
CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

OUTER BOROUGHES

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

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CHAIN enquiries 020 7840 4451

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1. INTRODUCTION

This quarterly report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in Outer Boroughs in October - December 2025.

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.

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 Q3, by new, living on the streets, and intermittent breakdown

Volumes	No. Rough Sleepers	Change from last period	Change on same period last year
New Rough Sleepers (All)	911	+150	+144
New RS with no second night out	692	+98	+96
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	195	+45	+41
New RS joining living on the streets population*	24	+7	+7
Living on the Streets (All)	225	+21	+42
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	24	+7	+7
LOS - Known	201	+14	+38
Intermittent Rough Sleepers	545	-43	-55
Total	1,657	+121	+124

*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 Q3 to 2025-26 Q3

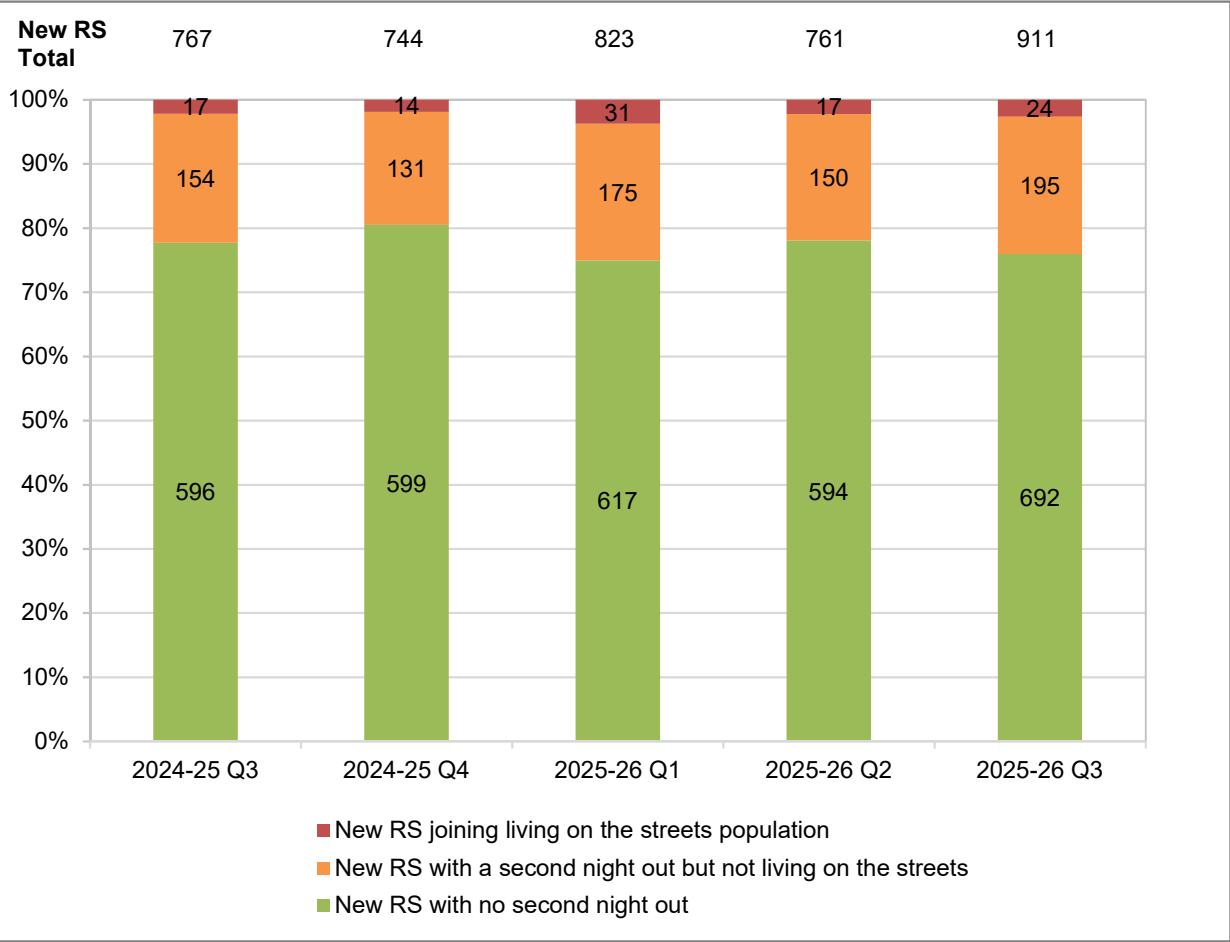


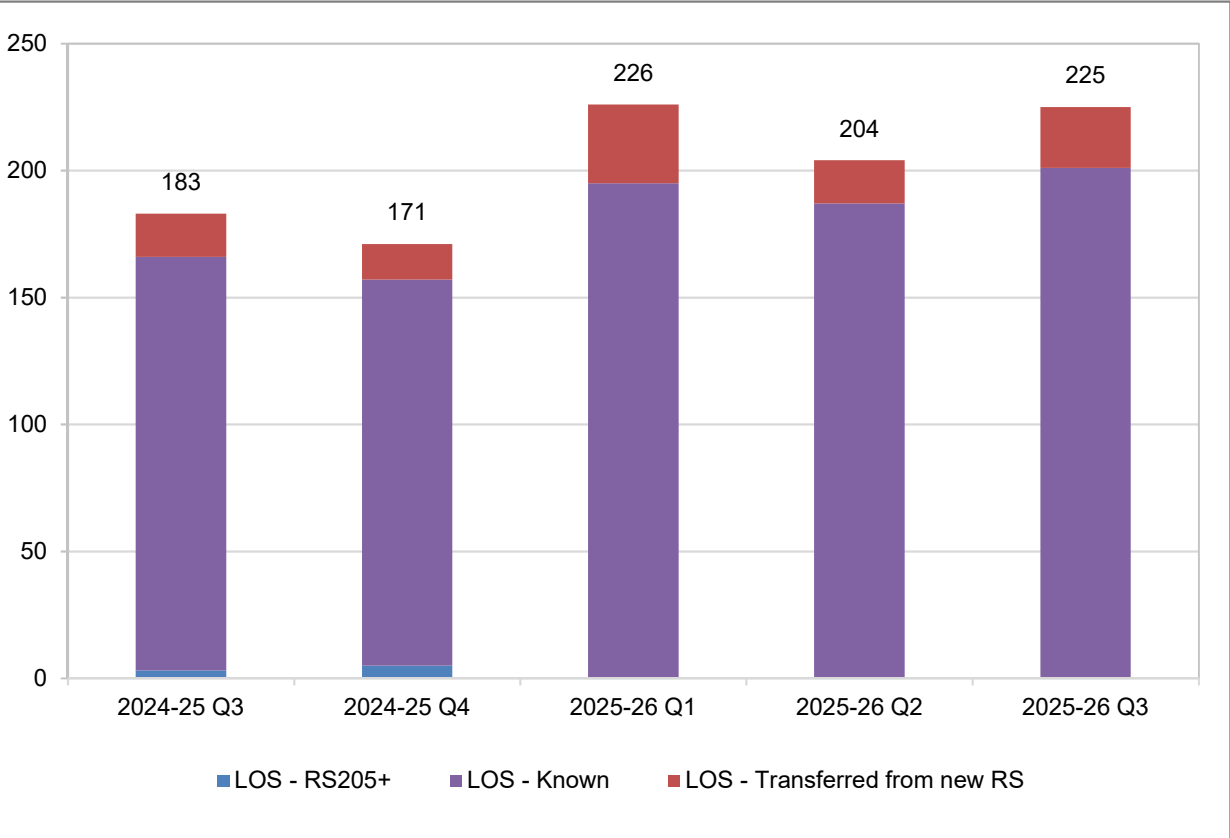
Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2025-26 Q3, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	692
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	195
New RS joining living on the streets population	24
Total	911

New RS = New rough sleepers

Outer Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2024-25 Q3 to 2025-26 Q3



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

Table 3: People living on the streets in 2025-26 Q3, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	24
LOS - Known	201
Total	225

Outer Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2024-25 Q3 to 2025-26 Q3

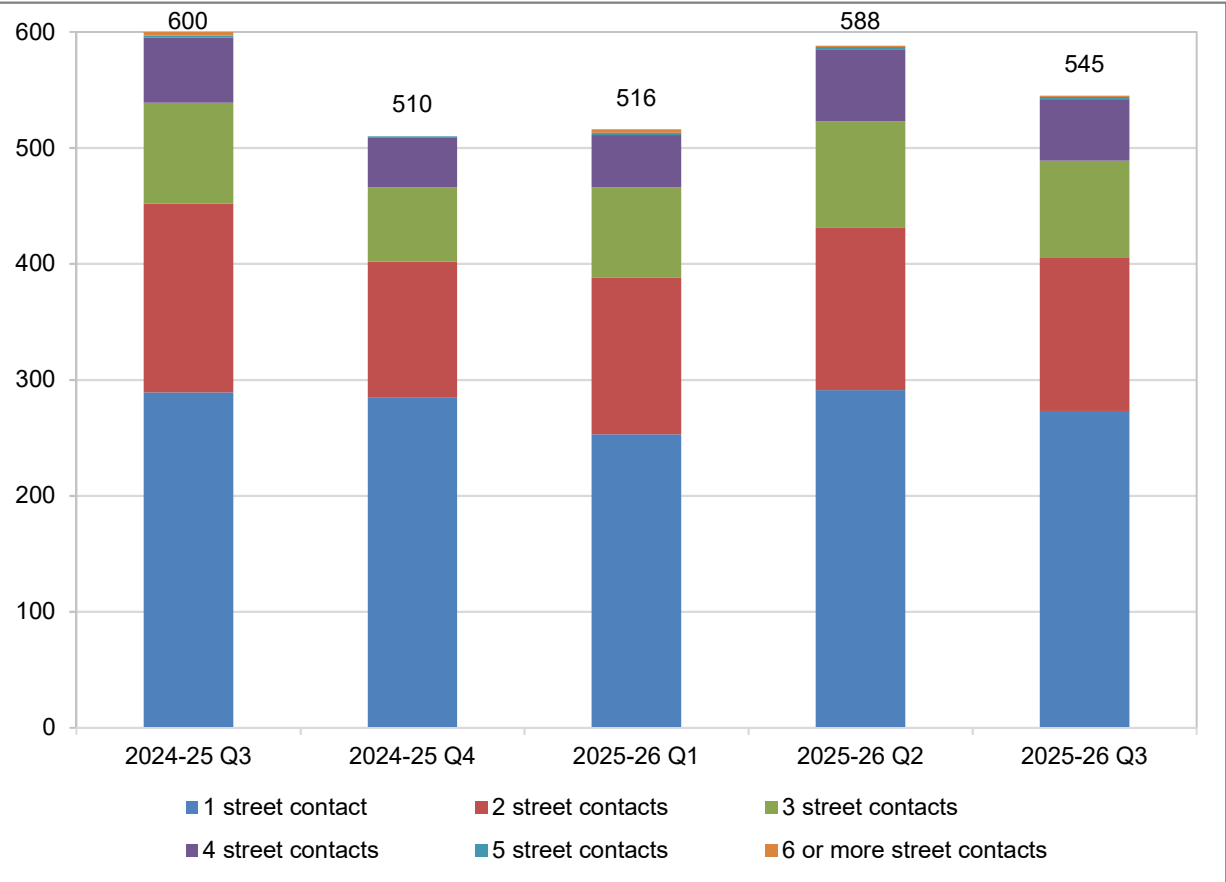


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2025-26 Q3, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	273
2 street contacts	132
3 street contacts	84
4 street contacts	53
5 street contacts	2
6 or more street contacts	1
Total	545

