

Grants Committee AGM

12 July 2023 : 11:00 am

Agenda

To be held Virtually via Teams

Labour Group: (Political Adviser: 07970 018191)	Teams	10:00 am
Conservative Group: (Political Adviser: (0753 5584134)	Teams	10:00 am
Liberal Democrat (Political Adviser: 07858 924941)	Teams	10:00 am

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***Declarations of Interests**

If you are present at a meeting of London Councils' or any of its associated joint committees or their sub-committees and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest* relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority's code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

*as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

INFORMAL LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE
11am, 15 March 2023, via Microsoft Teams

Minutes of the informal meeting of the Grants Committee held on 15 March 2023

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Representative:

Barnet	Cllr Sara Conway
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Mili Patel
Bromley	Cllr Kate Lymer (Dep)
Camden	Cllr Nadia Shah
City of London	Paul Martinelli
Croydon	Cllr Ola Kolade
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cllr Rebecca Harvey
Harrow	Cllr Jean Lammiman
Havering	Cllr Ray Morgon
Hillingdon	Cllr Martin Goddard
Hounslow	Cllr Shivaj Grewal
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Andreas Kirsch
Lambeth	Cllr Donatus Anyanwu
Lewisham	Mayor Damien Egan (Chair)
Merton	Cllr Eleanor Stringer
Newham	Cllr Charlene McLean
Richmond upon Thames	Cllr Nancy Baldwin
Sutton	Cllr Marian James
Wandsworth	Cllr Simon Hogg

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Smith (LB Bromley – Cllr Kate Lymer deputising), Cllr Adel Khaireh (LB Greenwich), Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington and Chelsea) and Cllr Nesil Caliskan (LB Enfield).

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 30 November 2022

3.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 30 November 2022 were informally agreed (subject to being formally agreed by the London Councils' Urgency procedure).

4. Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 20 January 2023 (for noting)

4.1 The Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 20 January 2023 were noted.

5. Performance of Grants Programme 2022-2026: April 2022 to December 2022

5.1 Mayor Damien Egan, Chair of the Grants Committee, informed members that the Grants Committee Executive had agreed to increase the budget to support the Grants team to cover 3.1 FTE posts in order to increase capacity in the team. The existing provision is 2.7 FTE posts.

5.2 Ferial Henry, Priority Manager, provided an update for the first three quarters of the 2022-26 Grants programme, and made the following points:

- The London Refuges Data Collection project led by Women's Aid Federation was now in grant agreement, and up to date delivery for this commission was included in the report.
- Both priorities: Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness, and Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence, have improved their performance significantly in the last quarter. In Quarter 3, three projects were rated Amber and eleven were rated Green.
- For Priority 1, over the first three quarters of the programme, performance was seven per cent below profile. Outcome targets have been surpassed in one out of the four service areas to Quarter 3. For the three service areas that have performed below target, two service areas (1.1 and 1.4) were outside of the 15 per cent performance tolerance.
- Shelter and St Mungo, the commissions operating in Service area 1.1: Prevention and Targeted Intervention, have both reported difficulties in supporting eviction prevention partly due to increased demand and support for crisis accommodation. Partners planned to improve this area through the introduction of new outcome capture processes for onward referrals to solicitors, partnership working with probation to make more urgent referrals for support, and intensive staff training where required.
- The Plus Project, led by Homeless Link, which was the sole commission in Service area 1.4: Support Services to Homelessness Sector, was continuing to improve its performance primarily through the adoption of new methods to successfully capture outcome achievement. The organisation had experienced delayed recruitment to the Systems Practice Lead post, which has also contributed to continued under-delivery, as has previous historic underperformance. London Councils officers recently held an outcomes progress meeting with Homeless Link, to establish how the delivery shortfall would be addressed.
- Service Area 1.2, led by St Mungo's and StreetLink London, was RAG rated green and progressing well after a slow start. However, they have advised that a change of funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was going to affect their sister organisation which provided advice to London Advice Line, as DLUHC was now planning to hold a tender process for a digital service which did not include a telephone line. However, the GLA were still keen for the London service to have a telephone line.
- For Priority 2, overall performance also improved significantly and now stood at -4 percent. All service areas were now within the 15 per cent tolerance levels, and only one commission in Priority 2, Against Violence and Abuse (AVA), was RAG rated amber. AVA has been delivering healthy relationship work in schools, however, there had been issues with regularising this service.
- Service area 2.4, emergency refuge accommodation, was continues to perform above profile.

5.3 In response to a question about why there was still a significant problem with domestic violence in London, the Grants Manager said that it was likely to be a combination of several factors: higher reporting rates post-lockdown, which had left survivors trapped with their abusers, the Cost of Living crisis, as survivors often could not afford to leave abusive relationships, and an increase of people reporting traumatic events from their childhood. In addition, there was the emerging 'Andrew Tate phenomenon' and the 'Everyone's Invited' initiative which allowed people to speak out about their experience of being abused in schools.

5.4 In response to a question about policy changes, the Grants Manager said that information is obtained by the partners and the policy team at London Councils and included in the report. Information and data provided through the programme has been used by the policy team at London Councils, and by other stakeholders, to inform the strategic response to these priority areas.

5.5 In response to a question about the impact of inflation, the Grants Manager said that this was covered in depth in the July 2022 report, and that the actual expenditure from the groups would be obtained in the next monitoring report. Anecdotal evidence showed that some groups were more affected than others depending on the nature of the service provided, e.g. the cost of refuges was expected to rise.

5.6 In response to a question about the suggestion that refugees would be placed in detention centres and military facilities due to the shortage of suitable accommodation, the Grants Manager said that London Councils would speak to its partner New Horizon about ensuring that any buildings used were fit for purpose .

5.7 In response to a comment that some boroughs have been using 'socio-economic status' and 'experience in the care system' as a protected characteristic, and the request by LB Sutton and LB Richmond that all organisations operating in their boroughs include this information in their monitoring reports, the Grants Manager said that they would raise this with the relevant partners and within London Councils.

5.8 In response to a member's comment that some boroughs were experiencing a sharp rise in homelessness levels, the Grants Manager said that was partners were reporting increased competition for hostel places, finding suitable accommodation for larger families, and this was driving up the homelessness rates.

5.9 Members added that:

- LB Brent had been running sessions in schools by local youth organisations with Mopac funding.
- Members would like to see the list of schools where the Healthy London, Healthy Relationships project, operated by AVA, was operating.

Action: London Councils officers to provide the list of schools where the AVA project operated.

5.10 Grants Committee Members noted the report.

6. Identifying barriers to accessing Local Authority Housing Services

6.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London's Communities, introduced this report, which informed Members about the discussions which took place at the roundtable event held on 14 February 2023 and some of the barriers faced by those accessing local authority services, particularly housing.

6.2 The Strategy Director said that:

- Concerns around access to services in local authorities, particularly housing services, have been reported by partners. Issues with housing services were becoming increasingly complex, in part due to a lack of suitable housing and issues with recruiting staff.
- To address this, a roundtable discussion was organised by London Councils, where partners met to share experience of good practice.
- The discussion also offered a range of suggestions for the London Triage Project, including emphasising the need for Housing and Social Services working together effectively such as referring cases to the appropriate triage.
- All partners were eager to work together to address these issues, and the roundtable event represented the start of grants partners and the boroughs working together to develop and deliver consistent Pan-London good practice.

6.3 Members noted the report and agreed to call for a further report on the roll out of the good practice work.

6.4 Cllr James said she would welcome feedback relating to any issues which had been identified in relation to accessing her own authority's (LB Sutton) services.

Action: London Councils officers to make the appropriate arrangements.

7. Refuge Provision – Update

7.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which provided an update on the commissioning of emergency specialist refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme and set out the decision made by the Grants Committee Executive for the award of grant.

7.2 She added that:

- The Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme had been extended by the Grants Committee for a further year to 31 March 2023, to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act.
- Following two market warming events, a call for proposals for emergency specialist refuge provision was made and one proposal was received, from Ashiana Network. The network worked across a network of specialist organisations across London.
- The applicant met the eligibility requirements for the programme and received a score of 71% of the total available score.
- At their meeting on 20 January 2023, Grants Executive Members agreed the recommendation to award a grant to Ashiana Network for three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) for £2,520,000.

7.3 Grants Committee members noted the decision of Grants Committee Executive to award a grant to Ashiana Network for emergency specialist refuge provision for three years (2023/24 to 2025/26) for £2,520,000.

8. Month 9 Revenue Forecast 2022-23

8.1 David Sanni, Director, Corporate Resources, introduced this item, which outlined actual income and expenditure against the approved income and expenditure in the budget to the end of December 2022 for the Grants Committee, and provided a forecast of the outturn position for 2022/23 for both actual and committed expenditure on commissions, along with the administration of all these commissions.

He added that:

- At this stage, a deficit of £26,000 is forecast over the approved budget.
- Projected reserves were healthy at approximately £665,000.

8.2 In response to members' questions about whether the level of reserves was still appropriate, the Director of Corporate Resources replied that:

- The level of reserves were being reviewed on a periodic basis.
- London Councils as an organisation was embarking on a review of its operating model and areas where savings and efficiencies could be made would be identified.
- The cost of administering the Grants Committee were being continuously monitored.
- Reserves have been constant for the past ten years, as has the Committee Budget.
- A new auditor, Pannell Kerr Forster, had recently been appointed, and they would be asked to look at the level of reserves for the Grants Committee, to ensure that they were consistent with best practice benchmarks.

8.3 Grants Committee Members noted the projected deficit of £26,000 for the year and the projected level of Grants Committee reserves.

9. AOB

9.1 Members thanked Joanne Watson, was retiring at the end of the month, for all her hard work on the Grants programme over the past 20 years.

The meeting finished at 12:00

LONDON COUNCILS' GRANTS COMMITTEE AGM
11am, 13 July 2022

Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grants Committee held on 13 July 2022

London Borough & Royal Borough:	Representative:
Barnet	Cllr Sara Conway (attending virtually)
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Mili Patel
City of London Councils	Paul Martinelli
Croydon	Cllr Ola Kolade
Ealing	Cllr Jasbir Anand
Greenwich	Cllr Adel Khairah
Hackney	Cllr Christopher Kennedy
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cllr Rebecca Harvey (attending virtually)
Haringey	Cllr Sarah Williams (attending virtually)
Harrow	Cllr Jean Lammiman (attending virtually)
Hillingdon	Cllr Martin Goddard (attending virtually)
Hounslow	Cllr Shivraj Grewal
Islington	Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Kensington and Chelsea	Cllr Sof McVeigh (attending virtually)
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Andreas Kirsch (attending virtually)
Lambeth	Cllr Donatus Anyanwu
Lewisham	Mayor Damien Egan
Merton	Cllr Eleanor Stringer
Newham	Cllr Charlene McLean (attending virtually)
Redbridge	Cllr John Howard (attending virtually)
Richmond upon Thames	Cllr Nancy Baldwin
Sutton	Cllr Marian James (attending virtually)
Tower Hamlets	Cllr Saied Ahmed (attending virtually)
Westminster	Cllr Nafsika Butler-Thalassis

Nazira Mehman (IKROW) and Tai Rosenzweig (Women and Girls Network) were present for item 12.

London Councils officers were in attendance.

Members were informed of the hybrid meetings protocols for London Councils' Grants Committee and reminded that this meeting would be live-streamed for the press and public.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham), Nadia Shah (LB Camden), Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest) and Cllr Simon Hog (LB Wandsworth).

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Cllr Martin Goddard declared his non-pecuniary interest as a retired Grant Thornton partner.

3. Acknowledgement of outgoing and new members

- 3.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London Councils, welcomed the new and returning members of the Grants Committee. She also expressed her team's appreciation to outgoing members for all their hard work on the Grants Committee.
- 3.2 Members asked for their thanks to the former members of the Grants Committee to be recorded.

4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year

- 4.1 Mayor Damien Egan was nominated as the Chair of the Grants Committee by Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) and seconded by Cllr Nancy Baldwin (LB Richmond upon Thames)
- 4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, the Strategy Director declared Mayor Egan Chair of the Grants Committee and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2022-23 Municipal Year

- 5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2022-23. He nominated the following members as Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee, seconded by Cllr Shivraj Grewal (LB Hounslow):
- Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington) as the Labour Vice Chair;
 - Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) as the Conservative Vice Chair;
 - Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton) as the Liberal Democrat Vice Chair.
- 5.2 There being no other nominees, the Chair declared Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Cllr Leaf and Cllr James as the Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee.

6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2022-23 Municipal Year

- 6.1 The following members were appointed:
- Mayor Damien Egan (LB Lewisham) – Chair (Lab)
 - Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington)
 - Cllr Eleanor Stringer (LB Merton)
 - Cllr Stephanie Cryan (LB Southwark)
 - Cllr Vicky Ashworth (LB Waltham Forest)
 - Cllr Jean Lammiman (LB Harrow)
 - Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley)
 - Cllr Sof McVeigh (RB Kensington and Chelsea)
 - Cllr Marian James (LB Sutton)
 - Paul Martinelli (City of London)

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 16 March 2022

- 7.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 16 March 2022 were agreed.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 14 July 2021 – for noting

- 8.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 14 July 2021, which had been previously agreed, were noted.

9. Constitutional Matters:

- 9.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report which proposed an amendment to London Councils' Standing Orders. The report also provided, for information, the most recent version of London Councils Scheme of Delegations, which encompasses amendments to reflect the current officer structure of London Councils.
- 9.2 The Grants Committee:
- Noted the proposed amendments to London Councils Standing Orders
 - Noted the proposed amendments to London Councils Scheme of Delegations to officers.

10. Operation of Grants Committee 2022-2023

- 10.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which informed members of the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive and set out dates for meetings in the municipal year 2022-23.
- 10.2 The Strategy Director added that funded organisations would be invited to future meetings of the Grants Committee to talk about their projects, and there would also be a number of partner visits organised for Grants Committee members. This would help the Grants Committee gain a better understanding of the funded partners' work, and they could then disseminate that information to their boroughs. In addition, the team would explore the possibility of inviting all partners to a meeting of the Grants Committee to showcase their work.
- 10.3 Members made the following comments:
- It would be helpful for members to receive written guidance for visiting funded organisations.
 - It would be helpful if reports were page-numbered for future meetings, to make them easier to read.
- 10.4 The Grants Committee:
- Noted the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive;
 - Noted the programme of meetings.

11. London Councils Grants Committee - Pre-Audited Financial Results 2021/22

- 11.1 David Sanni, Director of Corporate Resources at London Councils presented this report, which detailed the provisional pre-audited final accounts for London Councils Grants Committee for 2021/22.
- 11.2 Director of Corporate Resources added that Grant Thornton LLP was due to audit the Grants Committee's accounts for 2021/22 in October 2022. The audited accounts would be presented to the Audit Committee, along with the annual audit report, for approval. The London Councils' Executive would then be asked to adopt the accounts at its November 2022 meeting. The audited accounts and annual audit report would also be circulated to all members of the Grants Committee.
- 11.3 Members were asked to note that the underspend on commissioned services were offset by overspends on staff and evaluation costs and that the provisional level of uncommitted reserves was c.£790,000.
- 11.4 Cllr Goddard requested that a formal conversation be held with the auditors regarding the pension liability fund and the minimum level of reserves, as this could have a significant effect on any decision-making with regards to future spending. The Director

of Corporate Resources said that he would raise this with the auditors, but noted that the triennial valuation was a better measure of the pension deficit as it took into account a more realistic view of investments.

11.5 Grants Committee members:

- Noted the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £56,000 for 2021/22, the final year of the extended five-year programme of commissions;
- Noted the provisional level of reserves and the financial outlook.

12. **Partner Presentation: Women and Girls Network (ASCENT Advice and Counselling Project) and IKWRO**

12.1 Tai Rosenzweig (Women and Girls Network) gave a presentation on the organisation's ASCENT project and said that:

- ASCENT Advice and Counselling Project provides support services for women and girls (aged 14+) who have been impacted by all aspects of violence against women and girls, including those who face multiple disadvantages and additional barriers, such as those with No Recourse to Public Funds status.
- The project has two London hubs and has spokes across all the London boroughs. ASCENT support workers speak a number of community languages including Arabic and languages commonly spoken in South-East Asia, South America, and Eastern Europe. They also have specialised translators for the languages not spoken by the ASCENT staff.
- The project helps service address issues with housing, legal matters, emotional well-being, child-related issues and counselling, amongst others. Relevant services such as social services and the police are contacted when appropriate.
- The project also helps with training legal professionals, who are taught to understand the dynamics surrounding violence against women and girls.
- Recent challenges include an increase in mental health issues, increase in sexual violence, the cost of living crisis, and housing issues.

12.2 Nazira Mehman gave a summary of the work of IKWRO:

- IKWRO specialises in providing practical support and counselling to Middle Eastern, North African and Afghan women and girls living in the UK, who have experienced, or are at risk of "honour" based abuse, including; forced marriage, child marriage and female genital mutilation, or domestic abuse.
- Most of IKWRO's clients would not be comfortable in going to mainstream organisations or the police for help, due to language and cultural barriers. The support workers speak a number of community languages and women are helped access services such as health, legal and housing services.
- The charity also operates a refuge for women who are victims of domestic abuse.

13. **Performance of Grants Programme 2017-22: April 2017 to March 2022 (end of programme)**

13.1 Feria Henry, Grants Manager, London Councils, summarised the main points in the report, which provided members with an update on the two priorities of the Grants programme, for the period April 2017 to March 2022. She said that all 13 projects have ended their cycle with a Green RAG-rating. Some of the highlights from the report were:

- Priority 1, Combatting Homelessness, performed five per cent above profile overall. Some of the notable successes included:

- The STAR Partnership, where Praxis have made a significant impact with their immigration advice.
 - The London Youth Gateway's 'hub and spoke' model, which provided two clear building-based points of access in north London (the NHYC day centre) and south London (Depaul UK Endeavour Centre), together with satellite services, drop-ins, street and prison outreach, and community-based support across the capital.
 - St Mungo's has established and strengthened multi-agency partnerships through the Grants Programme, and have carried out some valuable work with the rehabilitation of people leaving prison. St Mungo's has also continued to provide support services for ex-offenders under 35, many of whom have complex needs.
 - Homeless Link's PLUS Project, has continued to focus on innovative and emerging practices.
- Priority 2, Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence, was nine per cent below profile overall. This was mainly due to the fact that the work of Tender Education and Arts was severely impacted by the pandemic due to school closures and schools prioritising core subjects post-lockdown. Some of the successes across Priority 2 included:
 - Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) worked with survivors on finding or retaining safe housing by making homelessness applications, applying non-molestation or occupation orders, working with women experiencing harmful practices and the creation of sector wide innovations in harmful practices interventions and partnership work.
 - The Ascent EHP partnership and report making small but important steps in reversing the longstanding inequalities faced by the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) specialist sector.
 - SignHealth's Domestic Abuse Service have been able to continue ongoing face to face support and delivering workshops to the Deaf community in London.
 - Galop as Lead Partner of the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) were involved in a number of high-profile campaigns, such as the Home Office's You Are Not Alone campaign, as well as campaigns from Women's Aid, Hestia, and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)/MOPAC.
 - Some of the challenges that applied across both priorities were working with councils to accept service users under various responsibilities including homelessness. Those experiencing the most barriers were young people, those weaving prison, and those with complex needs. There was also a significant increase in calls to helplines during the last two years of the programme due to the Covid19 pandemic. Projects had also experienced challenges to staffing and recruitment due to the added stress and pressure on staff during the pandemic. However, the partnership model meant that if an organisation was experiencing recruitment issues, other partners could step in to cover. In light of the staffing challenges experienced by a number of organisations, London Councils officers have asked partners to look at their budgets for the 2022-26 programme to see if they could allocate some resources for staff mental health.
 - Feedback from the funded partners, staff, stakeholders and service users on the impact of the projects has been very positive.
 - The Youth Homelessness Hub 12-month pilot, run by New Horizon Youth Centre and Depaul UK, working with Cardinal Hume Centre, was open to any young person aged 18-24 years of age who was rough sleeping or at immediate risk of doing so. Young people were then supported to move on into private rented properties, supported accommodation, local authority housing, accommodation projects run by New Horizon, and to return to their families (where appropriate). By the end of April 2022, 185 young people had stayed as guests at Hotel 1824 with 132 of them having moved on positively. The Department for Levelling up

Communities and Housing is currently considering a grant via the Rough Sleeping Initiative and if successful this will ensure longer term security for the provision.

14. Grants Programme 2022-26: Implementation Update

14.1 The Strategy Director introduced the report which provided an update on the implementation of the new Grants programme:

- At the November 2021 meeting, Grants Committee agreed recommendations for grant funding for Priority 1, Combatting Homelessness, and Priority 2, Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence for the 2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme.
- Since then, the Grants team have been working with partners to get the grant agreements signed and there were only two outstanding agreements, which were due to be signed off shortly.
- The first quarter report would be out in November 2022. London Councils' Grants team were looking at allocating budgets more flexibly over the life of the programme, which would be particularly helpful when organisations encounter staffing problems. The Grants team were also conscious of the cost-of-living crisis and the impact it was likely to have on organisations and people accessing services.

14.2 Grants Committee members would be given the opportunity to be involved with the programme, in terms of visits, and being 'champions' for certain areas – this could include one-off work and ongoing involvement. Members were invited to get in touch with the Grants team if they wanted to champion a particular element of the Grants Programme.

14.3 In response to a question on the impact of rising inflation on the viability of projects, the Strategy Director replied that regular conversations were being held with funded organisations to ensure they could still deliver in the current challenging financial climate. There was also a possibility for the Grants Committee to ringfence some reserves.

14.4 In response to a question about carrying out a cost/benefit analysis of the Grants programme to all the boroughs, the Strategy Director said that the report in November 2021 showed the levy contribution that each borough made to the programme. However, a cost/benefit analysis is not done at borough level, as this was a pan-London programme.

14.5 Grants Committee members:

- Noted the activity to-date and continuing activity to implement the 2022-2026 pan-London Grants Programme;
- Noted the final awarded grant values to partners who are delivering the programme from April 2022.

The meeting finished at 1pm.

London Councils Grants Committee AGM

Constitutional Items (Appendices A-B)

Item 09

Report by: Reuben Segal **Job title:** Head of Governance and Data Protection

Date: 12 July 2023

Contact Officer: Reuben Segal

Email Reuben.segal@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary: This report proposes amendments to London Councils Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders and seeks agreement to the discontinuation of London Councils maintaining a register of members' interests and presents the latest Terms of Reference for Leaders' Committee sub-committees/forums for approval.

Recommendation: The Committee is recommended to:

- Agree the proposed amendments to London Councils Scheme of Delegation and Standing Orders and agree to the discontinuation of London Councils maintaining a register of members' interests as detailed in this report and Appendices A and B.

Background

1. London Councils Scheme of Delegations to Officers

2. In accordance with London Councils Standing Orders, London Councils Scheme of Delegations to Officers is approved annually at Grants Committee AGM. The current Scheme was approved at Grants Committee AGM on 13 July 2022.
3. A number of changes are proposed for this year to recognise the revised officer structure within London Councils. The revised Scheme of Delegation, with track changes, is attached at Appendix A.
 - The main change is to paragraph 13 – to reflect the retirement of the Director of Corporate Governance (Christiane Jenkins) and the recommendation that the Head of the London Regional Employers Organisation (Steve Davies) has delegated authority to sign off contracts of employment, settlement agreements, secondments etc.
 - In Appendix A Part A, it is recommended that authority/responsibility currently delegated to the Director of Corporate Governance is delegated to the Head of Governance and Data Protection Officer regarding “all things committees” and the HR Director and London Regional Employers Secretary for “all HR matters” (see paragraph 24 relating to politically restricted posts). In addition it is also recommended to remove the reference to the delegation to an officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members and co-opted members, to reflect that Leaders’ Committee is recommended to agree to the discontinuation of London Councils maintaining such a register (please see paragraphs 7-14 below).

4. London Councils Standing Orders

5. The Standing Orders are contained in Schedule 6 of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement. In accordance with section 27.2 of the SOs, they can be amended by a decision of London Councils Leaders' Committee. The SOs have been amended a number of times since 2001. The current version was last amended following agreement at Grants Committee on 13 July 2022. The current Standing Orders are attached at Appendix B.
6. Three changes are proposed for 2023: in Section 19.6 it is proposed to change the job title 'Director of Transport and Mobility' to 'Chief Operating Officer'; in Section 19.7 to change the job title 'Planning and Strategy Director' to 'Strategy Director: London's Communities'; and in section 20.6 a reference to 'registering' a declaration of interest has been removed to reflect that Leaders' Committee is recommended to agree to the discontinuation of London Councils maintaining such a register (please see paragraphs 7-14 below).

7. Declaration of Members' Interests

8. The declaration of Members' interests is dealt with in paragraph 20 of Schedule 6 (Standing Orders) of the London Councils Governing Agreement. The document requires that "A member must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary...and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest".
9. Such declarations are currently made in two ways: at the start of each formal meeting, where members are asked to declare any interests in the business of that meeting that might conflict with paragraph 20 of the SOs; and by way of a register of disclosable pecuniary interests for individual members, held by London Councils. In terms of the latter, neither the SOs or the Declaration and

Registration of Interests protocol explicitly state that such a register must be maintained by London Councils.

10. All remunerated members have in the past been asked to complete a Declaration of Interests form. While some have completed it, others have asked that London Councils refer to their Declaration of Interests form which is on their respective borough/City website as they do not wish to complete another one and they have no additional declarations to make.
11. It is proposed going forward that London Councils' practice of collating a members' register of interests is discontinued. While this move represents a departure from the previous practice of London Councils retaining a register of all completed disclosures, the removal of any potential duplication should be viewed as reducing the administrative burden to members.
12. London Councils is not a relevant authority for the purposes of accountability arrangements put in place by the Localism Act 2011. As such, it is not a statutory duty for London Councils to maintain a register of pecuniary interests. The register compiled by London Councils has never been published for scrutiny.
13. London Councils will ensure that it holds appropriate records for its purposes and support members in complying with their duties to act in accordance with the Nolan principles by enhancing the wording in agendas to clarify that the declaration by members of any pecuniary and/or non-pecuniary interests in any item on an agenda relates not just to their home authority but the area covered by all London boroughs and the City of London. Members remain bound by their own authority's Code of Conduct whenever involved in activities for London Councils and matters relating to a member's interests and declarations have always been a matter for the individual Member and their own authority.

14. The Declaration and Registration of Interests Protocol has been updated to reflect the proposal to update arrangements for declaring interests.

Recommendation

15. The Committee is recommended to:
- Agree the proposed amendments to London Councils Scheme of Delegations to Officers and Standing Orders and agree to the discontinuation of London Councils maintaining a register of members' interests as detailed in this report and Appendices A – B.

Legal Implications for London Councils

16. It is important that London Councils' joint committees properly perform its functions and delegate the exercise of functions to sub-committee/forums and Officers in a manner which is consistent with the relevant Governing Agreements, and any legal restrictions, to ensure that the work of London Councils (through Leaders' Committee, Grants Committee and LCTEC) is delivered efficiently and effectively, and to avoid giving rise to any possible grounds for challenge to decisions made.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

17. There are no specific equalities implications for London Councils.

Financial Implications for London Councils

18. There are no financial implications for London Councils.

Appendices:

- **Appendix A:** London Councils Scheme of Delegation June 2023 with the proposed changes
- **Appendix B:** London Councils Standing Orders June 2023 with proposed changes

Scheme of delegations to officers

June 202~~3~~²

Scheme of Delegations to Officers

INTRODUCTION

London Councils¹ may, and only in a manner consistent with the London Councils Governing Agreements²:

- (i) delegate to officers of London Councils those of its functions as are permitted by statute to be delegated; and
- (ii) in relation to any of those functions, require that the exercise of those functions be subject to such conditions as London Councils deems fit to impose, including, where appropriate, prior consultation with the leading member on London Councils of each political party or group before taking such action.³

London Councils must formally resolve to delegate the exercise of one or more of their functions to officers by either:

- (i) a decision taken at a meeting of London Councils i.e., on a case-by-case basis;
- (ii) agreeing a general scheme of delegations to officers.

This document is the general scheme of delegations to London Councils officers. It is not the intention of this document to reproduce details of functions which have been delegated to officers under the London Councils Governing Agreements⁴. This document will, however, be kept under annual review and any additional general delegations to officers which may be made by London Councils throughout the year, will be considered for inclusion in this scheme as part of that review.

As a general rule, the functions delegated to the London Councils joint committees and their sub committees reflect the purpose of the organisation in best representing the interests of the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London. Decisions about policy directions, lobbying and scope of services remain reserved to Member Committees unless specifically delegated on an issue by issue basis. The authority to manage the administrative aspects of the organisation's work has been delegated to officers within the conditions specified below to enable the effective and efficient running of the organisation.

¹ The reference to London Councils in this Scheme of Delegations to Officers encompasses any joint committee of elected Members (including Leaders' Committee, the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee, Grants Committee , and any of their sub-committees authorised to take decisions).

² The London Councils (Leaders' Committee) Governing Agreement, dated 13 December 2001 (as amended); and the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee Governing Agreement, dated 13 December 2001 (as amended).

³ Paragraph 22 of Schedule 6 (Standing Orders) of the London Councils (Leaders' Committee) Governing Agreement, dated 13 December 2001 (as amended).

⁴ Op cit, footnote 3.

Section 1 - General Conditions Of Delegations To Officers

Day-to-Day Management

1. The Chief Executive and the Directors of ~~any e~~Corporate ~~service~~ Management Team (and their nominated deputies) shall, in accordance with this Scheme of Delegations, have authority delegated to them for carrying out the day-to-day management of the London Councils ~~functions services~~ for which they are responsible. (Day-to-day management should include those items which have been recognised as such by past practice or by specific decision/resolution of a committee, or where the Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant Director, agrees is ancillary to or analogous with matters accepted as being within the scope of day-to-day business exercisable by officers of London Councils). This includes authority to:
 - (a) appoint and manage staff in accordance with agreed policies and procedures, having regard to Section 2. below;
 - (b) place orders and enter into contracts for the supply of goods and services in line with the Financial Regulations and to authorise or incur any other expenditure for which provision has been made in the appropriate budget subject to limits set out in the Financial Regulations and subject to these not being in conflict with existing contracts.

Limitations

2. Any exercise of delegated powers by officers shall comply with London Councils current Financial Regulations⁵ and Standing Orders. The Financial Regulations will not form part of this scheme but must be read alongside it.
3. The Chief Executive will have the authority to extend an existing policy or procedure only if it relates to the internal administration of the organisation and when exercised subject to the conditions below.
4. The Chief Executive, the Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources), and any other person authorised under the Financial Regulations, will have the authority to negotiate and agree minor variations to contracts, to write off debts and to undertake all other actions authorised under the Financial Regulations
5. With the exception of policies referred to in paragraph 3, any exercise of delegated powers shall not involve a new policy or extend an existing policy of the organisation unless the Chief Executive is acting under the urgency procedures as contained in the current Standing Orders⁶.
6. Any delegation to the Chief Executive or the Finance Officer may be exercised by any officer authorised by the Chief Executive or the Finance Officer (as the case may be) either generally or specifically for the purpose (except where restrictions exist in employment policies which have been agreed in accordance with Section 2 below).
7. The Chief Executive will arrange on a rotational basis for another member of the Corporate Management Team to assume authority to exercise all powers delegated to the Chief Executive in their absence.
8. In the event of the Chief Executive being unexpectedly indisposed, authority will be granted to ~~the Strategy Director: London's Communities, Strategy Director: London's Future and Places or Strategy Director: Local Government and Finance~~ another member of the Corporate Management Team to take over as interim Chief Executive until such time as Elected Officers are able to determine what temporary or transitional arrangements will apply following such indisposition (or death).

⁵ Current Financial Regulations dated 135/106/2018

⁶ Current Standing orders dated 743/640/2022

9. The Chief Executive may exercise any delegated function in the absence of an officer to whom that authority has been specifically delegated.
10. All delegations are without prejudice to the overriding rights and powers of a London Councils' joint committee or decision-making sub-committee to exercise those functions delegated to it. Any officer may refer a matter to a London Councils' joint committee or decision-making sub-committee in lieu of exercising delegated powers.
11. Subject to the foregoing conditions, and to any special conditions which may have been or may in future be applied in respect of particular matters, the Chief Executive will be expected to make such decisions and to take such action as he/she deems necessary in the interests of the efficient running of the organisation and the services provided and administered.

Section 2 - Staffing Delegations

12. The Chief Executive has been granted delegated authority, in consultation with the Corporate Management Team (CMT), to approve policies and procedures relating to human resources and corporate policies and procedures⁷ subject to the following conditions;
 - (a) any policy relating to internal organisational functions which also applies to Members will be referred to the London Councils' (Leaders) Executive Sub-Committee for approval;
 - (b) all new or amended policies relating to the internal administration of the organisation will only be approved following consultation with the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC);
 - (c) in the event that CMT and the JCC are unable to reach an agreement on the terms of a policy, that policy will be referred to the London Councils' (Leaders) Executive Committee for approval;
 - (d) any delegations to officers made in accordance with these policies and procedures shall be considered to be general delegations from the Chief Executive or the Finance Officer (as the case may be) in accordance with paragraph 6 above.
13. In addition, the ~~Director of Corporate Governance~~Head of the London Regional Employers Organisation is authorised to sign all contracts of employment⁸ and settlement agreements, once the appropriate post approval form (PAF) has been signed and/or in accordance with the relevant employment policies and procedures which have been agreed in accordance with paragraph 12 above.

Section 3 – Officers authorised for certain purposes

14. In accordance with the specific statutory functions delegated to the London Councils joint committees or otherwise to allow the proper and efficient exercise of those functions in accordance with section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, officers have been individually authorised to act in respect of particular matters (i.e. they are an "authorised officer" for those purposes). Where permitted under the applicable legislation these powers may be further delegated, whether specifically or generally, to another officer to act in the absence of the proper officer.
15. The Chief Executive has been appointed:

⁷ Corporate policies and procedures would include, but not be limited to, the employees code of conduct, health and safety and information management policies

⁸ Including secondment agreements

- (a) to act as the “proper officer” for the purposes of the Access to Information provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) except insofar as such powers have been specifically delegated to another officer; and
 - (b) to be responsible for the preparation of papers for London Councils Member Body meetings, the preparation of minutes and the promulgation of decisions of such meetings.
16. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair of the relevant sub-committee, will have the authority to amend the programme of ordinary meetings approved by the relevant joint committee for the sub-committees it appoints at its AGM in accordance with Standing Order 1.8. as required throughout the year.
17. The Director, Corporate Resources (Finance Officer) has been appointed to act as the proper officer for the purposes of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 and section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The officer to be responsible for the proper administration of London Councils’ financial affairs and to issue a report to Members if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget.
18. Additional delegations to named officers, some of which do not strictly apply to London Councils but which are adopted as a matter of best practice to allow the proper and efficient exercise of the functions delegated to the London Councils joint committees, in accordance with section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, are set out in Appendix A with reference to the relevant legislative provisions.

Section 4 - Nominations of elected members to outside bodies

19. The Chief Executive has delegated authority to nominate elected Members to serve on outside bodies subject to:
- (a) those decision being taken in accordance with guidelines agreed by the London Councils Appointments Panel (set out at paragraph 20 below);
 - (b) having regard to the Nolan principles, and
 - (c) those decisions being reported to the next meeting of the Appointments Panel.⁹
20. Nominations will be made by the Chief Executive under paragraph 19 in consultation with elected Members. In making nominations, the Chief Executive will first apply the **Particular Principles** at (a) below but will also seek to ensure that nothing is done to depart from the **General Principles** at (b) below. Regard should also be had to the **General Conditions** at (c), below.

(a) Particular Principles

- (i) In cases where a single nomination is required, in first instance the relevant portfolio-holder will be considered and if that is not a suitable appointment then the Chief Executive will consult elected Members on an alternative candidate.
- (ii) In cases where an outside body requires more than a single nomination-

The first principle to be applied in such cases is any reasonable external requirement placed on London Councils in making the nomination

The second principle to be applied, if the first principle does not obtain, is the number of nominations made from each political party shall reflect the balance of

⁹ In accordance with the decision of the London Councils’ Executive acting in their capacity as its Appointments Panel on 29 May 2012

the parties represented on Leaders' Committee at that time.¹⁰

(b) General Principles

- (i) When the Chief Executive is applying the Particular Principles set out above, they will seek to reflect any particular interest that the body to be nominated to has expressed to London Councils¹¹.
- (ii) The Chief Executive will also be mindful of other factors that it would be reasonable or proper for London Councils to consider, for example specialist knowledge and skills, stability of service, diversity as well as the Nolan principles set out below and the Chief Executive may, in consultation with elected Members, override the Particular Principles set out above when there is a compelling case to do so.
- (iii) All public bodies are under a duty to follow the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by the Committee for Standards in Public Life, formerly chaired by Lord Nolan (the principles are often called the "Nolan Principles"). In particular, the Chief Executive will seek to ensure that the following three Nolan principles are applied-

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.¹²

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

- (iv) The Chief Executive will give consideration to the elected Members of the City of London Corporation when making any nominations to outside bodies.

(c) General conditions

- (i) When a nominee to an outside body ceases to be an elected Member of a London local authority, London Councils will, in general, take whatever steps are necessary to remove them from that outside body.
- (ii) At a freeze date, being the date of the meeting of the London Councils' (Leaders) Executive Sub-Committee in ~~May~~ June¹³ of each year, a report will be brought to that meeting setting out the total number of nominations made to outside bodies for each of the political parties with a calculation of how this reflects the agreed principles (above) for nominations, and the variation from the balance of the parties on Leaders' Committee. That report may also contain recommendations to rectify any variations that may exist.

This will be determined by the application of the d'Hondt formula

¹¹ For example, outside bodies occasionally ask for cross-party appointments

¹² Members will be expected to regularly attend meetings of the bodies they are appointed to and may be accountable to and from, London Councils for their actions in that capacity.

¹³ Except in an election year, when the report will be presented as soon as is practicable

~~Section 5 – Appointments to Young People’s Education and Skills Board (YPES Board)~~

~~21. The YPES Board is a Forum (or sub-committee) of London Councils Leaders’ Committee which operates under a constitution (terms of reference) approved by Leaders’ Committee in accordance with Standing Orders. Leaders’ Committee has the power to approve the appointment of representatives to the YPES Board upon their nomination by those organisations who are members of the Board. On behalf of Leader’ Committee, the Chief Executive will have delegated authority from Leaders’ Committee to approve appointments to casual vacancies of the YPES Board.~~

Appendix A

PERSONS AUTHORISED BY LONDON COUNCILS TO EXERCISE POWERS

CONSISTENT WITH FUNCTIONS OF THE PARTICIPATING LOCAL AUTHORITIES

PART A

The following statutory provisions give powers to duly authorised Proper Officers/Authorised Persons in most local authorities in London. Some of these functions have been expressly delegated by the 33 London local authorities to the London Councils joint committees, some have not and are instead captured within the general delegations to the joint committee.

The following table sets out the persons authorised for the functions identified. This list includes delegations to named officers, some of which do not strictly apply to London Councils' joint committees, but which are followed as a matter of best practice in accordance with the exercise of the functions expressly delegated to the joint committees.

Authorised Persons should nominate, in writing, an appropriate deputy to carry out any statutory duties during planned absences. Officers should also ensure arrangements are in place to authorise another officer in the event of unplanned absence. These may vary according to the nature of the responsibility but will be approved by the Corporate Management Team.

	STATUTORY PROVISION	PERSONS AUTHORISED
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972		
1	Section 84 – The officer to whom written notice of resignation of elected office shall be delivered	Chief Executive
3	Section 99 + Schedule 12 - To give notice and send summonses in respect of any London Councils committee meeting	Chief Executive
4	Section 100 - To give public notice of any meeting to which the public are entitled to attend, provide copies of agenda and facilities for the press	Chief Executive
5	Section 100B (2) – The officer to exclude from committees or sub Committees meeting agendas any information to be dealt with in a meeting from which the public are likely to be excluded	Director <u>Head of Corporate Governance and Data Protection Officer (DPO)</u>
6	Section 100B (7)(c) – The officer to supply to any newspaper copies of documents supplied to Members of committees or sub-committees in connection with an item for consideration at their meetings	Head Director <u>Head of Corporate Governance and DPO</u>
7	Section 100C (2) – The officer to prepare a written summary of proceedings of committees or sub-committees from which the public were excluded	Head Director <u>Head of Corporate Governance and DPO</u>
8	Section 100D (1)(a) – The officer to prepare a list of background papers for reports considered by committees or sub-committees	Head Director <u>Head of Corporate Governance and DPO</u>

	STATUTORY PROVISION	PERSONS AUTHORISED
9	Section 100D (5) – The officer to determine which documents constitute background papers; and under Section 100H –to be responsible for charging for copies of those documents	Director <u>Head</u> of Corporate Governance <u>and DPO</u>
10	Section 100F (2) – The officer to decide which documents are not, by virtue of containing exempt information, required to be open to inspection	Director <u>Head</u> of Corporate Governance <u>& DPO</u>
11	Section 100G - To maintain a register of the names and addresses of Elected Members and membership of committees, lists of delegations and the like	<u>Head</u> Director of Corporate Governance <u>& DPO</u>
12	Section 115 – The officer to whom money properly due from officers shall be paid	Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)
13	Section 151 (and section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988) – The officer to be responsible for the proper administration of the London Councils' financial affairs (and to issue a report to elected Members if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget)	Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)
14	Section 223 - Authorising officers to attend court and appear on behalf of London Councils under Local Government Act 1972 and the County Courts Act 1984	Chief Executive and chief officers
15	Section 225 (1) – The officer to receive and retain statutory documents on behalf of London Councils	Chief Executive
16	Section 229 (5) – The officer to certify photographic copies of documents	Chief Executive
17	Section 233 – The officer to receive documents required to be served on London Councils	Chief Executive
18	Section 234 (1) & (2) – The officer to authenticate documents on behalf of London Councils	Chief Executive
19	Schedule 12 [paragraphs 4(1)(a) & 4(3)] – The officer responsible for issuing summons to meetings at which business is proposed	Chief Executive
20	Schedule 14 [paragraph 25(7)] – The officer responsible for the certification of true copies of resolutions	Chief Executive
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1974		
21	Section 30(5) - Notice of Local Government Ombudsman's Report	Chief Executive
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988		
22	Section 116 - Notification to London Councils' auditor of any meeting to be held under Section 15 of the 1988 Act (meeting to consider any report of the Finance Office under Section 114)	Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)
23	Section 139A - Provision of information to the Secretary of State in relation to the exercise of his powers under this Act as and when required	Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989		

	STATUTORY PROVISION	PERSONS AUTHORISED
24	Section 2 – The officer to hold on deposit the list of politically restricted posts and Section 2 - provision of certificates as to whether a post is politically restricted	HR Director and London Regional Employers Secretary Director of Corporate Governance
25	Section 4 – The officer to be designated Head of Paid Service	Chief Executive
26	Sections 15 – 17 (and regulations made thereunder) – The officer to receive notices relating to the membership of political groups	Chief Executive
CIVIL EVIDENCE ACT 1995		
27	To certify Council records for the purposes of admitting the document in evidence in civil proceedings.	Any member of the Corporate Management Team
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CONTRACTS) ACT 1997		
28	Certification of relevant powers to enter into contracts	Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources
UK GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION and DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018		
29	To act as Data Protection Officer under Article 37 of GDPR.	Head of Corporate Governance and Data Protection <u>Officer</u>
TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT 2004 and CIVIL ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING CONTRAVENTIONS (England) REPRESENTATIONS AND APPEALS REGULATIONS 2007		
30	Section 81(4)(a) requires enforcement authorities to provide administrative staff for adjudicators. The Schedule to the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions (England) Representations and Appeals Regulations 2007 provides that one of the members of the administrative staff required by section 81 shall be appointed to perform the functions of proper officer as set	Head of Support Services – London Tribunals
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003		
31	Requirement to report to London Councils annually on the robustness of estimates and financial reserves	Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)
MONEY LAUNDERING REGULATIONS 2003 - PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002		
32	Money Laundering Reporting Officer for the purposes of receiving disclosure on suspicions of money laundering and reporting as necessary	Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)

LOCALISM ACT 2011		
	The officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members and co-opted members under section 29	Director of Corporate Governance
OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROPER OFFICER FUNCTIONS		
33	Any other miscellaneous proper or statutory officer functions not otherwise specifically delegated by the Authority	Chief Executive or his/her delegate

PART B

All London Councils officers shall have regard to the following insofar as is relevant within their job description and for the effective performance of their duties and responsibilities.

B1	Audit	To comply with the requirements of the Financial Regulations and any powers and duties contained in directions made by a Government Department, agency or any other body which may be responsible for audit of the exercise of London Councils functions, including publication of performance standards and provision of information.
B2	Disabled Persons	Make provision for the supply of services and admission to public buildings and premises for those who are disabled, ensure proper signage and make appropriate adjustments for staff and service users.
B3	Criminal Proceedings	Have regard to London Council's protocol in relation to the bringing of proceedings when deciding whether a person should be charged with any offence.
B4	Best Value	To have regard to London Councils' Best Value duties when providing services and to keep under review the provision of all services to ensure Best Value.
B5	Equalities	Ensure that London Council's functions are carried out to eliminate discrimination and promote equality of opportunity and good relations and carry out appropriate equalities impact assessments of service delivery, policies and strategies and any changes.
B6	Identity Checks	To comply with any powers or duties contained in any Regulations or statutory provisions with regard to the necessity to check identification before the provision of public services.
B7	Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering	To notify the Council's Money Laundering Officer (Finance Officer (Director of Corporate Resources)) of any matter where proceeds from crime maybe used to fund an acquisition, benefit, agreement or services from London Councils or where there is a suspicion that someone may be harbouring the proceeds of crime.
B8	Human Rights	To notify the Finance Officer of any matter where proceeds from crime maybe used to fund an acquisition, benefit, agreement or services from London Councils or where there is a suspicion that someone may be harbouring the proceeds of crime.

