

CHAIN ANNUAL REPORT

OUTER BOROUGHES

APRIL 2025 - MARCH 2026

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



CHAIN

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

2. ROUGH SLEEPING POPULATION ANALYSIS

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

2.2 Number of times seen rough sleeping

2.3 Rough sleeping volume: Flow, stock, returner model

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Borough distribution

3.2 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

4. HISTORY PRIOR TO ROUGH SLEEPING

4.1 History prior to rough sleeping: People new to rough sleeping

4.2 History prior to rough sleeping: People returning to rough sleeping

5. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

5.1 Nationality: Overall composition

5.2 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model

5.3 Gender

5.4 Age

5.5 Ethnicity

5.6 Support needs

5.7 Institutional & armed forces history

6. ROUTES OFF THE STREETS

6.1 Accommodation outcomes

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Glossary of initialisms, acronyms, and terms used in this report

COPYRIGHT

Greater London Authority

June 2026

Published by
Greater London Authority
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London
E16 1ZE
www.london.gov.uk

CHAIN enquiries: chain@homelesslink.org.uk, 020 7840 4451

Copies of this report are available
from <http://data.london.gov.uk>

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in the outer boroughs between April 2025 and March 2026. Information in the report is derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), a multi-agency database recording information about people rough sleeping, and the wider street population, in London. CHAIN represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping, and is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA). The system is managed by Homeless Link.

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 year, so the combined total for the separate boroughs works out to a higher number than the overall amalgamated total for the outer boroughs.

For the purposes of recording on CHAIN, Heathrow is counted as a 'borough', so that the particular issue of rough sleeping at the airport can be distinguished from rough sleeping in the wider borough of Hillingdon. Some people were recorded rough sleeping by outreach workers on buses or the London Underground network during the period, and their contacts cannot be ascribed to a particular borough. These people have been included in the overall figures for the outer boroughs in this report, and are also counted separately under 'bus route' or 'tube line' in the individual borough breakdowns.

The borough-level data on which this report is based is also available in an accessible aggregated tabular format in a separate CHAIN Annual Data Tables file, which 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 Annual Data Visualisations Tool at <https://bit.ly/chain-annual-vis-tool>.

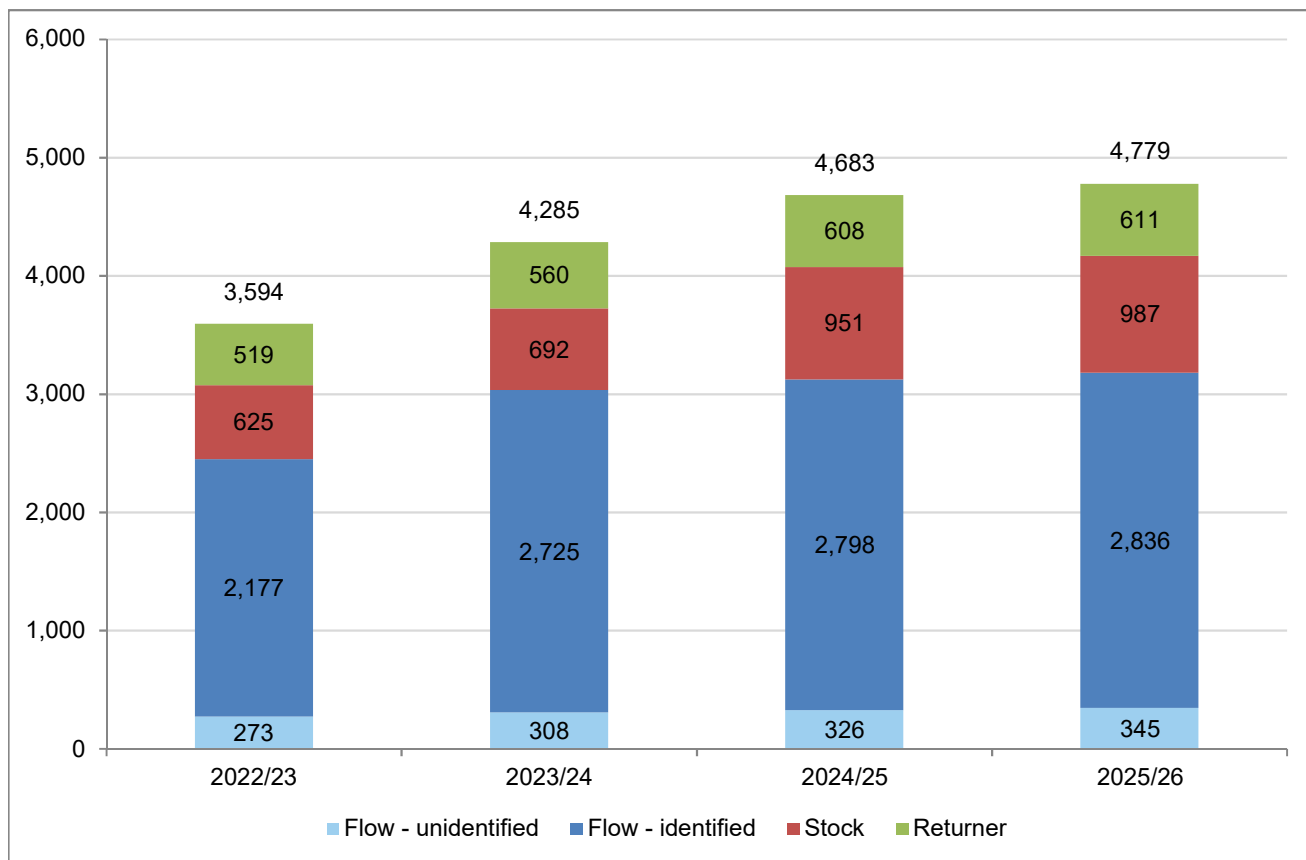
Percentage figures in this report

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 charts or commentary.

2. ROUGH SLEEPING POPULATION ANALYSIS

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

Chart 1: People seen rough sleeping, by flow, stock, returner breakdown, 2022/23 - 2025/26

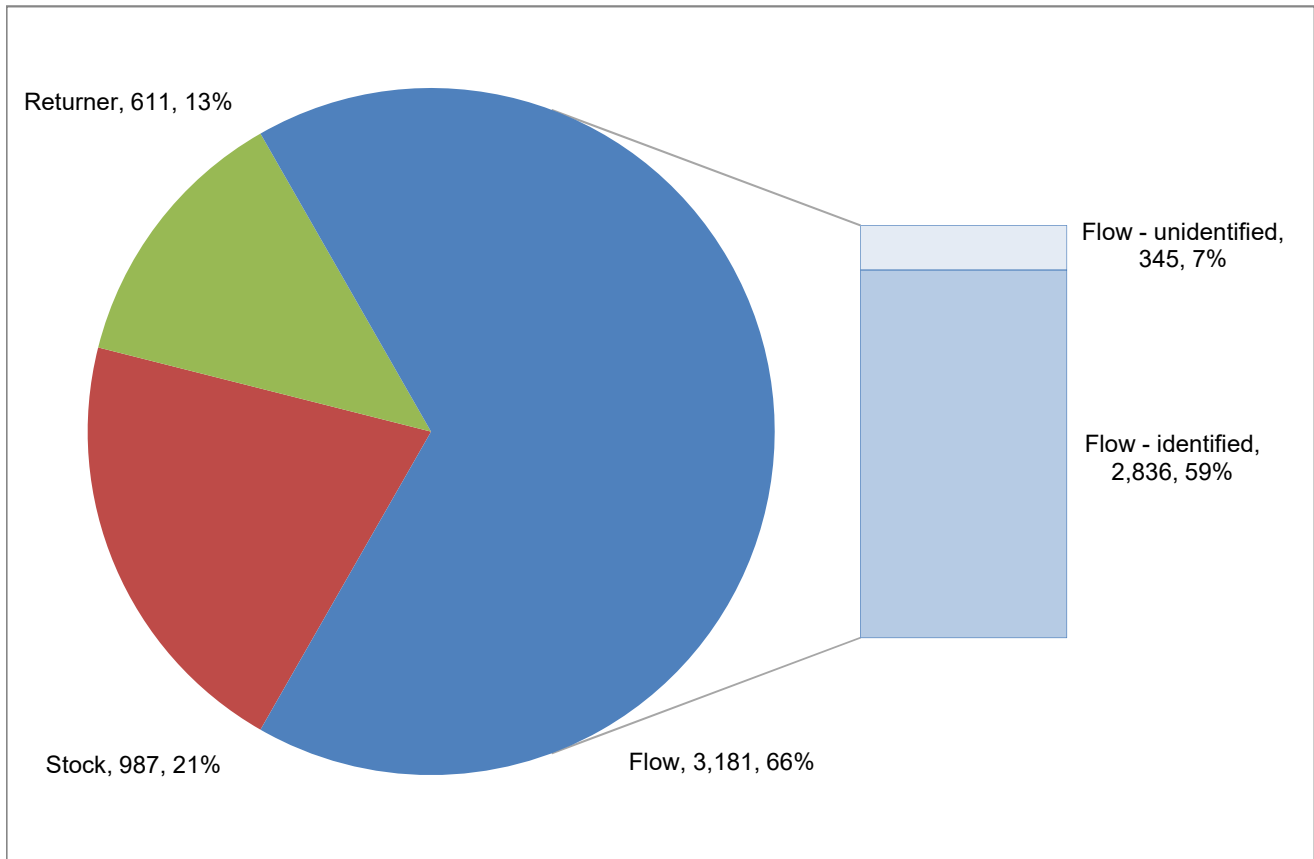


2022/23 base: 3,594
 2023/24 base: 4,285
 2024/25 base: 4,683
 2025/26 base: 4,779

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	<p>People who had never been seen rough sleeping prior to 2025/26 (i.e. people new to rough sleeping). Those within this category are further subdivided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unidentified - those people new to rough sleeping recorded without a name, and with only one contact. Identified - those people new to rough sleeping recorded with a name, and/or with more than one contact.
Stock	<p>People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2024/25 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).</p>
Returner	<p>People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2024/25, but were not seen during 2024/25 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).</p>

Chart 2: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by flow, stock, returner breakdown



Base: 4,779 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

4,779 people were seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs in 2025/26. This represents a 2% increase when compared to 2024/25.

