
CHAIN QUARTERLY REPORT

OUTER BOROUGHES

APRIL - JUNE 2026

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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 April - June 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.

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.

2. ROUGH SLEEPER POPULATION ANALYSIS

Outer Boroughs: Headlines

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, 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)	615	-50	-208
New RS with no second night out	457	-54	-160
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	140	+10	-35
New RS joining living on the streets population*	18	-6	-13
Living on the Streets (All)	200	+20	-26
LOS - Transferred from new RS*	18	-6	-13
LOS - Known	182	+26	-13
Intermittent Rough Sleepers	460	-37	-56
Total	1,257	-61	-277

*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 2025-26 Q1 to 2026-27 Q1

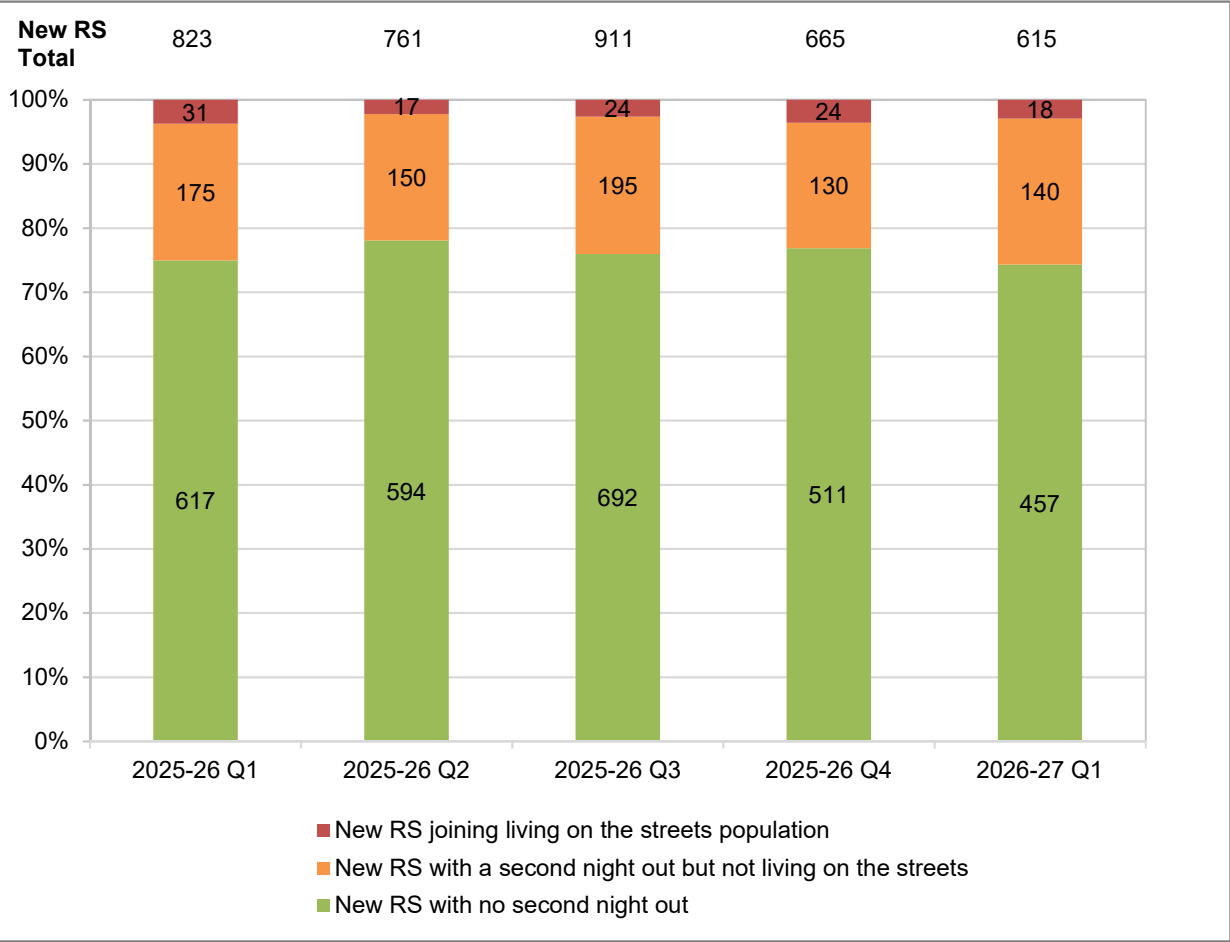


Table 2: New rough sleepers in 2026-27 Q1, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
New RS with no second night out	457
New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	140
New RS joining living on the streets population	18
Total	615

New RS = New rough sleepers

Outer Boroughs: No One Living on the Streets

Chart 2: People living on the streets 2025-26 Q1 to 2026-27 Q1



Table 3: People living on the streets in 2026-27 Q1, by subcategory

Category	No. this period
LOS - Transferred from new RS	18
LOS - Known	182
Total	200