Standing orders

June ~~2022~~2023

London Councils STANDING ORDERS¹

INTRODUCTION

These are the Standing Orders and rules of debate and procedure for the conduct of meetings of the London Councils joint committees. The Standing Orders apply to the London Councils' Leaders' Committee and, wherever appropriate, to the associated joint committees (the Grants Committee and London Councils Transport and Environment Committee), any sectoral joint committees, and any sub-committees (sometimes referred to as 'Panels') and forums of London Councils; and any reference to 'London Councils' is a collective reference to all of them. The Standing Orders have been drawn up having regard to Government best practice, guidance and statutory requirements.

In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Standing Orders and the provisions of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement (which includes the London Grants Scheme) or the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (LCTEC) Governing Agreement, the relevant provision of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement or the LCTEC Governing Agreement shall prevail.

Revised ~~76~~ June ~~2022~~2023

¹ Also known as Schedule 6 of London Councils Agreement, 2001

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1. MEETINGS

Generally

- 1.1 Leaders' Committee, its associated joint committees (the Grants Committee and the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC)) and any sectoral joint committees shall each hold a minimum of 2 meetings² each year, one of which shall be an annual general meeting.
- 1.2 Subject to 1.1 above, meetings of London Councils shall be called, and the procedure to be adopted at such meetings shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of these Standing Orders.
- 1.3 Any member London Local Authority may give written notice of an item to be placed on the Agenda for any meeting. All notices of items for agendas and reports for circulation with agenda must be received by the Chief Executive not less than ten working days prior to the meeting to which the agenda relates.
- 1.4 Each London Local Authority subscribing to Leaders' Committee, its associated joint committees, and any sectoral joint committee, shall be entitled to receive from the Chief Executive sufficient copies of the Agenda, papers and minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the joint committees and any Forums and sub-committees thereof.
- 1.5 Deputations shall be entitled, upon prior notification being given to the Chief Executive and at the discretion of the Chair, to attend and address the meeting for not more than ten minutes and to answer questions from members for a further ten minutes.

Calling Meetings

- 1.6 Meetings may be called by:
 - (i) Leaders' Committee, or the associated joint committee or sectoral joint committee by resolution;
 - (ii) the Chair of the relevant joint committee;
 - (iii) a requisition signed by not less than one third of the representatives, delivered to the Chief Executive at least ten working days before the date mentioned in the requisition.

² Any reference to meetings relates to formal, decision making meetings rather than 'for information' meetings

Business

- 1.7 The Summons to any such meeting shall set out the business to be transacted thereat, and no business other than that set out in the summons shall be considered at the meeting unless by reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Annual Meetings of Leaders' Committee and associated joint committees and sectoral joint committees

Timing and Business

- 1.8 Leaders' Committee, each associated joint committee and each sectoral joint committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) before the end of July of each year.

The relevant joint committee will at its AGM:

- (i) appoint a Chair and up to three Vice Chairs;
- (ii) approve the minutes of the last meeting of that joint committee;
- (iii) receive the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting;
- (iv) receive any announcements from the Chair and/or Head of Paid Service;
- (v) appoint such sub committees and forums as considered appropriate to deal with matters which are not otherwise reserved to London Councils, LCTEC, Grants Committee or any sectoral joint committee;
- (vi) decide the size and terms of reference for those sub committees and forums;
- (vii) decide the allocation of seats [and substitutes] to political groups² in accordance with the political balance rules, unless the terms of reference (or constitution) of a sub-committee or forum makes specific provision for the make-up of its membership;

² Whilst not specifically bound by the legislation that governs this issue in borough councils, London Councils has operated on a similar basis to boroughs in recognising a party group as being one with two or more members which declare themselves as a group with a Leader. In the context of London Councils, members are the members of Leaders' Committee. No other metric - for example the overall proportion of London councillors - is used in determining proportionality among the groups. Current practice is that party groups are able to offer seats to other elected representatives but are under no obligation to do so.

- (viii) approve a programme of ordinary meetings for the joint committee, sub committee or forum for the year;
- (ix) consider any business set out in the notice convening the meeting.

1.9 London Councils Leaders' Committee will also:

- (i) appoint a Deputy Chair;
- (ii) agree the scheme of delegation to officers;
- (iii) receive nominations of Councillors appointed to Committees by the participating London Local Authorities.

1.10 Transport and Environment Committee will also:

- (i) receive a report recommending nominations to outside bodies.

1.11 Grants Committee will also:

- (i) approve any delegations to sub-committees or Officers in relation to the management of the London Grants Scheme.

Ordinary meetings

1.12 Ordinary meetings of Leaders' Committee, the associated joint committees, and any sectoral joint committee, will take place in accordance with a programme decided at the relevant AGM. Ordinary meetings will:

- (i) elect a person to preside if the Chair, Deputy Chair, or Vice Chairs are not present;
- (ii) approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the last meeting;
- (iii) receive any declarations of interest from members;
- (iv) receive any announcements from the Chair or the Chief Executive;
- (v) receive questions from, and provide answers to, the public in relation to matters which in the opinion of the person presiding at the meeting are relevant to the business of the meeting and the submission of which have complied with Standing Order 8;

- (vi) deal with any business from the last meeting;
- (vii) receive and consider reports/presentations from the London Councils sub-committees, forums and associated joint committees and receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
- (viii) receive nominations and make appointments to fill vacancies arising in respect of any sub-committee, forum or outside body for which the joint committee is responsible;
- (ix) receive and consider minutes of meetings, any sub committees and forums which have taken place since the joint committee last met.
- (x) consider motions; and
- (xi) consider any other business specified in the summons to the meeting.

1.13 The order of business of any associated committee shall be as shall be determined by the joint committee.

1.14 The Chair may at his/her discretion alter the order in which business is taken.

1.15 Leaders' Committee will also receive and consider minutes of meetings, of associated joint committees, any sectoral joint committee, and their sub committees as necessary and relevant to the operation and governance of London Councils.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Each London Local Authority, that is the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London, shall appoint its Leader as its representative to London Councils Leaders' Committee.
- 2.2 Each London Local Authority, that is the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London, shall make an appropriate appointment to London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.
- 2.3 Each London Local Authority, that is the 32 London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London, shall make an appropriate nomination to London Councils Grants Committee. Any nominations to Grants Committee must be a Cabinet Member or have appropriate delegated authority from their council.

- 2.4 Each London Local Authority that subscribes to a sectoral joint committee shall make an appropriate nomination to that sectoral joint committee, ensuring that nominees have the appropriate delegated authority.
- 2.5 The Chairs of each of the associated joint committees, any sectoral joint committee, any Forums or any sub-committees of Leaders' Committee shall also be entitled to sit ex officio (but not to vote in such capacity) on Leaders' Committee.
- 2.6 Any Lead Member appointed in respect of any issue by any of the London Councils joint committees shall be entitled to sit ex officio (but not to vote in such capacity) on Leaders' Committee.
- 2.7 London Councils may admit to membership such representatives of such other bodies as it considers appropriate or is required as the result of any legislation to admit from time to time on such terms as shall be agreed with such other bodies. Such representatives shall be entitled to sit ex officio but not to vote in such capacity.
- 2.8 The Chief Executive of each of the London Local Authorities or his/her nominated representative shall be entitled to attend as an observer but not to speak or vote at any meeting.

Deputy Representatives

- 2.9 If the appointed representative of a London Local Authority is unable to be present at a meeting of Leaders' Committee, an associated joint committee or sectoral joint committees, that member authority may be represented by a deputy who shall be duly appointed for the purpose. A deputy attending a meeting shall declare him/herself as such but shall otherwise be entitled to speak and vote as if he/she were a member of that London Councils committee.

Elected Officers

- 2.10 The following shall be the Elected Officers of Leaders' Committee:
- (i) Chair
 - (ii) Deputy Chair
 - (iii) Vice Chairs
- 2.11 The following shall be the Elected Officers of the Transport and Environment Committee:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chairs

2.12 The following shall be the Elected Officers of the Grants Committee:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chairs

2.13 The following shall be the Elected Officers of any sectoral joint committee:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chairs

2.14 The following shall be the Elected Officers of any sub-committee appointed by Leaders' Committee, associated joint committees or sectoral joint committees:

- (i) Chair
- (ii) Vice Chair/Deputy/s

2.15 The overall balance of which shall be such as to ensure proportional representation of party political groupings on London Councils.

2.16 In a year in which there are council elections, the elected officers of London Councils and all its member bodies shall cease to hold office on the day of the council elections and shall cease to be remunerated save that Leaders' Committee may, by agreement, decide to remunerate members for activity in pursuance of the discharge of the business of London Councils under SO 19.2. Notwithstanding, the outgoing Chair shall be able to preside at the subsequent AGM until a new Chair is elected.

3 TIME AND PLACE OF MEETINGS

3.1 The date, time and place of meetings will be determined by the Chief Executive and notified in the summons.

4 NOTICE OF AND SUMMONS TO MEETINGS

4.1 The Chief Executive will give notice to the public of the time and place of any meeting in accordance with the Access to Information Rules

4.2 The Chief Executive shall, not less than five clear working days before the intended meetings of Leaders' Committee and any associated joint committee or sectoral joint committee,

circulate a notice thereof to each representative and deputy representative and the Town Clerk/Chief Executive or the nominated officer of every London Local Authority subscribing to Leaders' Committee, the associated committees or sectoral joint committee. The notice will give the date, time and place of each meeting and specify the business to be transacted and will be accompanied by such reports as are available. Where the recipient has given consent for the summons to attend the meeting to be transmitted in electronic form to a particular electronic address (and consent has not been withdrawn), the summons may be sent in electronic form to that address.

- 4.3 Provided that the failure of any such notice to be delivered shall not affect the validity of the meeting or of the business transacted thereat. Provided also that at times it may be necessary to circulate reports in a second despatch or to circulate them at the meeting.

5 CHAIR OF MEETING

- 5.1 At every meeting the Chair if present shall preside. If, at the meeting, the Chair is absent the Deputy Chair if present, shall preside. If both the Chair and the Deputy Chair are absent a Vice Chair if present, shall preside. Where there is more than one Vice Chair, the Vice Chair representing the largest political group will preside. If neither the Chair, Deputy Chair or a Vice Chair is present, the meeting shall elect one of its present members to preside. If the Chair and Deputy Chair notify their absence in advance of the meeting, the Chair will be invited to identify a committee member from their party who would be able to Chair the meeting in their absence.
- 5.2 For the purposes of these Standing Orders references to the Chair, in the context of the conduct of business at meetings, shall mean the person presiding under this Standing Order.
- 5.3 The person presiding at the meeting may exercise any power or duty of the Chair. Where these rules apply to sub-committee or forum meetings, references to the Chair also include the chair of sub-committees or forums.

6 QUORUM

- 6.1 The quorum shall be one third of, or the number nearest to one third, but not less than three Members (except for the quorum for Audit Committee, which because of both its size and the nature of its business is a special case and therefore is only two) entitled to be present at Leaders' Committee, and any associated joint committees, sectoral joint committees or sub committees of London Councils.

- 6.2 If within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting to commence, a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.
- 6.3 Remaining business will be considered at a time and date fixed by the Chair. If he/she does not fix a date, the remaining business will be considered at the next ordinary meeting.
- 6.4 If, during the meeting, the person presiding, after causing the number of members present to be counted, declares that there is not a quorum present, the meeting shall stand adjourned for fifteen minutes. If, after fifteen minutes there is still no quorum present, the meeting shall be brought to an end and all business not completed before the meeting has been brought to an end shall be postponed to the next meeting, whether ordinary or extraordinary.
- 6.5 If during the meeting any member absents themselves permanently making the meeting inquorate, the meeting will stand adjourned.

7 DURATION OF MEETING

- 7.1 Subject to Standing Order 27 (suspension of Standing Orders) if, after two and a half hours after the time appointed for the start of the meeting, the business on the agenda has not been completed, the meeting of London Councils or any associated committee or sectoral joint committee shall automatically adjourn and any debate then proceeding shall be suspended and all business unfinished shall stand adjourned to the next meeting, unless otherwise directed by the meeting Chair

8 DEPUTATIONS

- 8.1 Deputations shall be entitled, upon prior notification being given to the Chief Executive and at the discretion of the Chair, to attend and address meetings of London Councils for not more than ten minutes and to answer questions from members of London Councils for a further ten minutes.

9 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Notice

- 9.1 Except for motions which can be moved without notice under Standing Order 10 or consideration of any matters of urgency brought forward by leave of the Chair, written notice of every motion, signed by at least 5 members, must be delivered to the Chief Executive not later than 10 clear days before the date of the meeting and clear days are deemed to

exclude the day of delivery, the day of the meeting and any Sunday. These will be open to public inspection.

Motions set out in agenda

- 9.2 Motions for which notice has been given will be listed on the agenda in the order in which notice was received, unless the member giving notice states, in writing, that they propose to move it to a later meeting or withdraw it.

Scope

- 9.3 Motions must be about matters for which London Councils has a responsibility.

10 MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

- 10.1 The following motions may be moved without notice:

- (i) to appoint a chair of the meeting at which the motion is moved;
- (ii) in relation to the accuracy of the minutes;
- (iii) to change the order of business in the agenda;
- (iv) to refer something to an appropriate body or individual;
- (v) to appoint a sub committee or member arising from an item on the summons for the meeting;
- (vi) to receive reports or adoption of recommendations of committees or sub committees or officers and any resolutions following from them;
- (vii) to withdraw a motion;
- (viii) to amend a motion;
- (ix) to proceed to the next business;
- (x) that the question be now put;

- (xi) to adjourn a debate;
- (xii) to adjourn a meeting;
- (xiii) that the meeting continue beyond two and a half hours in duration;
- (xiv) to suspend a particular Standing Order;
- (xv) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules;
- (xvi) to not hear further a member named under Standing Order 17.1 or to exclude them from the meeting under Standing Order 17.2; and
- (xvii) to give the consent of London Councils where its consent is required by this Agreement.

11 RULES OF DEBATE

Speakers to Address the Chair

- 11.1 All speakers shall address the Chair. All members shall preserve order whilst the speaker is speaking. A speaker shall give way if the Chair rises.

No discussion until motion seconded

- 11.2 A motion or amendment shall not be discussed until it has been proposed and seconded.

Right to require motion in writing

- 11.3 Unless notice of the motion has already been given, the Chair may require it to be written down and handed to him/her before it is discussed.

Mover and seconder's speech

- 11.4 The mover and seconder of a motion shall be deemed to have spoken thereon. When seconding a motion or amendment, a member may reserve their speech until later in the debate.

Content and length of speeches

- 11.5 Speeches must be directed to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or point of order. The mover of a motion shall be allowed 5 minutes and the seconder and succeeding speakers 3 minutes each. The time limit for speakers may be extended by an affirmative vote of the members.

When a member may speak again

- 11.6 A member who has spoken on a motion may not speak again whilst it is the subject of debate, except:
- (i) to speak once on an amendment moved by another member;
 - (ii) to move a further amendment if the motion has been amended since he/she last spoke;
 - (iii) if his/her first speech was on an amendment moved by another member, to speak on the main issue (whether or not the amendment on which he/she spoke was carried);
 - (iv) by the mover of an original motion in exercise of a right of reply, and this shall close the discussion.

Amendments to motions

- 11.7 An amendment to a motion must be relevant to the motion and will either be:
- (i) to refer the matter to an appropriate body or individual for consideration or reconsideration;
 - (ii) to leave out words;
 - (iii) to leave out words and insert or add others; or
 - (iv) to insert or add words;

as long as the effect of (ii) to (iv) is not to negate the motion.

- 11.8 Only one amendment may be moved and discussed at any one time. No further amendment may be moved until the amendment under discussion has been disposed of.
- 11.9 If an amendment is not carried, other amendments to the original motion may be moved.
- 11.10 If an amendment is carried, the motion as amended takes the place of the original motion. This becomes the substantive motion to which any further amendments are moved.
- 11.11 After an amendment has been carried, the Chair will read out the amended motion before accepting any further amendments, or if there are none, put it to the vote.

Alteration of motion

- 11.12 A member may alter a motion of which he/she has given notice with the consent of the meeting. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.
- 11.13 A member may alter a motion which he/she has moved without notice with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion.
- 11.14 Only alterations which could be made as an amendment may be made.

Withdrawal of motion

- 11.15 A member may withdraw a motion which he/she has moved with the consent of both the meeting and the seconder. The meeting's consent will be signified without discussion. No member may speak on the motion after the mover has asked permission to withdraw it unless permission is refused.

Right of reply

- 11.16 The mover of any original motion, but not of any amendment, may reply to the discussion for a period of not more than 3 minutes without introducing new material and this shall close the discussion.
- 11.17 If an amendment is moved, the mover of the original motion has the right of reply at the close of the debate on the amendment, but may not otherwise speak on it.

11.18 The mover of the amendment has no right of reply to the debate on his or her amendment.

Motions which may be moved during debate

11.19 When a motion is under debate, no other motion may be moved except the following procedural motions:

- (i) to withdraw a motion;
- (ii) to amend a motion;
- (iii) to proceed to the next business;
- (iv) that the question be now put;
- (v) to adjourn a debate;
- (vi) to adjourn a meeting;
- (vii) that the meeting continue beyond two and a half hours in duration;
- (viii) to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Access to Information Rules;
and
- (ix) to not hear further a member named under Standing Order 17.1 or to exclude them from the meeting under Standing Order 17.2.

Closure motions

11.20 A member may move, without comment, the following motions at the end of a speech of another member:

- (i) to proceed to the next business;
- (ii) that the question be now put;
- (iii) to adjourn a debate; or

(iv) to adjourn a meeting.

- 11.21 If a motion to proceed to next business is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he or she will give the mover of the original motion a right of reply and then put the procedural motion to the vote.
- 11.22 If a motion that the question be now put is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has been sufficiently discussed, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote. If it is passed he/she will give the mover of the original motion a right of reply before putting his/her motion to the vote.
- 11.23 If a motion to adjourn the debate or to adjourn the meeting is seconded and the Chair thinks the item has not been sufficiently discussed and cannot reasonably be so discussed on that occasion, he/she will put the procedural motion to the vote without giving the mover of the original motion the right of reply.

Point of order

- 11.24 A member may raise a point of order at any time. The Chair will hear them immediately. A point of order may only relate to an alleged breach of these Standing Orders or the law. The member must indicate the rule or law and the way in which he/she considers it has been broken. The ruling of the Chair on the matter will be final.
- 11.25 A speaker may give way to a point of information, and must give way to a point of order if it is accepted by the Chair.

Personal explanation

- 11.26 A member may make a personal explanation at any time. A personal explanation may only relate to some material part of an earlier speech by the member which may appear to have been misunderstood in the present debate. The ruling of the Chair on the admissibility of a personal explanation will be final.

Ruling of Chair

- 11.27 The Chair shall decide all questions of order and his/her ruling upon such questions or upon matters arising in debate shall be final and shall not be open to discussion.

12 PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND MOTIONS

Motion to rescind a previous decision

- 12.1 A motion or amendment to rescind a decision made at a meeting of London Councils within the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion is signed by at least 5 members.

Motion similar to one previously rejected

- 12.2 A motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting in the past six months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion or amendment is signed by at least 5 members. Once the motion or amendment is dealt with, no one can propose a similar motion or amendment for six months.

13 VOTING

- 13.1 One representative from each London Local Authority subscribing to Leaders' Committee and its associated joint committees or sectoral joint committees shall be entitled to vote on behalf of his/her authority in each meeting of Leaders' Committee, either associated joint committee or sectoral joint committees.
- 13.2 Subject to Clause 11.1, 12.1 of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement and Standing Order 21.1, and any provisions of this Agreement or the LCTEC Governing Agreement requiring unanimity, questions arising at any meeting of London Councils shall be determined by a show of hands and shall be decided by a simple majority of votes.
- 13.3 At Transport and Environment Committee representatives from Transport for London or any London local authority, shall only be entitled to speak or vote or receive papers in respect of functions which they have delegated to the Transport and Environment Committee and shall not be counted as part of the quorum except in respect of those functions.

Equality of votes

- 13.4 In the case of an equality of votes at the annual meeting and on motions to suspend or amend the Standing Orders under Standing Order 27 at ordinary meetings, each of the party Group Leaders shall have second or casting votes.
- 13.5 Subject to 13.4 above, in the case of an equality of votes at ordinary meetings of London

Councils, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote to be exercised in accordance with 13.6 below.

13.6 Where the Chair exercises a casting vote under Standing Order 13.5 above it will be used only for one or more of the following purposes:

- (i) to permit further discussion of an issue;
- (ii) to maintain the status quo;
- (iii) to ensure that London Councils meets any legal obligations or any requirements of the London Councils Agreement or London Councils' Standing Orders.

13.7 On the requisition of any representative made before any vote is taken on a motion or an amendment, and supported by five representatives, the voting shall be recorded so as to show how each representative present and voting voted. The name of any representative present and not voting shall also be recorded.

13.8 Where any member requests it immediately after the vote is taken, their vote will be so recorded in the minutes to show whether they voted for or against the motion or abstained from voting.

Voting on appointments to London Councils Committees

13.9 If there are more than two people nominated for any position to be filled and there is not a clear majority of votes in favour of one person, then the name of the person with the least number of votes will be taken off the list and a new vote taken. The process will continue until there is a majority of votes for one person.

14 MINUTES

Agreeing the minutes

14.1 The Chair will move that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as a correct record.

14.2 Where in relation to any meeting, the next meeting for the purpose of agreeing the minutes is a meeting called under paragraph 3 of schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 (an Extraordinary Meeting), then the next following meeting (being a meeting called otherwise than under that paragraph) will be treated as a suitable meeting for the purposes of paragraph 41(1) and (2) of schedule 12 relating to agreeing of minutes.

Form of minutes

- 14.3 Minutes will contain all motions and amendments in the exact form and order the Chair put them.

15 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

- 15.1 At every meeting, the Clerk to the Meeting will record the attendance of each representative of a member authority and all other representatives present in accordance with Standing Order 2 (Membership).

16 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

- 16.1 Members of the public and press may only be excluded either in accordance with the Access to Information Rules or Standing Order 18.

17 MEMBERS' CONDUCT

Member not to be heard further

- 17.1 If a member persistently disregards the ruling of the Chair by behaving improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs business, the Chair may move that the member be not heard further. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

Member to leave the meeting

- 17.2 If the member continues to behave improperly after such a motion is carried, the Chair may move that either the member leaves the meeting or that the meeting is adjourned for a specified period. If seconded, the motion will be voted on without discussion.

General disturbance

- 17.3 If there is a general disturbance making orderly business impossible, the Chair may adjourn the meeting for as long as he/she thinks necessary.

18 DISTURBANCE BY PUBLIC

Removal of member of the public

- 18.1 If a member of the public interrupts proceedings, the Chair will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chair will order their removal from the meeting room.

Adjournment

- 18.2 In the event of a general disturbance which, in the opinion of the Chair renders the due and orderly dispatch of business impossible, the Chair, in addition to any other power vested in the Chair, may without question adjourn the meeting for such period as in the Chair's discretion shall be considered expedient.

19 URGENCY

- 19.1 If at any time the Chief Executive of London Councils considers that any matter is urgent and should be decided on prior to the next meeting of London Councils, then he/she shall consult the Elected Officers of London Councils. If at least two of the Elected Officers, of whom one will be the Chair, if available, and the other will be from another political party or no party, agree in writing that the matter is urgent and agree on the Chief Executive's recommendation, then the decision shall be taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with such recommendation..
- 19.2 In the event the provisions of Standing Order 19.1 are inoperable following local government elections and there is a need for urgent action, the Chief Executive is authorised to take executive action having consulted as appropriate, such action to be reported to the next meeting of London Councils.
- 19.3 The Elected Officers of London Councils and the Chief Executive may nominate persons to act in their absence for the purposes of this Standing Order.
- 19.4 A copy of the record of a decision taken under this Standing Order shall be kept at the office of the Chief Executive.
- 19.5 All decisions taken under this Standing Order shall be reported to the next meeting of London Councils.
- 19.6 The urgency procedure to be followed by Transport and Environment Committee is as in 19.1-19.5 above, with the substitution of "[Director, Transport & Mobility](#)[Chief Operating Officer](#)" for "Chief Executive" and referring to the Elected Officers of the Transport and

Environment Committee.

- 19.7 The urgency procedure to be followed by the Grants Committee is as in 19.1-19.5 above, with the substitution of “the ~~Planning and Strategy Director~~[Strategy Director: London's Communities](#)” for “Chief Executive” and referring to the Elected Officers of the Grants Committee.
- 19.8 The urgency procedure to be followed by the Greater London Provincial Council is as in 19.1-19.5 above, with the substitution of “the Head of London Regional Employers Organisation” for “Chief Executive” and referring to the Elected Officers of the Greater London Provincial Council.
- 19.9 The urgency procedure for any sectoral joint committees is as in 19.1-19.5 above, referring to the Elected Officers of the appropriate sectoral joint committee and a senior Officer designated by the committee.
- 19.10 The urgency procedure to be followed by any sub-committee appointed by Leaders' Committee, associated joint committees or sectoral joint committees is as in 19.1 – 19.5 above, referring to the Elected Officers of that sub-committee and the senior officer, designated by that sub-committee.

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 20.1 If a member is present at a meeting of London Councils Leaders' Committee or any of its associated joint committees or any sub-committees or any sectoral joint committee and has a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”) relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting, that member must not:
- (i) participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if on becoming aware of the disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business; or
 - (ii) participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.
- 20.2 These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.
- 20.3 It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item

that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority's code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

20.4 In certain circumstances, London Councils may under s.33 of the Localism Act 2011 grant a dispensation to permit a member to take part in the business notwithstanding that the member has a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to that business. These circumstances are where London Councils considers that:

- (i) without the dispensation so great a proportion of London Councils members would be prohibited from participating in that business as to impede London Councils transaction of that business;
- (ii) without the dispensation the representation of different political groups dealing with that business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote;
- (iii) the granting of the dispensation is in the interests of people living in the London Councils' area;³
- (iv) without the dispensation each member of the London Councils Executive would be prohibited from participating in the business; or
- (v) it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

20.5 If a member wishes to apply for a dispensation, they must make a written application to be received not less than three working days before the meeting setting out the grounds for the application to the officer responsible for processing such requests.⁴

20.6 A member must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and non-pecuniary, including membership of any Trade Union that relate to any public duties and must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest, ~~including registering and declaring interests.~~

21 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

21.1 London Councils Leaders' Committee shall by a majority of at least two-thirds of those representatives present at the meeting and entitled to a vote in respect of each of those functions, approve by no later than 31st January in each year the subscriptions or

³ The London Councils area is that area covered by the London boroughs and the City of London

⁴ That person designated by the scheme of delegation, currently (June 2016) the Chief Executive

contributions payable by the London Local Authorities for each of the groups of functions set out in Schedule 2. If London Councils fails to agree by such date the subscriptions or contributions for the ensuing financial year, then that subscription or contribution shall be at the same amount as the subscription for the current financial year. The annual budget (including any contingency sum) in respect of any function shall not be exceeded without the prior approval of a two-thirds majority of the representatives of those London Local Authorities who are present at the meeting to which the proposal to exceed the budget is under consideration and authorised to vote.

- 21.2 Contributions to the London Grants Scheme, at schedule 5 of the Leaders' Committee Governing Agreement (as substituted by the variation to that Agreement dated 1 February 2004).
- 21.3 Contributions to London Councils Transport and Environment Committee are as set out in the LCTEC Governing Agreement dated 13 December 2001 (as amended).
- 21.4 Any sectoral joint committee shall approve the subscriptions payable by each London Local Authority subscribing thereto in such a manner as shall be determined by such sectoral joint committee as set out in the London Councils Governing Agreement.

22 DELEGATIONS OF FUNCTIONS

- 22.1 London Councils, its associated joint committees, sectoral joint committees, or sub-committee thereof may delegate to officers such of their functions as are permissible under statute and may, in relation to any of those functions, require that the exercise of those functions be subject to such conditions as London Councils deems fit to impose, including, where appropriate, prior consultation with the Leading Member on London Councils of each political party or group before taking such action.

23 SUPPLY OF INFORMATION TO MEMBERS

- 23.1 Members of London Councils, its associated joint committees, sectoral joint committees or sub-committee thereof and any Forums of London Councils, shall be entitled to receive from officers such information as they may require in order to enable them to carry out their duties as members of such committee or sub-committee.
- 23.2 In addition, the leading members on London Councils of each political party or group shall be entitled to receive briefings and briefing papers from officers on the same basis as the Chair.

24 MEETINGS WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

- 24.1 A representative of each political party or group shall be entitled to be notified of and to attend any meeting with an outside body at which a Member of London Councils is present and which has been arranged on behalf of London Councils. (This Standing Order shall not apply to those meetings convened by political advisers.)

25 SUB-COMMITTEES, FORUMS ETC OF LONDON COUNCILS

- 25.1 London Councils shall establish sub-committees to discharge the functions set out in Schedule 2 and such further sub-committees, forums and consultative groups as it considers appropriate.
- 25.2 All or any of the London Local Authorities wishing to delegate a function to London Councils or any sectoral joint committee may request London Councils' consent to the delegation of such function in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed.
- 25.3 The terms of reference of any consultative group of London Councils shall be subject to the approval of London Councils.
- 25.4 The Chair and Deputy Chair of London Councils shall be ex-officio members of every and any sub-committee but shall not be entitled to speak or vote at such meetings in that capacity.

26 ACCESS TO MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS

- 26.1 Admission of members of the public to meetings of London Councils, any associated committee, sectoral joint committee any sub-committee thereof and any Forum and access to documents thereof shall be in accordance with the Access to Information legislation in force from time to time.
- 26.2 Applications to film or record meetings of London Councils are requested 48 hours before the meeting. Filming will be permitted in accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and any relevant guidance issued by the government at the relevant time.

27 SUSPENSION AND AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

Suspension

- 27.1 Any of these Standing Orders except Standing Orders 13.7, 14.2 and 27.2 may be suspended at any meeting, in respect of any business on the agenda for such meeting, provided that the majority of the representatives of authorities in membership of London Councils or its associated who are present and entitled to vote so decide PROVIDED THAT any suspension hereunder complies with any legislation in force from time to time.

Variation and Revocation

- 27.2 Any addition to, or variation or revocation of these Standing Orders shall be by majority vote of those present and entitled to vote at any meeting of London Councils or its associated committees. Any motion to vary or revoke these Standing Orders shall require confirmation at the next ordinary meeting of London Councils or associated committee as the case may be before the proposed variation or revocation shall have effect PROVIDED THAT any addition, variation or revocation hereunder complies with any legislation in force from time to time.

Grants Committee AGM

Amendments to London Councils Financial Regulations

Report by: Richard Merrington **Job title:** Chief Accountant
Date: 12 July 2023
Contact Officer: David Sanni
Telephone: 020 7934 9704 **Email:** David.Sanni@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary This report recommends changes to the Financial Regulations in respect of changes to procurement thresholds and other arrangements detailed below.

Recommendations Grants Committee is asked to agree to the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations as detailed in the report.

Constitutional matters – Amendments to London Councils Financial Regulations

Introduction

The Financial Regulations for London Councils have been reviewed during the year and there are proposed changes as follows:

Financial Regulations – The Financial Regulations have been amended to reflect the current Public Contracts threshold for supply and service contracts of £177,898 (net) / £213,477 (gross).

Financial Regulations / Contents - The appendices listed in the contents of the regulations and referenced throughout will be listed in Section 27. The appendices will no longer form part of the full regulations, they are largely guidance notes and forms used to aid the day-to-day operations of London Councils.

Financial Regulation 8.11.4 – The regulation has been revised to remove the requirement to consult with members on the evaluation and acceptance of tenders above the Public Contract threshold but below £250,000. This change has been made to reduce the burden on members having to approve routine operational contracts.

Financial Regulation 8.11.5 – The regulation stating that *“for tenders of £250,000 and over London Councils’ Committee or any Sectoral joint or associated committee as appropriate shall be authorised to evaluate and accept a tender”* has been removed. The requirement for Member approval prior to an above £250,000 procurement exercise being undertaken remains in place. This change reflects that members agree the procurement decision at the start of the process and removes the requirement for members to provide a second approval when the exercise has been completed.

Financial Regulation 8.11.6 – The regulation has been amended to reflect that when a tender exceeds the approved estimate, financial regulations 4.1 (virements) and 9.3 (expenditure in excess of budget) shall apply.

Financial Regulation 8.13.4 – The regulation has been amended to set out extension arrangements on contracts which have been subject to a full tender process and are below the Public Contracts threshold.

Miscellaneous - Other non-material changes made throughout the regulations to ensure consistency of language.

Financial Implications for London Councils: These are outlined in the body of the report.

Legal Implications for London Councils: The changes to the Financial Regulations bring London Councils in line with current legislation.

Equalities Implications for London Councils: None arising from this report.

Recommendations

Grants Committee is asked to agree to the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations, as detailed.

Appendix: Amended Financial Regulation

Background Documents:

- Financial Regulations

The Financial Regulations can be viewed on London Councils website:

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/4818>

~~September 2020~~ June 2023

LONDON COUNCILS¹

SCHEDULE 7

FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Key points/message

All ~~Corporate and Programme~~ Directors shall ensure that the Financial Regulations are strictly observed within their Directorates and Divisions and shall arrange for all necessary staff training.

Any employee who knowingly or by negligence breaches these regulations may be subject to disciplinary action.

¹ The term *London Councils* throughout this document refers only to Leaders' Committee,

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Appendices

~~Virement Authorisation Proforma~~

~~Retention of Documents~~

~~Format for Inventories~~

~~Stocktaking Guidelines~~

~~Authorised Signatories~~

~~Procurement Toolkit~~

~~Salaries and Expenses Policy and Procedures~~

~~New projects approval proforma, including externally funded projects~~

~~Hospitality Declaration~~

~~Purchase Order Register~~

~~Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy~~

1 Definitions

- 1.1 The Chief Executive means the officer appointed pursuant to Clause 7.4 of the London Councils Agreement or, wherever appropriate, his/her nominated representative.
- 1.2 The Finance Officer² means the officer appointed pursuant to Clause 7.4 who shall be the “Responsible Financial Officer” as defined by Regulation 2(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996.
- 1.3 The Organisation means London Councils, any Sectoral joint committees and any associated committees.

2 General

- 2.1 These financial regulations are designed to detail the responsibilities, procedures and working practices adopted under this Agreement and provide essential information in relation to day to day financial administration.
- 2.2 The Chief Executive and the Finance Officer have a responsibility to establish within the Organisation strong internal control procedures so that activities are conducted in an efficient, effective and well-ordered manner. Such procedures should facilitate the detection and prevention of fraud and/or corruption at an early stage (refer Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy - appendix 11).
- 2.3 The Finance Officer shall maintain a register in which officers shall enter each gift, favour, reward or hospitality offered by a person or organisation doing, or seeking to do business with the Organisation (refer Hospitality Declaration- appendix 9).
- 2.4 It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to ensure that all staff are made aware of these regulations and to make suitable arrangements to ensure adherence. This does not remove the requirement for all staff to make themselves conversant with these regulations and comply with their requirements.
- 2.5 The Organisation shall not consider:-
 - 2.5.1 a new policy, including the management of all externally funded projects, nor
 - 2.5.2 a development or variation of existing policy, nor
 - 2.5.3 a variation in the means or time-scale of implementing existing policy which affects or may affect the Committee’s finances, unless there is before it at the same time a full statement of the financial implications by the Finance Officer.
- 2.6 The Chief Executive shall consult the Finance Officer with respect to any matter within his/her purview, which is liable- materially to affect the finances of the Organisation before any commitment is incurred or before reporting thereon to any Committee.
- 2.7 Failure to observe these Financial Regulations may, at the discretion of the

² The title Finance Officer refers to the Director of Corporate Resources throughout this document and appendices

Finance Officer, be reported to the Audit Committee.

- 2.8 In relation to externally funded projects:
- 2.8.1 all requests for government or other grant support must be agreed with the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer in advance of any submission to the funding body;
 - 2.8.2 if the estimated lifetime value a grant is equal or greater than £250,000 this must be the subject of a separate detailed report to London Councils Leaders' Committee or any Sectoral joint or associated committee as appropriate.
- 2.9 The ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive will be responsible for submission of all claims for grant to Government Departments and other outside bodies. All agreements for the receipt of grant by a Committee shall:-
- 2.9.1 be obtained in writing;
 - 2.9.2 state the amount and conditions relating to the receipt of grant;
 - 2.9.3 be referred to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer for his/her observations on financial implications prior to signing; and
 - 2.9.4 be reviewed for any legal implications, seeking legal advice as necessary.
- 2.10 The Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive, has the right to withdraw any Committee report where insufficient notice has been given to allow the provision of adequate financial comment.
- 2.11 The Finance Officer shall be consulted in any cases involving the interpretation of the Financial Regulations and his/her decision as to their meaning, scope and application shall be final providing such decision does not have the effect of altering the meaning of a Standing Order or other regulation or contract approved by a Committee.
- 2.12 The Finance Officer shall annually review the financial threshold figures stated in the Financial Regulations, making any necessary adjustments and ~~then~~ notify the Chief Executive accordingly. However, any proposed increases exceeding the appropriate rate of inflation shall first be referred to London Councils and the relevant Sectoral joint or Associated committee for their approval.
- 2.13 The Finance Officer shall review these Financial Regulations at least every two years in consultation with the Chief Executive and report to London Councils} and the relevant Sectoral joint or Associated committee recommending those changes he/she considers necessary.
- 2.14 A Lead Authority, in its capacity as administrator of an activity delegated by London Councils or a Sectoral joint or Associated committee, shall be deemed to have complied with these Financial Regulations so long as it is in compliance with the applicable Financial Regulations and Standing Orders of that Lead Authority.
- 2.15 Any of these financial regulations may be revoked, varied or suspended in

respect of all or any of the functions referred to in this Agreement by London Councils in accordance with Schedule 6.

3 Budgets

- 3.1 The Finance Officer shall prepare the estimates of revenue income and expenditure in consultation with the Chief Executive, who shall critically scrutinise the draft estimates before their submission to London Councils and any Sectoral joint or Associated committee.
- 3.2 The estimates shall show the latest approved estimates for the current year and the estimated expenditure and income for the ensuing three years. The Finance Officer and Chief Executive shall provide sufficient supporting information as required by London Councils, and any Sectoral joint or Associated committee in order for variations between budget headings to be analysed. The detailed form of the annual budget shall be determined by the Finance Officer and Chief Executive consistent with general directions of London Councils and any Sectoral joint or Associated committee.
- 3.3 The Finance Officer shall make appropriate detailed calculations for each budget head. A working paper showing the basis of each calculation shall be kept for six years or until the final accounts for the year in question have been approved by the external auditor.
- 3.4 Estimates of income and expenditure made in respect of the London Boroughs Grants Scheme (LBGS), shall be prepared in accordance with the timetable contained in the LBGS Regulations as amended by Schedule 4 as follows:
 - 3.4.1 The LBGS draft budget shall be submitted to London Councils and the London Boroughs Grant Committee not later than the end of November each year.
 - 3.4.2 London Councils shall approve the draft budget and the London Boroughs Grants Committee shall recommend to the applicable Constituent Councils an overall level of expenditure on an annual basis and this shall include the amounts to be collected from each Constituent Council as determined by the Regulations.
 - 3.4.3 At least two-thirds of the Constituent Councils must approve the recommended overall level of expenditure each year by not later than the third Friday in January as provided for in the Scheme Regulations.
 - 3.4.4 If at least two thirds of the Constituent Councils have not approved the recommended overall level of expenditure before the 1st February in the year in which that financial year begins, the Constituent Councils shall all be deemed to have given their approval for that financial year to total expenditure of an amount equal to the amount that was approved or as the case may be, deemed to have been approved, for the preceding financial year. Such approval shall be subject to any order which may be made by the Secretary of State under Section 48 (5) of the Local Government Act 1985 and will confer authority on the London Boroughs Grants Committee to incur such expenditure.

- 3.9 If it appears that an overspending is unavoidable, even after making use of the virement provisions, then the approval of London Councils and the relevant Sectoral joint or Associated committee must be sought before application of any supplementary estimate. Any proposal affecting the funds of -London Councils or any Sectoral joint or Associated committee shall -be submitted to such committee accompanied by a report of the Chief Executive -who shall consult the Finance Officer as necessary, indicating the sufficiency or otherwise of the estimate provision.
- 3.10 The conclusion of the Concessionary Fares contract shall be reported to the Transport and Environment Committee no later than the 31st of December each year.

4 Virements

- 4.1 Virement, or the temporary transfer of resources between budget heads, is allowed ————where any expenditure budget head will be overspent or income budget head will not be attained, by the end of the financial year, by offsetting the overspending or shortfall of income in respect of any function by the transfer from other budget heads for the same function which would have sufficient provision during the same financial year. Such virement is defined below.
- 4.1.1 The Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive, is authorised to approve virements up to a maximum of £50,000 in any one instance, provided the total virement to any one budget head in any one financial year does not exceed £50,000 or, either 50% of the receiving budget or, £1,000 if the receiving budget is less than £2,000. This applies to all budget heads.
- 4.1.2 For all such virements, these shall be reported to London Councils, -or any Sectoral joint committee or any Associated committee as appropriate, retrospectively on a quarterly basis.
- 4.1.3 All virements over £50,000 must be approved by London Councils, -or any Sectoral joint committee or any Associated committee, as appropriate.

5 Accounting and Document Retention

- 5.1 All accounts, financial records, including computerised records, and financial administration procedures shall be kept or undertaken in a form approved by the Finance Officer who shall also be responsible for keeping the principal accounting records. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to retain securely, and in an easily retrievable form, all other information relating to the Organisation's financial and operational activity in support of the accounting and final account process.
- 5.2 In the allocation of accounting duties, the following principles shall be observed:-
- 5.2.1 The duties of providing information regarding sums due to or from London Councils and of calculating, checking and recording these sums, shall be separated as completely as possible from the duty of collecting or disbursing them;

- 5.2.2 Officers charged with the duty of examining and checking the accounts of cash transactions shall not themselves be engaged in any such transactions.
- 5.3 The Chief Executive shall make returns of outstanding expenditure, income and any other relevant information in the form and by the date specified by the Finance Officer for the reporting process detailed in Financial Regulation 9.6 and the closure of the annual accounts.
- 5.4 All computerised financial systems should be capable of producing relevant accounting analysis capable of transfer in a format, level of detail and manner approved by the Finance Officer. The information transfer should include specific types of transaction such as write offs. The Chief Executive shall consult with the Finance Officer before introducing, amending or discontinuing any record or procedure relating to financial transactions or accounting.
- 5.5 All accounting records shall be retained in safe custody for such a period as shall be determined by the Finance Officer and all ~~vouchers~~ records must be kept for a period of six years in line with HMRC guidance after the specified accounting period has elapsed. The ultimate disposal of financial records should be arranged by the Chief Executive as “confidential waste” and on no account should sensitive information be disposed of through the normal waste collection process. All such confidential waste disposal arrangements shall be subject to the prior approval of the Finance Officer.
- 5.6 The Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive shall be responsible for the production and publication of the organisation’s final accounts in such a form and in accordance with such a timetable as to make them consistent with any relevant statute and the general directions of London Councils and any Sectoral joint or associated committee.
- 5.7 As soon as practicable after the end of each financial year and before the 30 June, the Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive shall report provisional out-turn figures for income and expenditure to London Councils and any Sectoral joint or Associated committee, comparing these to the approved estimates. The Finance Officer shall present the Statement of Accounts for the year in question to London Council’s External Auditors as early as possible following the presentation of the provisional outturn figures to London Councils Executive.
- 5.8 The Finance Officer shall retain, in safe custody, copies of audited Statements of Accounts including the External Auditor’s opinion and annual report. The Finance Officer shall present the audited Statement of Accounts to London Councils Audit Committee for approval by 30 September. All significant issues raised by the External Auditor’s annual report on the accounts together with any accompanying management letter must be reported to London Councils Audit Committee, including- the issues that relate solely to the accounts of any Sectoral joint committee.

6 Imprest Accounts

- 6.1 The Finance Officer shall provide such imprest accounts as he/she considers appropriate after consultation with the Chief Executive.
- 6.2 The Finance Officer may arrange for bank accounts to be opened for use by holders of imprest accounts. Such bank accounts shall not be overdrawn, and it shall be a standing instruction to the bank concerned that any departure from this regulation is reported immediately to the Finance Officer.
- 6.3 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for the control and operation of the imprest account in accordance with instructions issued by the Finance Officer.
- 6.4 No sums received on behalf of London Councils may be paid into an imprest account, but shall be banked separately or paid to London Councils promptly as may be directed by the Finance Officer.
- 6.5 Payments from imprest accounts shall be limited to minor items, unobtainable through Creditors or Stores and ineligible for reimbursement through Payroll, the maximum value of which shall be £50 (inclusive of VAT), unless specific dispensation has been provided to the Chief Executive by the Finance Officer. All payments shall be supported by vouchers and all receipts where appropriate, relating to expenditure from an imprest must be attached to the relevant voucher.
- 6.6 To satisfy the requirements of external auditors, imprest holders shall provide the Finance Officer with certificates annually to certify the balance held. These certificates must be sent to Finance Officer promptly after the end of the appropriate financial year. (Blank certificates will be provided to the imprest holders for this purpose by the Finance Officer before the end of each financial year).
- 6.7 Claims for the reimbursement of imprest accounts should be made at regular monthly intervals, following a full reconciliation of the account and, in any event, frequently enough for the relevant bank account to remain in credit until the reimbursement is received. Imprest reimbursement forms are to be provided by the Finance Officer.
- 6.8 It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to notify the Finance Officer sufficiently in advance of the impending resignation or departure of the imprest account holder. When an imprest account holder leaves the service of London Councils, he or she shall account to the Finance Officer for the amount advanced.
- 6.9 The general principle of imprest accounting is that at any time the cash balance, together with the aggregate value of any receipts on hand, unreimbursed claims and cheques not credited, should total the approved imprest account balance. At no stage should the cash balance be allowed to fall below zero. Income and change floats shall be kept separately from the imprest cash at all times, and shall not be used to fund cash expenditure.
- 6.10 If it becomes apparent that the current level of imprest is insufficient, the items on which the imprest is expended shall be reviewed. If it is clear that there is no

reasonable alternative to expenditure through the imprest, a formal request in writing to have it increased shall be made to the Finance Officer. Similarly, if it becomes apparent that exceptional circumstances mean a temporary increase/decrease is required then a formal request is to be submitted to the Finance Officer. Further, sub-floats must not be issued from an imprest without the prior approval of the Finance Officer.