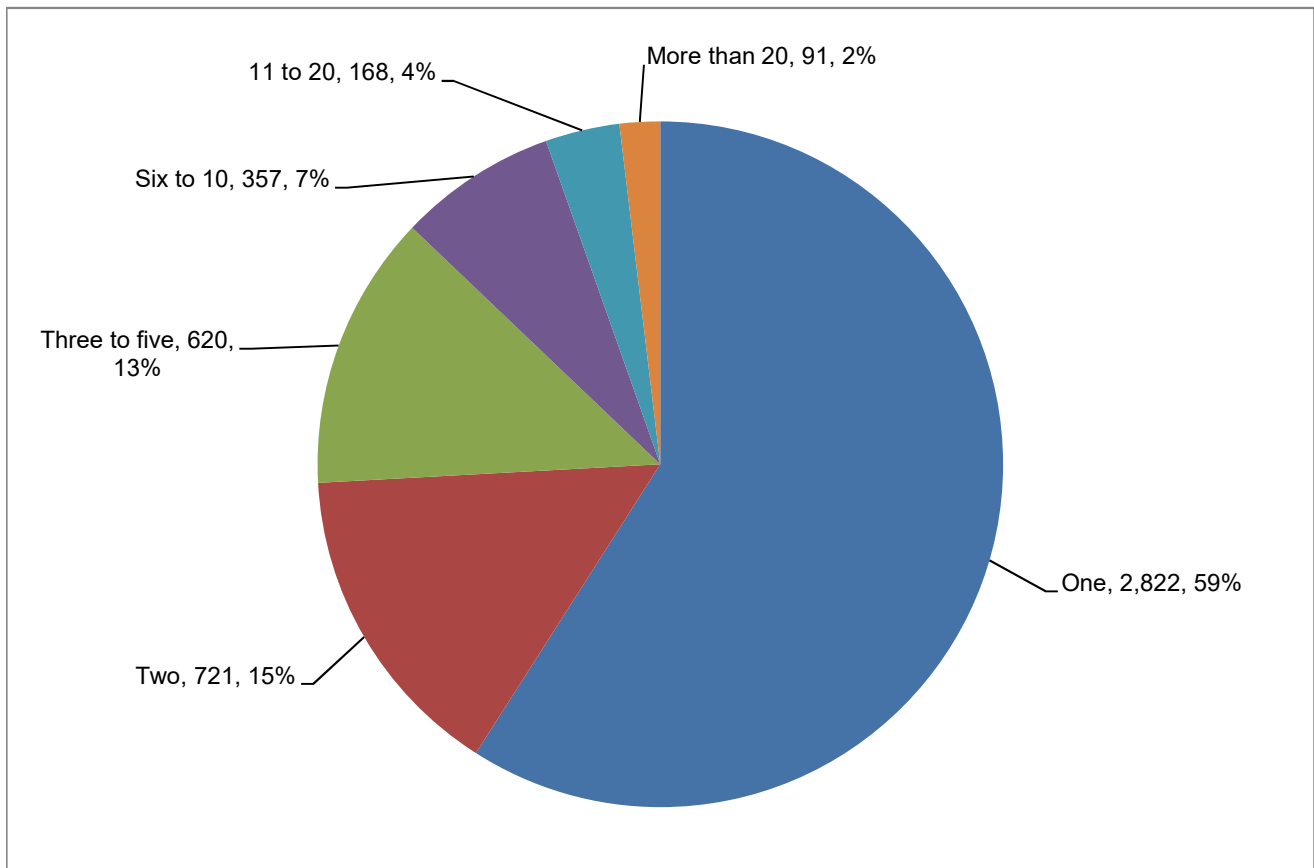
67% of people seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs during the year were new rough sleepers (flow), while 21% fell into the stock category, and 13% were returners.

Table 1: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by flow, stock, returner breakdown, and borough

Borough	Flow	Stock	Returner	Total
Barking & Dagenham	73	33	22	128
Barnet	110	39	27	176
Bexley	97	28	11	136
Bromley	92	36	17	145
Croydon	358	99	70	527
Enfield	158	32	27	217
Greenwich	260	105	41	406
Hackney	196	68	55	319
Harrow	80	8	5	93
Havering	50	11	20	81
Heathrow	179	21	27	227
Hillingdon	342	99	39	480
Hounslow	415	71	27	513
Kingston upon Thames	53	43	17	113
Lewisham	216	68	61	345
Merton	70	12	14	96
Redbridge	173	90	51	314
Richmond	43	26	15	84
Sutton	36	3	4	43
Waltham Forest	107	82	35	224
Wandsworth	73	68	29	170
Bus route	51	9	11	71
Tube line	3	0	2	5
Unique total	3,181	987	611	4,779

2.2 Number of times seen rough sleeping

Chart 3: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: 4,779 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

2,822 (59%) people were seen rough sleeping only once in 2025/26, this compares to 2,842 (61%) seen rough sleeping only once in 2024/25.

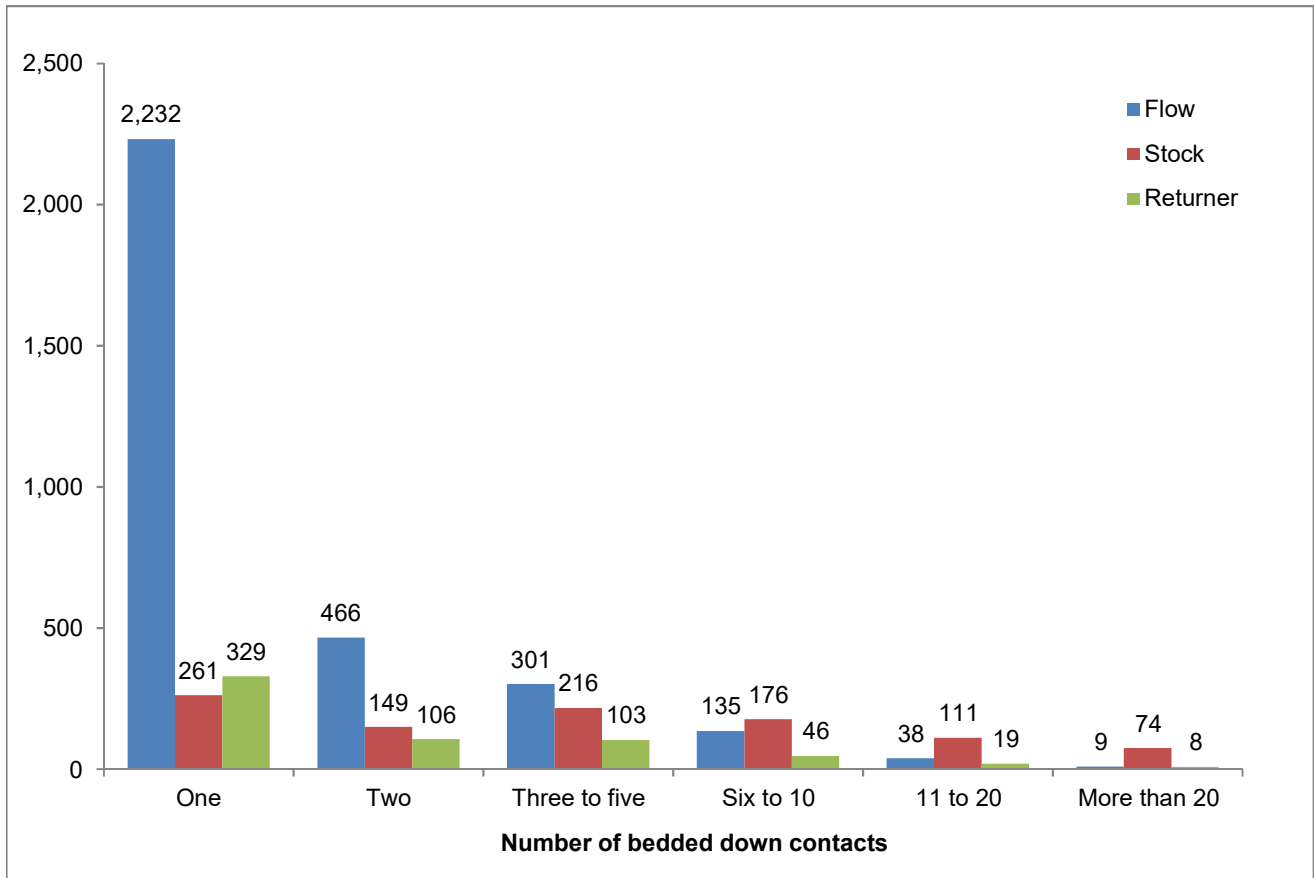
70% of people seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs during 2025/26 who were new to the streets were not seen rough sleeping for a second time during the year.