Outer Boroughs: Intermittent Rough Sleepers

Chart 3: Intermittent rough sleepers 2025-26 Q1 to 2026-27 Q1

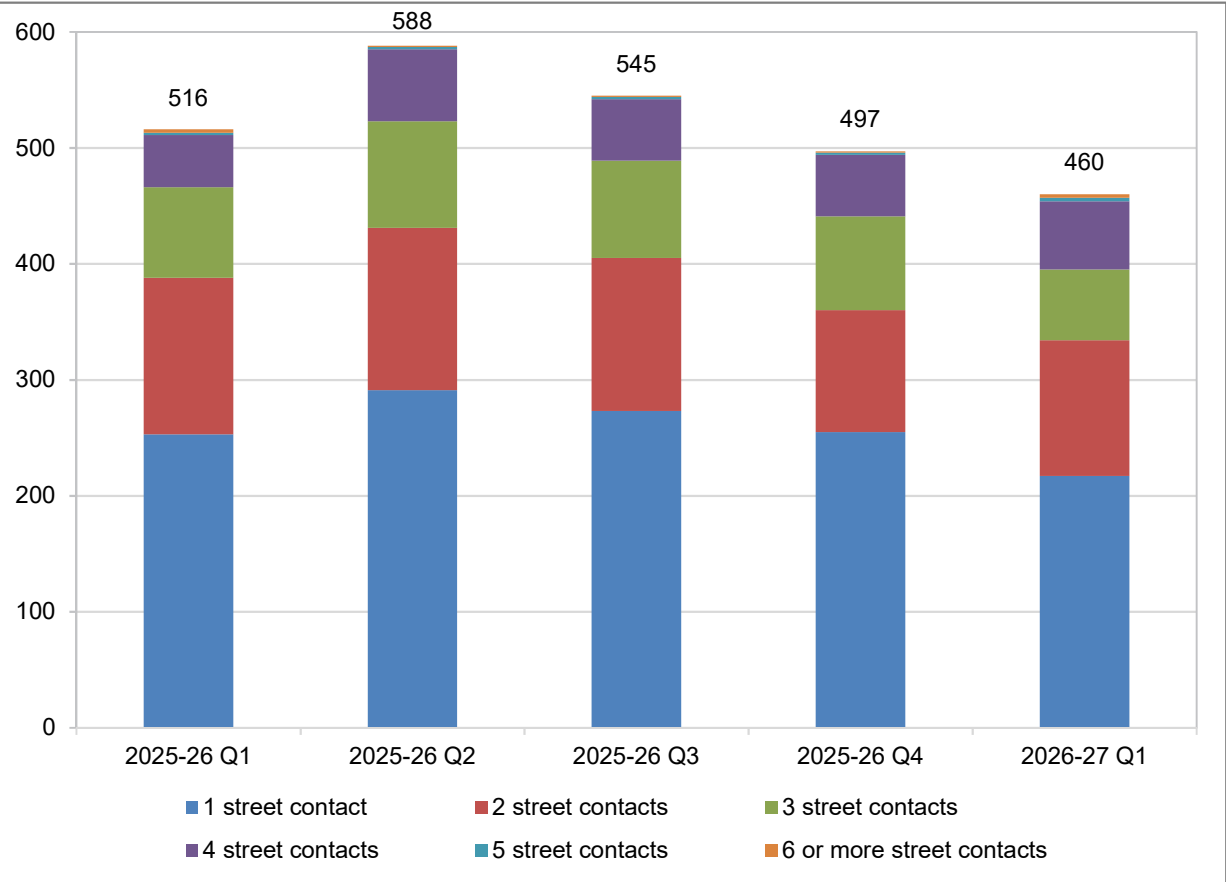


Table 4: Intermittent rough sleepers in 2026-27 Q1, by number of bedded down contacts during the period

No. bedded down street contacts during this period	No. intermittent rough sleepers
1 street contact	217
2 street contacts	117
3 street contacts	61
4 street contacts	59
5 street contacts	3
6 or more street contacts	3
Total	460