Outer Boroughs: Distribution

Table 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by borough

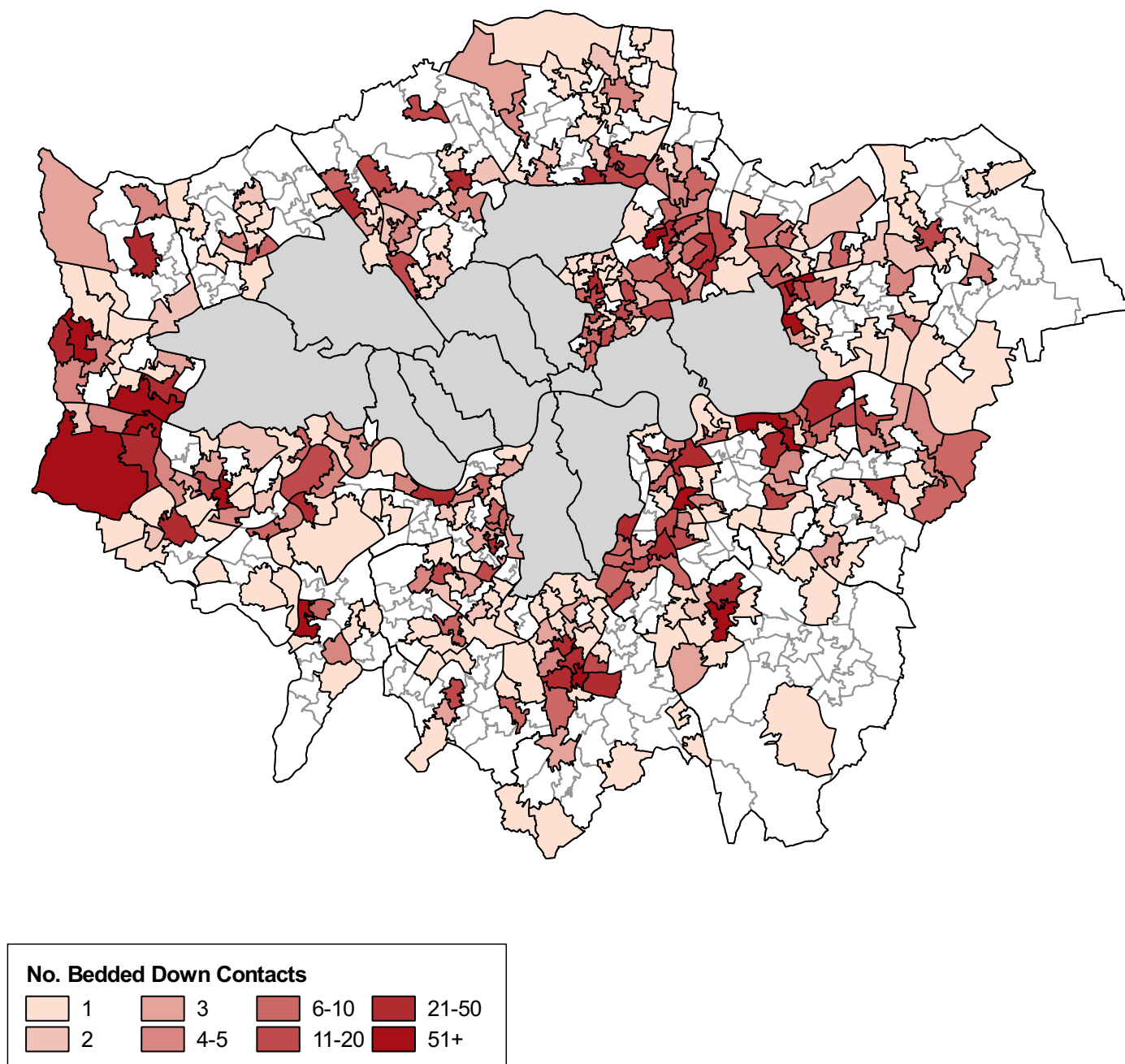
BOROUGH	New RS with no second night out	New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	New RS joining living on the streets population	LOS - Known	Intermittent rough sleeper	TOTAL
Barking & Dagenham	13	3	0	7	20	43
Barnet	11	13	3	12	19	58
Bexley	11	5	0	6	13	35
Bromley	15	10	0	5	11	41
Croydon	80	21	1	11	71	184
Enfield	40	5	0	3	26	74
Greenwich	23	15	0	23	52	113
Hackney	31	14	2	13	36	96
Harrow	25	0	0	0	3	28
Havering	17	0	0	1	12	30
Heathrow	60	5	0	2	10	77
Hillingdon	70	18	6	22	48	164
Hounslow	116	45	3	5	53	222
Kingston upon Thames	6	3	3	8	22	42
Lewisham	37	12	2	13	40	104
Merton	21	5	0	1	14	41
Redbridge	41	9	0	25	38	113
Richmond	9	2	1	10	7	29
Sutton	9	3	0	2	4	18
Waltham Forest	26	8	2	30	25	91
Wandsworth	12	3	1	11	23	50
Bus route	19	0	0	0	5	24
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIQUE TOTAL	692	195	24	201	545	1,657

