



WESTMINSTER CHAIN Bi-Monthly Report

1st January to 29th February 2012



Methodology

From January 2012 onwards CHAIN rough sleeping figures are reported on a bi-monthly basis, rather than on the previously used quarterly cycle.

Some important changes have also been made to how the borough figures are compiled. Firstly, people who have been seen rough sleeping in more than one borough during the reporting period are no longer counted towards the totals for all boroughs in which they were seen. Each person seen rough sleeping is now assigned to one borough only during the period, so that the totals for all boroughs combined equals the overall total for London.

Where people have been seen rough sleeping in multiple boroughs they are assigned to a single borough, based on the following method:

- New rough sleepers (i.e. people not seen rough sleeping prior to this period) are assigned to the first borough they were seen rough sleeping in during the period
- Rough sleepers who are not new are assigned to the borough they were last seen rough sleeping in during the period

Secondly, all people seen rough sleeping during the period are assigned to categories, based on the following factors:

- Whether they were new rough sleepers 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.

Flow

Flow are new rough sleepers, who were seen 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 have 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 rough sleepers 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 in the LDB boroughs and three or more contacts in the rest of London) 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 a rough sleeper must have both elements.

The reporting period covers two 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 two month reporting period. For a rough sleeper 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 flow figures (shown in red in both section one and two of the report). 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. Rough sleepers will only count as LOS during the period where they meet the above definition.

RS205+ refers to people who have been identified as especially hard to help because of their prolific history of rough sleeping . This group appear in the LOS chart if they have any number of bedded down contacts within the two months being reported on.

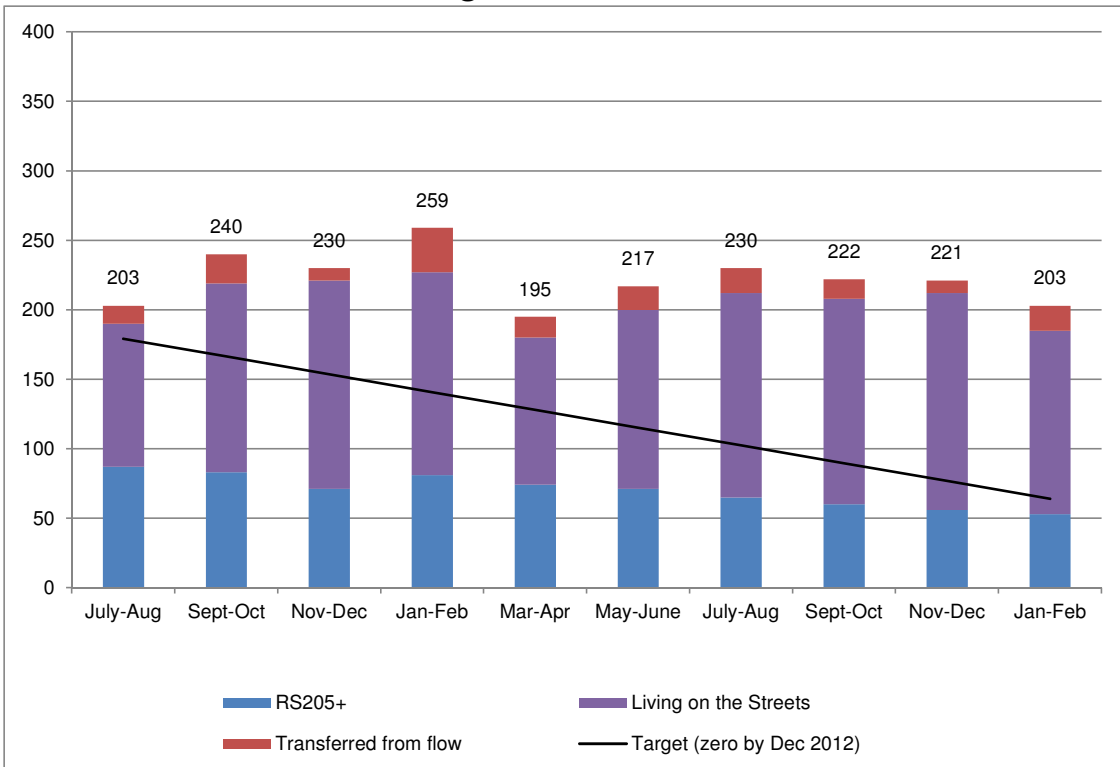
Returning Rough Sleepers

Returning rough sleepers are those who have returned to the streets after a period away. This group includes those who sleep rough periodically for very short periods (including some street drinkers and beggars). It also will include those whose return to the streets is 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.

