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# **CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT**

## **OUTER BOROUGHES**

### **JANUARY - MARCH 2026**

**SUPPORTED BY  
MAYOR OF LONDON**



**CHAIN**

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from <http://data.london.gov.uk>

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in Outer Boroughs in January - March 2026.

Information in the report is derived from the 'Combined Homelessness and Information Network' (CHAIN), a database commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by Homeless Link. For more information see [www.homeless.org.uk/chain](http://www.homeless.org.uk/chain).

The data on which this report is based is also available in an accessible tabular format, aggregated to borough and Greater London level, in a separate CHAIN Quarterly Data Tables file. This can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at <http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>. A suite of interactive charts and maps based on the data can be accessed via the CHAIN Quarterly Data Visualisations Tool at <https://bit.ly/chain-quarterly-vis-tool>.

In the rough sleeping figures in this report people are grouped into three categories:

New rough sleepers	Those who had not been contacted by outreach teams rough sleeping before the period
Living on the streets	Those who have had a high number of contacts over 3 weeks or more which suggests they are living on the streets
Intermittent rough sleepers	People who were seen rough sleeping before the period began at some point, and contacted in the period - but not regularly enough to be 'living on the streets'

For more information about the methods used to derive statistics for this report, and definitions of different groups, please see the Methodology section.

Most sections of this report include figures representing an amalgamated total for everyone seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs taken as a whole, followed by a breakdown providing figures for each of the boroughs individually. Some people will have been seen rough sleeping in more than one of the outer boroughs during the period, so the combined total for the separate boroughs works out to a higher number than the overall amalgamated total for the outer boroughs.

## Changes to CHAIN quarterly report content for 2025/26

From 2025/26 Q1 onwards, we have discontinued the use of the LOS - RS205+ population subcategory, which had been part of the overall Living on the Streets (LOS) group. This subcategory had allowed people who were members of the RS205 entrenched rough sleepers cohort to be counted as Living on the Streets during the period even if they had only been seen bedded down once, where other individuals were required to meet the criteria of having five bedded down contacts recorded across at least three weeks. It was felt that more accurate analysis could be achieved by applying the same criteria to all people seen rough sleeping in the period, regardless of prior membership of other cohorts.

This change could have the effect of slightly reducing overall Living on the Streets totals as presented in the report, although it is anticipated that the impact will be minor. The change in methodology should be borne in mind when comparing Living on the Streets totals from before and after April 2025.

## 2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

### Outer Boroughs: Headlines

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by new, living on the streets, and intermittent breakdown

Volumes	No. Rough Sleepers	Change from last period	Change on same period last year
<b>New Rough Sleepers (All)</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>-246</b>	<b>-79</b>
New RS with no second night out	511	-181	-88
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	130	-65	-1
New RS joining living on the streets population*	24	0	+10
<b>Living on the Streets (All)</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>-45</b>	<b>+9</b>
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	24	0	+10
LOS - Known	156	-45	+4
<b>Intermittent Rough Sleepers</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-13</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>-339</b>	<b>-93</b>

\*This cohort is listed under both new RS and living on the streets headings, but is only counted once towards the overall total