Outer Boroughs: Distribution

Table 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by borough

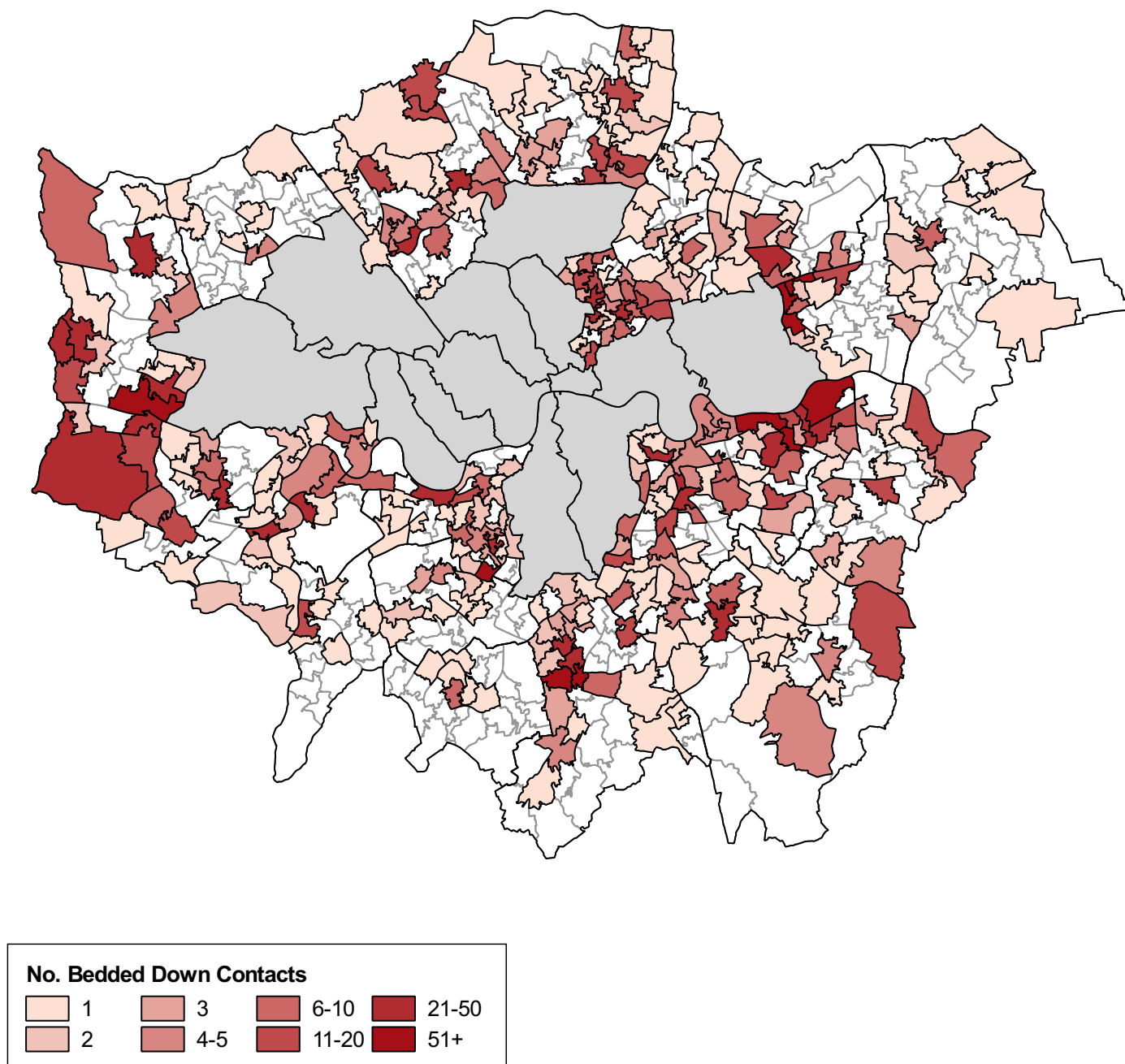
BOROUGH	New RS with no second night out	New RS with a second night out but not living on the streets	New RS joining living on the streets population	LOS - Known	Intermittent rough sleeper	TOTAL
Barking & Dagenham	7	4	0	8	13	32
Barnet	9	5	2	12	11	39
Bexley	20	3	0	4	5	32
Bromley	20	6	0	8	18	52
Croydon	45	15	4	15	56	135
Enfield	37	15	0	3	27	82
Greenwich	54	30	6	31	51	172
Hackney	31	14	0	19	44	108
Harrow	7	1	0	0	3	11
Havering	11	1	0	0	7	19
Heathrow	20	3	0	1	10	34
Hillingdon	42	11	2	18	39	112
Hounslow	29	4	1	5	31	70
Kingston upon Thames	4	4	0	2	9	19
Lewisham	26	6	0	9	30	71
Merton	7	3	0	1	5	16
Redbridge	28	7	1	26	44	106
Richmond	11	4	2	8	12	37
Sutton	5	1	0	0	3	9
Waltham Forest	15	3	0	0	11	29
Wandsworth	17	4	0	13	26	60
Bus route	12	0	0	0	9	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNIQUE TOTAL	457	140	18	182	460	1,257

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

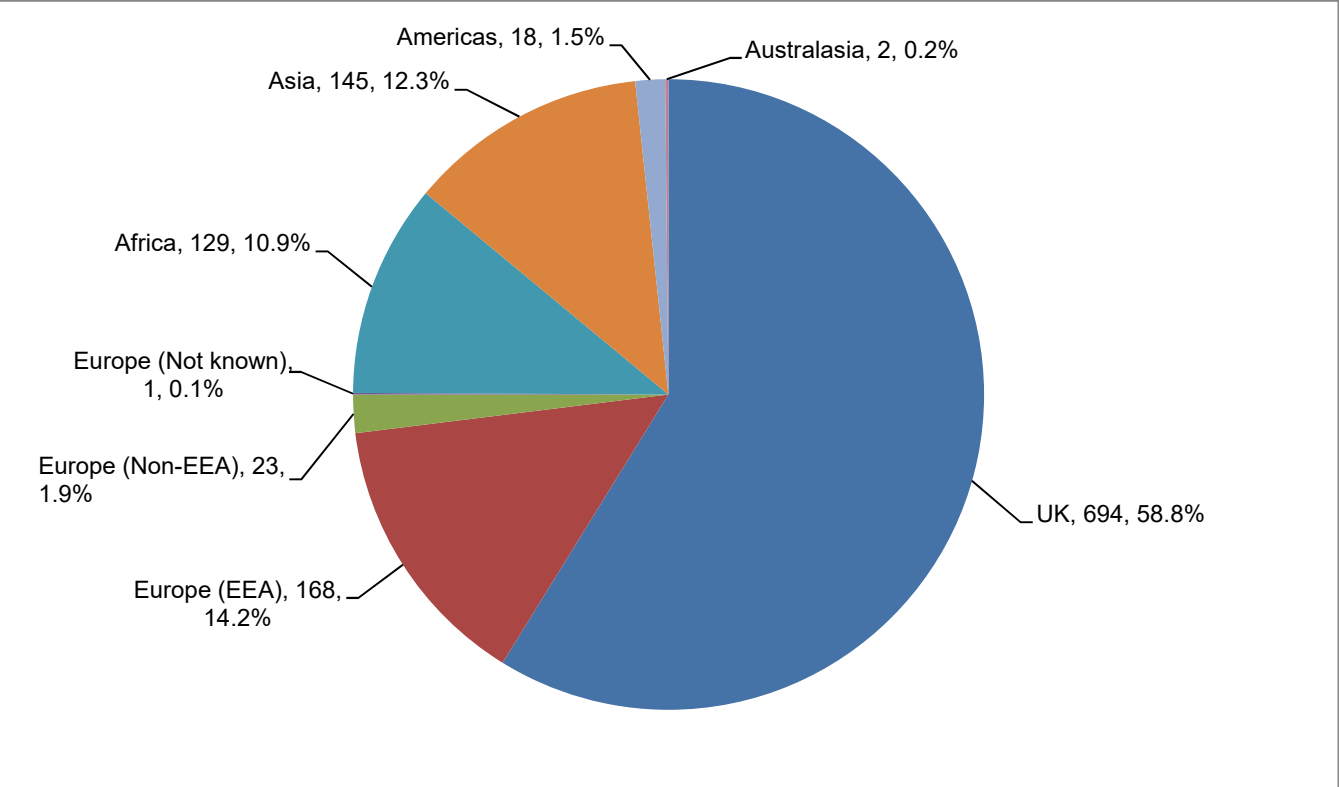
Table 6: People seen rough sleeping 2025-26 Q3 to 2026-27 Q1 by nationality

