



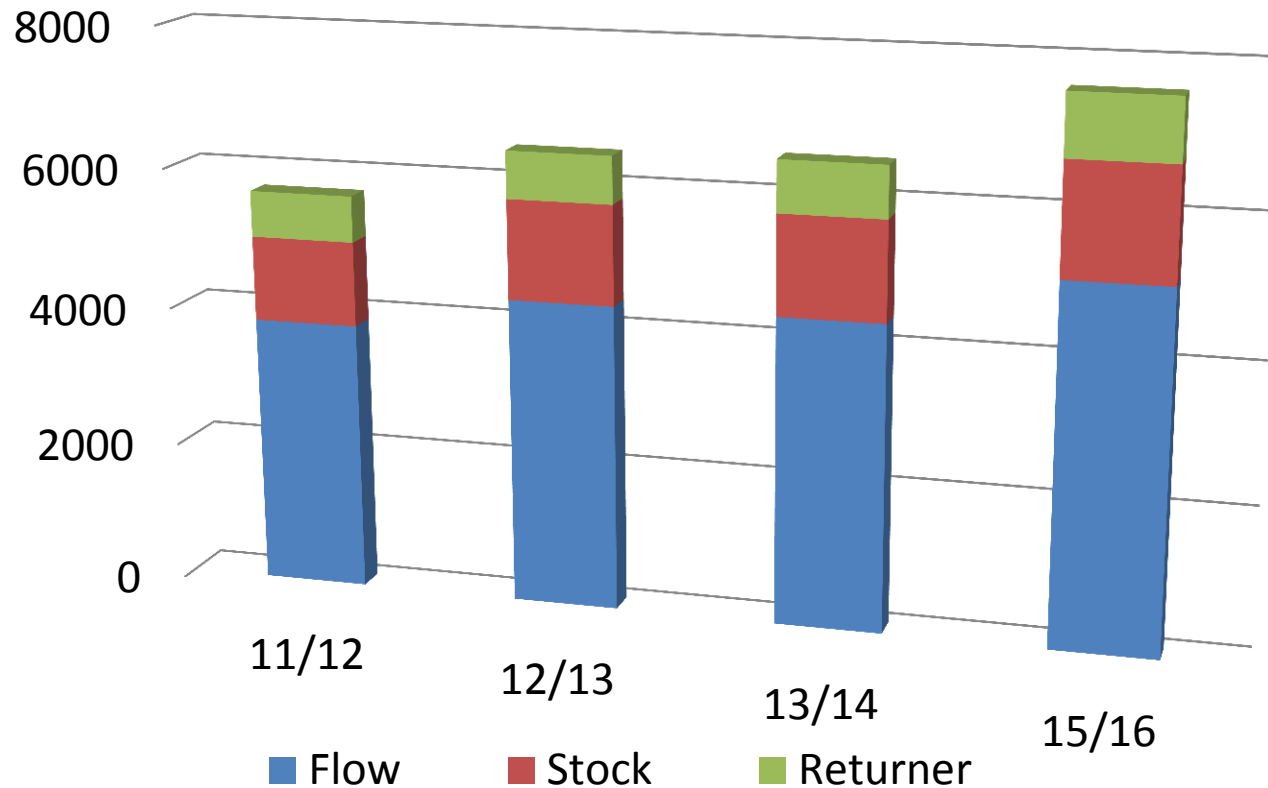
Are you in? Building a European movement to end street homelessness