- 6.11 No officer shall authorise his or her own claims from an imprest account. Claims are to be authorised by the Chief Executive. Certification by or on behalf of the Chief Executive shall be taken to mean that the certifying officer is satisfied that the expenses and allowances claimed are properly and necessarily incurred and are properly payable.
- 6.12 Expenditure which should form part of the payroll system, e.g. clothing, car allowances and home to work travel expenses, shall not be processed through imprest accounts.
- 6.13 All non-computerised records relating to imprest accounts should be maintained in ink.
- 6.14 The encashment of personal cheques and the advancing of loans from an imprest is strictly forbidden.
- 6.15 The only bank charges, which should be incurred in respect of imprest accounts operated via a bank account, are those in the normal course of operation of the account. As can be seen from Financial Regulation 6.2, bank charges in respect of overdrawn accounts should not be incurred. If they have been incurred, however, they should be debited to an appropriate expenditure code and reclaimed on the imprest reimbursement form.
- 6.16 All Departments holding petty cash should ensure that, at all times, cash is adequately secured. As a minimum this should be in a cash box within a lockable drawer. Amounts in excess of £50 should be kept overnight in a safe or lockable cupboard with very restricted access.
- 6.17 Whenever any matter arises which involves or may suggest irregularities affecting a petty cash imprest system, the Chief Executive shall notify the Finance Officer forthwith. This Regulation also applies in the event of any loss from the imprest account, identified during reconciliation.

7 Banking Arrangements

- 7.1 The Finance Officer will make arrangements with London Councils bankers for the operation of such accounts as he/she may consider necessary. No other bank accounts will be opened without the permission of the Finance Officer.
- 7.2 All bank accounts shall bear an official title and in no circumstances shall an account be opened in the name of an individual.
- 7.3 The Finance Officer will make appropriate arrangements with London Councils bankers concerning designated signatories of cheques, drafts, promissory notes, acceptances, negotiable instruments, orders and instructions.

- 7.4 The Finance Officer shall be responsible for arranging the temporary investment of monies not immediately required, and the ordering and issue of BACS payment, ~~cheques/giro cheques~~, direct debit and credit card facilities.
- 7.5 The Finance Officer will ensure that a register is maintained to record all stocks of cheques held by London Councils.
- 7.6 Stocks of cheques will be held by the Finance Officer in a safe covered by adequate insurance arrangements.
- 7.7 The Finance Officer is responsible for arranging the cancellation and subsequent replacement of specific cheques with London Councils's bankers. All requests in relation to cancellations must be channeled through the Finance Officer.
- 7.8 ~~Corporate and Programme Directors~~ The Finance Officer should ensure that all bank accounts ~~under the control of their Directorate or Division~~ are reconciled on a monthly basis and that end of the year accounts closure requirements are adhered to.
- 7.9 The Finance Officer shall arrange such safeguards as necessary and practicable, including the separation of staff duties as far as possible in respect of:-
 - 7.9.1 the checking of creditors accounts;
 - 7.9.2 the control of cheque forms;
 - 7.9.3 the preparation of cheques;
 - 7.9.4 the signature of cheques;
 - 7.9.5 the despatch of cheques;
 - 7.9.6 the entry of the cash accounts; and
 - 7.9.7 the reconciliation of bank accounts.

8 Contracts & Procurement

- 8.1 All contracts and procurement that exceed the current EU public contract threshold³ are regulated by ~~EU Procurement Directives~~, and UK domestic legislation as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015. In addition, each and every contract shall also comply with these Financial Regulations. The ~~EU Public Contract regulations~~ Regulations and UK law take precedence over the Financial Regulations and no deviations or exceptions are permitted for contracts in excess of the threshold. Also, contracts with a full life value between £25,000 and the EU public contract threshold are governed under Part 4 of the PCR 2015.⁴
- 8.2 Contracts may be defined as being agreements for the supply of goods or materials, or the carrying out of works or services. Contracts are also deemed to include the engagement of professional consultants (excluding Counsel).

³ The current Threshold for public supply and service contracts is €221,000 / £189,330 / £177,898 (net) / £213,477 (gross), as of January ~~2018~~2022. This is reviewed every two years.

⁴ Chapter 8 Below Threshold Procurements The obligation to advertise on Contracts Finder – Regulation 110(1), **only applies where the authority has decided to advertise.**

8.3 It is a breach of the Financial Regulations to artificially divide contracts where the effect is to circumvent the regulations concerning the following financial threshold limits.

8.4 Financial Thresholds

8.4.1 The following minimum number of invitations to tender or quote shall apply, subject to EU-current procurement rules (including aggregation i.e. the full life value of the contract) and the exemptions, before any order for works, supplies or services is placed:

Procurement Threshold	Procedure
(a) up to £10,000	No formal tender process required. At least one written quotation obtained, duty to secure reasonable value for money
Where a decision has been made <u>NOT</u> to advertise	
(b) between £10,001 and £75,000 if not advertised	Request at least 3 written quotations or a mini-tender exercise must be carried out to establish value for money
Where a decision has been made to advertise	
(c) between £25,001 and <u>EU-public contract</u> limit (currently £189,330 <u>£177,898</u>) (€214,000 <u>€213,477 gross</u>) if advertised (NB: you MUST advertise above £75,001	If the Opportunity is advertised, the use of the formal tender process is mandatory by tendering the opportunity on Contracts Finder and London Councils website.
(d) over <u>EU-public contract</u> limit (currently £189,330 <u>£177,898</u> (€214,000 <u>€213,477 gross</u>))	The use of the formal <u>EU-e-tendering platform, Find a Tender (FTS)</u> , tender process is mandatory and subject to the <u>EU</u> -procurement rules. To note that additionally if the value of procurement is in excess of £250,000 then <u>the appropriate</u> Committee approval is required prior to formal tender process.

8.5 Each proposed contract for works or services, with an estimated value equal or greater than £250,000 must be the subject of a separate detailed report to London Councils Leaders' Committee or any Sectoral joint or associated committee as appropriate, requesting approval to seek tenders for the recommended design solution. This report must state the size of any contingency provision to be included in the tender documents or estimated costs, as well as any prevalent risks to the organisation.

8.6 No contract shall be made, nor any tender invited, unless provision has been made in the annual budget for the proposed expenditure or that written confirmation has been received from the appropriate third party that external funding is available to fund the full contract and associated costs.

8.7 Formal Tender Process

8.7.1 Competitive tendering will be required where the **opportunity is advertised** and the estimated value of the contract is expected to exceed £25,000 which is split into two categories

8.7.2 Below Threshold (£25,000 to less than the EU-public contract limit ~~£189,330~~177,898 (£213,477 gross))

8.7.2.1 It is now a requirement that for any contracts estimated to be between £25,000 and the EU-public contract limit in force at the time (currently ~~£189,330~~177,898 (£213,477 gross)), if the contracting authority advertises it must do so via Contracts Finder.

8.7.3 Above ~~EU~~the public contract threshold (~~£189,330~~177,898 (£213,477 gross)) where a full EU-processes apply which includes advertising on the Find a Tender platform:

8.7.3.1 For above threshold tendering, the choice of procedure is detailed and regulated in the PCR (Chapter 2 Rules on Public Contracts), noting that when awarding public contracts, contracting authorities shall apply procedures that conform to the regulations.

8.7.4 Detailed guidance on procurement procedures is provided in the Procurement Toolkit (Appendix 6), reflecting the PCR and any specific guidance as the Minister for the Cabinet Office may issue.

8.8 Contract Advertising

8.8.1 Contracts above the EU-public contract financial thresholds prevailing at the time as set out in the Regulations should be advertised ~~in on~~ the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)Find a Tender platform and London Councils website.

8.8.2 For below ~~EU~~ threshold procurement i.e. between £25,000 and the EU public contract limit where a decision has been made to advertise the opportunity, the opportunity must be placed on Contracts Finder and London Councils website with no exceptions. (Ref PCR 2015, Chapter 8 paragraph 110)

8.8.3 8.8.4 After the expiration of the period specified in any notice, invitations to tender for the contract shall conform with Section 5 sub section 7 of the PCR, (paragraphs 65 and 66 refer).

8.9 Receipt of Tenders

8.9.1 Every invitation to tender shall state that no hard copy tender will be accepted ~~unless it is received in a plain sealed envelope or package which shall bear the words TENDER followed by the subject to which the tender relates, and shall not bear any name or mark indicating the sender. Every invitation to tender should also state the deadline date and time (usually 12 noon) for receipt. When received, an entry shall be made upon such envelopes or packages indicating the time and date of receipt and these will then remain in the custody of the Chief Executive or the Director of Corporate Resources until the time appointed for their opening.~~

8.9.2 ~~Electronic versions of the tender submission will be accepted.~~
Electronic tenders must be received by the deadline date and time, as detailed in the invitation to tender. Electronic tender submissions sent by e-mail should be sent to: tenders@londoncouncils.gov.uk, unless

~~alternative submission details are set out in the tender documentation. E-mailed tenders will not be accepted in isolation, if there is a requirement for hard copies.~~

- 8.9.3 All tenders received after the deadline date and time shall not be opened and will be disregarded for the purposes of the tender exercise to which they relate.

8.10 Opening of Tenders

~~Tenders shall be opened at one time in the presence of:-~~

- 8.10.1 ~~For tenders valued at over £25,000 — in the presence of two officers appointed by the Chief Executive; The Director of Corporate Resources Finance Officer shall make suitable arrangements for the distribution of tenders to the appropriate officers.~~

8.11 Acceptance of Tenders and Quotations

- 8.11.1 Where the value is under £10,000, one of the designated authorised signatories (as outlined in Part C of Appendix 5) , shall be authorised to accept the quotation by signing off the purchase order to place the order with the supplier;

- 8.11.2 Where the value is between £10,001 and £75,000, one of the designated authorised signatories (as outlined in Part B of Appendix 5) shall be authorised to evaluate and accept the quotation- or tender by signing off the procurement approval form for submission to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~ Finance Officer for approval;

- 8.11.3 Where the value is between the £75,000 and the prevailing EU L public contract limit, ,one of the designated authorised signatories (as outlined in Part A of Appendix 5) shall be authorised to evaluate and accept the tender by signing the procurement approval form for submission to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~ Finance Officer for approval;

- 8.11.4 Where the tender is above the ~~EU T public contract~~ threshold ~~and below £249,999~~, the Chief Executive, the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~ Finance Officer, or in their absence, one of the designated authorised signatories (as outlined in Part A of Appendix 5) ~~in consultation with the Chair(man), Deputy Chair(man) and one other Member of the appropriate committee~~ shall be authorised to evaluate and accept the tender;

- ~~8.11.5 For tenders of £250,000 and over London Councils Leaders' Committee or any Sectoral joint or associated committee as appropriate shall be authorised to evaluate and accept the tender;~~

- 8.11.6 ~~5~~ Where A a tender which exceeds the approved estimate and a contract is shall be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration. Where the tender can be amended to fall within the approved budget by a minor adjustment to the approved works, goods or services and otherwise complies with these regulations, the Chief Executive , the Director of Corporate Resources, or in their absence, one of the designated authorised signatories (as outlined in Part A of Appendix 5) in consultation with the Chair(man), Deputy Chair(man)

~~and one other Member of the appropriate committee shall be authorised to approve the adjustment as provided for in 8.11.4 above~~
issued Financial Regulations 4.1 and 9.3 shall apply.

8.12 Contract Provisions and Payments

8.12.1 Every contract in writing (unless such contract is let by a Lead Authority in accordance with Schedule 8), shall be signed by the Chief Executive or the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer, or in their absence, one of the designated authorised signatories (as outlined in Part A of Appendix 5).

8.12.2 Every contract in writing shall specify:-

8.12.2.1 the work, materials, matters, or things to be furnished, or done;

8.12.2.2 the price to be paid, with a statement of discounts or other deductions;

8.12.2.3 the payment process, including the process for resolving disputes;

8.12.2.4 the time or time within which the contract is to be performed;

8.12.2.5 insurance, employers liability and professional indemnity;

8.12.2.6 the place or places for delivery of performance.

8.13 Contracts where tenders are not required.

8.13.1 Contracts or orders which exceed £10,000 and not exceeding £75,000 in value, **if not advertised**, require at least 3 written quotations from suitable suppliers before the contract order is placed

8.13.2 Quotations ~~may~~must be submitted ~~by post, by~~ e-mail.

8.13.3 If the full life value of a contract is below the £75,000 **and not advertised**, as per FR 8.13.1, it shall not be obligatory to invite formal tenders, ~~or obtain more than 1 quotation nor give public notice of the intention to enter into a contract~~ where:-

- 8.13.3.1 effective competition is prevented by Government control, or
- 8.13.3.2 the special nature of the work to be executed limits the number of contractors capable of undertaking the work to less than 3, or
- 8.13.3.3 the goods, services or materials to be purchased are only available from less than 3 suppliers, or
- 8.13.3.4 the work is a continuation of a previous contract or order, or
- 8.13.3.5 a corporately tendered and managed or framework

contract has been established for all officers of the organisation to use:

e.g. supplies of Stationery, Computers, Office Furniture etc., or

- 8.13.3.6 goods or services are of a proprietary manufacture, including sole distribution or fixed price, or the services to be provided are of a proprietary nature , or
- 8.13.3.7 any repairs or works to be executed or parts, goods or
- Materials to be supplied in connection with existing machinery, vehicles plant or equipment are of a proprietary nature and involve sole distribution or fixed price, or
- 8.13.3.8 urgent supplies necessary for the protection of life or property.

8.13.4 Contracts or orders above £10,000 that have been advertised in line with FR 8.7, can be extended up to the public contracts threshold where the criteria in FR 8.13.3 is applicable.

8.13.~~54~~——The Chief Executive shall maintain a record of those contracts let without competitive quotations as detailed in 8.13.3, detailing the reasons why these have not been obtained.

8.13.~~56~~——The ~~EU regulations and PCR~~Public Contract Regulations do not provide for any exemptions from the tendering process for contracts which exceed the ~~EU public contract~~ threshold.

8.14 **Withdrawal of Tender**

8.14.1 In the event of any person withdrawing a tender, or not signing the contract after his/her tender has been accepted, or if the Chief Executive or the Committee are satisfied that a Contractor has not carried out a contract in a satisfactory manner, or for any other justified reason, then tenders will not be accepted from such contractors in future, except after specific Committee approval.

8.15 **Communications with Tenderers**

8.15.1 Accounting records for all contracts must be maintained as agreed by the ~~Director of Corporate Resource~~Finance Officers.

8.15.2 No members of the relevant Committee shall have or allow any interview or communications with any person or representative of any person proposing to tender or contract, except by the authority of that Committee. Where such interview or communication does, nevertheless, take place then it is to be reported to the relevant Committee at the first available opportunity.

8.16 **Contract Variations**

8.16.1 Subject to the provisions of the contract, every variation shall be instructed in writing and signed by the designated officer prior to the commencement of work on the variation concerned or as soon as possible thereafter. Designated officers may authorise variations which

are essential for the completion of a contract, and minor variations of an optional nature, provided the cost remains within the approved estimate. Major variations to contracts shall require the approval of the appropriate committee.

8.17 Contract Payments

8.17.1 All ex gratia and non-contractual claims from contractors shall be referred to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer and also to the Chief Executive for comments before settlement is reached.

8.17.2 Where contracts valued in excess of £25,000 provide for payments to be made by instalments, all payments to contractors shall be made on a certificate issued and signed by London Councils designated officer. Contracts subject to payment via certificate will primarily relate to construction / building works, which will be for internal / external decorations of London Councils Leased premises.⁵ Those contracts not subject to the issue of certificates, may be paid on invoices and/or any means allowed by the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer.

8.17.3 The ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer shall, to the extent he/she considers necessary, examine the final accounts or interim valuations for contracts and he/she shall be entitled to make all such enquiries and receive such information and explanations as he/she may require in order to be satisfied as to the accuracy of the accounts.

8.17.4 The final certificate for the payment of any contract, where the final cost exceeds £25,000, shall not be issued until the Supervising Officer under the contract has produced to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer a detailed statement of account with all relevant documents.⁶ Such papers shall be lodged with the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer two months prior to the due date of the final certificate or in exceptional circumstances a previously agreed period in order to allow a thorough review of their contents prior to the issue of the final certificate. In addition, all consultants' fee accounts that in total exceed £30,000 in value shall be forwarded to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer for verification prior to the respective final payments being processed. A clause to this effect shall be inserted in the appropriate contract, bills of quantities, or specification.

8.17.5 ~~Wherever works or services are let on a day works contract then every payment costing in excess of £100 shall be supported by day work sheets. Such day work sheets shall contain adequate descriptions of the work carried out and the names of the operatives involved, together with details of the times during which the work was performed, the hourly rates applied and any plant or materials used. Day work sheets shall be signed by the designated officer indicating that the amount claimed reasonably reflects the labour and materials content of the works executed.~~

⁵ Any contractors certificates issued, including claims for additional costs and the final account would be assessed by a Project Manager / Quantity Surveyor engaged for their expertise in managing building / construction contracts and then reported to the designated officer.

⁶ See footnote 3 above

8.18 Lead Borough Arrangements

8.18.1 Any contract let by a Lead Authority, in its capacity as administrator of an activity delegated by London Councils or any Sectoral joint or associated committee as appropriate, shall be deemed to comply with these Financial Regulations so long as it is in compliance with the Financial Regulations and Standing Orders of that Lead Authority.

8.19 Corrupt Practices

8.19.1 Every written contract shall include the following clauses:

The Service Provider must comply at all times with the provisions of the Bribery Act 2010, in particular Section 7 thereof in relation to the conduct of its employees, or persons associated with it.

The Service Provider warrants that, at all times, it has in place adequate procedures designed to prevent acts of bribery from being committed by its employees or persons associated with it, and must provide to London Councils at its request, within a reasonable time, proof of the existence and implementation of those procedures.

London Councils will be entitled by notice to the Service Provider to terminate the Service Provider's engagement under this or any other contract with the Service Provider if, in relation to this or any other such contract, the Service Provider or any person employed by it or acting on its behalf has committed an offence in relation to the Bribery Act 2010.

8.20 Claims from Contractors

8.20.1 Claims from contractors in respect of matters not clearly within the terms of any existing contract shall be referred by the Chief Executive to London Councils Legal Adviser for consideration of the Organisation's legal liability and, where necessary, to the ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer for financial consideration before a settlement is reached. No payment will be made to a contractor without the specific approval of London Councils.

8.21 Bonds and Other Security

8.21.1 Every contract that exceeds £150,000 in value or amount and is for the execution of works or for the supply of goods or materials otherwise than at one time, shall require the contractor to provide sufficient security for the due performance thereof, except where the appropriate service related Director and ~~Director of Corporate Resources~~Finance Officer consider this to be unnecessary.

8.22 Use of Consultants

8.22.1 Consultants shall be engaged only where it is not feasible or cost effective to carry out the work in-house either by using existing staff or by employing new short term or permanent staff.

9 Budgetary Control

9.1 Approval of a revenue expenditure budget by London Councils and the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee shall confer the authority on the

Chief Executive to incur expenditure, except in the case of any item which the relevant committee wishes to have referred to it for further consideration.

- 9.2 No expenditure may be incurred unless a budget for that purpose has been approved.
- 9.3 Where the Chief Executive proposes to incur expenditure for which there is no budget head in the annual budget :-
 - 9.3.1 But the expenditure is unlikely to exceed £50,000 by the end of the financial year, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Finance Officer may make arrangements to incur the costs, which must be financed by the virement arrangements under paragraphs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, and
 - 9.3.2 If the expenditure is likely to exceed £50,000 by the end of the financial year the Chief Executive shall seek approval from London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee, depending on which approved the expenditure. The financing of this expenditure must be determined in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1.3.
- 9.4 The Chief Executive may only pay or make provision for payment in respect of goods received or services rendered within each financial year and for which budget provision has been made.
- 9.5 Where London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee has authorised a fund for a particular purpose, under or overspent balances may be carried forward to the following financial year on a one-off basis. All other balances in hand at the end of the financial year shall be reported to the Committee by the Finance Officer. London Councils or the Sectoral Joint Committee shall then determine the use of those balances.
- 9.6 In the light of actual expenditure on administrative costs during the financial year the Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive shall present to London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee, reports showing projected out-turn figures for each budget heading approved by that Committee. This reporting process is to take place between each quarter after the start of that financial year.
- 9.7 During the financial year the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Finance Officer, shall present to each meeting of the Grants Committee, reports showing current levels of grant expenditure committed to date.
- 9.8 It is the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that the budgets under his/her direct control are not overspent.
- 9.9 The Finance Officer shall ensure that there is a financial information system which provides periodic statements of receipts and payments under each head of approved budget and other relevant information, facilitating the reporting of such information to Committee.
- 9.10 Overall annual expenditure of the Grants Committee must be within the level approved by one of the following:-

- 9.10.1 At least two-thirds of the applicable Constituent Councils under Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985; OR
- 9.10.2 Deemed by the Secretary of State further to Section 48 (4a) of the Local Government Act 1985; OR
- 9.10.3 Any order made by the Secretary of State under Section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1985.

10 Audit

- 10.1 Responsibility for maintaining an adequate and effective system of internal audit rests with London Councils and any Sectoral joint or associated committee, but has been delegated to the Finance Officer who makes arrangements for the examination of all financial and related systems under this Agreement. All significant issues raised by the Finance Officer following this examination, must be reported to London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee. Similarly, the External Auditor's annual report on the accounts together with any accompanying management letter must also be reported to London Councils Audit Committee, as per financial regulation 5.8.
- 10.2 The Finance Officer shall, so far as he/she considers reasonable, arrange for the internal audit of the organisation's activities:-
 - 10.2.1 To review the soundness, adequacy and application of internal controls and, where necessary, make recommendations for the improvement of systems, controls and procedures that affect the finance or assets of the organisation;
 - 10.2.2 To assist in protecting the assets and interests of the organisation by carrying out a continuous examination of activities in order to detect or prevent fraud, misappropriation, irregular expenditure and losses due to waste, extravagance, inefficient administration and improper practices;
 - 10.2.3 To review resources used in pursuit of the organisation's agreed activities and, where necessary, make recommendations for the improvement of value for money; To review, appraise and report upon the reliability of financial and management data;
 - 10.2.4 To report to the Chief Executive on the result of any audit carried out within their unit and to make the necessary recommendations which need to be implemented to eradicate the identified weakness or weaknesses.
- 10.3 The Finance Officer, or any accredited representative shall have authority on production of identification to :-
 - 10.3.1 Enter at all reasonable times on any of the organisation's premises or land;
 - 10.3.2 Have access to all records, documents and correspondence relating to any financial and other transactions of the organisation;
 - 10.3.3 Require and receive such explanations as are necessary concerning any matter under examination; Require any persons holding or

controlling cash, stores or any other- property to produce such items;

10.3.4 Verify cash and bank balances for which persons are accountable to the organisation.

10.4 ~~Immediately~~ If an irregularity, or suspicion of an irregularity, arises affecting money or property or any other transaction or aspect of the organisation's business, the Chief Executive concerned shall immediately advise the Finance Officer. The Finance Officer shall investigate and report to the Chief Executive if he/she forms the view that disciplinary or criminal proceedings should be considered. If it is thought appropriate to involve the Police, the Finance Officer will first consult with the Chief Executive. Officers should not notify the police direct except in an emergency ~~in order to~~ to prevent further loss, or where it is necessary for the police to examine an area before it is disturbed by staff or members of the public. Except in exceptionally clear cut cases, management should not attempt to interview staff suspected of perpetrating an irregularity as this may prejudice any subsequent police investigation or legal proceedings. Any individual officer with knowledge or suspicion of any losses or irregularities involving staff, cash, assets or other financial matters has the right to approach the Finance Officer directly should circumstances dictate that this is necessary. Detailed information on London Councils Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy can be found at appendix 11.

10.5 The Chief Executive shall be required to provide a written response to draft audit reports, final audit reports, and management letters within 28 calendar days of their issue. Extensions to this timescale shall be at the discretion of the Finance Officer.

10.6 Unless the Finance Officer specifically agrees otherwise, all receipt forms, order books, tickets, electronic financial records and other similar items shall be ordered and retained by the Finance Officer prior to their issue to the Chief Executive. Such controlled stationery items shall be supplied, on request only, to those officers who have been authorised to receive them by the Chief Executive. Every issue of any such document shall be acknowledged by the signature of the officer to whom the issue is made. The Chief Executive shall satisfy the Finance Officer as to the safe keeping and control of such documents.

11 Information Systems

11.1 The development of Information Technology Systems should conform to the overall strategy as set out and agreed by London Councils.

11.2 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with any Computer Security Guidelines promulgated by the Finance Officer.

11.3 Any development of new systems that involve a financial operation or produce output that may influence the allocation of resources must involve consultation with the Finance Officer regarding mutually acceptable minimum standards of control. The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Finance Officer shall be responsible for the control of the computer systems in the Organisation, and the security and privacy of data contained therein, in

accordance with data protection legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulation (~~Regulation (EU) 2016/679~~)(UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The Chief Executive shall also be responsible for ensuring appropriate controls in accessing those systems which they maintain.

- 11.4 The Chief Executive in consultation with the Finance Officer shall make sound arrangements to ensure the security and continuity of service in the event of a disaster.

12 Income

- 12.1 The systems effecting the collection of all money due to the organisation shall be approved by the Finance Officer. The collection of all money due to the organisation is under the overall supervision of the Finance Officer.
- 12.2 Revenues consisting of income arising from work done, goods supplied or services ~~rendered~~provided and not paid for at the time, must be the subject of accounts being rendered and the Chief Executive must facilitate the prompt issue and rendering of such accounts applicable to their unit. The Chief Executive shall therefore furnish the Finance Officer with details of projects, seminars, rents recoverable, work done, goods supplied, or services rendered and of all other amounts as may be required by him/her to record correctly all sums due to the organisation and to ensure the prompt rendering of accounts due for income.
- 12.3 The Chief Executive shall promptly notify the Finance Officer of all money due to the organisation and of contracts, leases and other agreements and arrangements entered into which involve the receipt of money by London Councils. The Finance Officer has the right to inspect any document or other evidence in this connection as he/she may decide is relevant.
- 12.4 The records kept by the ~~Organisation~~organisation ~~with regard to~~regarding items of income shall be in such form as may be agreed from time to time by the Finance Officer. Unless the Finance Officer specifically agrees otherwise, all receipt forms, tickets and other similar items shall be obtained in accordance with financial regulation 10.6. All new types of income due are to be notified to the Finance Officer.
- 12.5 The Finance Officer shall prescribe the accounting arrangements necessary to ensure that all monies due and received are banked promptly.
- 12.6 All debtors shall be invoiced within seven days of full details of the debt being ascertained.
- 12.7 Procedures for accepting cheques or credit card payments tendered in respect of the sale of goods, materials or services shall be agreed by the Finance Officer.
- 12.8 Every sum in cash received by an officer of the ~~Organisation~~organisation shall be immediately acknowledged by the issue of an official receipt, ticket or voucher except in cases where other arrangements have been approved by the Finance Officer.

- 12.9 All income, whether cheques, notes or coins received by an officer on behalf of the ~~o~~Organisation shall, without delay, be recorded and paid intact either directly to the Finance Officer, or into a designated bank account at regular intervals as directed by him/~~her~~, thereby ensuring the safe keeping of income. Every officer who banks money shall enter on the paying-in slip a reference to the related debt (such as the receipt number or the name of the debtor) or otherwise indicate the origin of the cheque; on the reverse of each cheque the officer shall enter the name of his or her unit.
- 12.10 Money held on behalf of the ~~Organisation-organisation~~ shall be kept separately from personal funds and shall not be used to cash personal cheques.
- 12.11 Every transfer of official money from one member of staff to another will be evidenced in the records of the unit concerned by the signature of the receiving officer.
- 12.12 The Finance Officer shall make safe and efficient arrangements for the recording of income received by direct debiting of debtors accounts.
- 12.13 Scales of charges for services, with any variations, shall be reviewed at regular intervals, together with any new charges, by the Finance Officer after consultation with the Chief Executive, prior to submission to London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee for approval.

13 Disposal of Assets

- 13.1 Sales of surplus equipment, plant and stores will be at market value.
- 13.2 The Chief Executive has authority to approve the disposal of all goods or equipment under his control which by reason of damage, wear or obsolescence, are no longer required, and the book value, or estimated value, does not exceed £5,000. The disposal of such goods or equipment valued above £5,000 but not exceeding £10,000 shall require the prior written approval of the Finance Officer. Disposal of such goods or equipment valued above £10,000 shall require the prior approval of London Councils or the relevant- Sectoral joint or associated committee.
- 13.3 Before disposal of any leased asset, the Chief Executive shall notify the Finance Officer in writing so that the terms of the lease may be examined and advice provided.
- 13.4 Salvageable items shall be sold in the best available market subject to the following:-
- 13.4.1 No single item with a book value, or estimated value, exceeding £500 shall be disposed of without quotations first being invited (unless disposed of by public auction, if appropriate).
- 13.4.2 No item will be disposed of to a member of staff without the direct approval in writing of the Finance Officer. Where approval is given, detailed documentation of the transaction shall be retained by the applicable ~~Corporate~~ Director.

- 13.5 Under the 1989 Local Government and Housing Act, capital receipts are defined as the income from the disposal of any interest in an asset if, at the time of disposal, expenditure on the acquisition of an asset would be expenditure for capital purposes. Where the anticipated capital receipt is £10,000 or less, ~~then~~ the arrangements for disposal shall be subject to the agreement of the Chief Executive, where a value exceeds £10,000 ~~then~~ the arrangements for such disposal shall be subject to the prior agreement of the Finance Officer.
- 13.6 The Chief Executive will be responsible for maintaining all records and documentation relating to any disposal.
- 13.7 All proceeds from the disposal of assets will be subject to the addition of Value Added Tax, except in respect of the disposal of property or certain transfers involving statutory undertakings. In respect of these exemptions advice should be sought from the Finance Officer before the conclusion of a transaction.
- 13.8 The Chief Executive will notify the Finance Officer of the disposal of any items which are specifically listed on the organisation's Insurance Policy.

14 Control of Assets

- 14.1 The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring arrangements are in place to physically control all of the Organisation's assets for which her/his department has management responsibilities.
- 14.2 The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires adherence to the Accounting Codes of Practice approved by the Accounting Standards Board. One such Code of Practice concerns the subject of capital accounting and suggests the creation and maintenance of registers for all assets. The asset registers form the basis by which the Organisation meets the capital accounting requirements in the raising of capital charges for the use of assets such as buildings, land and vehicles.
- 14.3 The asset registers are required to itemise all assets which cost in excess of £1,000 while recording the date and cost of their acquisition.
- 14.4 The Chief Executive shall allocate responsibility for the maintenance of individual registers as appropriate.
- 14.5 The Chief Executive shall ensure that any information requested by the above registrars, for the purposes of maintaining the asset registers, is provided rapidly and freely. Any acquisitions or disposals of assets should be notified to the relevant registrar at the appropriate time.
- 14.6 The Chief Executive shall nominate one officer to be responsible for the safe custody of all deeds and lease agreements in respect of all properties owned or leased by the Organisation. This responsible officer shall :-

- 14.6.1 Make arrangements for such documents to be inspected when required;
and
- 14.6.2 Provide copies of any relevant documents on request.
- 14.7 Inventories of all furniture, fittings, equipment, plant, and machinery shall be maintained by the Chief Executive. Items that are being rented or leased on a long term basis, or such that the responsibilities of stewardship lie with the Organisation, should also be included in the inventory. Generally, items with a life-span longer than one year should be included, unless they are already recorded on a formal stock record system
- 14.8 The inventory should be in the form of a permanent document. It is important to ensure that the inventory is complete and that all parts of it are kept together. The inventory can be in any media. A suggested format of an inventory is provided at appendix 3.
- 14.9 The inventory should provide the following information for each item:
 - 14.9.1 Location, but if the item is moved between locations, note the general area. (A separate record of location may well be necessary);
 - 14.9.2 Full description;
 - 14.9.3 Serial and Code numbers, if relevant;
 - 14.9.4 Date of purchase and cost of acquisition;
 - 14.9.5 Estimated current replacement value (for insurance purposes), which should be reviewed annually; and
 - 14.9.6 Date of disposal and the proceeds.
- 14.10 The total of all the estimated current replacement values should be shown, so that the information is readily available for insurance purposes.
- 14.11 Where practical, the inventory should be updated each time there is an acquisition or disposal. This will produce a more accurate record than if all the amendments are done at the end of the year.
- 14.12 The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that an annual check is carried out, in March, of all items on the inventory and for taking action in relation to surpluses and deficiencies. The date of the check and the name(s) of the officer(s) carrying it out should be recorded. When carrying out this check, the current inventory should be used as a starting point. The procedure should be that each location is checked in a methodical manner.
- 14.13 If any discrepancies are found when checking the inventory, these should be followed up until reasons have been found. If it is not possible to find reasons and the amount involved is significant (e.g. more than £100 in value), the Finance Officer should be informed. If the result of these findings is that an item has to be removed from the inventory, then the appropriate authorisation for such write-off should be sought in accordance with Financial Regulation 15.1.
- 14.14 It is important that at least one copy of the inventory is held separately from the assets that it lists, so that if a disaster occurs to the Organisation or its buildings, then all information is protected for insurance purposes, in the event that items need replacement. For information relating to inventories that are kept electronically should be subject to secure back up procedures on computer disk,

~~back-up copies should be kept in a fire proof cabinet in a separate location to the computer.~~

- 14.15 For the purposes of capital accounting, the Finance Officer may require all registrars and inventory holders to provide asset registers and inventories reflecting assets held as at the 31st March of each year.

15 Write Offs

- 15.1 No debt, asset, or benefit due to London Councils, including Liquidated Damages, shall be written off without first obtaining the approval of the Finance Officer. The Chief Executive shall submit a list of such items to be written off, together with details of the reasons. ~~The w~~Writing off ~~of~~ any such item valued in excess of £1,000 must also be subject to the prior approval of London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint or associated committee. Any report seeking such approval must detail the actions taken to recover these debts, assets or benefits.
- 15.2 The Chief Executive shall maintain a file for each debt to be written-off, containing relevant documentation to support the validity of the write-off. The file should also identify whether appropriate actions have been taken to recover or mitigate the loss.

16 Orders for Work, Goods and Services

- 16.1 No officer shall commit the organisation to expenditure in excess of any approved estimate without first seeking the appropriate approval. This Financial Regulation may be waived in cases of emergencies where delays in obtaining approval for excess expenditure would cause loss to London Councils or endanger public health and safety. In such cases the approval for such expenditure must be sought as soon as possible after the event concerned.
- 16.2 Official ~~or~~ purchase orders, including those within a computerised ordering system, shall be in a form approved by the Finance Officer and are only to be authorised by the Chief Executive or his/her nominee. These authorised officers shall then be responsible for the issue of official orders. The names of the authorised officers shall be sent to the Finance Officer together with specimen signatures. Changes shall be notified to the Finance Officer as they occur. Additional guidance on the completion of purchase orders can be found at appendix 10.
- 16.3 In cases where goods, materials, works or services are required urgently and where delay would cause either loss to the organisation or endanger public health or safety then the requisite orders may be placed verbally. However, such verbal orders must be followed by an official written order within two working days and marked "Confirmation Order".
- 16.4 Official orders shall be issued for all work, goods or services to be supplied to the organisation except for public utility services, petty cash purchases or other exceptions approved by the Finance Officer and copies, or full details, of each

order shall be retained in the unit where issue has taken place.

- 16.5 No order should be issued unpriced. In those circumstances where a definite price cannot be ascertained at the time of issue, then the order concerned must either be endorsed "price not to exceed" and a value given, or ~~its copy~~ endorsed with an estimated figure.
- 16.6 When an order is amended or varied, a note of the amendment or variation shall be made on the copy order, together with a reference to the authority for such amendment or variation which shall be confirmed in writing or by email to the supplier.
- 16.7 Care shall be taken in the signing of goods received notes, where parcels etc. are unable to be inspected. In such cases the signature should be accompanied by the comment "not inspected" to safeguard the organisation against unseen breakages or shortages at the time of delivery.
- 16.8 The return of all goods to suppliers shall be authorised by the Chief Executive or his or her authorised representative. In each instance officers are only to release such goods when they are certain that the return has been properly authorised, satisfied that the collection company has been previously notified to them, and that they are in receipt of appropriate return note documentation.

17 Payments

- 17.1 Apart from petty cash and other payments from the imprest account (see Financial Regulation 6) and payments by corporate charge cards (see Financial Regulation 26), the normal method of payment shall be by ~~cheque~~ BACS bank transfers or other instrument drawn on the bank account operated for the Organisation by the Finance Officer.
- 17.2 The Finance Officer has authority to pay all amounts to which the Organisation is legally committed, after authorisation by the Chief Executive or nominated officer.
- 17.3 The Chief Executive having issued an order is responsible for examining, verifying and authorising the related invoice. It shall be the duty of the Chief Executive to ensure that all goods, materials and services received are as ordered in respect of price, quantity and quality.
- 17.4 Before certifying an account, the authorising officer shall, save to the extent that the Finance Officer may otherwise determine, be satisfied that:-
 - 17.4.1 The works, goods or services to which the account relates have been received, examined, approved, are fit for purpose and, where appropriate, comply with pre-determined standards. This includes all grant payments for commissioned services;
 - 17.4.2 The expenditure is within an approved estimate, or is covered by special financial provision authorised by London Councils or the relevant committee;
 - 17.4.3 The proper entries have been made in the asset registers, inventories,

or store records where appropriate;

17.4.4 The price charged is correct and any trade discounts receivable have been deducted;

17.4.5 The invoice or payment certificate is arithmetically correct both in the extensions and the total and that the allowances, credits and tax are correct;

~~17.4.6 Any copy orders are duly endorsed as paid and brief details of the payment are marked thereon;~~

17.4.76 The invoice or payment certificate has not previously been passed for payment and is a proper liability of the Organisation;

17.4.87 The appropriate expenditure code numbers are ~~entered on the provided along with the~~ document for payment ~~and that no payment is made on duplicate or photocopy invoices unless the Chief Executive certifies in writing that the amounts have not been previously passed for payment;~~

17.4.98 In the case of charges for utilities including gas, electricity and water, any standing charges are correct, and that consumption is charged on the most advantageous tariff and is otherwise reasonable;

17.4.10-9 In the case of grants payments for commissioned services, reference must be made to the monthly status reports received by the appropriate Directorate management team which considers the progress of each commission against a 'red', 'amber' or 'green' marking in measuring:

- Contract performance (delivery against target outcomes);
- Quality (provider self-assessment and client satisfaction); and
- Contract compliance (timeliness and accuracy of claims and reporting responsiveness and the proactive management of risk); and

17.4.1110 Where the analysis of the data highlighted in clause 17.4.10-9 above results in a specific report being made against a commission to the effect that the commission is considered to be a risk, no further payments should be made to the commission until the appropriate Directorate management team considers further evidence to satisfy itself that the commission no longer represents a risk.

17.5 Any amendment required of a VAT invoice shall be effected through the application of a credit note from the applicable Creditor. Any amendment to a non VAT invoice shall be ~~made in permanent ink and~~ initialed by the officer making it, stating briefly the reasons where they are not self-evident.

17.6 The Finance Officer and the Chief Executive shall, between them, arrange a suitable division of staff duties within the Organisation so that the officer who authorises the invoice as correct shall not be the person who either placed the order, or has certified the receipt of the goods or completion of the work concerned.

17.7 An invoice for goods supplied to the Organisation shall not be prepared by an

officer of London Councils, but by the creditor. In certain circumstances invoices for services rendered to London Councils may be prepared, but always in a form approved by the Finance Officer, and the officer preparing the invoice must not authorise it for payment.

- 17.8 As soon as possible after the 31st March, all outstanding expenditure relating to the previous financial year shall be identified by the Finance Officer.

18 Salaries, Wages and Pensions

- 18.1 The payment of all salaries, wages, pensions, compensation and other emoluments to all employees and pensioners of the Organisation shall be made by the Finance Officer or under arrangements approved by him.
- 18.2 The Chief Executive or his authorised representatives, shall notify the Finance Officer as soon as possible, and in the prescribed form, of all matters affecting the payment of such emoluments, and in particular;-
- 18.2.1 Appointments, resignations, dismissals, suspensions, secondments, transfers and deaths, and for pensions, changes in marital status and deaths;
- 18.2.2 Absences from duty for sickness or other reason, apart from approved leave;
- 18.2.3 Changes in remuneration, and pay awards and agreements of general application;
- 18.2.4 Information necessary to maintain records of service for superannuation, national insurance, income tax, etc.
- 18.3 All pay documents and time records shall be in a form approved by the Finance Officer and shall either be certified ~~in manuscript~~ by or on behalf of the Chief Executive, or in such form as the Finance Officer may direct. The names of the officers authorised to sign or approve such records shall be sent to the Finance Officer together with specimen signatures. Changes shall be notified to the Finance Officer as they occur.
- 18.4 All payments to individuals who are considered to be self employed, in respect of services provided to the Organisation, shall be processed through the Payroll System unless the status of the individual has been confirmed as self employed in accordance with the latest HMRC Guidelines.
- 18.5 All pay documents shall be submitted to the Finance Officer in accordance with the timetables and deadlines determined by the Finance Officer, as detailed in Appendix 7.

19 Security

- 19.1 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for introducing and maintaining adequate arrangements for all aspects of security throughout the Organisation including personnel, buildings, land, stores, equipment, cash, computers, records, and confidential information. The Finance Officer's advice should be sought upon the adequacy of arrangements relating to cash, stores and valuable and attractive items of equipment as well as in those instances where security is thought to be defective. Maximum limits for cash

holdings shall be agreed with the Finance Officer and shall not be exceeded without his/her express permission.

- 19.2 Keys to safes and similar receptacles are to be the responsibility of designated officers and are to be kept secure at all times. Loss of any such keys must be reported to the Finance Officer forthwith. Duplicate keys to all safes are to be held in a place approved by the Finance Officer and locked away for use in the case of emergency only.
- 19.3 The Finance Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that secure arrangements are made for the preparation and holding of pre-printed pre-signed cheques, stock certificates, bonds and other financial documents.
- 19.4 Whenever breaking and entering, burglary or criminal damage occurs the matter must be reported immediately by the Chief Executive to the Finance Officer in accordance with Financial Regulation 10.4.
- 19.5 The Chief Executive shall designate one officer as having responsibility for the co-ordination of computer data security issues. This designated officer shall agree with the Chief Executive the degree of privacy of the information put into computer systems used by the Organisation. The designated officer shall then be responsible for its intended use in the computer installation and for the ability of designed controls to comply with data protection legislation such as the General Data Protection Regulation (~~Regulation (EU) 2016/679~~) (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, as applicable.
- 19.6 To comply fully with the requirements of data protection legislation including the General Data Protection Regulation (~~Regulation (EU) 2016/679~~) (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018., the Chief Executive shall be responsible for maintaining proper security and the appropriate degree of privacy of information held within the Organisation either electronically or in other formats e.g. microfiche, paper output etc. All staff are responsible for ensuring that their use of personal data is consistent with the Organisation's registrations under the Act.
- 19.7 The Chief Executive should ensure that all staff who use information technology adhere to any guidelines on data security issued from time to time by the designated officer. All new employees should be briefed as to the security policies and procedures applicable, including the implications of relevant legislation.
- 19.8 In order to comply with the requirements of the 1988 Copyright, Design and Patents Act, the Chief Executive shall ensure that all staff only use software that is properly licensed.
- 19.9 The 1990 Computer Misuse Act introduced powers to prosecute those who deliberately and without authorisation misuse computer systems belonging to their employers. The Chief Executive should ensure that staff within the Organisation are aware of this legislation and ensure that their use of computers is for authorised purposes only and that no action, such as the running of unauthorised programs or games, corrupts data or introduces a virus to the system.
- 19.10 The Chief Executive should ensure that all staff are aware that information

concerning secret and confidential matters, particularly those involving cash or cash deliveries, must not be disclosed in any way except to persons entitled to receive such information.

20 Stocks and Stores

- 20.1 The Chief Executive shall be responsible for the proper custody of stocks and stores held by the Organisation and shall see that all stocks and stores under his/her supervision are subject to an effective system of stock recording and control as well as stocktaking.
- 20.2 It is the duty of the Chief Executive to maintain a continuous stock-check of all stocks and stores held by the Organisation.
- 20.3 Stocks and stores must not be held in excess of what is considered by the Organisation to constitute normal requirements.
- 20.4 All goods received should be checked against quantity/ quality at the time of delivery. Delivery notes should be retained with the original order and invoice and signed by the officer accepting receipt of the goods.
- 20.5 The Chief Executive should ensure that a count and valuation of all stocks and stores held in the Organisation is carried out on a date to be stipulated by the Finance Officer each year. In this respect, reference should be made to the stocktaking guidelines contained at appendix 4. The Finance Officer, however, may dispense with this requirement in cases where the total value of the items held in a store is considered to be too small to justify such activities.