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

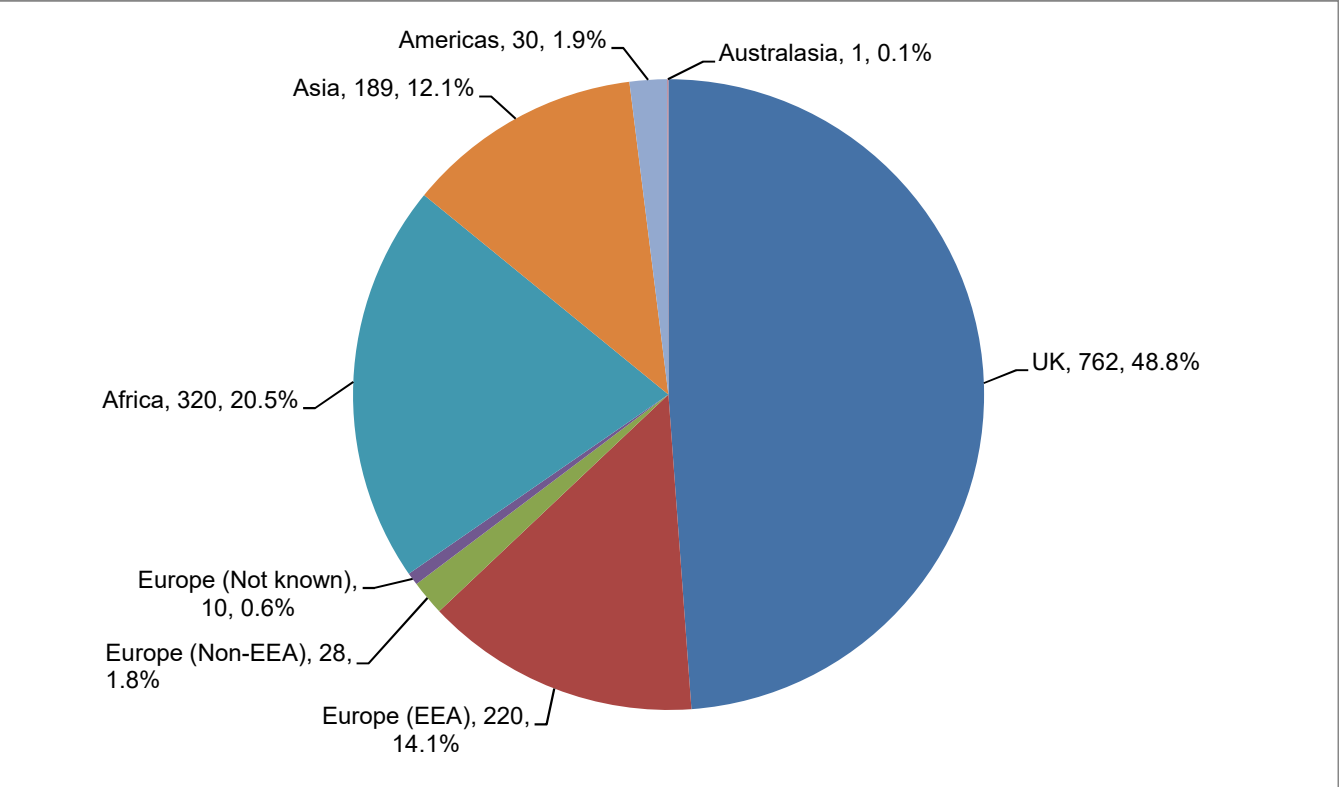
Table 6: People seen rough sleeping 2025-26 Q1 to 2025-26 Q3 by nationality

Nationality	Apr-Jun 25		Jul-Sep 25		Oct-Dec 25	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	686	47.6%	772	53.7%	762	48.8%
Romania	76	5.3%	74	5.1%	64	4.1%
Poland	58	4.0%	63	4.4%	62	4.0%
Lithuania	26	1.8%	27	1.9%	23	1.5%
Ireland (Republic of)	6	0.4%	9	0.6%	11	0.7%
Portugal	11	0.8%	13	0.9%	13	0.8%
Bulgaria	13	0.9%	21	1.5%	12	0.8%
Italy	3	0.2%	5	0.3%	6	0.4%
Spain	4	0.3%	4	0.3%	6	0.4%
France	5	0.3%	5	0.3%	6	0.4%
Latvia	4	0.3%	3	0.2%	3	0.2%
Other European (EEA) countries	17	1.2%	21	1.5%	14	0.9%
Europe (EEA)	223	15.5%	245	17.0%	220	14.1%
Europe (Non-EEA)	14	1.0%	15	1.0%	28	1.8%
Europe (Not known)	8	0.6%	5	0.3%	10	0.6%
Eritrea	84	5.8%	34	2.4%	123	7.9%
Sudan	62	4.3%	39	2.7%	67	4.3%
Nigeria	25	1.7%	28	1.9%	35	2.2%
Ethiopia	16	1.1%	7	0.5%	11	0.7%
Somalia	14	1.0%	12	0.8%	9	0.6%
Other African countries	87	6.0%	73	5.1%	75	4.8%
Africa	288	20.0%	193	13.4%	320	20.5%
India	58	4.0%	74	5.1%	79	5.1%
Afghanistan	28	1.9%	30	2.1%	34	2.2%
Iran	19	1.3%	21	1.5%	24	1.5%
Syrian Arab Republic	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Bangladesh	4	0.3%	2	0.1%	4	0.3%
Other Asian countries	79	5.5%	53	3.7%	46	2.9%
Asia	191	13.3%	180	12.5%	189	12.1%
Americas	29	2.0%	27	1.9%	30	1.9%
Australasia	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Not known	94		98		97	
Total (excl. not known)	1,440	100.0%	1,438	100.0%	1,560	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	1,534		1,536		1,657	

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

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by nationality



Base: 1,560 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 97 people whose nationality was not known.

