



## **Jeremy Swain – Chief Executive**

**Why not using enforcement and assertive outreach is a high risk strategy**



### Street outreach

- “ Outreach across 20 London boroughs, night buses and Heathrow airport
- “ Four teams out every night of the year
- “ **60 staff ex-homeless**
- “ 1,237 people helped off of the street last year
- “ Doing outreach since 1984



### Street work partners

- “ Community safety
- “ Other outreach teams
- “ Police
- “ London Fire Brigade
- “ London Ambulance Service
- “ Mental health teams
- “ Faith groups
- “ Transport for London
- “ Immigration Compliance and Enforcement (ICE)

## Enforcement and assertive outreach – what does it involve?

- “ Support and enforcement are combined – not consecutive
- “ Partnership working with support and enforcement services, and local communities
- “ Enforcement has included support for CPNs, CBOs, PSPOs, sectioning, Dispersal Orders, DPPOs, anti-begging campaigns, by-laws to stop areas becoming tent cities
- “ The primary purpose of all of this is to help people off of the streets

## What is our motivation for this approach?

- “ High mortality rates – 83 homeless population deaths in London, 2015-16
- “ We are convinced that the approach brings better outcomes in terms of people escaping rough sleeping
- “ We don't accept that rough sleeping is a lifestyle choice
- “ We feel an overwhelming responsibility to rough sleepers and their families to prevent them dying on the street
- “ ‘Tonight I've done everything I possibly can to help Tina come off the street – have you?’

# Learning – mental capacity and Serious Case Reviews



- “ **Anne Naysmith** – ruggedly independent or deeply traumatised?
- “ Would Anne be able to live inside and not be subject to a safeguarding alert?
- “ Serious Case Review: **Mr A** – a preventable death?
  - Mr A was discharged from statutory mental health services because of his ‘non-engagement’.
  - No detailed risk assessments were carried out and no alternative care plans were put in place.
  - He died in the snow after a mental health section was refused.

<http://www.thamesreach.org.uk/publications/research-reports/mental-health-service-interventions-for-rough-sleepers-toolkit/>

## London Borough of Hackney PSPO – ‘the criminalisation of the homeless’

- “ PSPO aimed at anti-social behaviour that included rough sleeping
- “ Focused on 13 people – activities were overt, drug use, street drinking, begging (now 12 – Lech is dead)
- “ Twitter storm and protests led to its withdrawal
- “ Immediate community supportive, wider ‘community’ not
- “ Task force group became the new response
- “ Public perception, local reality
- “ Social media avalanche

## Anti-begging campaign

- “ Key message is the link between begging and drug misuse, not begging and homelessness
- “ Used across 21 areas (4 pending) supported by 66 organisations including Salvation Army, Shelter, Crisis, Two Saints, Shekinah, St Mungo’s
- “ Don’t raise money
- “ Limited evidence that they change giving behaviour

# Your kindness could kill

The money you give to those who beg may actually keep them on the streets.

In most cases, you will be helping them to buy the drugs that could kill them.

Give responsibly, support local charities instead.

[www.broadwaylondon.org](http://www.broadwaylondon.org) [www.thamesreach.org.uk](http://www.thamesreach.org.uk)



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## Thoughts and issues

- “ Street outreach – what outcome do we want to achieve?
- “ What does the community want – which community?
- “ Language – ‘criminalisation of the homeless’, ‘manipulation of the build environment’
- “ Serious Case Reviews – should they be routine for deaths on the street?
- “ Former homeless are the most enforcement focused – the wisdom of hindsight?
- “ Not taking no for an answer shows respect and belief
- “ What shoes are you wearing? It’s 1.00am in the morning and the person before you is very ill.....
- “ When was the time when you looked back and felt you were too assertive?