21 Travelling and Subsistence Claims

- 21.1 Claims for travelling, subsistence and minor expenses other than those reimbursed via the imprest accounts, are to be reimbursed via the payroll system. Each claim shall be promptly submitted to the Finance Officer for payment and shall be presented on an approved form clearly detailing the expenditure incurred, supported by receipts where applicable, dated, coded, signed by the claimant and counter-signed by the appropriate authorising officer. Claims with a total value of less than £50 (inclusive of VAT) may be met from an imprest account.
- 21.2 Every officer who receives a ~~car loan or~~ car allowance, whether casual or essential, must produce to the Chief Executive the registration document of the car, a valid and adequate certificate of insurance and an assurance to take all reasonable steps to maintain the car in an efficient and roadworthy condition. This is to take place on a yearly basis, but the Chief Executive shall be promptly informed of any subsequent changes to the above details.
- 21.3 All car allowances are to be paid through the payroll system.
- 21.4 The Chief Executive shall supply the Finance Officer with specimen signatures of all persons in the Organisation who are authorised to certify travelling and subsistence claims and the Finance Officer shall be notified of any changes as they occur.
- 21.5 The certification by or on behalf of the Chief Executive shall be taken to mean that the certifying officer is satisfied that the journeys were authorised, the

expenses properly and necessarily incurred and all the requirements of the appropriate approved scheme have been observed.

22 Insurance

- 22.1 The Finance Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive shall ensure that adequate insurance cover is maintained for all the Organisation's assets. The Finance Officer shall also ensure that suitable cover exists to meet any losses or claims which may arise in connection with the provision of the Organisation's services, or from its legal liabilities as an employer, or to third parties.
- 22.2 The Finance Officer shall negotiate annually renewal terms for all the Organisation's insurances at least every five years and the Chief Executive shall provide such information as is necessary to facilitate these negotiations.
- 22.3 The Finance Officer will advise the Chief Executive on all necessary arrangements and information required in respect of insurance cover for the acquisition of property or goods which may necessitate notice to the organisation's insurers.
- 22.4 The Chief Executive shall give prompt notification to the Finance Officer of all new insurable risks and shall provide the Finance Officer with a copy of any indemnity which the Organisation is expected to give. The Chief Executive shall not enter into any such indemnity unless the terms thereof have been approved by the Finance Officer.
- 22.5 The Chief Executive shall notify promptly the Finance Officer of anything likely to give rise to a claim and shall provide such information as is necessary to negotiate claims. Where appropriate, and not in conflict with Financial Regulation 10.4, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Finance Officer should inform the Police.
- 22.6 The Finance Officer may establish such funds as are necessary to meet the uninsured losses of London Councils. Where such losses relate to a Sectoral joint committee then the prior agreement of the appropriate Sectoral joint committee must be obtained. In all other instances the prior agreement of London Councils is to be obtained. Such funds will be operated in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Finance Officer.
- 22.7 The Finance Officer shall maintain a register of all insurances and the property or risks covered. The Finance Officer shall be notified immediately that any valuables belonging to a private individual are taken into the Organisation's possession so that directions may be given as to their recording and safe keeping. For the purposes of this Financial Regulation the term "valuables" shall include watches, jewelry, cash, documents, goods, chattels or any other items of intrinsic value. This Financial Regulation does not apply to "lost property" of a low value.
- 22.8 Prompt notification shall be given to the Finance Officer following any alteration to the Organisation's insurance status resulting from the award or completion of any contract.

23 Treasury Management and Investments

- 23.1 London Councils has adopted the “Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities” as published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). This will include its reporting requirements. The CIPFA Code defines “Treasury Management” as “The management of all money and capital market transactions in connection with cash and funding resources of the local authority”. Unless decided otherwise by London Councils, this does not include management of Pension Fund money.
- 23.2 The Finance Officer shall be responsible for all borrowing and investment of London Councils, subject to the approval of London Councils or the relevant Sectoral joint committee.
- 23.3 In order to minimise the extent of temporarily surplus funds the Finance Officer shall make such arrangements (including direct payment by the Participating Councils in the TEC Agreement to the Operators) as are reasonable and practical to match the timing of those Councils’ contributions to the Concessionary Fares scheme with payments due to the various Transport Operators
- 23.4 All investments shall be made by the Finance Officer on behalf of London Councils and shall be noted as being for the purposes of the relevant Committee.
- 23.5 All executive decisions on borrowing, investment or financing shall be delegated to the Finance Officer or through him/her to his/her staff, who shall be required to act in accordance with CIPFA's "Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Local Authorities".
- 23.6 Income received from investments shall be reported annually to London Councils and any Sectoral joint or associated committee by the Finance Officer, as part of the close down of accounts procedure. The Finance Officer shall submit reports on policy, sales and purchases for consideration by London Councils to at least four meetings each year.
- 23.7 The investment of funds included within Pension Funds may be carried out by one or more firms of Fund Managers with the concurrence of London Councils.

24 Unofficial Funds

- 24.1 An “unofficial fund” is any fund where the income and expenditure does not form part of the Organisation’s accounts, but which is controlled wholly or in part by an officer on behalf of London Councils.
- 24.2 The Finance Officer shall be informed of the existence of all unofficial funds, and will issue and update accounting instructions for them where necessary.

25 Taxation Requirements

- 25.1 The Finance Officer has overall responsibility for dealing with all statutory requirements concerning the collection, payment and accounting for Value

Added Tax (VAT), Pay As You Earn (PAYE) and Construction Industry Scheme (CIS).

- 25.2 The Finance Officer will from time to time issue to the Chief Executive guidance and advice on VAT, PAYE and CIS arrangements arising from such issues as changes in legislation. It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive to make arrangements in the Organisation to ensure that the advised regulations and procedures are implemented.
- 25.3 The Chief Executive must ensure that procedures are in place in the Organisation to provide evidence that all VAT, PAYE and CIS transactions are supported by the correct documentation.
- 25.4 The Chief Executive will consult with the Finance Officer with regard to any issue on VAT, PAYE and CIS that requires advice or clarification.

26 Corporate Charge Card

- 26.1 The Finance Officer will nominate holders of corporate charge cards to facilitate the payment of online, advance or emergency purchases.
- 26.2 The Finance Officer will be responsible for setting the transaction limits on the corporate charge ~~cards~~cards, which should be taken into account when raising orders for goods or services to be purchased using ~~corporate charge~~the cards. An official purchase order must be prepared and authorised in accordance with Financial Regulation 16 prior to the procurement of goods or services using the charge card.
- 26.3 Corporate charge cards should only be used on official business and not for personal use.
- 26.4 Corporate charge cards must not be used to withdraw cash.
- 26.5 Corporate charge cards must be stored in a safe place when not in use.
- 26.7 Card holders must retain invoices, vouchers, receipts, online booking documents or other supporting documentation. Card holders must reconcile their card statements to the supporting documentation and submit it to their line manager for review and approval each month.
- 26.8 The Finance Officer will carry out such inquiries and checks on the corporate charge card reconciliations submitted, as he deems necessary. In the event of misuse or failure to follow established procedures, the card may be revoked or other appropriate disciplinary action taken.
- 26.9 Where any fraudulent misuse of the card is identified it should be investigated in accordance with London Councils' Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy (see Appendix 11).

27 Appendices

27.1 Attached to this document are 11 appendices which do not form part of the official Financial Regulations but are guidance notes and forms to staff of London Councils and are referred to throughout this document. These appendices are subject to separate review by the Finance Officer.

27.2 The appendices are listed below:

Appendix 1 - Virement Authorisation Proforma;

Appendix 2 - Retention of Documents;

Appendix 3 - Format for Inventories;

Appendix 4 - Stocktaking Guidelines;

Appendix 5 - Authorised Signatories;

Appendix 6 - Procurement Toolkit;

Appendix 7 - Salaries and Expenses Policy and Procedures;

Appendix 8 - New projects approval proforma, including externally funded projects;

Appendix 9 - Hospitality Declaration;

Appendix 10 - Purchase Order Register

Appendix 11 - Anti Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Strategy

Grants Committee (AGM)

Operation of the Grants Committee 2023-24

Item: 11

Report by: Yolande Burgess **Job title:** Strategy Director
Date: 12 July 2023
Contact Officer: Doug Flight
Telephone: 020 7934 9805 **Email:** doug.flight@londoncouncils.gov.uk

- Summary** This report informs Members of the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive and sets out dates for meetings for the municipal year 2023-24.
- Recommendations** The Committee is recommended to:
- note the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee (paragraph 1.2) and Grants Executive (Appendix 1)
 - note the programme of meetings (paragraph 3.1).

1 Operation of the Grants Committee 2023-24

- 1.1 The Grants Committee has been established further to the London Grants Scheme, made under section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 and the London Councils Governing Agreement, as amended.
- 1.2 In summary, the Grants Committee's Terms of Reference as provided in that Scheme are:
 - 1.2.1 to ensure the proper operation of the Grants Scheme for the making of grants to eligible voluntary organisations in Greater London
 - 1.2.2 to have due regard to the needs of Greater London in operating the Scheme and to keep those needs periodically under review
 - 1.2.3 to make recommendations to Leaders' Committee on overall policies, strategy and priorities
 - 1.2.4 to make recommendations to Leaders' Committee, and the constituent authorities, on the annual budget for the Grants Scheme
 - 1.2.5 to consider grant applications and make grants to eligible voluntary organisations
 - 1.2.6 to establish any sub-committees and other groups of Members it considers appropriate.
- 1.3 The Scheme requires that London Councils Officers will:
 - 1.3.1 keep under review the needs of Greater London and report to the Grants Committee and Leaders' Committee from time to time on a strategy for collective grant giving devised with due regard to those needs
 - 1.3.2 draw up and submit for consideration and approval by the Grants Committee detailed criteria and policies for grant giving in the light of the agreed strategy
 - 1.3.3 prepare and submit an annual budget for consideration by the Grants Committee and Leaders Committee by the end of November each year for the financial year commencing the following April. This budget shall

include the costs of staffing, office and support services considered necessary to facilitate the effective and efficient operation of the Scheme, as well as expenditure proposals for grant aid to eligible voluntary organisations, and any contingency provision.

1.3.4 Receive, assess and process grant applications from eligible voluntary organisations and report on them and make recommendations to the Grants Committee and/or any sub-committees it may establish.

1.3.5 Administer the payment of approved grants to eligible voluntary organisations and monitor the use made of such funding.

1.3.6 Convene and service meetings of the Grants Committee, its sub-committees and any other bodies established by it.

2 Funding and Performance Management

2.1 Members are asked to note that the performance management arrangements for the current programme being funded under the Scheme were agreed at the 17 March 2021 Grants Committee (the Funding and Performance Management Framework).

2.2 The Chair of the Grants Committee is keen to maximise the contribution of committee members and would welcome committee member's thoughts on how best to achieve regular engagement with grant funded projects.

3 Programme of Meetings: 2023-24

3.1 The programme of London Councils Grants Committee meetings for the coming year is set out below.

Grants Main Meeting	Time (Pre-meetings 1hr before)
2023 22 November 2023	11:00
2024 27 March 2024	11:00
17 July 2024 (AGM)	11:00

27 November 2024	11:00
Grants Executive	Time
2023 20 September 2023	14:00
2024 28 February 2024	14:00
18 September 2024	14:00

4 Recommendations

4.1 The Committee is recommended to:

4.1.1 note the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee (paragraph 1.2) and Grants Executive (Appendix 1)

4.1.2 note the programme of meetings (paragraph 3.1)

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications.

Equalities Considerations

There are no direct equalities considerations.

Legal Implications

The London Councils Grants Scheme is funded and governed by the constituent councils, being the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London Corporation. Leaders' Committee sets the overall funding strategies, policies and priorities for grants to voluntary organisations on the recommendation of the Grants Committee. Decisions on individual commissions, funding of applications and operation are made by the Grants Committee.

There are no direct legal implications although the delegation of the exercise of functions by the Grants Committee to its sub-committee(s) should be consistent with the functions that the Grants Committee may exercise under the Grants Scheme 2001 (as amended) (and the terms of that Scheme), and should be clear to ensure that decisions by the sub-committee(s) are made with appropriate authority.

Background Documents

London Councils Governing Agreement (as amended)

Grants Scheme

London Councils Standing Orders

Grants Committee 17 March 2021, Item 6, Grants Programme 2022-26: Planning and implementation (Appendix 2)

Purpose

The Grants Committee is empowered to establish sub-committees to ensure that its business is efficiently and effectively conducted. The Grants Executive is one such sub-committee.

The sub-committee shall have delegated authority to exercise all of the executive functions of the Grants Committee (including the power to take decisions) with the exception of the following:

- election of committee officers
- election of members of the sub-committee
- agreement of the budget
- agreement of the work programme.

The aim of the Grants Executive is to allow greater scrutiny of the current grants programme by a smaller group of members appointed by the Grants Committee, to provide comfort to the overall Grants Committee members where the amount of business does not permit this level of detailed discussion. This function also aims to minimise the total amount of detailed reporting presented to Grants Committee.

The Grants Executive will:

- closely monitor the progress of the current grants scheme by reference to:
 - financial and budgetary information
 - progress of the programme via regular performance reporting
- recommend to Grants Committee any changes to the present grants programme to maintain the overall integrity of the scheme objectives
- review criteria and policies for grant giving in line with agreed strategy for approval by the Grants Committee
- consider grants scheme thematic priority reports to allow members to more closely scrutinise grants priorities.

Grants Committee

Performance of Grants Programme 2022-2026

April 2022 – March 2023 (End of Year One)

Item: 12

Report by Feria Henry and Pilar Kusel **Job title** Grants Managers

Date 12 July 2023

Contact Officer Feria Henry/Pilar Kusel

Telephone 020 7934 9529 **Email** Feria.henry@londoncouncils.gov.uk
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Summary

At its meeting of 24 November 2021 Grants Committee agreed funding for 13 commissions under the following two priorities:

Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness

Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

In addition, the funding awarded under the 2017-22 programme to Ashiana Network to deliver the Specialist Refuge Network under Service Area 2.4 was extended to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the Greater London Authority (GLA) following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act.

Funding was agreed for the period 2022 to 2026, subject to delivery, compliance with grant conditions and continued availability of resources.

This report provides members with:

- The third performance report on the two priorities of the 2022-26 Grants Programme, for the period April 2022 to March 2023 (quarters one to four)
- The final performance figures on service area 2.4 funded under the 2017-22 programme

Recommendations

The Grants Committee is asked to **note**:

- a) outcomes at priority level to end of quarter four:
 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is three per cent above profile

- ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is three per cent below profile
 - (1) Service Area 2.4 is nine per cent above profile
- b) The number of interventions delivered in the relevant period:
 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 10,255
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence – 63,772
 - (1) Service Area 2.4 – 10,451
- c) Project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained at Appendix 1):
 - i) 13 projects are rated Green
 - ii) 1 project is rated Amber
- d) An update on including “Care Experienced” as a protected characteristic in grants programme monitoring (section 8)
- e) The borough maps (Appendix 2)
- f) The project delivery information and contact details (Appendix 3), with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance
- g) the annual borough reports (Appendix 4) (the final annual delivery borough spreadsheet is available [here](#))
- h) the annual performance report provided by London Funders (Appendix 5)

Appendix 1 RAG Rating Methodology

Appendix 2 Borough Maps

Appendix 3 Project Delivery Information and Contact Details

Appendix 4 Borough Delivery Information

Appendix 5 London Funders Annual Report

1 Background

1.1 The 2022 to 2026 Grants Programme focuses on the following priorities:

Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness

Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

1.2 Grants Committee agreed funding for 13 projects for the period 2022 to 2026, subject to delivery, compliance with grant conditions and continued availability of resources.

1.3 In addition, the Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme under service area 2.4¹ was extended by the Grants Committee for a further year to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act. This report contains the final performance report on that project.

1.4 Funding for provision under Service Area 2.4 from April 2023 to 31 March 2026 has been awarded to Ashiana Network; this service commenced on 1 April 2023 and performance of the first two quarters will be included in the performance report to the November Grants committee.

Grants (including Ashiana's extended year) are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: London Councils Grants Programme 2022-26 (Priority 1 and 2)

Service Area²	Organisation	Agreed awarded amount
1.1	Shelter, The National Campaign for Homeless People Ltd	£3,706,718
1.1	St Mungo Community Housing Association	£1,315,749
1.2	St Mungo Community Housing Association	£413,021
1.3	New Horizon Youth Centre	£3,756,866
1.4	Homeless Link	£693,509
Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness		£9,885,863

¹ Service area 2.4 - Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups

² See paragraphs 2.1 and 5.1 for a brief description of the service areas

2.1	Against Violence and Abuse	£944,987
2.2	Galop	£642,295
2.2	Women and Girls Network	£5,533,157
2.2	SignHealth	£1,047,148
2.3	Refuge	£1,139,673
2.3	Women's Aid Federation	£100,000
2.4	Ashiana Network	£840,000 ³
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	£758,088
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	£1,234,646
Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Violence		£12,239,994
Total		£22,125,857

1.5 The London Councils Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done at pan-London level. The programme commissions third sector organisations to work with disadvantaged Londoners to make real improvements in their lives. This is the third report covering the performance of the 2022 to 2026 Grants Programme. Case studies of programme activity are available [here](#) on the London Councils website.

2 Priority 1: Homelessness

Delivery

2.1 The Committee has allocated £9.9 million to five projects to Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness for 2022-26. Of these five:

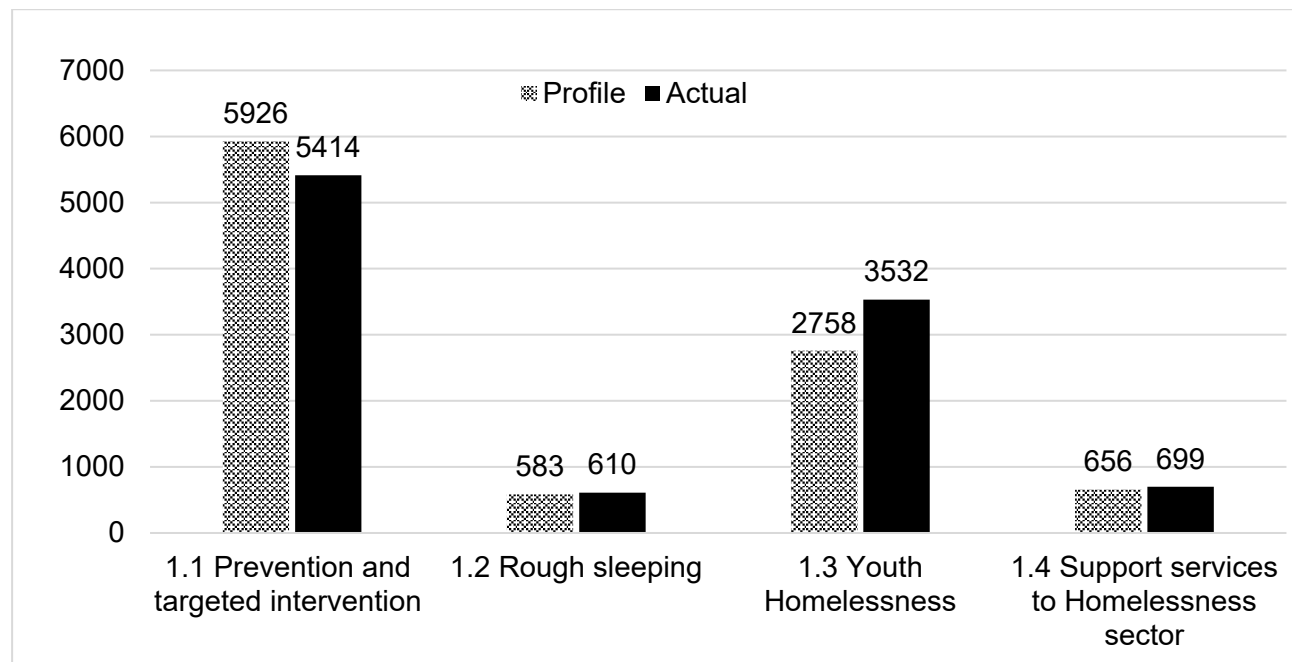
- Two (with a total value of £1.2 million in year one) are delivering against specification 1.1: Prevention and Targeted Intervention

³ This is for a one year extension (until 31 March 2023) of the Specialist refuge Service funded under the 2017-22 programme, to allow for the development of longer term arrangements across London following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act. Funding under this service area has been awarded for Emergency specialist Refuge Support started on 1 April 2023

- One (value of £0.1m in year one) is delivering against Specification 1.2: Prevention and targeted intervention for rough sleepers
- One (value of £0.9 million in year one) is delivering against specification 1.3 Prevention and targeted intervention for young people
- One (value of £0.2 million per year) is delivering against specification 1.4: Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals)

2.2 Over the first four quarters of the programme, performance was three per cent above profile. Outcome targets have been surpassed in three out of the four service areas to the end of quarter four. The only service area that has performed below target (1.1), is within the -15 per cent performance tolerance. Figure 1 provides further detail across the service areas; specific information on achievement against outcomes at project level is available in Appendix 3.

Figure 1: Priority 1 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes by service area 2022-26 Q1 to Q4



	1.1 Prevention and targeted Intervention	1.2 Rough sleeping	1.3 Youth homelessness	1.4 Support services to homelessness sector
Profile	5,926	583	2,758	656
Actual	5,414	610	3,532	699
Difference	-512	27	774	43
Variance	-9%	5%	28%	7%
Year One Grant Value (£m)	£1.22	£0.10	£0.94	£0.17
Number of Providers	2	1	1	1

2.3 Providers continue to support vulnerable and disadvantaged service users within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. By end of quarter four⁴:

- 44 per cent were female
- 43.2 per cent were under 25
- 8.8 per cent were over 55
- 79.5 per cent were ethnic minorities⁵
- 27.7 per cent declared a disability
- 21.1 per cent were LGBT⁶
- 378 people had no recourse to public funds (4.6 per cent)

2.4 London Councils funds organisations to deliver services across London and our monitoring returns include an assessment of equalities; the Grants team will report annually on the equalities performance of the 2022-26 programme later in the year.

Policy and wider environment

2.5 The Renters Reform Bill was published on 17 May. The measures included in the bill are:

⁴ Based on self-declaration; users may declare more than one protected characteristic e.g. disability

⁵ Includes Asian - all, Black - all, Chinese, Latin American, Middle Eastern, mixed ethnicity, white European, white Irish and white other

⁶ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, identify as trans or a person with trans history or declared other

- Abolishing section 21 'no fault' evictions and moving away from assured shorthold tenancies to a system where all assured tenancies are periodic.
- Introducing more comprehensive possession grounds (including where landlords wish to sell or move in close family) and to make it easier to repossess properties in cases of anti-social behaviour, repeat rent arrears and other issues.
- Introducing mechanisms for tenants to appeal excessively above-market rents, whilst still enabling landlords to increase rents to market value.
- Creating a Private Rented Sector Ombudsman, which will be mandatory for private landlords to join and an accompanying Privately Rented Property Portal, which aims to help landlords understand their legal obligations and demonstrate compliance.

2.6 Other measures in the white paper but not included in the Bill are expected to be introduced through separate legislation, which the Secretary of State has promised 'within this parliament'. These include:

- Applying the Decent Homes Standard to the private rented sector.
- Making it illegal for landlords and agents to have blanket bans on renting to tenants in receipt of benefits or with children.
- Strengthening local authority enforcement powers and introducing a new requirement for councils to report on enforcement activity.

2.7 Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have also confirmed they will be proceeding with consequential amendments to homeless legislation that will be necessary as a result of the abolition of Section 21. These amendments will mean local authorities must continue to consider that someone is threatened with homelessness if they will become homeless within 56 days and will be able to make assessments based on the individual circumstances of each case.

2.8 Following the reduction of properties available to rent across the capital, the London Housing Directors' Group, together with London Councils, Trust for London and Capital Letters, are co-funding research by property consultancy Savills and the London School of Economics (LSE), to understand the reasons behind this trend. The aim of this research is to develop a robust evidence base

to establish the current picture of private rented sector supply in London and the causal factors driving the reduction of supply. The research is due to be published on 5th July and to hear about the findings, you can [sign up to the launch event here](#).

- 2.9 Official statistics show the number of households living in temporary accommodation (TA) nationally surpassed 100,000 in December 2022, equalling the previous high recorded in 2005. In London, there were 58,370 households in TA, accounting for almost 60 per cent England's total TA numbers. However due to the time lag these official statistics are significantly out of date and do not accurately reflect current pressures.
- 2.10 London Councils has started a regular data collection exercise, seeking to provide a more up to date picture of the pressures faced by boroughs. Data has been provided by 26 London boroughs for January and February 2023, showing an ever-worsening situation across most measures compared to the year before:
- The number of households owed a prevention or relief duty by their local authority continues to rise, with a 14.4 per cent increase in February 2023 compared to the same month a year earlier, while the number of duty acceptances continues to rise each month.
 - Compared to twelve months ago, the number of households living in TA in February was 4.6 per cent higher. It is forecast that the number of households in TA will exceed 63,000 by August 2023.
 - Crucially, London continues to see significant increases in the number of households placed into bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation as a last resort where no other suitable accommodation is available. February placements into B&B were 167.2 per cent higher than twelve months previously.
- 2.11 The rapid increase in B&B usage is driven by the acute difficulties boroughs face retaining and procuring temporary accommodation. The number of notices to quit for existing TA (i.e. properties requested back by landlords) was 150 per cent higher, and new private rented sector procurement 26 per cent lower in February 2023 compared to February 2022 (data from 18 boroughs and 23 boroughs respectively).

2.12 If these trends of shrinking availability of TA and private rented stock continue for sustained period, the implications for housing Londoners are severe and the cost implications for boroughs will be immense. Data from 18 boroughs shows that the net deficit on homelessness service spending is projected to be 27.5 per cent (£21.9 million) higher in 2022/23 than it was in 2021/22.

Service Area Updates

Service area 1.1

2.13 The STAR Partnership, led by Shelter, has secured volunteer support for vital work around mental and physical health improvements. Shelter has also attended the Temporary Accommodation Action Group, working to facilitate, with Just Life, an initiative bringing together key stakeholders to improve conditions in temporary accommodation.

2.14 Partner Stonewall now has 15 volunteers. The engagement of this number of volunteers is significant, particularly in view of the issue that (as you will see from the annual challenges section of this report) the growing financial crisis has deterred volunteering. Partner Thames Reach has worked to map domestic abuse services in London, providing an invaluable information resource to those fleeing domestic violence or resettled, after being subject to violence, intimidation and coercive control.

2.15 The HARP Project, led by St Mungo's, has seen a steady increase in new service users, due to improved working with the Single Homeless Project (SHP), who provide supported accommodation, tenancy support and support to rough sleepers.

2.16 St Mungo's has continued to provide updates to London Councils on service delivery of the HARP Connect and Streetlink projects. St Mungo's staff industrial action commenced on 30 May 2023 (in Quarter 5). St Mungo's have confirmed that, to date, there has been no impact on service delivery for both projects. St Mungo's will continue to keep London Councils updated about service delivery and any possible impact of industrial action on the two London Councils funded services.

Service Area 1.2

2.17 Streetlink London Advice Line, led by St Mungo's, reported an increase in people being evicted from the Private Rented Sector via Section 21 notices; in particular, the number of households living in private rented homes in England who were evicted by bailiffs via Section 21 proceedings increased by 143 per cent in the last year. They also reported:

- An increase in people struggling to find affordable accommodation with the average rent for new lets in the UK having increased by 11.1 per cent in the past 12 months which is above the 6.7 per cent growth in earnings.
- There has been a 38 per cent reduction in the number of properties to rent compared with the pre-pandemic level in 2019; meanwhile the number of people enquiring about property to rent has increased by 53 per cent.

Service Area 1.3

2.18 Praxis, Partner in the London Youth Gateway (LYG), led by New Horizon Youth Centre (NYHC) has established a satellite service within NYHC. A central point of access to referrals to the project has also commenced at the Depaul organisation building. NYHC has also drawn together a coalition of youth homelessness organisations, including Homeless Link, Centrepont and the YMCA, to campaign for a Youth Homelessness Strategy.

2.19 Raising awareness of youth homelessness has also been furthered with NYHC being finalists at the Charity Film Awards 2023, for their Stop the Bus campaign [video](#). Partner Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT) also spoke at Homeless Link's Rough Sleepers Conference, particularly about how homelessness organisations and local authorities can become more inclusive when working with young people. NYHC's Youth Hub accommodation was visited by the Mayor of London. And NYHC hosted a visit to the Youth Hub by the Youth Policy Adviser, DLUHC. LYG project staff delivered talks on youth homelessness to the London Assembly Housing Committee, London Funders and to London planning committees and borough meetings focussed on Homelessness Strategy and Rough Sleeping.

Service Area 1.4

2.20 The London Plus Project, led by Homeless Link, in partnership with Shelter has contributed to the development of a Partnership Self-Assessment Toolkit. In the

first half of the second year of the project, Homeless Link will be trialling the Toolkit with the London borough of Kingston; with evaluation of the Toolkits delivery later in the year, before its full release.

3 Key highlights: Priority One - Successes and challenges at the end of year one of the 2022-26 Grants Programme

Successes

- 3.1 The STAR Partnership, led by Shelter gave examples of being able to successfully engage with local authorities around the delivery of homelessness services, such as officers from LB Bromley being available to provide telephone support to assist people with learning difficulties to complete the online homelessness application form on their portal. The STAR Partnership has also engaged with other local authorities around their delivery of homelessness services, including Tower Hamlets, Islington and Hackney. This engagement has grown from client experience of contact with the homelessness services in these local authorities. Temporary accommodation action groups have also been established in the London boroughs of Hackney and Waltham Forest. As a result of this work and collaborations, over 3,750 Londoners with housing, health and immigration issues have been supported in the past 12 months. 341 service users have been able to access crisis accommodation, and the STAR Partnership has prevented 279 families from losing their homes.
- 3.2 The HARP Connect Project, led by St Mungo's, have firmly established key multi-agency partnerships, including with the new Homeless Prevention Taskforce (HPT) scheme, London Housing Advice and Information Service (LHAIS) teams and Accommodation for Ex-Offenders Scheme (AFEO) teams. This joint work has strengthened the project's support offer.
- 3.3 At the end of the first year, discussions were held with London Probation and St Mungo's HARP Connect, to ensure that the London Councils funded service complements the work being delivered through the CAS-3 Programme⁷. To meet

⁷ The [Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 \(CAS3\)](#) provides temporary accommodation for up to 84 nights for homeless prison leavers and those moving on from Approved Premises (CAS1) or the Bail Accommodation and Support Service (CAS2), and assistance to help them move into settled accommodation. In London, Service roll out will be a phased approach over a six month period with the maximum number of 441 units available

the service gap in support for those on remand, St Mungo's has also refocussed provision on remand prisoners. The HARP Connect Project will also continue to work in prisons with services users who are serving sentences of one year or less and licence recalls, in line with funding agreement requirements.

- 3.4 The London Youth Gateway led by New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC) new streamlined central point of access to service support for young people has minimised the need for young people to have to repeat difficult information to multiple staff in the referral process. As a result, the number of young people accessing the service has grown. To build the skills and resilience of young people, NHYC has increased the number of living skills workshops and learning events. Mental health support has also been successfully delivered at a time when mental health needs are high, with National Health Service (NHS) provision under strain.
- 3.5 The second tier service, London Plus, led by Homeless Link, has maintained a focus on wellbeing and health, through delivery of training and webinars. Key areas of training have also helped to equip frontline housing organisations, professionals and voluntary and community organisations with expert information on housing law/legislation (including on the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021). Training has also supported organisations to meet financial pressures through the provision of grants and funding information.

Challenges

- 3.6 The STAR Partnership experienced delays in service delivery commencement, impacting on achievement of outcomes, particularly in the first two quarters of the new London Councils Grants Programme. There were particular issues with achievement of eviction prevention and immigration related outcomes.
- 3.7 Across Priority one, both projects and service users have borne the impact of financial crisis, with rents and the cost of living increasing. For service users, on low income, or benefit dependant, this is having a particularly negative impact on the ability to obtain and retain independent accommodation.

when the London scheme reaches full capacity. London Probation is currently working with London local housing authority partners to establish borough based 'resettlement panels' and seeking engagement with local decision making around the CAS 3 programme.

- 3.8 The rising cost of rent deposits, including the request for incentives, has also had an acute impact on clients, who are often within already 'stigmatised' groups, such as ex-offenders. Landlords are being encouraged to take on tenants who pay them incentives, which unlike rent deposits/rent securities or rent in advance, do not have to be refunded to tenants at the end of tenancies. Boroughs may be willing to negotiate the size of these incentives with letting agents/landlords because of housing pressures and the need to make financial savings incurred with keeping clients in temporary accommodation. Projects such as HARP Connect may not be able to provide large incentive payments to landlords, which in turn impacts on the project's ability to secure accommodation for its clients. Despite some landlords requesting incentives (as high as £2,500) instead of rent deposits, the project has worked with clients to secure accommodation, including with family and friends, as well as different housing tenures. However St Mungo's are concerned about the effect the current economic situation may have on increasing offending behaviour as people try to cope financially.
- 3.9 The setting up of Winter Relief Schemes and rent deposit support has been a crucial means of granting funds to those in most need, in the face of escalating economic pressures. The NHYC Winter Relief Scheme, set up in partnership with LandAid and Greater Change, for example, has enabled grants of up to £300 to be given to 126 young people, to provide support with rent, bills and other household expenses.

4 Performance Management

- 4.1 All Priority 1 projects are currently rated Green (see Table 2).
- 4.2 The STAR Partnership which had been RAG rated Amber for three consecutive quarters, is now RAG rated Green. Improved performance has resulted from the project's increased skills workshop programme, where clients are better able to address housing issues. Also increased support for mental and physical health, supported through project volunteers and the project now being fully staffed. See Appendix 3 for more detail on proposals to increase achieved outcomes.
- 4.3 The London Plus project, which had been RAG rated Amber for three consecutive quarters, is now RAG rated Green. Outcomes have improved with the recruitment of Systems Practice Leads being able to work directly with boroughs on

homelessness and housing practice systems changes. There have also been an increased number of training and webinars delivered, including for landlords and tenants. Training and webinars include homelessness law (and caselaw) such as the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018. A number of the Project's webinars, including on [funding](#) are available to watch on the Homeless Link website.

- 4.4 St Mungo's (Streetlink London Advice Line) is Green RAG rated and has progressed well after being Red RAG rated in quarter one. The organisation, however, has advised of a proposed change in funding to StreetLink London's sister service StreetLink (national), from which it receives referrals for this funded project and utilises some of its technical infrastructure. StreetLink (National) is funded by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) who are tendering for a digital service to process web and app alerts nationally without the existing phone line. DLUHC has awarded StreetLink (national) six months of extension funding, until the end of September 2023, in which it will disentangle its relationship with StreetLink London.
- 4.5 Streetlink report that it is managing the transition; London continues to receive the same service of triaging and signposting which is funded by the GLA and Bloomberg. It does not anticipate any concerns about delivering the outcomes as funded by London Councils going forward. Officers will continue to monitor the situation and update the Committee.

5 Priority 2: Sexual and domestic violence

Delivery

5.1 The Committee allocated £12.2 million to nine projects to Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence for 2022-26⁸.

- One (value of £0.2 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.1: Prevention (working with children and young people).
- Three (total value of £1.8 million in year one) are delivering against specification 2.2: Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk, post - Independent Domestic/Sexual Violence Advocate (IDVA/ISVA) support and target groups not accessing general provision).
- Two (value of £0.3 million in year one) are delivering against specification 2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision).
- One (value of £0.84 million until 31 March 2023) is delivering against specification 2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups.
- One (value of £0.19 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.5: Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals).
- One (value of £0.30 million in year one) is delivering against specification 2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices.

5.2 At the end of quarter four, overall performance was three per cent below profile. Figures 2 ,3 and 4 provide further information at a service area level. Outcome targets have been met or been surpassed in four of the six service areas. For the two service areas 2.2 and 2.3 that have performed below target, neither are outside of the +/-15 per cent performance tolerance.

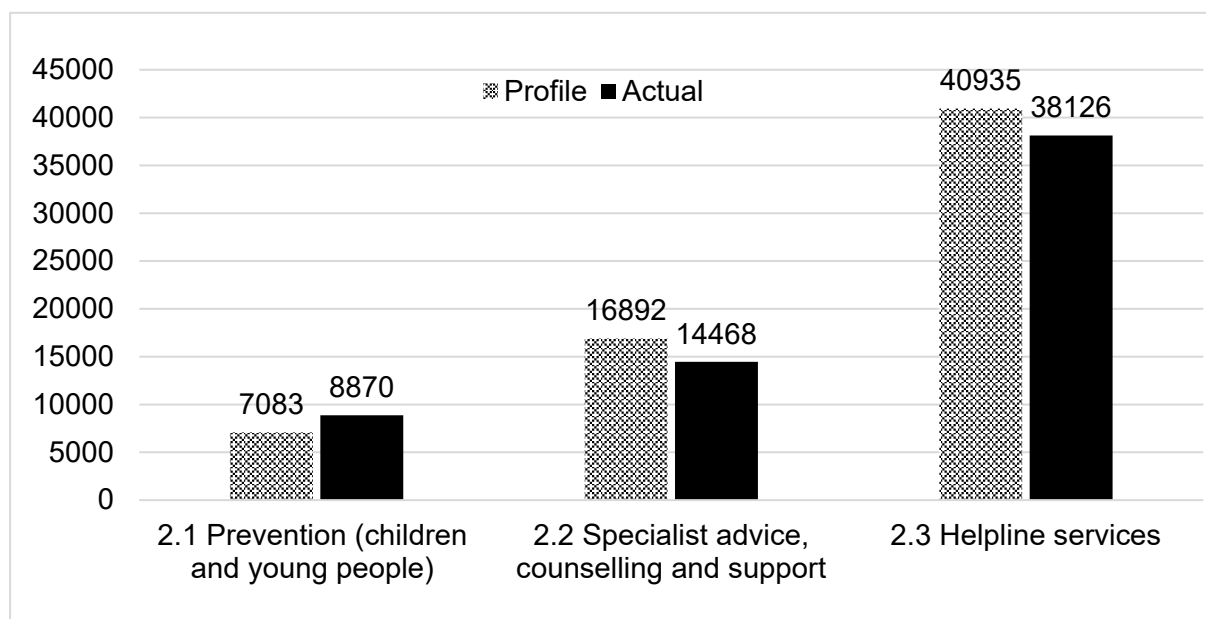
5.3 Figure 4 shows performance for service area 2.4, which was explained in paragraph 1.3, the Specialist Refuge Network was extended for a further year and ended on 31 March 2023, this means that their performance is showing delivery for six years from April 2017 to March 2023. At the end of their project,

⁸ This figure includes service area 2.4 which has been extended for one additional year under the 2017-22 programme to 31st March 2023

performance for service area 2.4 is nine per cent above profile which is within the +/-15 per cent performance tolerance.

- 5.1 Service area 2.1 has exceeded the +15 per cent tolerance level. The Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR) Project, led by AVA, is the sole project delivering in this service area and has worked to increase outreach and borough presence to address under delivery at the beginning of the programme. The project has high levels of service users, but this is yet to translate to the achievement of outcomes. For more detail see the Performance Management section of this report (Section 7).
- 5.2 Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), the sole provider in Service Area 2.6 continue to record over delivery due to ongoing high numbers of referrals across several boroughs, driven by strong working relationships with Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference's (MARAC's), Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVA's)/ Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVA's) and through GPs and hospitals referrals. The project over delivered on professionals' understanding of barriers faced by this client group.

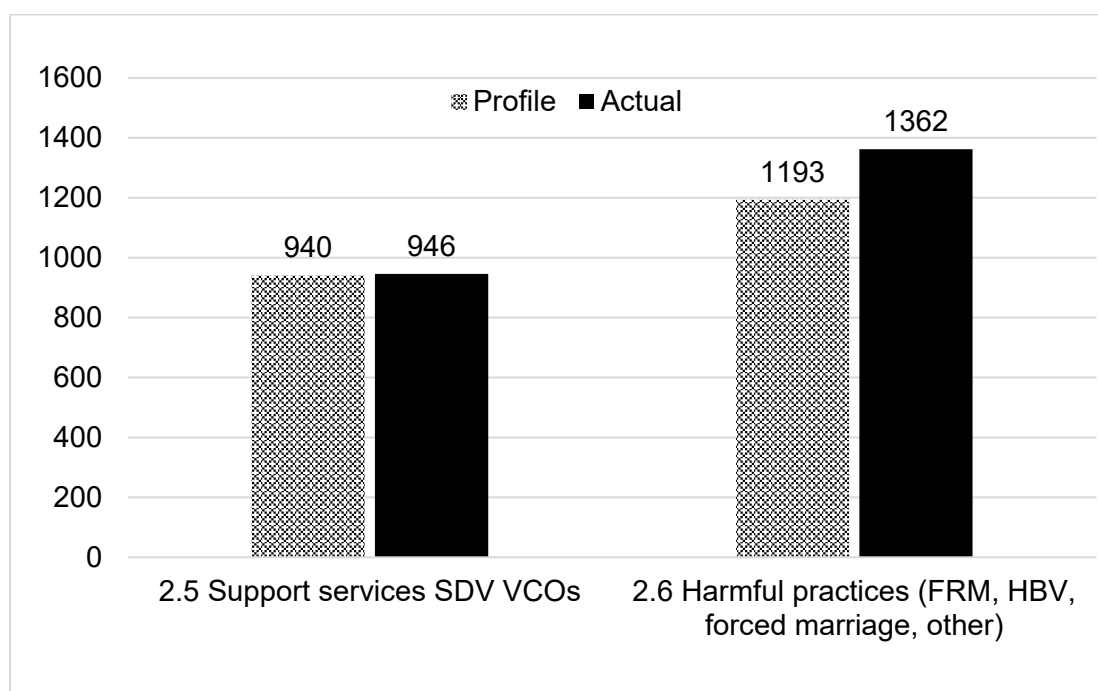
Figure 2: Priority 2 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes by Service Area (2.1, 2.2, 2.3) 2022-26 Q1 to Q4:



	2.1 Prevention	2.2 Advice, counselling, outreach, drop- in	2.3 Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision ⁹
Profile	7,083	16,892	40,935
Actual	8,870	14,468	38,126
Difference	1,787	-2,424	-2,809
Variance	25%	-14%	-7%
Year One Grants Value (£m)	£0.24	£1.79	£0.32
Number of Providers	1	3	2

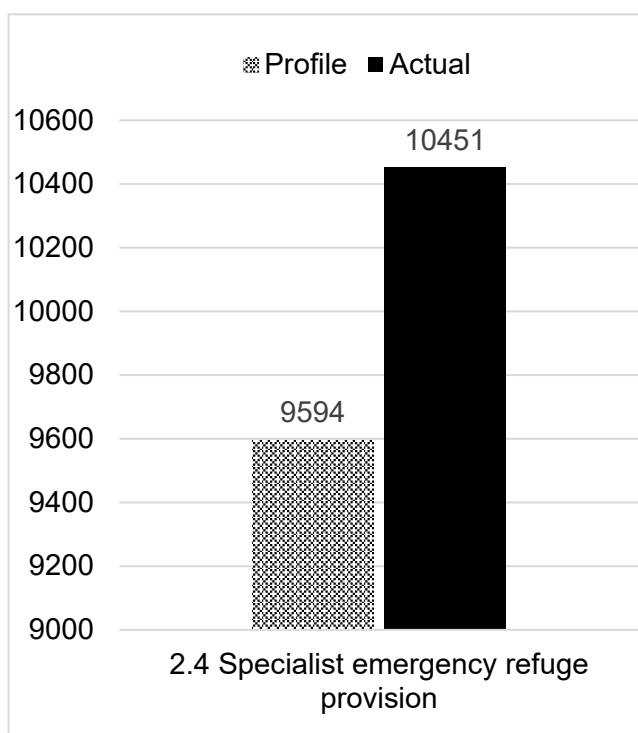
⁹ Refuge records high numbers of callers where their borough of residence is unknown, or unreported. Due to the nature of the service, domestic and sexual violence helplines where callers may be unwilling or too distressed to give this information.

Figure 3: Priority 2 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes per service area (2.5, 2.6) 2022-26 Q1 to Q4:



	2.5 Support services SDV VCOs	2.6 Harmful practices (FGM, HBV, forced marriage, other)
Profile	940	1,193
Actual	946	1,362
Difference	6	169
Variance	1%	14%
Annual Grants Value (£m)	£0.19	£0.30
Number of Providers	1	1

Figure 4: Priority 2 Delivery against Profile Aggregate Outcomes per service area (2.4) 2017-2023, Year 1 to Year 6, Quarter 4:



Profile	9,594
Actual	10,451
Difference	857
Variance	9%
Annual Grants Value (£m)	£0.84
Number of Providers	1

5.4 This project ended delivery on 31 March 2023, and these are the final performance figures for six years of funding. The new service, funded under the 22-26 grants programme also led by Ashiana Network called the Ascent Specialist Refuge Partnership, commenced delivery on 1 April 2023 and the report on their first two quarters' delivery will be included in the performance report to this committee in November.

5.5 Providers continue to support vulnerable and disadvantaged service users within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. By end of quarter four¹⁰¹¹:

- 94 per cent were female
- 14 per cent were under 25
- 6.2 per cent were aged over 55

¹⁰ Based on self-declaration; users may declare more than one protected characteristic e.g., disability

¹¹ These figures also include Year 6 (Qtrs. 1 to 4) of the Specialist emergency refuge provision which was extended for an additional year to 31 March 2023

- 81.7 per cent were ethnic minorities¹²
- 40.1 per cent declared a disability
- 7.9 per cent were LGBT¹³
- 1,131 people had no recourse to public funds (5.2 per cent)

5.6 London Councils funded organisations to deliver services across London and implemented a monitoring process that incorporated an assessment of equalities. A report assessing the programme's performance with reference to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 will be presented to Grants Committee in November 2023.

