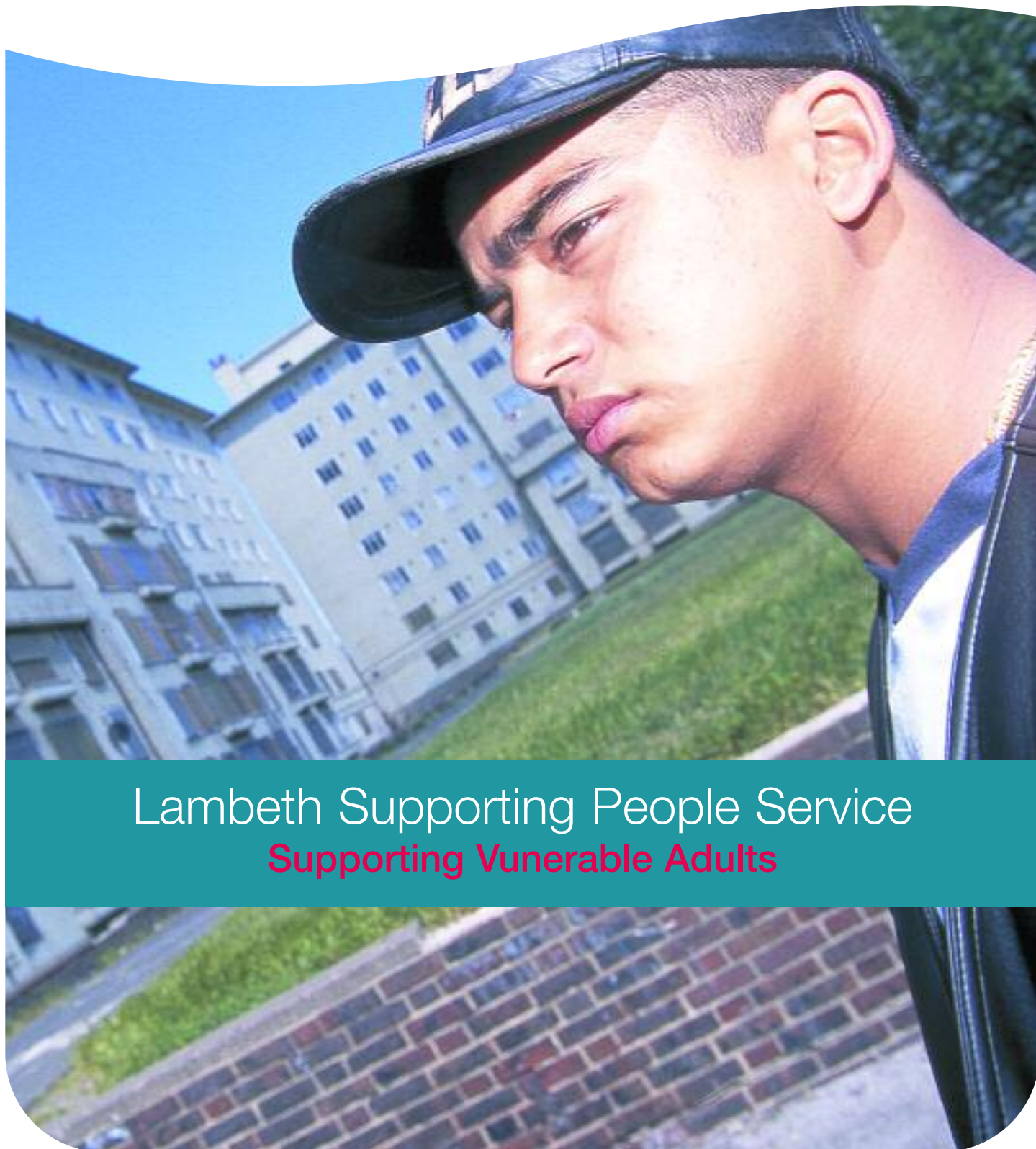


Supporting People:
helping our residents live **independently**



Lambeth Supporting People Service
Supporting Vulnerable Adults

Vulnerable Adults



The Lambeth Supporting People (SP) Service helps people live in the community by commissioning housing related support across the borough. Our plans for the type of support we want to provide are described in the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010. The summary below is taken from the strategy and is about services for vulnerable adults including single homeless people, rough sleepers, offenders and people who have drug or alcohol problems. Information about the whole programme is contained in the Executive Summary and detailed information is contained in the full strategy both are available on the Lambeth Website or from the Supporting People Service. Contact details are on the back cover.

