

Profiling London's rough sleepers

A longitudinal analysis of CHAIN data

Introduction

The Combined Homelessness And Information Network – or CHAIN – database, managed by the homelessness charity Broadway, contains records of around 13,000 individuals who have been seen sleeping rough in London from the late 1990s. This research uses CHAIN data to give policy-makers and practitioners an overview of rough sleeping in the recent past to inform future solutions.

Data from CHAIN and other selected sources were analysed by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) using a range of statistical techniques. In addition, researchers from Broadway undertook qualitative research, including 32 interviews and two focus groups with current and former rough sleepers, to follow up key themes that had emerged from the statistical analysis. Data varied in quality over the study period so information presented relates to various time periods, inadequate data having been excluded.

The research was undertaken within a changing policy context. During the research period the Government published a new rough sleeping strategy that stated ambitions to end rough sleeping in 2012 (No one left out, Communities and Local Government, 2008). Key to meeting this target is establishing how to achieve positive outcomes for rough sleepers – namely, enabling them to move off the streets – and identifying the factors contributing to negative outcomes – namely, persistent rough sleeping and abandonment of and evictions from short-term accommodation.

How many people are seen sleeping rough?

There are a number of ways of assessing levels of rough sleeping. CLG's methodology is to use street counts, one night snapshots of rough sleeping, to track progress. Street counts have been reported by the National Audit Office to be the 'the most accurate measure of the relative scale of the problem and change over time'. The number of people found rough sleeping on street night counts was 1,850 in 1998 compared to 483 in 2008, demonstrating real and sustainable reductions in rough sleeping over the past decade.

This report looks at the numbers of people recorded rough sleeping on CHAIN – ie seen sleeping rough by outreach workers in London over various periods. These figures are not directly comparable with street counts.

The number of people seen sleeping rough by outreach workers fluctuated over the period 2000/01 to 2007/08, from a high of 3,395 in 2000/01 to a low of 2,579 in 2002/03 and 2004/05. The data shows a small, steady, increase in the number of rough sleepers over the last four years in this period, from just over 2,500 in 2004/05 to more than 3,000 in 2007/08.

- The number of people seen sleeping rough over this period highlights the challenges of meeting the target to end rough sleeping in 2012.
- The prevalence of first-time rough sleepers suggests that prevention is key to reducing rough sleeping.

Understanding the characteristics of London's rough sleepers

A better understanding of the profile of the people sleeping rough in London is essential to informing policy and practice responses to rough sleeping.

First-time rough sleepers

Looking at the characteristics of first-time rough sleepers – that is those recorded on the CHAIN database for the first time as sleeping rough – helps us to understand changes in the profile of the rough sleeping population as a whole.

Demographics

The gender ratio among first-time rough sleepers remained consistent throughout the observation period, with between 86 and 89 per cent being male. There has been a decline in the proportion of very old and very young rough sleepers. The drop in younger rough sleepers suggests improvements in responses to youth homelessness. It could in part be a reflection of the extension of the statutory priority need categories, which provide young people who are 16 or 17, or are under 21 with a care background, access to assistance out of homelessness.

The proportion of homeless people of white ethnic background among London's first-time rough sleepers has steadily declined, from 80 per cent in 2000/01 to 63 per cent in 2007/08. At the same time, the proportion of rough sleepers identified as black or black British grew from 13 per cent to 20 per cent. Increases in rough sleepers of black and Asian backgrounds reflect, at least in part the growing proportion of first-time rough sleepers from Eritrea and other countries outside Europe. Data

Central and Eastern European rough sleeping: case study

Petr (41) came to the UK from Hungary 18 months ago and has been sleeping rough for a year. As a migrant who has not worked for a sustained period in the UK he is not entitled to any benefits and cannot access short term accommodation services.

'I lost my job, and lost my place... I tried so much to get in a hostel: I said, "Just give me a place to stay for a couple of months until I get a job and get myself back on my feet." They wouldn't. I've put applications in with all kinds of agencies. I've given so many CVs in I could make wallpaper from them...I have no family in Hungary, no place to stay, so I'd be in the same situation there but worse. I want to go forward. I'm getting sick and tired. I'm hoping I'll get a job soon.'

Spotlight on Eritrean rough sleepers

Eritrean rough sleepers interviewed for this research had become homeless after their asylum claims were accepted and they were asked to leave their asylum support accommodation with little notice. People were drawn to London to escape loneliness and sometimes racism in the areas in which they had been accommodated. The presence of relatives, an Eritrean community and Eritrean Pentecostal churches in London, as well as the hope of finding work, were other pull factors. There is a misperception among this group that sleeping rough will eventually result in access to social housing.