Policy and wider environment

5.7 The [Victims and Prisoners Bill](#) was introduced to parliament in May 2023. The provisions relevant to support for victims and survivors of VAWG remain broadly the same to those included in the original draft of the Victims Bill. Changes have been made to the definition of victim to clarify that the definition includes children affected by domestic abuse (as specified in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021) and people conceived by rape.

5.8 The key relevant provisions for victims and survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls are:

- Putting the Victims Code into primary legislation and creating duties on criminal justice agencies to promote the code and monitor their compliance with the code
- Creating a duty on local authorities (in London, the GLA), police and crime commissioner and Integrated Care Boards to collaborate on commissioning of community based support services
- Creating a statutory definition and providing for statutory guidance for Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs)

¹² Includes Asian - all, Black - all, Chinese, Latin American, Middle Eastern, mixed ethnicity, white European, white Irish and white other

¹³ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, identify as trans or a person with trans history or declared other

- 5.9 London Councils has been meeting regularly with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) to discuss the development of the duty to collaborate, including the statutory guidance, and role of boroughs.
- 5.10 In February, the government published the new [Strategic Policing Requirement](#), which included Violence Against Women and Girls as a strategic policing requirement on par with tackling terrorism and serious and organised crime.
- 5.11 DLUHC [published](#) their annual progress report from the Domestic Abuse National Expert Steering Group, on the implementation of duty 4 of the Domestic Abuse (support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Safe Accommodation). The report includes outcomes from the local authority data collection and best practice case studies, and highlights challenges in implementation.
- 5.12 The London Councils' commissioned [report](#) on funding for support services for victims and survivors of Violence against Women and Girls was published and launched at a parliamentary event on 24 May. The launch was hosted by Ellie Reeves MP (Shadow Justice Minister). The report highlighted current challenges in the funding system for VAWG support services, including fragmented, complex and short term funding and barriers to strategic commissioning.
- 5.13 London Councils' policy officers have been working with the Communications and Parliamentary team to raise awareness of London Councils VAWG policy priorities, including through meetings with MPs to raise concerns about current sustainability of funding and discuss our priorities on policing.
- 5.14 The [final report of the Casey Review](#) into standards in the Metropolitan Police was published in March. A Task and Finish Group of Council Leaders and Senior Officers was formed to develop London Councils response. A framework has been produced which articulates the key London local authority asks and offers to the MPS and was presented to the Met Commissioner on 20th June. This includes calls on the MPS to work with boroughs to transform their approach to supporting victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, and to prioritise investment in frontline policing, including public protection teams which work on VAWG.

Service Area Updates

Service area 2.1

5.15 The Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR) Project, led by Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) are working to increase the project's presence, particularly in boroughs of low engagement. The project is increasing outreach work, with partners updating their engagement and outreach strategies and in quarter four had a presence in 27 of the London boroughs. The HLHR webinar programme has provided a direct response to addressing issues impacting on healthy relationships. An example of this is the webinar on '*A Whole School Approach to Tackling Toxic Masculinity in collaboration with Beyond Equality*'.

Service area 2.2

5.16 The Ascent Advice and Counselling Project, led by Women and Girls Network (WGN) have seen increased project staff attendance at Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) forums, community meetings and drop in and One Stop Advice Shops. New referral links have also been established with the police, borough councils, VAWG services and with schools. Ending Harmful Practice training delivery has also been high, including training on changes to divorce law. Emergency accommodation has also been secured for clients with severe and complex needs. Immigration support has also enabled clients to secure visa application approvals, and vital legal advice to help victims of abuse through the court system. Self-care and counselling support have also been key services, successfully delivered to victims of abuse and survivors in most need.

5.17 SignHealth's Deaf Domestic Abuse Service, delivered an extensive programme of workshops, including on inclusive refuge services and inclusive practices when supporting Deaf clients. These workshops have also served to increase referrals to the project. The project has also been able to secure emergency accommodation and IDVA support for a client's application for a Non-Molestation Order, without the client having to present at court.

5.18 The LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership, led by GALOP, report that limited housing options available to boroughs has resulted in the reduction of survivors fleeing abuse being housed which had led to GALOP having to provide advocacy to ensure they are treated as a priority need for assistance as per Section 78 of the Domestic Abuse Act.

- 5.19 The [murder of Brianna Ghey](#) is reported to have had a significant impact on trans communities with some trans clients disengaging and others needing more support than usual. In addition, it is reported that the trans community has been negatively impacted by the discussions around the changes to the Equality Act 2010.

Service area 2.3

- 5.20 Refuge and RASASC, two partners from The Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project, report that, following the publicity surrounding the David Carrick case, they have supported high numbers of women who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence at the hands of police officers. Refuge has met with The Metropolitan Police's anti-corruption domestic and sexual abuse offences team multiple times since January to understand safe and appropriate reporting pathways for women and build mutual understanding of needs and risks and has produced a resource for its helpline team on handling these calls.
- 5.21 RASASC report an increase in callers who had experienced online image-based abuse following the publicity around Andrew Tate's arrest.
- 5.22 The cost of living crisis continues to have an impact with 57 per cent of survivors, supported by the Men's Advice Line, advising that it prevented them from leaving/separating. 63 per cent of callers discussed rising debts, 26 per cent experienced a deterioration in their mental health and 10 per cent suffered an increase in domestic abuse and employment concerns.
- 5.23 The partners of the Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project highlight that, as a consequence of waiting lists for many specialist services being closed, an increasing number of survivors are paying for private therapy; which renders them in a situation whereby they must choose between life-saving private therapy and food/heating.

Service area 2.4

- 5.24 Quarter four saw the end of the Specialist Refuge Network's (2017-2022) Project, led by Ashiana Network. The Project continued to support the physical and mental needs of those subject to abuse. Through the project, legal representation has also been secured, including for pregnant women subject to physical abuse,

and women subject to marital rape, supported to successfully apply for a Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) which in turn, enables survivors to settle into safe and secure accommodation. The successful prosecution of perpetrators has also followed. Recovery and support for those subject to domestic abuse has been delivered in the form of therapy workshops and activities. The delivery of wellbeing and physical health groups have also been integral to domestic abuse 'recovery'.

Service area 2.5

5.25 Ascent: Support Services to Organisations, led by Women's Resource Centre (WRC), reporting on the Cost of Living Crisis advise that their member organisations have had issues with staff recruitment and retention, utilities and funding.

5.26 Imkaan, a partner of Ascent: Support Services to Organisations, reported that the operating environment for Black and minoritised by-and-for organisations remains extremely challenging; organisations report increasing demand for services in addition to the issues of recruitment, utilities and funding.

Service area 2.6

5.27 The Ascent Ending Harmful Practice Partnership, led by AWRC reports increased financial pressures on women, including those struggling to feed their children. The Partnership also reports the continuing severity of financial crisis for survivors of domestic abuse, impacting on their ability to travel to receive psychotherapy, hospital and GP appointments. The Partnership has also highlighted that women are struggling to buy furniture for new accommodation after leaving refuge, having to borrow from friends and accumulate debt and are unable to top-up pre-payment energy cards. Project partners have worked diligently to address these issues through making applications to charities to support women, building emergency funds and liaising with local authorities for assistance.

5.28 The project partners are also working at full capacity to meet the counselling needs of women who require counselling in their 'mother tongue'. The Partnership highlights the ongoing need to support women with complex needs, such as mental health and substance abuse. As well as the lack of trauma

informed approaches, for example, on the part of police officers collecting victim and survivor statements.

6 Key highlights: Priority 2 Successes and Challenges at the end of Year One of the 2022-26 Grants Programme

Successes

- 6.1 The Ascent Counselling and Advice Project, led by Women and Girls Network have established successful connections with professionals, particularly through prevention of harmful practices training in educational settings. This has particularly been in the area of meeting the needs of Black and global majority women with no recourse to public funds experiencing VAWG. Specialist knowledge and awareness raising has also been provided about the challenges faced by migrant women seeking practical support and safety. Practical support has also been provided to survivors, including pre-trial therapy and note-keeping. Targeted support to young people in urgent housing need has also been successfully delivered, including where support was not forthcoming from statutory housing provision.
- 6.2 The Specialist Refuge Network Project, led by Ashiana has also developed targeted services, including streamlining their immigration processes in order to prepare visa applications remotely. Survivors are also able to provide immigration statements via the telephone to project staff, leading to successful grants of Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR).
- 6.3 Awareness raising of domestic abuse impacting Deaf women has been championed by the Deaf Domestic Abuse Service, delivered by SignHealth, who have created social media content and run remote workshops and programmes in British Sign Language (BSL).
- 6.4 Raising awareness of healthy relationships and delivering bespoke prevention work, including within school settings has been successfully achieved by the Healthy London, Healthy Relationships Project, led by AVA. Through the project, young people have been able to discuss healthy relationships in safe environments. Project staff have also contributed to strategic prevention work by speaking at the End Violence Against Women Coalition National Prevention

Meeting on the topic of a Whole School Approach. AVA are working to ensure that there is engagement with the project's prevention resources across all London boroughs. The project also ensures that service delivery complements other funded prevention services, including that delivered through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

- 6.5 Successful engagement in VAWG forums and operational groups across London about the challenges faced and practical and support services needed for migrant women victims and survivors has achieved by the Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership. Work with stakeholders including the police, social services, housing, safeguarding teams, community and faith organisations has helped to strengthen the work of the Partnership. This is of particular importance in regard to the increasing complexity of casework and advocacy, including to victims and survivors of domestic abuse with insecure immigration status, no recourse to public funds and with language barriers.
- 6.6 Ascent: Support Services to Organisations report that its training activities have been well attended, including by borough officers, and has received positive feedback.
- 6.7 The London Refuges Data Collection Project led by Women's Aid advise that in the first year, seven new boroughs have taken up the UK Gold Book subscription.
- 6.8 The Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project report numerous successes from its partners including WGN responding to the extremely long waiting lists experienced London callers by piloting an innovative emotional support package. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) expanded its provision from a few hours a day to 24/7 365 days a year. Respect and Refuge worked in partnership to secure funding from The Vision Foundation to increase access for blind or visually impaired callers. Refuge has been shortlisted for the Helpline of the year at the Helplines Partnership Award.

Challenges

- 6.9 The Ascent Counselling and Advice Project cited housing as a significant issue, requiring extensive advocacy with statutory agencies such as housing and social

services, particularly where children are involved. This is compounded for women with migrant status and no recourse to public funds, where statutory support may be hindered by concerns over the lack of knowledge and sensitivity around harmful practices. For women who do not have English as a first language, there are increased difficulties in accessing support services from external agencies, such as general practitioners and health care provision.

- 6.10 Barriers to service provision are also faced acutely by Deaf service users. SignHealth have particularly highlighted barriers to refuge access for their clients. Refuges have raised concerns about health and safety, due to not having equipment in place, such as accessible fire alarms, or BSL¹⁴ interpreters present for meetings. Securing BSL interpreters for training workshops for professionals also continues to be challenging, which may require workshops to be postponed.
- 6.11 The demand for specialist counselling has also grown and women and girls face increased barriers to accessing Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership services, due to high demand and closed waiting lists. This is made worse by statutory services lacking specialist counselling support, including for women that have experienced any form of harmful practice.
- 6.12 Across Priority 2, there also continues to be a severe impact on staff wellbeing, due to the increasing frequency of high-risk and complex cases. The current economic climate and cost of living 'crisis' has also made it challenging to engage volunteers to support project work. These economic pressures also continue to impact on the lives of women, needing financial support and requiring assistance to access grants, welfare funds, food banks and budgeting help. Economic pressures have placed strains on client mental health, with casework increasing in complexity.
- 6.13 Ashiana Network has secured short term emergency funds to manage increased service demand. The organisation has also set funds aside to give financial support to women coping with the cost of living crisis. Joint work has also been necessary with the Public Interest Law Centre, as a means of working to secure accommodation for those owed a housing duty, when all avenues of communication with local authorities is exhausted. There have been difficulties in

¹⁴ British Sign Language

securing Section 17 support, or housing support from Social Services and 'local housing authorities. This results in lengthy delays in the provision of support and accommodation, leaving women and children at risk and homeless for long periods of time.

- 6.14 Ascent: Support Services to Organisations report that it has had difficulty getting attendees of its events to complete evaluation forms; particularly for online training. It also reports that maintaining a contact list of borough VAWG leads has been difficult as it is often difficult to identify new lead officers due to high staff turnover in the boroughs.
- 6.15 The Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project report several challenges including the impact of the cost of living crisis on callers, staff and volunteers (the number of people volunteering has decreased). The partnership also mentions a shortage in appropriate accommodation and the ongoing challenges presented by callers with complex needs; particularly around mental health.

7 Performance management

- 7.1 At the end of quarter four, eight Priority 2 projects are rated Green, one is rated Amber (see Table 2).
- 7.2 The Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR) project remains RAG rated Amber for a fourth successive quarter. Although they have a high Amber rating, and the project has over delivered on a number of outcomes (see Appendix 3 Report), the high number of project users has yet to translate into achieved outcomes. The project is reviewing and revising partner outreach and communication strategies and plans to ensure that agreed outcome levels (across project outcomes) are in line with grant agreement requirements. Where there has been under performance, this has largely been in the area of support for professionals, to have the increased knowledge, awareness and commitment to embed prevention work. The outcome for schools to have prevention and healthy relationships learning incorporated into policies and procedures is also below outcome target. HLHR is addressing these shortfalls by commissioning a teacher with VAWG expertise to develop more guidance on how to get buy-in

from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) within schools. London Councils officers have met with the HLHR lead partner AVA, to discuss outcome delivery targets and will continue to closely monitor performance progress. AVA has also been provided with contacts of Education Officer networks and London Councils officers will continue to meet with AVA, with an increased action plan, where required.

- 7.3 The Project would also particularly welcome engagement with professionals and schools for the delivery of healthy relationships/prevention work in the following boroughs, where service support, in year one, has been minimal, or not yet established: Barking and Dagenham; Bexley; Bromley; Greenwich; Hillingdon; Kingston; Newham; Richmond; Sutton; Waltham Forest.
- 7.4 The Women and Girls Network (WGN) led project Ascent Advice and Counselling Project is RAG rated Green, however its delivery is just under the 85 per cent delivery buffer as the project continues to experience under delivery across a number of outcomes. See Appendix 3 for further detail about the project's outcomes.

8 Protected Characteristic – Care Experienced

- 8.1 At the March Grants committee meeting, in response to a request by LB Sutton, to include Care Experienced as a protected characteristic in the grants programme monitoring, the Grants Team raised the issue with partners within the programme to find out if this information was being already collected and if this information could be collected mid programme. The majority of the currently funded projects did not already collect this information and pointed out that there may be cost and time implications to both the funded projects and the Grants Team and to introduce this mid programme.
- 8.2 New Horizon Youth Centre who lead the London Youth Gateway project stated their client group typically includes those who have been in care or from a looked-after background for a stage of their life and that they currently record these details for key elements of their programme. New Horizon Youth Centre say 351 or 31 per cent of young people who have accessed their service since April 2022 have reported having Care Experience.

8.3 Consultation for a future grants programme from 2026 onwards should commence in the next year and monitoring of care experience could be an area which forms part of that consultation and the associated Equalities Impact Assessment.

8.4 In the interim, officers will seek to work with New Horizon to pilot a way of reporting the information they collect on care experience, as part of the regular performance reporting process.

9 Risk-based performance management (RAG rating) – Project level performance

9.1 Project performance is measured using the programme-wide Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating system. The RAG rating system forms part of the Funding and Performance Management Framework agreed in July 2021¹⁵. The methodology for the system is set out in **Appendix 1** of this report. The rating system shows whether a project's performance is going up, going down or is steady across quarters.

9.2 The RAG ratings to the end of quarter four (April to March 2023) are set out in the table below. The Committee will note that thirteen projects are rated Green, one is rated Amber. This shows continued improvement of the programme as a whole since the last quarter, and from the beginning of the programme. The majority of the projects now have a full staff compliment and have continued to stabilise their delivery. Officers have introduced and continue to monitor action plans and are establishing plans to improve delivery. Detailed information on the RAG scoring methodology is provided in **Appendix 1**.

¹⁵ Grants Programme 2022-26: Prospectus for the new programme, Item 14, 14 July 2021

Table 2: RAG Results

Service area	Organisation (lead)	Project	Partners	RAG Rating Q3	RAG Rating Q4
1.1	Shelter	STAR Partnership (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Reconnections)	Thames Reach, Stonewall Housing, Praxis	Amber	Green ↑
1.1	St Mungo Community Housing Association	HARP Connect (Housing Advice, Resettlement and Prevention Connect)	n/a	Green	Green ↔
1.2	St Mungo Community Housing Association	Streetlink London Advice Line	n/a	Green	Green ↔
1.3	New Horizon Youth Centre	London Youth Gateway	Depaul UK, Stonewall Housing, Galop, Albert Kennedy Trust, Shelter, Praxis	Green	Green ↗
1.4	Homeless Link	London PLUS	Shelter	Amber	Green ↑
2.1	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR)	IMECE, Women and Girls' Network, The Nia Project, Solace Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service, FORWARD, Ashiana Network, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation	Amber	Amber ↔
2.2	Women and Girls' Network	Ascent: Advice and Counselling	Ashiana Network, Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), Chinese Information and Advice Centre, EACH (counselling and support), IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Nia, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), Rights of Women, Solace Women's Aid, Southall Black Sisters, Women's Trust	Green	Green ↔

Service area	Organisation (lead)	Project	Partners	RAG Rating Q3	RAG Rating Q4
2.2	Galop	The LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)	Stonewall Housing, London Friend,	Green	Green ↔
2.2	SignHealth	Deaf Domestic Abuse Service	N/A	Green	Green ↔
2.3	Refuge	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project	Women and Girls' Network, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), Respect	Green	Green ↔
2.3	Women's Aid	London Refuges Data Collection Project	N/A	Green	Green ↑
2.4	Ashiana Network	Specialist Refuge Network	Ashiana Network, Solace Women's Aid, The Nia Project, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	Green	Green ↔
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	Ascent: Support Services to Organisations	Respect (perpetrators), Imkaan, Rights of Women, Against Violence, Abuse and Women and Girls Network	Green	Green ↔
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership	Al-Aman (division of Richmond Fellowship), Ashiana Network, FORWARD, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Southall Black Sisters, Women and Girls Network	Green	Green ↑

10 Value for Money

10.1 London Councils Grants Programme administers public money on behalf of, and with, the London boroughs and therefore must ensure value for money - the optimal use of resources to achieve intended outcomes. The National Audit Office model of value for money focuses on three E's:

- **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used or required (inputs);
- **Efficiency:** the relationship between the output from goods or services and the resources to produce them; and
- **Effectiveness:** the relationship between the intended and actual results of public spending (outcomes)

10.2 At the end of quarter four, the funded groups were asked to report on how they have ensured value for money over the first year of the programme. The responses included New Horizon Youth Centre streamlining beneficiaries' journey through services with a central point of access; Shelter's STAR Partnership partners being able to access Non London Councils funded Shelter services such as their in-house legal team which is quicker than sourcing an external solicitor, and also their housing advisers are able to obtain legal consultation.

10.3 Funded groups have also reported leveraging in additional funds to support and extend the services being funded under this programme for example, New Horizon Youth Centre secured £35,000 for the LYG¹⁶ to directly help young people during the cost of living crisis, and the Ascent Advice and Counselling project was awarded two year funding of over £1 million for their legal advice plus project which has led to increased calls to the family legal law line and more victims being supported by long term casework. Signhealth attribute the London Councils funding as providing "solid foundations" for their service which has reassured prospective funders and enabled them to secure a further £500,000.

10.4 The *Funding and Performance Management Framework* (agreed by members in July 2021) sets out the controls used to ensure value for money for the

¹⁶ London Youth Gateway

programme. This includes checks on audited accounts and a review of annual budgets. As agreed by Committee, a full-cost-recovery-approach is being used for the 2022-26 programme. This will require a new approach to annual budgeting, with projects adjusting budgets annually to match changes in costs, within the four year budget envelope.

- 10.5 London Councils operates a robust monitoring system to ensure figures reported are verifiable; the work funded projects undertake has a far wider benefit and impact than is often shown through the figures. For example, a frontline organisation may support a person through multiple interventions across the whole partnership. A second-tier project may record work with one organisation but provide services to high numbers of their staff across separate departments or branches and so have a much greater reach in upskilling the voluntary and community sector than the figures indicate.
- 10.6 The team continues to work with IT contractor, Superhighways, to develop a more efficient reporting tool for the programme. The reporting portal went live in July 2022 and the funded projects are now submitting quarterly reports via this medium. The team has undertaken significant work with Superhighways to design the platform and will continue to do so for the rest of the year.
- 10.7 The end of year feedback from the funded groups has been broadly positive regarding the new reporting portal, they have welcomed the ongoing communication from the team, but felt there were some areas for improvement such as better navigation and alerts for clarification/more information from the team.
- 10.8 The team will continue to improve partnership and cross priority working as it led to better outcomes for service users on the previous programme. Where relevant, funded projects work towards appropriate quality standards, and involve project participants in the design and adaptation of the projects.
- 10.9 Information and data provided through the programme has been used by the policy team at London Councils, and by other stakeholders, to inform the strategic response to these priority areas.

11 Recommendations

11.1 The Grants Committee is asked to **note**:

- a) outcomes at priority level:
 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is three per cent above profile to quarter four
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is three per cent below profile to quarter four
 - (1) Service Area 2.4 is nine per cent above profile at the end of its delivery under the 2017-2022 Grants programme
- b) the number of interventions delivered in the relevant periods:
 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 10,255
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence – 63,772
 - (1) Service Area 2.4 – 10,451
- c) project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained in Appendix 1):
 - i) 13 projects are rated Green, 1 is Amber
- d) An update on including Care Experienced as a protected characteristic in grants programme monitoring (Section 8)
- e) the borough maps (Appendix 2)
- f) the project delivery information and contact details (Appendix 3), produced as a separate resource to provide members with a directory of services, with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance.
- g) the annual borough reports (Appendix 4) (the annual delivery borough spreadsheet is available [here](#))
- h) the annual performance report provided by London Funders (Appendix 5)

The Grants Committee is asked to agree:

- i) that London Councils officers and Grants Committee Members share the London Funders Annual Report with relevant borough officers to ensure they are aware of the activities provided (boroughs pay a reduced subscription to London Funders via London Councils, which is considered in the November budget setting process)

Appendix 1 RAG Rating Methodology

Appendix 2 Borough Maps

Appendix 3 Project Delivery Information and Contact Details

Appendix 4 Borough Delivery Information

Appendix 5 London Funders Annual Report

Financial Implications for London Councils

The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2022-23 at its meeting in November 2021, and Leaders' Committee agreed a budget at its meeting in December 2021.

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and specific targets groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this annually.

Background Documents

Performance of Grants Programme 2022-26, Item 5, 15 March 2023

Refuge Provision Update - Item 7, 15 March 2023

Commissioning of refuge provision for the 2022-2026 Grants Programme: Requirements and next steps, Item 7, 30 November 2022

2022-2026 Pan-London Grants Programme – Recommendations for award of grant, Item 8, 24 November 2021

London Councils officers report quarterly to the Grants Committee on the performance of the grants programme, based on the Funding and Performance Management Framework agreed by Grants Committee in July 2021.

The cornerstone of this at project level is a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating of all projects:

Green	80-100 points
Amber	55-79 points
RED	0-54 points

The RAG rating is made up of:

- Performance – Delivery of outcomes and new users - 70 percent
- Quality - beneficiary satisfaction¹⁷, 10 per cent
- Compliance - timeliness and accuracy of reporting, responsiveness and risk management, 20 per cent.

The requirement to meet at least 80 points to achieve a Green rating was agreed at the March 2018 Grants Committee, following a review by officers to ensure that the RAG rating system was appropriately highlighting performance issues.

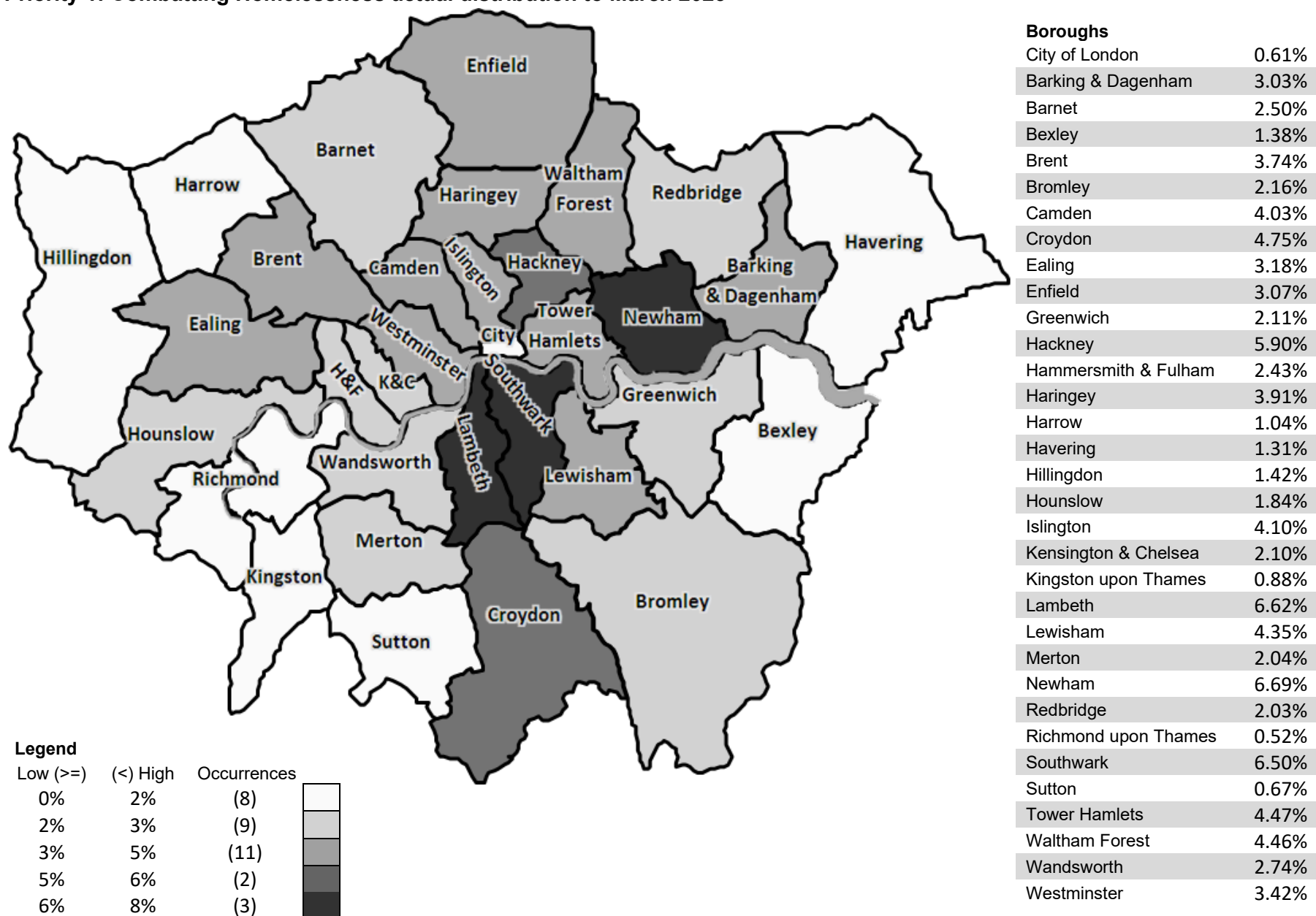
The framework also sets out a risk-based approach to monitoring in which levels of monitoring are varied dependent on the RAG score of the project.

Performance change indicators (changes from one reporting quarter to the next)

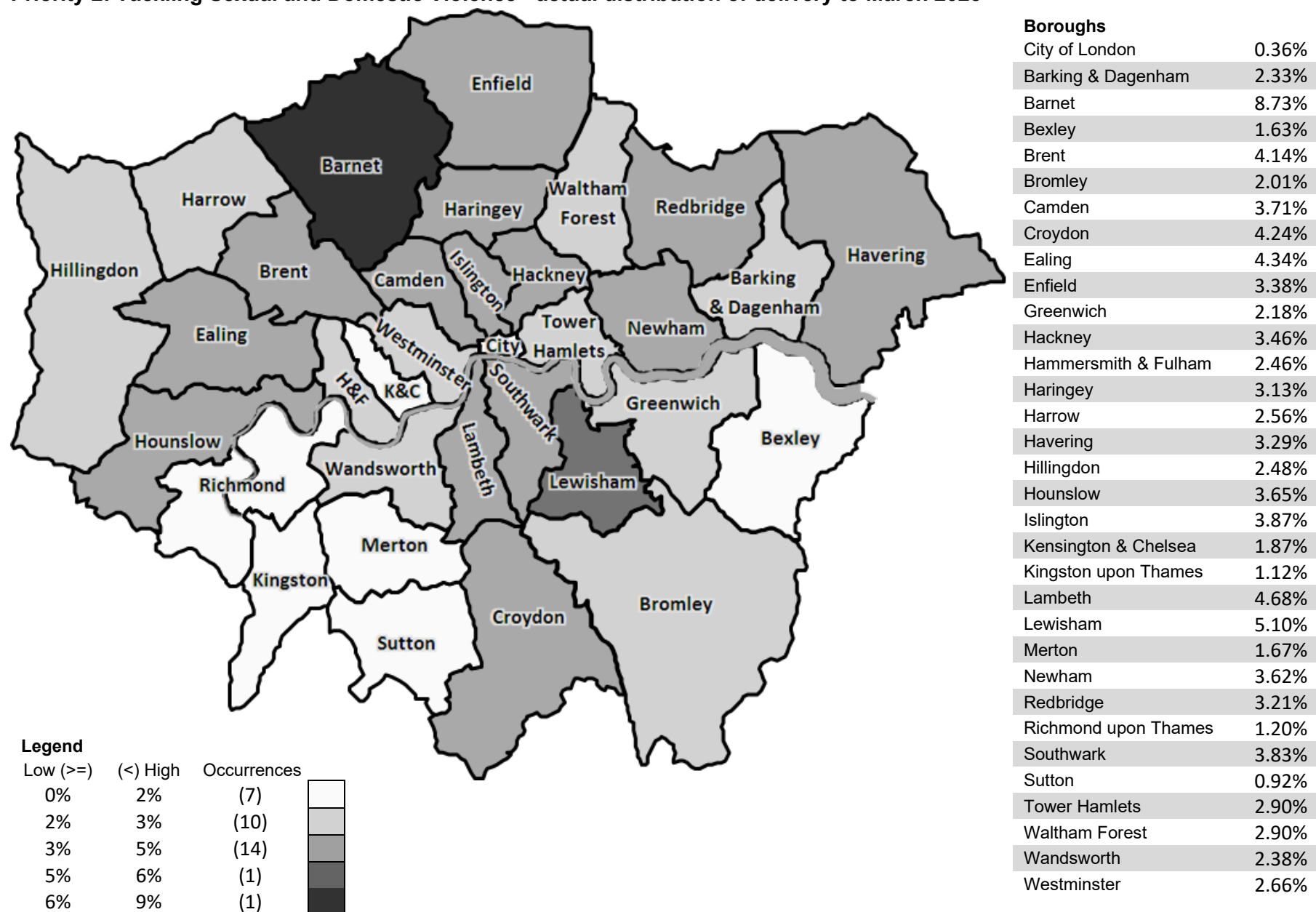
↑	an increase of five or more percentage points
↗	an increase of more than two percentage points but less than five
↔	The score has remained relatively static with no significant change allowing for minor fluctuation between -two and +two percentage points
↘	a decrease over two percentage points but less than five
↓	a decrease of five or more percentage points

¹⁷ This previously included a self-assessment but will now integrated into a monitoring visit.

Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness actual distribution to March 2023



Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence - actual distribution of delivery to March 2023



See separately produced Appendix 3

See separately produced Appendix 4

London Funders Grant Report to London Councils – June 2023

London Councils Grant April 2022 to March 2023

The London Councils Grants Committee pays £60,000 in subscriptions on behalf of all London boroughs. As well as providing a 50% saving to local government in London (compared to the cost of each individual borough arranging membership separately), the subscriptions pay for a range of services open to local authority members and staff.

Furthermore, having all 33 London local authorities and London Councils within the membership of London Funders enables us to leverage additional funding to undertake pan-London initiatives. In 2022-23 this included over £5m through London's Giving schemes (harnessing the power of cross-sector collaboration at a borough level) and setting up the Propel collaboration aiming to invest £100m over ten years across London.

Headlines for 2022-23

- 175 members, 118 events, 1,400+ attendees including individuals from all London Boroughs
- Cost of Living – bringing members together across 40+ events, report on what funders are doing following a survey of members and in-depth interviews
- Mapping Manifestos - we mapped out the issues prioritised by the successful parties at borough-wide level. Our top-level analysis helped us build a picture of the areas seen as important for action, and explore what this may mean for the wider funding landscape
- London's Giving - schemes collectively raised £8.3m in income and distributed over £5m to nearly 900 local groups in their boroughs
- Propel – collaboration launched which opened first round of grant applications in October 2022. Setting the ambition of distributing £100m over ten years to London's communities, prioritising women and girls, LGBT+ communities, Deaf and Disabled people, and communities experiencing racial inequity in every London borough

About London Funders

We bring funders together from across the public, private and philanthropic sectors to build a better London by taking action on what matters to our city and our communities.

London Funders is the only cross-sector membership network for funders and investors in London's civil society. With 175 members London Funders is unique in bringing together public sector funders and commissioners, with independent trusts and foundations, social and corporate Investors, Lottery funders and others. Since April 2022 we have had eight new members join us: Barclays, Barking & Dagenham Giving, Bennelong Foundation UK, The Integrate Agency, John Laing Charitable Trust, NHS Procurement Partners, Prudence Trust and Shaftesbury Young People Trust.

Across the last year we worked on a new strategy for the period to 2030, that we launched in November 2022. We brought together members, previous and current trustees, equity partners and civil society groups to reflect both our membership and London's communities, who together interrogated feedback from members, data on the needs of communities, and thought pieces on the role of London Funders in supporting positive change. Through this process we were able to

distil what London Funders members need and want from us, so that we can work with London's communities to make our city greener, fairer and stronger.

Our renewed purpose is to bring funders together to build a better London by taking action on what matters to our city and our communities.

Our ambitions are now to:

- Enable a movement of members to have strong and trusted connections, based on shared values and ambitions
- Facilitate and lead collaborative programmes where only working together can achieve the change that's needed
- Drive a learning culture, where shared data, intelligence and insight leads to better decision-making and action

To achieve this over the years to 2030 we will:

- Involve and inspire, convening with purpose so that people and organisations can embrace opportunities to grow together
- Inform and influence, seeking and sharing knowledge so that funding and policy environments meet Londoners' needs
- Innovate and incubate, exploring new ideas and approaches, and ensuring those with potential have the support to thrive.

Whilst working towards our ambitions we will also maintain our agility – responding to events and developments as they arise in London, to ensure we are effective at addressing emerging needs.

The last year at a glance

Here are some of the headline achievements from London Funders over the last year:

- [175 member organisations](#) from across public, independent, housing and corporate sectors coming together through London Funders to look at the most effective use of funding in the capital.
- 118 events held on topics varying from 'Immigration Advice for Rough Sleepers' to 'Building a new narrative for leadership in philanthropy'
- Three curated meetings exclusively for local authority colleagues working in grants and commissioning to share, discuss and collaborate together
- Our response to the Cost of Living crisis – as London's communities and the organisations supporting them have been facing increasing pressures, we've been focused on bringing members together to share and coordinate actions. Last autumn, we brought together voices from London's charities, community groups, campaigners, and 58 member organisations, including 11 local authority members, for the [Cost of Living Week](#). We also produced a [short report](#) on how funders are responding to the crisis, based on survey responses from over 50 funders and in-depth interviews with a representative sample of London Funders' members from all sectors. Following on from this, we gathered intelligence and [published a briefing](#) on how funders are offering uplifts to grantees. We also worked with our member London Community Foundation (LCF) to promote the 'Together for London' fund, enabling over £1m of funding to flow to grassroots groups through LCF
- Mapping Manifestoes – following the May 2022 local elections and parties' pledges to support London's communities, [we mapped out the issues prioritised by the successful](#)

[parties at borough-wide level](#). Our top-level analysis helped us build a picture of the areas seen as important for action, and explore what this may mean for the wider funding landscape, and identify opportunities to act on the issues that will be high on the agenda for the next four years, sharing this report to encourage connections between funders interested in themes or places across London. Across the manifestos the top priorities at a local level were housing, climate change, communities, and safety and crime, and we continue to work to build connections between funders and boroughs on these issues where there is shared ambition

- We held our second annual Festival of Learning – in May 2022 we brought together over 500 individuals from member organisations across 30 sessions to hear lessons, ideas and insights from funders, charities and community groups. The Festival covered a huge amount from ‘making philanthropy transparent and inclusive’ to ‘Collaborating on community-led participation’. You can read about all the learning shared during the Festival in [this report](#)
- Insight Meetings – we’ve been hosting monthly member-exclusive insight meetings to ensure our members are informed about how current events, demographic trends, and policy decisions affect the lives of the communities we serve. These meetings are a chance for funders to come together in response to issues as they arise. Topics have ranged from ‘what can funders do about the housing crisis’ to ‘What does Cop27 mean for London’s communities? You can read about the insights, intelligence and data that have come out of these meetings [here](#)
- Propel - this year saw the official launch of [Propel](#), a large-scale funder collaboration bringing together funders from across independent, public and corporate sectors to embed trusting and equitable funding practices so that we can collectively tackle the issues facing London. Focusing on three missions from the London Recovery Board chaired by London Councils and the GLA - A New Deal for Young People, Building Strong Communities and Robust Safety Net – this collaborative programme will invest £100m in London’s civil society across the next ten years. You can read more about what we’ve learnt so far from Propel [here](#). Our thanks to the London Councils team for contributing expertise to shape this programme to benefit local communities.

Summary of Outputs

Activity	Total	Boroughs	Individuals
Events – Networks, Funder Forums & Roundtables	118 events overall. Including: Cost of Living week, Festival of Learning, Funder Forums, Roundtables and Insight meetings	All London boroughs + London Councils	260 individual borough attendees
Secretariat to Borough Grants Officer Forum	3 Borough Grants Officers Forum Meetings		
Meetings – Bespoke support for London Councils and borough members*	4 Hounslow Funder Forums 4 Tower Hamlets Funder Forums 3 Southwark Funder Forums 3 Newham Funder Forums 3 Camden Funder Forums 2 Bexley & Greenwich Funder Forums 2 Hackney Funder Forums	10 boroughs & London Councils	31 borough attendees

	1 Lambeth Funder Forum 1 Lewisham Funder Forum 1 Tri-Borough Funder Forum (Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney)		
Email briefings	55 newsletters 3 London's Giving newsletters to promote the benefits of borough-based giving	All London boroughs & London Councils	600+
Publications	Meeting notes, research pieces, policy submissions and blogs	All London boroughs & London Councils	600+

London Funders – key links to the boroughs

Borough involvement in London Funders:

- 32 Boroughs participated in one or more of London Funders' Networks, Funder Forums or Roundtables during the year;
- 260 individuals from local authorities participated in one or more London Funders Networks, Funder Forums or Roundtables during the year;
- Over 600 borough Members and Officers receive our weekly email;
- A co-opted Officer from London Councils and Officers from four boroughs (Hounslow (until December 2022), Islington (until mid 2022), Waltham Forest (previously Redbridge) and Southwark) were members of the Board of London Funders during the year
- Speakers at events from Steven Francis (Hackney) speaking on advice systems, Yolande Burgess (London Councils) speaking at our Cost of Living week on how we can collaborate to support London's communities with the boroughs, to Cllr David Leaf (Bexley) and Cllr Juliet Campbell (Lewisham) speaking about leadership and community power

And London Funders' involvement with boroughs:

- From the start of the pandemic and through recovery we have sat on several London wide boards with representatives from London Councils and boroughs, including: the London Recovery Board and mission groups, Borough Food Groups, Funders Community and Voluntary Sector Group, London's Communities Strategy Group Meetings, Homelessness and DA Cross Priority meetings;
- Borough and location-specific recovery conversations;
- Key stakeholder in the Violence Reduction Unit Partnership Board.

NB A borough by borough list of engagement is attached as an appendix.

Purpose of the Grant

The London Councils grant provides Borough members and staff with access to the following activities and services.

Annual programme of events for all local authority members and officers

We have convened, hosted and delivered 118 events in 2022-23.

Our events provide a space for members to be briefed on significant issues facing the capital, and to contribute to long-term thinking on the sustainability of civil society in London. Meetings in 2022-23 have covered:

Increasing cross-sector working to better resource the sector

- 4 London Funders board meetings to look at the strategic development of funding in London
- 40+ events as part of our Festival of Learning, to learn as a cross sector movement of funders focusing on Equity, Community, Place, Process and Collaboration
- 10+ events as part of our Cost of Living week bringing in cross sector funder responses to the crisis to better support grantees
- 3 Due diligence roundtables to explore and develop principles for an approach to sharing due diligence
- Leadership event chaired by London Councils with two councillors on the panel (Cllr David Leaf from Bexley and Cllr Juliet Campbell from Lewisham) to highlight the need for councils to be a bridge between communities and other sectors, how working in partnership means that trusted people get messages across, and people can be reached - and how early engagement with civil society can be woven into commissioning
- Multiple meetings and learning events on establishing and launching 'Propel' a long-term £100m collaborative funding programme prioritising organisations led by and for communities facing racial inequity, LGBT+ people, Deaf and Disabled People, Women and girls.

Regular Networks and Forums

- 3 Borough Grants Officers Forums to share intelligence and ideas between boroughs
- 6 London's Giving Development Leads meetings, with representatives from 15 schemes across London looking at strengthening place-based giving in boroughs
- 1 London's Giving Chairs breakfast, with representatives from 11 schemes across London looking at the governance of place-based giving in boroughs
- 10 Local funder forums, with 24 meetings. Holding the first 'tri-borough' meeting of Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Specialist services to meet the needs of London's diverse communities

- 10+ events as part of our Cost of Living week with from insights from charities, using data to identify the needs and becoming a Living Wage Funder
- 8 insight meetings on topics including what funders can do about the housing crisis, the climate crisis and the future use of dormant assets
- Focus on Equity at the Festival of Learning covering topics from power dynamics in sector research, making philanthropy transparent and inclusive, working with communities to shape funding practice, and the DEI data standard.

Ensuring London is a resilient city

- Roundtable on Community resilience looking at new initiatives to build the capacity and systems that prepare London's communities to be ready to face emergencies
- Member meeting exploring lessons on creating a resilient civil society
- Participation in workshops on the development of longer-term community resilience infrastructure for London, supported by funders alongside public bodies and the voluntary/community sector

Reports, research and publications

We have published:

- 50+ 'Funder Fives' – our weekly email to members filled with policy updates, intelligence and data analysis to help inform their funding decisions
- 52 meeting reports, submissions, research pieces and blogs including:
- The cost of living crisis: how are funders responding?
- A year of giving: what we've learned from working with London's network of place based giving schemes
- Mapping manifestos: what are the priorities for London?
- Looking beyond London: UK and international perspectives on place based funding
- Reflecting on our Festival of Learning - a booklet bringing together all the learning from a two-week virtual festival with members
- 3 Learning blogs on our quarterly learning questions what it means for funders to share power, with contributions from Baobab Foundation and Funders for Race Equality Alliance
- 8 blogs published during our Cost of Living Week from 'supporting women' to 'the road out'
- 4 blogs on next steps for funder collaboration as Propel was being established
- 1 learning blog on improving access for Disabled people from our member Youth Music
- 4 learning blogs capturing key lessons from the London Funders team and our members on everything from building capacity to funding for Disabled people in London.

All these publications can be found on our website at www.londonfunders.org.uk

Secretariat to the Borough Grants Officers Forum

We provide the secretariat to the group that brings together the officers from all boroughs and London Councils which has met three times during the year. These meetings are open to all 33 of London's local authorities and regularly attract over half of London boroughs, with a spread of representatives from both inner and outer London. In addition to servicing the actual meetings, preparing the agenda and papers, London Funders also maintains the database of Borough Grants Officers, and works between meetings in supporting boroughs with information, sharing innovation, good practice and connecting borough officers with colleagues in different authorities who are working on similar issues and challenges.

Following the pandemic we have kept these meetings virtual, which has added flexibility and allowed more borough members to attend. As well as providing a space for boroughs to discuss how they are engaging with the local voluntary sector, these meetings provide staff with the

opportunity to share resources, wider strategic thinking and to identify opportunities for collaboration.

We know that boroughs are data-driven, and how important it is that decision making in local authorities is evidence-based. To support our local authorities to know 'what' and 'where' our members from across all sectors fund, we publish an annual member audit. This was [published](#) in early 2022 and showed that collaboration, increased transparency and supporting communities were high on funders agenda.

Key outputs in 2022-23

Emergency Planning and Preparedness

We have been involved since the beginning of the pandemic in the resilience, response and recovery structures put in place to support cross-sector working across London. This has included through the Strategic Coordinating Group, the Civil Society workstream, and the London Recovery Board (now the London Partnership Board). We have been able to share data and analysis of needs emerging in communities in real time through these networks, and also gather intelligence about the public sector response so that the funding sector across London can best target resources to maximise impact. On a practical level this enabled urgent funding to support food projects at the start of the pandemic, and has enabled more recent funding to be linked to the ambitions of the recovery missions set by the GLA and London Councils, so that civil society is actively engaged alongside other sectors in both emergency response and recovery work.