Types of Services

Much of Lambeth's homeless provision is with established providers and services that have been inherited from legacy funding. Many of the services were developed in the early 1990's as shared housing to meet homeless demand at the time. The services are classified as working with single homeless people but often support a range of vulnerabilities including for those with drug and alcohol problems. Additionally Lambeth has a grant allocation from the ODPM

for rough sleeper initiatives which provides hostels, and day centres, rolling shelter programmes and a street population outreach team (SPOT).

All services for offenders are accommodation based.

There are 17 cross-authority schemes for homeless people and one for people with drug and alcohol problems. Cross Authority means the service is open to non-Lambeth residents.

People who use the services

Almost half of service users (57.2%) of single homeless people services are White background (including British, Irish and other). All of the rough sleepers accessing services were of White background. The proportion of Lambeth single homeless clients accessing services (64.7%) is similar to the London average (68.6%).

Of Offenders the majority of service users are of Black Caribbean background (45.9%) followed by White British (18.9%). This reflects the local and national profile of offenders, with an over representation of Black background compared to the local community.

Chart 1 demonstrates the current position of vulnerable adults services

SP services 2004/05	Single Homeless People	Rough Sleepers	Offenders	People with drug & alcohol problems
Total spend	£6,438,102	£1,248,055	£947,676	£1,495,546
Percentage of total SP spend	28.4%	5.5%	4.2%	6.6%
Number of people supported	528	242	89	222
Percentage of total SP clients	10.1%	4.6%	1.7%	4.2%
Percentage of people local to Lambeth	65%	29%	78%	35%
Commissioning partners			Drug & Alcohol Team (DAAT) ODPM Rough Sleeping Drug Intervention Programme (formerly CJIP) Primary Care Trust	
Consultation forums			SP Vulnerable Adults Group Lambeth DAAT Joint Commissioning Group Aftercare Steering Group	

People of White British background for both drug (61.4%) and alcohol (68.3%) services form the highest ethnic group of service users with the second most represented groups being White Irish (14%) for alcohol services and Black Caribbean (13.7%) for drug services.

Needs of this group

Drugs appear to be a particularly significant factor contributing to homelessness and rough sleeping and there is need for “clean” hostels to facilitate rehabilitation.

Domestic violence is a significant factor contributing to homelessness and rough sleeping amongst women and suggests the need for women only provision.

Many clients appear to experience poor mental health, including cases where people with mental health problems had lost their tenancy after having their flat taken over by drug dealers. Many of this group have unmet mental health support needs.

The lack of move on from emergency hostels and other supported housing provision is a major problem. Two significant areas of unmet need are help with finding suitable alternative accommodation and Resettlement support to prevent future homelessness.

Alcohol and drug misuse have high social and personal costs, including higher levels of children taken into care, higher levels of psychiatric disorder and high levels of crime and domestic violence.¹

The costs of in-patient treatment and rehabilitation for drug or alcohol misuse are estimated at between £13,000 and £14,000 for each person successfully completing the programme.² Locally it is estimated that between 75% and 80% of people successfully completing treatment for substance misuse are homeless and in need of accommodation after rehabilitation.

The Strategic Relevance Review identified the need to remodel provision so that services for single homeless people better meet client need. For services which provide shared accommodation and are less strategically relevant SP will work with the providers to remodel these. Floating support is a continuing priority, particularly in temporary accommodation.