Meila (27) from Eritrea

'I arrived in London in August 2008, and was then sent to Liverpool and stayed there for two weeks in a hostel. I was then transferred to Bolton and put in a shared flat. The shared flat had one room with two beds.'

'No one I know used to live in Bolton. Even when I had an operation in hospital no one came [to visit me]... I was attacked by racists in my flat in Bolton, that's why I had to leave and come to London. I have been homeless for two weeks now. Since I arrived in London I am more suicidal than ever. I have tried to study but I can't because of the depression I feel. I don't see any hope with no house and no job. I don't get any money and I eat at [the day centre], I also wash and change my clothes there.'

'I think a lot of Eritreans sleep rough because Eritrean people like to be independent and don't like relying on family and friends. When we get permission to stay in this country we should get accommodation.'

reveals a steep increase in the proportion of rough sleepers from Poland and Eritrea (each accounting for around one in 10 first-time rough sleepers logged on the CHAIN database in 2007/08). The share of homeless people from Central and Eastern European states, excluding Poland, stood at around five per cent of all first-time rough sleepers in London between 2006/07 and 2007/08. The share of those from outside Europe (excluding Eritrea) was around 10 per cent in the same period.

- Tackling and preventing rough sleeping among migrants and people who have recently been given leave to remain in the UK is a crucial component of reducing rough sleeping.
- People staying in asylum support accommodation need to be given adequate support and realistic information about their housing options before they leave that accommodation.

Support needs

The links between drug, alcohol and mental health problems and rough sleeping are well documented. Such problems can cause rough sleeping or develop and become worse as a result of time spent on the streets. Of those for whom there was information recorded about all three categories of support needs, just under three-quarters (74 per cent) of all rough sleepers logged on CHAIN between 2001/02 and 2007/08 had one or more support needs relating to drugs, alcohol or mental health. 40 per cent of rough sleepers for whom information was available had a alcohol support need recorded, a third (35 per cent) had a drug related support need recorded and a third (34 per cent) had a mental health need recorded.

Recent years have seen a decrease in the levels of drug problems among first-time rough sleepers from 47 per cent in 2001/02 to 29 per cent in 2007/08. The proportion of first-time rough sleepers with mental health support needs has fallen from 42 per cent in 2001/02 to 31 per cent in 2007/08. The proportion of first time rough sleepers with alcohol problems has fluctuated, ranging from a low of 39 per cent in 2002/03 to a high of 47 per cent in 2004/05.

Almost one-fifth (18 per cent) of first-time rough sleepers in 2007/08 had a mental health problem combined with a drug or alcohol support need – known as a dual diagnosis. (It should be noted that in many cases the diagnosis of a mental health problem is not a clinical diagnosis but a judgment by outreach workers.) Recent research and policy work has documented the issues relating to dual diagnosis and options for better meeting the needs of this group.

A quarter (26 per cent) of first-time rough sleepers in the period 2001/02 to 2007/08 had no support needs. For these people the primary needs are generally for accommodation and, for most, work. Time spent rough sleeping can increase the risk of support needs developing, so it is important that the needs of this group are met as quickly as possible.

- There is a need for more suitable accommodation options for those with no support needs.
- Short-term accommodation with minimal support is planned as part of the Government's rough sleeping

strategy. This will help to ensure that people without support needs do not end up in supported short-term accommodation that is very expensive and as a result presents a barrier to seeking employment and relinquishing housing benefit.

- Support to help people access private rented sector accommodation is also a route off the streets for those with no support needs.

Prison, care and the armed forces

The proportion of first-time rough sleepers who have spent time in prison has reduced from 41 per cent in 2001/02 to 26 per cent in 2007/08. CHAIN does not capture how many of these people moved directly from prison to the streets. It is likely that for at least some of those with a prison background leaving prison without suitable accommodation was a trigger for rough sleeping. Along with drug, alcohol and mental health problems, leaving prison was one of the top factors contributing to homelessness among 257 rough sleepers interviewed by Shelter in 2007.

The proportion of first-time rough sleepers with a care background has fallen from 17 per cent in 2001/02 to seven per cent in 2007/08. Although some of those represented will have left care many years ago, the findings do suggest an improvement in the way young people and children in care are provided with skills for independent living and advice and support with housing when they become adults and leave care.