Over the year we supported the development work of the new London Communities Emergencies Partnership, sharing learning from the pandemic (and previous crisis) responses, and supporting London Plus with the development of the network, ensuring that funders are able to share and access intelligence about urgent needs in London, as well as support the planning and preparedness structures. In the last year this included further work on bringing funders together with community groups responding to crises impacting on Londoners, from refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine, to the impact of extreme weather. We continue to play an active role, alongside London Councils and partners, in the key resilience and response structures for London.

Alongside our core work, we remain the holding organisation for the London Emergencies Trust (which distributes charitable funding to people affected by terrorist or major incidents in London), and over the year have contributed to the Home Office and Mayor of London reviews on preparedness and the role of civil society alongside public bodies in responding to incidents and enabling effective recovery.

London's Giving

London's Giving is a project of London Funders, inspired by the work of Islington Giving and funded by the City Bridge Trust, established in 2014 to provide practical support to borough-based place based giving schemes ("PBGs"). There are now 15 active borough schemes in London, and several in development. This year's data collection showed that since 2017:

- £29.5 has been raised in income by Giving schemes who shared their data
- £21.6m has been distributed in grants

- A further £1.1m has been raised in in-kind giving and volunteer hours

In 2022/23, schemes collectively raised £8.3m in income and distributed over £5m to nearly 900 local groups in their communities.

Place based giving is more than grant making: it is also about leveraging the many other assets within a local place and working collaboratively on the best way to use these. It is about being a platform for local voice and working inclusively to find solutions for local issues. This might be through brokering volunteering between local businesses and grass roots groups; providing capacity building support to local charities; or bringing stakeholders together to improve local knowledge about what communities need. We are seeing a shift within the PBGS movement towards more participatory ways of working, with organisations involving local residents in deciding how money should be spent, as well as in the design of funding and wider strategic programmes. Barking and Dagenham Giving and Camden Giving are two examples of schemes working in this way.

We believe we've helped to strengthen the profile of place based giving with our wider membership (and beyond) e.g. conferences, Festival of learning, and targeted meeting with other funders/organisations who are interested in place, such as the National Lottery Community Fund, Local Motion, and the Charities Aid Foundation. This has led to further opportunities to talk about PBG to a wider audience.

Building the links with Heart of the City has led to improved contact with the business sector which we are now building on to create a shared resource for schemes to utilise through the next 12 months. We also involved representatives to join an advisory group on Place which explored place in relation to London's context and oversaw a new publication sharing international approaches to place based funding. This is part of efforts to integrate PBG into wider thinking on place within the sector.

Much of our work is behind the scenes with schemes on issues such as governance and strategic planning. We think this work is essential in making schemes more robust and we're pleased that schemes continue to find this useful: 'We can't thank you enough ... it was exactly the kind of support we required. [Your team member] is so knowledgeable and adapted her knowledge to our setting. Her feedback around developing business and how we are currently going about it was invaluable. This has already been put to the test'. We also believe our work in cold spots and supporting schemes to create the right conditions (e.g. partnership development and set up phase) contributed to several boroughs securing funding from City Bridge Trust. This will see the network grow again with new schemes launching in Greenwich, Waltham Forest (and a renewed scheme for Richmond).

Representatives from London's local authorities continue to be strong advocates for place based giving, and in many boroughs the relationships between the PBGS and councils have become stronger. We are linking the work of London's Giving across to our other work with local funders via our borough Funder Forums. We've also focussed on developing and sharing learning about the strategic partnerships formed between PBGS and councils as part of our learning programme

Supporting Infrastructure

London Funders has taken an active role in supporting London's civil society infrastructure building on The Way Ahead project we initiated – a cross sector collaboration on civil society support which proposed a system that puts London's communities at the heart of the way we all work.

One of the key legacies from the Way Ahead project, [the Cornerstone Fund](#) is a pooled and aligned fund led by City Bridge Trust with National Lottery Community Fund, Trust for London, John Lyon's Charity and the GLA. London Councils and London Funders support the collaboration on decision making as advisors, and participate in a learning partnership delivered by Collaborate. Following a successful first round of grants, a second round of Cornerstone funding was co-designed through a series of workshops with funders and grantees, and launched in February 2021. The focus is on supporting civil society infrastructure organisations to lead collaborations working on systemic change initiatives, with an additional priority in Round 2 for collaborations that are led by those with lived experience. Twelve collaborations were awarded a three-year grant. An interim learning report identifies a range of approaches that partnerships are taking to effect systemic change that addresses systemic inequalities. The learning also recognises the challenge for partnerships of maintaining a focus on long term change when there are short term crises requiring urgent attention, not least those linked to the pressures on local authority budgets.

Over the past two years, we have worked with London's civil society infrastructure in a variety of different ways to support Londoners. Following on from our partnership with equity-led infrastructure organisations on the London Community Response (Ubele, LGBT+ Consortium, Inclusion London, Womens' Resource Centre), we have continued to engage with these partners, and our members during 2022-23 to turn reflections on the learning generated by the LCR, into launching Propel, a £100m collaborative funder initiative which has equity at the centre. We have continued working with the above equity-led infrastructure organisations through Propel, alongside our new equity partner Hear Network, to bring knowledge and insight of the intersection of London's diverse communities.

Propel officially launched in October 2022 with two programmes of grants available – 'Explore' and 'Deliver and Develop' – with the first grants being made in April 2023. Propel is about collaboration – recognising that the challenges we face are too big for any funder, charity or community to tackle alone. Our shared ambition is to build long-term collaborations that draw on the strengths and assets of us all so that, together, we can tackle the issues facing London.

Over the next ten years, Propel will provide flexibility and capacity to organisations led by and for groups experiencing structural inequality so that they can explore, develop and lead collaborative ways of tackling some of London's biggest challenges. This includes providing support for young people, women and girls, LGBT+ communities, Deaf and Disabled people, and communities experiencing racial inequity.

Moreover, we have been encouraging collaborations between infrastructure organisations and place-based funders through our local funder forums, following the work last year with the Greater London Authority and others to develop a Civic Strength Index, which we are engaged in thinking about its continued development. We were also part of the 'Engagement Collaborative' (which includes many local authorities) that considers how to mainstream the engagement of Londoners in policy development.

Other Cross-Sector Initiatives

Alongside our core work, we aim to respond effectively to meet the needs of London's funders from all sectors, and London's civil society. Over the last year this has included work on:

- **Cost of Living** – Recognising the ongoing crisis we surveyed and interviewed our members to learn and share what they are planning and doing to help London's communities. We shared this work out through a series of events, blogs, meeting updates, and newsletters. This has enabled funders to identify opportunities to work together (for example channeling additional funding for local groups through the London Community Foundation), to learn from each other (for example on setting inflationary uplifts), and to plan ahead for future years of their grants programmes.
- **Violence affecting young people** - London Funders has continued to sit on the steering group of the London Violence Reduction Unit, and has worked with members to encourage taking up the recommendations of 'To Begin at the Beginning' and work collaboratively through a public health approach to reducing violence.
- **Homelessness** – following the stark rise in London's homelessness, we brought funders together to share intelligence, funding practices and assess appetite for collaborations to further support the homelessness sector, and will be relaunching our member network focusing on housing and homelessness to build on this work in the coming year.

Plans for 2022-23

We will:

- Convene, host and run events, being a combination of Funder Forums and Roundtables in response to the needs and interests of borough representatives
- Re-start our cross-sector member-led forums including on Research & Evaluation, Children & Young People, Advice and Health
- Publish 50+ editions of our e-bulletin, a weekly member-exclusive email and reports from all of our meetings (and a monthly newsletter for the wider sector)
- Continue to convene conversations to take forward the learning about collaboration at scale as Propel's year one grants are made, and to consider how these lessons can be applied to long-term and systemic collaboration
- Take forward the work on equity in funding started during the London Community Response and continued through Propel, seeking to shift funder practice and knowledge across sectors
- Provide the Secretariat to the Borough Grants Officers Forum
- Continue to deliver the London's Giving project working with boroughs
- Work closely with London Councils and the GLA to support the needs of Londoners.

More information

All of London Funders' publications, including data on funding in London, research on needs and solutions, and plans and ideas for the years ahead, can be found at www.londonfunders.org.uk

All Members and officers of London's local authorities can sign up for the weekly email with links to key reports, datasets or ideas we think funders need to be aware of that week by emailing jessica.allso@londonfunders.org.uk

For all the latest blogs, insights and funding news you can also follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter @LondonFunders

Appendix – individual borough representation at events organised by London Funders

Authority	Events	Attendees
City of London Corporation	10	11
City of Westminster	1	1
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham	10	11
London Borough of Barnet	11	10
London Borough of Bexley	3	5
London Borough of Brent	2	2
London Borough of Bromley	1	1
London Borough of Camden	13	24
London Borough of Croydon	1	1
London Borough of Ealing	2	2
London Borough of Enfield	1	1
London Borough of Hackney	16	19
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	2	2
London Borough of Haringey	2	3
London Borough of Harrow Council	1	1
London Borough of Havering	2	3
London Borough of Hounslow	14	21
London Borough of Islington	2	2
London Borough of Lambeth	2	2
London Borough of Lewisham	10	10
London Borough of Merton	3	3
London Borough of Newham	7	9
London Borough of Redbridge	6	6
London Borough of Southwark	21	29
London Borough of Sutton	3	3
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	8	8
London Borough of Waltham Forest	7	7
London Boroughs of Richmond and Wandsworth*	1	2
Royal Borough of Greenwich	5	9
Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea	5	6

*The London Borough of Wandsworth shares grantmaking staff with the London Borough of Richmond

London Councils

Grants Programme 2022 to 2026

Performance of Commissions

April 2022 – March 2023

(Includes contact details for each project)

Priority 1 – Combatting Homelessness

Shelter	
Project name:	STAR Partnership
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention
Amount (1 year):	£923,512
Delivery partners: Praxis, Stonewall Housing, Thames Reach	
<p>Shelter is leading the specialist STAR (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Resettlement) Partnership. Our aim is to prevent Londoners from becoming homeless, addressing underlying issues and barriers that put target groups at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>The STAR Partnership will deliver the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referral into the service through multiple points of access, enabling pan-London reach. - London-wide targeted engagement and promotion, which is relevant and accessible to priority groups in all 33 boroughs. - Support to directly access accommodation, including crisis accommodation, social housing and the private rented sector. - Intensive support, including skills training, money management and practical help to enable families and individuals to maintain tenancies. - Personal resilience and independence planning to secure a long-term and healthy - Specialist provision for key target groups who face additional barriers to accessing housing, such as those with NRPF status, LGBTQ+ and minority ethnic communities. <p>Our intended impact is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent homelessness; through immediate housing advice, support to access crisis accommodation, advice, advocacy and casework to prevent eviction. - Help people find the right accommodation for them; through accommodation searches, accessing funds and tenancy brokerage, advice and advocacy to resolve any issues with accommodation and resettlement support. - Help people to maintain accommodation long-term; building financial resilience and providing advice and guidance to identify and resolve any issues arising in tenancy. - Address underlying issues that increase personal resilience and contribute to homelessness; through immigration advice and casework for people with NRPF, support to access the right local services to improve mental and physical health and improve confidence and ability to self-help. <p>Shelter provides specialist housing advice and casework and resilience support for people who are facing additional barriers, e.g. mental health issues, disabilities.</p> <p>Thames Reach offers personalised, intensive face-to-face support particularly those with high complex needs and a gender-specific service to women who face multiple exclusions.</p> <p>Stonewall Housing provides tailored, specialist housing advice and support for LGBTQ+ people.</p> <p>Praxis provides specialist, accredited immigration advice and casework for people who have NRPF and/or insecure immigration status and are at risk of homelessness.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Karen Davey karen_davey@shelter.org.uk (London Hub Manager)</p> <p>Stanley Harvey (Service Manager) stanley_harvey@shelter.org.uk</p>	<p>https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/local_services/london</p> <p>STAR Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT4Q-Z9yKnM&list=PLrybnVaUKJhDptYtJlckblfN77mXMyIQT&index=1</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	4048	3526
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	313	341
Number of people assisted to prevent eviction.	373	279
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	385	442
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for six months	249	227
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months	157	114
Number of people with landlord/property issues resolved (for example, disrepair, required adaptations) and/or able to maintain or supported to obtain alternative tenancy	639	633
Number of people with improved mental health	490	443
Number of people with improved physical health	244	181
Number of people with improved life skills	112	211
Number of people referred to employment support	154	92
People able to access immigration advice that will impact on their ability to access suitable accommodation	122	116
People supported through immigration casework to achieve recognised status that supports right to rent within the UK	88	50
People receiving immigration advice and casework are able to access complementary specialist advice and support from the partnership	100	53
<p>Eviction prevention and sustained tenancies: Although there remains continued underdelivery for eviction prevention, the shortfall has reduced in quarter four; this will continue to be addressed by securing more referrals where clients are at risk of homelessness. Solicitor referrals for possession hearings will also be held open for longer, to record outcome decisions. Telephone surveys will continue to be used to capture sustainment outcomes. Project partners will also given higher outcome targets to address under delivery in year one.</p> <p>Immigration: Praxis will provide increased casework services, up to the point of receiving immigration decisions, rather than focus work on one off advice, to improve immigration outcomes, and redress under delivery.</p> <p>Employment support: Although there was 41 per cent over delivery on employment referrals this quarter, there remains some under delivery on this outcome. There will be increased discussion with clients about employment support options, in an attempt to address cumulative under delivery.</p>		

St Mungo's	
Project name:	HARP Connect
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention
Amount (1 year):	£298,930
Delivery partners: N/A	
<p>HARP Connect supports prison leavers at all stages of their journey through the criminal justice system. Starting in prison to the day of release and in the community, we provide expert housing advice and trauma informed targeted interventions to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Project Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify prison leavers aged 25+, who are serving short-term sentences (less than one year), on licence recalls or on remand, and who are at risk of homelessness. - Undertake thorough housing/need and risk assessments and provide comprehensive action plans to address them. - Provide interventions to save existing tenancies at risk. - Support to access temporary and long-term accommodation, including viewings and applications. - Offer of meet at gate on day of release where required. - Support with benefits, bills, furnishings and other essentials. - Work with housing providers, local authorities and private landlords to provide ongoing tenancy support. - Help service users gain personal resilience through referrals to other appropriate community services and wider St Mungo's services (including our specialist mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, financial advice, ETE (Education, Training and Employment) through our Recovery College and Employment team. - Provision of a service user Move on Fund to enhance settled accommodation outcomes among an often financially disadvantaged target group, to be used towards one-off essential accommodation expenses, including rental deposits. - Promote the service through existing relationships with prisons, probation teams, local authority teams and voluntary sector organisations. 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Samantha Cowie, Head of Criminal Justice samantha.cowie@mungos.org 020 7023 7010/ 020 3856 6000 3 Thomas More Square, 5th Floor, Tower Hill London E1W 1YW www.mungos.org</p>	<p>All referrals must be made through a secure email address. Please contact HARP at harpconnect@mungosofs.cjsm.net</p> <p>Website: https://www.mungos.org/our-services/offender-services/</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	1285	1099
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	500	645
Number of people assisted to prevent eviction.	492	265
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	280	394
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for six months ¹	96	71
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months ²	0	0
Number of people with landlord/property issues resolved (for example, disrepair, required adaptations) and/or able to maintain or supported to obtain alternative tenancy	212	165
Number of people with improved mental health	240	187
Number of people with improved physical health	240	183
Number of people with improved life skills	360	264
Number of people referred to employment support	80	58
<p>Improved mental health, physical health and life skills: the project hopes to reduce the under delivery for these outcomes going forward now there is a full complement of project staff.</p> <p>Employment Support: Although the main focus of clients on release from prison is accommodation, the project continues to refer clients to training and employment services, including through the St Mungo Recovery College in an attempt to address under delivery.</p> <p>Eviction Prevention and Landlord/Property Issues Resolved: Changes in the probation system/process and staffing have impacted on the project's ability to engage with prisoners to prevent evictions. From next quarter, the project will have a tenancy sustainment worker who will be dedicated to looking at tenancy sustainment and preventing evictions. Clients will also be advised on how to raise landlord/property issues, as well as advocacy on these issues being provided by project staff.</p> <p>The project has continued to see increased numbers of clients obtaining suitable, stable and settled accommodation.</p>		

¹ Reporting started in Q3

² Reporting to start in Q5

St Mungo's	
Project name:	StreetLink London Advice Line
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.2 Prevention and targeted intervention for rough sleepers
Amount (1 year):	£102,665
Delivery partners: N/A	
<p>The StreetLink London Advice line is a telephone advice service for people who are sleeping rough, or at immediate risk of doing so, in London. The service aims to support people to resolve their homelessness rapidly through advice and advocacy work, and by connecting people with services that can help. This includes referring them into accommodation.</p> <p>The service will reduce rough sleeping by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing advice to service users about routes out of rough sleeping - Providing housing options advice - Supporting reconnection with family and friends - Facilitating access to accommodation - Facilitating access to support services including mental and physical health, domestic and sexual abuse - Facilitating access to specialist advice around debt and finance (incl. benefits), legal and immigration issues 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Stephanie Ratcliffe, Head of Migrant and Advice services stephanie.ratcliffe@mungos.org</p> <p>Marie Stewart, StreetLink London Advice Line Service Manager Marie.stewart@mungos.org</p> <p>3 Thomas More Square, Tower Hill, London E1W 1YW www.mungos.org</p>	<p>streetlinklondon@mungos.org</p> <p>(We do not accept referrals from external agencies/organisations)</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	268	210
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	96	93
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	20	15
People successfully referred to a support service that assists them to obtain accommodation i.e. Crisis, legal support, street outreach	16	19
People successfully connected to health support e.g. hospital homeless discharge team, Groundswell	2	9
People successfully connected to a rough sleeping street outreach team	20	29
People successfully referred to ongoing case work support i.e. Crisis case management, Stonewall	9	25
People successfully referred to benefits and debt support	28	31
People are better able to resolve their homelessness status via connection to the local authority	120	159
People with increased knowledge of the options available to prevent or end their rough sleeping	256	206
People successfully referred to risk of harm support services i.e. IDVA, Victim Support	4	8
People successfully referred to legal support	8	9
People successfully referred to immigration support	4	7
<p>Over delivery: St Mungos opened an immigration pathway called 'Street Legal' which the project can refer into; this resulted in the referral of more clients than profiled. There was more demand for ongoing casework to resolve or prevent homelessness than was initially anticipated. Similarly, more clients than targeted needed to be connected to health support.</p> <p>Under delivery: This was due to the project not having two trained assessment workers in quarter one.</p>		

New Horizon Youth Centre	
Project name:	London Youth Gateway (LYG)
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.3 Prevention and targeted intervention for young people
Amount (1 year):	£938,762
Delivery partners: akt, Depaul UK, Galop, Praxis, Shelter, Stonewall Housing	
<p>The London Youth Gateway (LYG) makes sure that young Londoners facing homelessness are safe and supported while we help them to achieve long-term stability in terms of housing, income, health and migration status.</p> <p>The LYG targets young people more likely to face homelessness but less likely to find the help they need, for whom boroughs do not have a main homelessness duty and/or for whom it is not cost-effective to commission local services.</p> <p>We offer a genuinely pan-London service, supporting young people through brief interventions or long-term support via in-person and remote delivery.</p> <p>Project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Our LYG portal functions as a central point of access that sits at the heart of our delivery. Young people can self-refer via an online referral form and free telephone line and are seamlessly linked to the most appropriate LYG partner or external agency. - Aside from the portal, we run a specialist LGBTQ+ entry point and a dedicated under-25s advice line for young people requiring help with landlord or tenancy problems, enabling us to deliver crucial interventions and support at scale. - Young people receive clear information, advice and advocacy to prevent homelessness, navigate complex systems, and/or access mainstream services - We offer an integrated, youth-specific package to young people needing longer-term support to access or sustain accommodation, especially where boroughs do not have a statutory duty, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Long-term housing advice/casework/advocacy o Comprehensive physical and mental health services o Life skills development and independent living skills o Employability support o Income maximisation and benefits support o Specialist immigration advice <p>Responsive to London's diversity, the LYG tailors its services to young people most vulnerable to homelessness, including young people from minoritised communities, LGBTQ+ young people, young women, neurodiverse young people and those with no recourse to public funds.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Phil Kerry, CEO</p> <p>phil.kerry@nhyouthcentre.org.uk</p> <p>020 7388 5560</p> <p>68 Chalton St, London, NW1 1JR</p> <p>www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk</p>	<p>http://www.londonyouthgateway.org.uk/get-help/</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	3685	3357
Number of people assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short-term accommodation	488	579
Number of people assisted to obtain suitable, stable settled accommodation by accommodation type - PRS, social housing, shared, family or friend accommodation	399	448
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for six months ³	73	34
Number of people assisted to sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months ⁴	0	0
Number of people with landlord/property issues resolved (for example, disrepair, required adaptations) and/or able to maintain or supported to obtain alternative tenancy	111	129
Number of people with improved mental health	492	785
Number of people with improved physical health	240	275
Number of people with improved life skills	408	807
Number of people referred to education and training opportunities	168	149
Number of people referred to employment support	289	227
Young people supported to resolve/better able to manage immigration issues	90	99
<p>Tenancies sustained for six months: There has been some improvement on under delivery for sustaining tenancies. Difficulties in maintaining contact with young people who have secured accommodation has been sited. The project has also highlighted numbers of evictions for young people and the lack of accommodation for young people with unstable immigration status as impacting tenancy sustainment figures. Project partners will be meeting to discuss how these issues can be successfully tackled.</p> <p>Number of people referred to employment support: Under delivery has improved from quarter one, with the upward trend in employment support referrals set to continue. This will be assisted by further recruitment into the New Horizon Youth work team.</p> <p>Life skills improvements have been driven by an increased level of independent living activities at New Horizon Youth Centre.</p>		

³ Reporting started in Q3

⁴ Reporting to start in Q5

Homeless Link	
Project name:	PLUS Project
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals)
Amount (1 year):	£170,871
Delivery partners: Shelter	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PLUS Project aims to strengthen the sector through enhanced collaboration, particularly through improved two-way relationships between LAs and local VCSs, bring related sectors (e.g., health, social care, housing) together to better understand, define and identify their role in preventing homelessness, support providers and commissioners to be responsive to changing patterns of need, policy, legislation and equalities issues and providers to recognise differing needs. To build capacity of providers to be more sustainable, improve pathways between statutory and VCS and improve sector staff wellbeing and resilience, to avoid burn-out and retain expertise in the sector. <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-depth support to boroughs delivered through a consistent learning pathway model. This will including an initial systematic review and analysis of the LA and local VCS sector to identify current processes, practice, collaborations and gaps, informing an evidence-based bespoke development plan of support and training - Rapid review and assessment of organisations, to obtain baseline data on support needs, to guide programme and assess progress towards programme aims - Linking boroughs with similar needs and challenges to facilitate shared learning, peer network development, peer support, and economies of scale - Providing specialist advice, support, training and information, at the pan-London, sub-regional and local level to meet the range of needs - Supporting and improving working relationships between the VCS, boroughs and landlords through targeted and tailored activities - Improving collaboration and communication between the homelessness, employment, domestic/sexual violence, substance use, and health sectors through relationship brokerage, bespoke support and peer networks - Provision of policy, law and research information - Responsive special initiatives responding to changing needs for the duration of the grant - Targeted wellbeing and resilience support through collaboration events and bespoke training. 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Chris Dutton - London Strategic Lead chris.dutton@homelesslink.org.uk London.Plus@homelesslink.org.uk 07958 135 840 Homeless Link, 2-5 Minories, London EC3N 1BJ</p>	<p>Contact London.Plus@homelesslink.org.uk or call Chris Dutton on 07958 135 840 to discuss any specific queries and sign-up to contact list for all training and events. In depth borough support will be dependent on an Expression of Interest process and advertised to all boroughs via key contacts.</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	156	221
Organisations with increased knowledge of housing and homelessness legislation, specifically the Homeless Reduction Act 2017 and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	99	57
Number of organisations with increased knowledge of policy and best practice in service delivery	86	87
Number of organisations with improved working relationships with local authority statutory services.	40	36
Number of voluntary sector organisations able to demonstrate increased working relationships (with landlords, housing professionals, other local services)	67	40
Number of landlords/housing professionals with increased knowledge of housing and equalities law	30	115
Number of landlords/housing professionals with increased knowledge of housing and homelessness legislation, policy and best practice in client support	75	145
Number of organisations with an increased understanding of funding opportunities and application procedures	125	62
Number of organisations with improved ability to evidence and demonstrate the impact of their services	25	52
Number of organisations with improved ability to develop partnerships/collaborations to improve services.	46	42
By the end of year 1, VSC and community organisations report improved mental health, wellbeing, and greater resilience	60	63
Local Authority / organisations offer improved homelessness and housing advice services following a systemic review	3	0
<p>Under delivery: There have been lower than expected improvements in knowledge of housing legislation, working relationships with landlords, relationships with local authority statutory services; and understanding of funding opportunities/applications, and local authorities/organisations offering improved housing/homelessness advice, following systematic review. Under delivery will be tackled with increased provision of webinars and training, including that on funding opportunities. The Systems Practice Lead will also be targeting boroughs for specific work.</p> <p>Over delivery: Outcomes for increasing knowledge of equalities law/housing policy and improving organisation's ability to demonstrate service impact have been over delivered. This due to the delivery of an increased number of webinars/training.</p>		

Priority 2 – Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	
Project name:	Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR)
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.1 Prevention (children and young people)
Amount (1 year):	£240,638
Delivery partners: FORWARD, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Women and Girls Network	
<p>The 'Healthy London, Healthy Relationships' (HLHR) project aims to prevent VAWG against/amongst Children and Young People (CYP), empower both professionals and young people to develop sustainable organisational structures and cultures that embed the importance of healthy relationships and tackle attitudes and beliefs that cause VAWG. This will be done through a system wide, multi-agency approach that focuses on safeguarding, capacity building and learning.</p> <p>This project will consist of a hybrid online/face-to-face offer focused on a holistic, whole schools approach, aims to allow flexibility in delivery to increase its potential reach (and allow scalability) and focus the intensive, bespoke support to children and areas with the most need. Included are materials and tools allowing for its use in non-school settings such as community and faith groups. Our tiered model consists of four key activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development and maintenance of accessible London specific HLHR Hub based on existing "Ask AVA" resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive prevention toolkit including age-appropriate resources for school settings (5-18) Co-produced resources and tools with experts by experience Lesson plans, activities for a comprehensive RSE (in-line with Gov guidelines) Localised referral pathways, signposting for support for children who disclose. 2. Training and learning for schools/youth organisations including interactive training, specialised e-learning, networking/troubleshooting. 3. Bespoke support for schools which will be assigned through a triaged system according to need based on the key priorities and vulnerabilities. Applications will be allocated to partner organisations based on specialism, capacity and community connections. 4. Outreach work for all the above including whole school approach Champions to promote the work through borough pathways and networks; and foster new partnerships such as with the National Education Union, other trade unions, wider community leaders 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Michaela Queensborough, Children and Young People Programme Manager</p> <p>michaela.queensborough@avaproject.org.uk</p> <p>07563 114779</p> <p>The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR</p>	<p>Referrals for the programme can be made centrally via our website or email address below</p> <p>Website: https://avaproject.org.uk/hlhr/</p> <p>Email: HLHR@avaproject.org.uk</p> <p>Information on the services our partners provide can be accessed here</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	2310	4849
Number of people who can identify the components of healthy relationships	840	2160
Number of people who can identify at least one warning sign of domestic or sexual abuse	840	2138
Number of people enabled to make positive choices for themselves	840	904
Number of people who know where to get support	840	1879
Number of people who communicate with their peers in a way that reflects a change in knowledge and attitudes about healthy relationships	430	583
Number of professionals reporting increased confidence in addressing issues with children and young people	2190	547
Number of professionals reporting increased knowledge, awareness and commitment to ensuring the work is embedded	1095	659
Number of schools with the learning incorporated into policies and procedures.	8	0
<p>Working with Schools and Professionals: Officers have met extensively with the lead organisation, AVA to ensure that work is being undertaken to address shortfalls. AVA will be submitting to London Councils detailed outreach strategies, delivery plans and communication strategies to work to build engagement with professionals on the key outcomes. The HLHR Project will also be commissioning a teacher with VAWG expertise to develop more guidance on how to get buy-in from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) within schools. More school focused resources which will 'dovetail' with the curriculum, will also be produced.</p> <p>There is historical over delivery on outcomes for people identifying the components of healthy relationships, identifying at least one warning sign of domestic or sexual abuse and knowing where to get support is underpinned by the levels of workshops and training delivered to children and young people. (see Section 7 in Main report Item 11 for performance management information on this project)</p>		

Women and Girls Network	
Project name:	Ascent Advice and Counselling Project
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)
Amount (1 year):	£1,368,470
Delivery partners: Ashiana Network, Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), Chinese Information and Advice Centre, EACH, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Nia, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, Rights of Women, Solace Women's Aid, Southall Black Sisters, Women's Trust	
<p>The Ascent Advice and Counselling project aims to provide pan-London wrap-around support services for self-identified women, girls and non-binary people surviving the continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through individually tailored advice, information, casework and therapeutic services. The overall aim of the project is to enhance survivors internal and external resources, enabling them to better cope and heal from their experiences of violence & abuse, and move to independence.</p> <p>Our activities •</p> <p>At the heart of our pan-London partnership project will be two holistic advice hubs offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emotional support - information/advice & immediate advocacy support - needs & risk assessments - safety planning - seamless access to ongoing support services. <p>These will be surrounded by the spokes of specialist services to complement the hubs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeted 1-1 casework services for, Black and Global Majority women /young women and girls/ women who are sexually exploited and/or faced multiple disadvantages). - A specialist focus on providing housing support/access to safe accommodation, including emergency accommodation funding for single women with NRPF. - 1:1 BACP accredited counselling delivered across London and in over 20 languages. - London legal advice line- providing specialist family law and immigration legal advice - Survivor group work⁵ to promote recovery and increase understanding of abuse - Training and awareness raising to up skill professionals and staff 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Gurpreet Virdee, Director of Operations and Development gurpreet@wgn.org.uk</p> <p>CAN Mezzanine, 7-14 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR</p> <p>Website: www.wgn.org.uk and https://www.thelondonvawgconsortium.org.uk</p>	<p>East London (Solace Women's Aid): 0808 802 5565; advice@solacewomensaid.org</p> <p>West London (Women and Girls Network): 0808 801 0660; advice@wgn.org.uk</p> <p>London Legal Advice (Rights of Women): 0207 608 1137</p>

⁵ Delivery in year one only. WGN will signpost to alternative provision where available from year two onwards.

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	5969	6279
Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety	3486	3213
Number of people with a safety plan	2715	2867
Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.	3498	3078
Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence	1563	1972
Number of tenancies secured	687	555
Number of tenancies sustained for six months ⁶	60	32
Number of people accessing health services	170	592
Number of people accessing employment support.	47	90
Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	344	516
<p>Tenancies Secured/Sustained: Attainment of this outcome has been compounded by the scarcity of housing provision at local borough level. Work is concentrated on assisting survivors to access accommodation, with project support ending when housing has been obtained. Officers will reiterate the need for project staff to develop ways of maintaining the engagement needed to confirm tenancy sustainment outcomes with clients.</p> <p>People experiencing greater feelings of safety/Sustaining new lives: Project staff will be working with 'high risk' clients for extended periods to meet outcome shortfalls for people sustaining new lives. More staff will also be recruited at the East Hub to support a larger number of clients to experience greater feelings of safety.</p> <p>Over delivery remains driven by high levels of IDVA/ISVA referrals. The increased need for employment support, is due to the cost of living impact, with project partners NIA and the Women's Trust developing employment, education and training work to address this need. There is also a continuous rise in the number of survivors who are dealing with severe mental health issues and have expressed suicidal thoughts, requiring extensive support and advocacy regarding their mental well-being.</p>		

⁶ Reporting started in Q3

Galop	
Project name:	The LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP)
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)
Amount (1 year):	£158,753
Delivery partners: Stonewall Housing, London Friend	
<p>The London LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) is specialist service for LGBT+ survivors of domestic abuse. It is open to any LGBT person experiencing domestic violence living or working in London. This is a service run by, and for, LGBT+ people.</p> <p>The DAP provides services to survivors of domestic abuse, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpline: email, phone and live chat support to all LGBT+ survivors, giving information and support 5 days a week, including signposting to ongoing specialist services and contributing to the overall national helpline service, supporting survivors in London. • Advice and safety planning • Housing advice, including options on finding safe accommodation • Emotional support • Free one-to-one Counselling • Support and assistance with dealing with the police • Help reporting incidents and finding solicitors • Legal advice on civil or criminal protection (e.g., non-molestation orders) • Support through civil and criminal court system • Advice on child safety and child contact issues • Specific support around sexual abuse • Interpreter service available to those who do not have English as a first language • Awareness raising sessions/ consultancy services to multi agency staff at borough level to increase understanding of LGBT+ people's experiences of domestic abuse and the work of the partnership. <p>The partnership is made up of three LGBT+ voluntary organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galop specialising in supporting LGBT+ victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, hate crime, and other forms of abuse including honour-based abuse, forced marriage, and so-called "conversion therapies". • Stonewall Housing providing safe accommodation, housing advice, mental health advocacy and support for people fleeing domestic abuse. • London Friend offers counselling and support around issues such as same-sex relationships, sexual and gender identity and promotes personal growth and self-confidence. <p>More information is available on the partnership website: www.lgbtdap.org.uk</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Gavin Stafford – Gavin@galop.org.uk	Survivors and professionals can refer through the online referral form on www.galop.org.uk/make-a-referral/ or by calling the National LGBT DV Helpline 0800 999 5428

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	304	321
Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety	100	107
Number of people with a safety plan	60	64
Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.	100	103
Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence	57	59
Number of tenancies secured	42	41
Number of tenancies sustained for six months	28	37
Number of people accessing health services	20	23
Number of people accessing employment support.	16	13
Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	20	20
LGBT+ victims/survivors of domestic abuse are better able to access additional support from local/specialist support services	60	67
LGBT+ victims/survivors of domestic abuse have improved emotional health/wellbeing	34	38
<p>Number of people accessing employment support: Employment support is not a key outcome of this project however it is offered where it is needed and as such the numbers accessing support will vary. Referral links have been made with appropriate partners.</p> <p>Number of tenancies sustained for six months: There was over delivery in quarter one that has impacted the cumulative delivery. Clients from the previous programme were transferred over if they had not met the six month mark before the close of the last programme.</p>		

SignHealth	
Project name:	Deaf Domestic Abuse Service
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)
Amount (1 year):	£269,304
Delivery partners: n/a	
<p>This service aims to educate, empower, encourage and protect Deaf people from all forms of domestic abuse using their preferred language, British Sign Language (BSL).</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventative education: work with the Deaf community to raise awareness about unhealthy relationships, different types of abuse, consent and to empower Deaf people with tools to keep themselves safe. - Supporting independence: Deaf IDVAs will support Deaf adults and their families to lead a life free from violence by minimising risk, ensuring safety, and developing skills for independence thus reducing the likelihood of clients returning to abusive relationships or resuming old behaviours. The IDVA support for Deaf people is offered either remotely over online video platforms or face to face. - Accessible resources in BSL: video resources in BSL give Deaf people fair access to the same vital information as their hearing peers. Watch videos here: https://signhealth.org.uk/video-category/domestic-abuse/ - Provision of training and resources for mainstream/hearing providers to improve access to services. Also Deaf awareness training to the police and other external agencies. - Work in collaboration with a range of mainstream providers, who signpost Deaf service users to us. - In-person advocacy where necessary (supporting clients to navigate the family courts, criminal justice, and welfare systems). - Referrals to SignHealth's Psychological Therapy service for anxiety, depression and/or trauma. <p>Freedom Programme workshops and facilitation of Deaf-led support groups</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Marie Vickers – Head of Domestic Abuse Services mvickers@signhealth.org.uk</p> <p>SignHealth, CAN Mezzanine Ltd, 7-4 Great Dover Street, London, SE1 4YR (registered address) https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/domestic-abuse/</p>	<p>Deaf people can self-refer through our email da@signhealth.org.uk or our SMS number 07800 003421</p> <p>Professionals can email da@signhealth.org.uk to make a referral</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	56	56
Number of people experiencing greater feelings of safety	53	43
Number of people with a safety plan	53	44
Number of people with continuing support to sustain new lives.	53	41
Number of people who can rebuild their lives and move to independence	53	37
Number of tenancies secured	20	14
Number of tenancies sustained for six months ⁷	9	1
Number of people accessing health services	9	19
Number of people accessing employment support.	9	5
Local authority officers and local IDVAs/ISVAs can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	25	20
Number of Deaf people reporting greater awareness of Domestic Abuse and how to get help	72	355
Number of professionals reporting greater awareness of Deaf Domestic Abuse and where to go for appropriate services	45	402
<p>Greater feelings of safety; sustaining new lives/independence/accessing employment support; securing tenancies: The project has highlighted that there is still a lack of engagement, with some clients not yet experiencing greater feelings of safety, and clients feeling that they cannot yet rebuild their lives and move to independence. Targeted intervention will be undertaken with clients, by project staff and Independent Domestic Advice Advocate's (IDVA's) to work through client support plans, to improve outcome attainment. The Project will also continue to support clients on their journey and signpost them to relevant employment services, if they are in need of this support. The Deaf Domestic Abuse Service will also continue to offer workshops to employment services that support the Deaf community.</p> <p>Number of tenancies sustained for six months: The project has only been able to confirm one tenancy sustainment within a six-month period. Project staff IDVA's will be undertaking further case reviews in subsequent quarters to establish whether tenancies have been sustained.</p> <p>Over delivery on outcomes for greater awareness of Deaf domestic abuse remains a result of the increased provision of awareness raising workshops by the Community Engagement Worker. Increased levels of health service referrals have also resulted from the dual impact of domestic abuse and cost of living crisis on clients' mental wellbeing.</p>		

⁷ Reporting started in Q3

Refuge	
Project name:	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.3 Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)
Amount (1 year):	£290,436
Delivery partners: Women and Girls Network (WGN), Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) and Respect	
<p>This project is a partnership between four specialist providers, the pan-London domestic and sexual violence helpline provides access to confidential, non-judgmental support and advice for anyone in London subjected to domestic or sexual violence, current or historic, including referrals to emergency safe accommodation and support for friends, family and professionals.</p> <p>Support includes: emotional support, risk assessment, safety planning, referrals and information on rights and options, including legal rights, housing rights, child contact rights and pathways into other services; also a refuge referral line for women fleeing domestic abuse, run by Refuge as part of the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (NDAH), with enhanced support for women facing particular barriers to accessing refuge, providing critical insight to London Boroughs.</p> <p>Support can also be accessed via digital channels, including online Live Chat, email support and web content – informed by partner expertise around the ways in which perpetrators track victims' activity online and misuse technology to abuse. To ensure the needs of all Londoners can be met, our helplines include accessible pathways to support: British Sign Language interpretation, Language Line interpreters; Helpline Advisers and volunteers who speak multiple languages; and translated web content.</p> <p>The partnership will raise awareness of its services across the capital, including an online offer for local authorities and targeted communications where there is low borough engagement, facilitated by a project support officer at Refuge. The partnership will bolster London's specialist VAWG sector by sharing expertise with each other, including mutual training sessions and regular meetings to share best practice, identify emerging needs particular 'pain points' for survivors., as well as smooth referral pathways between partner Helplines.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Lucy Snow, Senior Transformation Manager, Refuge</p> <p>Lucy_Snow@refuge.org.uk</p>	<p>The Freephone 24-Hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247 or contact via secure webform, online live chat (weekdays, 3pm – 10pm) or British Sign Language interpretation (weekdays, 10am – 6pm) https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/</p> <p>National Sexual Violence Helpline: 0808 802 9999 (24/7), or access support via live chat here: https://rapecrisis.org.uk/get-help/want-to-talk/</p> <p>Women and Girls Network Sexual Violence Helpline: Freephone: 0808 801 0770 Mon- Fri 10am-12.30pm, 2.30pm-4pm. Late opening on Wednesdays 6pm-9pm. Home Women and Girls Network (wgn.org.uk)</p> <p>Respect Men's Advice Line: Telephone support: 0808 801 0327 (Mon to Fri 10am – 8pm), Email support: Monday to Friday – 9am – 8pm, Webchat support: Wednesdays – 10-11.30am and 2.30-4pm Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men Men's Advice Line UK (mensadvice.org.uk)</p>

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	15742	12806
Number of people referred to a refuge	420	263
Number of people referred to alternatives to refuge e.g. reciprocal arrangements for secure tenancies	200	34
Number of people referred to other general services (welfare, housing, legal rights)	3570	2328
Number of people referred to other specialist services (specialists in supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse, counselling).	3000	5236
Borough professionals report being able to respond to service users' needs	112	248
Borough professionals indicate satisfaction with the service.	112	250
Survivors provided with information to enable self-referral to refuge accommodation	1240	1533
Survivors of domestic and sexual abuse have improved understanding of risk and steps they can take to increase safety, both physical and emotional	4306	4563
Professionals are empowered with information on responding to domestic and sexual abuse, increasing the likelihood of positive interventions with survivors they're concerned about.	1154	1085
Survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and those supporting them experience reduced isolation, increased sense of hope and increased understanding of survivor rights and options	15742	13256
<p>Over delivery: Changes within the partner organisations since the profile was agreed has resulted in over delivery in some areas. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) has significantly over-performed against its original target due to its expansion to a 24-hour service. Refuge developed a range of resources designed to promote continuous improvement including a handbook, a training package and a new safeguarding procedure which places safety planning (and recording it) front and centre for Refuge Helpline Advisors. Women and Girls Network has received more calls from professionals.</p> <p>Under delivery: The National Domestic Abuse Helpline report that underperformance is the result of both internal and external factors. Externally, there are fewer refuge vacancies available with Women's Aid reporting that 229 fewer vacancies were posted than in 2020-21. There have been poorer responses from housing departments due to pressures they are facing and a lack of safe accommodation. Making a referral might take multiple attempts with a refuge that does not answer. Internally, staff annual leave resulted in an average of 75 per cent of shift hours being covered compared to the normal 90 per cent. Refuge asked staff to utilise unused leave stored since lockdown by 31st March. Consideration of data showed that recording of activities was not always accurate; for example, referrals being recorded as signposting. Refuge has developed mechanisms to improve recording of activities/outcomes.</p>		

Women's Aid	
Project name:	London Refuges Data Collection Project
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.3 Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)
Amount (1 year):	£25,000
Delivery partners: N/A	
<p>The London Refuges Data Collection project provides an evidence base on the availability and use of domestic abuse refuge provision in London. It aims to inform stakeholders about these services and support the commissioning of services.</p> <p>The data collection for this project uses Routes to Support (RtS), the UK VAWG service directory which Women's Aid Federation of England run in partnership with our sister federations in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.</p> <p>Data in London on referrals and women's journeys is collected through RtS as part of refuge services routine work. That means that when London-based staff update refuge vacancies on the system they are required to enter additional information about the women using their services.</p> <p>Women's Aid share quarterly data reports with London Councils, MOPAC⁸ and Borough officers including VAWG leads, Commissioners and Community Safety Officers. These stakeholders also have access to an interactive Data Dashboard which is on a password-protected area of the Women's Aid website.</p> <p>Women's Aid present the data at various fora in London and also produce an annual data summary which is shared with all London refuge providers.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Nikki Bradley, Director of Services</p> <p>n.bradley@womensaid.org.uk</p> <p>www.womensaid.org.uk</p>	<p>For queries about the data collected through this project please contact: routestosupport@womensaid.org.uk</p> <p>Services who are interested in joining Routes to Support can find more information here: https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/i-work-with-survivors/routes-to-support/</p>

⁸ Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
New Users	92	94
Borough Professionals (Housing/VAWG/Community Safety) report being better able to respond to service users needs	10	9
Organisations providing VAWG services in London are able to signpost survivors through access to referrals and service information through Routes to Support (number of individual logins)	11000	9187
Organisations providing VAWG services enter data on refuge use to provide pan London profile of service use to inform commissioners and stakeholders	56	119
Borough officers (Housing/VAWG/Community Safety) have increased knowledge of the domestic abuse support provision available across London as a result of the project	10	8
Borough officers (Housing/VAWG/Community Safety) use data from the project to inform policy and practice during second half of the project following promotion in first half of project.	0	0
Boroughs are able to signpost survivors of domestic abuse through access to service information through the UK Gold Book (number of new boroughs with access)	3	7
<p>Organisations providing VAWG services in London are able to signpost survivors through access to referrals and service information through Routes to Support (number of individual logins): The reduced number of logins to Routes to Support, by London based users, has been attributed to the implementation of a feature to allow refuge services to automatically update their service as full for the week if they know they are unlikely to have new vacancies. The new functionality reduces the burden on services.</p> <p>Organisations providing VAWG services enter data on refuge use to provide pan London profile of service use to inform commissioners and stakeholders (number of services contributing data): The number of services entering data on the system is dependent on services available in London, the number entering data is higher than the project's predictions, that were based on previous years.</p> <p>Borough officers (Housing/VAWG/Community Safety) have increased knowledge of the domestic abuse support provision available across London as a result of the project: - The number of feedback forms received from attendees of a Webinar was limited.</p> <p>Boroughs are able to signpost survivors of domestic abuse through access to service information through the UK Gold Book (number of new boroughs with access): More boroughs than expected have taken up the complimentary UK Gold Book offer because of increased promotion.</p>		

Ashiana Network	
Project name:	Specialist Refuge Network
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.4 Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services to meet the needs of specific groups
Amount (1 year):	£840,000 (extended for one year only to 31 March 2023) ⁹
Delivery partners: Ashiana Network, Solace Women's Aid, Nia project, Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	
<p>London Specialist Refuge Network seeks to continue to provide a unique and innovative Pan-London service through specialist refuge accommodation and targeted support to high-risk women/children affected by domestic and sexual violence (DSV) with complex needs. The Network will provide specialist refuge, targeted support and outreach and second stage accommodation. The project works intensively with women to assess/address needs, improve safety/health/wellbeing enabling women to exit violent/abusive relationships/situations.</p> <p>The services comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme of group-work/workshops to enhance health/wellbeing/living-skills/resilience - Resettlement programme to support independence/longer lasting outcomes - Outreach service supporting/enabling women to access alternative refuge accommodation/be supported in independent living - Training/awareness raising workshops for professionals to remove barriers/widen access - Housing advocacy securing/maintaining referral pathways with housing providers to secure alternative accommodation for women at risk and unable to access refuge - 38 specialist 24-hour refuge and second-stage accommodation bed spaces and package of intensive targeted support to enhance safety and remove barriers: - 6 (24-hour) bed spaces: Problematic substance use - 5 (24-hour) bed spaces: Sexually exploited women (including prostitution and trafficking) - 8 (24-hour) bed spaces: Women with mental health/problematic substance use - 7 second-stage bed spaces: Trafficked women - 6 bed spaces: Middle Eastern and North African women fleeing harmful practices - 6 bed spaces: South Asian, Turkish and Iranian women with NRPF experiencing DV/SV and harmful practices <p>Within the existing 38 bed spaces, the project will allocate an additional 3 bed spaces for women with NRPF¹⁰, particularly for trafficked women and 2 bed spaces for women with mobility related disabilities.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Ashiana Network Shaminder Ubhi, Director shaminder@ashiana.org.uk info@ashiana.org.uk 020 8539 0427 www.ashiana.org.uk</p>	<p>Nia Project - 07590 712872 (24 hours); 0207 683 1270 info@niaendingviolence.org.uk The Emma Project: 07590 712872 (24 hours) Solace Advice Line: 0808 802 5565- advice@solacewomensaid.org Amari Project: 07483014434- amari@solacewomensaid.org Refuge Referrals Coordinator: 07483025192 Complex Needs refuge: 07483014436 fhreferrals@solacewomensaid.org IKWRO – 07846 275 246 (Arabic/Kurdish) 24hrs 07846 310 157 (Farsi/Dari/Turkish) 24 Hours 020 7920 6460- info@ikwro.org.uk 07496111963 - Neriman Adiyaman Senior Refuge officer</p>

⁹ Extended for one year only to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act

¹⁰ No recourse to public funds

Outcome	2017-2023 Yr. 6, Q3 ¹¹	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	4770	5616
Numbers not returning to a perpetrator	222	268
Numbers with increased awareness of safety planning	1170	1075
Engagement with in-house and external specialist support and culturally specific provision, (such as drug and alcohol support, support with mental health, support to exit prostitution, harmful practices, immigration and NRPF	930	934
Numbers supported to successfully apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession or refugee status under an asylum application	192	257
Numbers of women that demonstrate reduced harmful substance use	300	232
Number of women involved in prostitution and trafficking reporting increased awareness of options to exit prostitution and with personalised action plans	222	170
Numbers demonstrating an increased understanding of sexual and domestic violence/prostitution/trafficking as a form of violence against women	840	1041
Number of users demonstrating an increased understanding and stabilisation in their mental health	438	439
Number of users with increased understanding of impact of mental health and substance misuse on their children	102	120
Service users moved on in a planned way	174	248
Service users with increased living skills	402	386
Service users with more stabilised immigration status	270	410
No of people prevented (where appropriate) from unnecessary refuge admission through support to alternative housing options that enable them to stay safe. Support provided to service users for whom specific refuge provision does not exist / scarce / do not wish to access (LGBT)	300	282
Number of referral pathways agreed with registered social landlords and other housing providers	36	33
Number of service users gaining/maintaining tenancies	198	210
Number of professionals with increased knowledge of sexual and domestic violence aimed at increasing clients' access to services	2850	2805
Removal of barriers in accessing services for people with the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equalities Act	510	1027
Number of users with disabilities accessing the service	438	514
Under delivery: There was under delivery in outcomes for women involved in prostitution/trafficking and women impacted by harmful substance use. By the end of the funding, 232 women demonstrated reduced harmful substance use. Under delivery was partly due to no women being referred to the Outreach and Inclusion element of the service at NIA, as this post was vacant. Recruitment to the Outreach and Inclusion post also impacted on outcomes for increasing awareness of options to exit prostitution. Project partners will continue to engage with		

¹¹ These performance figures include delivery from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2023

women to provide the necessary advice and support required in order for service users who are involved in prostitution and trafficking to show an increased awareness of the options to exit prostitution in the new London Councils funded Ashiana led, Ascent Specialist Refuge Partnership Project.

