CHAIN ANNUAL REPORT

GREATER LONDON

APRIL 2017 - MARCH 2018

CHAIN

CONTENTS

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2017 and March 2018. Information in the report is derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), a multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London. CHAIN, which is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by St Mungo's, represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping.

Services that record information on CHAIN include outreach teams, accommodation projects, day centres and specialist projects such as the GLA commissioned No Second Night Out (NSNO) assessment and reconnection service. The system allows users to share information about work done with rough sleepers and about their needs, ensuring that they receive the most appropriate support and that efforts are not duplicated. Reports from the system are used at an operational level by commissioning bodies to monitor the effectiveness of their services, and at a more strategic level by policy makers to gather intelligence about trends within the rough sleeping population and to identify emerging needs.

CHAIN data differs fundamentally from national street count statistics which are released by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Information recorded on CHAIN constitutes an ongoing record of all work done year-round by outreach teams in London, covering every single shift they carry out. In this sense it is much more comprehensive than street count data, which represents a snapshot of people seen rough sleeping on a single night. However, street count data tends to be referenced more regularly when analysing trends nationwide, as most other areas of the UK do not operate equivalent systems to CHAIN for recording their general work with rough sleepers.

In this report, people are counted as having been seen rough sleeping if they have been encountered by a commissioned outreach worker bedded down on the street, or in other open spaces or locations not designed for habitation, such as doorways, stairwells, parks or derelict buildings. The report does not include people from "hidden homeless" groups such as those "sofa surfing" or living in squats, unless they have also been seen bedded down in one of the settings outlined above.

The final section of the report presents information about people arriving at or departing from temporary accommodation for rough sleepers in London. People included in this section will have been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history, but not necessarily during 2017/18.

This report presents the full set of key annual data from CHAIN, for those wanting the most in-depth view. A shorter summary of findings and commentary on the figures is also available in the CHAIN 2017/18 Annual Bulletin, which can be downloaded from the GLA Datastore at http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports.

A total of 7,484 people were seen rough sleeping in London during 2017/18, which is an 8% decrease compared to the total of 8,108 people seen in 2016/17. Of these people, 4,456 were new rough sleepers, who had never been seen rough sleeping in London prior to April 2017. Amongst the new rough sleepers, 3,229 (72%) were seen rough sleeping on just a single occasion during the year.

Homelessness services worked to help 2,009 people who were seen rough sleeping during 2017/18 into accommodation during the same period (i.e. 27% of all rough sleepers in the year). Alongside this work, 747 people seen rough sleeping in the year were assisted to reconnect to

their home area or country, where they have more options available to them, often with help to access accommodation and/or other services. This represents 10% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period. In total, 2,206 people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 were either helped into accommodation or to reconnect. This represents 29% of all rough sleepers seen during the year.

Percentage figures in this report

Please note that, in some cases, percentage figures given in this report are rounded up or down to the nearest whole number. This may mean that individual figures in tables and charts do not add up to a combined total of 100%, or that there could be small discrepancies between percentage figures in tables and corresponding pie charts.

Glossary of acronyms used in this report

ASB: Anti-Social Behaviour
Defined in the Crime and Disorder Act (1998) as acting 'in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the perpetrator.'

CEE: Central and Eastern European
Used to denote the ten A8 and A2 European Union accession countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).

CHAIN: Combined Homelessness and Information Network
A multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London, commissioned and funded by the GLA and managed by St Mungo's.

EEA: European Economic Area
The 28 countries of the European Union (EU), plus a further three countries that are part of the EU's single market (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). Common usage generally also includes Switzerland, whose citizens have the same rights to live and work in the UK as other EEA nationals.

GLA: Greater London Authority
The top-tier administrative body for Greater London, consisting of a directly elected executive Mayor of London, and an elected 25-member London Assembly.

NSNO: No Second Night Out
A GLA commissioned assessment and reconnection project for rough sleepers. The service originally specifically targeted new rough sleepers, but from October 2014 onwards it has also worked with rough sleepers who are living on the streets. The term is also used in other contexts to refer to a wider strategy to end rough sleeping, both in London and nationwide.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

2.1 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Flow, stock, returner model

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by the flow, stock and returner model.
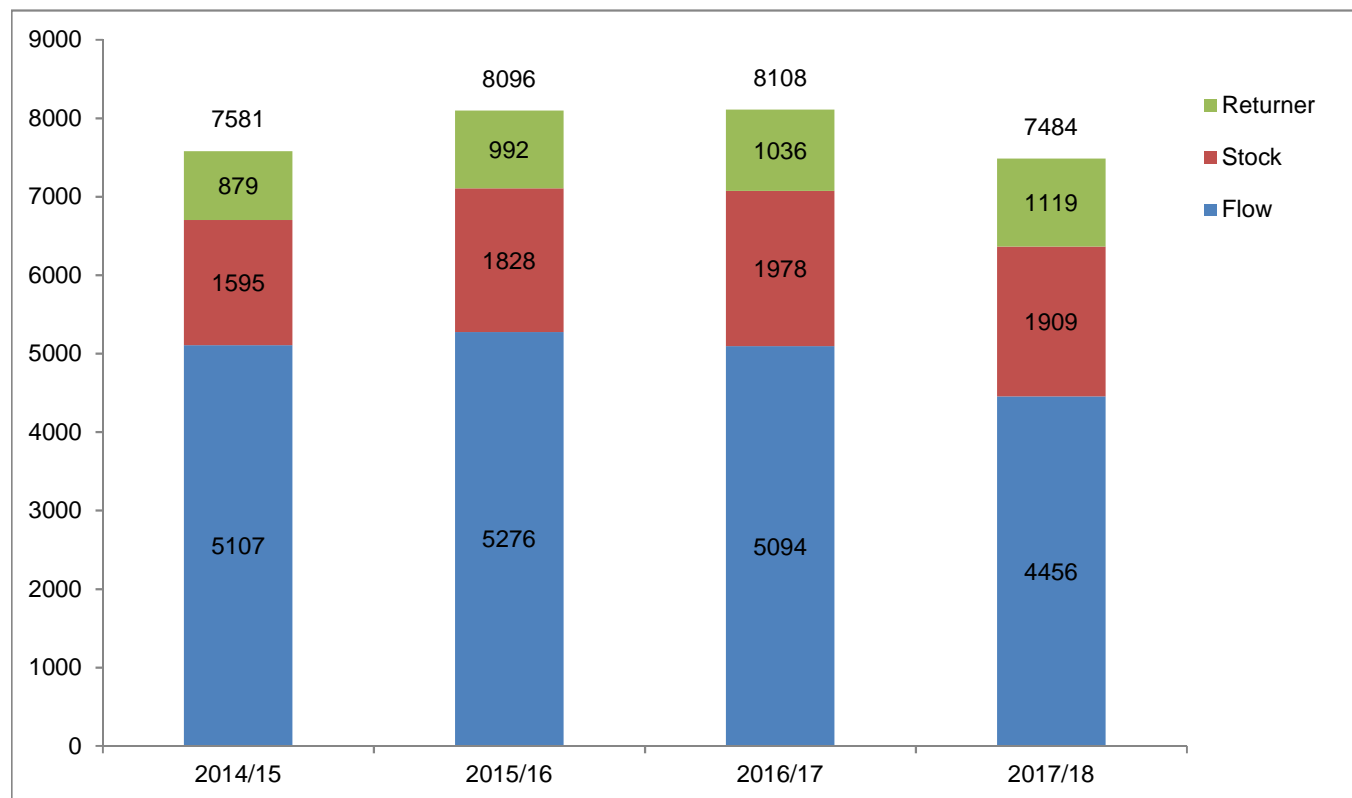
2014/15 base: 7581
2015/16 base: 8096
2016/17 base: 8108
2017/18 base: 7484

The flow, stock and returner model categorises people seen rough sleeping in the year according to whether they have also been seen rough sleeping in previous periods:

Category	Description
Flow	People who had never been seen rough sleeping prior to 2017/18 (i.e. new rough sleepers).
Stock	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
Returner	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2016/17, but were not seen during 2016/17 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

7,484 people were seen rough sleeping in London in 2017/18, which is an 8% decrease compared to the total of 8,108 people seen in 2016/17. This compares to virtually no change between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and an increase of 7% between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

59% of people were seen rough sleeping just once during the year. This is the same proportion as in 2016/17, and slightly higher than the 55% seen in 2015/16.

72% of people who were new to the streets were seen rough sleeping just once, and did not spend a second night on the streets during the year. This is the same as the proportion of 72% in 2016/17, but higher than the 64% in 2015/16.

4,456 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time this year (also referred to as flow). This is a 13% decrease on the number of new rough sleepers in 2016/17. By comparison, there was a 3% decrease in the number of new rough sleepers between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and a 3% increase between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

1,909 people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 were in the stock group. This is a 3% decrease on the stock figure for 2016/17, which can be compared to an 8% increase between 2015/16 and 2016/17, and a 15% increase between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

1,119 people seen rough sleeping during the year were returners. This compares to 1,036 in 2016/17, representing a rise of 8%, compared to an increase of 4% from 2015/16 to 2016/17, and 13% between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Returners are therefore the only group to have shown an increase, while new rough sleepers have shown the greatest decrease.

2.2 Number of people seen rough sleeping: Long range trend

People seen rough sleeping by year, over the last ten years.
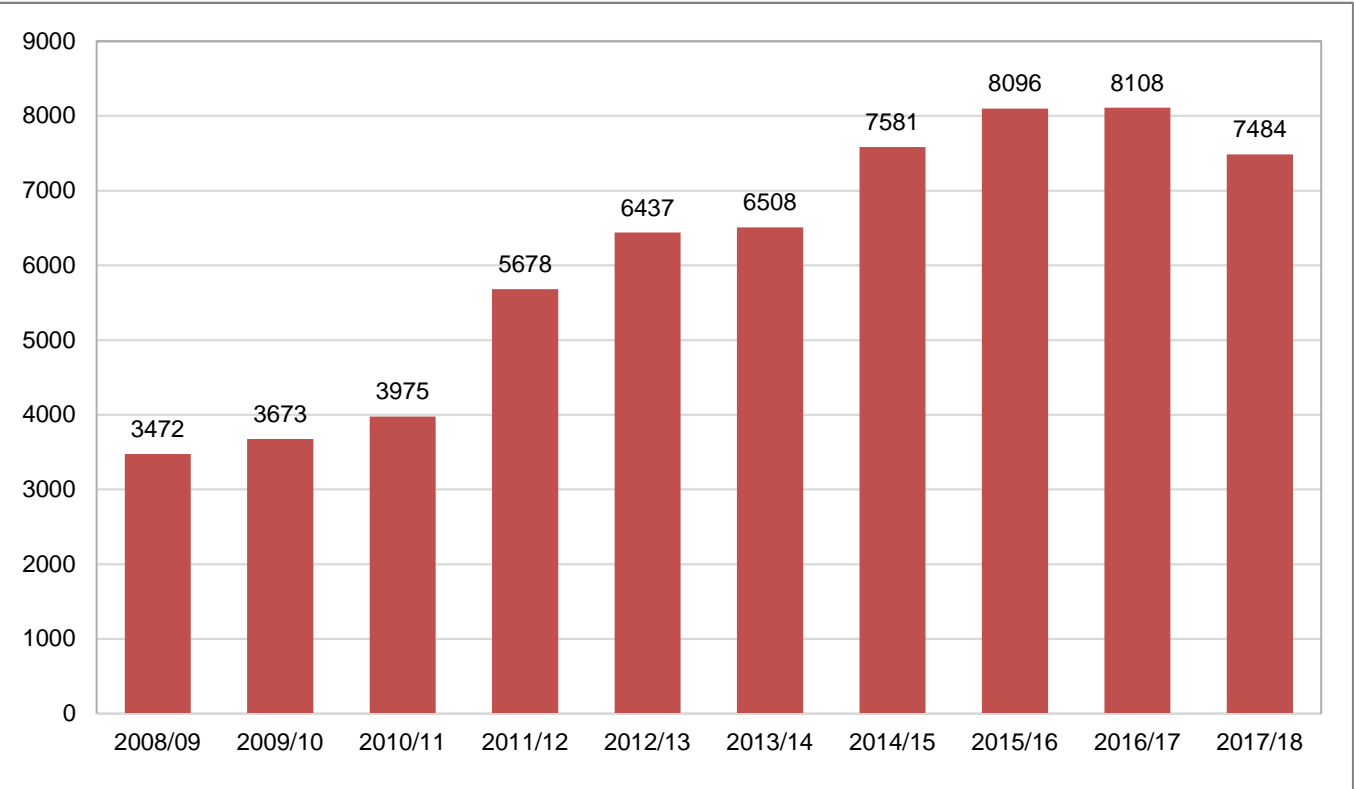
Across the last ten years, 2017/18 is the first year in which fewer people were seen rough sleeping compared to the previous year. The significant increase in 2011/12 is probably partly accounted for by the introduction of No Second Night Out, which is likely to have resulted in more people being found by outreach teams.

The 7,484 people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 is the lowest total since 2013/14, although it is still over twice the number seen ten years ago.

2.3 Number of times seen rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by number of times seen rough sleeping.
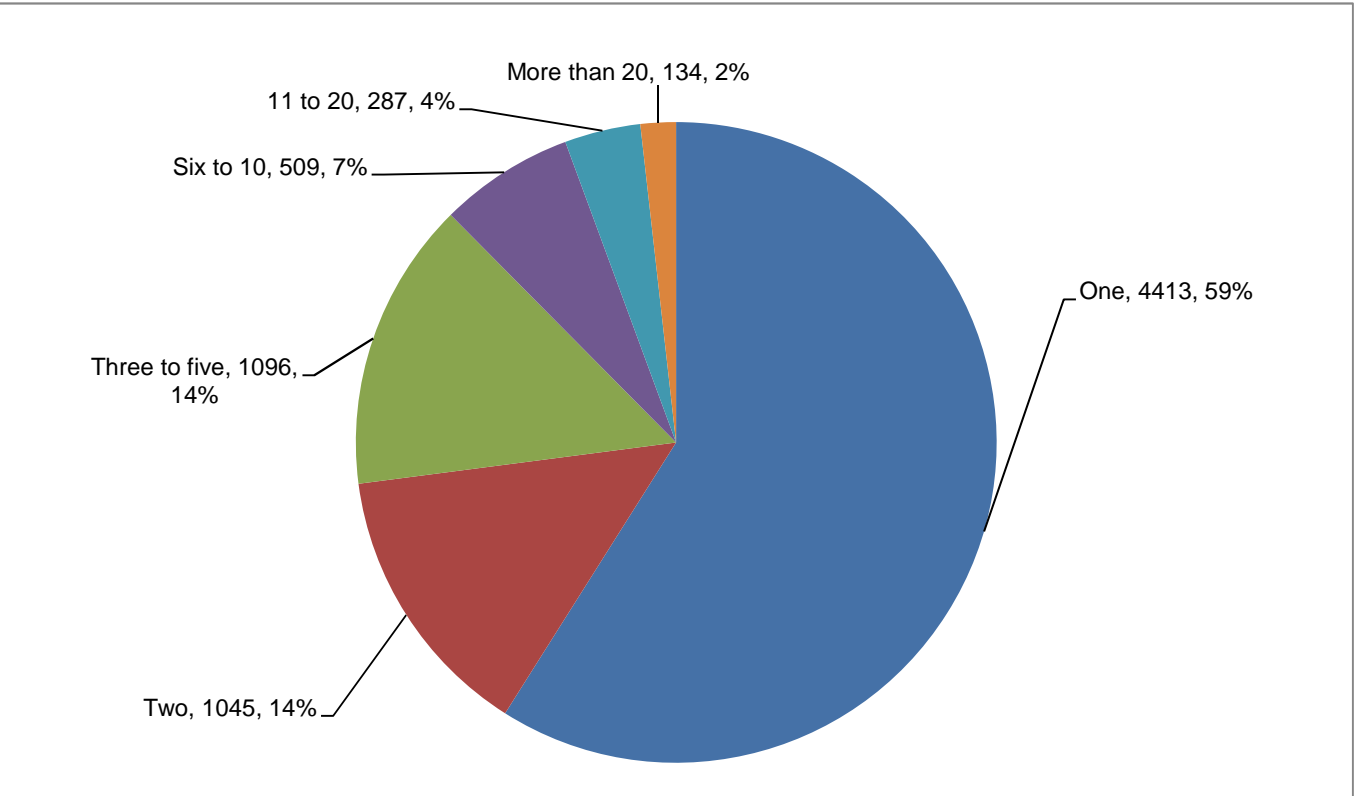
Base: 7484

4,413 (59%) people were seen rough sleeping only once in 2017/18, which compares to 4,801 (59%) seen rough sleeping just once in 2016/17. 73% were seen only once or twice. Around one in twenty people (6%) were seen rough sleeping more than ten times. One person was seen rough sleeping more than 50 times in the year, which compares to five people in 2016/17, and none in 2015/16.