## Outer Boroughs: Achieving No Second Night Out

Chart 1: New rough sleepers 2024-25 Q4 to 2025-26 Q4

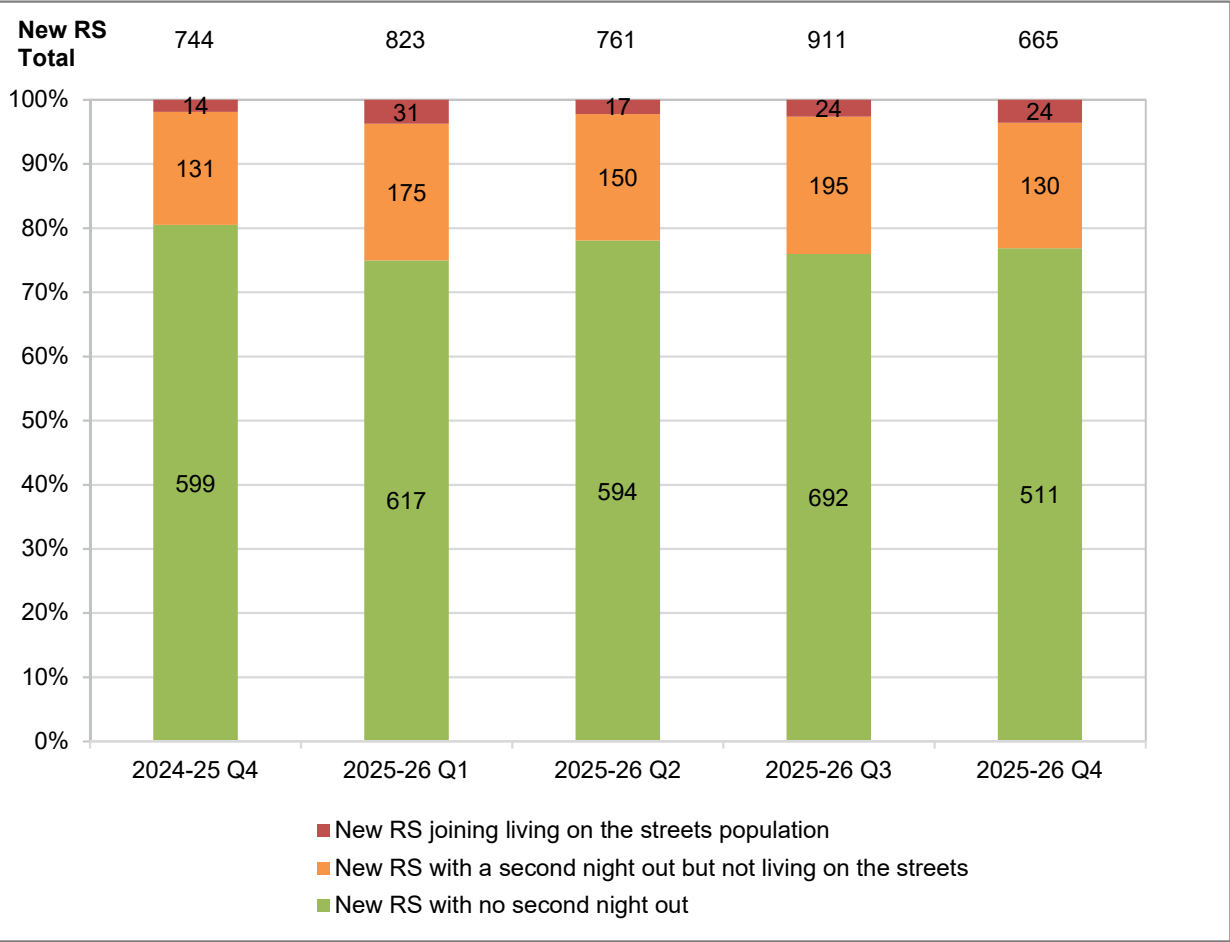


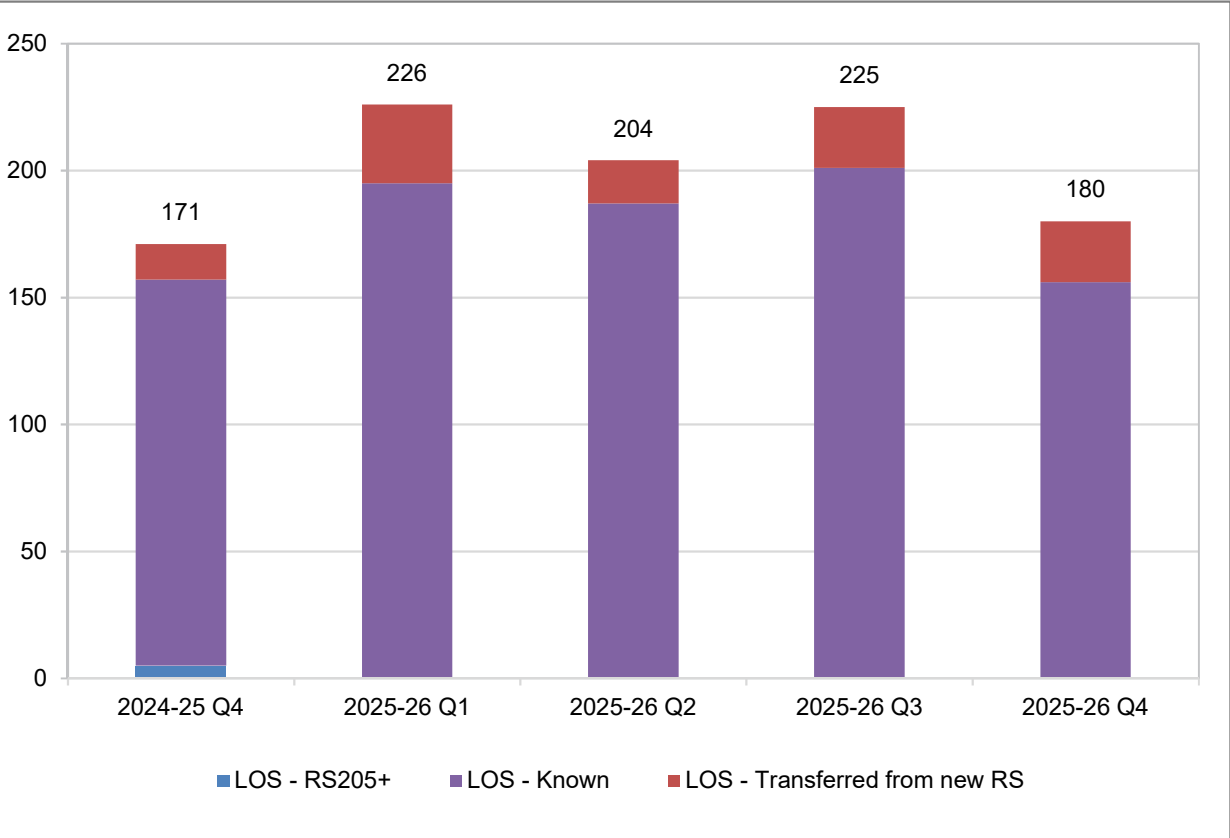
Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2025-26 Q4, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	511
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	130
New RS joining living on the streets population	24
Total	665

New RS = New rough sleepers

## Outer Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2024-25 Q4 to 2025-26 Q4



The LOS - RS205+ category was discontinued from 2025-26 Q1 onwards.

Table 3: People living on the streets in 2025-26 Q4, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	24
LOS - Known	156
Total	180

Outer Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2024-25 Q4 to 2025-26 Q4

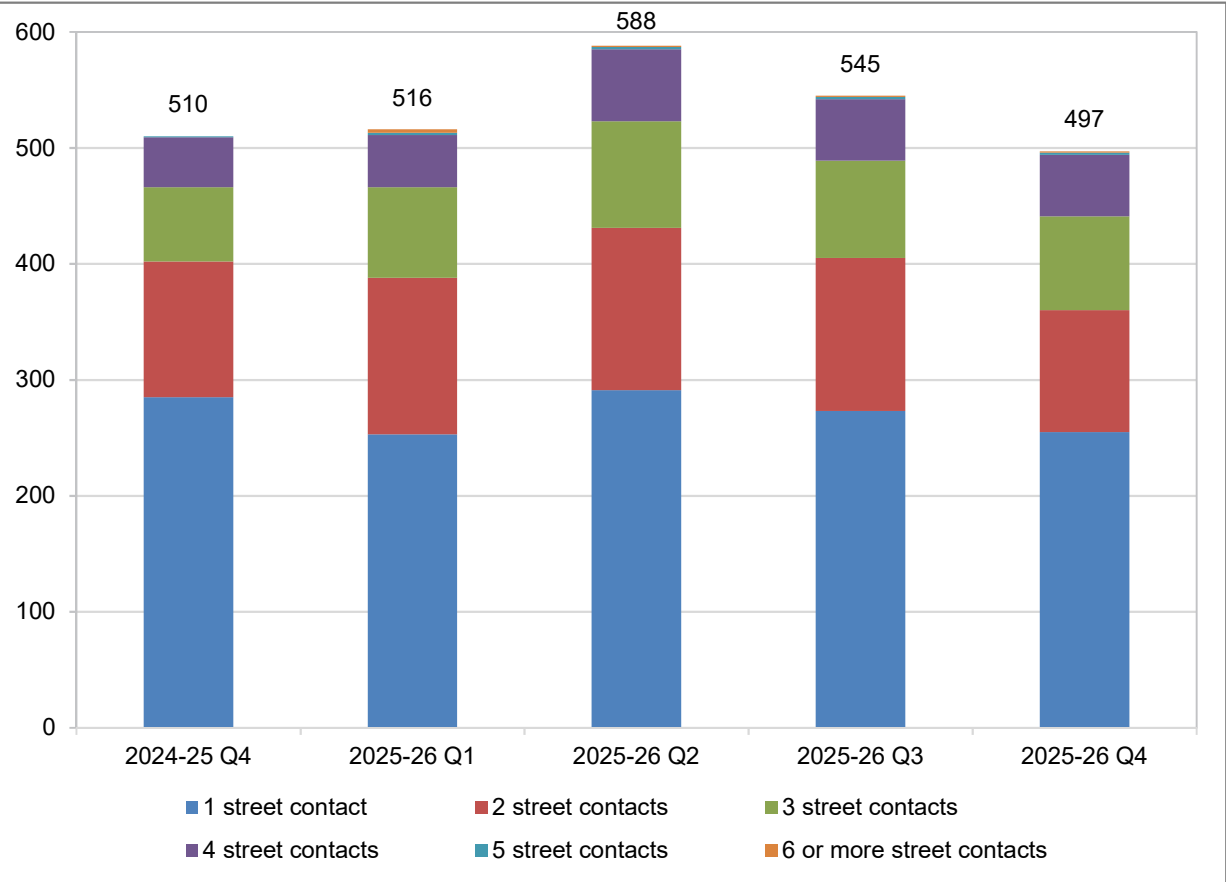


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2025-26 Q4, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	255
2 street contacts	105
3 street contacts	81
4 street contacts	53
5 street contacts	2
6 or more street contacts	1
Total	497