Nationality	Oct-Dec 25		Jan-Mar 26		Apr-Jun 26	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
UK	762	48.8%	652	52.0%	694	58.8%
Romania	64	4.1%	47	3.7%	49	4.2%
Poland	62	4.0%	50	4.0%	39	3.3%
Lithuania	23	1.5%	10	0.8%	10	0.8%
Portugal	13	0.8%	12	1.0%	9	0.8%
Ireland (Republic of)	11	0.7%	10	0.8%	10	0.8%
Bulgaria	12	0.8%	14	1.1%	19	1.6%
Italy	6	0.4%	14	1.1%	4	0.3%
France	6	0.4%	4	0.3%	6	0.5%
Spain	6	0.4%	2	0.2%	5	0.4%
Latvia	3	0.2%	4	0.3%	5	0.4%
Other European (EEA) countries	14	0.9%	13	1.0%	12	1.0%
Europe (EEA)	220	14.1%	180	14.4%	168	14.2%
Europe (Non-EEA)	28	1.8%	15	1.2%	23	1.9%
Europe (Not known)	10	0.6%	5	0.4%	1	0.1%
Eritrea	123	7.9%	72	5.7%	23	1.9%
Sudan	67	4.3%	34	2.7%	16	1.4%
Nigeria	35	2.2%	32	2.6%	28	2.4%
Ethiopia	11	0.7%	14	1.1%	8	0.7%
Somalia	9	0.6%	24	1.9%	10	0.8%
Other African countries	75	4.8%	52	4.1%	44	3.7%
Africa	320	20.5%	228	18.2%	129	10.9%
India	79	5.1%	65	5.2%	61	5.2%
Afghanistan	34	2.2%	33	2.6%	31	2.6%
Iran	24	1.5%	15	1.2%	8	0.7%
Pakistan	7	0.4%	8	0.6%	11	0.9%
Bangladesh	4	0.3%	6	0.5%	3	0.3%
Other Asian countries	41	2.6%	32	2.6%	31	2.6%
Asia	189	12.1%	159	12.7%	145	12.3%
Americas	30	1.9%	15	1.2%	18	1.5%
Australasia	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Not known	97		64		77	
Total (excl. not known)	1,560	100.0%	1,254	100.0%	1,180	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	1,657		1,318		1,257	

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

Nationality: Breakdown by area

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by nationality



Base: 1,180 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 77 people whose nationality was not known.

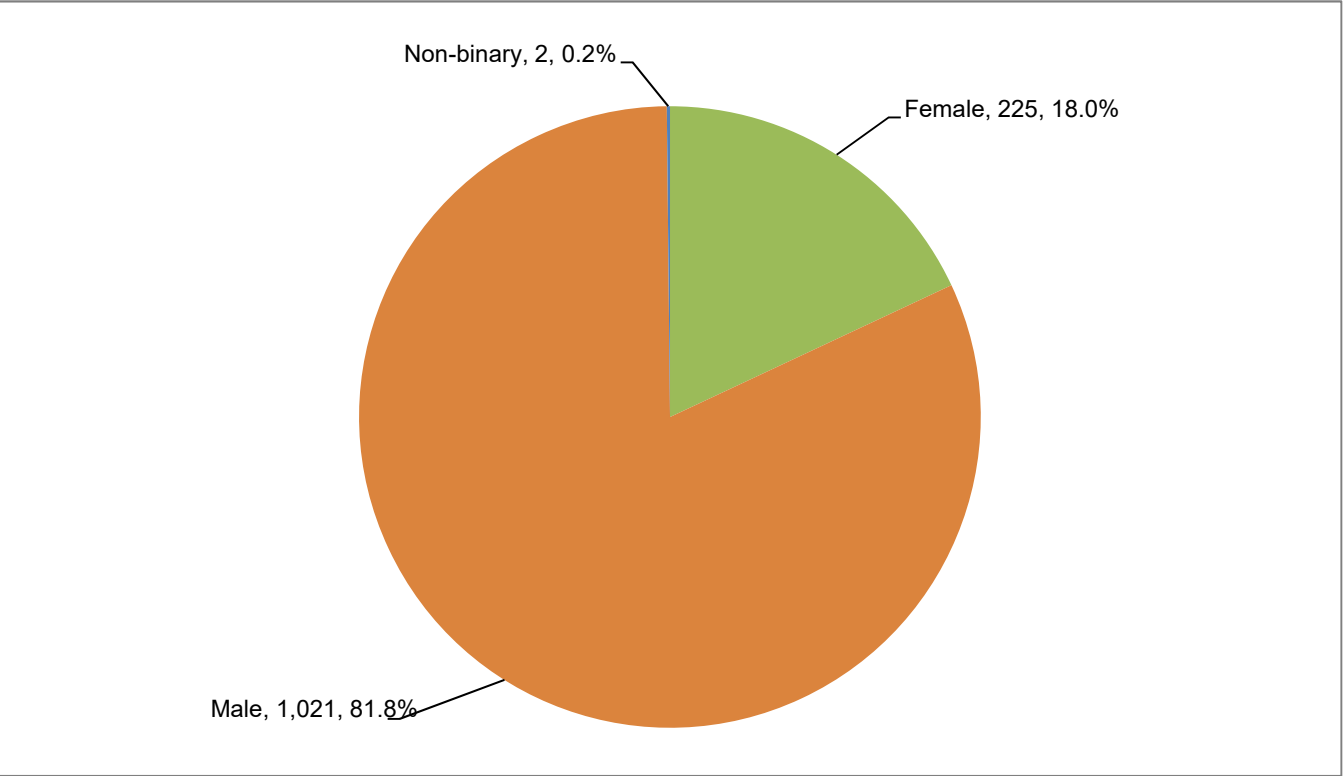
Table 7: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, by nationality, and borough