Veterans of the armed forces who sleep rough have a diverse range of experiences and triggers for rough sleeping, as reported in recent research by York University on homeless ex-service personnel in London. The proportion of first-time rough sleepers who have served in the armed forces has remained fairly consistent over the study period, at around seven per cent. The smallest proportion was recorded in 2006/07, while the following year, 2007/08, saw the highest level for the whole period at eight per cent. This slight increase in 2007/08 is at least in part due to the high proportion of Polish rough sleepers who have served in the armed forces in Poland (28 per cent in 2006/07 and 2007/08).

The flow, stock, returner model

The rough sleeping population in a given year can be divided into three groups: flow, stock and returners. Definitions for the three categories are given in the table at the bottom of the page, along with the proportions of the CHAIN rough sleeping population they represent. The proportions of these groups have been consistent over recent years, as shown below.

- Following the circulation of interim findings from this research, the flow, stock returner model is being used by policy-makers at CLG to help ensure that strategies to end rough sleeping do not focus overly on any particular group. The model will also be used in regular annual reporting from CHAIN.
- The flow makes up the largest proportion of rough sleepers. Not enough is known about the triggers for rough sleeping in this group. Broad categories of contributing factors are well documented, but not well quantified. A more systematic way of capturing triggers for the start of a rough sleeping history is required.

Analysis of support needs data highlighted differences between the needs of the flow group and those of the stock and returner groups. The level of support needs among the flow is lower than in the stock and returner groups across all types of support need. Furthermore,

around double the proportion of people in the stock and returner groups (of those for whom support needs information was known) had experienced prison or care, compared with the flow group. Unstable childhood and adult lives prior to homelessness have been shown to affect the resilience of an individual that can prevent, and assist in routes out of, homelessness.

- Those with a prison or care background are more likely to remain or return to the streets, that is, to fall into the stock or returner groups. This highlights the need for preventative work in prisons and with young people in care or leaving care.

The longer a person appears on the CHAIN database, the more likely they are to have rough sleeping episodes in each year and the more often they are seen sleeping rough within a year. There is a point at around four to five years of rough sleeping, after which people appear to be more likely to become particularly prolific and consistent rough sleepers. Those who go on to appear on CHAIN in four or more years tend to be those who take longer to access accommodation after their first rough sleeping episode. This potential predictor of long-term rough sleeping could be useful in targeting attention at those who are initially reluctant to access short-term accommodation.

The profile and needs of CHAIN clients who are only seen rough sleeping in one year are markedly different

Definitions of flow, stock, returners and proportions of the CHAIN rough sleeping population they represent

Flow	First-time rough sleepers – that is people recorded on the CHAIN database for the first time as sleeping rough	Between 56 and 61 per cent each year between 2002/03 and 2007/08
Stock	People recorded on the CHAIN database as sleeping rough in the previous year as well as the year in question – so people who have slept rough in a minimum of two consecutive (financial) years	Between 25 and 31 per cent each year between 2002/03 and 2007/08
Returners	People who have been seen rough sleeping previously, but not in the preceding year – so people with a gap of at least one year in their rough sleeping history	Between 14 and 16 per cent each year between 2002/03 and 2007/08

Spotlight on long-term rough sleeping

Almost all persistent rough sleepers interviewed for the study (18 individuals, including eight long-term rough sleepers) said they wanted to 'go inside', although some only 'eventually'. However, many people referred to the 'freedom' of the streets.

People can be kept on the streets, or tempted to return there, by the lack of responsibility, bills, or need to confront problems, all of which are expected in a hostel. People can also be part of a community on the street, who can also put pressure on them to stay 'outside'.

Several people spoke of the addictive nature of the streets: 'It's difficult to get out once you get hooked on it'; 'the streets suck you in'.

Dave

Dave, 52, has been sleeping rough for about 25 years. He does not receive benefits and does not engage with outreach workers. He says there is not really anything good about living on the streets.

'I've stayed in hostels. I'd rather live on the street than go into a hostel, I'll never set foot in one again. Alcohol, people smoking drugs in your room. I eventually will [move off the streets], but it's very difficult to go from the street straight into a flat; all they can offer me is a hostel. I haven't been on benefits for five years. The hassle of signing on, I don't want to know. I do little casuals [short-term jobs]. I only need one-day's work to keep me going for a week. You get breakfast [at a day centre] for 60p, clothes, a shower.'