## Outer Boroughs: Distribution

Table 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by borough

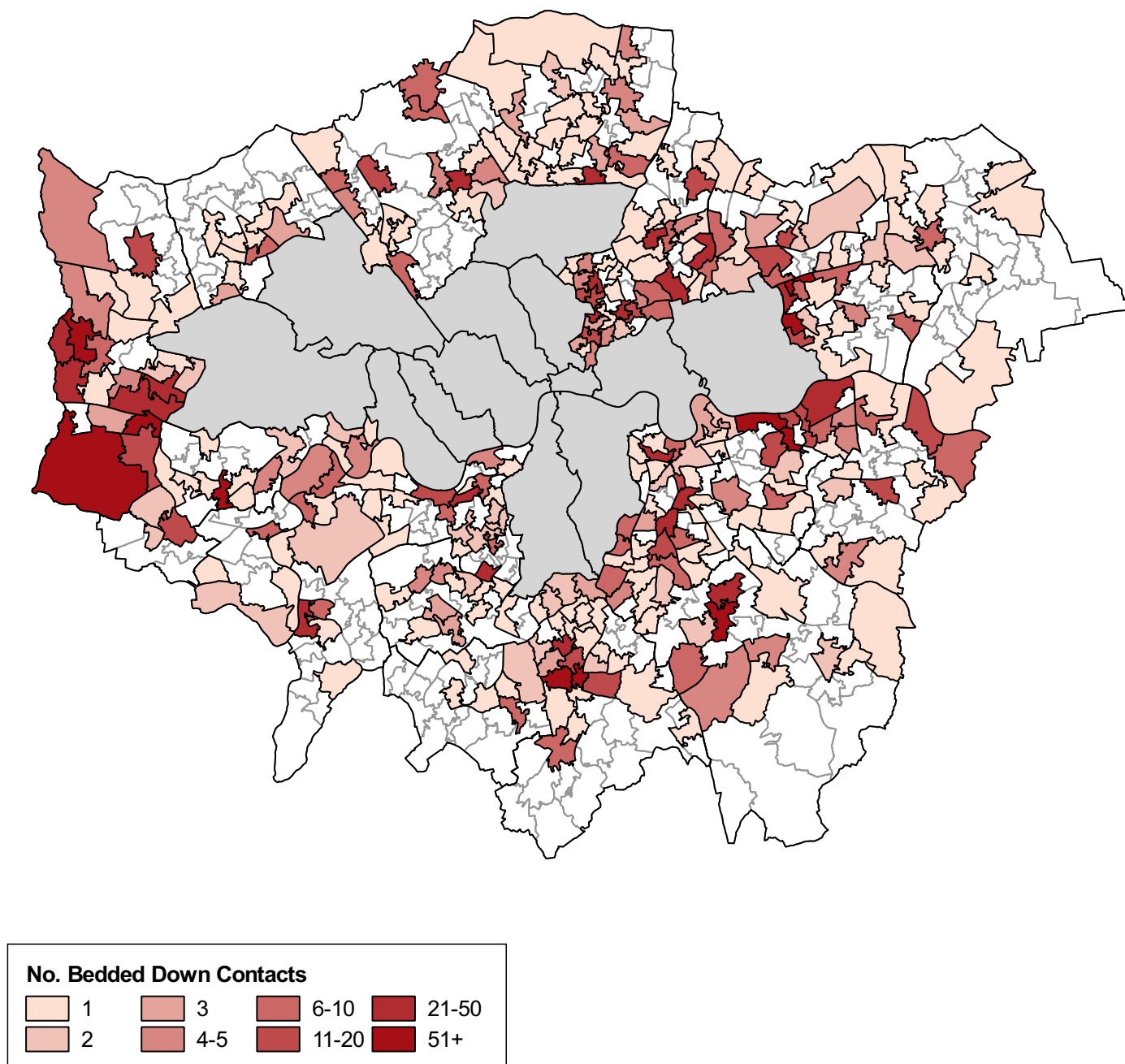
BOROUGH	New RS with no second night out	New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	New RS joining living on the streets population	LOS - Known	Intermittent rough sleeper	TOTAL
Barking & Dagenham	11	2	1	10	10	34
Barnet	8	8	1	7	17	41
Bexley	10	7	0	4	3	24
Bromley	11	7	2	7	17	44
Croydon	47	6	0	9	64	126
Enfield	37	9	0	1	16	63
Greenwich	50	18	4	16	49	137
Hackney	32	10	3	12	40	97
Harrow	17	0	0	0	5	22
Havering	7	2	0	0	12	21
Heathrow	27	9	0	1	21	58
Hillingdon	43	18	5	21	45	132
Hounslow	67	20	2	11	21	121
Kingston upon Thames	3	4	0	2	9	18
Lewisham	37	4	3	11	33	88
Merton	13	2	0	0	8	23
Redbridge	38	4	3	23	54	122
Richmond	4	5	0	3	11	23
Sutton	7	1	0	2	0	10
Waltham Forest	18	2	1	11	38	70
Wandsworth	10	2	0	11	25	48
Bus route	14	0	0	0	7	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>UNIQUE TOTAL</b>	<b>511</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1,318</b>

### 3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

#### Bedded down street contacts by area: Greater London level

It is important to note that this map represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area. Recording of street contacts is to some extent influenced by outreach provision and practice, which can vary across local authority areas.