A London Perspective

Petra Salva Director of Rough Sleeping Services
St Mungo's



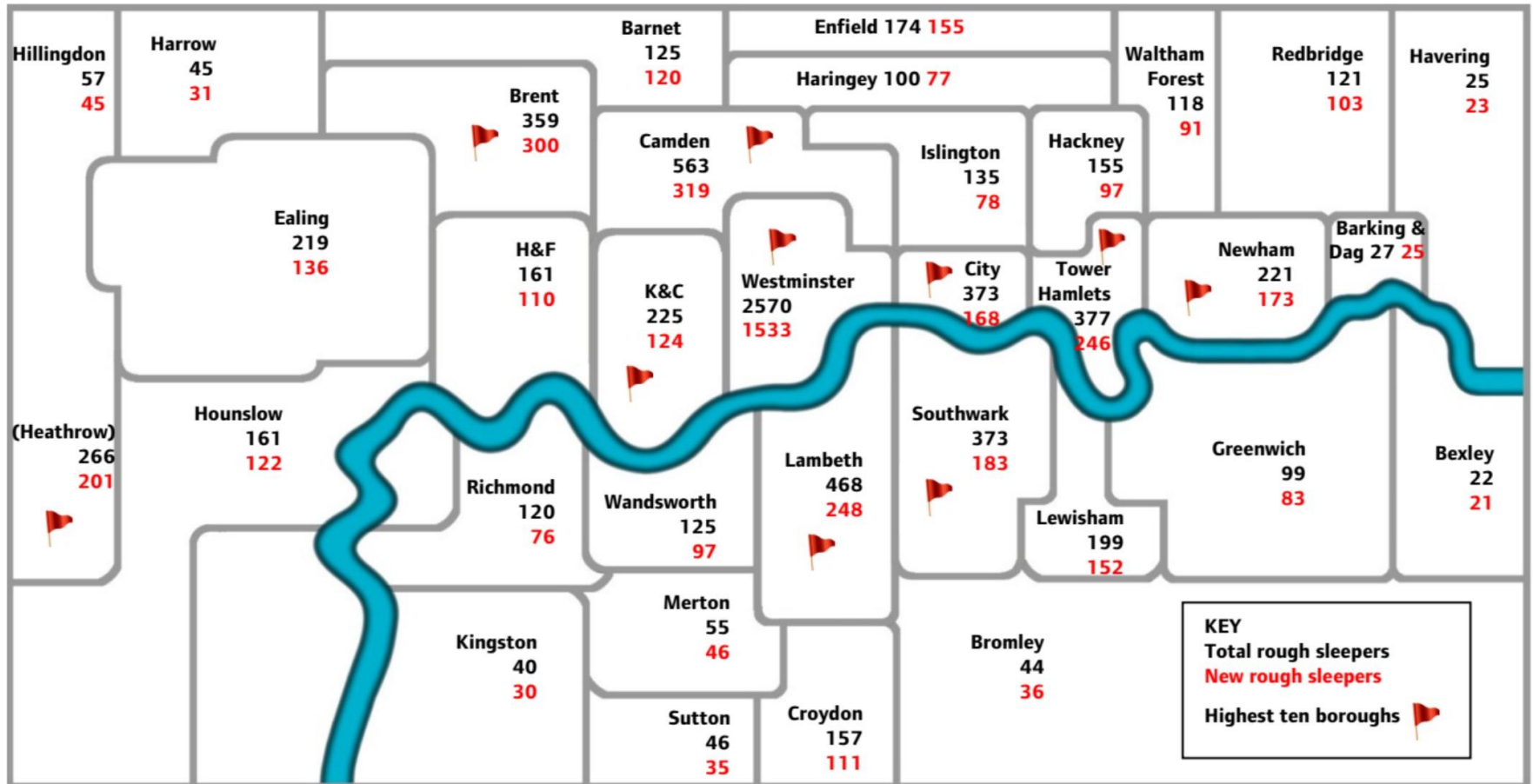
London has seen a a rise in rough sleeping over the last four years



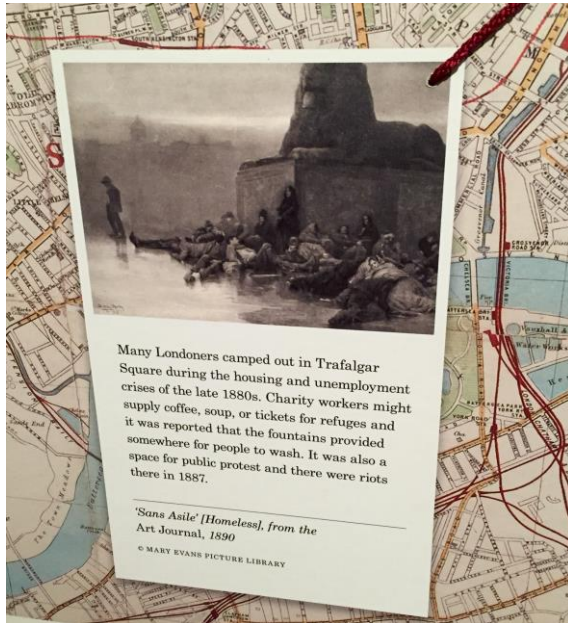
Over 7500 people were found sleeping rough in London in 14/15