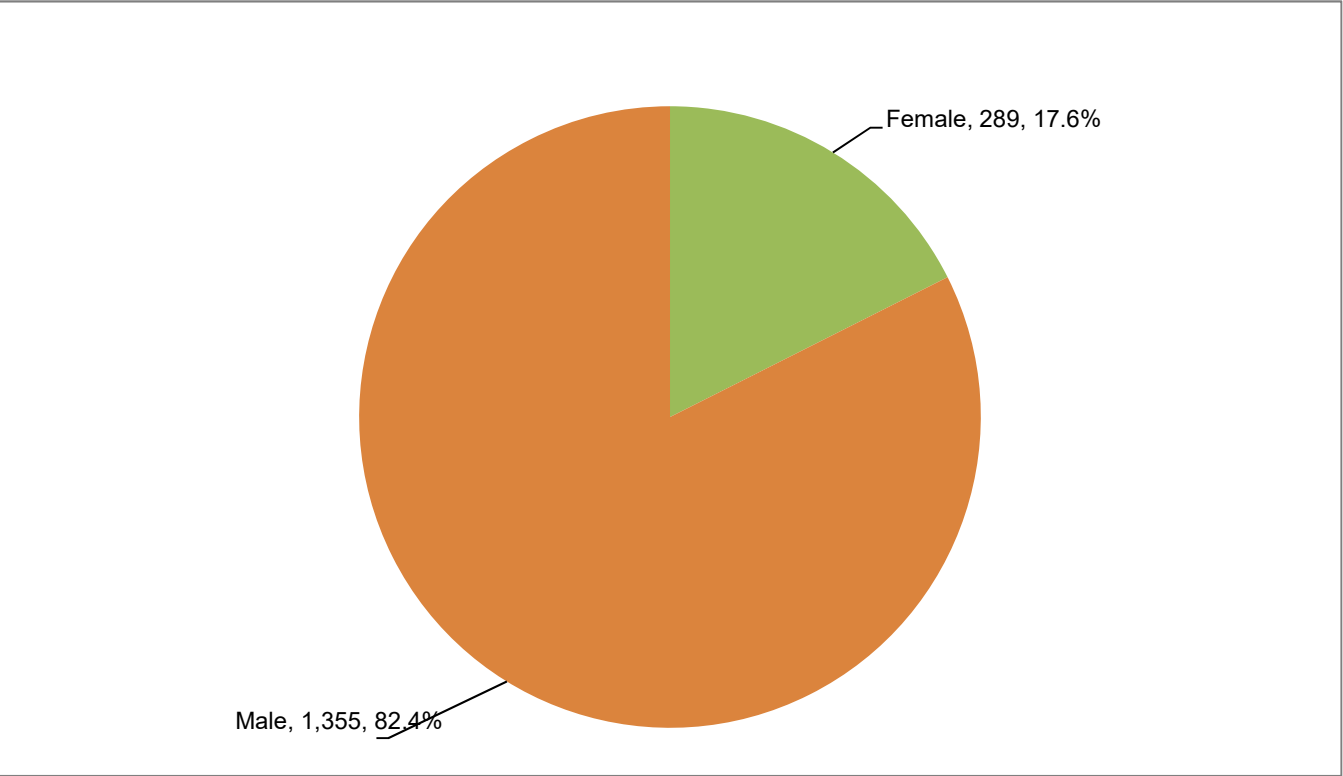
Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by nationality, and borough

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5. DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by gender



Base: 1,644 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 13 people whose gender was not known.

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by gender

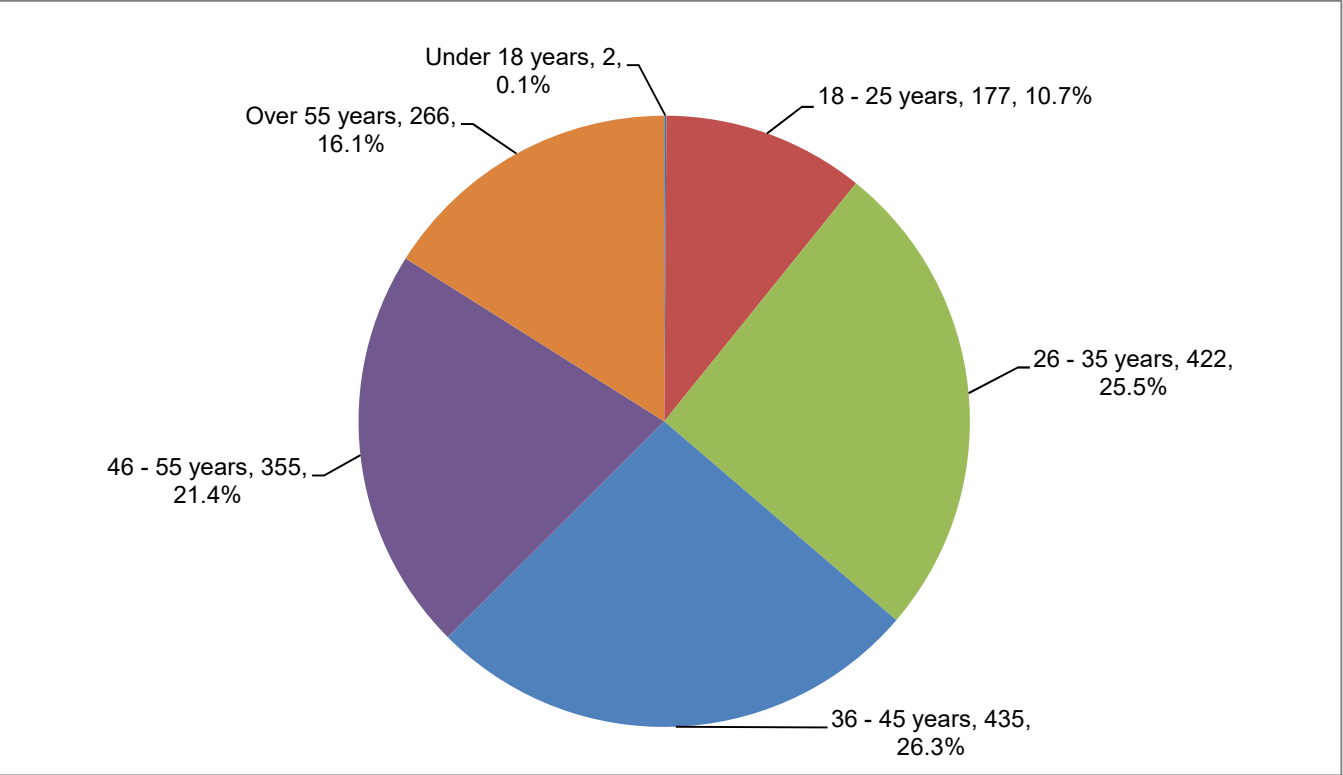
Gender	No.	%
Female	289	17.6%
Male	1,355	82.4%
Non-binary	0	0.0%
Not known	13	
Total (excl. not known)	1,644	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	1,657	