Table 2: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by number of times seen rough sleeping, and borough

Borough	Number of bedded down contacts						Total
	1	2	3-5	6-10	11-20	21+	
Barking & Dagenham	68	17	22	11	7	3	128
Barnet	70	32	36	24	10	4	176
Bexley	63	27	23	6	14	3	136
Bromley	73	32	23	8	4	5	145
Croydon	344	70	69	34	9	1	527
Enfield	154	34	24	2	1	2	217
Greenwich	197	62	61	37	34	15	406
Hackney	160	56	52	32	11	8	319
Harrow	84	6	3	0	0	0	93
Havering	58	12	10	0	0	1	81
Heathrow	163	34	20	6	2	2	227
Hillingdon	267	80	56	54	16	7	480
Hounslow	310	97	66	28	10	2	513
Kingston upon Thames	43	21	22	20	6	1	113
Lewisham	216	43	42	24	14	6	345
Merton	72	10	9	3	2	0	96
Redbridge	155	46	49	34	19	11	314
Richmond	43	7	12	12	4	6	84
Sutton	33	2	5	3	0	0	43
Waltham Forest	92	37	32	32	18	13	224
Wandsworth	89	20	32	13	7	9	170
Bus route	63	6	2	0	0	0	71
Tube line	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Unique total	2,822	721	620	357	168	91	4,779

2.3 Rough sleeping volume: Flow, stock, returner model

Chart 4: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by flow, stock, returner model, and number of times seen rough sleeping



Base: 4,779 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

3. SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Borough distribution

Table 3: People seen rough sleeping, by borough, 2022/23 - 2025/26

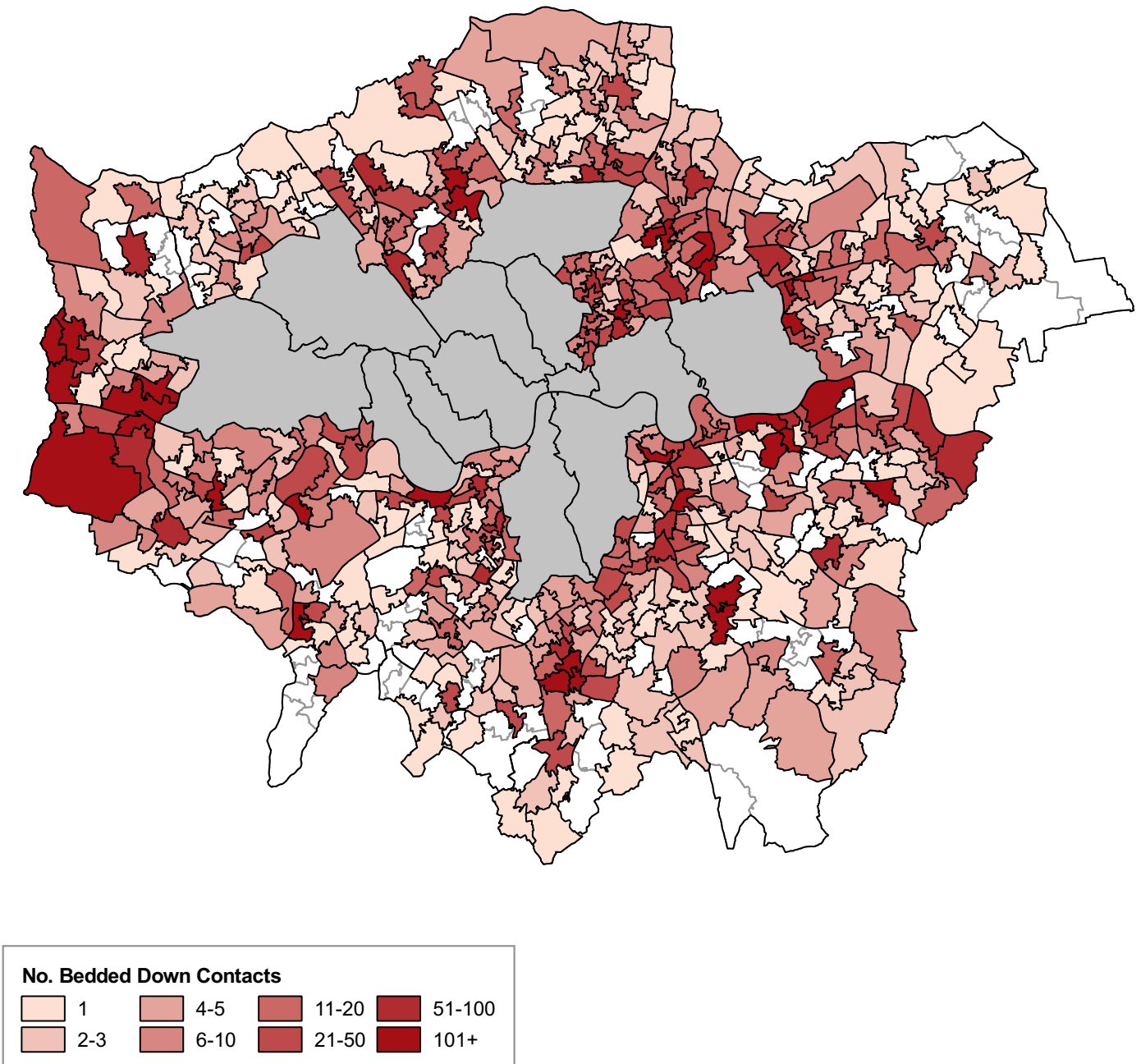
Borough	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Change between 2024/25 and 2025/26	
					No.	%
Barking & Dagenham	139	159	144	128	-16	-11%
Barnet	166	216	204	176	-28	-14%
Bexley	92	106	140	136	-4	-3%
Bromley	92	113	151	145	-6	-4%
Croydon	373	449	469	527	58	12%
Enfield	219	197	253	217	-36	-14%
Greenwich	196	337	409	406	-3	-1%
Hackney	246	251	298	319	21	7%
Harrow	96	128	94	93	-1	-1%
Havering	79	55	67	81	14	21%
Heathrow	233	308	301	227	-74	-25%
Hillingdon	167	296	492	480	-12	-2%
Hounslow	196	328	336	513	177	53%
Kingston upon Thames	120	107	135	113	-22	-16%
Lewisham	296	353	325	345	20	6%
Merton	63	77	81	96	15	19%
Redbridge	248	279	285	314	29	10%
Richmond	86	100	85	84	-1	-1%
Sutton	30	28	43	43	0	0%
Waltham Forest	186	203	239	224	-15	-6%
Wandsworth	173	172	178	170	-8	-4%
Bus route	142	118	86	71	-15	-17%
Tube line	36	14	5	5	0	0%

The outer boroughs in which the greatest numbers of people were seen rough sleeping during 2025/26 were Croydon, Hounslow, and Hillingdon. Comparing 2025/26 to 2024/25, Hounslow has shown the highest increase, both in terms of numbers (177 people) and proportion (53%). The increase in Hounslow appears to be related to an especially high number of people being seen rough sleeping there after leaving asylum support accommodation. Heathrow showed the greatest decrease, again both in terms of numbers (74 people) and proportion (25%).

3.2 Bedded down street contacts by area: Map

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 2025/26



4. HISTORY PRIOR TO ROUGH SLEEPING

This section of the report presents information about people's circumstances prior to the start of a new or repeat instance of rough sleeping in 2025/26. This includes information about what type of accommodation people had been staying in, the type of departure from that accommodation, and the main underlying cause of the departure. The information is collected for people who were seen rough sleeping for the first time in London during the period, as well as for those who had returned to rough sleeping after a period away.

In this section, 'last settled base' refers to the last accommodation of a settled nature in which the individual lived. It may be that an individual could also have stayed at some other accommodation in an unsettled situation since leaving their last settled base. If the person was living in private accommodation of some form (e.g. private rented, council tenancy, housing association, owner occupied), and they were a sole or joint legal tenant or owner of the property, their last settled base would be recorded using the option that describes the type of accommodation (e.g. 'private rented accommodation'). If they were staying with someone who was a sole or joint legal tenant or owner of the property, but they themselves were not a sole or joint legal tenant or owner of the property, then they would be recorded as 'living with family/friends/partner'.

4.1 History prior to rough sleeping: People new to rough sleeping

This section of the report presents information about history prior to rough sleeping, for people who had either never been seen rough sleeping in London previously, or whose last rough sleeping contact was over five years (60 months) earlier than their first contact in the report period. It should be noted that the definition of 'new to rough sleeping' used for this information is different to the definition of 'flow' used in the 'flow, stock, returner' model referenced elsewhere in this report, and therefore the bases will not be the same.

An individual included in this section could potentially also be included in the figures for people returning to rough sleeping presented in section 4.2, if they were first seen in the year as a person new to rough sleeping, had a period of at least 180 days of not being seen, and were then seen again.