'I can't afford [a private rented flat], it's quite expensive. Hostels hinder people from getting work as the rent's too high. There used to be workers' hostels, so you can get a job. I would [stay in a workers hostel]. I know other people would as well.'

from those who have actions recorded on the database in four or more years ('long-term CHAIN clients'). There is a higher prevalence of alcohol and drug problems among long-term CHAIN clients. In general, long-term rough sleepers (those seen rough sleeping in each of four or more years) included fewer very young people (under the age of 25) and fewer individuals of minority ethnic background. They were more than twice as likely to have alcohol problems and almost three times as likely to have drug problems, when compared to the overall rough sleeping population on CHAIN. However, the prevalence of mental health problems appeared to be very similar among long- and short-term rough sleepers.

Many long-term rough sleepers had repeated bedded-down and non-bedded-down contacts with outreach workers

recorded on CHAIN. Thirteen per cent of long-term rough sleepers had 30 or more bedded-down encounters.

- Many people sleep on the streets for years rather than weeks. A targeted, innovative and flexible approach is required to reduce rough sleeping among people for whom the current system is not providing a solution. Current examples are CLG's pilot projects to test the potential of personal budgets with entrenched rough sleepers and 'Rough Sleeping 205', a CLG project overseen by the London Delivery Board that seeks to facilitate access to a wider range of services, including accommodation options, for people who persistently sleep rough.

Contact with outreach support services and short-term accommodation

Time spent in the CHAIN population

Between 2000/01 and 2007/08, three-quarters of all rough sleepers recorded on CHAIN were only seen sleeping rough in London in one year; 15 per cent were seen in two years. Half of people who were only seen rough sleeping in one year disappeared from the CHAIN population within 31 days of their first recorded rough sleeping incident.

Rough sleeping over four or more years was uncommon: 95 per cent of rough sleepers on CHAIN had rough sleeping actions recorded in three or fewer years. However, once rough sleepers have been on the streets for more than two years, their chances of exiting (ie not being seen sleeping rough in subsequent years) reduced sharply. People who were not seen rough sleeping in a given year often still made contact with outreach workers when they were not bedded down and/or having accessed short-term accommodation.

- A lot of rough sleepers only appear on CHAIN briefly or move quickly into short-term accommodation. To reduce rough sleeping among this group, people need to be equipped with the information, advice and support to prevent the need for short periods of rough sleeping.
- Given the significant level of substance misuse within the flow population, an example of preventative measures would be ensuring that drug and alcohol services identify and respond to the risk of homelessness among their clients. Another possible area of work would be ensuring that housing options teams provide a good standard of advice to those who are not in priority need categories and/or are considered to be intentionally homeless under homelessness legislation. This type of work could reduce the number of first-time rough sleepers and also reduce pressure on short-term accommodation services.

Staying in short-term accommodation

Half of the CHAIN population (49.5 per cent) were recorded as accessing short-term accommodation during the observation period: most people were only recorded as doing so in one year (although their stay in the accommodation could be longer than a year).

People who remain in the CHAIN population long term often do not access accommodation at all or they tend to access accommodation frequently but only for short stays before they return to rough sleeping. While some long-term rough sleepers spend long periods in one short-term accommodation service, the general trend is for individuals' stays at accommodation services to become shorter as their rough sleeping becomes more entrenched. Those who never access short-term accommodation but sleep rough over a prolonged period are of particular importance in efforts to reduce rough sleeping. Although they are small in number, they impact disproportionately on the volume of rough sleeping. This group are less likely to have drug problems, but more likely to have mental health problems, when compared to the rough sleeping population as a whole.

People become less likely to move to long-term accommodation after two to two and a half years in one hostel. The aim of such accommodation is to move people on after relatively short stays. While people remain in the CHAIN population as residents of short-term accommodation they are using expensive services that are not designed to be suitable for living in for long periods.

- Long-term accommodation options for those who require ongoing support need to be addressed to ensure that hostel spaces are made available for those with high support needs who are sleeping rough.
- There is a misperception among some people in short-term accommodation that 'biding their time' will result in a social housing tenancy. Residents of short-term accommodation need to be informed and educated about their likely housing options in the medium term.

- The lack of timely move-on options for those in short-term accommodation has been a key concern in the homelessness sector for several years. Plans to enhance access to private rented sector accommodation and expand Clearing House accommodation provision will assist in moving on long-term CHAIN clients.

Evictions and abandonments

The CHAIN database records the reasons for departures from short-term accommodation. These data enable us to draw information about the outcomes of stays in short-term accommodation, be they positive (such as planned moves to longer-term accommodation) or negative (such as abandonment or eviction from the accommodation).