Over delivery: Outcomes for stabilising immigration status, planned move-on for service users/removing barriers in accessing services for those with protected characteristics continues to exceed targets. Project staff have assisted high numbers of women to move on from refuge provision, with supported routes back into accommodation in the community. Increased levels of immigration work have also been undertaken with clients with no recourse to public funds. Referral pathways to the Project have also seen barriers to accessing services, including specialist health provision for service users with protected characteristics and vulnerabilities.

Women's Resource Centre	
Project name:	Ascent: Support Services to Organisations
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals)
Amount (1 year):	£189,868
Delivery partners: RESPECT (perpetrators), Imkaan, Rights of Women, Against Violence and Abuse and Women and Girls Network	
<p>The Ascent Support Services to Organisations (SSO) project aims to increase access to support and help for people affected by domestic and sexual abuse, by improving the quality and expertise of frontline domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals in London. The aim will be achieved by the annual provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainability Training - Expert Led Training - Accredited Training - Bespoke Training - Specialist Briefing Sessions - Special Events - One to One Support Sessions - Webinars - Knowledge Hub - Needs Analysis - Case Studies - Fact Sheets, Best practice briefings, - E- newsletters <p>These activities will provide best practice guidance and advice and inform and educate on a variety of topics, including policy and legislation, immigration, violence against women and girls (VAWG), organisational development, funding and fundraising, perpetrator work, trauma-informed work, and evidencing and demonstrating impact.</p> <p>Ascent SSO aims to increase the cross-sector awareness of services available and cross-sector collaborations; increase the resilience and sustainability of frontline voluntary sector organisations, increase the wellbeing of staff of frontline organisations, and increase awareness and knowledge about intersectionality and the diverse needs of service users.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Ms Vivienne Hayes, CEO vivienne@wrc.org.uk 020 7697 3451 Project Lead – Nour Gazarin United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP www.wrc.org.uk	www.imkaan.org.uk www.respect.uk.net www.avaproject.org.uk www.wgn.org.uk www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	252	181
Number of organisations with increased knowledge of legislation, specifically the Domestic Abuse Act 2021	60	75
Number of organisations with increased knowledge of policy and best practice in service delivery	140	119
Number of organisations with improved working relationships with local authority statutory services.	80	76
Number of voluntary sector organisations able to demonstrate increased working relationships (with health professionals, housing professionals, other local services)	60	68
Number of professionals with increased awareness of the signs of domestic and sexual abuse and knowledge of domestic and sexual abuse services available to their clients	120	109
Number of professionals with increased knowledge of domestic and sexual abuse legislation, policy and best practice in clients support.	120	128
Number of organisations with an increased understanding of funding opportunities and application procedures	20	27
Number of organisations with improved ability to evidence and demonstrate the impact of their services	30	49
Number of organisations with improved ability to develop partnerships/collaborations to improve services.	40	52
Organisations with increased ability to improve the wellbeing of staff and volunteers	30	44
Organisations with increased awareness of intersectionality and structural inequality in the context of domestic and sexual abuse	120	76
Organisations with improved ability to meet the diverse and intersectional needs of service users	120	123
<p>Under delivery: Women's Resources Centre (WRC) report a number of reasons for under delivery including that the likelihood of engaging organisations that have not previously benefitted from their services within the current funding cycle decreases as the funding period progresses. Also, that low attendee response rates to outcome monitoring questionnaires for online events impacts performance data. Moreover, monitoring and evaluation forms were not issued for all relevant training impacting achievement of outcomes; this oversight has since been rectified.</p> <p>Over delivery: this is due to a broad spectrum of activities/ training sessions contributed to the achievement of numerous outcomes; rather than the achievement of a target being reliant on the success of a single activity.</p>		

Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	
Project name:	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse
Specification:	2.6 Services for people affected by harmful practices
Amount (1 year):	£304,041
Delivery partners: Ashiana Network, Latin American Women's Rights Service, IKWRO Women's Centre, IMECE Women's Centre, Southall Black Sisters Trust, Women and Girls Network, Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development (FORWARD) and Al-Aman (Division of Richmond Fellowship)	
<p>The Ending Harmful Practices Partnership (EHPP) aims to improve service provision for those affected by sexual and domestic abuse, specifically, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), "so called" honour based abuse (HBV), forced marriage (FM) and other harmful practices¹² through the provision of high quality frontline services as well as support services to voluntary and statutory organisations. The EHPP will provide specialist services including intensive support to Women and Girls from BME communities, as well as raising awareness to increase early identification of those at risk and improve institutional responses.</p> <p>Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1:1 advice and information on rights and entitlements: - casework and advocacy support which will include accompanying women to meetings with police, housing and social services departments and courts - therapeutic support groups and a counselling provision to 50 women - raising awareness of the impact of HBV, FM and FGM within communities and other voluntary and statutory agencies (not only BME communities) through delivering workshops, training and presentations - specific work with young women on FGM through the delivery of workshops to support peer mentoring and youth advocacy. <p>The project aims to improve safety and reduce risks for BME women experiencing harmful practices; and present them with options so that they are in a stronger position physically, mentally and emotionally. The intended impact of the combined activities they participate in, will help them achieve greater social and economic independence, enabling them to integrate into and contribute towards their local communities and wider society.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Sarbjit Ganger, Director sarbjit@awrc.org.uk info@awrc.org.uk 020 8961 6549 http://asianwomenscentre.org.uk/ Twitter: @AWRCofficial Instagram: @AsianWomenResourceCentre	Ascent: 0208 961 6549 0208 961 5701 referrals@awrc.org.uk

¹² Faith Based Abuse, and some of the lesser known harmful practices such as acid attacks, menstrual huts, "corrective" rape, dowry and caste abuse.

Outcome	2022-2023 Q4	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new people	450	560
Number of people who have a better understanding of the options available to them and are more aware of their rights	450	520
Number of people who increased their ability to communicate their needs and views to service providers	36	37
Number of people with enhanced coping strategies through risk assessment and planning	376	395
Number of people who have improved life skills, helping them to rebuild their lives and move to independence	42	49
Number of people with improved mental health	160	160
Number of professionals with improved understanding of harmful practices and the barriers faced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic women in accessing services	73	143
Local authority officers can access additional support to wrap around existing services, or make referrals into the service	26	28
IDVAs/ISVAs, GPs/hospitals and sexual health clinics can make referrals into the service.	30	30
<p>Over delivery: Number of professionals with improved understanding of harmful practices and the barriers faced by Black, Asian and minority ethnic women in accessing services.</p> <p>Over delivery is a result of increasing demand for the specialist services provided by the project. Delivering workshops/training online has enabled the project to reach more professionals, particularly in boroughs where there had previously been low uptake of the Project's services. Improving the understanding of professionals of harmful practices and barriers faced by Black and global majority women has been crucial in strengthening referral pathways to the Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership.</p>		

**London Councils
Grants Programme 2022–26
Borough Reports
April 2022 – March 2023**

Introduction

The London Councils Grants Programme, overseen by the Grants Committee, enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done through commissions at a pan-London level. In April 2022 London Councils launched the new 2022-2026 Grants Programme following co-design of services with boroughs and key stakeholders.

Priorities 1 and 2:

Commissions were awarded to 13 organisations to deliver services to combat homelessness and tackle sexual and domestic violence.

In addition, the Specialist Refugee Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme under service area 2.4¹ was extended by the Grants Committee for a further year to 31 March 2023 to give time to develop longer term arrangements with the boroughs and the GLA, following the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act. Performance for the final year of this project is shown in this report (the performance for the previous five years of this project can be seen in the [July 22 report](#))

Funding for service area 2.4 for 2023-26 has been awarded to Ashiana Network in January 2023 and the service commenced delivery on 1 April 2023 – this will be shown in next year's annual borough report.

Note:

1. The grants programme operates across London as needs dictate, with projects supporting highly vulnerable people. Borough data is gathered through individuals self-declaring their borough of residence; therefore, borough level information should be treated with caution.
2. For further data on outcomes delivered at a borough level please see the [London Councils website](#)

¹ Service area 2.4 - Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups.

Organisations awarded funding under the 2022-26 Pan-London Grants Programme			
Service Area	Lead Organisation	Project Name	Delivery Partners
1.1	Shelter, The National Campaign for Homeless People Ltd	STAR Partnership	Praxis, Stonewall Housing, Thames Reach
1.1	St Mungo Community Housing Association	HARP Connect	N/A
1.2	St Mungo Community Housing Association	Streetlink London Advice Line	N/A
1.3	New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC)	London Youth Gateway (LYG)	Albert Kennedy Trust, Depaul UK, Galop, Praxis, Shelter, Stonewall Housing
1.4	Homeless Link	London PLUS	Shelter
2.1	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR)	FORWARD, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Women and Girls Network
2.2	Galop	LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership	London Friend, Stonewall Housing
2.2	Women and Girls Network	Ascent Advice and Counselling Project	Ashiana Network, Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC), Chinese Information and Advice Centre (CIAC), EACH (counselling and support), IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Jewish Women's Aid, Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Nia, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), Rights of Women (ROW), Solace Women's Aid, Southall Black Sisters, Women's Trust
2.2	SignHealth	Signhealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service	N/A

2.3	Refuge	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines Project	Women and Girls' Network, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC), Respect
2.3	Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)	London Refugees Data Collection Project	N/A
2.4	Ashiana Network	Ascent: Specialist Refugee Network	Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Nia, Solace Women's Aid
2.5	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	Ascent: Support Services to Organisations	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA), Imkaan, Respect, Rights of Women (ROW), Women and Girls Network
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership	Al-Aman (division of Richmond Fellowship), Ashiana Network, FORWARD, IMECE Women's Centre, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO), Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), Southall Black Sisters, Women and Girls Network

Pan-London highlights

This page gives examples of where activity is provided on a pan-London basis and is not specific to one borough. Residents and or professionals from the 32 boroughs and the City of London can access them and would typically be activities such as training, helplines, and steering groups.

Priority	Service areas	Project	Examples of activities undertaken
Priority 1 – Combatting homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	HARP Connect	New referral links made with pan-London housing providers such as Golden Lane Housing and Focused Living
	1.2 Prevention and targeted intervention for rough sleepers	Streetlink London Advice Line	<p>Prioritised referrals from Ukrainian clients and accepted referrals from the National StreetLink service for residents from all London boroughs.</p> <p>Responded to activation of the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). During summer 2022 activation owing to the extremely hot weather, the service referred clients to St Mungo's Turnaround hubs and pan-London hub, when there were concerns about service users' vulnerability in the heat, and Streetlink London was unable to secure accommodation via the Local Authority. When SWEP was activated again due to extreme cold weather, StreetLink London referred the most vulnerable clients to GLA Pan-London SWEP provision when local authority provision was full.</p>
	1.3 Prevention and targeted intervention for young people	London Youth Gateway	<p>The Centre is based in Camden but open to young people aged 18-24 at risk or who are rough sleeping across London</p> <p>Participation in pan-London networks such as Life Off the Streets Young people work group. Hosted pan-London event Tackling Youth Homelessness in London – Together event. Regular liaison with the Housing Association Youth Network, youth justice and serious violence panels and multi-agency meetings</p>
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London	London PLUS	<p>Delivers pan-London training on a variety of topics including homelessness law, casework skills for prevention and advice services, immigration and eligibility for housing.</p> <p>Regular attendance at pan-London fora such as London Housing Needs & Homelessness Group, London Homeless Collective Steering Group, a pan-London collective of VCS organisations who look at fundraising opportunities for the sector, and Homeless Health Leadership Group pan-London monthly meeting.</p> <p>Project's remit included reviewing pan-London strategy and sharing good practice across different regions.</p>

Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (children and young people)	Healthy London, Healthy Relationships	The HLHR Hub is open to all schools in London, and schools can request bespoke work via the hub.
	2.2 Specialist advice, counselling and support (for medium risk survivors (including post-IDVA/ISVA) and target groups not accessing general provision)	Ascent Advice and Counselling Project	<p>Two advice hubs ensure pan-London coverage: London Legal advice line and Survivor groups work.</p> <p>The project delivers webinars and presentations on subjects such as intersectionality, supporting young people who are experiencing VAWG and trauma to professionals across London.</p> <p>Woman's Trust offers back-to-work and confidence classes for survivors across London.</p>
	2.3 Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	London Refuges Data Collection Project	<p>Data on refuge spaces and referrals in London through its Routes to Support database. This information is shared quarterly to borough VAWG Leads, MOPAC, and community safety officers, and in addition, access to an interactive data dashboard.</p> <p>Complimentary Gold Book subscription is offered to each London borough.</p>
		Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project	<p>Helplines provide confidential support and advice for anyone in London.</p> <p>Respect liaised with services across London, increasing awareness of the Helpline.</p> <p>New Information Hub for male survivors, which ensures clients can access critical information outside of Men's Advice Line opening hours.</p> <p>Strong engagement with London universities across the partnership.</p>
	2.4 Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups	Specialist Refuge Network	Bed spaces open to women from any London borough. The training and outreach support is offered across London. Nia also operates a mailing list of professionals to share information about service and refuge vacancies.
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London	Ascent: Support Services to Organisations	<p>Accredited, expert-led and sustainability training delivered across London on topics including Project management, Understanding perpetrators, Domestic Abuse Act 2021 – an overview, and protection for survivors in legal proceedings.</p> <p>E-Newsletters and Fact sheets shared at a pan-London level, e.g., Understanding Multiple Disadvantage.</p>

Barking & Dagenham			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	147	3.18%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	3	1.44%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	75	2.23%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.45%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	1	0.02%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	88	1.43%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	415	3.22%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	11	1.02%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.55%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	20	3.57%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Barking & Dagenham		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	<p>St Mungo's Harp</p> <p>Homeless Link</p> <p>New Horizon Youth Centre</p> <p>Shelter</p> <p>St Mungo's Streetlink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries held at Barking and Dagenham Probation. Started joint meetings with housing officers. Probation practitioners are regularly reminded of the referral criteria and process to the service. • London Plus: Attended London RSI coordinators event where good practice and concerns were shared. Promoted project with RSI coordinator, VCS via newsletter and Pan-London Housing Needs and Homelessness Group. • London Youth Gateway: Provided outreach in local Citizens Advice Bureau and established links with Construction Youth Hub, CYP services, council, and VCS. • STAR Partnership: Established links with borough's rough sleeping officers, including meetings between Thames Reach regarding referring into service. • StreetLink London Advice Line: regular liaison with borough the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team. Worked with Salvation Army and local police e.g. ensuring extremely vulnerable client was provided a room in a safe house.
	<p>Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)</p> <p>Galop</p> <p>Women and Girls Network (WGN)</p> <p>SignHealth</p> <p>Women's Aid</p> <p>Refuge</p> <p>Ashiana Network</p> <p>Women's Resource Centre (WRC)</p> <p>Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training on Domestic Abuse Act and perpetrator work. Partner AVA funded by Trust for London to work in partnership with this and other councils to improve women's pathways out of homelessness following VAWG experiences. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support, T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Training delivered to borough professionals on Harmful practices and Supporting South Asian survivors of sexual violence. Partners liaised with local organisations like Huggett Women Centre to create referral pathways and Shelter to support housing advocacy • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: 1 to 1 advocacy, counselling and emotional support services. Liaised with borough departments such as housing, Safeguarding, children's services, clinical and community leads; also local police and organisations such as Shelter. Delivered Harmful Practices training. • Specialist Refuge Network: Partner Nia delivered various sessions in including Working with Women Experiencing Multiple Disadvantage, and on Domestic Violence via St Luke's CGL, Subwize, Excel Women's Centre, and Infinity Addiction Solutions. Sessions aimed to raise awareness, introduce Nia's services and maximise referrals.

Barnet			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	131	2.83%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	3	1.44%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	52	1.55%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.45%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	1,181	24.36%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	321	5.21%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	442	3.43%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	84	7.76%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	5	2.76%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	15	2.68%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Barnet		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Developed strong relationships with borough and local VCS. Works with probation and housing officers, supporting with clients' move-on plans. Liaised with Single Homeless Project and St Mungo's in custody.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Plus: Borough officers attended pan-London training delivered by the project. Services promoted via local RSI coordinator and VCS through newsletter and at the Pan-London Housing Needs and Homelessness Group.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Shelter provides outreach in Hendon CAB. Established links with CYP services, local VCS and borough officers, sharing information on referral pathways and impact.
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetlink London Advice Line: Liaises with local Thames Reach Rapid Response team and rough sleeping street outreach team.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Partner, AWRC created referral pathways through One Stop Shop and VAWG lead, enabling provision of specialist support for black and global majority women. Partners are establishing a Harmful Practices steering group in the borough.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: 1 to 1 advocacy, counselling and emotional support. South Asian, Turkish and Kurdish and Latin American women were supported. Presence at MARAC, VAWG forums, One Stop Shop and International Women Day event.
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Workshops delivered at Hasmorean Boys & Girls Schools, Jewish Community Secondary School, Shulmates and UJIA (Jewish organisations).
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered training 'Domestic Abuse in the Deaf Community' to the North Rape Crisis Team, covering Barnet and other councils. Contacted local VCS organisations to share service offer.
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Project promoted to borough and local VCS.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered training sessions to local professionals and service users on DA, Multiple Disadvantage, Trauma-Informed Practice, Solace's housing legal surgeries attended by Barnet professionals, who received in depth advice around their service users' support needs and support in up skill their housing and multiple disadvantage knowledge.

Bexley			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	62	1.34%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	9	4.31%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	32	0.95%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	0	0.00%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	2	0.04%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	106	1.72%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	247	1.91%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	22	2.03%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	9	1.61%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Bexley		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries held at Bexley Probation and strong working relationship built with probation service. Liaised with other VCS and services in evidencing clients' need, challenging allocations or statutory decisions where appropriate. • London Youth Gateway: New referral pathway with Bexley Targeted Youth Support. Project promoted through Bexley VCS forum, multiple agencies in the borough; grant officers and housing contacts, quarterly newsletter to boroughs and VCS with information on the service. • STAR Partnership: Shelter restarted the outreach at Bexley Age UK. Links established with Bexley social services about a co-location to support clients and with Rough Sleeping Coordinator, Homelessness Pathway Co-and prevention pathways team within the boroughs housing options services. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Liaises on an ongoing basis with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team. Exploring joint work with Housing and Children Social Services and Rough Sleeping Coordinator.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Presence in local VAWG forum and MARAC steering group, providing expertise on supporting global-majority and marginalised women. Referral pathways created with Bexley's drug and alcohol service, Bexley's magistrate court and probation centre for women in involved in prostitution.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy and casework support. Established links with borough, Bexley Community Safety and Bexleyheath Academy. FORWARD joined local One Stop Shop. Project engaged in restarting BME Families Togetherness programme as a way to engage communities on issues including VAWG and Harmful Practices.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Established links with borough officers and VAWG organisations to discuss training needs. Borough staff attended training provided by the project on Domestic Abuse Act 2021; Staying Mum webinar; What does the Domestic Abuse Act mean in relation to perpetrator work. • Specialist Refuge Network: Ashiana is part of Bexley One Stop Service advising and assisting clients seeking to regularise immigration status. Training delivered to the Bexleyheath safeguarding and IDVA teams on immigration services, including the current laws around DV.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Brent			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	184	3.98%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	9	4.31%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	82	2.44%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	5	2.26%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	38	0.78%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	284	4.61%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	573	4.44%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	7	0.65%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	34	6.07%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Brent		
Priority	Lead Organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Joint work with Brent's SHP HAWK, Probation service, Co-operative housing, AFEO, WDP. Close relationship with prisons teams meant time to assess clients ahead of release and organise settled accommodation for them. • London Youth Gateway: Partners NHYC, Depaul UK and akt working together with Youth Homelessness Task & Finishing Group, led by Crisis in Brent, and formed Brent's Homelessness Forum. NHYC volunteered MEL and research capacity to support the young people's survey as part of the group's workstream. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Works closely with local Thames Reach Rapid Response and rough sleeping street outreach teams.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Promoted training for this borough with officers and local VCS through emails and newsletter. Domestic Abuse Housing Manager attended Specialist Briefing on Domestic Abuse Act 2021. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Nia provides weekly surgery mainly for women in prostitution at Cobbald Road centre. AWRC is Brent VAWG forum chair. Partners working with local organisations including MET police community, One Stop Shop, We Matter project. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy casework support and counselling services. Strong delivery through partners AWRC and FORWARD. Presence at VAWG Forum, Delivery Group and MARAC meeting, E-one stop surgeries. Established link with IAPT NHS, Advance and the Abdul Mageed Educational Trust & Al-Aman. Delivered workshops on Understanding FGM and accessing support. • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR): VAWG and healthy relationships workshop delivered in partnership with Young Roots - a charity that supports young refugees and asylum seekers in London. • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Brent professionals attended workshop run by Galop on conversion therapy, which covered good practice on how to support those affected by these practices that try to change or suppress someone's orientation or gender identity. Presentation at the international women's day. • London Refuges Data Collection Project: The borough renewed their complimentary UK Gold Book subscription. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered workshop to professionals from AWRC working in Brent and other areas. Contacted VAWG lead and local VCS to publicise events.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Bromley			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	102	2.21%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	8	3.83%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	49	1.46%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	0	0.00%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	114	1.85%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	327	2.53%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	11	1.02%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	4	2.21%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	7	1.25%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Bromley		
Priority	Lead Organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Bromley and Orpington probation office. Monthly meetings with Bromley SHP Housing advice worker. Good relationship with probation and housing officers, and with VCS in evidencing clients' need and challenging statutory decisions where appropriate. • London Youth Gateway: Collaborated with council's Social Services and Family Thrives to profile project's offer and increase referrals. Established a referral pathway for council's Children & Young People's Services and provided family mediation services through Depaul UK. Reached out to CYP services, council contacts and VCS. • STAR Partnership: Shelter runs a monthly outreach session at Bromley Citizen's Advice. Met with managers at Bromley Council's housing service to feedback trends and agreed escalation routes for difficult cases. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Shared service at Bromley Homelessness Forum. Collaborated with borough's Housing and Social Service establishing clear escalation routes.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Promoted project with borough and VCS. Borough staff attended trainings on Domestic Abuse Act and on Harmful practices. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Links with VAWG lead, NHS sexual health services, Orpington probation and Adult Social Care. Referral pathways created with IDVA service. Delivered training on Harmful Practices to schools and on Changes to Divorce Law. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Established structured referral pathways with organisations like Refuge and Advance. Collaborated with Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid for engagement. Attended VAWG meetings. • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough set up Gold Book subscription. • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: Offered project introduction to borough. Have raised a request for WGN sexual violence helpline details to be on Bromley Council Website. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Regular workshop sessions with deaf organisation Remark!'s Beckenham Lunch Club including on Healthy Relationships, Coercive Control, and Stalking and Harassment. • Specialist Refuge Network: Project promotion and refuge vacancies shared with borough, professionals and Amber Pregnancy Care.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Camden			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	138	2.98%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	3	1.44%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	147	4.38%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	14	6.33%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	240	4.95%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	233	3.78%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	335	2.60%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii).	56	5.17%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	9	4.97%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	18	3.21%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Camden		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp Homeless Link New Horizon Youth Centre Shelter St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Monthly meetings with Camden SHP Housing advice worker. Presence at HMP Pentonville for referrals. Collaboration with CGL and Better Lives for clients with substance abuse issues. • London Plus: Conducted training sessions for new organisations. Project promoted with housing officers and at pan-London Homelessness Group. • London Youth Gateway: NHYC offers services including housing advice, life skills work, showers, food, clothes, health essentials, and benefit support. Engagement in Camden Youth Offending Service project, Camden and Islington NHS Trust, mental health working group, and Camden rough sleeping partnership meetings. • STAR Partnership: Shelter provides outreach services at Camden Irish Centre. Stonewall Housing holds housing advice drop-ins at London Friend for LGBTQ+ people. Referral pathway created with families4peace. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team in the borough.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) Galop Women and Girls Network (WGN) SignHealth Women's Aid Refuge Ashiana Network Women's Resource Centre (WRC) Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Borough staff attended training on harmful practices. Promoted services with borough and VCS. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Monthly surgeries at West Hampstead women's centre. Links with Homelessness Prevention and Refuge Forums, Great Ormond Street Hospital. Referral pathways with Camden Safety Net, Police, Social Services. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy casework support and counselling service. Links with Camden's Safety Net, sexual health clinics. FGM workshops. Referrals from LAWRS and Al-Aman. • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Project promoted with borough. Conducted sessions at Westminster Kingsway College. • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: Promoted project with borough and at UCL and LSE² through workshops and outreach. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Regular workshops with deaf organisation Remarks Camden Lunch Club. Training to North Rape Crisis and Solace teams, on deaf awareness, DA and others. • Specialist Refuge Network: Varied support services including drug and alcohol service drop ins, counselling, fitness group, foodbank. Training to professionals and service users on DA, Multiple Disadvantage, Housing. Referral pathways with established with wellbeing centres and the Salvation Army

² University College London and London School of Economics

City of London			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	28	0.61%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	0	0.00%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	15	0.45%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	1	0.02%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	16	0.26%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	59	0.46%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	43	3.97%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	2	0.36%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

City of London		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Strong working relationships with Probation Officer and AFEO in the City of London (CoL). Successfully facilitated client's rehousing in long-term housing upon their arrival.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: Delivered training sessions for borough and City YMCA. Promoted project through regular communication with RSI coordinator, newsletter and Housing Needs & Homelessness Group.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Partners attended the City and Hackney homelessness forum, contributing knowledge and networking. AKT supported young people attending a drag brunch with Henry Holland for Pride. Outreach to CYP, VCS, borough housing and grants officers.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Supported clients in the CoL and worked in collaboration with borough to ensure client received support.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: CoL professionals trained in change in divorce law and DA. Referrals received. Partners attended CoL VAWG forum and promoted services. Links made with Police's Serious Organised Crime Team I Specialist Operations.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy casework support and counselling service. Strong link with VAWG lead and forum. Exploring work with businesses to support employees experiencing DA.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Galop presented at CoL VAWG Forum
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Delivered London Refuges Data and Borough Needs Assessment webinar attended by CoL officers.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: Project promoted with CoL officers. WGN liaising with CoL to ensure contact details are included on City's website. Partner to present at VAWG forum.
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Promoted project with CoL leads, VAWG coordinator and VCS including Kurdish Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO). Delivered DA in the Deaf Community virtual workshop to East London NHS Foundation Trust, covering CoL and other boroughs.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Training sessions to professionals on Domestic Abuse, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice and to service users on Domestic Abuse and Housing Awareness (Solace). Established a link with Accenture for a bespoke training session for their staff. Outreach to CoL staff, including VAWG leads and MARAC coordinators, VCS.

Croydon			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combatting Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	147	3.18%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	10	4.78%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	194	5.78%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	5	2.26%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	22	0.45%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	194	3.15%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	717	5.56%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	67	6.19%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	6	3.31%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	14	2.50%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Croydon		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Croydon Probation and use of prison in-cell technology to ensure homeless assessments take place prior to release. Strong link with borough housing team and Shepherd Supported Housing
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: Provided advice on Winter Provision to borough. Delivered training attended by Croydon professionals. Project promoted through newsletters and pan-London Homelessness Group.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Depaul attends weekly community leaders meeting in Croydon. Referral path created with the Cassandra Centre. Presented at Croydon College.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Provided a workshop for service users at Young Roots, a charity for migrants and refugees in the borough. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered workshops attended by borough officers, including Domestic Abuse Act 2021, protection for survivors in legal proceedings, working with male victims.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Delivered sexual exploitation training to 40+ employees at the sexual health centre. Linked to various organisations and teams – e.g. Ashiana linked with DVIP team and MSI Reproductive Choices.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Provided advice and advocacy casework support. Conducted FGM awareness sessions at the Redemption Faith Worship Centre. Collaborated with MSI Choices, Women's Aid, BME Forum, and Hibiscus FGM Support Clinic.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough set up Gold Book subscription. Delivered Data and Borough Needs Assessment webinar.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered training and talks on DA to Women's Aid and other organisations. Project promoted with borough, VAWG leads and VCS.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Conducted training sessions on DA, Multiple Disadvantage, Trauma-Informed Practice, Housing. Promoted services with Croydon professionals, MARAC and VAWG leads.

Ealing			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	157	3.39%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	10	4.78%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	62	1.85%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	9	4.07%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	48	0.99%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	272	4.41%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	608	4.71%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	22	2.03%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	5	2.76%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	44	7.86%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Ealing		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Regular presence at Probation and monthly meetings with SHP Housing advice worker for Ealing. Attendance at Ealing housing forum. Building connections with Link Worker to expand reach and receive referrals. • London PLUS: Training to local organisations. Established link with borough RSI Advisor and Housing officer for project development. Project promoted through pan-London Homelessness Group. • London Youth Gateway: Galop provided training on LGBT+ abuse to Ealing CYP services. New referral pathways with Ealing Samaritans. Depaul attends Ealing's housing forum and partnered with Ealing, Hammersmith, and West London College. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Collaborates with staff members from borough to ensure service users receive support they needed – examples: worked with the hospital discharge team in Northwick Park Hospital³ to support service user who was recently rough sleeping and just given birth, user was connected to accommodation at the point of discharge.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 attended by borough officers. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Created referral pathways mapping directory for Ealing. Worked closely with Advance (local IDVA provider) and Hestia; referrals from both services, and also with Ealing VAWG operational group, Metanoia institute, MARAC, Police, and other local services. Specialist insight provided around HP for black and global majority women. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Delivered counselling sessions, provided advice and advocacy support to services users in the borough, including assistance with Council Tax application and referrals to solicitors and financial assistance for household items. Outreach activities, including speaking at the Southall Community Alliance Community Forum. Active participation in VAWG and MARAC forums. • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: GALOP supports referrals on an ongoing basis. Regular attendance to MARAC meeting. • Specialist Refuge Network: Ashiana collaborated with Ealing COVID Vaccination Programme to create database of services offered in Ealing. Continued participation in Ealing Community Champions and Ealing Advice Forum which helped developing relationships and referral pathways. Provided training sessions to Ealing professionals on DV law.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

³ Part of London North East University NHS trust which covers Ealing

Enfield			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	130	2.81%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	12	5.74%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	84	2.50%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	4	1.81%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	47	0.97%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	254	4.12%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	435	3.37%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	35	3.23%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	4	2.21%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	19	3.39%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Enfield		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HARP Connect: Regular meetings with the staging post team in Enfield for clients resettling in the borough. Liaison with AFEO scheme and probation practitioners. Collaborated with Enable for clients' substance misuse recovery and with accommodation providers, e.g., Hope4You.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London PLUS: Provided training to Christian Action in Enfield. Links with housing officers. Reached out to CYP services and VCS.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAR Partnership: Thames Reach met Rough Sleeping commissioners to raise awareness of service and referral paths for tenancy sustainment support.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> StreetLink London Advice Line: Developed relationship with Housing Team Leader to escalate cases and ensure clients received entitled support. Worked with council to address inappropriate signposting, share evidence and create escalation routes. Ongoing liaison with Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Borough officers attending trainings delivered by the project: Domestic Abuse Act 2021, offences involving violent or abusive behaviour, perpetrator work.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: Provided 1 to1 counselling, medium-long term casework support, and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Collaborated with borough VAWG lead, social services, housing, VCS. Created referral pathways with hospital IDVA and engaged with adult safeguarding team. Delivered training on VAWG and Harmful Practice to professionals.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Provided advice, advocacy, casework support and counselling services. Engaged with the community, leading to FGM disclosures. Raised awareness of service through informal methods like visiting community centres and engaging in local chat groups. Links with Solace, VAWG lead, Rape Crisis and mental health services, and with Sexual Health Clinics.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR): Outreach session engaging young people on FGM and VAWG.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Delivered DA workshop to West London NHS Trust. Promoted LGBT+ DA support services with Student Minds Stakeholders and connected with Enfield council to discuss future education and highlight LGBT+ experiences of abuse.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist Refuge Network: Training sessions provided on Domestic Abuse and Multi-Disadvantage, Trauma-Informed Practice, Housing Awareness. Solace established links with Enfield professionals for legal support. Services promoted through VCS, social workers, and community services.

Greenwich			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	89	1.92%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	5	2.39%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	61	1.82%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	1	0.02%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	148	2.40%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	316	2.45%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	8	0.74%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	22	3.93%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Greenwich		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	<p>St Mungo's Harp</p> <p>Homeless Link</p> <p>New Horizon Youth Centre</p> <p>Shelter</p> <p>St Mungo's Streetlink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries and assessments conducted at HMP Belmarsh, HMP Thameside and HMP Isis. Attendance at monthly DWP work coach meetings for clients with a local connection to Greenwich. Collaboration with Greenwich housing for clients' move-on plans. • London PLUS: Engagement with RSI coordinator, Housing officer and Performance & Development Lead. Exploring best practices and systemic change. • London Youth Gateway: Shelter built relationships and shared referral paths with Greenwich night shelter. Project promoted through newsletter, online sessions, events – e.g., Tackling Youth Homelessness in London. • STAR Partnership: Thames Reach met with Greenwich MARAC and developed referral routes. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Liaise on an ongoing basis with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	<p>Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)</p> <p>Galop</p> <p>Women and Girls Network (WGN)</p> <p>SignHealth</p> <p>Women's Aid</p> <p>Refuge</p> <p>Ashiana Network</p> <p>Women's Resource Centre (WRC)</p> <p>Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Training delivered to borough professionals including on Ending Harmful Practice, Understanding and Working with Suicidality and Domestic Abuse Act 2021. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Referral pathways with services like Her Centre. Links with Housing for Women, Hestia, DV lead at Maternity services and council's VAWG lead. Trainings delivered - e.g., Changes to Divorce Law. Presented at Sexual and Reproductive Health Centre, Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advice, advocacy, and casework support provided. GPs awareness raising session. Outreach activities during 16 Days of Activism event. Presentations at Sexual and Reproductive Health, Waldron Health Centre, St Ursula's Convent School. Worked with MARAC and social services for complex cases. • London Refuges Data Collection Project: UK Gold Book subscription set up by borough. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Workshop sessions with deaf organisation, Remarks Eltham Lunch Club – e.g. DA, healthy relationships, coercive control. Presentation at 'Disabled Women, Leaving Trouble Behind' event in Her Centre, Woolwich. • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered awareness sessions joined by borough professionals aimed at increasing referrals and sharing project services. Kept professionals and council aware of refuge vacancies.

Hackney			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	292	6.31%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	5	2.39%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	135	4.02%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	10	4.52%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	78	1.61%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	221	3.58%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	437	3.39%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	13	1.20%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	13	7.18%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	30	5.36%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Hackney		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Probation; Regular meetings with AFEO scheme. Collaboration with housing officers and support services, e.g. The Greenhouse, Turning Point.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Shelter provided outreach appointments with Sister Space. NHYC worked with borough on communities of practice and improving services for homeless young people. Partners contributed to NRPF network. Workshops delivered on housing rights at Hackney Winter Night shelter and on youth homelessness prevention.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Shelter established office in Dalston. Local relationships e.g., Peabody, to share referral pathways for those at risk of eviction, and Just Life, in Hackney's Temporary Accommodation Action Group. Workshops on eviction and possession action to increase housing literacy in community organisations and on dealing with disrepair issues in social and privately rented accommodation for SEN school parents.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Liaises on an ongoing basis with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered workshops attended by local professionals and officers on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Protection for survivors in legal proceedings; migrant women; Understanding Trauma and Multiple Disadvantages.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Surgeries with Shelter on housing and VAWG. Presence refuge accommodation event and others. Links with local services, e.g., Hackney night shelter, Refugee women's association, St Mungo's, Single Homeless Project.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling. Trainings to professionals and borough staff, e.g. Hackney Safeguarding Council, which led to increased referrals, e.g. from DIAS and MARAC and to more professionals seeking advice from project experts on harmful partnership.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Delivered workshops on DA. Attendance to MARAC and VAWG forums.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Workshops delivered on DA in the Deaf Community for East London NHS Foundation Trust and presentation at 16 Days of Action event.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Training to professionals on women experiencing multiple disadvantage and to service users on DV Awareness. Jointed work with Turning Point City of London & Hackney Integrated Drug & Alcohol Service and Young Hackney.

Hammersmith and Fulham			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	124	2.68%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	7	3.35%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	47	1.40%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	4	1.81%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	39	0.80%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	166	2.69%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	320	2.48%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	10	0.92%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	9	4.97%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	20	3.57%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Hammersmith and Fulham		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	<p>St Mungo's Harp</p> <p>Homeless Link</p> <p>New Horizon Youth Centre</p> <p>Shelter</p> <p>St Mungo's Streetlink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries in HMP Wormwood Scrubs, including Part 7 telephone assessments prior to release. Joint work with St. Mungo's project in the borough. • London PLUS: Project promotion with borough staff and VCS through newsletter, Homelessness Group and events – e.g. NYHC at West London College fair; Galop at borough's event on Harmful Practices. Link established with Refugee Education UK, based in Hammersmith. • STAR Partnership: Referral pathway created with LawStop. Shelter attends borough's Homelessness Forum. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Works closely with local Thames Reach Rapid Response to support service users.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	<p>Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)</p> <p>Galop</p> <p>Women and Girls Network (WGN)</p> <p>SignHealth</p> <p>Women's Aid</p> <p>Refuge</p> <p>Ashiana Network</p> <p>Women's Resource Centre (WRC)</p> <p>Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Training on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 attended by borough officers. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. WGN led survivors' consultation aimed at informing borough's strategic decision-making systems. Links with Westside floating support, Refuge community outreach service for Eastern European women, West London centre for sexual health. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support. Delivered coffee mornings on topics like Women's Health and Housing Laws. Collaboration with organisations like Standing Together to create a co-location hub on harmful practices. • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Outreach session engaging young people on FGM and VAWG types. • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Galop working jointly with borough's Angelou partnership. Delivered DA workshop to West London NHS Trust. Attended VAWG advisory board. • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: Demographic data shared with VAWG lead to assist with research. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Collaboration with Dead Unity and with Advance for DA in the Deaf Community sessions. • Specialist Refuge Network: Workshops for service users at Turning Point on a fortnightly basis. Delivered awareness sessions to professionals to increase referrals. Kept organisations and professionals informed about services and refuge vacancies.

Haringey			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	181	3.91%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	7	3.35%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	98	2.92%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	7	3.17%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	76	1.57%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	239	3.88%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	356	2.76%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	66	6.09%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	11	6.08%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	21	3.75%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Haringey		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Haringey Probation Services. Worked with housing officers and St Ignatius, local housing provider.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: NHYC collaborates with borough on a year-long project to tackle youth homelessness, leading communities of practice with cross-sector members and local authorities. New accommodation referral pathways established.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Shelter provides face-to-face co-location services with borough at Marcus Garvey library for clients under and over 25 years old. Thames Reach attends monthly care services borough forum and established referral pathway with Haringey voluntary service.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Built referral links into borough's YMCA. Liaises on an ongoing basis with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Trainings delivered to local professionals and borough officers, including on Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Partners worked jointly with VAWG lead, MARAC, IDVA service and MIND, Children Services in Whittington Hospital. Established new referral pathways. Partner, Rights of Women delivered training, e.g., Changes to Divorce Law.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Influenced policy and service provision as it relates to harmful practices through the representation on strategic forums. Connections made with local churches and faith leaders to reach out to BME women.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Outreach session during Freshers week engaging young people on FGM and VAWG types.
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Conducted DA in the Deaf Community workshops for borough and North Rape Crisis staff.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Drug and alcohol service drop ins, 1:1 outreach support including on housing needs and refuge provision. Training sessions delivered on Housing Options, DA, Multiple Disadvantage, Trauma-Informed Practice, to both professionals and service users. Links with VAWG and MARAC coordinators and VCS.

Harrow			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	40	0.86%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	4	1.91%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	31	0.92%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	63	1.30%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	173	2.81%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	326	2.53%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	14	1.29%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	2	1.10%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	11	1.96%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Harrow		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries held at Probation. Regular meetings with SHP Housing Advice Worker for Harrow. Developed strong working relationships with Probation Officers and did active introductions to other VCS for joint-working relationships.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Plus: Established good relationship with RSI coordinator, who joined London RSI coordinators event where they scoped out together the current good practice and concerns, Presented service at pan-London Housing Needs group.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Present at events including Harrow Children and Young People support conference. Established link with CYP services, VCS, and with borough's Housing Lead to share information of project service and offer bespoke meeting.
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Liaises on an ongoing basis with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams. Partnership built with the Somewhere Safe to Stay project.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers on working digitally with DA and other themes. Training promoted with borough and VCS.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. AWRC delivers monthly in-borough surgeries at Civic Centre. Links with borough VAWG lead, housing officer, Harrow Social Prescribing team, Age UK. Delivered information session to COMPASS Drug and Alcohol service.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice and casework support. Ascent EHP services are embedded in the borough. Members of VAWG forum. Close work with IDVA services.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR): Delivered sessions at schools including Gesher School and Harrow College.
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refugees Data Collection Project: The borough set up their Gold Book subscription.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Regular workshop sessions with deaf organisation - Remark Harrow Lunch Club. 1 to 1 healthy relationship sessions with clients. Events shared with borough officers and VCS.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Solace delivered training to professionals based in the borough on Housing Options, Domestic Abuse and Multiple Disadvantage. Service advertised through charities, social workers, community services

Havering			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combatting Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	63	1.36%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	7	3.35%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	26	0.77%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	2	0.90%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	360	7.42%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	67	1.09%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	306	2.37%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	15	1.39%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.55%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	5	0.89%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Havering		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Working closely with borough's rough sleeper/outreach and housing team. Service promoted with Havering probation and VCS.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: Regular attendance to borough's Homelessness Forum. Contributed to ongoing development of resources in the borough as well as presented good practice and training offered. Established links with RSI coordinator and housing options manager. Reached out to CYP services and VCS contacts to share information on the services.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Established link with Havering Housing team to explain service and obtain escalation routes to be used if necessary. Connected client with Women's Aid in Havering.
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers and professionals, on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and offences involving violent or abusive behaviour, Professional Resilience & Self Care. Promoted training to Borough Officers and VCS
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. New referral paths. Regular attendance to Havering VAWG Forum. Partners working with local services like IDVA, Havering Aspire CGL drug and alcohol service, Adult social care, Pioneer house probation centre, others.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Regular attendance to borough VAWG meeting. Presentation to borough's social services and housing teams which resulted in increased referrals.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Sessions delivered at Havering Sixth Form college reaching students and teachers.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough renewed UK Gold Book subscription. Delivered the London Refuges Data and Needs Assessment webinar attended by borough officer.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Training and awareness raising sessions to borough professionals on working with women experiencing multiple disadvantage and DV. Partner nia makes contact with relevant organisations to inform them about the outreach and refuge services.

