from Westminster City Council will be issuing an invitation to borough street population leads to a meeting on 27 July to share learning form the project.

5 Night bus outreach service

Petra Salva presented a paper on the night bus outreach scheme which is nearing the end of it's six month pilot. The project has seen some success but also highlighted the extent of the problem. A new code has been developed to map the extent of rough sleeping on different problematic bus routes.

In 6 months 136 people have been identified as routinely sleeping on buses and a disproportionate number of these were individuals with no recourse to public funds and 81% of them had never been met by any other existing outreach provision.

There has been a clear reduction in associated emergency services call outs demonstrating that investing in outreach intervention on buses can lead to cost savings for the emergency services. There was a 70% reduction in emergency

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	<p>services call outs to the number 25 bus route. However, there has been some displacement of rough sleepers onto other bus routes.</p> <p>The input of UKBA and the police are both crucial in this work and their involvement will be essential if the project is extended. UKBA are happy to consider working alongside the project and the case should be made to them.</p> <p>Funding for this project ends in August.</p> <p>The Board agreed that funding should be sought to continue the project. CLG and the GLA will explore the funding options.</p>	CLG/GLA
6	Rough Sleeper Initiative accommodation: Recovery of leaked units	
	<p>Simon Cribbens gave an update on the Clearing House scheme. A number of RSI units have 'leaked' from the supply. Broadway has worked with the G15 to seek the replacement of stock and prevent further loss. This has been very positive and has resulted in the net gain of 52 flats for rough sleepers.</p>	
7	Borough round up	
	City of London	
	<p>A summary report of the personalised budgets project evaluation is now available and will be circulated to the Board. The full evaluation will be published in October.</p>	City /GLA
	LB Camden	
	<p>Camden are reviewing street services and exploring the possibilities of shared services and commissioning.</p>	
	LB Lambeth	
	<p>Lambeth are developing a hostel commissioning plan and holding a stakeholder event during week commencing 19 July.</p>	
	<p>In anticipation of reductions in the Supporting People grant the borough are modelling for 20%, 30% and 40% reductions over three years.</p>	
8	Any other business	
	<p>Richard Blakeway remains keen to meet all the relevant executive members of the LDB. He will look to do this once some progress has been made on the No Second Night Out project.</p>	
	<p>Severe Weather: GLA will host a meeting to capture lessons from last winter's severe weather and plan for the coming winter. This will cover SWEPs accommodation, winter shelters and Crisis Open Christmas.</p>	
	<p>Life Works Pilot: Michelle Binfield reported that the CLG are considering the establishment of a psychological counselling service targeting RS205 and 'returner' clients. Discussions are therefore taking place with St Mungo's regarding their 'Life Works' programme which provides psychotherapeutic services to hostel clients. Street population leads have been asked to provide information about clients who they would refer to this project for this. 20 places on Life Works are likely to be commissioned from St Mungo's. This pilot will run for six months. The Board supported this approach.</p>	
9	Minutes of meeting held on 12 May 2010	
	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2010 were agreed. Matters arising were dealt with during the agenda items.</p>	

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Richard Blakeway closed the meeting.

Next Meeting

Wednesday 15 September 2010 at 2.00pm in City Hall, Committee Room 4

Future meetings:

Wednesday 17 November 2010 2.00 – 4.00pm

Thursday 27 January 2011 2.00 – 4.00pm

Wednesday 30 March 2011 2.00 – 4.00pm

Wednesday 18 May 2011 2.00 – 4.00pm