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5. DEMOGRAPHICS

Gender

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by gender



Base: 1,248 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 9 people whose gender was not known.

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, by gender

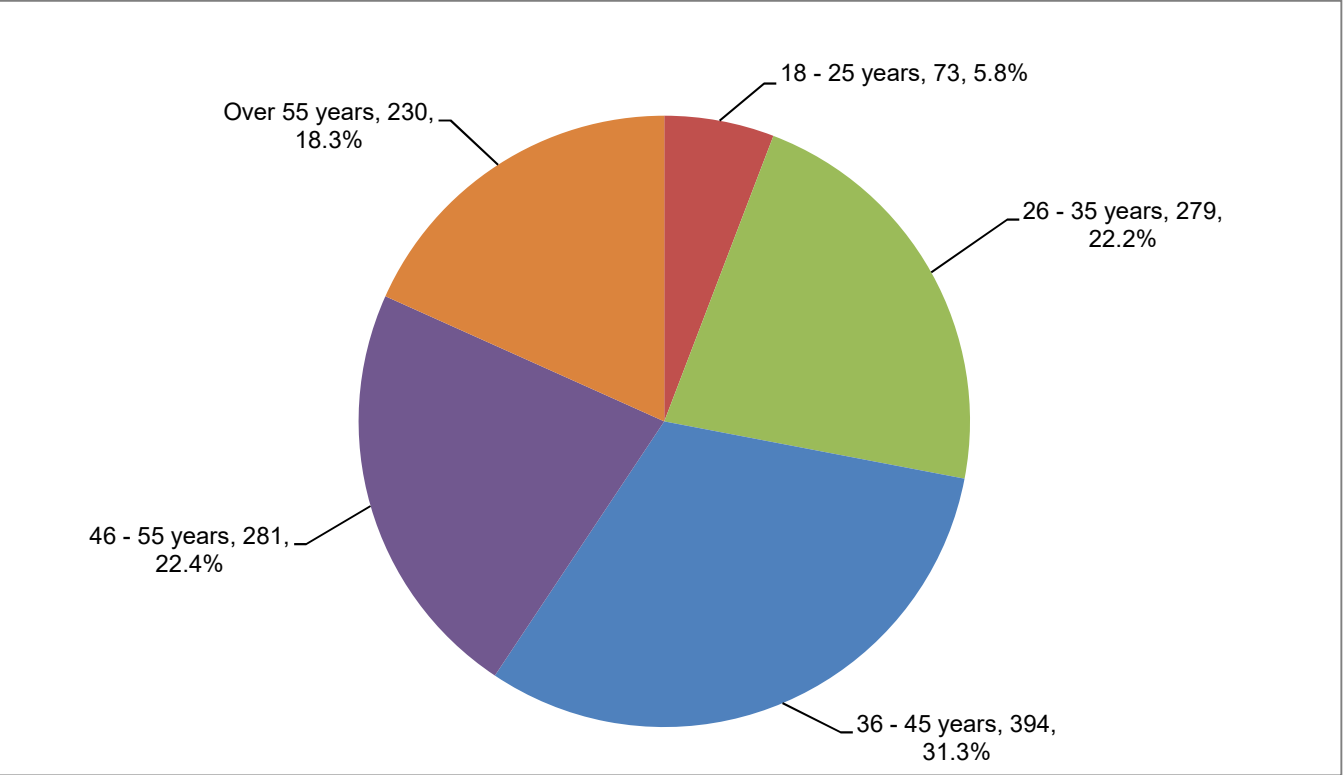
Gender	No.	%
Female	225	18.0%
Male	1,021	81.8%
Non-binary	2	0.2%
Not known	9	
Total (excl. not known)	1,248	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	1,257	

Table 9: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, by gender, and borough

Borough	Female	Male	Non-binary	Not known	Total
Barking & Dagenham	2	30	0	0	32
Barnet	6	33	0	0	39
Bexley	2	29	0	1	32
Bromley	15	36	0	1	52
Croydon	34	101	0	0	135
Enfield	18	63	1	0	82
Greenwich	30	139	1	2	172
Hackney	20	84	0	4	108
Harrow	2	9	0	0	11
Havering	2	17	0	0	19
Heathrow	8	26	0	0	34
Hillingdon	18	93	0	1	112
Hounslow	9	61	0	0	70
Kingston upon Thames	5	14	0	0	19
Lewisham	10	61	0	0	71
Merton	2	14	0	0	16
Redbridge	15	91	0	0	106
Richmond	1	36	0	0	37
Sutton	2	7	0	0	9
Waltham Forest	7	22	0	0	29
Wandsworth	16	44	0	0	60
Bus route	5	16	0	0	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0