Table 9: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by gender, and borough

Borough	Female	Male	Non-binary	Not known	Total
Barking & Dagenham	4	39	0	0	43
Barnet	7	51	0	0	58
Bexley	4	30	0	1	35
Bromley	5	36	0	0	41
Croydon	42	138	0	4	184
Enfield	10	64	0	0	74
Greenwich	23	90	0	0	113
Hackney	13	81	0	2	96
Harrow	2	26	0	0	28
Havering	2	27	0	1	30
Heathrow	28	49	0	0	77
Hillingdon	22	142	0	0	164
Hounslow	28	192	0	2	222
Kingston upon Thames	11	31	0	0	42
Lewisham	25	78	0	1	104
Merton	8	33	0	0	41
Redbridge	19	94	0	0	113
Richmond	4	25	0	0	29
Sutton	1	17	0	0	18
Waltham Forest	19	71	0	1	91
Wandsworth	10	39	0	1	50
Bus route	6	18	0	0	24
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0

Age

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by age



Base: 1,657 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by age

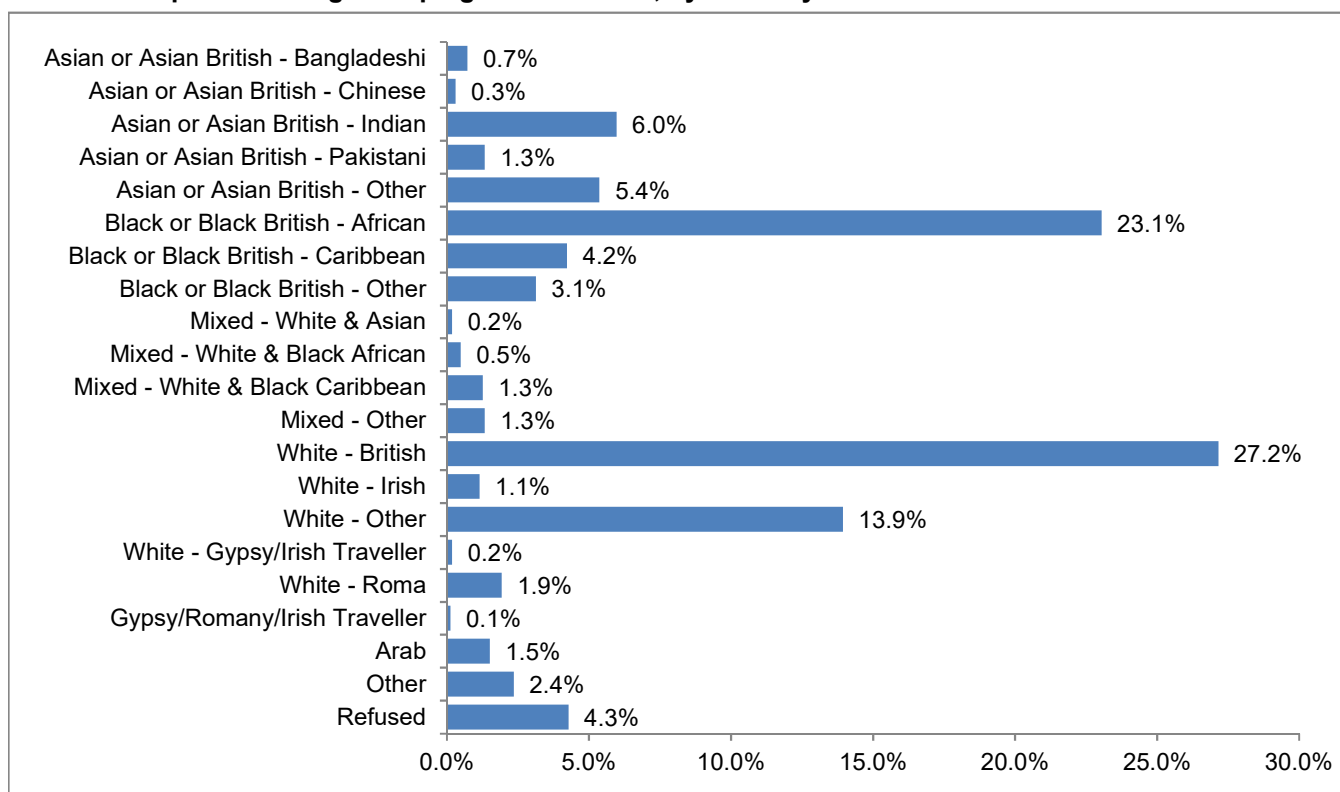
Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	2	0.1%
18 - 25 years	177	10.7%
26 - 35 years	422	25.5%
36 - 45 years	435	26.3%
46 - 55 years	355	21.4%
Over 55 years	266	16.1%
Total	1,657	100.0%

Table 11: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by age, and borough

Borough	Under 18 years	18 - 25 years	26 - 35 years	36 - 45 years	46 - 55 years	Over 55 years	Total
Barking & Dagenham	0	1	4	16	13	9	43
Barnet	0	8	15	15	10	10	58
Bexley	0	2	8	8	13	4	35
Bromley	0	4	12	11	8	6	41
Croydon	1	13	52	54	34	30	184
Enfield	0	11	16	14	14	19	74
Greenwich	0	6	19	41	27	20	113
Hackney	0	6	23	24	28	15	96
Harrow	0	6	12	3	5	2	28
Havering	0	1	4	11	10	4	30
Heathrow	0	6	17	13	13	28	77
Hillingdon	1	30	54	44	22	13	164
Hounslow	0	45	84	55	22	16	222
Kingston upon Thames	0	5	13	9	11	4	42
Lewisham	0	9	15	27	23	30	104
Merton	0	1	6	17	12	5	41
Redbridge	0	13	24	30	31	15	113
Richmond	0	1	1	9	9	9	29
Sutton	0	0	6	4	6	2	18
Waltham Forest	0	4	24	22	31	10	91
Wandsworth	0	5	15	7	12	11	50
Bus route	0	1	4	5	6	8	24
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by ethnicity