Table 4: People new to rough sleeping, by last settled base, 2024/25 - 2025/26

Last settled base in the UK	2024/25		2025/26	
	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term accommodation				
Living with family/friends/partner	834	33.3%	764	31.0%
Private rented accommodation	579	23.1%	540	21.9%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	99	3.9%	66	2.7%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	36	1.4%	41	1.7%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	19	0.8%	5	0.2%
Employment-related accommodation (except armed forces)	12	0.5%	13	0.5%
Owner occupied accommodation	11	0.4%	13	0.5%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>1,590</i>	<i>63.4%</i>	<i>1,442</i>	<i>58.5%</i>
Short or medium-term accommodation				
Hostel or other supported accommodation	92	3.7%	65	2.6%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	84	3.3%	62	2.5%
B&B (not local authority TA)	9	0.4%	13	0.5%
Winter/night shelter	4	0.2%	3	0.1%
Clinic/detox/rehab	2	0.1%	2	0.1%
Squat	7	0.3%	8	0.3%
<i>Short or medium-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>198</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>6.2%</i>
Institutional & armed forces accommodation				
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	329	13.1%	578	23.5%
Care (local authority youth care)	6	0.2%	3	0.1%
Hospital	3	0.1%	8	0.3%
Prison	60	2.4%	74	3.0%
Probation accommodation	4	0.2%	11	0.4%
Armed forces accommodation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Institutional & armed forces accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>402</i>	<i>16.0%</i>	<i>674</i>	<i>27.4%</i>
No settled base since arriving in UK	203	8.1%	120	4.9%
Other	59	2.4%	27	1.1%
Not known	56	2.2%	47	1.9%
Not recorded	774		928	
Total (excl. not recorded)	2,508	100.0%	2,463	100.0%
Total (incl. not recorded)	3,282		3,391	

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

Table 5: People new to rough sleeping in 2025/26, by type of departure from last settled base, and underlying cause of departure

Cause of departure from last settled base in the UK	Type of departure from last settled base in the UK								Cause of departure total (no.)	Cause of departure total (%)
	Asked to leave by person they were staying with	Evicted	Left of own accord	End of time-limited stay	No departure - still has the accommodation	Other	No settled base since arriving in UK	Not known		
Arrears/debts - change in rent/mortgage	0	34	5	0	0	5	0	3	47	1.9%
Arrears/debts - issues with benefits	1	43	2	0	0	2	0	1	49	2.0%
Arrears/debts - living costs	9	68	21	0	0	7	0	1	106	4.3%
Arrears/debts - loss of employment	10	70	19	0	0	6	0	1	106	4.3%
Arrears/debts - other	1	30	2	0	0	2	0	0	35	1.4%
End of tenancy agreement	0	42	3	0	0	6	0	0	51	2.1%
Illegal eviction	0	73	0	0	0	5	0	0	78	3.2%
Given non-priority decision	0	9	0	0	0	2	0	0	11	0.4%
Relationship breakdown	454	0	37	0	0	24	0	1	516	21.0%
Death of relative/friend	10	1	4	0	0	9	0	0	24	1.0%
Domestic violence - victim	6	0	14	0	0	6	0	2	28	1.1%
Harassment/abuse/violence - victim	4	0	26	0	0	6	0	0	36	1.5%
Unmanaged support need	16	12	13	0	0	0	0	0	41	1.7%
Housing conditions	16	0	14	0	0	8	0	0	38	1.5%
Relocated to be nearer family/friends/community	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.2%
Relocated seeking work	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	6	0.2%
Transient/travelling around	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.3%
Anti-social behaviour - perpetrator	8	32	6	0	0	4	0	0	50	2.0%
Domestic violence - perpetrator	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0.2%
Taken into custody	2	3	0	0	0	10	0	0	15	0.6%
End of time-limited stay	0	0	0	107	0	7	0	1	115	4.7%
End of asylum accommodation - positive Home Office decision	0	0	0	534	0	2	0	1	537	21.8%
End of asylum accommodation - negative Home Office decision	0	0	0	15	0	1	0	0	16	0.6%
End of asylum accommodation - withdrawal of application	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
No departure - still has the accommodation	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	15	0.6%
Other	57	112	44	4	0	69	0	8	294	11.9%
No settled base since arriving in UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	120	4.9%
Not known	19	20	8	1	0	1	0	64	113	4.6%
Type of departure total (no.)	614	550	233	661	15	187	120	83	2,463	100.0%
Type of departure total (%)	24.9%	22.3%	9.5%	26.8%	0.6%	7.6%	4.9%	3.4%	100.0%	

Base: 2,463 people new to rough sleeping for whom information about their last settled base was recorded. This excludes 928 people new to rough sleeping for whom no information was recorded.

Where a cause of departure category relates to a specific type of settled base (e.g. asylum accommodation), totals may not align exactly with those in Table 4, due to cases where the departure was due to another cause.

4.2 History prior to rough sleeping: People returning to rough sleeping

This section of the report presents information about history prior to rough sleeping, for people who had returned to rough sleeping after at least 180 days since their previous rough sleeping contact. It should be noted that the definition of 'returning to rough sleeping' used for this information is different to the definition of 'returner' used in the flow, stock, returner model referenced elsewhere in this report, and therefore the bases will not be the same.

An individual included in this section could potentially also be included in the figures for people new to rough sleeping presented in section 4.1, if they were first seen in the year as a person new to rough sleeping, had a period of at least 180 days of not being seen, and were then seen again. It is also possible that an individual could have been recorded as returning to rough sleeping more than once during the year. In cases where this has occurred, only the information relating to the individual's most recent return is included in these figures.

Table 6: People returning to rough sleeping, by last settled base, 2024/25 - 2025/26

Last settled base in the UK	2024/25		2025/26	
	No.	%	No.	%
Long-term accommodation				
Living with family/friends/partner	133	21.1%	134	22.5%
Private rented accommodation	152	24.1%	147	24.7%
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	28	4.4%	25	4.2%
Housing association/RSL accommodation	13	2.1%	9	1.5%
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	16	2.5%	5	0.8%
Employment-related accommodation (except armed forces)	3	0.5%	2	0.3%
Owner occupied accommodation	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	347	55.1%	322	54.1%
Short or medium-term accommodation				
Hostel or other supported accommodation	71	11.3%	64	10.8%
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	53	8.4%	60	10.1%
B&B (not local authority TA)	3	0.5%	3	0.5%
Winter/night shelter	8	1.3%	4	0.7%
Clinic/detox/rehab	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
Squat	4	0.6%	3	0.5%
<i>Short or medium-term accommodation subtotal</i>	141	22.4%	134	22.5%
Institutional & armed forces accommodation				
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	6	1.0%	15	2.5%
Care (local authority youth care)	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Hospital	4	0.6%	6	1.0%
Prison	30	4.8%	36	6.1%
Probation accommodation	1	0.2%	4	0.7%
Armed forces accommodation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Institutional & armed forces accommodation subtotal</i>	41	6.5%	61	10.3%
No settled base since arriving in UK	72	11.4%	39	6.6%
Other	20	3.2%	14	2.4%
Not known	9	1.4%	25	4.2%
Not recorded	369		322	
Total (excl. not recorded)	630	100.0%	595	100.0%
Total (incl. not recorded)	999		917	

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

Table 7: People returning to rough sleeping in 2025/26, by type of departure from last settled base, and underlying cause of departure

Cause of departure from last settled base in the UK	Type of departure from last settled base in the UK								Cause of departure total (no.)	Cause of departure total (%)
	Asked to leave by person they were staying with	Evicted	Left of own accord	End of time-limited stay	No departure - still has the accommodation	Other	No settled base since arriving in UK	Not known		
Arrears/debts - change in rent/mortgage	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1.5%
Arrears/debts - issues with benefits	3	22	2	0	0	0	0	0	27	4.5%
Arrears/debts - living costs	1	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	20	3.4%
Arrears/debts - loss of employment	1	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	9	1.5%
Arrears/debts - other	3	7	1	0	0	1	0	0	12	2.0%
End of tenancy agreement	0	18	2	0	0	2	0	0	22	3.7%
Illegal eviction	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	2.2%
Given non-priority decision	0	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	12	2.0%
Relationship breakdown	67	0	12	0	0	5	0	1	85	14.3%
Death of relative/friend	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0.7%
Domestic violence - victim	1	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	7	1.2%
Harassment/abuse/violence - victim	0	0	17	0	0	2	0	1	20	3.4%
Unmanaged support need	4	7	5	0	0	1	0	0	17	2.9%
Housing conditions	2	0	7	0	0	2	0	1	12	2.0%
Relocated to be nearer family/friends/community	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3%
Relocated seeking work	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.2%
Transient/travelling around	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0.5%
Anti-social behaviour - perpetrator	1	31	2	0	0	0	0	0	34	5.7%
Domestic violence - perpetrator	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.3%
Taken into custody	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	1.2%
End of time-limited stay	0	0	0	52	0	5	0	1	58	9.7%
End of asylum accommodation - positive Home Office decision	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	11	1.8%
End of asylum accommodation - negative Home Office decision	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0.3%
End of asylum accommodation - withdrawal of application	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
No departure - still has the accommodation	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	11	1.8%
Other	10	42	21	1	0	12	0	3	89	15.0%
No settled base since arriving in UK	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	39	6.6%
Not known	7	15	6	0	0	2	0	37	67	11.3%
Type of departure total (no.)	103	200	88	66	11	43	39	45	595	100.0%
Type of departure total (%)	17.3%	33.6%	14.8%	11.1%	1.8%	7.2%	6.6%	7.6%	100.0%	