Age

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by age



Base: 1,257 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, by age

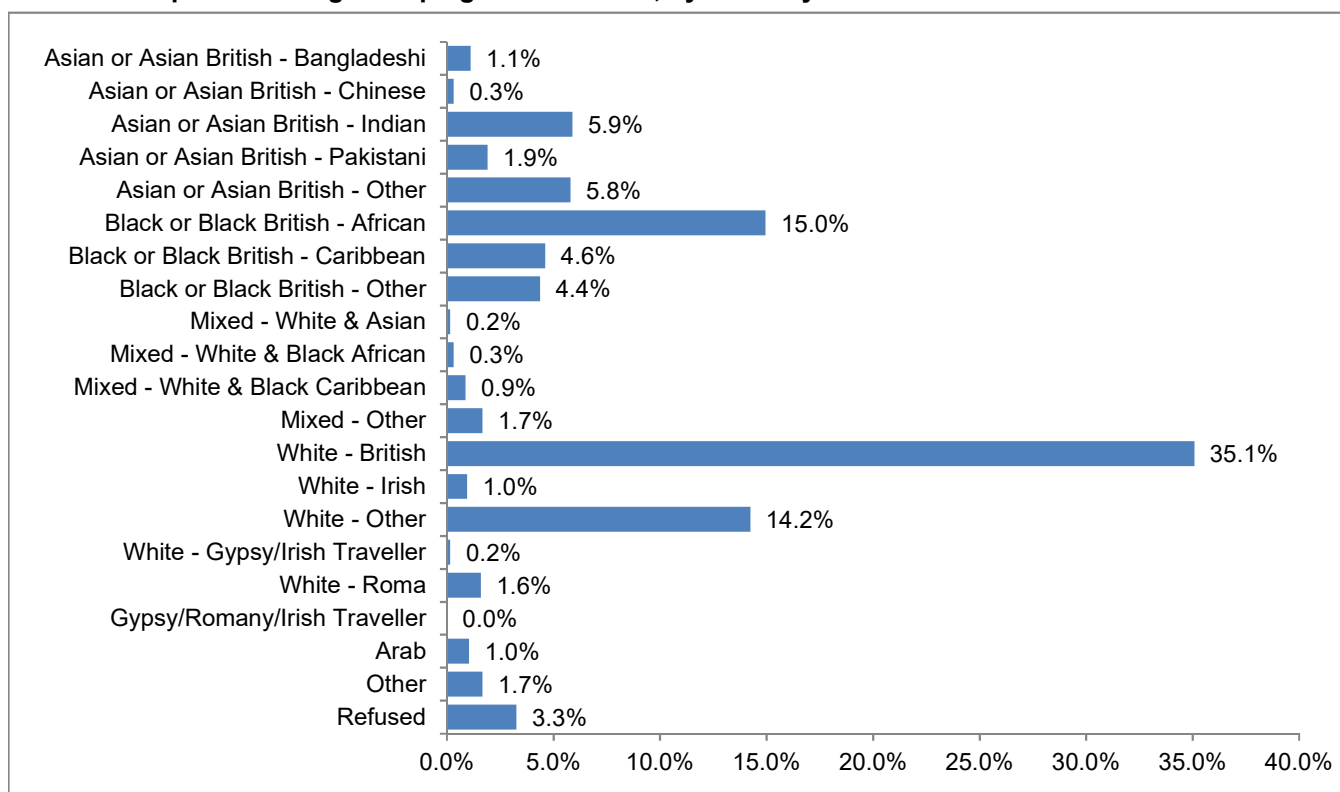
Age	No.	%
Under 18 years	0	0.0%
18 - 25 years	73	5.8%
26 - 35 years	279	22.2%
36 - 45 years	394	31.3%
46 - 55 years	281	22.4%
Over 55 years	230	18.3%
Total	1,257	100.0%

Table 11: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, 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	2	8	15	5	2	32
Barnet	0	2	10	10	6	11	39
Bexley	0	2	8	4	9	9	32
Bromley	0	1	4	17	20	10	52
Croydon	0	6	31	46	26	26	135
Enfield	0	8	22	26	13	13	82
Greenwich	0	14	29	70	30	29	172
Hackney	0	1	22	44	24	17	108
Harrow	0	1	3	1	3	3	11
Havering	0	1	5	1	4	8	19
Heathrow	0	2	0	6	13	13	34
Hillingdon	0	8	32	32	23	17	112
Hounslow	0	6	19	20	16	9	70
Kingston upon Thames	0	1	5	5	5	3	19
Lewisham	0	6	17	21	12	15	71
Merton	0	1	1	8	5	1	16
Redbridge	0	6	26	35	32	7	106
Richmond	0	0	2	10	9	16	37
Sutton	0	1	2	3	2	1	9
Waltham Forest	0	2	4	7	7	9	29
Wandsworth	0	1	24	13	16	6	60
Bus route	0	1	7	1	4	8	21
Tube line	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Ethnicity

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by ethnicity



Base: 1,257 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 2026-27 Q1, by ethnicity