There are close links between single homelessness, rough sleeping, community safety and anti-social behaviour agendas. Anti-social behaviour is an area that is increasingly

on the SP agenda, with services having a role in managing clients' behaviour, including mediating and negotiating in neighbourhood disputes.

There are reported to be shortages of SP accommodation or services for offenders with dual diagnosis; mentally disordered offenders with anti-social personality disorder; women offenders with children; women wanting/needing women only accommodation; and those with high support needs. Additionally housing related advice and assistance for those entering and being discharged from prison and Offender Resettlement Services have been identified as key requirements.

For those with drug and alcohol problems there is a need for accommodation-based service for women with drug problems and chaotic lifestyles; developing the Aftercare service; and a dedicated housing advice and resettlement service in Day Centres, particularly where used by sex workers.

Consultation and research

Lambeth SP undertook research with single homeless people and rough sleepers as part of the Strategic Relevance Review. Drugs (39% of interviewees) were the most frequently identified factor as having contributed to homelessness, followed by relationship breakdown with parents or a partner (30%), loss of employment (20%), mental health problems (12%) and domestic violence (14%). The experience of Portuguese interviewees, most of whom were men, mirrored this general pattern, with drug use (56%) and loss of employment (44%) being the most significant factors. For women, domestic violence (37%) was the most commonly cited factor contributing towards homelessness.

Stakeholder consultation identified specialist needs for BME clients and difficulties in providing support services where English is a person's second language.

Research among offenders shows that stable accommodation can significantly reduce the rate of re-conviction, yet up to one third of prisoners lose their housing during custody.

Our vision for 2010

Services will be joined up and meet the diverse and complex needs of single homeless people and rough sleepers, with a strong emphasis on prevention, early intervention and tenancy sustainment.

(continued overleaf)



1. Home Office, The economic and social costs of class A drug use in England and Wales, 2000.

2. Based on an assumption of a cost of between £2,464 and £3,920 for 28 days of detoxification, and six months of rehabilitation at an average cost of £400 per week.

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There will be hostels for rough sleepers including a designated assessment centre, with move on to appropriate housing support services. Services will be integrated and cater for homeless people with mental health, and drug and alcohol issues.

Lambeth SP will work in partnership with Probation and the Drug Intervention Programme to plan and commission services for ex-offenders. There will be an integrated Aftercare service providing housing advice, support and resettlement for people on discharge from prison and rehabilitation centres,

improved links with education, and training and employment, and improved access to services for mentally disordered offenders.

SP services for people with drug and alcohol problems will be modelled on clear pathways from treatment to rehabilitation to aftercare. People's resettlement will be appropriately managed and supported with a focus on tenancy sustainment. Developing tenancy support services will enhance the local preventative focus.

The following sections of the Lambeth Supporting People Strategy are available: Executive Summary, Young People & Homeless Families, Domestic Violence, Vulnerable Adults, Mental Health, Older People, People with Disabilities and Socially Excluded Groups.

If you would like more information or have any comments or suggestions about the Lambeth Supporting People

Strategy or any Supporting People Service, please contact:

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London SW2 1RD.
Tel: 020 7926 7520. Fax: 020 7926 7526
Email: supportingpeople@lambeth.gov.uk**

**www.lambeth.gov.uk/supportingpeople
www.spkweb.org.uk**

If you would like this information in large print, braille, audio tape or another language please call 020 7926 7520.

Spanish

Si desea esta información en otro idioma, rogamos nos llame al 020 7926 7520

Portuguese

Se desejar esta informação noutro idioma é favor telefonar para 020 7926 7520

French

Si vous souhaitez ces informations dans une autre langue veuillez nous contacter au 020 7926 7520

Bengali

এই তথ্য অন্য কোনো ভাষায় আপনাদের প্রয়োজন হলে অনুগ্রহ করে ফোন করুন 020 7926 7520

Twi

Se wope saa nkaeboy yi wo kasa foforo mu a fre 020 7926 7520

Yoruba

Ti e ba fe imoràn yii, ní èdè Òmiràn, ejò, e kàn wà lágogo 020 7926 7520