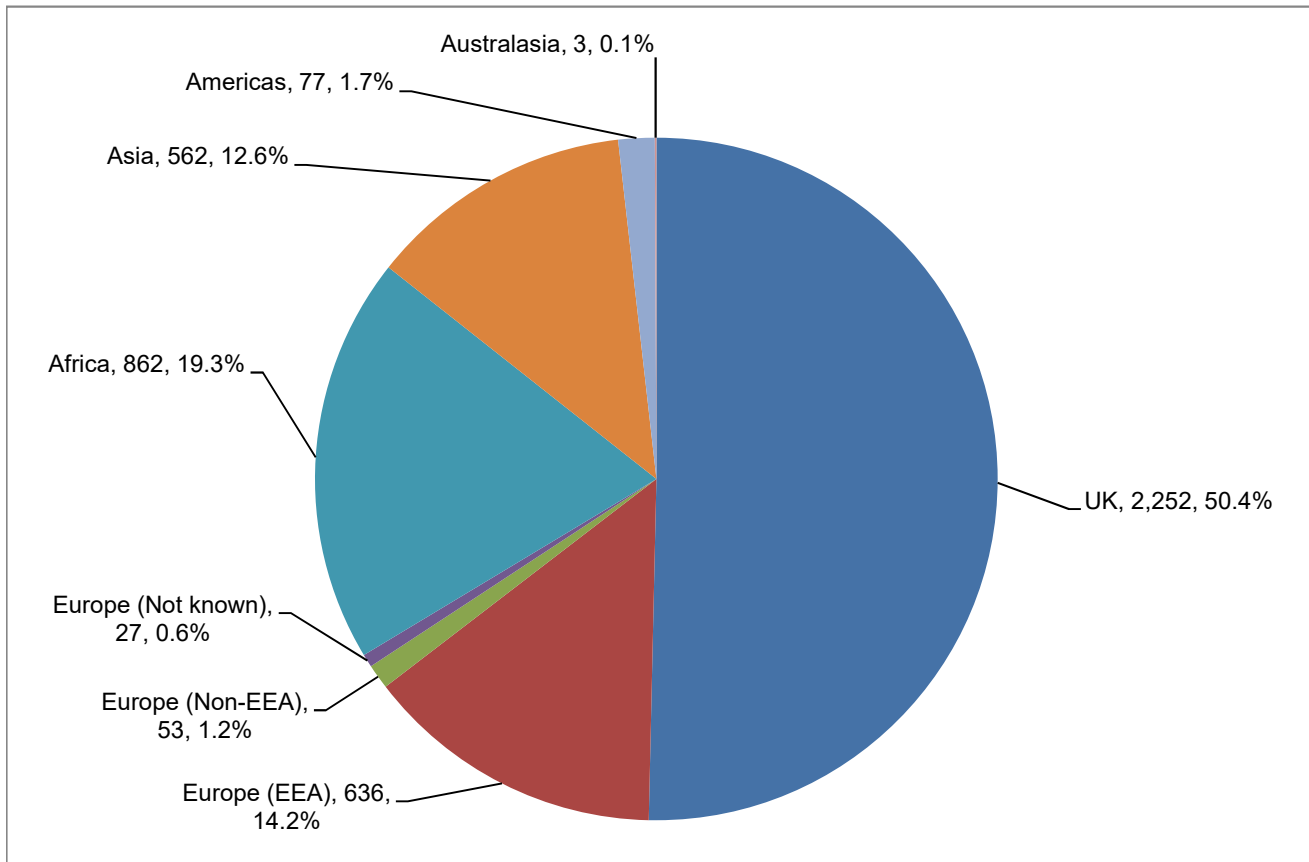
Base: 595 returning rough sleepers for whom information about their last settled base was recorded. This excludes 322 returning rough sleepers for whom no information was recorded.

Where a cause of departure category relates to a specific type of settled base (e.g. asylum accommodation), totals may not align exactly with those in Table 6, due to cases where the departure was due to another cause.

5. DEMOGRAPHICS & SUPPORT NEEDS

5.1 Nationality: Overall composition

Chart 5: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by nationality



Base: 4,472 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose nationality was known. This excludes 307 people whose nationality was not known.

Table 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by nationality, and borough

Borough	UK	Europe (EEA)	Europe (Non-EEA)	Europe (Not known)	Africa	Asia	Americas	Australasia	Total
Barking & Dagenham	59	25	2	0	21	21	0	0	128
Barnet	60	27	0	1	44	28	1	0	161
Bexley	99	10	0	2	9	4	1	0	125
Bromley	106	7	1	0	13	7	4	0	138
Croydon	290	49	5	4	62	44	11	0	465
Enfield	116	50	6	1	30	8	3	0	214
Greenwich	216	46	3	2	73	22	5	0	367
Hackney	163	37	7	5	33	6	7	0	258
Harrow	37	16	1	1	7	21	2	0	85
Havering	60	8	1	1	6	1	1	0	78
Heathrow	119	23	1	0	24	39	14	1	221
Hillingdon	146	18	2	1	140	159	0	1	467
Hounslow	96	58	7	1	274	67	3	0	506
Kingston upon Thames	50	41	0	0	5	5	0	0	101
Lewisham	214	36	2	1	53	20	6	0	332
Merton	52	15	2	1	5	8	1	0	84
Redbridge	132	58	8	0	18	90	4	0	310
Richmond	56	14	1	1	3	0	2	0	77
Sutton	27	6	0	1	1	3	0	0	38
Waltham Forest	103	65	5	0	20	15	5	0	213
Wandsworth	82	39	0	4	18	12	4	1	160
Bus route	26	7	1	0	24	6	7	0	71
Tube line	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
Unique total	2,252	636	53	27	862	562	77	3	4,472

5.2 Nationality: Flow, stock, returner model

Table 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by nationality, and flow, stock, returner breakdown

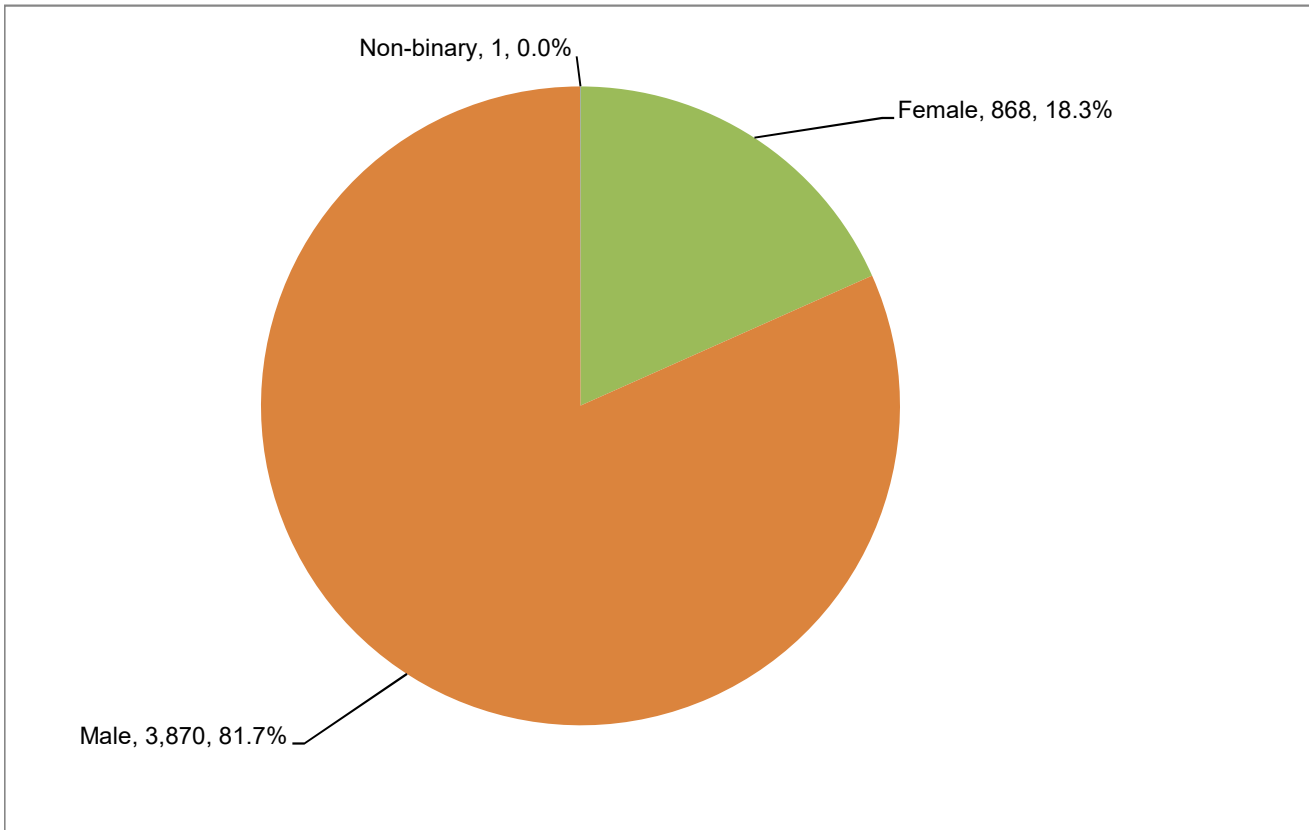
Nationality	Flow	Stock	Returner	Total	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	%
UK	1,369	514	369	2,252	50.4%
Romania	61	79	28	168	3.8%
Poland	83	56	39	178	4.0%
Lithuania	20	26	11	57	1.3%
Portugal	29	5	6	40	0.9%
Ireland (Republic of)	16	6	10	32	0.7%
Bulgaria	22	12	6	40	0.9%
Italy	15	2	9	26	0.6%
France	13	3	1	17	0.4%
Spain	10	1	0	11	0.2%
Latvia	7	2	4	13	0.3%
Other European (EEA) countries	33	12	9	54	1.2%
Europe (EEA)	309	204	123	636	14.2%
Europe (Non-EEA)	36	10	7	53	1.2%
Europe (Not known)	26	1	0	27	0.6%
Eritrea	260	21	9	290	6.5%
Sudan	140	19	8	167	3.7%
Nigeria	65	14	11	90	2.0%
Ethiopia	39	3	2	44	1.0%
Somalia	40	7	2	49	1.1%
Other African countries	162	42	18	222	5.0%
Africa	706	106	50	862	19.3%
India	77	71	25	173	3.9%
Afghanistan	99	12	7	118	2.6%
Iran	45	7	12	64	1.4%
Pakistan	20	5	5	30	0.7%
Bangladesh	9	4	1	14	0.3%
Other Asian countries	139	20	4	163	3.6%
Asia	389	119	54	562	12.6%
Americas	58	17	2	77	1.7%
Australasia	3	0	0	3	0.1%
Not known	285	16	6	307	
Total (excl. not known)	2,896	971	605	4,472	100.0%
Total (incl. not known)	3,181	987	611	4,779	

Total excluding not known is used as base for percentages.