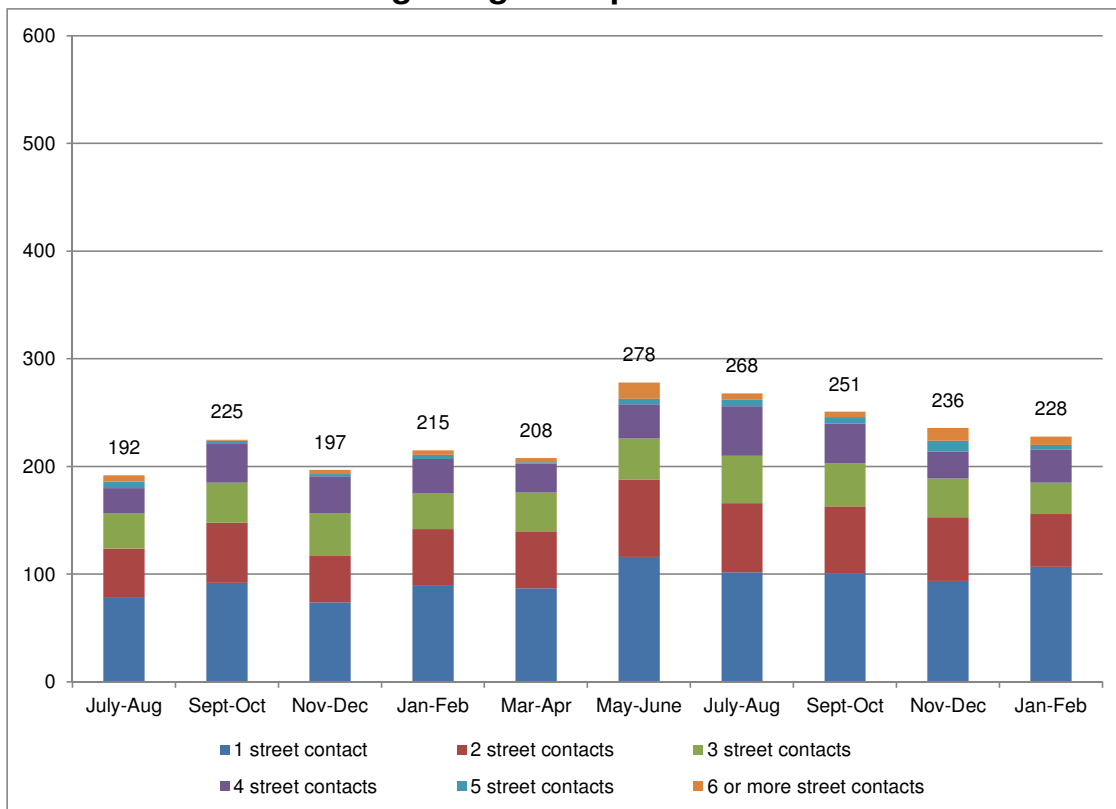
Westminster: Achieving No Second Night Out



Westminster: No One Living on the Streets†



Westminster: Returning Rough Sleepers†



†Note: Scale on these graphs is 10x greater than other boroughs

Westminster: Headlines

Volumes	No. Rough Sleepers	% change from last period	% change on same period last year
Flow (All)*	163	-3%	+7%
Flow with a second night out but not Living on the Streets	43	-17%	-43%
Flow with no second night out	120	+3%	+58%
Living on the Streets (All)	203	-8%	-22%
Transferred from flow	18	+100%	-44%
Living on the Streets	132	-15%	-10%
RS205+	53	-5%	-35%
Returning Rough Sleepers	228	-3%	-6%
Total	594	-5%	-9%

*Not including flow who became Living on the Streets