Between 2001/02 to 2007/08 rates of abandonment almost halved, from 40 per cent of departures from hostels to 22 per cent. The proportion of evictions, on the other hand, remained comparatively stable: rising from 19 per cent to 21 per cent. As abandonments declined, the proportion of planned moves as the cause of departures increased, rising from 29 per cent of departures in 2001/02 and 2003/04 to 42 per cent in 2006/07 and 2007/08.

- The halving of abandonment rates is a very positive finding and is likely to relate to improvements in the standard of hostel accommodation over the last decade.
- The proportion of negative outcomes from short-term accommodation remains an area for attention.

Alcohol, drug or mental health support needs appeared to have little effect on the likelihood of abandonment, but increased the risk of eviction and made a planned move less likely.

- Analysis shows that those with drug and alcohol support needs are more likely to access short-term accommodation, which is appropriate given the high level of support and expense of such services. It is encouraging that support needs do not seem to impact on rates of abandonment.

The more bedded-down rough sleeping encounters a person has recorded on CHAIN, the lower the likelihood of their partaking in a planned move on from short-term accommodation and the greater the risk of abandonment or eviction.

It appears that hostels are accessed proportionately more frequently and are more effective for people from a black ethnic background than a white ethnic background. The data analysis takes into account the *presence* of support needs among different ethnicities, so this is not because of the lower incidence of support needs among black rough sleepers. A possibility is that the *intensity* of support needs among white CHAIN clients is higher, which affects their interaction with short-term accommodation.

Younger rough sleepers were more likely to abandon bed spaces, whereas the proportion of rough sleepers who left accommodation as part of a planned move increased in line with age.

- The relationships between the ethnicity and age of a rough sleeper and their interaction with short-term accommodation services could be further explored and monitored.

Abandonments typically occurred sooner in short-term accommodation stays than evictions. Between 2006/07 and 2007/08, about half of abandonments happened within two months of a person arriving at a hostel, whereas almost four months passed before most evictions. The longest stays were those that resulted in planned moves. The average time spent in a hostel prior to a planned move was close to one year (350 days), but half of planned moves occurred within fewer than eight months.

- Abandonments often occur soon after a person's arrival at a hostel. Best practice around welcome and early assessment processes could be helpful to minimise early negative departures.

Interviews and group discussions took place with 18 current and former rough sleepers with a history of eviction and/or abandonment from hostels. Evictions and abandonments are clearly related: they often stemmed

Eviction and abandonment: case studies

Robert has a history of abandoning hostels, but has stayed in his current hostel for 18 months.

'I thought, "Perhaps I'm not cutting it in the hostel." I knew I could sleep out, so I put my sleeping bag in my rucksack and went... But this hostel is different; it's not very big. Everyone gets treated on their own stuff, as individuals. I have thought about walking, but then I think, "This isn't a bad place, if I have a problem, I should face it."

Charles has been in a hostel for a year, but is considering going back to the streets.

'I felt better on the street. I can't cook my own food [in here], I have to eat when they say. It's enclosed, there's all this noise around you, it drives me nuts. I'm getting ground down again. I hate my key worker, he hates me. I've never lived in a place with so many people (about 70); I've always had my own place or lived on the streets. It's too much for me. They keep promising me a flat. There's no point [staying here] if they can't deliver. If it just keeps going like this I'm going to walk out of here.'

from similar dissatisfactions and problems associated with living in hostels. Overall, the message from service users was that the move from the streets into a hostel is often very difficult and can involve confronting issues such as drug and alcohol use, personal history, past traumas, behaviour and responsibilities. For this reason, it is vital that staff are caring and respectful, and that residents are able to feel a sense of progress toward personal goals through regular key work sessions.

Interviewees came up with a range of suggestions for minimising eviction and abandonment. These included:

- ensuring staff are supportive, motivated and caring
- regular key work sessions to motivate clients and ensure they feel supported and that they are reaching their goals
- use of direct payments or direct debits for the payment of fees to prevent arrears
- independent 'resident liaison posts' to provide arbitration and support to clients who are at risk of eviction

- maintaining a link with outreach workers during the transition period from rough sleeping to settling into accommodation.

- The qualitative findings illuminate the data on abandonment and eviction and provide useful ideas for reducing negative outcomes from stays in short-term accommodation. The Government's investment in the Places of Change programme seeks to ensure positive outcomes from stays in hostels through capital investment in the physical refurbishment of accommodation facilities and training for staff working with single homeless people. It is likely to take some time before the impact of this wide-ranging programme of work becomes apparent in the statistics, but evaluation of this work will be key to understanding best practice in ensuring positive outcomes for hostel residents.