2.4 Number of quarters seen rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by number of separate quarters in the year within which they were seen.
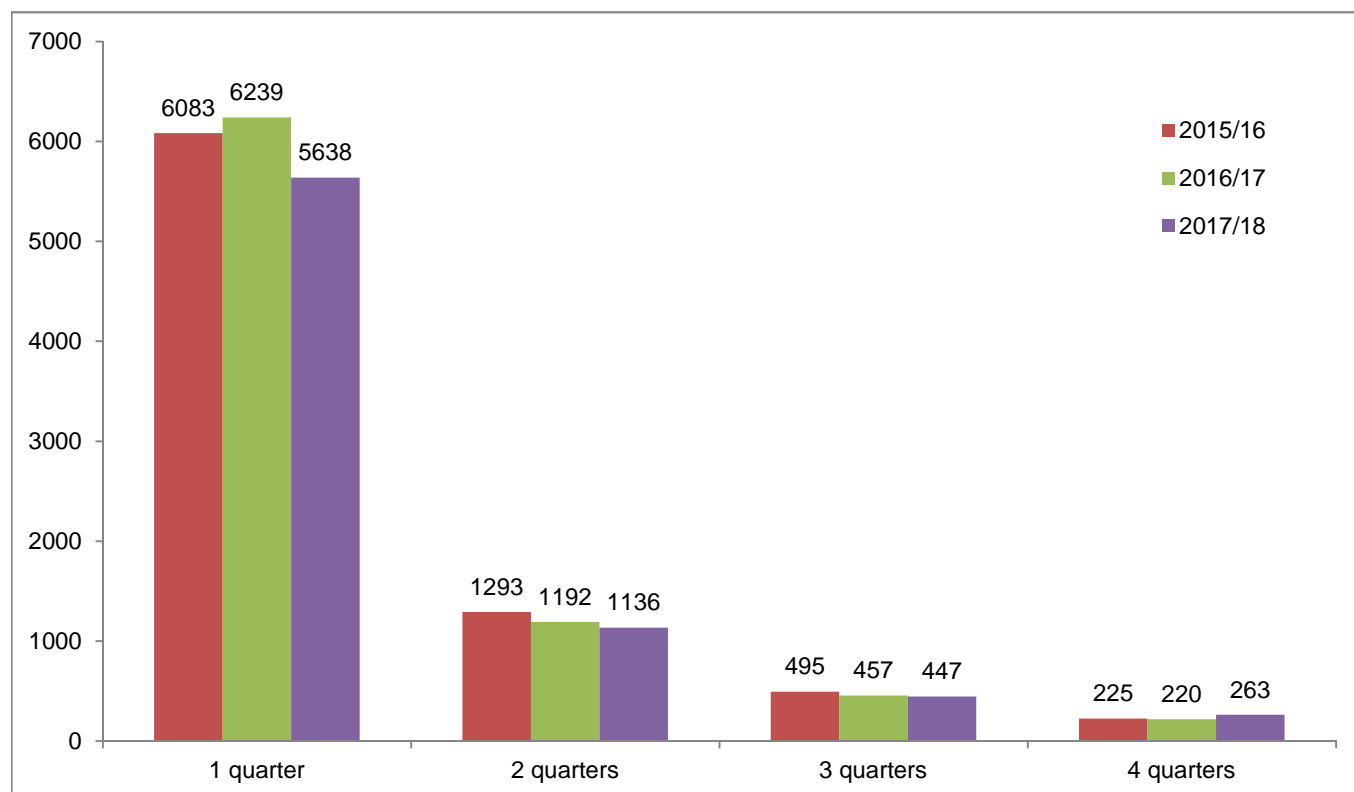
2015/16 base: 8096
2016/17 base: 8108
2017/18 base: 7484

Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers
One	6083	75%	6239	77%	5638	75%
Two	1293	16%	1192	15%	1136	15%
Three	495	6%	457	6%	447	6%
Four	225	3%	220	3%	263	4%
Total	**8096**	**100%**	**8108**	**100%**	**7484**	**100%**

The graph and table above show how many people were seen in one, two, three or all four quarters during each of the last three years. It is important to be aware that the figures for each year are limited to the year in question, and people may have also been seen in previous or subsequent years. Three in four (75%) of those seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 were only seen in one quarter of the year. 4% of those seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 were seen bedded down in all four quarters of the year, suggesting that their rough sleeping is an ongoing issue and was not successfully resolved.

The breakdown of rough sleepers by the number of quarters within which they were seen has remained consistent across the last three years.

2.5 Monthly rough sleeping trend

Number of people seen rough sleeping per month, since April 2015.
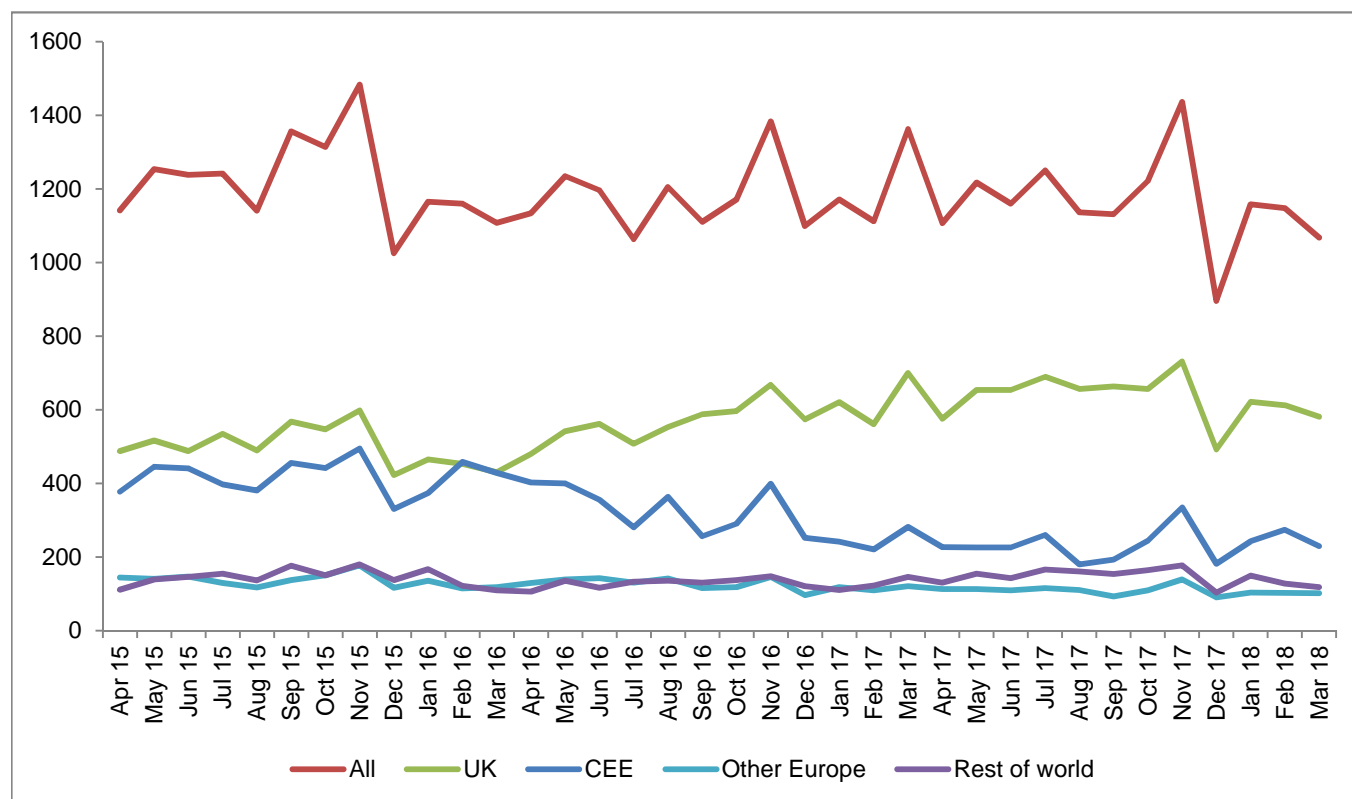
The graph above shows the monthly trend in numbers of people seen rough sleeping over the last three years, broken down by nationality group.

During 2017/18, the month in which the highest number of people were seen rough sleeping was November 2017 (1,436 people), while the lowest number were seen in December 2017 (896 people). The November peak is consistent with previous years, while the December trough also reflects the general yearly pattern.

There typically tend to be seasonal variations in rough sleeping, with the highest numbers seen in summer and autumn, and the lowest numbers in the winter months of December to February, when winter shelters are usually in operation.

The nationality comparison continues the trend observed in 2016/17, with a marked decline in the number of CEE nationals seen rough sleeping, compared to an increase for UK nationals. This is a break from the trends prior to 2016/17, which culminated in CEE and UK numbers reaching parity for the first time in February 2016. The divergence between CEE and UK numbers in this graph reflects the general nationality trend apparent elsewhere in this report.

2.6 New rough sleepers (flow): Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2017/18, by number of times seen rough sleeping during the year.
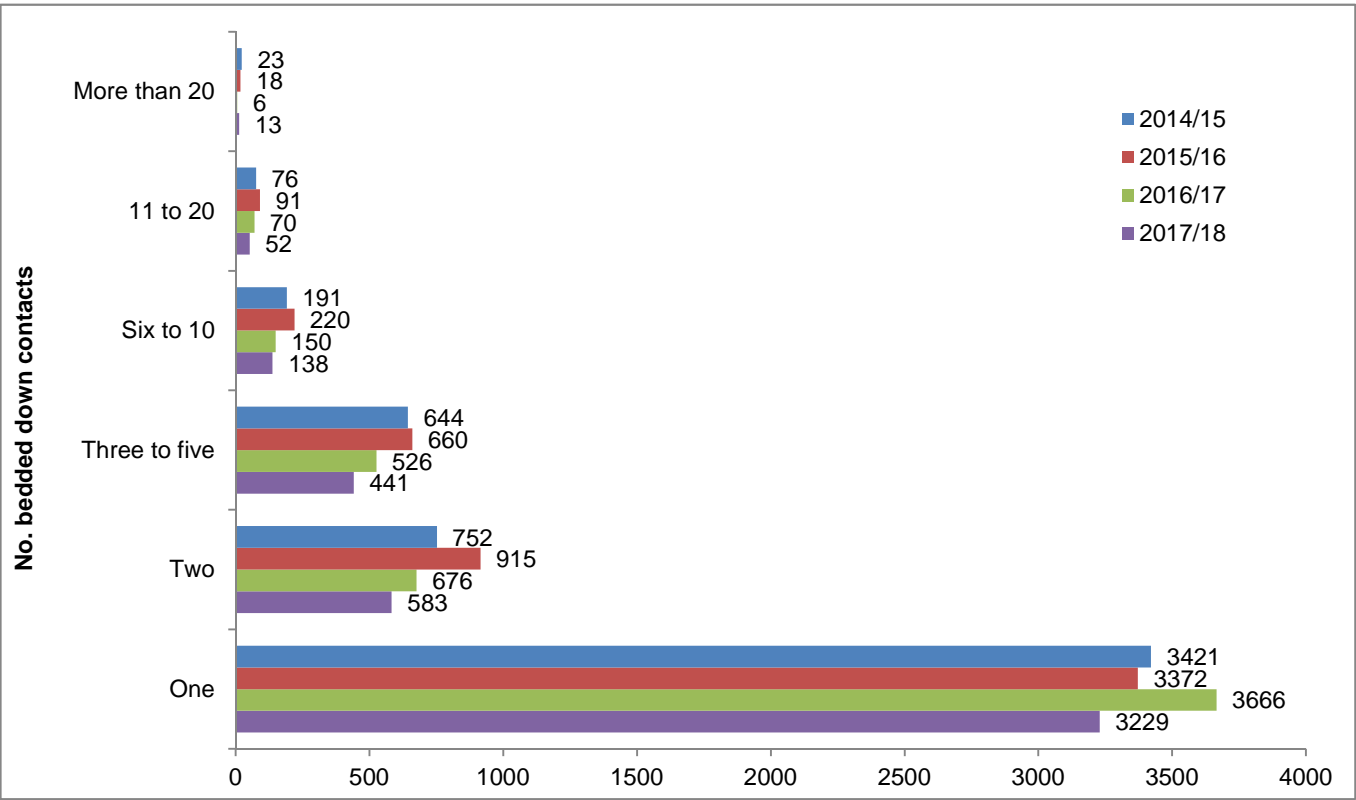
2014/15 base: 5107
2015/16 base: 5276
2016/17 base: 5094
2017/18 base: 4456

New rough sleepers represented 60% of the total rough sleeper population in 2017/18, marginally lower than the proportion of 63% in 2016/17.

72% of new people were seen rough sleeping only once, which is the same proportion as in 2016/17, and compares to 64% in 2015/16.

Only 1% of those new to the streets were seen rough sleeping more than ten times in the year.

2.7 New rough sleepers (flow): History prior to rough sleeping

People seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2017/18, by history prior to first being seen rough sleeping.

The table below details what kind of accommodation new rough sleepers reported they were living in as their last longer term or settled base prior to first being seen rough sleeping.

Last settled base	No.	%
Long term accommodation		
Private rented accommodation	941	38.3%
Local authority accommodation	175	7.1%
Owner occupied accommodation	79	3.2%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	76	3.1%
Tied accommodation	36	1.5%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	8	0.3%
Long term accommodation subtotal	*1315*	*53.5%*
Short or medium term accommodation		
Hostel	151	6.1%
Asylum support accommodation	66	2.7%
Temporary accommodation (Local authority)	59	2.4%
B&B/other temporary accommodation	9	0.4%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	6	0.2%
Short or medium term accommodation subtotal	*291*	*11.8%*
Institution		
Prison	102	4.2%
Hospital	15	0.6%
Institution subtotal	*117*	*4.8%*
Inappropriately accommodated		
Squat	22	0.9%
Outhouse	5	0.2%
Inappropriately accommodated subtotal	*27*	*1.1%*
Newly arrived in UK		
Newly arrived in UK - not homeless in home country	158	6.4%
Newly arrived in UK - homeless in home country	33	1.3%
Newly arrived in UK subtotal	*191*	*7.8%*
Other	515	21.0%
Not recorded	2000	
Total (excl. not recorded)	**2456**	**100.0%**
Total	**4456**	

Note: Total excluding not recorded is used as the base for percentages.