**Map 1: Number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Middle Super Output Area across the Outer Boroughs during the period**



## 4. NATIONALITY

### Nationality: Rolling figures

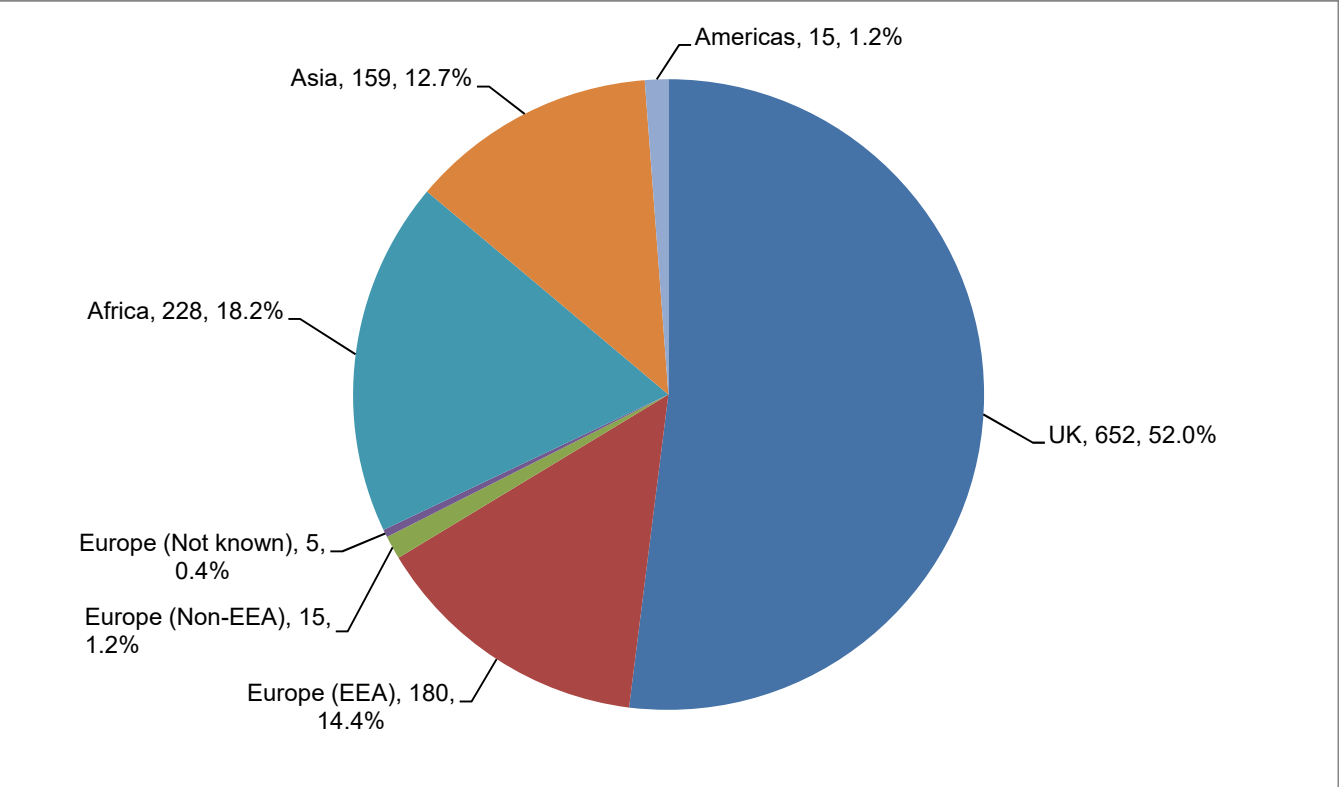
Table 6: People seen rough sleeping 2025-26 Q2 to 2025-26 Q4 by nationality

Nationality	Jul-Sep 25		Oct-Dec 25		Jan-Mar 26	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	772	53.7%	762	48.8%	652	52.0%
Romania	74	5.1%	64	4.1%	47	3.7%
Poland	63	4.4%	62	4.0%	50	4.0%
Lithuania	27	1.9%	23	1.5%	10	0.8%
Ireland (Republic of)	9	0.6%	11	0.7%	10	0.8%
Portugal	13	0.9%	13	0.8%	12	1.0%
Bulgaria	21	1.5%	12	0.8%	14	1.1%
Italy	5	0.3%	6	0.4%	14	1.1%
Spain	4	0.3%	6	0.4%	2	0.2%
France	5	0.3%	6	0.4%	4	0.3%
Latvia	3	0.2%	3	0.2%	4	0.3%
Other European (EEA) countries	21	1.5%	14	0.9%	13	1.0%
Europe (EEA)	245	17.0%	220	14.1%	180	14.4%
Europe (Non-EEA)	15	1.0%	28	1.8%	15	1.2%
Europe (Not known)	5	0.3%	10	0.6%	5	0.4%
Eritrea	34	2.4%	123	7.9%	72	5.7%
Sudan	39	2.7%	67	4.3%	34	2.7%
Nigeria	28	1.9%	35	2.2%	32	2.6%
Ethiopia	7	0.5%	11	0.7%	14	1.1%
Somalia	12	0.8%	9	0.6%	24	1.9%
Other African countries	73	5.1%	75	4.8%	52	4.1%
Africa	193	13.4%	320	20.5%	228	18.2%
India	74	5.1%	79	5.1%	65	5.2%
Afghanistan	30	2.1%	34	2.2%	33	2.6%
Iran	21	1.5%	24	1.5%	15	1.2%
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0.0%	2	0.1%	0	0.0%
Bangladesh	2	0.1%	4	0.3%	6	0.5%
Other Asian countries	53	3.7%	46	2.9%	40	3.2%
Asia	180	12.5%	189	12.1%	159	12.7%
Americas	27	1.9%	30	1.9%	15	1.2%
Australasia	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Not known	98		97		64	
<b>Total (excl. not known)</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,560</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1,254</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Total (incl. not known)	1,536		1,657		1,318	

Total excluding not known is used as the base for percentages.

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by nationality



Base: 1,254 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 64 people whose nationality was not known.