Routes out of rough sleeping

The study focused on three exit routes out of rough sleeping, as defined in the table below.

Exit routes from rough sleeping

Moving into long-term accommodation	Long-term accommodation consists of Clearing House accommodation and other long-term accommodation. In this study the latter is generally social housing, although it may also represent some private rented tenancies and moves to registered care homes. Eleven per cent of rough sleepers logged on CHAIN experienced moves to Clearing House accommodation; eight per cent moved to other long-term accommodation.
Returning to home area	This action is recorded when an outreach worker believes that an individual has decided to move back to their home area. In some cases this will be an independent decision, in others services for rough sleepers will have assessed the suitability of this option and facilitated a move, for example by liaising with homelessness services in another part of the country or assessing the likelihood of having a local connection in another area. Eight per cent of rough sleepers on CHAIN returned to their home area. This is also known as 'reconnection'.
Clinic stays	This action represents moving to a clinic for drug or alcohol treatment. Three per cent of rough sleepers have a clinic stay recorded on CHAIN.

CHAIN cannot provide robust data on the long-term outcomes of exits from rough sleeping, so for the purpose of this research we defined sustained outcomes based on the information available. In the case of exits achieved through a move to long-term accommodation or a return to the home area, an outcome is considered sustained if it is not followed by:

- more than one rough sleeping episode
- more than three contacts with outreach workers
- an arrival at short-term accommodation.

In the case of admissions to clinics, only the first two criteria apply: an arrival at short-term accommodation does not preclude a sustained exit.

The highest proportion of sustained outcomes, as defined above, was found among those who moved to Clearing House accommodation, at 90 per cent. Twenty per cent of long-term rough sleepers (those seen rough sleeping in four or more years) accessed Clearing House accommodation and 75 per cent sustained this move. Among those who moved to other forms of long-term accommodation, 80 per cent of exits were sustained. Sustained outcomes from moves to Clearing

House accommodation and other forms of long-term accommodation increased steadily over the observation period.

- The higher rates of sustained exits among Clearing House tenants, compared to those in other forms of long-term accommodation, is likely to reflect the support offered to Clearing House tenants through the tenancy sustainment teams.
- The availability of floating support services for people who are vulnerable to tenancy breakdown is key to reducing repeat, as well as first-time, rough sleeping.

Returning to the home area was the least frequently sustained exit route: 37 per cent of those who returned home subsequently ended up rough sleeping, living in short-term accommodation or being an active client of an outreach worker. A similar proportion of rough sleepers who were admitted to clinics did not sustain this exit from rough sleeping. Of long term rough sleepers who returned home, only a quarter did not return to the CHAIN population.

- More than one-third of those who move back to their home area return to the streets. Reconnection is a useful option for diverting people from London's streets, but findings show that this is not always an effective solution because people will return to rough sleeping if their needs are not met. More information is needed on reconnections to find out when returns home work best and why some fail. Changes to the way information related to returns home is recorded on CHAIN will improve the data captured.

Analysis compared the characteristics of rough sleepers who sustained their exit from rough sleeping and those who did not. Long periods and high frequency of episodes of rough sleeping appear to have the greatest adverse effect on sustaining exits from rough sleeping.

- The findings highlight that exiting rough sleeping is a challenging and complex process, especially for those who have long histories of rough sleeping and have substance misuse support needs.

The full report is now available to download from Broadway's website www.broadwaylondon.org. It contains extensive analysis of the data collected about rough sleeping in London since the late 1990s. This detailed empirical context highlights challenges and issues and will inform policy solutions to rough sleeping, making it essential reading for those working in the field of street homelessness.

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About Broadway

Broadway's vision is every person finds and keeps a home. The charity works with over 4000 people a year who are homeless or at risk of losing their homes. Broadway provide a combination of practical support and long term guidance to help people lead fulfilling, independent lives. Street outreach, hostels, supported housing and floating support services are provided alongside health, welfare and money advice, and work and learning services. Through our research, information and partnership projects we push forward the boundaries of good practice in services for homeless people.

About NatCen

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is the largest independent social research institute in Britain. They design, carry out and analyse research studies in the fields of social and public policy – including extensive research among members of the public. NatCen has conducted high quality and innovative work that informs policy debates and the public for more than 30 years.

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