Base: 1,657 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 Q3, by ethnicity

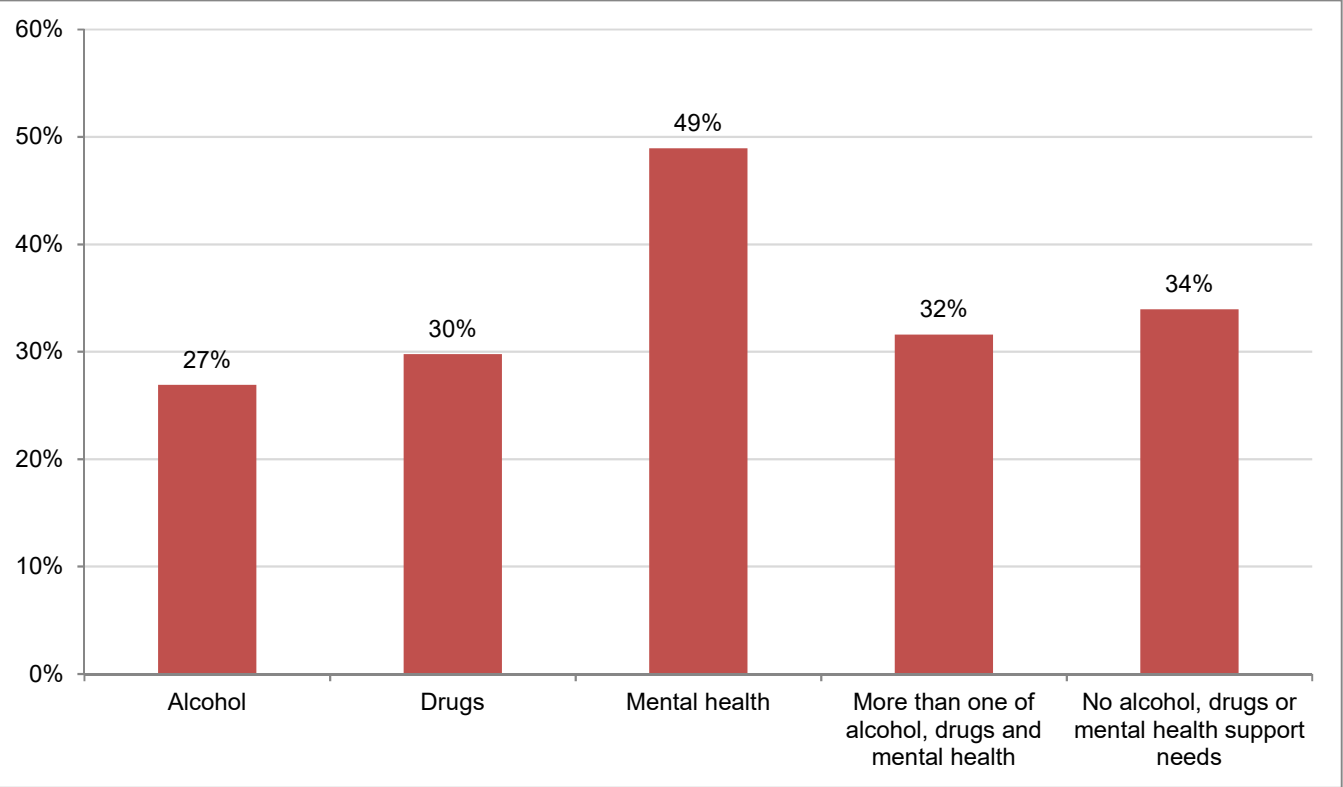
Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	227	13.7%
Black	504	30.4%
Mixed	54	3.3%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	737	44.5%
Arab/Other	64	3.9%
Refused	71	4.3%
Total	1,657	100.0%

Table 13: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by ethnicity, and borough

[illegible]

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by support needs



Base: 1,367 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 290 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 14: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by support needs

Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	368	26.9%
Drugs	407	29.8%
Mental health	669	48.9%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	432	31.6%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	464	33.9%
Total (excl. not assessed)	1,367	
Total (incl. not assessed)	1,657	