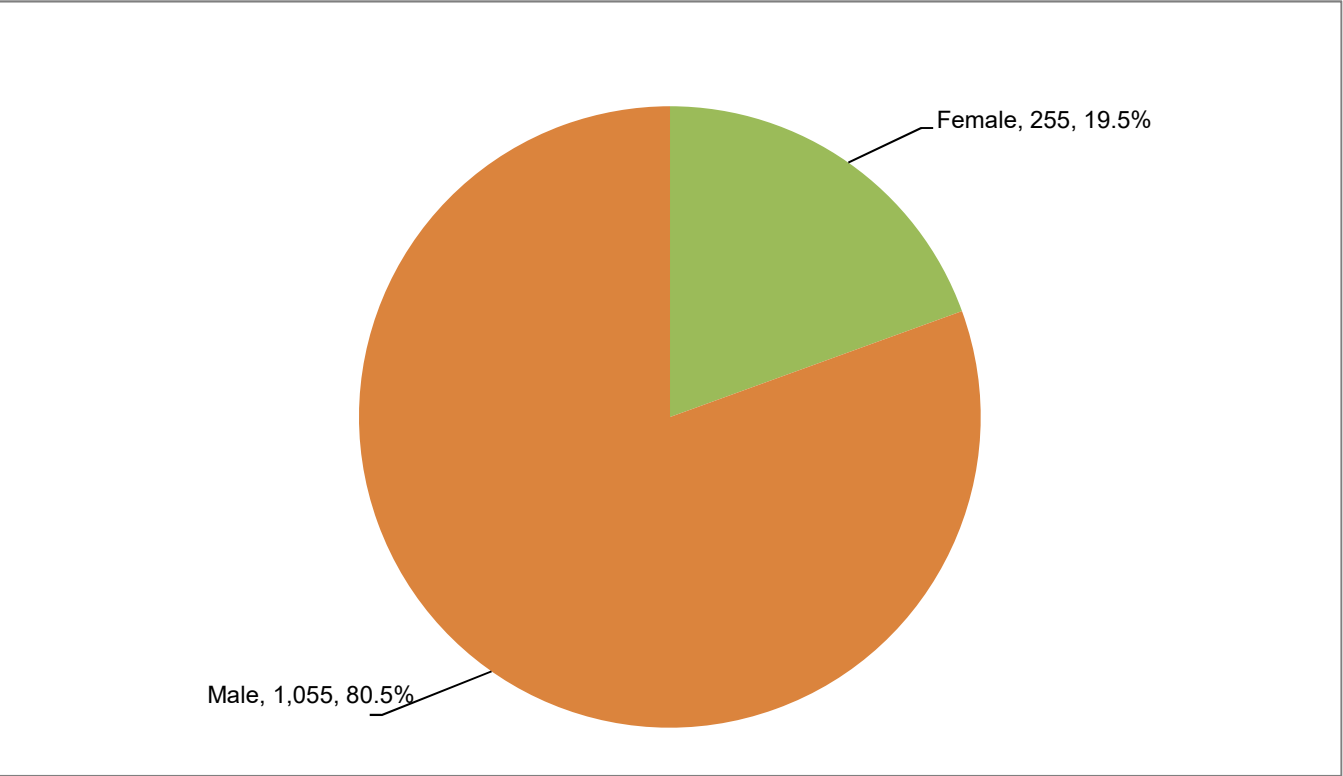
**Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by nationality, and borough**

[illegible]

## 5. DEMOGRAPHICS

### Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by gender



Base: 1,310 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 8 people whose gender was not known.

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by gender

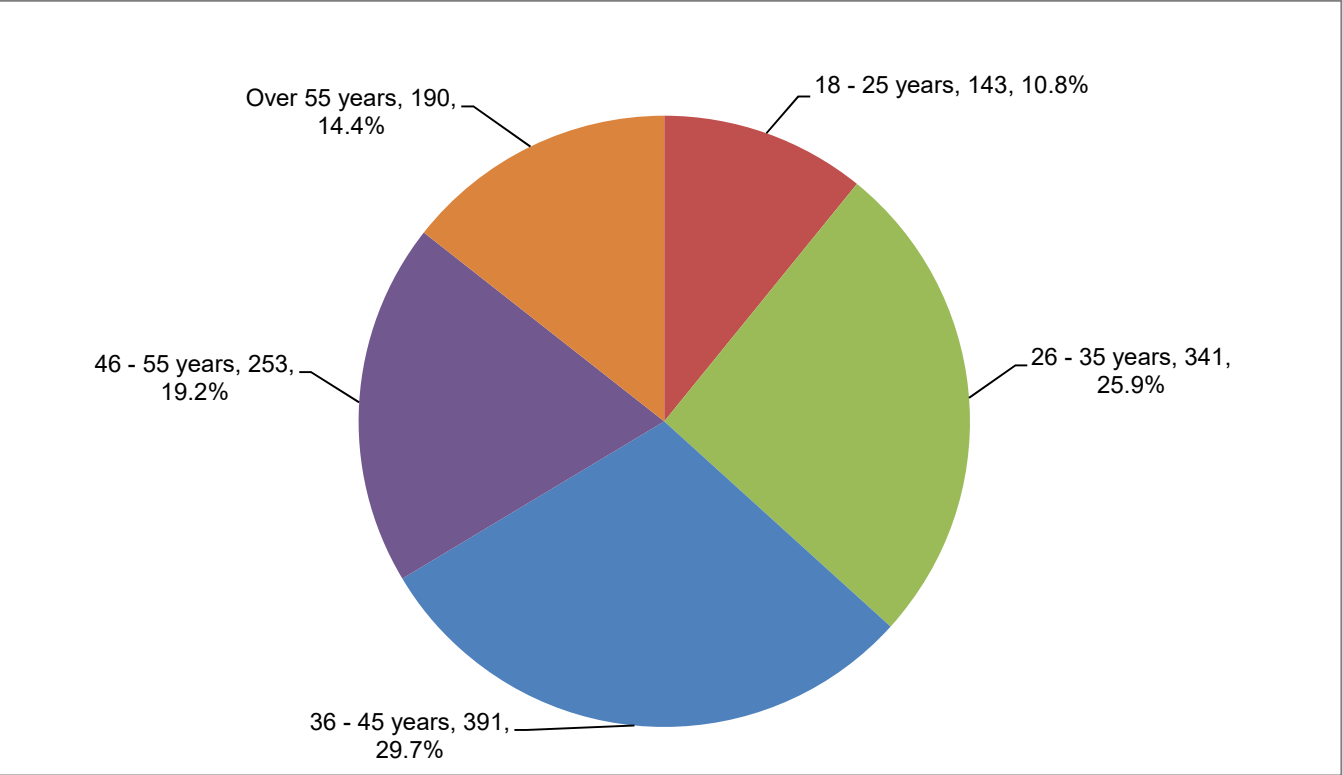
Gender	No.	%
Female	255	19.5%
Male	1,055	80.5%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Not known	8	
Total (excl. not known)	1,310	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	1,318	

**Table 9: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by gender, and borough**

Borough	Female	Male	Non-binary	Not known	Total
Barking & Dagenham	3	31	0	0	34
Barnet	5	36	0	0	41
Bexley	7	17	0	0	24
Bromley	6	38	0	0	44
Croydon	21	103	0	2	126
Enfield	17	46	0	0	63
Greenwich	26	109	0	2	137
Hackney	20	74	0	3	97
Harrow	3	19	0	0	22
Havering	2	19	0	0	21
Heathrow	18	40	0	0	58
Hillingdon	23	109	0	0	132
Hounslow	36	85	0	0	121
Kingston upon Thames	3	15	0	0	18
Lewisham	26	62	0	0	88
Merton	0	23	0	0	23
Redbridge	17	104	0	1	122
Richmond	3	20	0	0	23
Sutton	1	9	0	0	10
Waltham Forest	13	57	0	0	70
Wandsworth	9	39	0	0	48
Bus route	7	14	0	0	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0

