

# London Vision

Improve the health of homeless people



**Our ambition:** no rough sleepers die on the street, no one is discharged from a hospital to the street and there is equal and fair access to healthcare for those who are homeless.

**Our commitment:** we commit to drive action to improve, grow and innovate services that improve the health of rough sleepers, including expanding the pan-London rough sleeping services funded by the Mayor, building on existing good practice, piloting new models of care and data collection, and developing plans to build more integrated services in London

## The challenge we face...

The Homeless in London have some of the worst health and shortest lives of all adults. We need to address the health issues that are both a cause and a consequence of being homeless, alongside often complex social needs. We have to work collectively to design integrated services to improve health and prolong life

# 44 years

Is the average age of death for those who are homeless



The number of rough sleepers in London has more than doubled in the last 10 years

For every person sleeping rough, there are estimated to be 13x more 'hidden homeless' who are sofa surfing, living in cars or in other precarious circumstances

# 126

Different nationalities recorded amongst rough sleepers in London, with half born outside the UK

# 8,855

People were seen sleeping rough in London in 2018/19



People experiencing homelessness use hospital services 4x more than general population

## Our actions so far...

- Implementing a **hospital homelessness and immigration support service pilot, and a mental health pilot** across four Mental Health Trusts and 16 London boroughs
- Improving **access to mental health services**, through a specialist team to help coordinate and carry out mental health assessments with people sleeping rough
- Promoting **training developed for GP receptionists and practice managers**, and the dissemination of Groundswell 'my right to access healthcare' cards to promote GP registration
- Providing **peer-led advocacy for rough sleepers to access health services**
- Supporting the implementation of existing homeless health commissioning guidance for London, and the **development of Health & Wellbeing Boards homelessness and rough sleeping strategies**
- Requesting that NICE produces comprehensive guidance to **support homelessness prevention, integrated care and recovery**
- Promoting **guidance on care for homeless people** at the end of their lives
- Continuing to work with Safeguarding Adult Boards to ensure **robust Safeguarding Adult Reviews are undertaken when a person sleeping rough dies** and there is suspicion of abuse or neglect
- The Mayor is **doubling City Hall's rough sleeping budget** in 2019/20 to around £18m

## Our next steps...

- We will develop a commissioning plan to establish integrated care pathways for rough sleepers; including specific proposals to enable safe and timely transfers from hospital to intermediate care, step down accommodation, or assessment in a home if required
- We will work with system-wide partners to support rough sleepers to have better access to specialist homelessness NHS mental health support, integrated with existing outreach services, sharing and promoting learning from pilots and best practice
- We will identify key prevention and health improvement opportunities, including health screening and contacts with primary or urgent care, and develop plans to promote these
- We will test ways of including housing status in data collections, quantifying the scale and progress in improving homeless health
- We will deliver a focused London-wide homelessness partnership, providing leadership and strategic oversight for London