The table below details new rough sleepers' status at their last settled base, for those who were not newly arrived in the UK, and whose last settled base was not of an institutional or inappropriate nature.

Status at last settled base*	No.	%
Tenant	505	43%
Informal arrangement	296	25%
Parental home	181	15%
Living with partner	164	14%
Owner	24	2%
Not recorded/applicable	715	
Total (excl. not recorded/applicable)	**1170**	**100%**
Total	**1885**	

*Applies to people whose last settled base was local authority accommodation, housing association/RSL accommodation, temporary accommodation, owner occupied accommodation, private rented accommodation, tied accommodation, and in some cases where "other" has been specified.

Note: Total excluding not recorded/applicable is used as the base for percentages.

New rough sleepers' reasons for leaving their last settled base prior to first being seen rough sleeping.

Reason for leaving last settled base	No.	%
Asked to leave or evicted		
Asked to leave	466	19.0%
Evicted - arrears	204	8.3%
Evicted - ASB	69	2.8%
Evicted - end of tenancy agreement	17	0.7%
Evicted - other	133	5.4%
Asked to leave or evicted subtotal	*889*	*36.2%*
Employment and education		
Financial problems - loss of job	217	8.8%
Seeking work - from outside UK	121	4.9%
Seeking work - from within UK	92	3.7%
Study	1	0.0%
Employment and education subtotal	*431*	*17.5%*
Relationships		
Relationship breakdown	298	12.1%
Death of relative/friend	32	1.3%
Move nearer family/friends/community	32	1.3%
Relationships subtotal	*362*	*14.7%*
Financial		
Financial problems - debt	29	1.2%
Financial problems - housing benefit	26	1.1%
Financial problems - other	50	2.0%
Financial subtotal	*105*	*4.3%*
End of stay in short or medium term accommodation		
End of stay - asylum accommodation	49	2.0%
End of stay - hostel	21	0.9%
Evicted - given non priority decision	10	0.4%
End of stay - other	59	2.4%
End of stay in short or medium term accommodation subtotal	*139*	*5.7%*
Victim of violence, harassment or abuse		
Harassment/abuse/violence	56	2.3%
Domestic violence - victim	31	1.3%
Tenancy hijack	3	0.1%
Victim of violence, harassment or abuse subtotal	*90*	*3.7%*
End of stay in institution		
End of stay - prison	115	4.7%
End of stay - hospital	14	0.6%
End of stay in institution subtotal	*129*	*5.3%*
Housing conditions		
Housing conditions	27	1.1%
Perpetrator of violence, harassment or abuse		
Domestic violence - perpetrator	7	0.3%
Transient		
Transient/travelling around	27	1.1%
Other		
Other	250	10.2%
Not recorded	2000	
Total (excl. not recorded)	**2456**	**100%**
Total	**4456**	

Note: Total excluding not recorded is used as the base for percentages.

54% of new rough sleepers reported their last settled base as some kind of long term accommodation, compared to 52% in 2016/17. Within this, private rented accommodation is by far the most frequently recorded specific accommodation type, at 38%. This is similar to the 36% reported in 2016/17.

8% of new rough sleepers in 2017/18 were recorded as having recently arrived in the UK and having had no settled base since arriving. This is lower than the 13% recorded in both 2016/17 and 2015/16.

Being asked to leave or evicted continues to constitute the most commonly reported overall category of reason for leaving last settled base, cited by 36% of new rough sleepers (compared to 33% reporting reasons in this category in 2016/17). Reasons falling under the employment and education category continue to account for a significant proportion, at 18%, but this has fallen from 22% in 2016/17 and 28% 2015/16. This drop is mainly accounted for by the decrease in those leaving to seek work, which stands at 9% this year, compared to 13% in 2016/17 and 19% in 2015/16. This is likely to be related to the decrease in rough sleepers from the CEE countries which has been noted elsewhere in this report.

Relationship breakdown was cited as reason for leaving last settled base by 12% of new rough sleepers, which is the same proportion as in 2016/17.

730 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2017/18 were recorded as having approached their Local Authority Housing Options service for help in the 12 months prior to first being seen rough sleeping. This is 30% of those new rough sleepers for whom this information was recorded (and 16% of all new rough sleepers in the year). Of these, 690 (95%) had approached Housing Options teams in London boroughs.

2.8 New rough sleepers (flow): Nationality

New rough sleepers' nationalities and period spent in UK

Nationality category		Time between date of entry to UK and date first seen rough sleeping						
		Less than 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-4 weeks	4-12 weeks	12 weeks - 1 year	More than 1 year	Total
CEE	No.	88	32	60	85	116	342	723
	%	12%	4%	8%	12%	16%	47%	100%
Other Europe	No.	15	19	10	20	42	157	263
	%	6%	7%	4%	8%	16%	60%	100%
Rest of world	No.	10	2	1	5	67	399	484
	%	2%	0%	0%	1%	14%	82%	100%
Total	**No.**	**113**	**53**	**71**	**110**	**225**	**898**	**1470**
	%	**8%**	**4%**	**5%**	**7%**	**15%**	**61%**	**100%**

Base: 1470 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in 2017/18 who were non-UK nationals and had a date of entry to the UK recorded.

There were 1,470 new rough sleepers in 2017/18 who were non-UK nationals and had data recorded concerning the date they reported first entering the UK. The above table shows the difference between their date of entry to the UK and the first date they were seen rough sleeping in London, broken down by nationality category.

Three fifths (61%) of those represented in the table above had been in the UK for more than a year when they were first seen rough sleeping, compared to 55% in 2016/17. People from CEE countries had a slightly lower incidence of being seen rough sleeping within two weeks of entering the UK compared to the previous year, with 17% in 2017/18 compared to 21% in 2016/17. People from non-European countries were notably less likely than Europeans to have been seen rough sleeping within two weeks of entering the UK, at 2%.

New rough sleepers seen in the first quarter of 2017/18, by total number of quarters in which seen rough sleeping, and nationality

Nationality category		Number of quarters seen rough sleeping in the year				
		One	Two	Three	Four	Total
UK	No.	457	62	27	14	560
	%	82%	11%	5%	3%	100%
CEE	No.	215	40	7	6	268
	%	80%	15%	3%	2%	100%
Other Europe	No.	70	15	8	2	95
	%	74%	16%	8%	2%	100%
Rest of world	No.	143	20	9	2	174
	%	82%	11%	5%	1%	100%
Not known	No.	95	8	3	1	107
	%	89%	7%	3%	1%	100%
Total	**No.**	**980**	**145**	**54**	**25**	**1204**
	%	**81%**	**12%**	**4%**	**2%**	**100%**

Base: 1204 people seen rough sleeping for the first time in April-June 2017.

1,204 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time in the first quarter of 2017/18 (April-June 2017). The above table shows the total number of quarters in 2017/18 during which these people were seen rough sleeping, broken down by nationality category. This gives a snapshot indication of the comparative likelihood of new rough sleepers from different nationalities remaining on the streets after they have first been seen.

The comparison shows that variation between nationality groups, in terms of the likelihood of them remaining on the streets, was minor. This is largely consistent with 2016/17, when 81% of UK nationals seen in the first quarter of the year were seen in just the one quarter, compared to 82% of CEE nationals and 79% from other European countries.

2.9 Stock rough sleepers: Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping across a minimum of two consecutive years (stock), by number of times seen rough sleeping in the year.
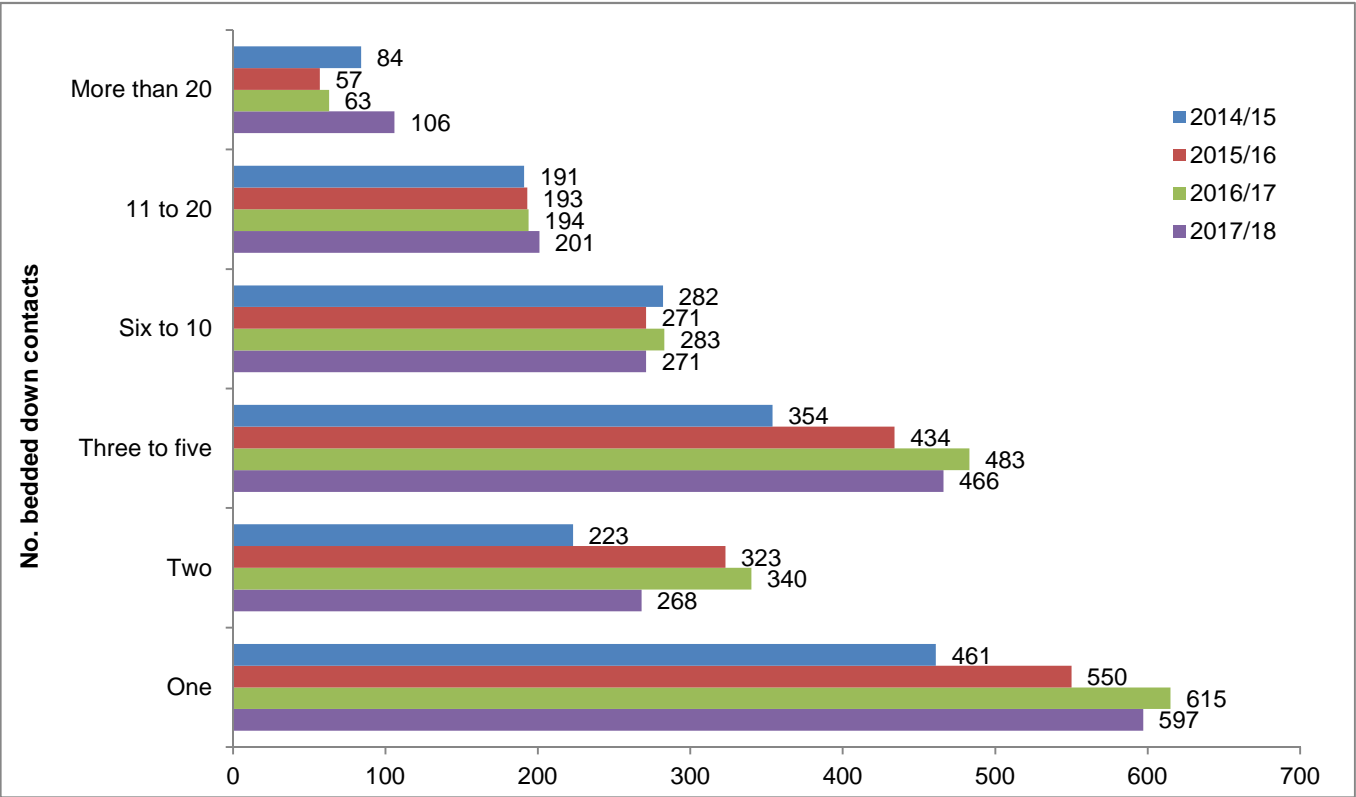
2014/15 base:	1595
2015/16 base:	1828
2016/17 base:	1978
2017/18 base:	1909

The number of people in the stock group has decreased by 3% from 2016/17, and represents 26% of the total rough sleeper population in 2017/18 (compared to 24% in 2016/17). 31% of people in the stock group were seen rough sleeping only once in 2017/18, which is unchanged from the proportion seen once in 2016/17.

2.10 Returner rough sleepers: Number of times seen

People seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2016/17, but not seen rough sleeping during 2016/17 (returners), by number of times seen rough sleeping in the year.
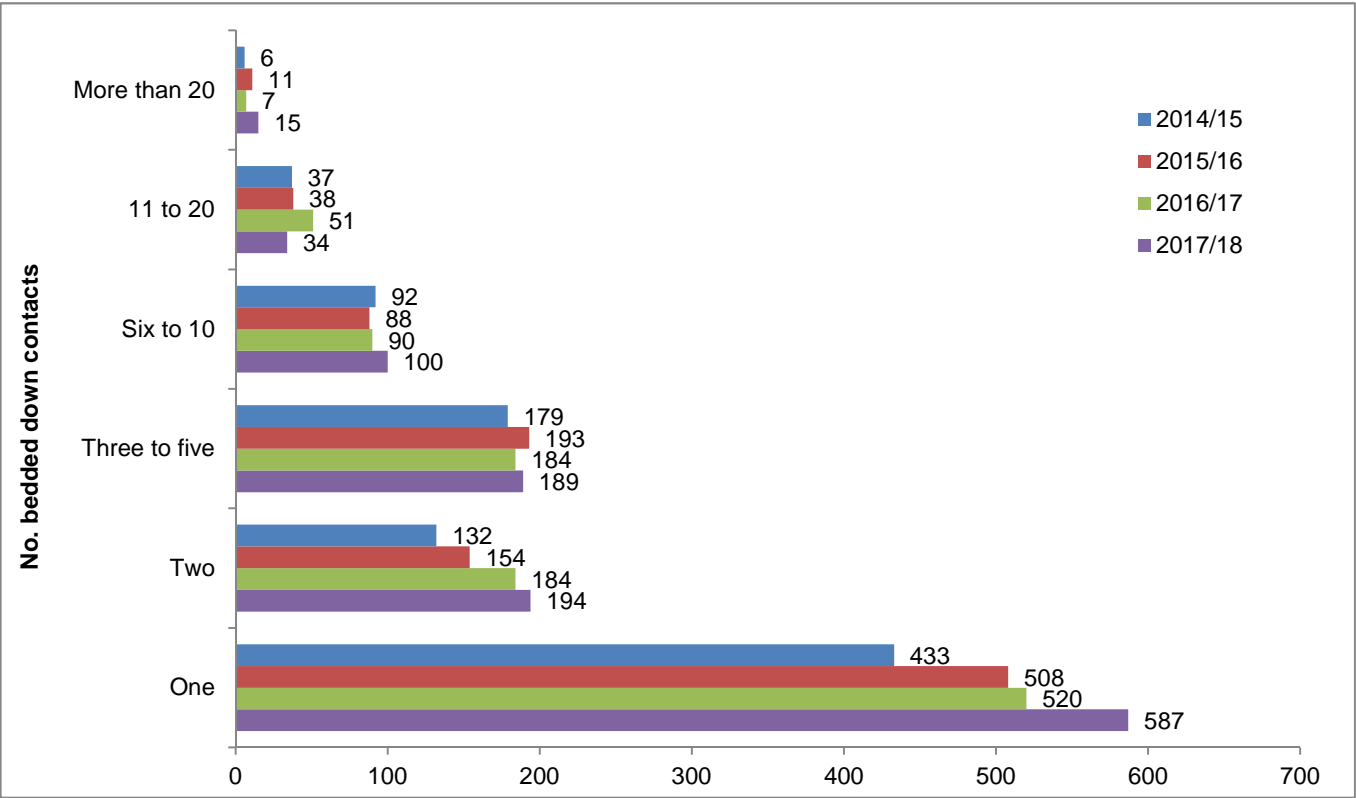
2014/15 base:	879	
2015/16 base:	992	
2016/17 base:	1036	
2017/18 base:	1119	

The number of people returning to rough sleeping in 2017/18 has risen by 8%, when compared to 2016/17. Returners constituted 15% of all people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18, compared to 13% in 2016/17.

The proportion of returners who were seen rough sleeping just once during 2017/18 was 52%. This compares to 50% in 2016/17.