Age

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by age



Base: 1,318 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by age

Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	0	0.0%
18 - 25 years	143	10.8%
26 - 35 years	341	25.9%
36 - 45 years	391	29.7%
46 - 55 years	253	19.2%
Over 55 years	190	14.4%
Total	1,318	100.0%

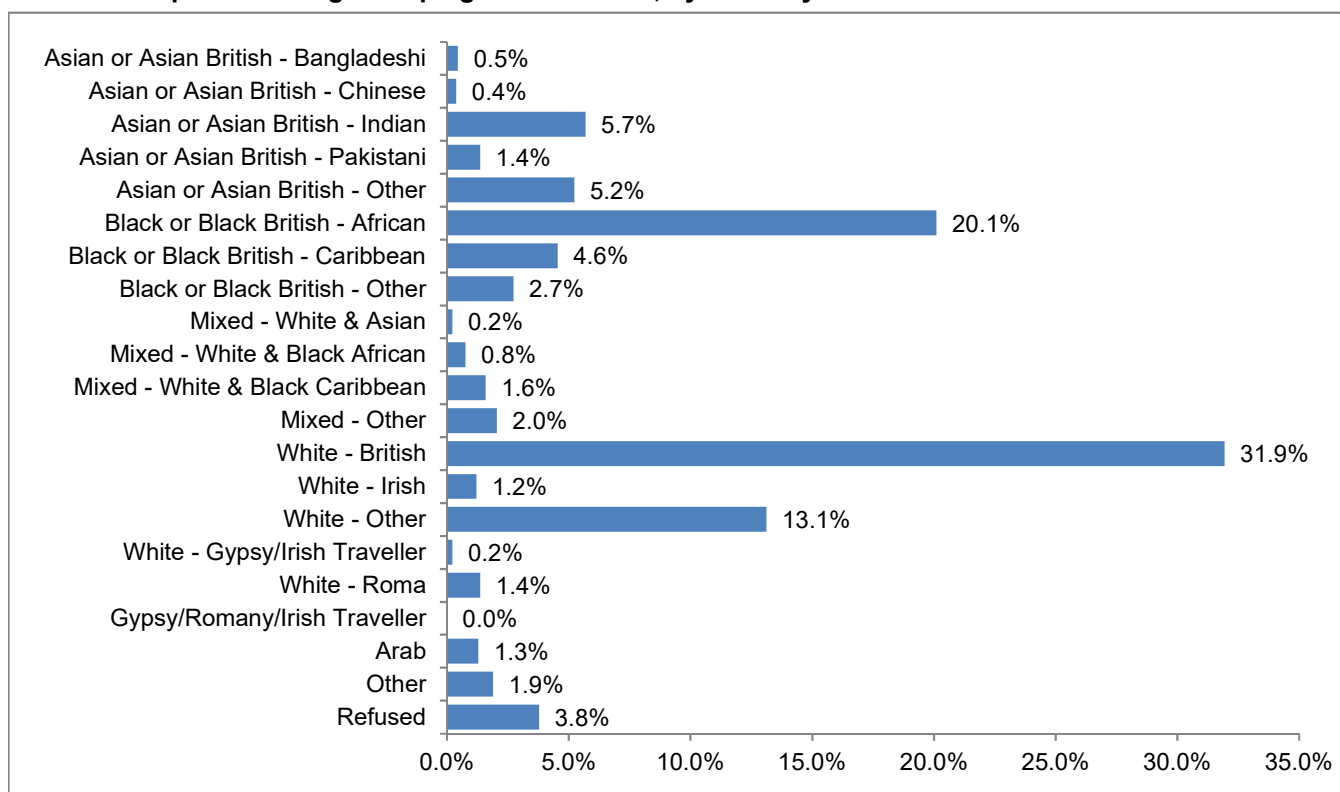


**Table 11: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by age, and borough**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Under 18 years</b>	<b>18 - 25 years</b>	<b>26 - 35 years</b>	<b>36 - 45 years</b>	<b>46 - 55 years</b>	<b>Over 55 years</b>	<b>Total</b>
Barking & Dagenham	0	2	9	13	8	2	34
Barnet	0	5	10	13	5	8	41
Bexley	0	4	4	6	6	4	24
Bromley	0	2	8	14	14	6	44
Croydon	0	5	40	38	24	19	126
Enfield	0	5	20	16	12	10	63
Greenwich	0	12	31	48	23	23	137
Hackney	0	4	22	38	22	11	97
Harrow	0	6	7	5	3	1	22
Havering	0	0	4	5	7	5	21
Heathrow	0	4	13	16	9	16	58
Hillingdon	0	25	30	36	26	15	132
Hounslow	0	41	49	21	7	3	121
Kingston upon Thames	0	3	4	4	4	3	18
Lewisham	0	9	21	29	15	14	88
Merton	0	1	3	9	7	3	23
Redbridge	0	12	31	38	24	17	122
Richmond	0	0	3	4	5	11	23
Sutton	0	4	1	3	2	0	10
Waltham Forest	0	3	15	26	18	8	70
Wandsworth	0	2	14	12	13	7	48
Bus route	0	0	5	5	3	8	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Ethnicity

**Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by ethnicity**



Base: 1,318 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in April 2021. However, many people seen rough sleeping during the period may not have had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these new categories, so the original category is also included in the graph.