Please see section 2.1 for an explanation of the flow, stock, returner model.

5.3 Gender

Chart 6: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by gender



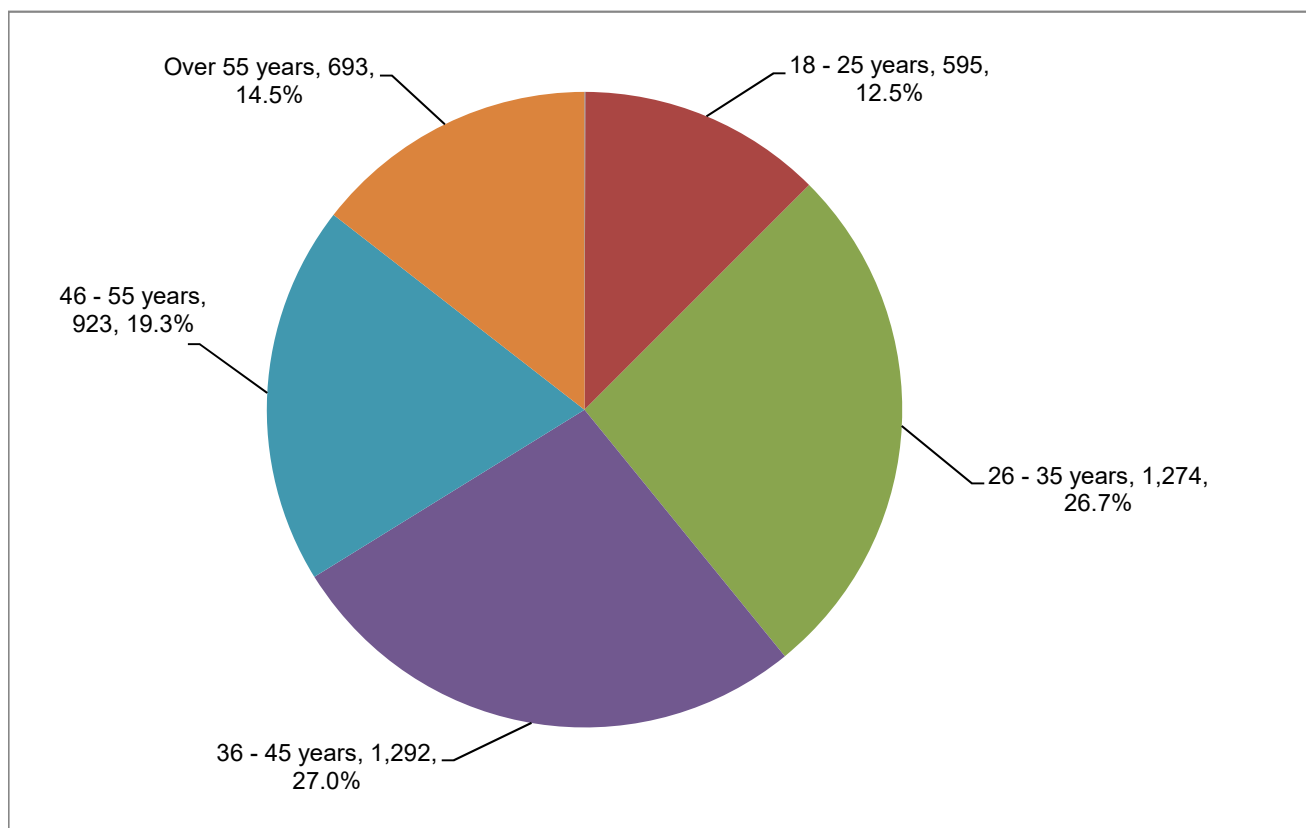
Base: 4,739 people seen rough sleeping during the period whose gender was known. This excludes 40 people whose gender was not known.

Table 10: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by gender, and borough

Borough	Female	Male	Non-binary	Total
Barking & Dagenham	12	116	0	128
Barnet	17	159	0	176
Bexley	25	110	0	135
Bromley	25	120	0	145
Croydon	111	405	0	516
Enfield	44	173	0	217
Greenwich	76	326	0	402
Hackney	56	255	0	311
Harrow	15	78	0	93
Havering	10	70	0	80
Heathrow	67	160	0	227
Hillingdon	60	420	0	480
Hounslow	95	415	0	510
Kingston upon Thames	24	88	0	112
Lewisham	74	265	1	340
Merton	15	81	0	96
Redbridge	53	260	0	313
Richmond	11	71	0	82
Sutton	4	39	0	43
Waltham Forest	47	177	0	224
Wandsworth	33	135	0	168
Bus route	20	51	0	71
Tube line	2	2	0	4
Unique total	868	3,870	1	4,739

5.4 Age

Chart 7: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by age



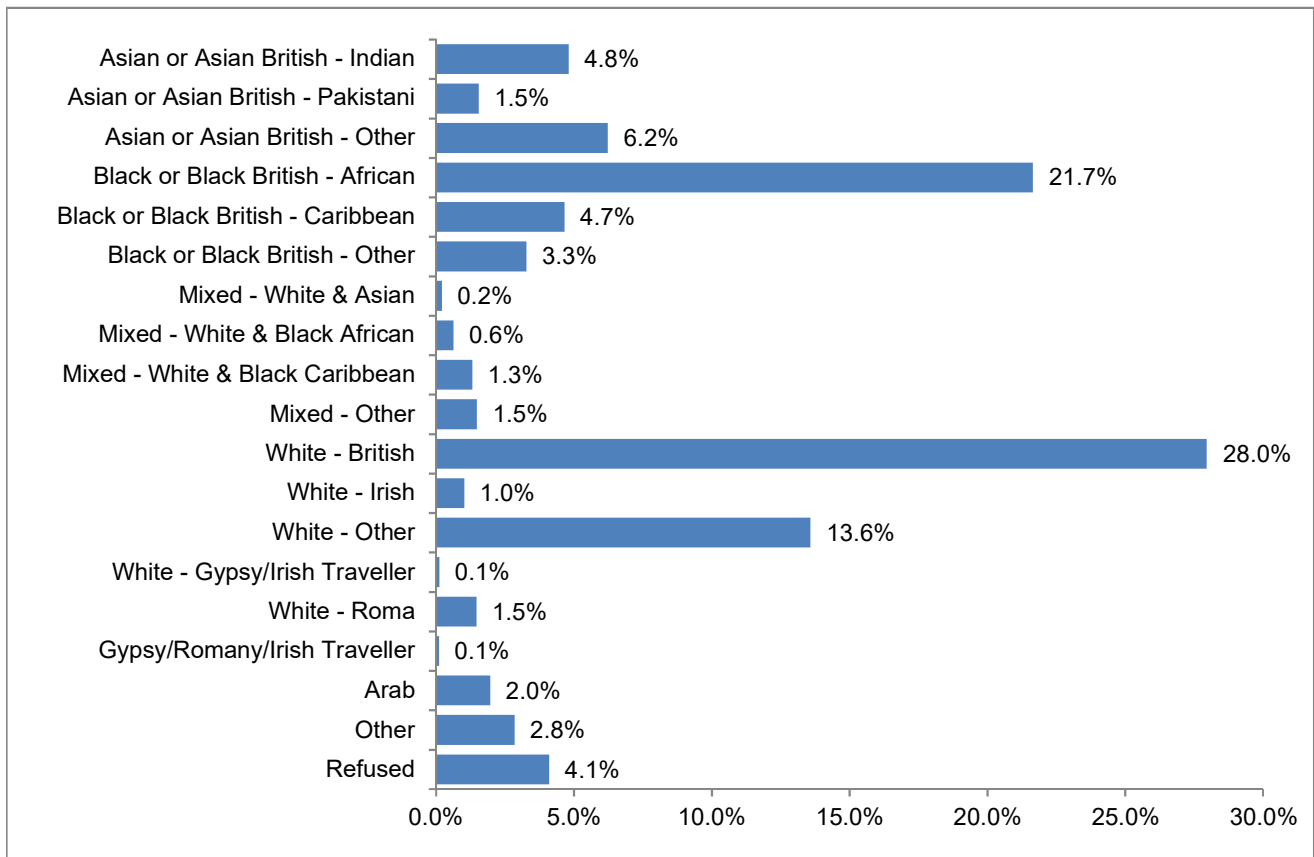
Base: 4,779 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 11: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, 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	9	32	46	28	13	128
Barnet	0	25	43	49	29	30	176
Bexley	0	18	28	39	27	24	136
Bromley	0	12	38	40	31	24	145
Croydon	1	56	154	150	94	72	527
Enfield	0	30	49	54	50	34	217
Greenwich	0	34	96	140	80	56	406
Hackney	0	19	77	110	80	33	319
Harrow	0	20	26	19	23	5	93
Havering	0	6	17	21	20	17	81
Heathrow	0	18	45	52	37	75	227
Hillingdon	1	109	166	108	56	40	480
Hounslow	0	125	201	97	60	30	513
Kingston upon Thames	0	16	33	29	24	11	113
Lewisham	0	28	82	97	73	65	345
Merton	0	4	15	39	26	12	96
Redbridge	0	36	66	96	70	46	314
Richmond	0	1	8	24	25	26	84
Sutton	0	4	12	8	16	3	43
Waltham Forest	0	14	54	72	53	31	224
Wandsworth	0	16	51	35	38	30	170
Bus route	0	5	10	15	12	29	71
Tube line	0	1	0	2	1	1	5
Unique total	2	595	1,274	1,292	923	693	4,779

5.5 Ethnicity

Chart 8: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by ethnicity



Base: 4,779 people seen rough sleeping during the period.