57% were non UK nationals.(
46 % from other European countries)

London Context



Westminster-will it always be this way?

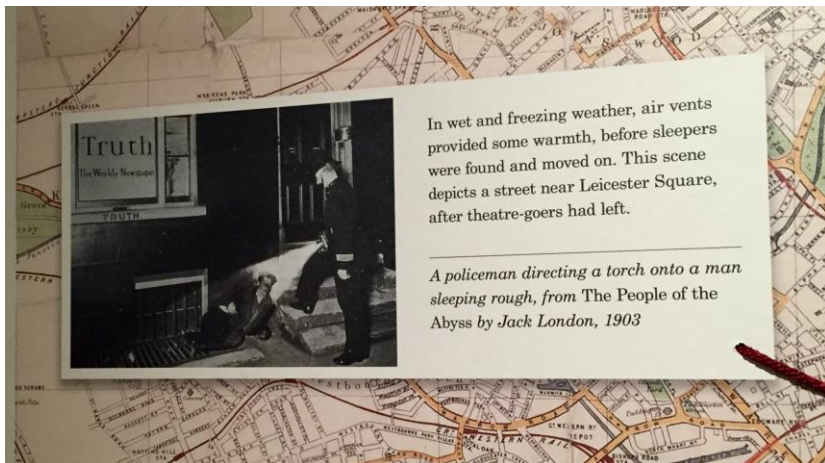


Many Londoners camped out in Trafalgar Square during the housing and unemployment crises of the late 1880s. Charity workers might supply coffee, soup, or tickets for refuges and it was reported that the fountains provided somewhere for people to wash. It was also a space for public protest and there were riots there in 1887.

'Sans Asile' [Homeless], from the Art Journal, 1890

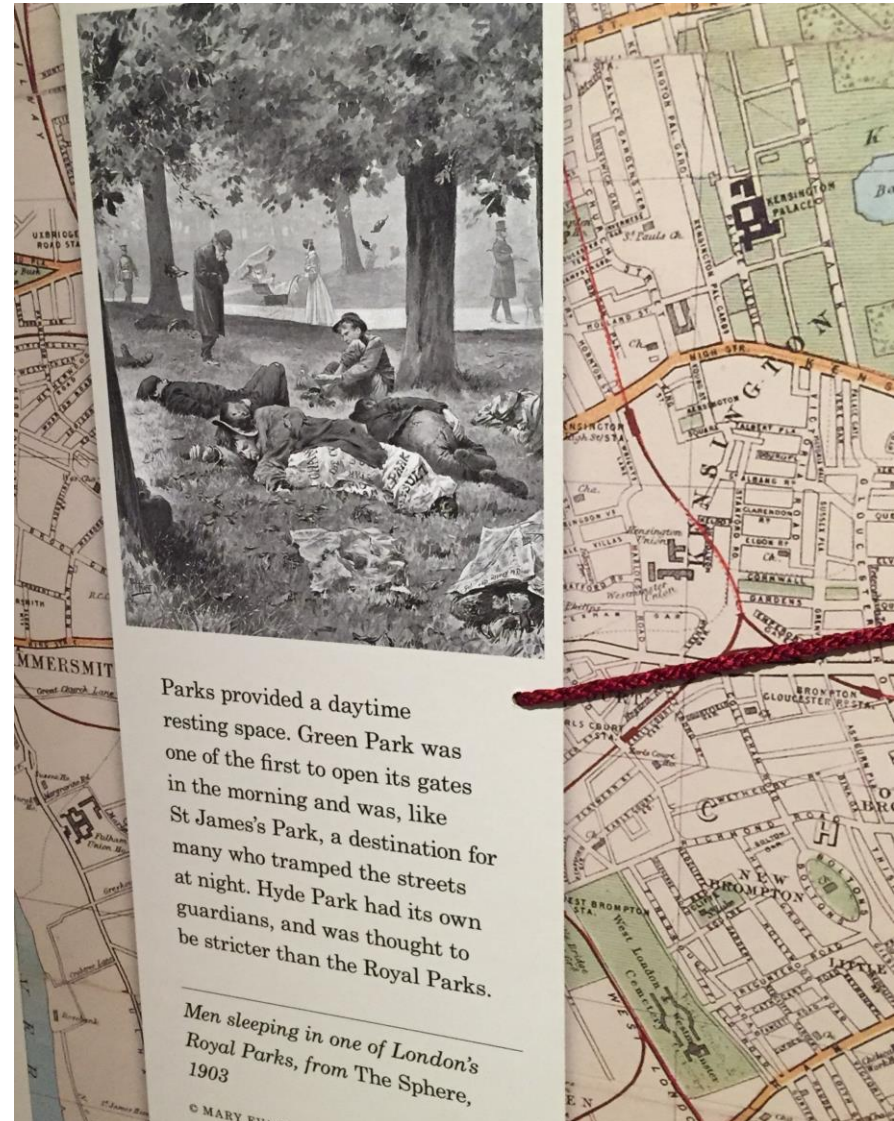
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Tonight about 300 people are sleeping rough in Westminster