**Table 12: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by ethnicity**

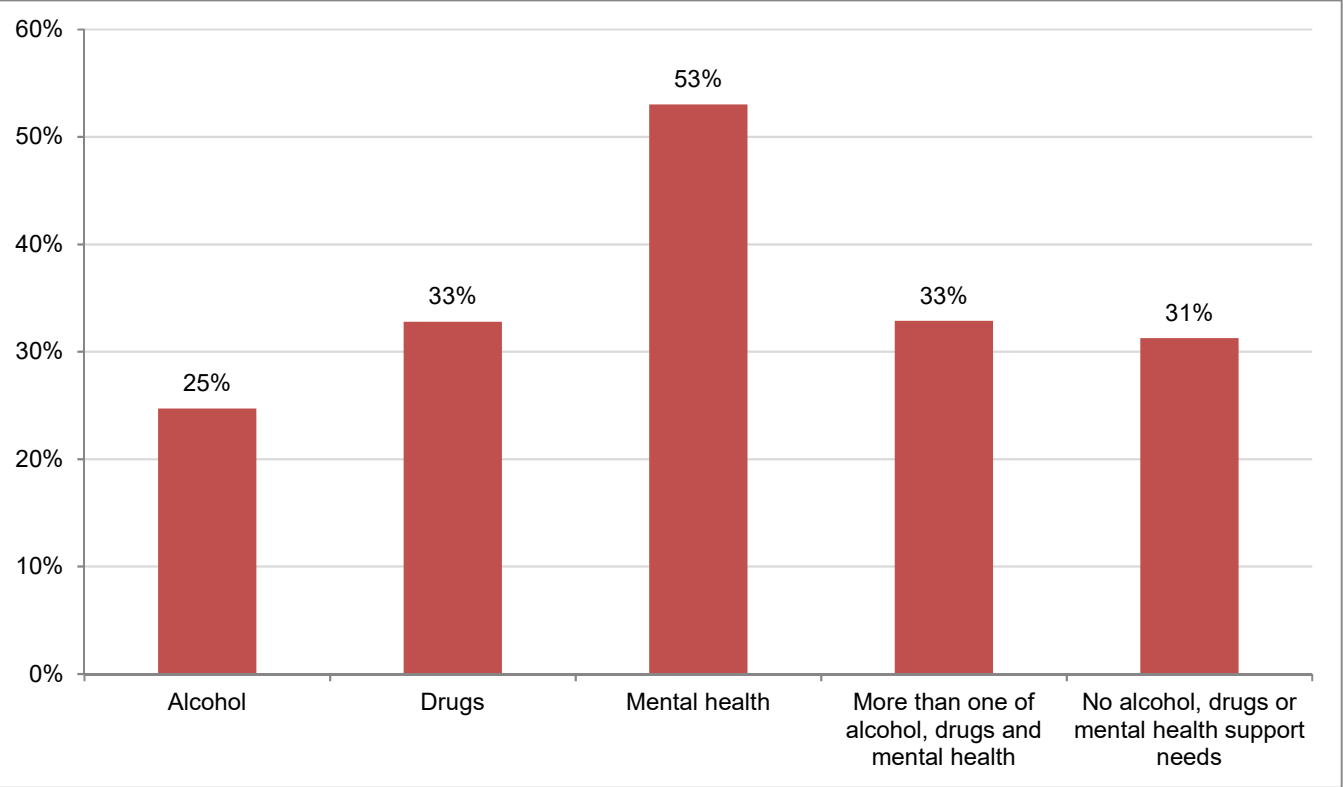
Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	173	13.1%
Black	361	27.4%
Mixed	61	4.6%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	631	47.9%
Arab/Other	42	3.2%
Refused	50	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,318</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Table 13: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by ethnicity, and borough**

[illegible]

## 6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by support needs



Base: 1,113 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 205 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 14: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by support needs

Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	275	24.7%
Drugs	365	32.8%
Mental health	590	53.0%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	366	32.9%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	348	31.3%
Total (excl. not assessed)	1,113	
Total (incl. not assessed)	1,318	

Base for percentages is people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs.

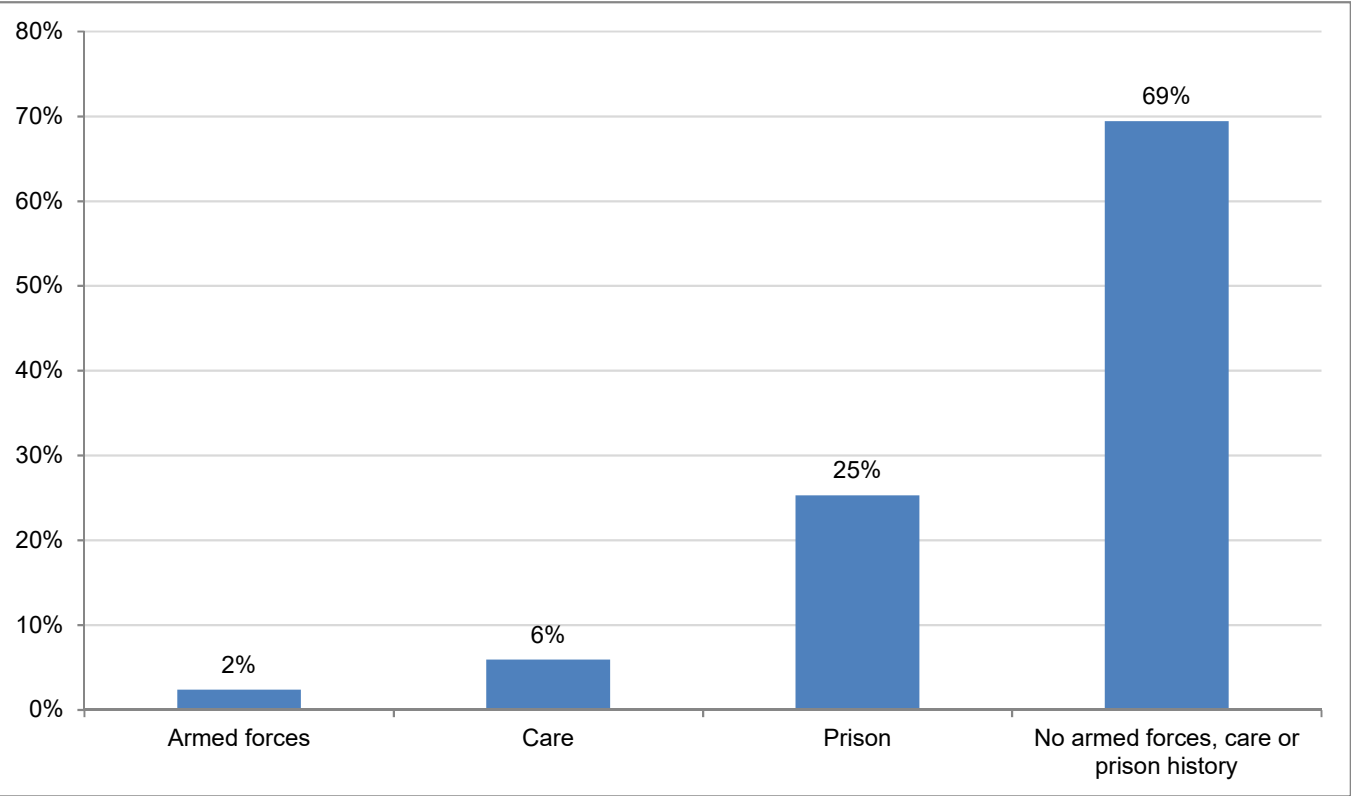
**Table 15: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by support needs, and borough**

Borough	Alcohol	Drugs	Mental health	More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	Total (excl. not assessed)
Barking & Dagenham	9	9	13	8	11	33
Barnet	5	8	18	7	13	33
Bexley	8	6	14	8	3	21
Bromley	10	19	28	20	6	37
Croydon	27	44	64	44	17	95
Enfield	6	9	23	8	30	59
Greenwich	18	41	57	40	30	97
Hackney	17	34	45	29	16	74
Harrow	2	1	10	1	9	20
Havering	8	6	9	7	5	18
Heathrow	12	2	28	8	19	52
Hillingdon	27	36	59	35	38	117
Hounslow	16	15	33	18	75	117
Kingston upon Thames	5	4	8	6	3	12
Lewisham	20	28	42	28	24	77
Merton	3	2	7	5	4	11
Redbridge	41	43	57	42	25	116
Richmond	7	6	14	7	1	19
Sutton	1	4	5	3	2	8
Waltham Forest	20	33	28	26	6	57
Wandsworth	14	20	31	21	8	43
Bus route	2	3	8	3	13	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 7. INSTITUTIONAL & ARMED FORCES HISTORY

The chart below indicates the proportions of people seen rough sleeping in Outer Boroughs during the period who had experience of spending time in prison or in local authority care as a young person, or of serving in the armed forces. This information indicates whether individuals have ever spent time in one of these settings, and does not necessarily imply that this was recent. It can include time spent in one of these settings in any country, and does not necessarily imply that it was in the UK.

**Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by experience of armed forces, care or prison**



Base: 1,099 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 219 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

**Table 16: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q4, by institutional and armed forces history**

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	26	2.4%
Armed forces - UK nationals	15	1.4%
Care	65	5.9%
Prison	278	25.3%
No armed forces, care or prison history	763	69.4%
Total (excl. not assessed)	1,099	
Total (incl. not assessed)	1,318	

Base for percentages is people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three histories.

**Table 17: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q4, by institutional and armed forces history, and borough**

Borough	Armed forces	Armed forces UK nationals	Care	Prison	No institutional or armed forces history	Total (excl. not assessed)
Barking & Dagenham	0	0	2	7	23	31
Barnet	0	0	1	7	26	33
Bexley	0	0	0	5	14	20
Bromley	0	0	0	13	23	36
Croydon	1	1	7	29	46	83
Enfield	0	0	4	10	46	59
Greenwich	2	0	9	37	57	97
Hackney	2	1	10	27	35	69
Harrow	1	1	1	2	19	21
Havering	1	1	1	4	15	19
Heathrow	2	1	1	4	49	56
Hillingdon	2	2	3	22	88	115
Hounslow	1	1	2	14	105	119
Kingston upon Thames	2	0	1	2	7	13
Lewisham	0	0	7	21	53	79
Merton	0	0	0	3	9	12
Redbridge	3	2	5	27	84	117
Richmond	4	2	1	7	10	20
Sutton	0	0	2	3	5	8
Waltham Forest	4	2	1	21	24	53
Wandsworth	0	0	6	18	24	42
Bus route	1	1	1	2	18	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 8. ACCOMMODATION OUTCOMES

Bookings into accommodation achieved by outreach teams and other borough based support services during the period. People included in these figures will have been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history, but not necessarily during the reporting period.

**Table 18: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2025-26 Q4, compared to 2025-26 Q3, by number of people**

	Oct-Dec 25	Jan-Mar 26
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation	734	499
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	452	311
Booked into temporary accommodation	245	169
Booked into long-term accommodation	103	74

Some people may have been booked into more than one type of accommodation during the period.



**Table 19: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2025-26 Q4, compared to 2025-26 Q3, by number of outcomes**

Accommodation type	Oct-Dec 25		Jan-Mar 26	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
<b>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation</b>				
Hub	176	19.1%	130	20.9%
SWEP (Local)	256	27.8%	166	26.7%
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0.0%	4	0.6%
Winter/night shelter	100	10.9%	47	7.6%
Other	3	0.3%	5	0.8%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>58.2%</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>56.7%</i>
<b>Temporary accommodation</b>				
Assessment centre	45	4.9%	20	3.2%
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	2	0.2%	2	0.3%
B&B (not local authority TA)	73	7.9%	52	8.4%
Clinic/detox/rehab	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hostel	42	4.6%	25	4.0%
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	2	0.2%	6	1.0%
Staging post	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	108	11.7%	83	13.4%
Other	8	0.9%	6	1.0%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>30.4%</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>31.2%</i>
<b>Long-term accommodation</b>				
Clearing House	1	0.1%	2	0.3%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	3	0.3%	6	1.0%
Employment-related accommodation	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	2	0.2%	1	0.2%
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Private rented sector - independent	50	5.4%	33	5.3%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	21	2.3%	8	1.3%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	1	0.1%	1	0.2%
Supported accommodation (long-term)	25	2.7%	21	3.4%
Other	2	0.2%	1	0.2%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>11.4%</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>12.1%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>920</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

An individual may have been booked into accommodation more than once during the period.

## 9. METHODOLOGY

CHAIN quarterly reports employ the methodology of assigning people seen rough sleeping during the period to categories, based on the following factors:

- Whether they were seen rough sleeping for the first time during the period
- How many times they were seen rough sleeping during the period
- Number of days elapsed between first and last time they were seen rough sleeping during the period

A further explanation of the individual categories follows.

### **New rough sleepers**

People who were seen rough sleeping for the first time during the period. The total number of new rough sleepers is broken down into those who were seen just once and did not have a second night out, those who were seen on several occasions, but as yet have not been on the streets long enough to count as 'living on the streets', and those new to the streets who remained there long enough to fulfil the criteria for 'living on the streets' (outlined below).

### **Living on the streets (LOS)**

With the designation 'living on the streets' we refer to people who have stayed on the streets after arriving, and are entrenched or at risk of becoming so. In determining who is counted as living on the streets we have used a combination of time on the streets (three or more weeks between the earliest and latest bedded down contact) and number of bedded down contacts (five or more contacts) during the period we are reporting on. If a person is seen bedded down six times, but only during one week, he or she does not count. If a person has four bedded down contacts, but spread over two months, he or she would also not count. To be counted, an individual must have both elements.

The reporting period covers three months. However, to ensure that we do not miss those whose rough sleeping crosses over reporting periods, we look back for the three weeks immediately before the start of the three month reporting period. For an individual in these circumstances, if they are not seen again, he or she will not be reported living on the streets in the next period.

The LOS total will include some who were new to the streets in the period, but whose stay extended beyond three weeks and who were seen bedded down at least five times - these are transferred from the new rough sleeper figures (shown in red in both section one and two of the report).

It is important to note that an individual who is included in the LOS total will not necessarily have been living on the streets for the entirety of the quarter in question, but they were living on the streets for a significant period during the quarter. The LOS total will also include some who are no longer on the streets, having gone into accommodation (or disappeared). They will not appear in the subsequent LOS total. An individual will only count as LOS during a period in which they meet the above criteria.

## **Intermittent rough sleepers**

Intermittent rough sleepers are those people who are not new in this period, and have not been seen rough sleeping enough to be deemed living on the streets. This group includes those who sleep rough periodically for very short periods. It also will include those who return to the streets for a longer period (but, in this period, less than the 'living on the streets' definition). Those that go on to be living on the streets will appear in that category in the next period.

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