70% of returners were seen only once or twice in the year, which suggests that the majority of returners are not continuing a rough sleeping lifestyle over long periods of time. This is consistent with the figure of 68% of returners seen only once or twice in 2016/17.

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Total rough sleepers by borough: Yearly comparison

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by borough.

Borough	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Change since 2016/17	Change since 2014/15
Westminster	2570	2857	2767	2165	-602	-405
Camden	563	641	702	784	82	221
Newham	221	260	396	418	22	197
Tower Hamlets	377	395	445	375	-70	-2
Ealing	219	287	243	358	115	139
City of London	373	440	379	348	-31	-25
Southwark	373	372	318	309	-9	-64
Lambeth	468	445	355	279	-76	-189
Redbridge	121	222	219	239	20	118
Croydon	157	166	192	234	42	77
Kensington & Chelsea	225	230	211	229	18	4
Haringey	100	135	146	212	66	112
Hammersmith & Fulham	161	241	246	202	-44	41
Brent	359	212	294	200	-94	-159
Lewisham	199	133	200	199	-1	0
Islington	135	158	178	176	-2	41
Hackney	155	148	134	171	37	16
Hounslow	161	191	163	170	7	9
Enfield	174	136	106	109	3	-65
Richmond	120	133	105	107	2	-13
Greenwich	99	110	91	94	3	-5
Waltham Forest	118	139	82	94	12	-24
Wandsworth	125	96	73	68	-5	-57
Hillingdon	57	56	91	58	-33	1
Barnet	125	88	106	53	-53	-72
Heathrow	266	241	200	52	-148	-214
Kingston upon Thames	40	31	35	50	15	10
Bromley	44	47	57	47	-10	3
Barking & Dagenham	27	32	49	40	-9	13
Sutton	46	35	49	34	-15	-12
Harrow	45	65	43	33	-10	-12
Havering	25	20	31	27	-4	2
Merton	55	49	40	24	-16	-31
Bexley	22	26	22	19	-3	-3
Bus route	0	19	21	142	121	142
Tube line	0	0	0	5	5	5

Note: Although Heathrow is located within the borough of Hillingdon and is not actually a borough in itself, it is counted separately for the purposes of CHAIN reporting due to the specific rough sleeping issues that pertain there. Where rough sleepers have been seen by outreach workers on public transport, their contacts are ascribed to "bus route" or "tube line" rather than to a particular borough.

The boroughs in which the greatest numbers of rough sleepers were seen in 2017/18 were Westminster, Camden, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Ealing and City of London. This is broadly consistent with 2016/17, with the exception of Ealing, which has risen from recording the tenth highest number of rough sleepers in 2016/17 to the fifth highest in 2017/18. Of the top ten boroughs, half have shown decreased numbers on the previous year.

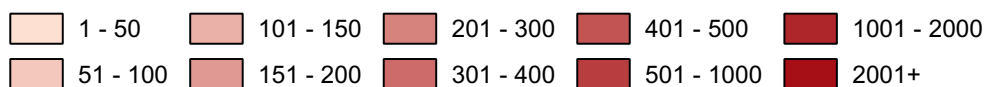The increase in people recorded on public transport is due to the inception of the GLA's new TFL Outreach service in October 2017, which specifically works with people rough sleeping on buses and the night tube.

3.2 Total rough sleepers by borough: Map

The map below shows a colour coded representation of the total number of people seen rough sleeping during the year in each borough.

No. People Seen Rough Sleeping

1 - 50	101 - 150	201 - 300	401 - 500	1001 - 2000
51 - 100	151 - 200	301 - 400	501 - 1000	2001+
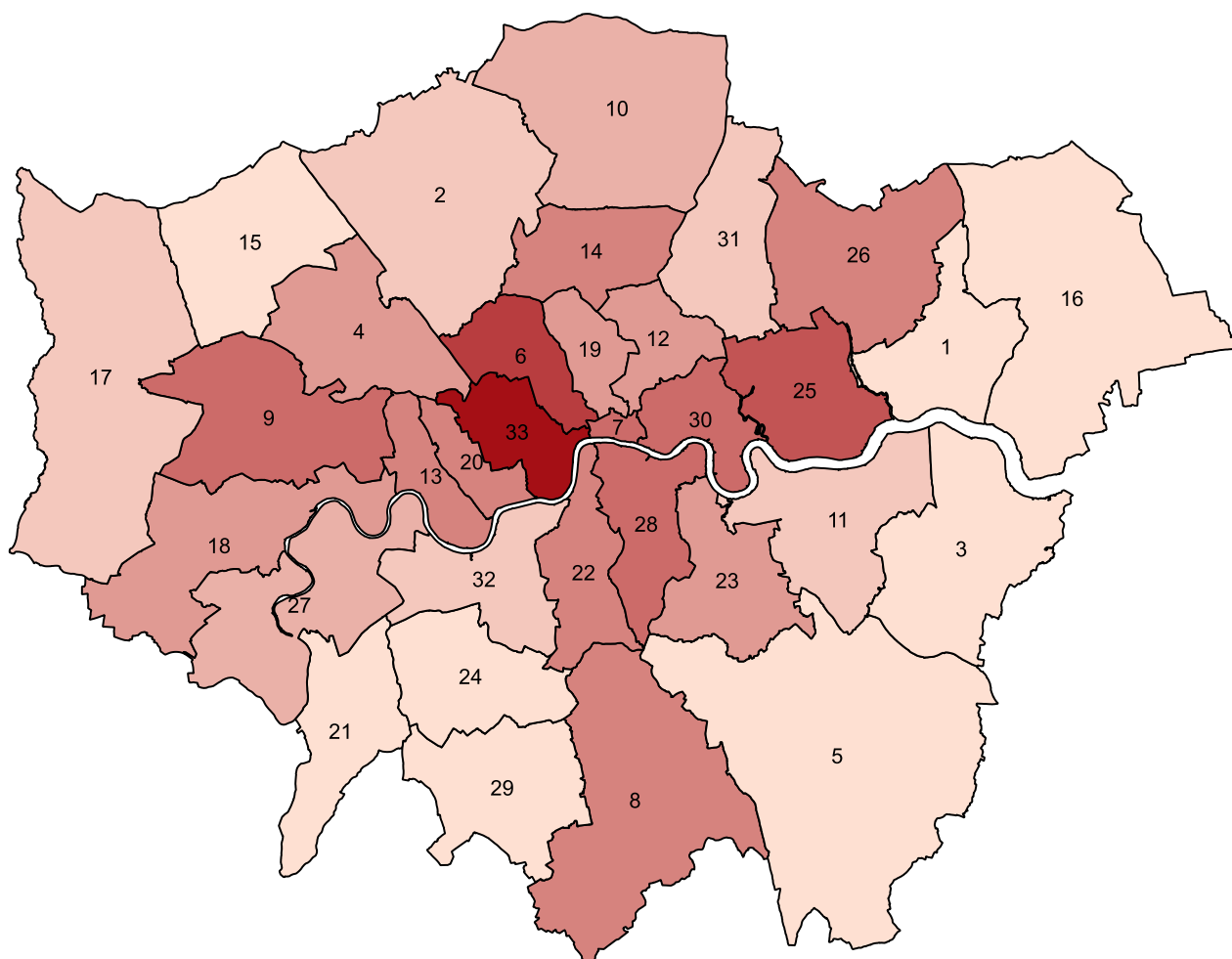
Key	Borough	No.	Key	Borough	No.	Key	Borough	No.
1	Barking & Dagenham	40	12	Hackney	171	23	Lewisham	199
2	Barnet	53	13	Hammersmith & Fulham	202	24	Merton	24
3	Bexley	19	14	Haringey	212	25	Newham	418
4	Brent	200	15	Harrow	33	26	Redbridge	239
5	Bromley	47	16	Havering	27	27	Richmond	107
6	Camden	784	17	Hillingdon	58	28	Southwark	309
7	City of London	348	18	Hounslow	170	29	Sutton	34
8	Croydon	234	19	Islington	176	30	Tower Hamlets	375
9	Ealing	358	20	Kensington & Chelsea	229	31	Waltham Forest	94
10	Enfield	109	21	Kingston upon Thames	50	32	Wandsworth	68
11	Greenwich	94	22	Lambeth	279	33	Westminster	2165
						34	Heathrow	52

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3.3 New rough sleepers by borough: Map

The map below shows new rough sleepers as a percentage of the total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough during the year, colour coded by relative proportion.
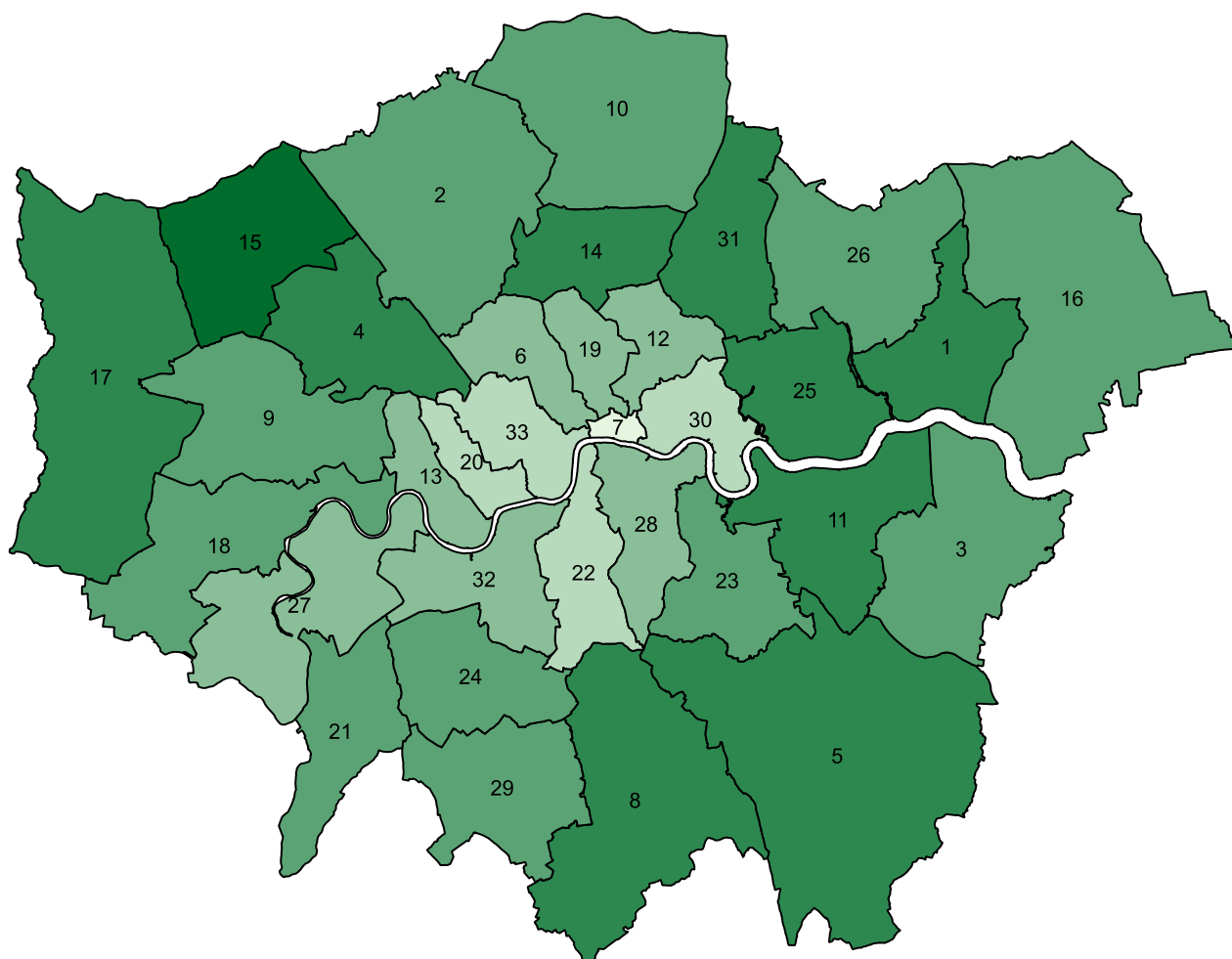
New Rough Sleepers As Percentage Of All

| 31% - 40% | 41% - 50% | 51% - 60% | 61% - 70% | 71% - 80% | 81% - 90% |

Key	Borough	%	Key	Borough	%	Key	Borough	%
1	Barking & Dagenham	73	12	Hackney	54	23	Lewisham	70
2	Barnet	70	13	Hammersmith & Fulham	58	24	Merton	67
3	Bexley	68	14	Haringey	75	25	Newham	71
4	Brent	72	15	Harrow	88	26	Redbridge	62
5	Bromley	72	16	Havering	67	27	Richmond	54
6	Camden	53	17	Hillingdon	79	28	Southwark	56
7	City of London	35	18	Hounslow	63	29	Sutton	65
8	Croydon	73	19	Islington	56	30	Tower Hamlets	50
9	Ealing	61	20	Kensington & Chelsea	50	31	Waltham Forest	72
10	Enfield	70	21	Kingston upon Thames	68	32	Wandsworth	57
11	Greenwich	74	22	Lambeth	46	33	Westminster	50
						34	Heathrow	73

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3.4 Change since 2014/15 by borough: Map

The map below shows a colour coded representation of the change in total number of people seen rough sleeping in each borough, between 2014/15 and 2017/18.
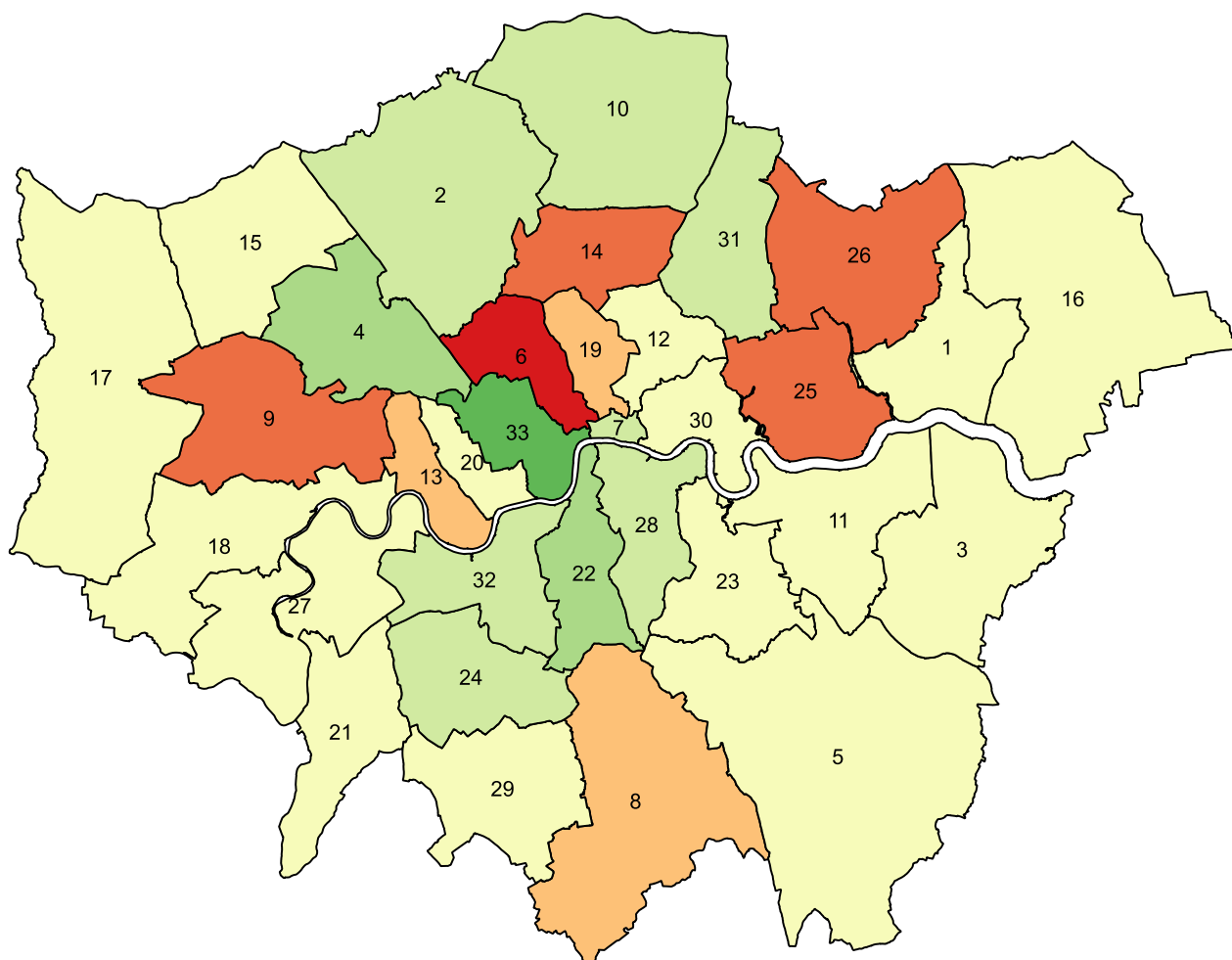
Change In Total Since 2014/15