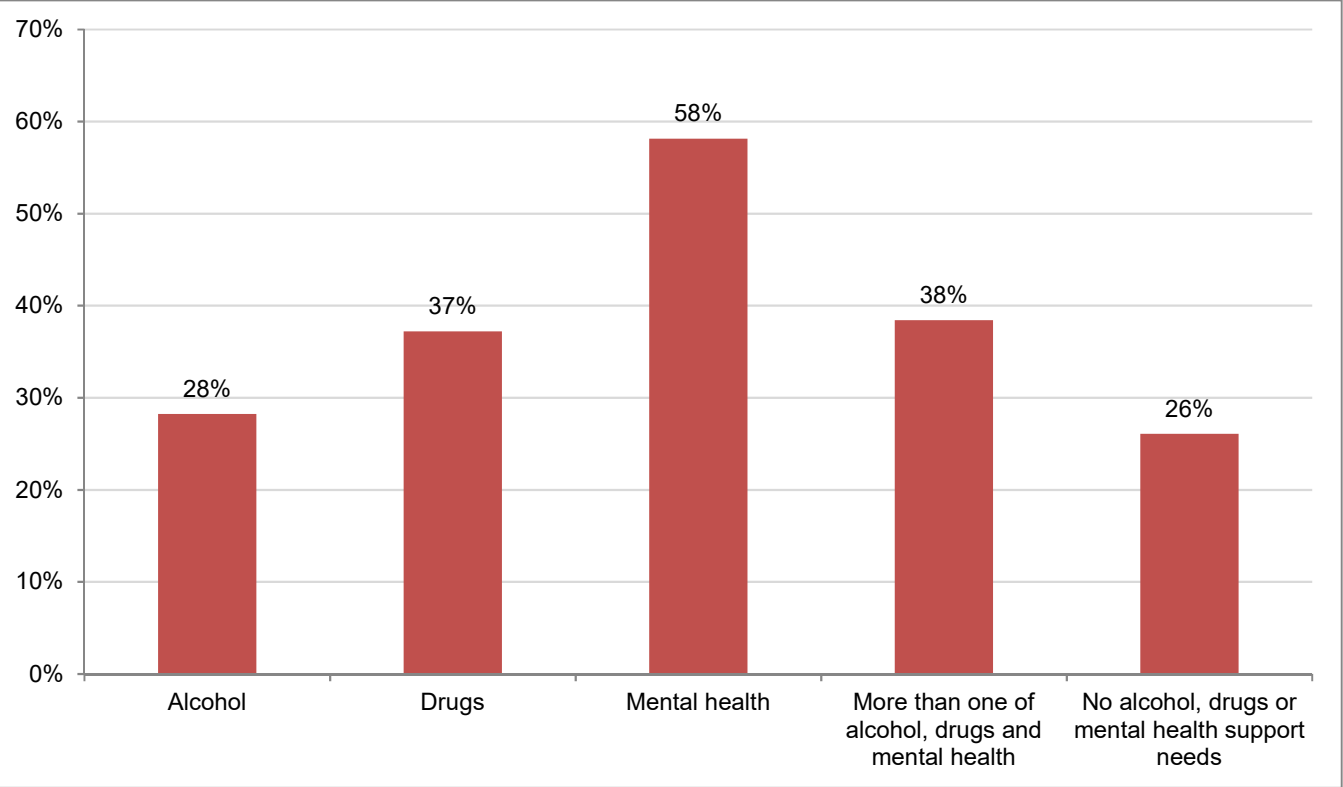
Ethnicity	No.	%
Asian (incl. Chinese)	189	15.0%
Black	301	23.9%
Mixed	38	3.0%
White (incl. Gypsy/Irish Traveller/Roma)	654	52.0%
Arab/Other	34	2.7%
Refused	41	3.3%
Total	1,257	100.0%

Table 13: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, by ethnicity, and borough

[illegible]

6. SUPPORT NEEDS

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by support needs



Base: 1,070 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 187 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 14: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by support needs

Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	302	28.2%
Drugs	398	37.2%
Mental health	622	58.1%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	411	38.4%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	279	26.1%
Total (excl. not assessed)	1,070	
Total (incl. not assessed)	1,257	

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

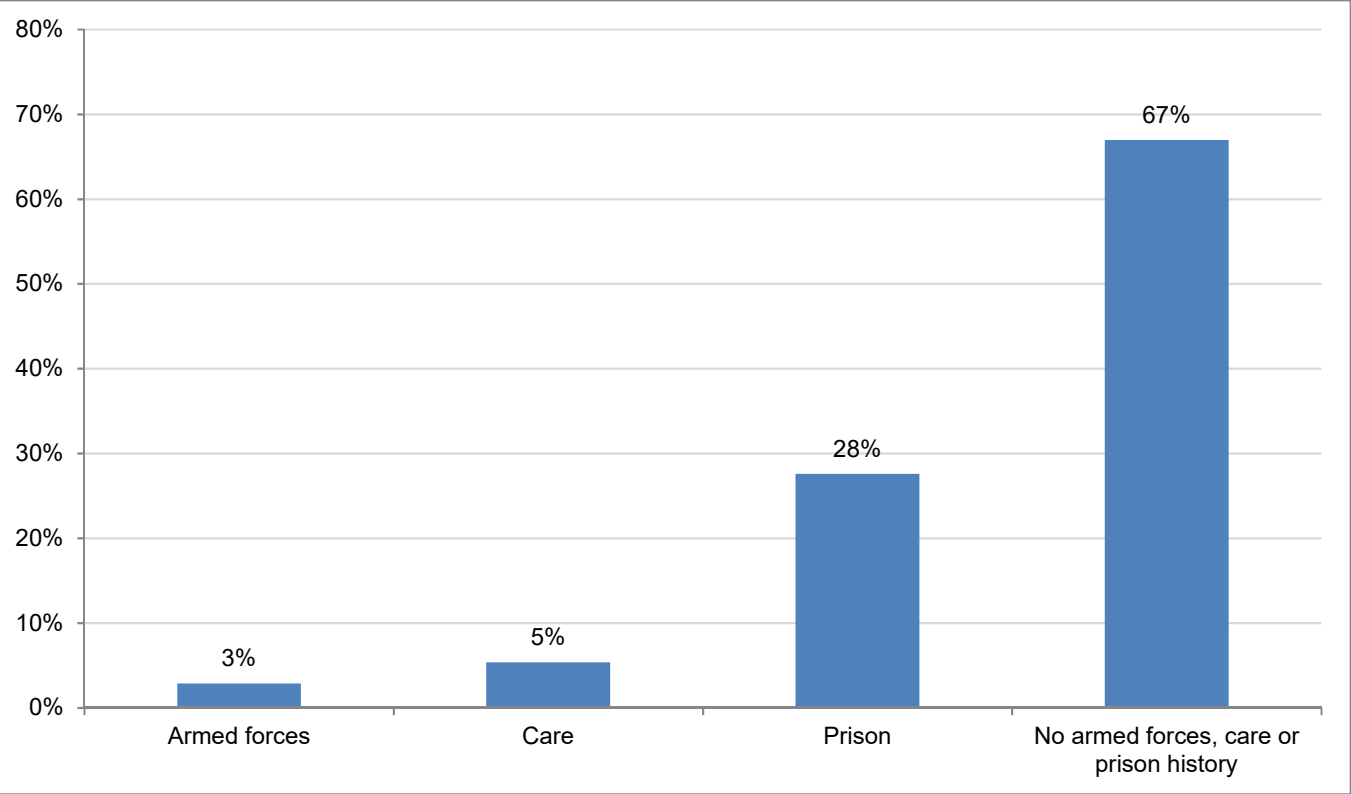
Table 15: People seen rough sleeping during 2026-27 Q1, by support needs, and borough