In wet and freezing weather, air vents provided some warmth, before sleepers were found and moved on. This scene depicts a street near Leicester Square, after theatre-goers had left.

A policeman directing a torch onto a man sleeping rough, from The People of the Abyss by Jack London, 1903



Parks provided a daytime resting space. Green Park was one of the first to open its gates in the morning and was, like St James's Park, a destination for many who tramped the streets at night. Hyde Park had its own guardians, and was thought to be stricter than the Royal Parks.

Men sleeping in one of London's Royal Parks, from The Sphere, 1903

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What are we aiming to do?



WHAT
Westminster Homeless Action Together

July 10-17 2016

**Over 200 local volunteers will participate
in a survey week to help
End Street Homelessness in Westminster**

volunteer@westminsterhomelessactiontogether.org
www.westminsterhomelessactiontogether.org
[@What_July16](https://twitter.com/What_July16)



Help to galvanise energy and generate new thinking

Use survey to better categorise and prioritise housing needs

Help deliver comparable data European wide

Engage wider community to help think about solutions so that gaps in provision can be filled

Ultimately help plan and set a new London wide target to end street homelessness

Our Challenges



- How transferable is the US campaign/assessment tool in a London or in a European context?
- London feels different - already have robust data collection method in place
- Agreeing the purpose and then keeping focused on the ambition
- Supply of housing fundamental stumbling block / Housing First has not been fully adopted as a way forward
- Complexity of working across 33 London boroughs
- Involving multiple stakeholders
- Questioning how do people with no recourse to public funds fit into recommendations
- UK's EU Referendum

Learning from other pilot cities



1. Informed our methodology - planning and delivery of the survey week
2. Highlighted similarities- migrants sleeping rough across cities
3. Challenged our thinking about why we are doing this? How to use the data & What's the ambition?
4. Highlighted how multiple stakeholders involved increases the challenge but also the chance of success
5. Reinforced power & value of community/volunteer engagement -importance of commissioned services stepping back



Ending Street Homelessness

WESTMINSTER HOMELESS ACTION TOGETHER

VOLUNTEER

www.westminsterhomlessactiontogether.org

Starting point



- Been much effort, and some success!
- Acknowledgment that we do need to do things differently - rough sleeping increasing - what are we missing?
- Tackling rough sleeping in Westminster needs London wide support - and beyond
- Galvanise some new energy and urgency about tackling rough sleeping
- Agreement that engaging the wider community and unusual suspects is missing in our current approach
- Right time and willingness to try something new