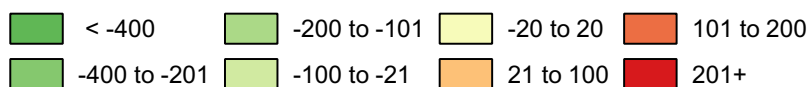|		
■ < -400	■ -200 to -101	■ -20 to 20	■ 101 to 200
■ -400 to -201	■ -100 to -21	■ 21 to 100	■ 201+

Key	Borough	Change
1	Barking & Dagenham	13
2	Barnet	-72
3	Bexley	-3
4	Brent	-159
5	Bromley	3
6	Camden	221
7	City of London	-25
8	Croydon	77
9	Ealing	139
10	Enfield	-65
11	Greenwich	-5

Key	Borough	Change
12	Hackney	16
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	41
14	Haringey	112
15	Harrow	-12
16	Havering	2
17	Hillingdon	1
18	Hounslow	9
19	Islington	41
20	Kensington & Chelsea	4
21	Kingston upon Thames	10
22	Lambeth	-189

Key	Borough	Change
23	Lewisham	0
24	Merton	-31
25	Newham	197
26	Redbridge	118
27	Richmond	-13
28	Southwark	-64
29	Sutton	-12
30	Tower Hamlets	-2
31	Waltham Forest	-24
32	Wandsworth	-57
33	Westminster	-405
34	Heathrow	-214

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3.5 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

The map below shows the number of bedded down street contacts recorded in each Middle Super Output Area across Greater London during the period. It is important to note that this represents volume of contacts rather than individuals, and some people may have been seen on multiple occasions within a given area.

No. Bedded Down Contacts

1	3	6-10	21-50
2	4-5	11-20	51+
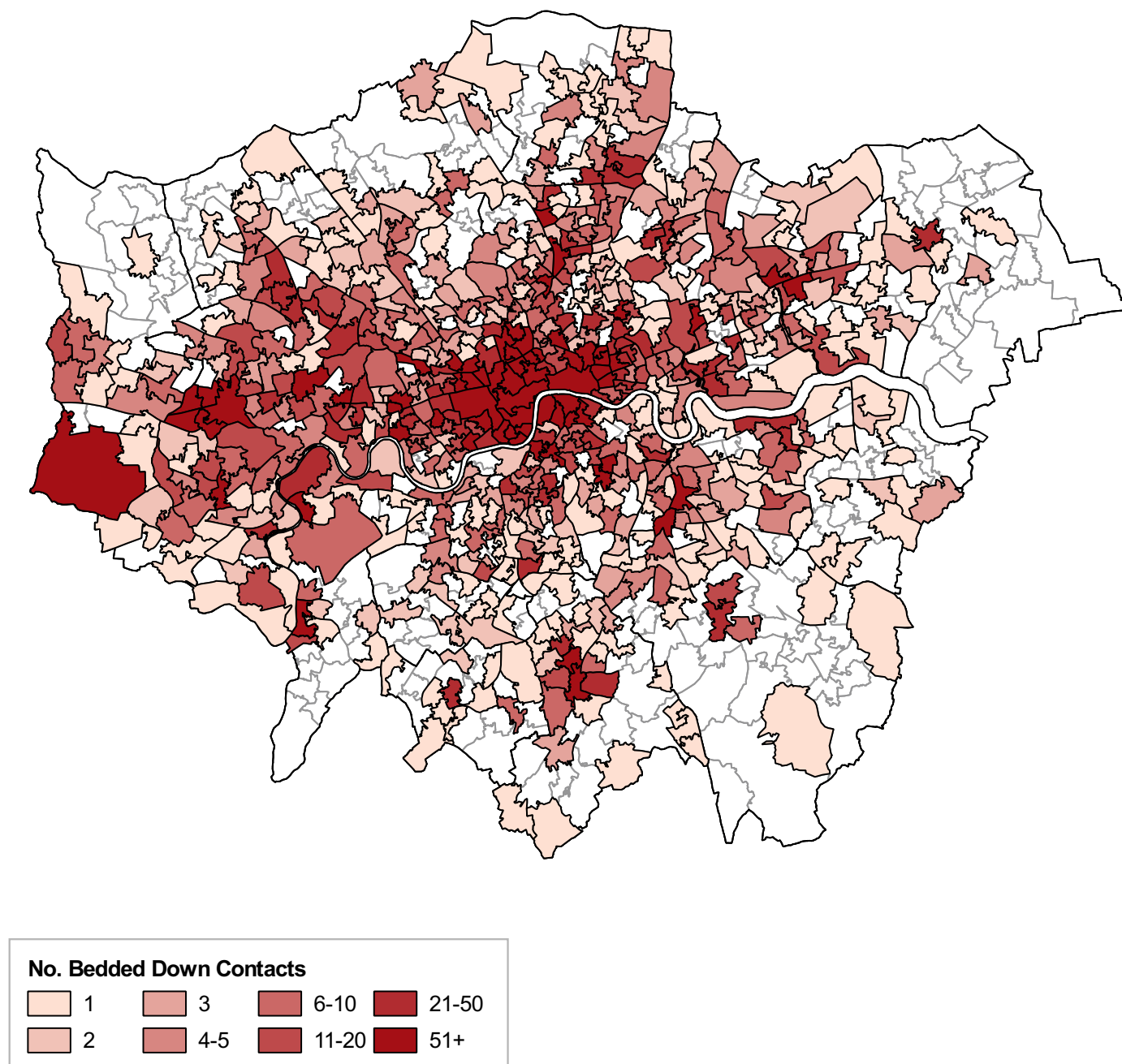
4. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

4.1 Nationality: Overall composition

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by nationality.
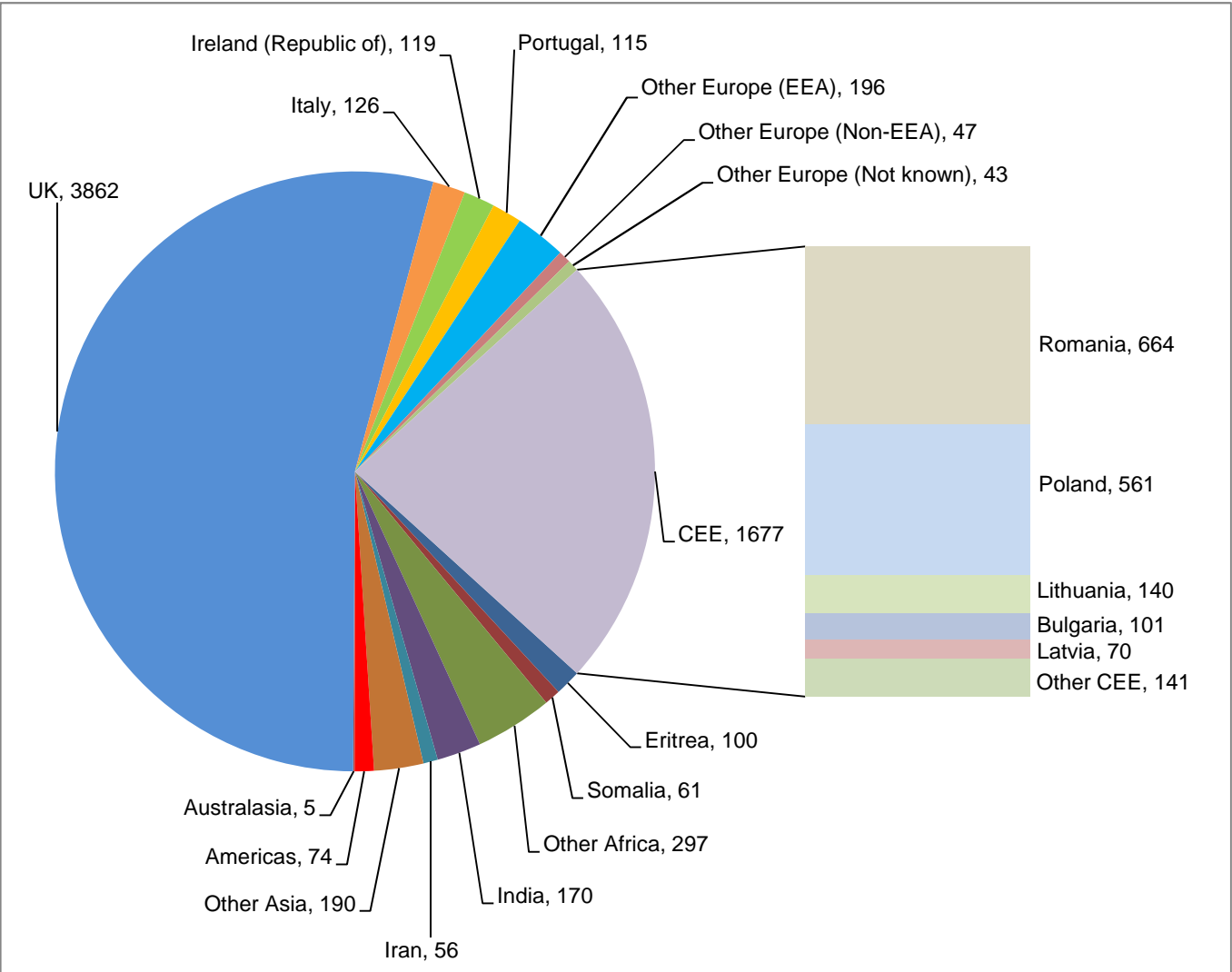
Base: 7138 people seen rough sleeping in the year whose nationality was known.

The nationality profile of rough sleepers in London remains diverse, but has shown a continuation of trends first observed in 2016/17. 54% of people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 were from the UK, which compares to 47% in 2016/17 and 41% in 2015/16, confirming a trend towards UK nationals increasing as a proportion of all rough sleepers, following an earlier period when this group's proportion was in decline. The proportion of rough sleepers from CEE countries was 23% this year, compared to 30% in 2016/17 and 37% in 2015/16, confirming a trend towards CEE nationals declining as a proportion of all rough sleepers, following earlier years where this group's proportion was on the increase. These changes are also seen in terms of absolute numbers, as opposed to proportion of the overall rough sleeper population, with the number of UK nationals having risen by 6% compared to last year, while the number of CEE nationals fell by 28%.

Despite the ongoing drop in numbers, Romanians (664, 9%) continue to constitute the predominant non-UK nationality, with Poles (561, 8%) making up the second largest non-UK nationality group.

There were a significant number of rough sleepers from non-CEE European countries, mostly those in the European Economic Area, with Italy (126), the Republic of Ireland (119), and Portugal (115) continuing to be the most heavily represented. 458 (6%) people seen rough sleeping in the year were from African countries, and 416 (6%) were of Asian nationality (170 of whom were Indian).

4.2 Nationality: Yearly comparison

Nationality	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	3271	41.2%	3653	47.4%	3862	54.1%
Romania	1546	19.5%	1130	14.7%	664	9.3%
Poland	695	8.7%	639	8.3%	561	7.9%
Lithuania	220	2.8%	181	2.3%	140	2.0%
Bulgaria	124	1.6%	122	1.6%	101	1.4%
Latvia	110	1.4%	74	1.0%	70	1.0%
Hungary	104	1.3%	100	1.3%	61	0.9%
Czech Republic	59	0.7%	44	0.6%	45	0.6%
Slovakia	39	0.5%	32	0.4%	17	0.2%
Estonia	23	0.3%	10	0.1%	16	0.2%
Slovenia	4	0.1%	5	0.1%	2	0.0%
CEE subtotal	*2924*	*36.8%*	*2337*	*30.3%*	*1677*	*23.5%*
Italy	132	1.7%	134	1.7%	126	1.8%
Ireland (Republic of)	140	1.8%	150	1.9%	119	1.7%
Portugal	158	2.0%	146	1.9%	115	1.6%
Spain	79	1.0%	75	1.0%	59	0.8%
France	77	1.0%	57	0.7%	46	0.6%
Germany	45	0.6%	26	0.3%	24	0.3%
Netherlands	40	0.5%	28	0.4%	15	0.2%
Greece	16	0.2%	21	0.3%	14	0.2%
Other European (EEA) countries	58	0.7%	64	0.8%	38	0.5%
Other Europe (EEA) subtotal	*745*	*9.4%*	*701*	*9.1%*	*556*	*7.8%*
Turkey	12	0.2%	18	0.2%	13	0.2%
Other European (Non-EEA) countries	50	0.6%	38	0.5%	34	0.5%
Other Europe (Non-EEA) subtotal	*62*	*0.8%*	*56*	*0.7%*	*47*	*0.7%*
Other Europe (Not known)	21	0.3%	31	0.4%	43	0.6%
Eritrea	83	1.0%	92	1.2%	100	1.4%
Somalia	55	0.7%	75	1.0%	61	0.9%
Nigeria	36	0.5%	42	0.5%	39	0.5%
Sudan	36	0.5%	50	0.6%	36	0.5%
Ghana	20	0.3%	22	0.3%	23	0.3%
Ethiopia	22	0.3%	29	0.4%	22	0.3%
Algeria	29	0.4%	22	0.3%	22	0.3%
Other African countries	153	1.9%	138	1.8%	155	2.2%
Africa subtotal	*434*	*5.5%*	*470*	*6.1%*	*458*	*6.4%*
Jamaica	30	0.4%	26	0.3%	22	0.3%
Other Americas countries	62	0.8%	50	0.6%	52	0.7%
Americas subtotal	*92*	*1.2%*	*76*	*1.0%*	*74*	*1.0%*
India	147	1.8%	148	1.9%	170	2.4%
Iran	43	0.5%	55	0.7%	56	0.8%
Sri Lanka	43	0.5%	28	0.4%	32	0.4%
Bangladesh	25	0.3%	31	0.4%	25	0.4%
Afghanistan	24	0.3%	9	0.1%	22	0.3%
Other Asian countries	104	1.3%	104	1.3%	111	1.6%
Asia subtotal	*386*	*4.9%*	*375*	*4.9%*	*416*	*5.8%*
Australasia	11	0.1%	6	0.1%	5	0.1%
Not Known	150		403		346	
Total (excl. Not known)	7946	100.0%	7705	100.0%	7138	100.0%
Total (incl. Not known)	8096		8108		7484	

Note: Total excluding not known is used as base for percentages.

Nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping across the last five years.
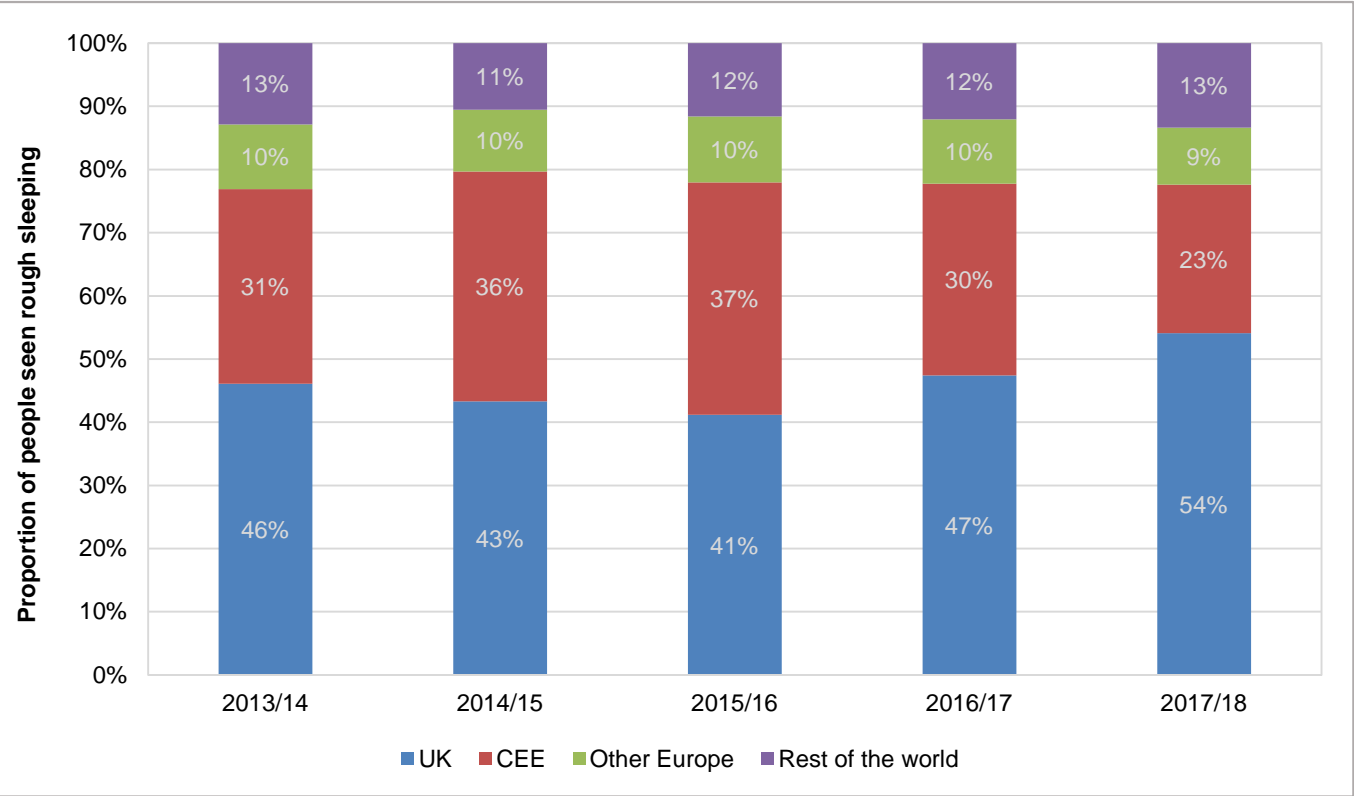
Note: Percentages are based on total people seen rough sleeping for whom nationality was known.

2013/14 base: 6387
2014/15 base: 7413
2015/16 base: 7946
2016/17 base: 7705
2017/18 base: 7138

4.3 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model

The table below compares flow, stock and returner breakdown between different nationality groups.

Nationality category	Flow		Stock		Returner		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	2111	55%	1082	28%	669	17%	3862	100%
CEE	1062	63%	403	24%	212	13%	1677	100%
Other Europe	368	57%	174	27%	104	16%	646	100%
Rest of world	618	65%	213	22%	122	13%	953	100%
Not known	297	86%	37	11%	12	3%	346	100%
Total	**4456**	**60%**	**1909**	**26%**	**1119**	**15%**	**7484**	**100%**

Base: 7484 people seen rough sleeping in the year.

Variations between categorisation of nationality groups are relatively minor, although UK nationals are least likely to fall into the flow group, with 55% compared to 63% for CEE nationals and 65% for those from outside Europe. The low variation continues the pattern shown in 2016/17, when UK nationals comprised 59% flow compared to CEE nationals 64%, and non-Europeans 66%.

4.4 Immigration status

The table below compares immigration status amongst different nationality groups, excluding UK nationals. Due to the difficulties involved in obtaining this information from rough sleepers, immigration status data should be treated with caution.

Immigration status	CEE	Other Europe	Rest of world	Total
EU National	1507	466	3	1976
Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)	0	10	289	299
Limited Leave to Remain (LLR)	0	0	77	77
Overstayer	0	1	75	76
Illegal entrant	0	3	64	67
Refugee	0	0	59	59
Asylum seeker	0	1	39	40
Failed asylum seeker	0	0	28	28
Asylum appellant	0	1	10	11
Exceptional Leave to Remain (ELR)	0	0	3	3
Student visa	0	0	3	3
Discretionary Leave (DL)	0	0	2	2
Other	3	8	67	78
Not known	11	59	211	281
Missing	156	97	23	276
Total	**1677**	**646**	**953**	**3276**

Base: 3276 people seen rough sleeping in the year whose nationality was known and who were not from the UK.

The table above shows that the most commonly recorded immigration status was EU national (1,976 people). For those people from non-European countries, 'indefinite leave to remain' was the most frequently recorded immigration status (289 people).

4.5 Gender

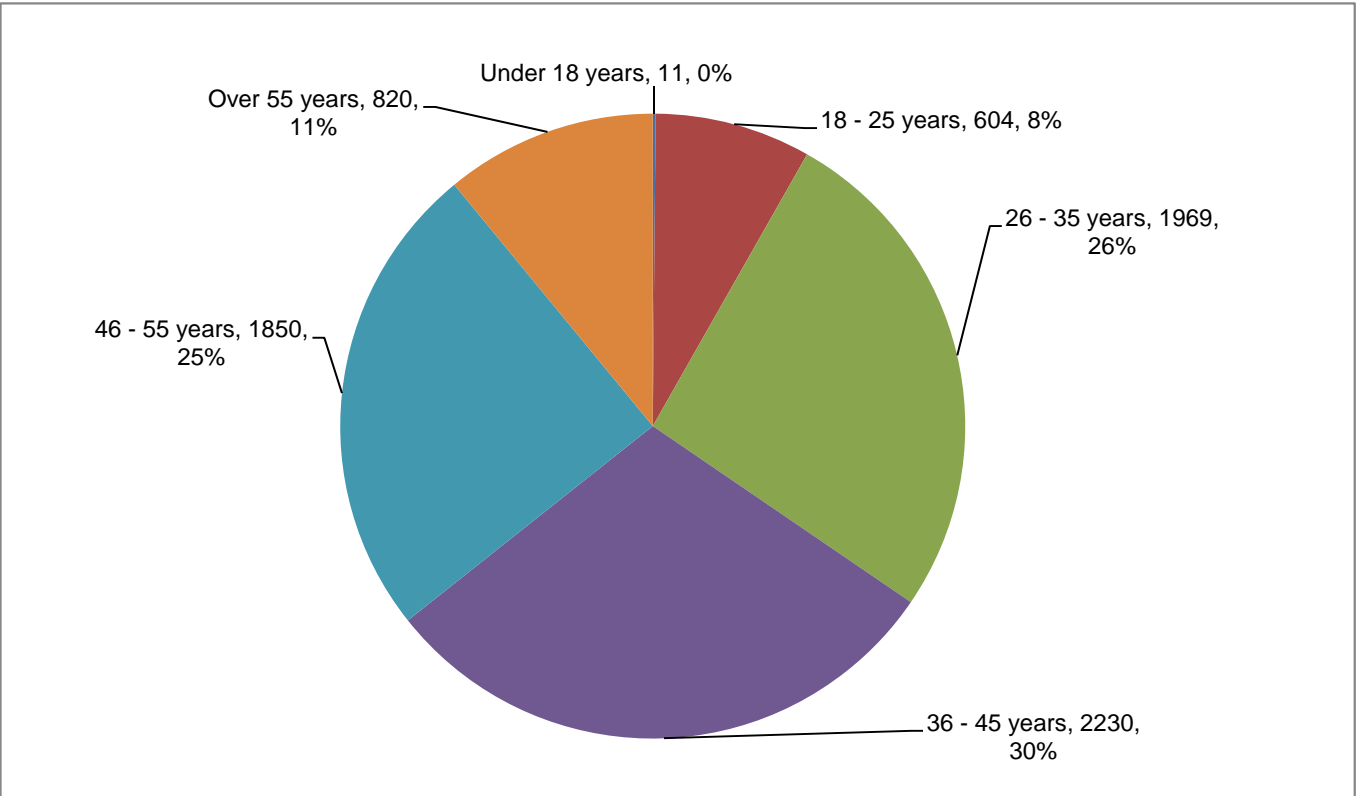People seen rough sleeping in the year, by gender.
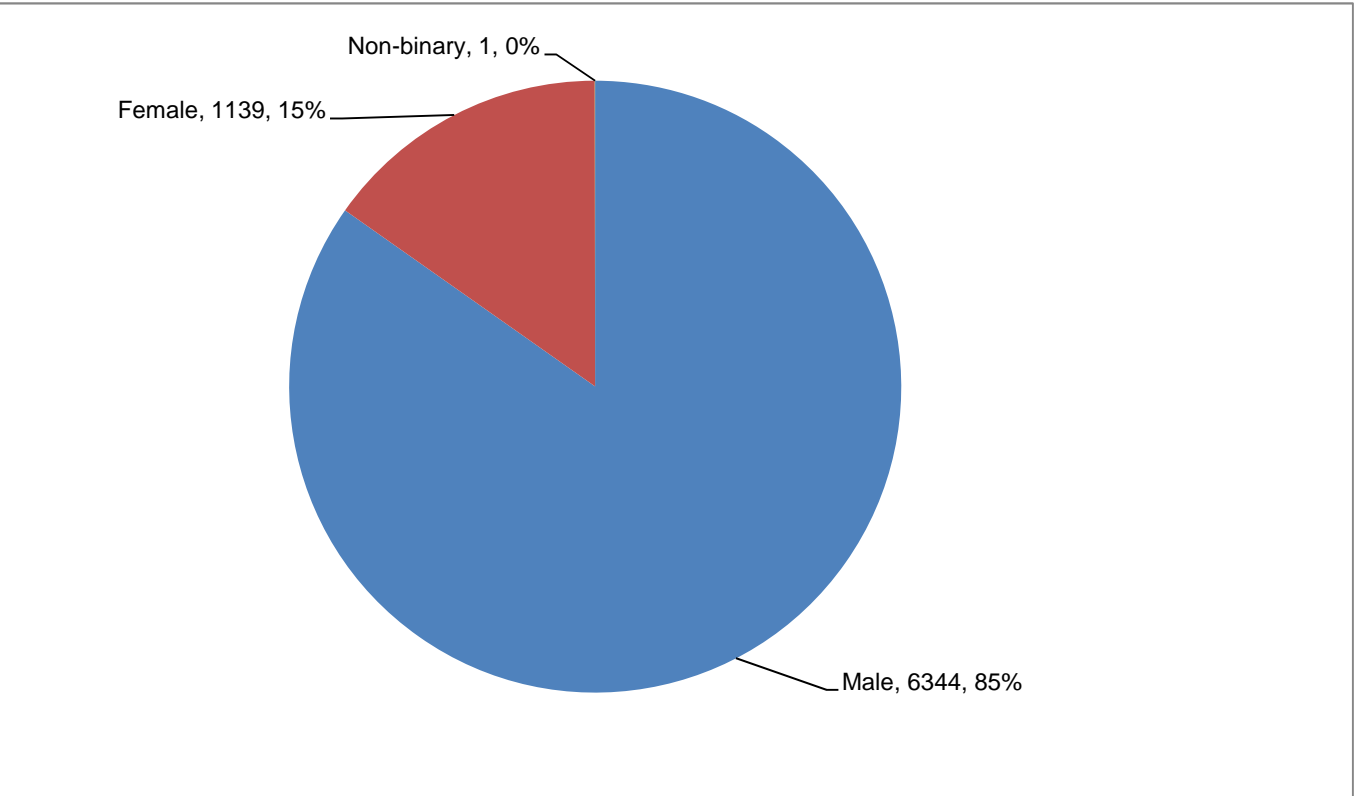
Base: 7484

The gender breakdown of people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 is consistent with that in 2016/17.

4.6 Age

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by age.

Under 18 years, 11, 0%
18 - 25 years, 604, 8%
Over 55 years, 820, 11%
26 - 35 years, 1969, 26%
46 - 55 years, 1850, 25%
36 - 45 years, 2230, 30%

Base: 7484

Age distribution amongst rough sleepers remains broadly consistent with previous years. 8% (615 people) of rough sleepers seen in 2017/18 were 25 or under, compared to 9% (761 people) in 2016/17. 35% (2584 people) of rough sleepers in the year were aged 35 or under, compared to 36% (2903 people) in 2016/17.

People in the over 55 age group represented 11% of rough sleepers in 2017/18 (820 people), which is an unchanged from the proportion seen in 2016/17.

There were a total of 11 people aged under 18 who were seen rough sleeping this year, which is slightly higher than the four people in this age group seen in 2016/17. Only one of these was seen rough sleeping more than once during the year.

