



# NPSS Conference 2019

## Creative Ways to Prevent and Tackle Rough Sleeping

Kath Dane – Street population Coordinator,  
Commissioner of Rough Sleeping Services

Fleur Holley-Moore, Rough Sleeping Manager

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## Why prevent and reduce rough sleeping



- Harmful and dangerous to individuals and community
- Low life expectancy, tri-morbidity, public concern, ASB



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## Our Aims and Commitment



- LB of Tower Hamlets and our partners are committed
- Aims
  - Prevent individuals from sleeping rough for the first time
  - No one will spend a second night out
  - No one should call the street their home
  - No one should return to the streets after a period away
- Worked to different targets over the years. Working to MHCLG target. Keeps us focused and in dialogue with the MHCLG.

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## How We Approached and Tackled Rough Sleeping



1. Identifying the rough sleeping population and their needs
2. Obtaining senior commitment
3. Developing specific responses to each cohort and specific services to meet each aim.
  - For example: outreach team, accommodation pathway, day service, assessment hubs (NSNO), Housing first (entrenched), women only provision
4. Establishing a support and enforcement model to manage associated ASB

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## Challenges and Barriers



1. Little flexibility from mainstream services
2. Lack of coordination between other services and enforcement teams
3. Gaps in responding to service users needs and the rough sleeping pathway
4. Attitudinal discrimination by professionals and the public



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## How we are overcoming these



1. Secondment of posts into flexible street based services
2. Multi-agency Task & Care Planning Meetings
3. Increased pathway options through creative and flexible thinking and funding of additional services (RSI)
4. Attending ward panel meetings and engaging with members
5. Funding of posts to bridge gaps in mainstream services – sustainability?

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## Highlights



- Five individuals who we previously had no accommodation options for in a Housing First pilot
- Developed good working relationships with other London boroughs including reciprocals for those who are hard to place
- Outreach Psychotherapist based in day service
- Enhanced Outreach service
- Strong coordinated approach between council departments and police
- No First Night Out project, reducing the 'flow' of rough sleeping in LBTH

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## Discussion



1. What is your local authority / organisation doing in this area of work?
2. What do you see as the biggest challenges you need to overcome?
3. How do you plan to overcome these challenges?
4. How do you think this work will improve service for your customers?
5. What support or guidance would help you to do this?

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# Any Questions?

Contact details:

[Fleur.HolleyMoore@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Fleur.HolleyMoore@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

[Kath.dane@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Kath.dane@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

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