Table 12: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by ethnicity, and borough

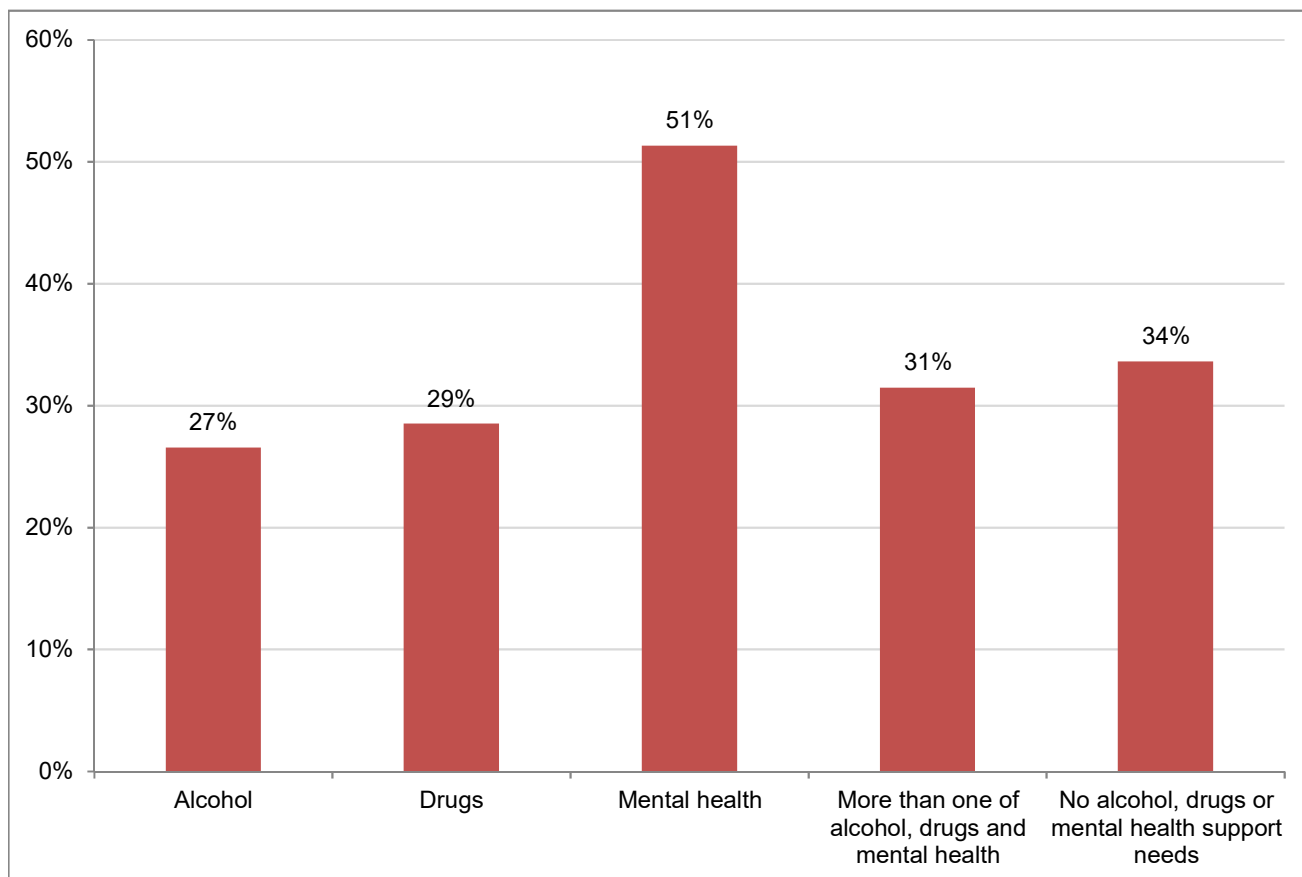
Borough	Asian (incl. Chinese)	Black	Mixed	White - British	White - Irish	White - Other	White - Gypsy/ Irish Traveller/ Roma	Arab/ Other	Missing/ Refused	Total
Barking & Dagenham	25	34	4	36	2	25	0	2	0	128
Barnet	22	46	8	33	2	31	3	17	14	176
Bexley	5	20	4	82	3	13	1	3	5	136
Bromley	7	29	6	81	1	11	1	6	3	145
Croydon	50	172	18	166	2	51	4	32	32	527
Enfield	13	65	11	59	3	49	5	10	2	217
Greenwich	30	126	20	149	2	55	2	4	18	406
Hackney	12	74	15	85	10	41	5	22	55	319
Harrow	23	20	3	12	0	20	1	9	5	93
Havering	5	14	8	43	1	6	2	1	1	81
Heathrow	54	59	9	55	1	26	1	17	5	227
Hillingdon	165	152	3	89	6	28	1	28	8	480
Hounslow	66	283	11	51	4	59	5	32	2	513
Kingston upon Thames	10	8	3	41	1	12	27	7	4	113
Lewisham	23	145	15	107	0	35	1	10	9	345
Merton	12	13	0	39	0	24	1	2	5	96
Redbridge	113	50	14	61	2	50	11	8	5	314
Richmond	1	5	2	50	3	16	0	3	4	84
Sutton	4	4	1	22	0	7	0	2	3	43
Waltham Forest	18	46	12	54	5	69	4	7	9	224
Wandsworth	11	36	4	60	2	33	6	10	8	170
Bus route	5	44	5	8	0	6	1	2	0	71
Tube line	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
Unique total	649	1,415	174	1,336	49	649	81	230	196	4,779

The previously employed category of 'Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller' was replaced in 2021 with separate categories for 'White - Gypsy/Irish Traveller' and 'White - Roma' in order to bring CHAIN recording into line with Office for National Statistics usage. Some people seen rough sleeping during the period have not had their ethnicity information updated to reflect these new categories, so the original category is also included in the chart.

5.6 Support needs

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by support workers in the homelessness sector. It is important to note that 19% of people seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs in 2025/26 did not have a support needs assessment recorded.

Chart 9: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by support needs



Base: 3,889 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 890 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 13: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by support needs

Support need	No.	%
Alcohol	1,033	26.6%
Drugs	1,109	28.5%
Mental health	1,996	51.3%
More than one of alcohol, drugs and mental health	1,224	31.5%
No alcohol, drugs or mental health support needs	1,308	33.6%
Total (excl. not assessed)	3,889	
Total (incl. not assessed)	4,779	

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

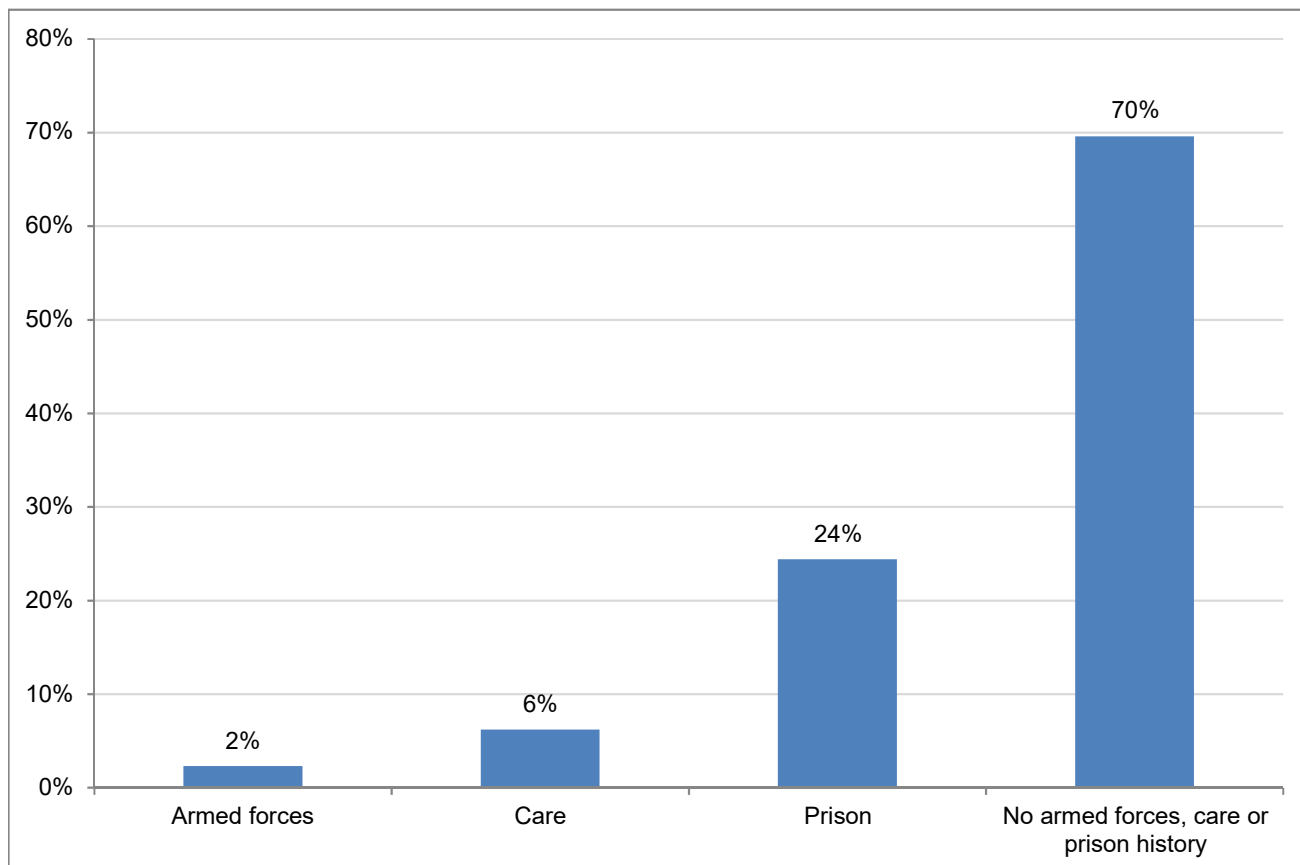
Table 14: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by support needs, and borough