4.7 Ethnicity

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by ethnicity.
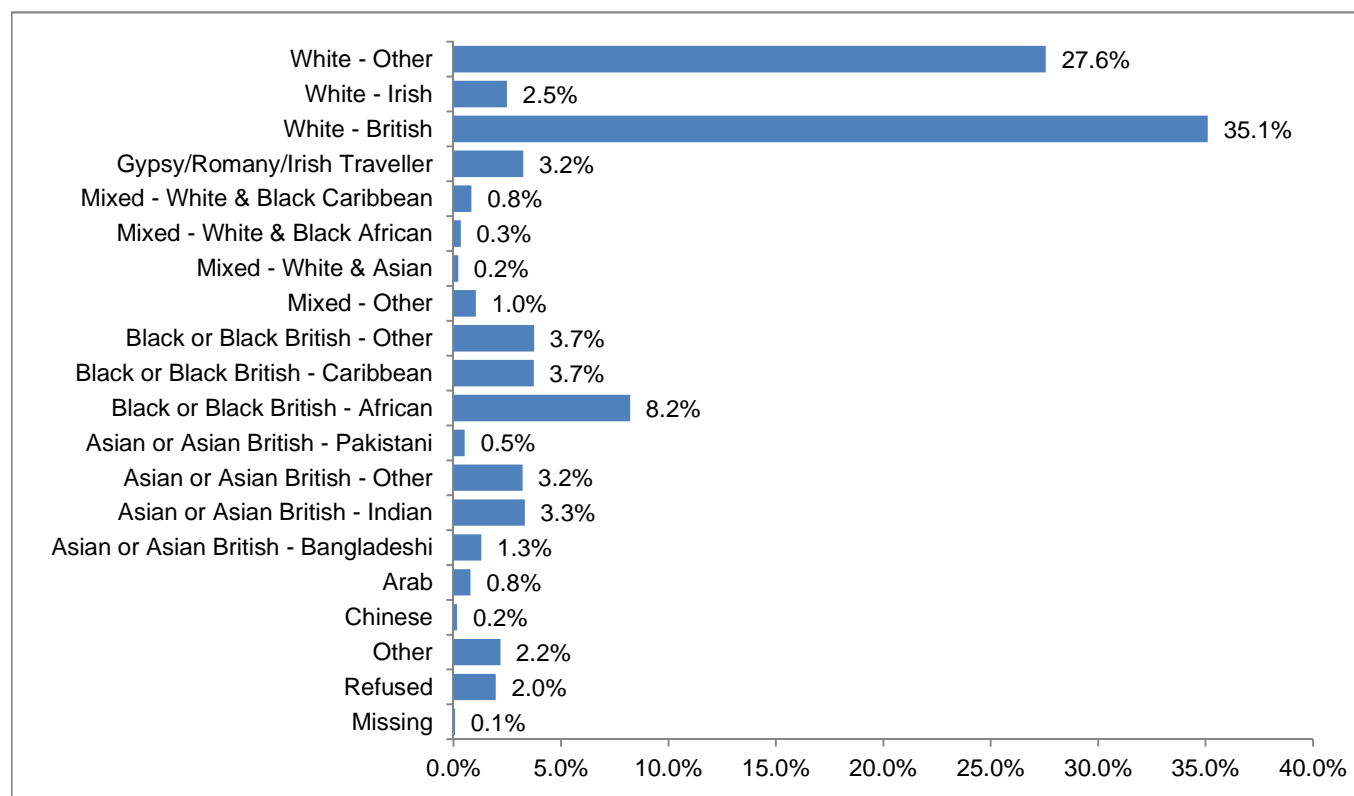

Base: 7484

The majority of people seen rough sleeping in London in 2017/18 were White (65%), which is similar to the previous year (66% in 2016/17). Within this group, White British is the largest subgroup, comprising 35% of all rough sleepers, compared to 28% for White Other. This shows some change from 2016/17, when White British comprised 31% compared to 32% for White Other. The White Other group mainly consists of people from CEE countries.

15% of people seen rough sleeping in the year were Black and 8% were Asian. This is largely consistent with the previous three years. 3% of rough sleepers in 2017/18 were from the Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller group, compared 5% in 2016/17 and 8% in 2015/16.

4.8 Support needs

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by support needs.

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by those working with rough sleepers in the homelessness sector. It should be noted that almost a third (29%) of rough sleepers in 2017/18 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (72%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.
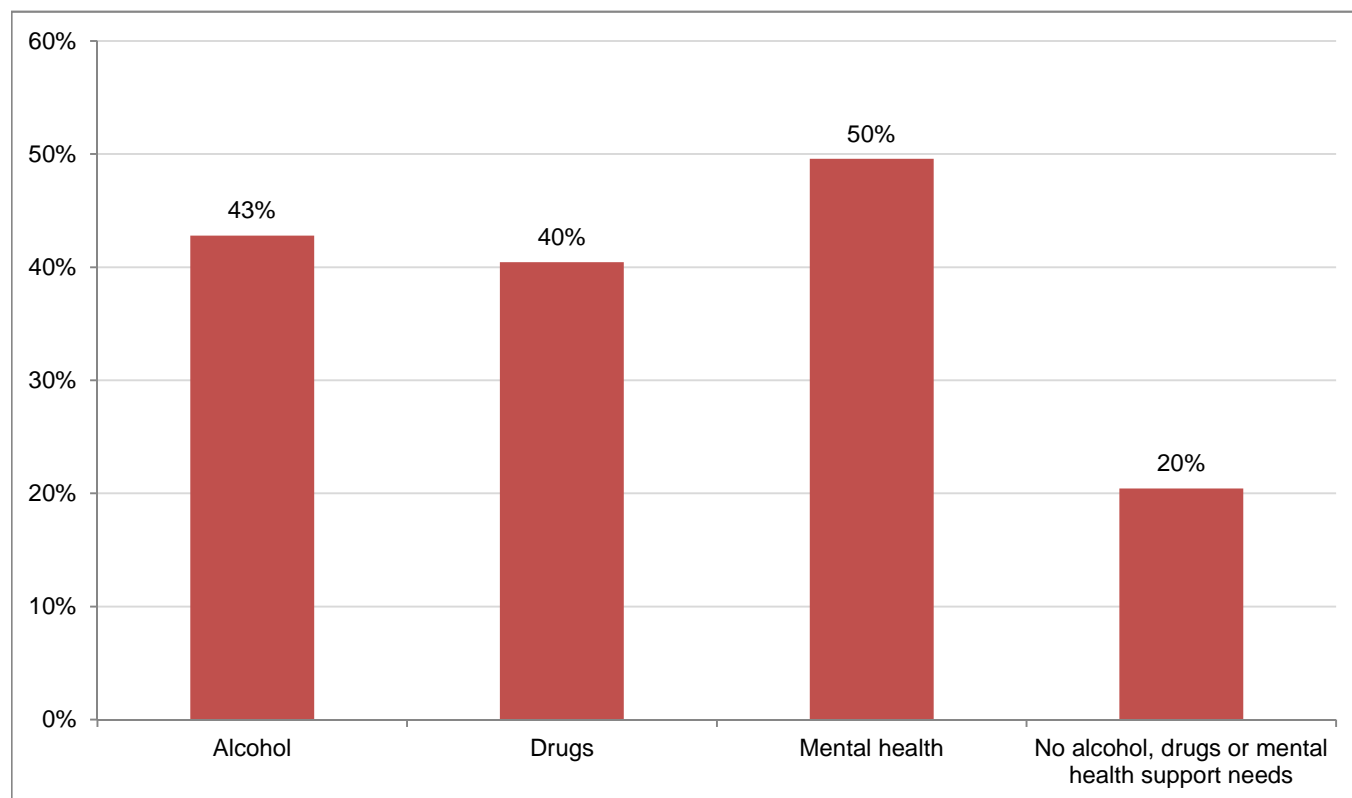

Base: 5320. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes people for whom none of the three support needs were known or assessed (2164).

Support Needs	No. people	% of people seen rough sleeping
Alcohol only	632	12%
Drugs only	438	8%
Mental health only	830	16%
Alcohol and drugs	367	7%
Alcohol and mental health	460	9%
Drugs and mental health	529	10%
Alcohol, drugs and mental health	818	15%
All three no	1087	20%
All three no, not known or not assessed	159	3%
All three not known or not assessed	2164	
Total (excl. not assessed)	**5320**	**100%**
Total (incl. not assessed)	**7484**	

Note: Total excluding not known or assessed is used as base for percentages.

The most frequently reported support need amongst people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 was mental health, with 50% of those assessed during the period having a need in this area. Alcohol was the second most prevalent need, at 43%, while 40% of rough sleepers were assessed as having a support need relating to drugs.

The graph below shows changes in the prevalence of alcohol, drug and mental health support needs amongst people seen rough sleeping over the last five years.
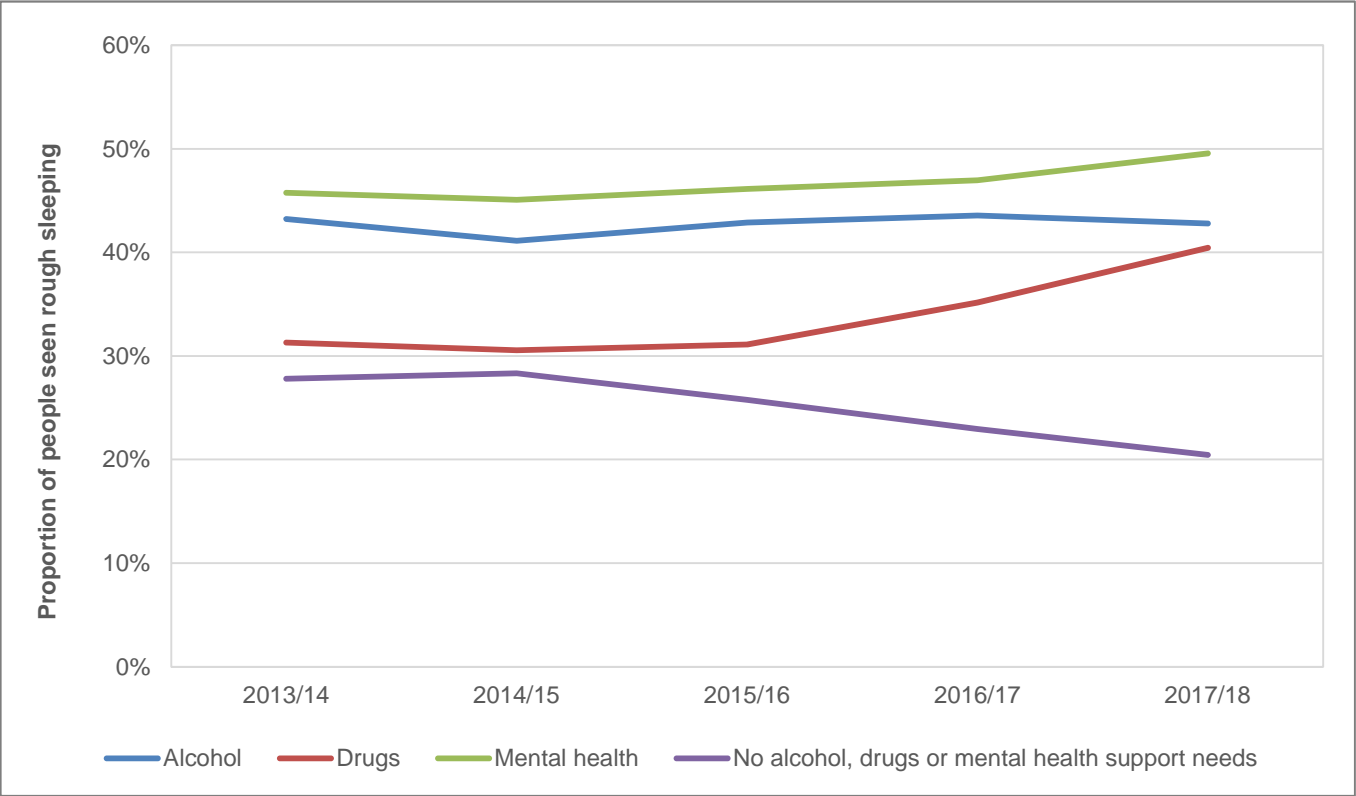

Note: Percentages are based on total people seen rough sleeping who were assessed for at least one of the three key support needs.

2013/14 base: 4867
2014/15 base: 5197
2015/16 base: 5481
2016/17 base: 5518
2017/18 base: 5320

The proportion of people seen rough sleeping who were assessed as having a support need relating to drug use has risen over the last two years. In 2017/18, 40% of rough sleepers were found to have a need in this area, compared to 35% in 2016/17 and 31% in 2015/16. The proportion of people assessed as having none of the three support needs has declined, from a high point of 28% in 2014/15 to the figure of 20% in 2017/18. Changes in the prevalence of alcohol and mental health support needs amongst people seen rough sleeping over recent years have been less pronounced.

4.9 Institutional & armed forces history

People seen rough sleeping in the year, by experience of armed forces, care or prison.
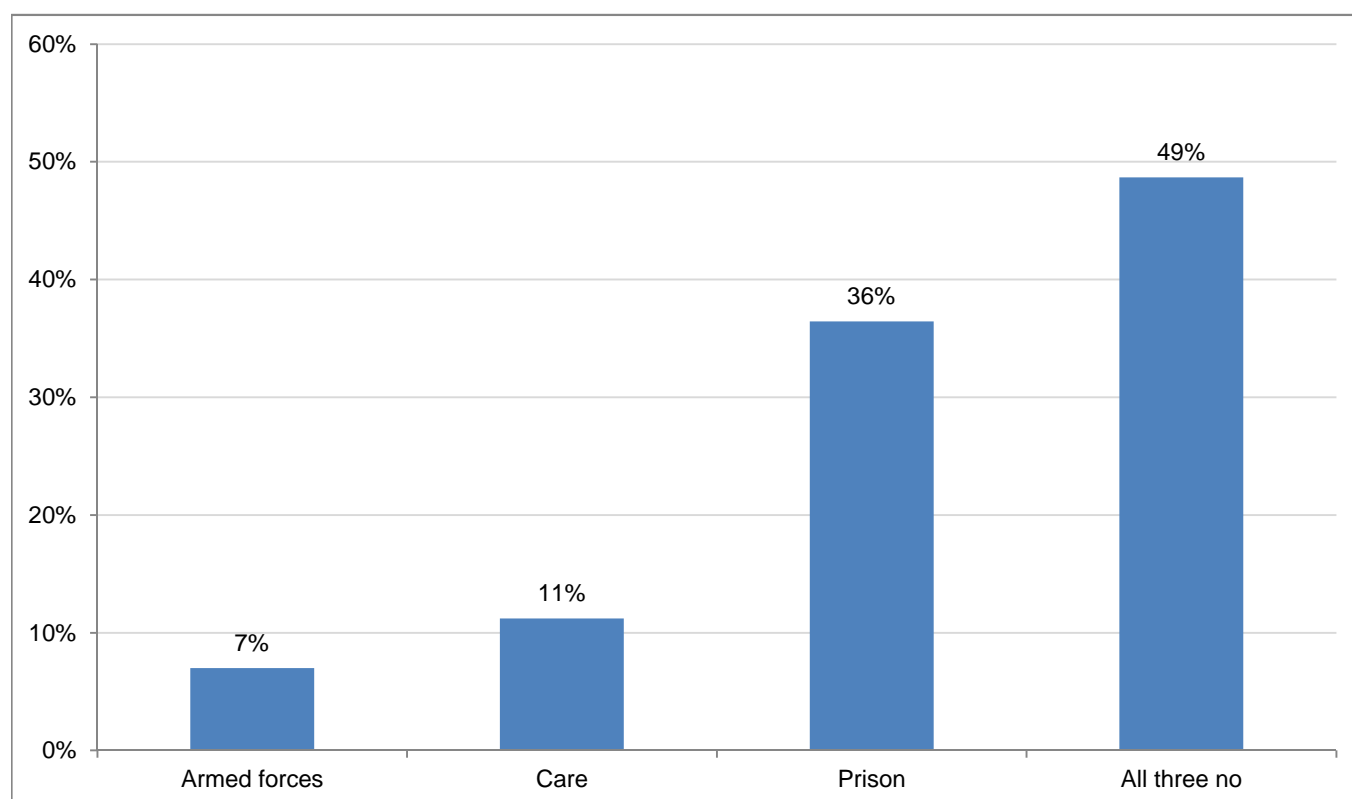
Base: 5178. Note that the base figure for this chart excludes people for whom none of the three institutional histories were assessed (2306).