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	8	7	13	8	14	32
Barnet	6	11	16	8	14	36
Bexley	8	8	19	11	8	29
Bromley	9	16	21	13	12	42
Croydon	27	49	68	46	27	115
Enfield	13	24	33	22	27	70
Greenwich	35	54	86	59	26	126
Hackney	19	34	56	33	16	83
Harrow	0	1	1	1	7	8
Havering	2	3	7	3	6	14
Heathrow	7	1	19	5	12	34
Hillingdon	22	36	55	35	19	88
Hounslow	23	19	29	19	22	67
Kingston upon Thames	10	5	11	10	7	18
Lewisham	20	29	45	31	14	66
Merton	1	6	8	6	4	13
Redbridge	47	49	54	42	14	104
Richmond	15	12	21	17	4	30
Sutton	5	2	2	1	2	9
Waltham Forest	12	6	18	14	5	24
Wandsworth	13	26	35	27	13	52
Bus route	2	2	9	2	9	19
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 2026-27 Q1, by experience of armed forces, care or prison



Base: 1,044 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 213 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 16: People seen rough sleeping in 2026-27 Q1, by institutional and armed forces history

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	30	2.9%
Armed forces - UK nationals	14	1.3%
Care	56	5.4%
Prison	288	27.6%
No armed forces, care or prison history	699	67.0%
Total (excl. not assessed)	1,044	
Total (incl. not assessed)	1,257	

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 2026-27 Q1, 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	1	7	24	31
Barnet	1	0	1	5	27	35
Bexley	2	2	0	7	22	30
Bromley	0	0	0	16	24	41
Croydon	3	2	6	21	66	97
Enfield	1	0	3	20	54	75
Greenwich	4	2	10	48	71	126
Hackney	6	3	7	30	30	72
Harrow	0	0	0	1	9	10
Havering	0	0	0	1	14	15
Heathrow	0	0	0	5	28	33
Hillingdon	2	2	3	22	63	89
Hounslow	1	1	4	15	52	68
Kingston upon Thames	1	0	0	1	13	15
Lewisham	0	0	6	24	41	67
Merton	0	0	0	4	9	13
Redbridge	4	1	5	24	71	104
Richmond	3	1	2	10	16	28
Sutton	2	0	0	1	7	9
Waltham Forest	0	0	1	6	18	25
Wandsworth	0	0	6	20	31	51
Bus route	0	0	1	2	15	18
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 2026-27 Q1, compared to 2025-26 Q4, by number of people

	Jan-Mar 26	Apr-Jun 26
Outcome	No. people	No. people
Booked into accommodation	499	376
Booked into hub, shelter or emergency accommodation	311	137
Booked into temporary accommodation	169	201
Booked into long-term accommodation	74	56

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

Table 19: Accommodation outcomes achieved during 2026-27 Q1, compared to 2025-26 Q4, by number of outcomes

Accommodation type	Jan-Mar 26		Apr-Jun 26	
	No. events	%	No. events	%
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation				
Hub	130	20.9%	108	25.7%
SWEP (Local)	166	26.7%	23	5.5%
SWEP (Pan-London)	4	0.6%	0	0.0%
Winter/night shelter	47	7.6%	5	1.2%
Other	5	0.8%	6	1.4%
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>56.7%</i>	<i>142</i>	<i>33.7%</i>
Temporary accommodation				
Assessment centre	20	3.2%	31	7.4%
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	2	0.3%	2	0.5%
B&B (not local authority TA)	52	8.4%	41	9.7%
Clinic/detox/rehab	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Hostel	25	4.0%	33	7.8%
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	6	1.0%	0	0.0%
Staging post	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	83	13.4%	100	23.8%
Other	6	1.0%	14	3.3%
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>194</i>	<i>31.2%</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>52.7%</i>
Long-term accommodation				
Clearing House	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	6	1.0%	2	0.5%
Employment-related accommodation	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	1	0.2%	4	1.0%
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	1	0.2%	1	0.2%
Private rented sector - independent	33	5.3%	10	2.4%
Private rented sector - with some floating support	8	1.3%	21	5.0%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	1	0.2%	2	0.5%
Supported accommodation (long-term)	21	3.4%	17	4.0%
Other	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>12.1%</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>13.5%</i>
Total	621	100.0%	421	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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