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	43	39	54	37	35	125
Barnet	26	33	68	34	62	147
Bexley	36	44	83	55	16	112
Bromley	43	46	86	56	20	121
Croydon	97	112	201	132	89	339
Enfield	26	46	75	35	94	201
Greenwich	83	121	189	139	85	300
Hackney	82	97	144	103	44	228
Harrow	6	6	36	7	32	72
Havering	30	25	42	30	10	66
Heathrow	38	15	105	29	70	195
Hillingdon	70	94	175	89	181	416
Hounslow	75	63	142	69	287	481
Kingston upon Thames	35	29	39	34	26	83
Lewisham	104	103	177	123	78	296
Merton	22	13	27	22	20	54
Redbridge	104	103	149	107	77	297
Richmond	33	24	48	30	9	70
Sutton	13	10	22	13	5	31
Waltham Forest	65	69	85	66	34	172
Wandsworth	45	59	100	69	28	146
Bus route	6	9	29	9	35	68
Tube line	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unique total	1,033	1,109	1,996	1,224	1,308	3,889

5.7 Institutional & armed forces history

The chart below indicates the proportions of people seen rough sleeping in the borough during the year 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. Information on people who have recently left an institutional or armed forces setting in the UK can be found in sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this report.

Chart 10: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by institutional and armed forces history



Base: 3,886 people seen rough sleeping during the period who were assessed for at least one of the three support needs. This excludes 893 people for whom none of the three needs were assessed.

Table 15: People seen rough sleeping in 2025/26, by institutional and armed forces history

Type of history	No.	%
Armed forces	89	2.3%
Armed forces - UK nationals	46	1.2%
Care	241	6.2%
Prison	948	24.4%
No armed forces, care or prison history	2,704	69.6%
Total (excl. not assessed)	3,886	
Total (incl. not assessed)	4,779	

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

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

Borough	Armed forces	Armed forces UK nationals	Care	Prison	No armed forces or institutional history	Total (excl. not assessed)
Barking & Dagenham	3	1	11	34	80	120
Barnet	8	1	4	23	111	146
Bexley	4	3	12	44	57	109
Bromley	4	3	4	40	75	120
Croydon	5	3	23	96	209	333
Enfield	5	5	13	52	133	196
Greenwich	7	2	37	120	161	298
Hackney	7	3	30	76	118	220
Harrow	1	1	6	9	56	72
Havering	1	1	4	17	45	67
Heathrow	6	4	7	29	164	204
Hillingdon	5	3	6	66	345	422
Hounslow	4	2	10	62	415	482
Kingston upon Thames	2	0	7	16	60	85
Lewisham	4	2	24	99	200	312
Merton	0	0	1	12	39	55
Redbridge	6	3	16	64	215	296
Richmond	7	5	5	23	38	69
Sutton	2	0	6	11	15	30
Waltham Forest	11	6	8	46	102	171
Wandsworth	2	0	12	42	93	141
Bus route	1	1	7	8	54	67
Tube line	0	0	0	0	1	1
Unique total	89	#REF!	241	948	2,704	3,886

6. ROUTES OFF THE STREETS

6.1 Accommodation outcomes

In 2025/26, 1,893 people who had been seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs during the year had bookings into accommodation recorded on CHAIN by services based in, or primarily covering, the outer boroughs.

Table 17: Accommodation outcomes achieved with people seen rough sleeping in the outer boroughs in 2025/26, by services based in, or primarily covering, the outer boroughs

Services A-Hi	Barking & Dagenham Rough Sleepers Team (LB B&D)	Barnet Rough Sleeper Team	Croydon - Housing First	Croydon Outreach	Enfield Outreach (LB Enfield)	Greenwich Navigators - Outreach	Hackney SORT	Harrow Outreach Team	Havering Outreach Team	Hillingdon SORT
Accommodation type	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation										
Hub	0	4	0	28	14	0	7	0	0	134
SWEP (Local)	4	0	0	40	2	0	12	0	0	65
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Winter/night shelter	3	0	0	11	0	0	7	0	2	6
Other	0	1	0	10	1	0	2	0	0	2
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation subtotal</i>	7	5	0	89	17	0	28	0	2	211
Temporary accommodation										
Assessment centre	0	0	0	1	44	0	57	0	0	1
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
B&B (not local authority TA)	7	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	4
Clinic/detox/rehab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hostel	0	1	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	58
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Staging post	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	5	16	0	43	17	0	9	3	2	21
Other	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	6
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	12	17	0	58	61	0	72	4	2	112
Long-term accommodation										
Clearing House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment-related accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing association/RSL accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Private rented sector - independent	16	2	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	26
Private rented sector - with some floating support	10	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	6
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Supported accommodation (long-term)	1	1	0	6	0	1	5	0	0	7
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	27	3	1	12	1	1	10	0	1	41
Total	46	25	1	159	79	1	110	4	5	364

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

Services Ho-So	Hounslow LA Outreach	Merton Outreach Team	Rapid Response Outreach	Redbridge Outreach Service	Roma Rough Sleeper Team	South East Regional Outreach Team	South East Regional Outreach Team - Bexley	South East Regional Outreach Team - Bromley	South East Regional Outreach Team - Greenwich	South East Regional Outreach Team - Lewisham
Accommodation type	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation										
Hub	145	0	193	34	0	62	5	18	11	23
SWEP (Local)	45	0	20	57	0	0	7	6	16	28
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter/night shelter	27	1	1	38	0	1	2	5	16	15
Other	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>227</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>66</i>
Temporary accommodation										
Assessment centre	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
B&B (not local authority TA)	0	0	0	15	1	51	9	16	20	33
Clinic/detox/rehab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hostel	1	0	2	4	0	26	2	0	6	16
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2
Staging post	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	68	2	9	32	0	15	3	0	8	9
Other	2	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	1	1
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>95</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>62</i>
Long-term accommodation										
Clearing House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment-related accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Housing association/RSL accommodation	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private rented sector - independent	42	0	0	3	0	10	0	2	2	7
Private rented sector - with some floating support	4	0	1	1	0	4	4	0	0	0
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supported accommodation (long-term)	11	0	0	9	0	5	1	1	1	9
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>17</i>
Total	348	4	244	201	2	177	36	49	81	145

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

Services Sp-Z	SPEAR Outreach - Kingston	SPEAR Outreach - Richmond	SPEAR Outreach - Wandsworth	St Mungo's - Pan-London Navigators Team	Subregional Outreach Team - Sutton (SPEAR)	Sutton Rough Sleepers Team (LB Sutton)	Thames Reach - TFL Outreach	The Welcome Project	Waltham Forest Street Outreach Service
Accommodation type	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation									
Hub	1	7	4	2	0	0	61	0	21
SWEP (Local)	32	16	17	0	6	1	0	0	56
SWEP (Pan-London)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Winter/night shelter	4	0	0	5	1	2	0	0	7
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Hubs, shelters and emergency accommodation</i>	37	23	21	7	7	3	61	0	84
Temporary accommodation									
Assessment centre	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	14
Asylum support accommodation (NASS/other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
B&B (not local authority TA)	10	8	2	13	1	0	1	0	3
Clinic/detox/rehab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hostel	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	7	0
Living with family/friends/partner (temporary)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Staging post	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary accommodation (local authority)	0	23	25	7	0	1	3	5	3
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	8
<i>Temporary accommodation subtotal</i>	10	32	28	23	1	1	6	17	29
Long-term accommodation									
Clearing House	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Council tenancy (local authority accommodation)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Employment-related accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Housing association/RSL accommodation	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Living with family/friends/partner (long-term)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private rented sector - independent	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	1
Private rented sector - with some floating support	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Sheltered housing/registered care accommodation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Supported accommodation (long-term)	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Long-term accommodation subtotal</i>	3	0	9	0	0	0	0	14	9
Total	50	55	58	30	8	4	67	31	122

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

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Glossary of initialisms, acronyms, and terms used in this report

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

A small lodging establishment that offers overnight accommodation and breakfast.

CHAIN: Combined Homelessness and Information Network

A multi-agency database recording information about people rough sleeping, and the wider street population, in London, commissioned and funded by the GLA and managed by Homeless Link.

DELTA

Online system developed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to streamline its processes and systems for collecting statistical data and grant administration.

EEA: European Economic Area

The 27 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.

MHCLG: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Ministerial department of the Government of the United Kingdom, responsible for housing, communities, and local government in England.

NASS: National Asylum Support Service

A section of the UK Visas and Immigration division of the Home Office, responsible for supporting and accommodating people seeking asylum while their cases are being dealt with.

NSNO: No Second Night Out

A GLA commissioned 24/7 pan-London assessment and reconnection service which accepts referrals from outreach teams, and aims to identify and rapidly deliver a sustainable route off the street for people who are new or returning to rough sleeping. The term is also used in other contexts to refer to a wider strategy to end rough sleeping, both in London and nationwide.

RSL: Registered Social Landlord

A non-profit organisation, including housing associations, that owns and manages social housing, providing affordable housing and services to tenants.

SWEP: Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

Emergency accommodation provided by local authorities or the GLA for people sleeping rough during periods of increased risk due to extreme weather conditions (e.g. freezing temperatures or heatwaves).

TA: Temporary Accommodation

In the homelessness context, widely used to refer to housing provided by a local authority to individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness, under the Housing Act 1996 or another legal duty.

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