Nationality of rough sleepers with experience of armed forces:

	2015/16		2016/17		2017/18	
Nationality	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	142	3%	132	2%	135	3%
Non-UK	310	6%	266	5%	227	4%
Total with armed forces experience	452	8%	398	7%	362	7%
Base (total assessed)	**5635**		**5542**		**5178**	

362 people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 had experience of serving in the armed forces, of whom 135 were UK nationals. The proportion of rough sleepers with experience of serving in the armed forces remains consistent with previous years. Time spent in the forces could have been at any point in the person's life, and it is not necessarily the case that the person has recently been discharged.

580 people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 had previous experience of living in care (compared to 568 in 2016/17), and 1,887 had experience of serving time in prison (compared to 1,856 in 2016/17).

Proportions of rough sleepers with experience of care (11%) and prison (36%) remain largely consistent with the previous year (10% with experience of care in 2016/17, and 33% with experience of prison).

5. HELPING PEOPLE OFF THE STREETS

5.1 Accommodation outcomes

Outreach teams and other services, including No Second Night Out (NSNO), work to help rough sleepers into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the private rented sector and residential treatment centres. In 2017/18, 2,009 people who had been seen rough sleeping during the year were booked into accommodation. This is 27% of all people seen rough sleeping during the year (compared to 21% in 2016/17).

The table below details the accommodation outcomes achieved with people seen rough sleeping in the year, compared to outcomes for rough sleepers in the previous year. Some people will have had more than one outcome recorded during the year.

Accommodation type	2016/17		2017/18	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre (not incl. NSNO)	243	10.6%	612	22.6%
Bed & breakfast	104	4.5%	165	6.1%
Clinic/Detox/Rehab	33	1.4%	31	1.1%
Friends & family	161	7.0%	138	5.1%
Hostel	587	25.6%	585	21.6%
Local authority temporary accommodation	353	15.4%	401	14.8%
Nightstop	10	0.4%	4	0.1%
Second-stage accommodation	11	0.5%	7	0.3%
Other temporary accommodation	149	6.5%	179	6.6%
Temporary accommodation subtotal	*1651*	*71.9%*	*2122*	*78.2%*
Long term accommodation				
Care home	5	0.2%	2	0.1%
Clearing House/RSI	102	4.4%	58	2.1%
Local authority tenancy (general needs)	16	0.7%	10	0.4%
Private rented sector - independent	220	9.6%	186	6.9%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	74	3.2%	75	2.8%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	9	0.4%	4	0.1%
Sheltered housing	7	0.3%	6	0.2%
St Mungo's complex needs	14	0.6%	12	0.4%
St Mungo's semi-independent	11	0.5%	8	0.3%
Supported housing	154	6.7%	177	6.5%
Tied accommodation	4	0.2%	8	0.3%
Other long-term accommodation	30	1.3%	44	1.6%
Long term accommodation subtotal	*646*	*28.1%*	*590*	*21.8%*
Total	**2297**	**100.0%**	**2712**	**100.0%**

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

5.2 NSNO attendance

People seen rough sleeping during the year who attended the GLA commissioned NSNO service.

	2016/17	2017/18
No. attended	1643	1499

5.3 Reconnection outcomes

Confirmed reconnections achieved with people seen rough sleeping in the year.

Outreach teams, NSNO, and other services help people to reconnect to their home area or country, where they have more options available to them, for example through appropriate support networks, entitlement to accommodation or access to an alcohol treatment centre. Reconnection destinations could be another borough within London, an area elsewhere in the UK, or another country. Some people may have had more than one reconnection recorded during the year.

	2016/17		2017/18	
Reconnection reason	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Return to home area	767	81%	626	80%
Seeking work	69	7%	39	5%
Move to area for friends/family	293	31%	225	29%
Move to area with appropriate services	485	51%	395	51%
Reconnections total*	**942**		**780**	

Reconnection destination	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
UK - London	452	48%	449	58%
UK - outside London	135	14%	152	20%
Central and Eastern Europe	236	25%	99	13%
Other Europe	99	11%	60	8%
Rest of the world	18	2%	14	2%
Not known	*2*		*6*	
Reconnections total (excl. destination not known)	**940**	**100%**	**774**	**100%**

*Reconnections can be recorded with multiple reasons, so the overall total will be lower than the combined sum of the separate reconnection reasons. Percentages are based on the total number of reconnections.

747 people seen rough sleeping in 2017/18 also had a confirmed reconnection recorded during the period. This means that 10% of all people seen rough sleeping in the year were reconnected, compared to 11% in 2016/17.

22% of reconnections this year were to destinations outside the UK, which confirms a trend towards non-UK destinations declining as a proportion of all reconnections (compared to 38% in 2016/17 and 44% in 2015/16). The proportion of reconnections to London destinations has continued to increase, with 58% this year, compared to 48% in 2016/17 and 40% in 2015/16.

6. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

Arrivals and departures at hostels, assessment centres and second-stage accommodation. All people counted in this section had previously been seen rough sleeping, but not necessarily during 2017/18.
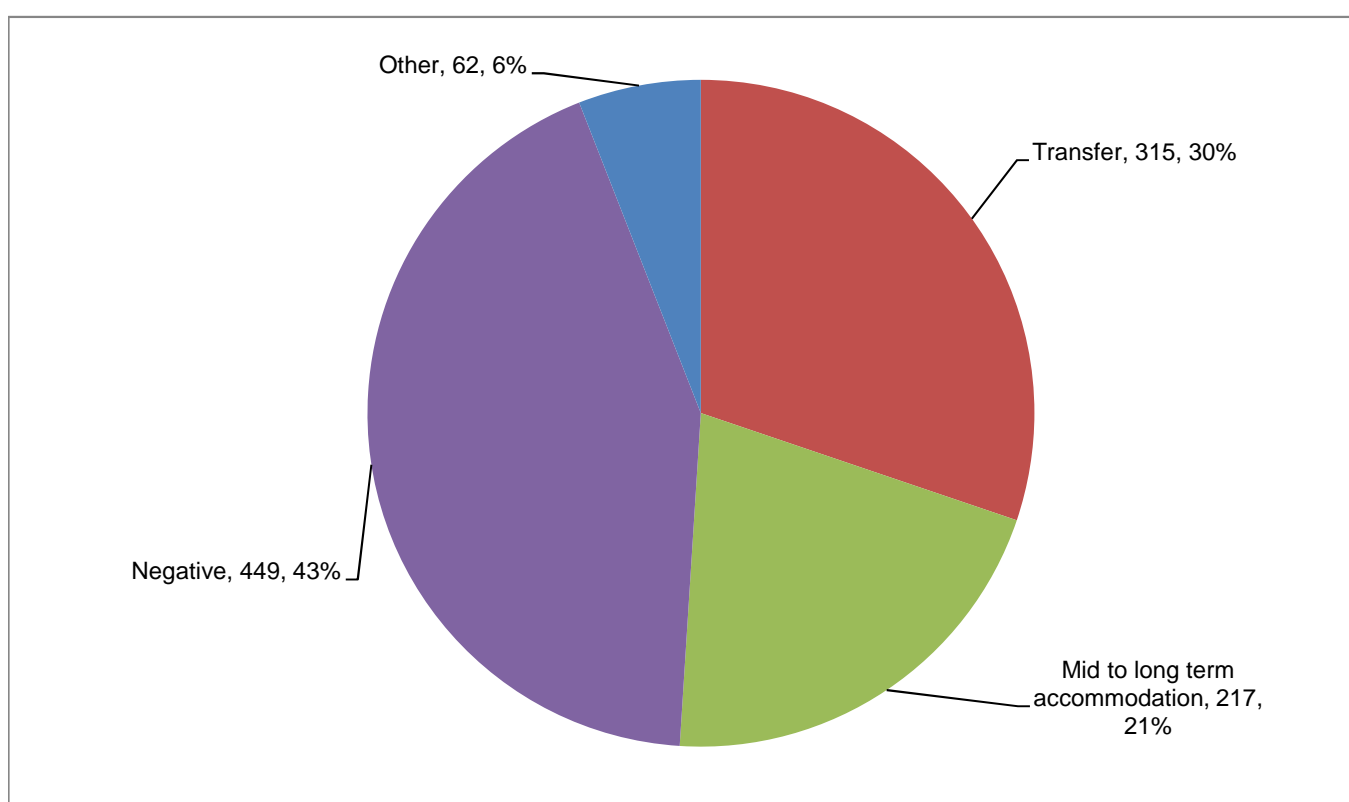
6.1 Arrivals

A total of 844 individuals arrived at temporary accommodation during the period.

6.2 Departures: Destination on departure

A total of 822 individuals departed from temporary accommodation during the period, with a total of 1,043 departures recorded between them.

Departures from temporary accommodation, by destination on departure.

Base: 1043

Destination on departure	Destination category	Chart colour
Assessment centre, Bed & breakfast, Detox clinic, Hospital - not long term/acute care, Hostel - another organisation, Hostel - within the organisation, Hosting placement, NASS accommodation, Night shelter, NSNO staging post, Psychiatric hospital, Rehab clinic, Temporary accommodation (LA)	Transfer	
Accommodation where client is owner, Care home, Clearing House/RSI, Hospital - long term, LA tenancy (general needs), Long stay hospice, Private rented sector - independent, Private rented sector - with some floating support, Returned to home country (EEA), Returned to home country (non EEA), RSL tenancy (general needs), Sheltered housing, Supported housing, Tied accommodation with work	Mid to long term accommodation	
Committed suicide, Not known, Sleeping rough/Returned to streets, Taken into custody	Negative	
Died, Previous home, Staying with family, Staying with friends	Other	

Note: An individual may have had more then one accommodation departure during the period.

Destination on departure	No. departures	%
Transfer		
Assessment centre	23	2.2%
Bed & breakfast	6	0.6%
Detox clinic	11	1.1%
Hospital - not long term/acute care	14	1.3%
Hostel - another organisation	133	12.8%
Hostel - within the organisation	67	6.4%
Hosting placement	1	0.1%
NASS accommodation	1	0.1%
Night shelter	27	2.6%
NSNO staging post	4	0.4%
Psychiatric hospital	1	0.1%
Rehab clinic	7	0.7%
Temporary accommodation (LA)	20	1.9%
Transfer subtotal	*315*	*30.2%*
Mid to long term accommodation		
Accommodation where client is owner	0	0.0%
Care home	5	0.5%
Clearing House/RSI	38	3.6%
Hospital - long term	8	0.8%
LA tenancy (general needs)	6	0.6%
Long stay hospice	0	0.0%
Private rented sector - independent	31	3.0%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	18	1.7%
Returned to home country (EEA)	20	1.9%
Returned to home country (non EEA)	3	0.3%
RSL tenancy (general needs)	14	1.3%
Sheltered housing	8	0.8%
Supported housing	61	5.8%
Tied accommodation with work	5	0.5%
Mid to long term accommodation subtotal	*217*	*20.8%*
Negative		
Committed suicide	0	0.0%
Not known	285	27.3%
Sleeping rough/Returned to streets	127	12.2%
Taken into custody	37	3.5%
Negative subtotal	*449*	*43.0%*
Other		
Died	16	1.5%
Previous home	2	0.2%
Staying with family	24	2.3%
Staying with friends	20	1.9%
Other subtotal	*62*	*5.9%*
Total	**1043**	**100.0%**

In 2017/18, 21% of departures from temporary accommodation were moves to mid to long term accommodation, which is a slight decrease from the figure of 25% in 2016/17. There was a slight increase in negative departures, with 43% in this category in 2017/18, compared to 39% in 2016/17.

19% of departures in 2017/18 were for a move to another hostel. This is slightly lower than the 23% seen in 2016/17, but higher than the 13% reported in 2015/16. Only 2% of departures made were for people to return to their home country, which is a decrease on the 6% reported in 2016/17, and the 17% in 2015/16.

6.3 Departures: Reason for leaving

Temporary accommodation departures by reason for leaving.
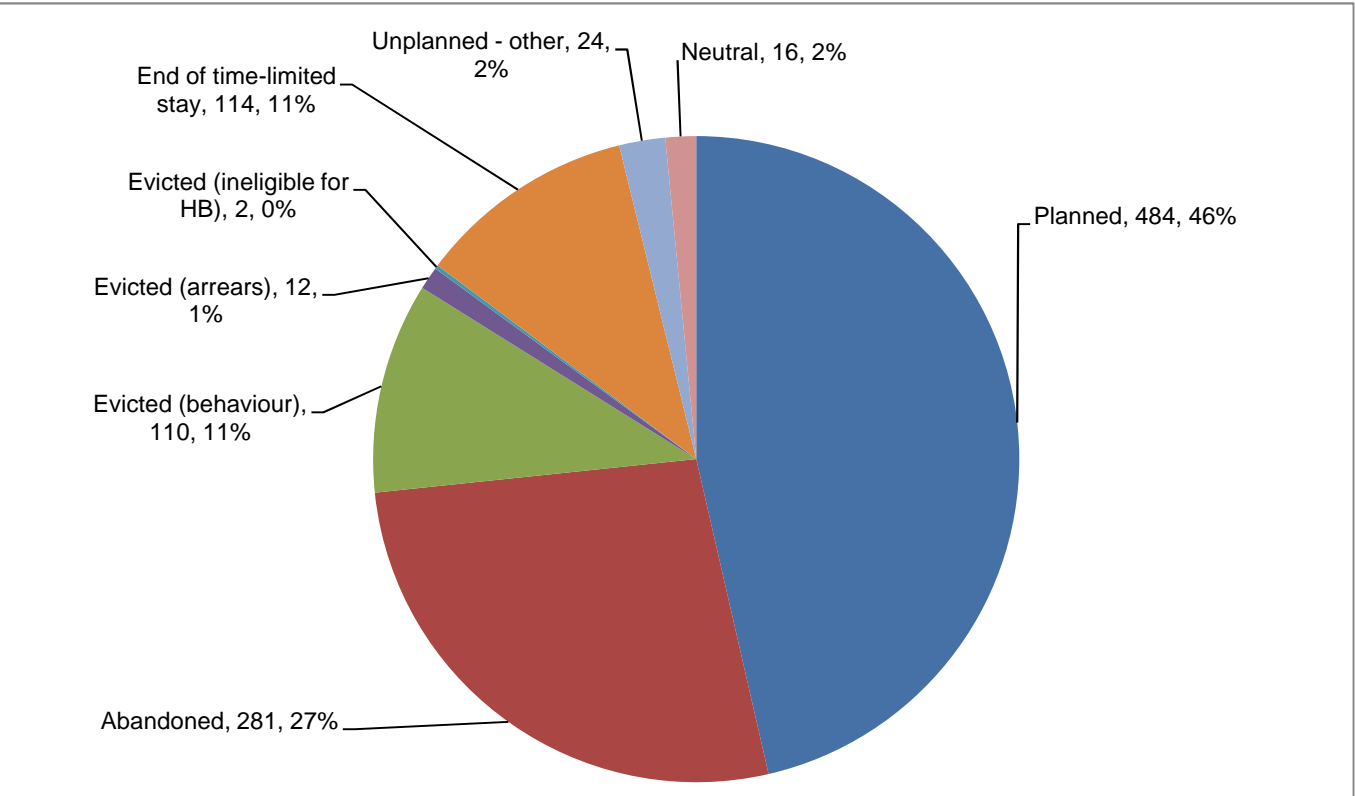
Base: 1043

Note: An individual may have had more then one accommodation departure during the period. In most cases where a person's reason for leaving has been recorded as 'Neutral', their tenancy has ended due to them dying.

In 2017/18, 41% of departures from temporary accommodation were for evictions, abandonments and unplanned departures, which is similar to the figure of 39% in 2016/17. The proportion of planned moves has decreased, at 46% compared to 50% in 2016/17 and 62% in 2015/16.