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

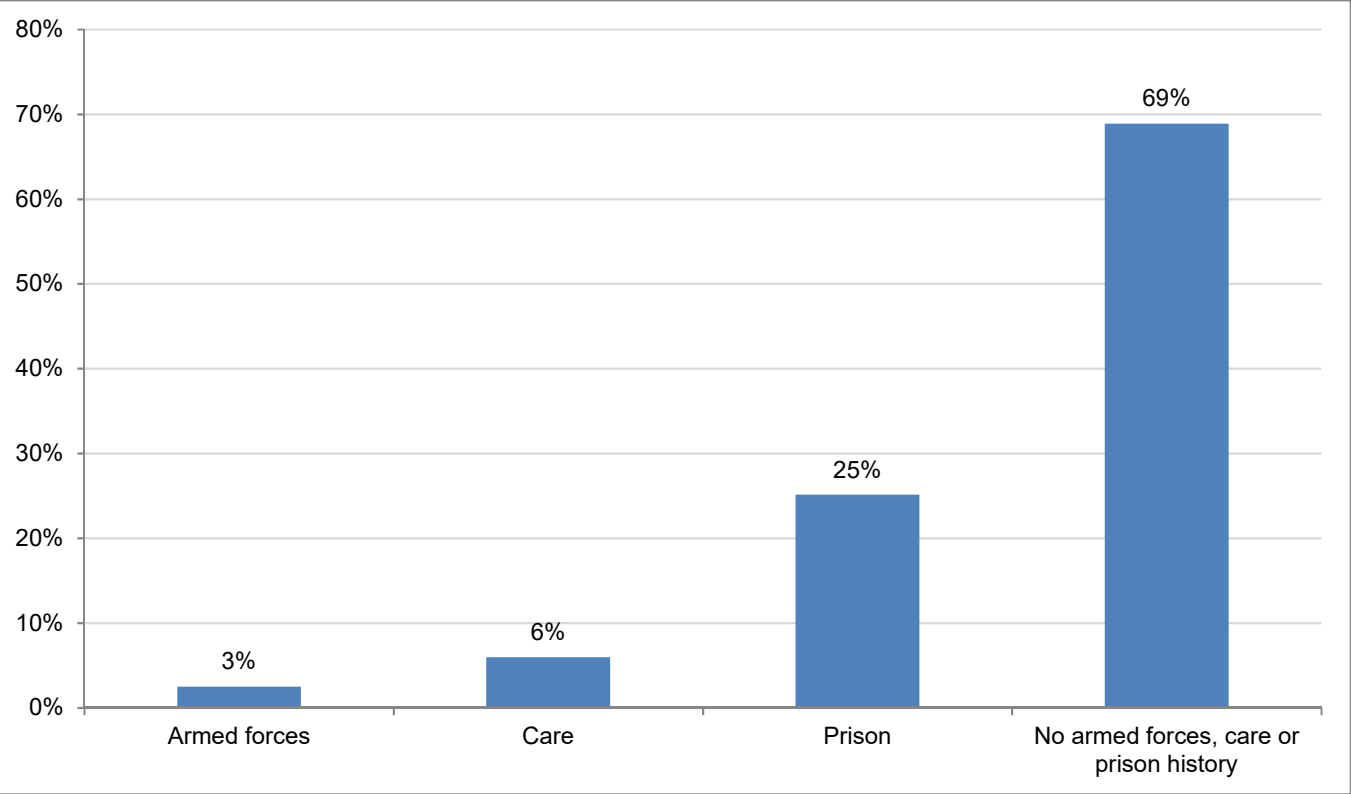
Table 15: People seen rough sleeping during 2025-26 Q3, by support needs, and borough

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	17	12	15	11	12	41
Barnet	6	13	26	12	21	53
Bexley	8	9	21	13	5	27
Bromley	12	13	28	17	6	38
Croydon	39	51	75	56	32	129
Enfield	10	20	24	14	33	69
Greenwich	24	44	63	48	25	95
Hackney	27	29	44	34	12	68
Harrow	1	2	16	2	4	21
Havering	8	8	14	6	4	25
Heathrow	6	6	30	7	23	58
Hillingdon	32	36	51	35	60	137
Hounslow	31	23	48	26	138	206
Kingston upon Thames	8	10	14	10	9	29
Lewisham	36	40	54	43	16	88
Merton	8	8	11	10	9	23
Redbridge	39	34	51	36	26	108
Richmond	11	6	16	8	1	22
Sutton	8	3	8	7	0	12
Waltham Forest	26	30	31	26	13	67
Wandsworth	14	16	29	18	9	47
Bus route	4	5	11	5	10	24
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 Q3, by experience of armed forces, care or prison



Base: 1,357 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 300 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 16: People seen rough sleeping in 2025-26 Q3, by institutional and armed forces history

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	34	2.5%
Armed forces - UK nationals	17	1.3%
Care	81	6.0%
Prison	341	25.1%
No armed forces, care or prison history	935	68.9%
Total (excl. not assessed)	1,357	
Total (incl. not assessed)	1,657	

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 Q3, 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	2	1	1	9	31	41
Barnet	3	0	1	6	37	51
Bexley	2	2	2	12	11	24
Bromley	2	2	2	14	22	36
Croydon	2	0	8	34	78	126
Enfield	2	2	6	18	44	66
Greenwich	2	1	9	47	46	95
Hackney	3	2	11	23	35	65
Harrow	0	0	1	4	15	21
Havering	0	0	3	5	18	24
Heathrow	1	1	4	8	46	58
Hillingdon	1	1	3	26	109	139
Hounslow	2	1	6	26	175	205
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	2	6	21	29
Lewisham	1	1	4	32	57	91
Merton	0	0	0	6	16	23
Redbridge	2	1	7	21	82	110
Richmond	3	1	1	6	13	21
Sutton	2	0	2	5	5	13
Waltham Forest	4	1	1	21	40	69
Wandsworth	0	0	5	17	28	47
Bus route	0	0	3	3	18	23
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 Q3, compared to 2025-26 Q2, by number of people

	Jul-Sep 25	Oct-Dec 25
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation	286	734
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	97	452
Booked into temporary accommodation	138	245
Booked into long-term accommodation	58	103

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

Table 19: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2025-26 Q3, compared to 2025-26 Q2, by number of outcomes

Accommodation type	Jul-Sep 25		Oct-Dec 25	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	91	30.2%	176	19.1%
SWEP (Local)	0	0.0%	256	27.8%
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Winter/night shelter	1	0.3%	100	10.9%
Other	8	2.7%	3	0.3%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>33.2%</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>58.2%</i>
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	33	11.0%	45	4.9%
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	1	0.3%	2	0.2%
B&B (not local authority TA)	9	3.0%	73	7.9%
Clinic/detox/rehab	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hostel	26	8.6%	42	4.6%
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	7	2.3%	2	0.2%
Staging post	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	62	20.6%	108	11.7%
Other	5	1.7%	8	0.9%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>47.5%</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>30.4%</i>
Long-term accommodation				
Clearing House	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	3	1.0%	3	0.3%
Employment-related accommodation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	2	0.7%	2	0.2%
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	2	0.7%	0	0.0%
Private rented sector - independent	23	7.6%	50	5.4%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	10	3.3%	21	2.3%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	2	0.7%	1	0.1%
Supported accommodation (long-term)	15	5.0%	25	2.7%
Other	1	0.3%	2	0.2%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>19.3%</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>11.4%</i>
Total	301	100.0%	920	100.0%

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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