Hillingdon			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	68	1.47%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	5	2.39%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	29	0.86%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	4	1.81%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	0	0.00%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	179	2.90%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	368	2.85%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	22	2.03%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	7	1.25%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Hillingdon		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: In close contact with probation officers to support with client's recovery journeys. Joint meetings with community CRS⁴ providers which expect to increase volume of referrals. • London PLUS: Systems Practice Lead engaged with Hillingdon council and partners - this included creating roadmap for support. Developing borough specific work. Attended Homeless Partners meeting and presented at pan-London Housing Needs group. Established link with We Are Trinity who provide services locally to explore emergency provision access. • London Youth Gateway: Promoted project with head of housing, VCS and other borough officers to increase number of people supported. Established link with West London Housing Partnership Chair at the Tackling Youth Homelessness in London event. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Worked with the Hillingdon street outreach team (Thames Reach) to support clients.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers and professionals including: Specialist Briefing: Domestic Abuse Act 2021, offences involving violent or abusive behaviour, and Expert-Led Seminar Professional Resilience & Self Care. Promoted training with borough officers and VCS. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling and medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Services promoted at FGM conference and White Ribbon Day event. Links made with Hillingdon Women's Centre, local police and sexual health services. Attends MARAC. Collaboration with local IDVA service, to provide specialist support for black & global majority women and girls. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling. Delivery of support groups offering a range of opportunities to women. Worked with borough IDVA service and social workers and attend MARAC. • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Meeting with borough VAWG officer to discuss the borough hosting the Women's Aid Directory on their council website. Promoted resources offered to boroughs as part of the project. • Specialist Refuge Network: 1:1 Outreach support provided – e.g., Ashiana supported 3 local service users with immigration needs. Links established with Hillingdon Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service, Housing and NRPF Team located at the Civic Centre to explore providing training to staff.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

⁴ Commissioned Rehabilitative Services – part of the Ministry of Justice's probation system

Hounslow			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combatting Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	85	1.84%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	6	2.87%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	45	1.34%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	2	0.90%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	150	3.09%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	204	3.31%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	446	3.46%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	25	2.31%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	18	3.21%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Hounslow		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Kew Foot Rd Probation office Monthly meetings with Hounslow SHP Housing advice worker. Exploring prison housing pathways and AFEO offer for Hounslow clients leaving custody.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: London RSI coordinators event joined by borough coordinator, where current good practice and concerns were shared. Presentation at pan-London Housing Needs & Homelessness Group.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Project promoted with students at West Thames College freshers and Christmas fairs. Galop delivered sessions on DA, sexual violence, LGBT+ young people's experiences, and hate crime.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Established link with Tamil Community Centre in Hounslow to support client to resolve their homelessness.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Training delivered to borough professionals on Professional resilience and self-care. Promoted training with borough officers and VCS
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Project partners work with VAWG lead and IDVA service and joined new women's network, which enhances collaboration across the sector. Expert insight provided to borough's VAWG Plan review.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Delivered awareness raising discussion on preventing DV at Brentford Girl School. New relationships with partners like IDVA. Joined borough's 16 days of activism with a stall to promote services, reaching out to young women.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR): Project introduced to borough. Session delivered to Heathland School.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Promoted LGBT+ DA support services with Student Minds Stakeholders. Connected with borough to discuss future education and highlight LGBT+ experiences of abuse.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Regular workshop sessions delivered with deaf organisation - Deaf Unity. • Specialist Refuge Network: Multiple training sessions delivered to professionals on Housing, DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice. Strong links with Hounslow housing office who referred service users to Frances House.

Islington			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	148	3.20%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	2	0.96%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	135	4.02%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	22	9.95%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	171	3.53%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	382	6.19%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	275	2.13%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	54	4.99%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	18	9.94%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	24	4.29%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Islington		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries in HMP Pentonville. Monthly meetings with Islington SHP Housing advice worker. Worked alongside VCS such as Phoenix Futures, resulting in better client's recovery journeys by ensuring a continuity of support from custody to the community.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: Delivered pan-London training sessions attended by borough officers and organisations. Presented service at Housing Needs & Homelessness Group. Ongoing engagement with RSI coordinator.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Established link with borough's Family Service and Islington College allowing support to students. Shelter delivered housing rights workshop to Islington Academy parents. The Youth Hub emergency accommodation project (NHYC,Depaul) is based in Islington.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Established links with North London Housing Partnership, Solace, Camden & Islington Health Trust and Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator. Referral routes established. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Liaised on an ongoing basis with Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training to borough officers and professionals on Trauma Focused Approach for Engaging Recover from SV and DA, and on perpetrator work.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support, T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Training on VAWG for professionals and on digital skills for Turkish, Kurdish and Turkish Cypriot women. Referral pathways with Urban Forest Collective, Maya Centre.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Training sessions delivered in Feminist Leadership and Harmful Practices.
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Sessions delivered in Montem Primary School and CANDI.
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Stonewall Housing launched drop in at London Friend. IDVA staff trained on LGBT+ awareness.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: New local refuge service added to Routes to Support and started contributing data to the project. Borough also renewed their complimentary UK Gold Book subscription.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered training to borough professionals on Housing Options, DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice. Solace's Head Office based in Islington with a strong network.

Kensington and Chelsea			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	105	2.27%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	3	1.44%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	39	1.16%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	10	4.52%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	1	0.02%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	109	1.77%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	295	2.29%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	26	2.40%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	5	2.76%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	10	1.79%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Kensington and Chelsea		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combatting Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Askew Rd Probation⁵. Monthly meetings with SHP housing advice worker. Strong link with Westbourne Grove Church where project held work sessions, and with Housing the Homeless Central Fund which supported local clients with grants for household goods. Link with HMP Wormwood Scrubs, prison with highest referrals for borough.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: Project scoped out current good practice and concerns to creating a report and presenting a partnership forum on ways to improve access to support for clients in different parts of the borough, contributing to ongoing development of local resources.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Galop presented at the International Women's Day webinar on Women, Health, Trauma, and Abuse hosted by Chelsea and Westminster Hospital with 100+ professionals in attendance.
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Shelter offers monthly outreach at Midaye Somali Community Development Organisation. Workshops at St. Charles Medical Centre, including on basic housing awareness
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers including briefing session on DA Act and perpetrator work. Promoted training to borough officers and VCS.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. WGN provided expert insight for borough's Women's safety needs as part of the Safer Streets Home Office funding cycle. Delivered Voice & Choice sessions supporting young women to gain better insight into their rights and options. Partners attend the bi-borough strategic board and wide range of operational groups (BME health forum, Harmful practices, housing, children and health). Works closely with Angelou partnership.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support. Partnership with Wand UK. Presence at events from Sudanese community and others to increase referrals. Strong local links, e.g. FGM workshops with FORWARD and Abdul Mageed Trust.
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Galop launched its first LGBT+ co-located IDVA based in the Chelsea & Westminster NHS Trust.
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered sessions on DA in the Deaf Community workshops to Advance, the DA service for the London Tri-Borough.
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Training on HP to local professionals. Organised awareness raising events – e.g., at 16 Days of Action: VAWG-Solidarity with Women in Iran, organised by Tri-Borough VAWG.
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

⁵ Probation service at this office covers Kensington and Chelsea

Kingston Upon Thames			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combatting Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	31	0.67%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	1	0.48%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	30	0.89%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	4	1.81%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	2	0.04%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	71	1.15%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	173	1.34%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	1	0.09%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.55%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	4	0.71%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Kingston Upon Thames		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	<p>St Mungo's Harp</p> <p>Homeless Link</p> <p>New Horizon Youth Centre</p> <p>Shelter</p> <p>St Mungo's Streetlink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries held at Probation and close work with probation officers to support client's recovery journey. Positive networking with Senior Housing Advisor at Kingston Churches Against Homelessness and offered project reintroduction to borough. Joint-working relationships with other VCS. • London PLUS: Meeting with Head of Housing to develop a bespoke offer and audit services. Presented at pan-London Housing Needs Group and kept RSI coordinator aware of training, webinars and transformation fund. • London Youth Gateway: Galop provided MARAC training on LGBTQ+ abuse. Promoted project with VCS and borough's officers including young person's team and through tailored presentation to Kingston and Richmond housing staff to showcase services and discuss partnerships. Received referrals from Kingston churches to support young people. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Collaborates with staff members from within the borough to ensure that clients receive adequate support.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	<p>Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)</p> <p>Galop</p> <p>Women and Girls Network (WGN)</p> <p>SignHealth</p> <p>Women's Aid</p> <p>Refuge</p> <p>Ashiana Network</p> <p>Women's Resource Centre (WRC)</p> <p>Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers, on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and Housing. Promoted project with borough and VCS. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Delivered sexual violence awareness presentation to Wolverton Sexual Health Service and linked with local substance abuse projects. Established referral pathways with Kingston women's centre, Victim support, VAWG leads at the local authority, and MARAC. Promoted WGN's Advice Hub services to various health, youth, and local VCS. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling. Represented at MARAC and delivered specialist training on harmful practices. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Project promoted with borough leads, including provision of promotional materials. Established link with VAWG coordinator to keep them informed about service updates and events, and with other VCS working in the borough such as Refuge Kingston, Kurdish Middle Eastern Women's Organisation (KMEWO) and Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre to inform them about our free training for professionals. • Specialist Refuge Network: Conducted awareness raising session for a user from Kingston Domestic Violence hub to promote nia's services. Continued promoting services by contacting borough officers and professionals in contact with the client group, including sending alerts about refuge vacancies.

Lambeth			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	275	5.95%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	18	8.61%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	190	5.66%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	13	5.88%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	236	4.87%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	208	3.37%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	576	4.46%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	55	5.08%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	9	4.97%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	24	4.29%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Lambeth		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries in HMP Brixton. Monthly meetings with Lambeth ex-offender pathway SPOC and AFEO team. Referral pathways for ETE support with Bounce Back and Switchback.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Promotion to Lambeth College freshers. Links with Early help, Mind, Family service UK. Borough staff involved with NHYC youth homelessness community of practice work.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Shelter created links at the Travellers Conference, based in Lambeth, including specialist agencies working to support travellers with social issues like housing. Link created with Solace, which will be point of contact for accessing VAWG support in Lambeth.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Links with borough officers to address signposting concerns. Established escalation route. Support to clients jointly with Rough Sleeping team, Kings hospital and Gaia Centre (IDVA provider).
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Training to borough officers on DA Act 2021, Trauma Focused Approach, Multiple Disadvantage. AVA funded by Trust for London to work with Lambeth and other boroughs to improve women's pathways out of homelessness following VAWG.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Presented at Lambeth Hybrid VAWG Forum and MARAC meeting. Referral from Gaia Centre.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support, counselling services. Link with Gaia Centre, providing support to abuse survivors and referrals from Earlyhelp.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Trainings at Lilian Baylis Technology school, Saint Gabriel's and Lambeth Colleges. Coordinated approach with borough to ensure service compliments existing provisions.
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Delivered training to borough officers on LGBT+ peoples experience of abuse. Linked with MARAC.
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: Workshop with Lambeth Council and mental health services including awareness raising and promotion of helpline and Havens SARC centre.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered workshop on DA in the Deaf Community as part of Lambeth VAWG training programme and to Solace. Promoted project at forums (e.g., VAWG Brixton) and with VCS.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: refuge provision in the borough. Delivered training to professionals and service users on DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma.

Lewisham			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	163	3.52%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	9	4.31%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	151	4.50%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	352	7.26%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	163	2.64%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	615	4.77%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	30	2.77%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	5	2.76%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	12	2.14%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Lewisham		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combatting Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Lewisham Probation. Regular meetings with housing options team and supported pathway leads in borough.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London PLUS: Engagement with new local organisation through training. Project promoted through newsletters and pan-London Homelessness Group, and through RSI coordinator.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Referral pathway established with borough floating support service. Promotion through Lewisham's homelessness forum. Links established with council's family thrives team and family mediation services. Outreach to CYP services and VCS.
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Stonewall Housing provides weekly drop-in in the borough.
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Worked with housing officers on challenges and cases escalation. Ongoing liaison with Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Training joined by borough officers on Understanding Perpetrators of DA and a bespoke session on Professional Resilience and Self-Care. Strong strategic links in Lewisham due to existing partnerships to deliver CODA, a multi-agency programme for women and children who have experienced DV and DA.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling support, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Referral pathways through Athena Centre. Links with Safer Communities Service, VAWG lead and the Sexual and Reproductive Health Centre (Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust).
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Liaised with community group "La Fraternite Guineenne" based in Lewisham, supporting migrants and refugees from Africa. Provided a training session on HP during Lewisham council's 16 days of activism.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough renewed UK Gold Book subscription. VAWG project officer attended the London Refuges Data and Borough Needs Assessment webinar.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: Training and prevention support delivered at Goldsmiths' University, including awareness raising and promotion of the helpline.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered training on Harmful Practices to Children's frontline, children safeguarding and social services local professionals.

Merton			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	108	2.34%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	1	0.48%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	41	1.22%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	8	0.16%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	123	1.99%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	230	1.78%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	68	6.28%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	2	1.10%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	13	2.32%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Merton		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Regular engagement with probation practitioners. Monthly meetings with SHP housing advice worker. Strong relationship with Wimbledon Probation Office. Presenting clients to Merton Housing Options as part of 'through the gate' service and supporting clients with appointments at partner agencies such as the Wimbledon YMCA, WDP Substance Use Service in Merton, Practice Plus / Together service for mental health support, and Aves Supported Housing. • London Youth Gateway: Established link with housing options manager at Merton Council to discuss services and partnership working. Depaul engaged with Family Connected, Merton Family Advice, and Accord Family Service. • STAR Partnership: Thames Reach established link with Merton IDVA service to discuss referral routes.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training sessions attended by borough officers on DA Act 2021, perpetrator work, offences involving violent or abusive behaviour and multi-agency collaboration. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Established links with Wimbledon Hub for face-to-face counselling services, Merton Community Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services and Catch 22. Partners promoted services to GPs and at borough's VAWG forum and MARAC meeting. Rights of Women delivered Changes to Divorce Law training. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Provided training on HBV and FM for Merton Safeguarding Children team and other professionals. Participated in networking events like VCS Spring Fair to increase awareness and promote referrals. • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships (HLHR): Delivered training on Harmful Practices to professionals in primary and secondary schools and the council. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Service promoted at events, with VAWG lead and VCS. Training session with Hestia for service users and staff. • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered training sessions on housing options, Domestic Abuse, Multiple Disadvantage, and Trauma-Informed Practice. Engaged with Colliers Wood community association and Merton residents' association.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Newham			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	350	7.57%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	12	5.74%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	127	3.78%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	12	5.43%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	0	0.00%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	145	2.35%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	642	4.98%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	17	1.57%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	4	2.21%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	23	4.11%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Newham		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at Newham probation. Monthly contact with Newham AFEO lead. Actively introducing project to VCS across footprint for positive joint-working relationships. • London PLUS: Delivered training attended by borough officers. Links with VCS including with Your Place about referrals. Engagement with RSI coordinator and Housing officer to promote service.
	Homeless Link	
Combating Homelessness	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Stonewall Housing offered supported housing service for under 25's with local connection. Presence at events including homelessness and exploitation forums. Project added to Newham's directory of services for health professionals and social prescribers. New referral routes with the Renewal Programme and Change Please. • STAR Partnership: Shelter chair the monthly homelessness and PRS forum in the borough of Newham and attends the Newham Temporary Accommodation Action Group, based at the Magpie Project. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach team.
	Shelter	
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Training joined by borough officers on DA Act 2021 and links between DV and Substance Use and Mental Distress. Link with substance misuse and VAWG Commissioners to discuss multiple disadvantage and bringing strategic priorities together.
	Galop	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Delivered HP training to Harris Academy staff. Project present at events - e.g., Ashiana spoke about NRPF insights in Shelter's 'Newham Families Network' event. Partners engaged with local services including Children's Social Services; mental health crisis and assessment hub; local IDVA service.
	SignHealth	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support and counselling services. New referral pathways with Shelter.
	Refuge	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough renewed UK Gold Book subscription. Borough VAWG officer attended the London Refuges Data and Borough Needs Assessment webinar.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Workshop sessions with a deaf organisation – DeafRoots. DA in the Deaf Community workshops to East London NHS Foundation Trust and Newham Council. • Specialist Refuge Network: Counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy. Training to professionals on working with women experiencing multiple disadvantage. Awareness session to staff from London Black Women's Project, Hestia and CGL.

Redbridge			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	103	2.23%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	4	1.91%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	44	1.31%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.45%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	217	4.48%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	91	1.48%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	373	2.89%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	33	3.05%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	4	2.21%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	13	2.32%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Redbridge		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Regular meetings with probation. Partnership formed with Advance Charity (DA) which helped increase the number of supported female clients. Active introduction to VCS and services across the project's footprint to promote joint work. • London PLUS: Bespoke provision for this council, working closely with Head of Housing Options and Housing Needs manager. Project joined local rough sleeping event at Redbridge to further develop local networks. • London Youth Gateway: New referral pathways with New City College and Welcome Centre. Reached out to CYP services, VCS and council officers to share service information. • StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with the Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training joined by borough officer, on 'Working with Experts by Experience'. Promoted training with council and VCS. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. The PL sexual exploitation caseworker has Facilitated training to volunteers for partners in a local sexual health organisation, Positive East. Referral pathways established with Goodmayes maternity Hospital. Ashiana provided expert knowledge on ways the borough can enhance women's safety, following murder of Zara Aleena. NIA delivered VAWG trauma-informed workshops at SHP accommodation. Partners attend local VAWG Practitioners Forum. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support and counselling services. Introduction to HP delivered for staff at Seven Kings School and general public at 16 days of activism stand. Setting up VAWG One Stop Shop to make it easier for women to report to Police. • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Sessions delivered to year 12-13 students at King Solomon High School. Introduction to VAWG lead. • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough set up UK Gold Book subscription offer. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Regular workshop sessions with a deaf organisation based in Redbridge - Empowering Deaf Society Attended the Empowering Deaf Society event to share services information. Delivered a workshop to Redbridge Council. • Specialist Refuge Network: 1:1 Outreach support provided to service users on immigration needs and refuge provision. Ashiana joins local one stop shop monthly. Engaged with the Gants Hill Community and Muslim Women's Advisory Council to share information on services.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Richmond Upon Thames			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	29	0.63%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	1	0.48%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	8	0.24%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	1	0.45%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	5	0.10%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	71	1.15%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	169	1.31%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	25	2.31%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	4	0.71%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported

Richmond upon Thames		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at probation assessing clients referred either from custody or community. Presence at Kew Foot Road. • London PLUS: Service promoted through RSI coordinator, housing officers, and also via newsletter and pan-London Housing Needs & Homelessness Group. Sent expression of interest for borough-specific work and presented at meetings. • London Youth Gateway: Galop provided training for MARAC on LGBTQ+ abuse. Together with STAR partnership, NHYC, Depaul and Praxis, delivered bespoke presentation for Kingston and Richmond housing staff to profile services and discuss partnerships. Reached out to CYP services and local VCS. • STAR Partnership: Stonewall Housing met with SPEAR London to discuss referrals from south west London. Service publicised to borough officers.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers: Specialist Briefing Domestic Abuse Act 2021. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Presentations to Richmond Domestic Abuse Operational Group. Created referral pathways with borough VAWG provider Hestia, Richmond drug and alcohol service, adult social care, and SHSWL Richmond Medical Centre. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice and casework support. Project supported VAWG manager on a review of a murder of a woman killed by her partner in the borough, providing expertise on HP. Delivered HP training to local MARAC professionals. Attendance to VAWG forums, MARAC meetings. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Conducted a virtual workshop titled "DA in the Deaf Community" for local professionals. Training promoted with local VCS – e.g., Richmond Fellowship, Rape Crisis South London. • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered awareness raising session on DV to staff at Richmond Community Drug & Alcohol Service. Also on DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice. System in place to alert local professionals of refuge vacancies available.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Southwark			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	173	3.74%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	11	5.26%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	292	8.70%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	11	4.98%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	42	0.87%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	290	4.70%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	388	3.01%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	77	7.11%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	9	4.97%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	32	5.71%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Southwark		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect held surgeries at probation assessing clients referred either from custody or community. Regular engagement with Southwark AFEO scheme. • London Youth Gateway: Stonewall housing provides drop-in surgery open to all LGBTQ+ young people 13-25 or allies, as well as friends and families, jointly with Tonic Housing and One Support. Depaul created referral links with Southwark College and Robes Shelter. • Streetlink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with Rapid Response and local rough sleeping street outreach teams. Supported local client who had experienced DA to Solace in Southwark.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers, on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Protection for survivors in legal proceedings, Understanding Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse, Offences involving violent or abusive behaviour, and on Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support T.H.R.I.V.E session. Delivered training on harmful practices at The Nest, Youth Service and Phoenix Place School. Created referral pathways and connections including with CAB Southwark, Safer Neighbourhoods and NAZ Project. Presence at Southwark VAWG and DA event, MARAC meetings.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support and counselling services. Delivered Feminist Leadership and HP training and FGM-focused groups. Liaison with community group "La Fraternite Guineenne" that works in the borough supporting migrants and refugees from Africa. Became member of Community Southwark.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Outreach sessions within St Matthew's Church to Spanish speaking mothers using connections via LAWRS Espacio Mamá programme.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Delivered training to local professionals on Housing Options, DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice.

Sutton			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	30	0.65%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	1	0.48%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	16	0.48%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	0	0.00%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	41	0.66%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	143	1.11%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	24	2.22%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.66%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	4	0.71%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Sutton		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Monthly meetings with SHP housing advice worker for Sutton. Presence in Probation Office and joint work with AFEO scheme. In contact with Women in Prison Hub Co-ordinator for Sutton. Supported service users including an entrenched rough sleeper who was housed and who has not been in his own private tenancy since 1990. • London PLUS' partner Shelter delivered training attended by borough officers. Established links with RSI coordinator and housing officers to promote service, as well as during Homelessness Group meetings. • London Youth Gateway: Bespoke presentations delivered to Sutton housing staff to publicise services and discuss partnerships, together with STAR partnership, NYHC, Depaul and Praxis. New Horizon Youth Centre are a member of Sutton's rough sleeping group, meeting bi-monthly.
	Homeless Link	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers, on Project Management, Professional Resilience & Self-Care and on Child/Adolescent to Parent/Carer Violence. • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, 1 to 1 medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Delivery partner IKWRO joins borough's One stop Shop fortnightly, providing specialist dedicated support for black and global majority survivors. Project created links with Inspire Drug and Alcohol, Sutton Health and Care sexual and mental health services, Rosehill Clinic sexual health service, Sutton Women's Centre, IDVA service and Sutton Reach. • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support and counselling. Provided training on HBV and FM for Sutton's Children Training team and on HP to local professionals including staff from IDVA, nurses, refuge and case workers. Links with local services like sunflower clinics to raise awareness of IKWRO culturally specific offer. • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough VAWG officer attended the London Refuges Data and Borough Needs Assessment webinar this quarter. • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Training sessions delivered to local professionals on DA - e.g., to ambassadors from Sutton Women's Centre – and on HP, Trauma-Informed Practice, Multiple Disadvantage.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Tower Hamlets			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	201	4.35%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	7	3.35%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	110	3.28%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	17	7.69%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	4	0.08%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	163	2.64%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	409	3.17%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	21	1.94%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	10	5.52%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	17	3.04%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Tower Hamlets		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at probation assessing clients referred either from custody or community. Regular meetings with the council's outreach/rough sleeper team. attending multi-agency meetings to support clients.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Praxis has open monthly drop-in advice service accessible to young people. Depaul cooperated with borough's Children's Services and Early Help Team
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAR Partnership: Praxis runs drop in and pre book appointments session from their office based in the borough. Shelter worked with borough housing leads to improve delays with response times, case decisions and escalation processes and provided feedback on proposed licensing in the private rented sector.
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with the local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Ashiana delivered HP training to students at Wapping High School. IMECE delivered specialist VAWG and HP online training to local professionals including frontline workers. Partners engaged with local services such as sexual health clinics. Referral pathway created with Queen Mary's University.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership Regular attendance at VAWG Steering group meetings. Delivered harmful practises workshops at Wapping High school, attended information Fair at Queen Mary University
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: attendance at MARAC, Project joined Brooks Sexual Health Awareness Week Panel at the Vagina Museum.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough set up Gold Book subscription.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered workshop on DA in the Deaf Community for East London NHS Foundation Trust, covering Tower Hamlets and other boroughs.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist Refuge Network: Training and awareness raising sessions delivered to professionals and service users from the borough on DV, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice. Partners provided 1:1 outreach support to professionals. Alert system in place to inform professionals when refuge vacancies become available.

Waltham Forest			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combatting Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	218	4.71%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	13	6.22%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	100	2.98%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	3	1.36%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	4	0.08%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	186	3.02%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	364	2.82%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	53	4.89%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	8	4.42%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	12	2.14%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Waltham Forest		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HARP Connect: Surgeries at probation assessing clients referred either from custody or community. Monthly meetings with Waltham Forest SHP housing advice worker. Working jointly with services like Forest Churches Emergency Night Shelter.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London Youth Gateway: Depaul built working partnership with the Early Help Service at the borough.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAR Partnership: Shelter joined newly created Waltham Forest Temporary Accommodation Action Group held at the WF community hub and setup monthly outreach session there. Opened new referral partnerships and discussed improvements to partnership work. Training delivered to Waltham Forest Night Shelter on housing rights.
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London Plus attended the borough homelessness forum to introduce the project and highlight pan London work and training offer
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> StreetLink London Advice Line: Collaborating with Waltham Forest Single Homeless Person Unit including establishing escalation route.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training sessions attended by borough officers including on Ending Harmful Practice, Domestic Abuse Act, Working with male victims and Perpetrator work.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Delivered HP training at Holy Family Catholic School, Waltham Forest College and Bancroft Primary School. IMECE delivered specialist VAWG and HP training to local professionals. Nia delivered a presentation on routes into and barriers out of prostitution to borough's Modern Slavery sub-group. Partners engaged with the IDVA service, GP services and Just Life Foundation.
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support and counselling. Referral pathway created with Shelter. Training to professionals on subjects such as Harmful practices, Home Office funding refuge spaces for asylum seekers; and to service users on catfishing and trust building. HP session was also delivered at Waltham Forest College. Regularly attends MARAC to present high risk cases.
	SignHealth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered DA in the Deaf Community workshop to Waltham Forest Council.
	Women's Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist Refuge Network: Waltham Forest One Stop Service- Advise and assist clients seeking to regularise their immigration status. Liaised with borough to resume one stop service and legal surgeries in the borough. provided training to professionals around immigration needs. And 121 outreach work in the borough.
	Refuge	
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	

Wandsworth			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combating Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	123	2.66%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	4	1.91%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	74	2.20%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	4	1.81%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	74	1.53%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	110	1.78%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	289	2.24%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	40	3.69%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	4	2.21%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	19	3.39%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Wandsworth		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HARP Connect: Surgeries at probation assessing clients referred either from custody or community, facilitating 'through the gate' support. Met with head of reducing reoffending at HMP Wandsworth.
	Homeless Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London Youth Gateway: Referral pathway created between Depaul and South Thames College. Reached out to CYP services and local VCS. Community of Practice work led by NHYC and Hackney Council was joined by borough staff. Borough staff also attended Tackling youth homelessness event.
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with the local rough sleeping street outreach teams.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Support Services to Organisations: borough officers attended training on the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, Working with male victims: Best practice for multi-agency working when identifying risk/need/harm and Harmful Practices: Supporting women and girls at risk of forced marriage and FGM.
	Galop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. Nia delivered a presentation to Wandsworth Domestic Abuse Operation Group
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIA delivered a presentation to Wandsworth's Domestic Abuse Operational Group (DAOG), promoting the pan-London sexual exploitation provision and Ascent services. Links with local services including Wandsworth Women's Space, CDARS substance and alcohol misuse service, IDVA service to ensure holistic support for survivors in the borough.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support. Workshop to the community at CARAS and training to MARAC professionals. Partners joined the first Wandsworth and Richmond VAWG forum.
	Ashiana Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-London domestic and sexual violence helplines project: University engagement (St George's) via training and prevention session, raising awareness of and promoting the helpline.
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Delivered workshop on DA in the Deaf Community to professionals in Richmond and Wandsworth. Contacts established with South Thames College. • Specialist Refuge Network: Solace delivered training sessions to professionals from Wandsworth on DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice.

Westminster			
Priority	Service Area	Number of people (actual)	Per cent of total pan-London (actual)
Combatting Homelessness	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	168	3.63%
	1.2 Prevention and Targeted Intervention for Rough Sleepers	9	4.31%
	1.3 Youth Homelessness	59	1.76%
	1.4 Improving the response to homelessness in London (working with housing and homelessness organisations and professionals) (i)	20	9.05%
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	18	0.37%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	151	2.45%
	2.3: Helpline services (advice and support, access to refuge provision)	380	2.95%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups (ii)	28	2.59%
	2.5 Improving the response to domestic and sexual abuse in London (working with domestic and sexual abuse organisations and professionals) (i)	8	4.42%
	2.6: Services for people affected by harmful practices	20	3.57%

(i) Figures in service areas 1.4 and 2.5, represent the number of organisations based in the respective borough that have been supported.

(ii) Service area 2.4: Specialist Refuge Network led by Ashiana Network under the 2017-22 programme was extended to a further year to March 2023. These figures are for 2022-23 only. Previous years have already been reported.

Westminster		
Priority	Lead organisation	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	St Mungo's Harp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London PLUS: Delivered training attended by local organisations (e.g., Kineara). Promotion with housing leads and pan-London Homelessness Group. Webinar on measuring Impact of Services with Bridge Outcomes Partnership (based in Westminster, working pan-London)
	Homeless Link	<p>London Youth Gateway: Galop provided drop-in sessions for LGBT+ clients on DV and threats of homelessness due to risk of abuse. Presentation on Women, Health, Trauma, and Abuse at the International Women's Day webinar hosted by Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. NHYC linked with The Passage and Young Westminster Foundation. Borough staff attended their Tackling Youth Homelessness event</p>
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STAR Partnership: Shelter established link with Ukrainian Welcome Centre, set up referral pathway and delivered housing rights workshop to their volunteers.
	St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> StreetLink London Advice Line: Ongoing liaison with local rough sleeping street outreach team. Worked jointly with Marylebone project to which they referred clients for ongoing case work support and accommodation.
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Bespoke training session delivered to borough staff on Housing and Domestic Abuse. Local organisations such as RedThread, Portman Children's centre and Woman's Trust have been supported by the project.
	Galop	
	Women and Girls Network (WGN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. WGN joined the Housing First and Black and Global Majority women working group, aimed at creating better housing solutions for local women. CIAC holds monthly immigration walk-in surgery for survivors and chairs local Safer Neighbourhood meetings. Strong links with Advance (local IDVA provider) and the Angelou Partnership.
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Refuge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, casework support. Youth Team delivered 'Let's talk sister' event. Collaborative work with Abdul Mageed Educational Trust to deliver workshops on FGM and accessing support. Project cochairs the Harmful Practices Operational Group, attending VAWG forum and MARACs,
	Ashiana Network	
	Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Partnership: Delivered LGBT+ experiences of abuse workshop to Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust. Presented at the International Women's Day webinar on Women, Health, Trauma, and Abuse hosted by Chelsea, Westminster Hospital.
	Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SignHealth Deaf Domestic Abuse Service: Sessions on DA in the Deaf Community to staff from Advance (Tri-Borough DA service) Specialist Refuge Network: Training to local professionals on Housing Options, DA, Multiple Disadvantage and Trauma-Informed Practice.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Definitions for terms and acronyms used throughout this report

Acronym	Long title
AFO	Accommodation For Ex-offenders
CAB	Citizens Advice Bureau
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CARAS	Community Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers Charity
CGL	Change Grow Live Charity
CIAC	Chinese Information and Advice Centre Charity
CYP	Children and Young People
DA	Domestic Abuse
DV	Domestic Violence
DWP	Department for Work and Pensions
ETE	Education, Training, and Employment
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
HAWK	Housing Advice Worker
HBV	Honour-Based Violence
HMP	Her/His Majesty's Prison
HP	Harmful Practices
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IHASS	Intensive Housing and Support Services
LAWRS	Latin American Women's Rights Service
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
RSI	Rough Sleeping Initiative
SARC	Sexual assault referral centre
SHP	Single Homeless Project
SPOC	Single Point of Contact
SV	Sexual Violence
TA	Temporary Accommodation
THRIVE	WGN project sessions. T:Training, H:Housing/Holistic, R: Rights/Resources, I:Information, V:Voice, E:Education
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector

Grants Committee

London Councils Grants Committee – Item no: 13 Pre-Audited Financial Results 2022/23

Report by: David Sanni **Job title:** Director of Corporate Resources

Date: 12 July 2023

Contact Officer: David Sanni

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Summary : This report details the provisional pre-audited final accounts for London Councils Grants Committee for 2022/23. The summary figures are detailed in the boxes below:

Revenue Account	Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Expenditure	6,668	6,572	(96)
Income	(6,668)	(6,705)	(37)
Surplus for the year¹	-	(133)	(133)

Position on reserves	General Reserves £000	Unusable Reserves £000	Total £000
Audited as at 1 April 2022	745	(1,056)	(311)
Transfer (to)/from revenue	-	(121)	(121)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	133	1,333	1,466
Provisional as at 31 March 2023	878	156	1,034

¹ Excludes £1.333 million Actuarial gain on Pension Fund for the year in 'Actuals'

Recommendations: London Councils Grants Committee is asked:

- to note the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £133,000 for 2022/23, the first year of the new four-year programme of commissions; and
 - to note the provisional level of reserves at paragraphs 13-14; and
 - to agree to the recommended increase to the minimum level of reserves to £336,000, which equates to 5% of the 2023/24 revised commissioned service budget as set out in paragraphs 15 -19.
-

Pre-audited Accounts 2022/23

1. This report details the provisional financial results prior to audit and provides commentary on the variances against the revised approved budgets for the year. PKF Littlejohn LLP, London Councils' external auditor, will audit the Committee's accounts for 2022/23 during July 2023 and present the accounts to the Audit Committee, along with the annual audit report, for approval. At its November 2023 meeting, the London Councils Executive will be asked to adopt the accounts along with Transport and Environment Committee and Consolidated accounts. The audited accounts and annual audit report will be circulated to all members of this Committee.

Provisional Outturn 2022/23

2. The original budget for 2022/23 was approved by the Committee in November 2021 and was ratified by the Leaders' Committee in December 2021. Table 1 below compares the provisional outturn figures for income and expenditure in 2022/23 which is the first year of the new 4-year programme of commissions. The audited outturn figures for 2021/22 are also shown for comparative purposes.

Table 1 – Provisional Outturn 2022/23 – Grants Committee

2021/22 Actual		2022/23 Revised Budget	2022/23 Actual	2022/23 Variance	
£000	Expenditure	£000	£000	£000	%
275	Employee Costs	271	312	41	15.1
-	S.48 Staff Exit Costs	-	-	-	
8	Running Costs	19	12	(7)	(36.8)
166	Central Recharges	145	172	27	18.6
449	Total Operating Expenditure	435	496	61	14.0
6,081	Borough commissioned services	6,146	5,988	(158)	(2.6)
60	Membership fees to London Funders	60	60	-	-
38	Programme evaluations	27	27	-	-
319	S.48 Commissioned services - NRPF	-	-	-	

2021/22 Actual		2022/23 Revised Budget	2022/23 Actual	2022/23 Variance	
300	S.48 Commissioned services - Homelessness	-	-	-	-
11	Changes to the value of investments held at fair value	-	1	1	-
7,258	Total Expenditure	6,668	6,572	(96)	(1.4)
	Income				
(6,173)	Borough contributions towards commissioned services	(6,173)	(6,173)	-	-
(495)	Borough contributions towards the administration of commissions	(495)	(495)	-	-
(11)	ESF Grant	-	1	1	-
(8)	Interest on Investments	-	(38)	(38)	-
-	Other Income	-	-	-	
(627)	Transfer from Reserves	-	-	-	-
(7,314)	Total Income	(6,668)	(6,705)	(37)	(0.6)
(56)	Deficit/(Surplus)	-	(133)	(133)	-

3. The provisional surplus of £133,000 compares to a forecast deficit of £26,000 at the month 9 stage of the year, as reported in February 2023, the difference largely as a result of Quarter 4 grant payments being held back. The provisional underspend is attributable to:

- an overspend on operating expenditure of £61,000 made up of an overspend on employee costs and central recharges of £68,000 offset by an underspend on running costs of £7,000;
- an underspend on the S.48 Commissioned services of £158,000. As part of the approved monitoring arrangements, officers review financial information including the audited accounts at the end of the year. This has identified some underspends on the programme across a number of organisations;
- additional expenditure of £1,000 recognised in the accounts as a result of changes in the fair value of short-term cash bonds held by the City of London due to global economic events which have reduced the value of investments held;
- an overstatement of a 2021/22 ESF grant debtor of £1,000; and

- an additional sum of £38,000 from investment income has been received on Committee cash balances that was not included in the budget.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

4. The summarised provisional balance sheet position as at 31 March 2023 is shown in Table 2 below, compared to the position at 31 March 2022:

Table 2 – Balance Sheet Comparison 2022/23 and 2021/22 (inclusive of IAS19).

	As at 31 March 2023 (£000)	As at 31 March 2022 (£000)
Current Assets	2,373	1,496
Current Liabilities	(1,501)	(756)
Pension Fund (Liability)/Asset	160	(1,051)
Total Assets less Liabilities	1,034	(311)
Represented by:		
General Fund	878	745
Pension Fund	160	(1,051)
Accumulated Absences Fund	(4)	(5)
	1,034	(311)

5. The main features of the balance sheet as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

- Current assets have increased by £877,000 from £1.496 million to £2.373 million, which is attributable
- - a decrease of £218,000 in debtors due to a reduction in unpaid borough subscriptions. The balance of borough subscription outstanding at 31 March 2023 was nil; and
 - and an increase of £1.095 million in cash balances, largely due to the increase in liabilities as detailed below.

- Current liabilities have increased by £744,000 from £756,000 to £1.5 million, which is attributable to:
 - an increase of £742,000 in respect of amounts owed to S.48 commissioned services; and
 - an increase of £2,000 in respect of the short-term cash bonds held by the City of London.
- The pension fund valuation has increased by £1.211 million from a net liability of £1.051 million to a net asset of £160,000; and
- The above movements have resulted in an overall increase in the level of reserves to a balance of £1.034 million as at 31 March 2023, inclusive of the IAS19 surplus, which is explored from paragraph 6 onwards, and the accumulated absence reserve.

Effect of IAS19

6. International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19), Employee Benefits, is an international accounting standard that all authorities administering pensions funds must follow. This includes London Councils through its Admitted Body status as part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) administered by the London Pensions Fund Authority (LPFA).
7. IAS19 requires an organisation to account for retirement benefits when it is committed to give them, even if the actual giving will be many years to come and is, therefore, a better reflection of the obligations of the employer to fund pensions promises to employees. It requires employers to disclose the total value of all pension payments that have accumulated (including deferred pensions) at 31 March each year.
8. This value is made up of:

- The total cost of the pensions that are being paid out to former employees who have retired; and
 - The total sum of the pension entitlements earned to date for current employees – even though it may be many years before the people concerned actually retire and begin drawing their pension.
9. IAS19 also requires London Councils to show all investments (assets) of the Pension Fund at their market value, as they happen to be at the 31 March each year. In reality, the value of such investments fluctuates in value on a day-to-day basis but this is ignored for the purpose of the accounting standard. Setting side by side the value of all future pension payments and the snapshot value of investments as at the 31 March, results in either an overall deficit or surplus for the Pension Fund. This is called the IAS19 deficit or surplus.
10. London Councils has to obtain an IAS19 valuation report as at 31 March each year in order to make this required disclosure. This is done through the actuaries of the LPFA fund, Barnett Waddingham. The effect of the standard was reflected in London Councils' accounts for the first time for the 2003/04 financial year and is apportioned across London Councils' three functions – this Committee, the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) and the London Councils Joint Committee (JC) functions, in proportion to the actual employers pensions contributions paid in respect of staff undertaking each of the three functions. IAS19 has no effect on the net position of income and expenditure for the year. However, as detailed in paragraph 8 above, the IAS19 deficit or surplus needs to be reflected in the annual balance sheet. For London Councils Grants Committee, the Pension Fund deficit as at 31 March 2022 was £1.051 million. The surplus on the Pension Fund as at 31 March 2023, as determined from the latest valuation undertaken by the actuary is £160,000, an increase of £1.211 million.

11. The key financial assumptions required for determining the defined benefit pension obligation under IAS19 are the discount rate, linked to corporate bond yields, and the rate of future inflation. There has been an increase in the discount rate which reduces the value of the pension obligation offset by an increase in the rate of inflation which increases the value of the obligation. There was a decrease of £1.2 million in the value of the pension obligation. The triennial valuation as at 31 March 2022 was the starting point for the 'roll forward' estimation process for the IAS19 valuation. The triennial valuation showed an improvement in the funding level of the scheme which increased from 107.9% in March 2019 to 125.3% in March 2023. This result has led to a reduction in the level of employers' contribution to the scheme. The value of the Grants Committee pension scheme assets also increased by £10,000 during the course of the financial year.
12. Table 3 clearly demonstrates, therefore, that the Committee's balances are notionally increased by £160,000 as a result of the requirement to fully disclose the pension fund surplus on the balance sheet. Future reviews of the employer's pension contribution rate are intended, over time, to ensure it remains at the appropriate level. London Councils' external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP will test the assumptions made by the actuary in arriving at this valuation during its audit of the financial accounts.

Committee Reserves

13. The pre-audited position on the Committee's overall reserves, as at 31 March 2023, is detailed in Table 3 below:

Table 3 – Grants Committee reserves as at 31 March 2023

	General Reserve (£000)	Pension Fund (£000)	Accumulated Absences Reserve (£000)	Total (£000)
Audited Balance at 1 April 2022	745	(1,051)	(5)	(311)
Transfer (to)/from Revenue Account	-	(122)	1	(121)
Movement on Pension Fund	-	1,333	-	1,333
Surplus for Year	133	-	-	133
Balance at 31 March 2023	878	160	(4)	1,034

14. The table above indicates that the Committee is projected to have a pre-audited general reserves of £878,000 at the end of March 2023.

15. The pre audited total reserves are £878,000, after considering the projected surplus of £133,000 for the year. This level of general reserves relating to the S.48 borough funded commissions (Priorities 1&2), equates to 13.06% of the £6.722 million commissions 2023/24 revised budget.

16. At its meeting on 15 March 2023, the Committee asked officers to review the minimum level of reserves of 3.75% established by the Grants Executive Committee in September 2013. London Councils officers carried out a review in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) guidance on local authority reserves and balances. The guidance was applied taking into account the nature of the Committee, as a joint committee and not a local authority, to ensure that the minimum level of reserves remain proportionate to its affairs.

17. The guidance sets out the reserves can be held for three main purposes:

- a working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing;
- a contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies;
- and

- a means of building up funds, often referred to as earmarked reserves, to meet known or predicted requirements. Earmarked reserves may be reported separately but remain part of General Reserves.

18. It also advises that when assessing the adequacy of reserves, the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the organisation should be taken into account. The review carried out by officers involved the assessment of a number of risk factors including cashflow requirements, inflation and interest rates, demand led pressures, achievement of savings and efficiency targets and the general financial climate in which the Committee operates.

19. The outcome of the review indicates that the minimum level of reserves should be set at an amount of £336,000 which is 5% of the £6.722 million expenditure budget for 2023/24. This represents an increase of £85,000 to the existing minimum level of reserves of £252,000 based on 3.75% of budgeted expenditure. The Director of Corporate Resources recommends that, in line with best financial management practice, it would be appropriate to increase the minimum level of reserves to £336,000 which equates to 5% of the 2023/24 revised expenditure budget.

Conclusion

20. The audit of these accounts by the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP, will take place during July, with the outcome reported to the Audit Committee. The audited accounts and annual audit report will be circulated to all members of the Grants Committee.

Recommendations

21. The Committee is asked:

- to note the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £133,000 for 2022/23, the first year of the new four-year programme of commissions;
- to note the provisional level of reserves at paragraphs 13-14; and
- to agree to the recommended increase to the minimum level of reserves to £336,000, which equates to 5% of the 2023/24 revised commissioned service budget as set out in paragraphs 15 -19.

Financial Implications for London Councils

Financial implications are included in the main part of the report.

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Background Papers

GC Budget File 2022/23;
GC Final Accounts File 2022/23.
GC Revenue Forecast File 2022/23