

December 2019 update - Stroud Green Road

We would like to update you on our continued work in this area.

Bridge works/new Tube entrance

- The works under the bridge are now complete. These include lighting upgrade works to brighter LED lights, replacing the previous green and blue lights, pigeon proofing repairs, painting, and an inspection of the bridge by Network Rail. The fencing has now been removed as all works are complete. Thank you for your patience.
- The new tube entrance, replacing the Wells Terrace entrance is scheduled to open on 17th December 2019. It is hope that this will help to reduce the very congested footfall through Stroud Green Road.

What are we doing to help those who are rough sleeping in this area?

Our priority is getting people into safe, secure accommodation and giving them the support they need, to move off the streets permanently, where they are at significant risk. Islington and Haringey councils continue to work together, along with a wide range of partners to ensure a holistic approach is offered:

- Specialist outreach teams continue to visit this area regularly to engage with anyone rough sleeping here, offering support to get into accommodation and to link into any additional support services required. 40 people from this location have been housed in the last 2 years.
- Islington & Haringey councils and Streets Kitchen worked in collaboration to bring Streets Fest back to Finsbury Park for the second year running in September 2019. Streets Fest is a health & wellbeing festival for people experiencing homelessness in Haringey and Islington. Over 300 people attended and many engaged with a range of services including housing advice, healthcare services, service user groups and education, training & employment. This year, colleagues from Hackney services also attended, which was very welcome, offering a Tri-borough response in the area.
- Islington & Haringey Councils are currently working with partners to open a winter shelter for up to 15 people who would otherwise be rough sleeping. This is based on the success of the Glasshouse Shelter which ran last winter. This year we will be using the empty post office in Archway, which will be temporarily transformed into a night shelter. Last winter's shelter offered help to 53 people during the 3 months it was open and supported those who accessed it to secure onward, longer term accommodation. We hope that this shelter will be open before Christmas.
- Additionally, Islington & Camden Councils are working together to open a temporary shelter at the visitors centre of Holloway Prison over winter.
- In partnership with All People All Places, Haringey Council has recently opened a Somewhere Safe to Stay Shelter which will be supporting 20 people who are rough sleeping in Haringey. We hope to have this fully operational by the end of November.
- The outreach teams will be directing & supporting people to access Crisis at Christmas. To find out more, or support someone's space, please visit: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/>
- Both councils will trigger the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) when temperatures fall to 0 degrees. This will offer immediate temporary accommodation to anyone who is rough sleeping in the respective boroughs. Both councils operate the 'in for good principle', which seeks to use this

as an opportunity to work with people intensively to secure further accommodation from SWEP, to prevent a return to rough sleeping.

- We continue to work with the local neighbourhood police teams, safer transport police and British Transport Police to ensure co-ordinated efforts in addressing drug-related activity and criminality. In May 2019, we secured a civil injunction against an individual who persisted in engaging in anti-social behaviour in the area, which was negatively impacting on local residents and the community.
- Islington and Haringey councils, along with relevant partners, meet regularly to review support for individuals and the wider approach. This includes joint outreach shifts with both teams when needed.
- Haringey launched its new centre for single homeless people, Mulberry Junction, in the summer. It offers a one stop shop, including housing advice and support around wellbeing.

Ongoing Challenges

This location continues to see new arrivals bedding down at this location.

Additionally, some people beg at this location, but are not homeless and do have accommodation available to them.

We are concerned about the easy access to drugs in this area and as such are working closely with the Police, who are doing targeted work around the supply side.

Going forward

- Specialist outreach teams will continue to target this area to offer support to people rough sleeping here.
- Weekly deep cleans will take place.
- We will increase capacity by opening two winter night shelters this winter specifically for those sleeping rough. We will use this opportunity to work with people on longer term options.
- We will continue working with partners to seek new ways of supporting people in this area.
- Islington Council is committed to preventing homelessness and is investing in vital support for rough sleepers. For more on the support we offer visit www.islington.gov.uk/roughsleeping

What can I do to help?

- Talk to the person. Being kind and interested can be invaluable.
- Consider donating to a homeless charity or a night shelter in Islington or Haringey (details below).
- Consider volunteering your time with a local organisation to help those on the streets.
- Reserve a space at Crisis at Xmas: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/>
- If you see someone new rough sleeping, report this to **Streetlink** giving as much detail as you can on their location and a description of the person to help the team identify them.
- Buy a copy of The Big Issue magazine from a registered vendor.
- Signpost people to relevant services and day centres (see below) where they can get help.
- If you see drug dealing/drug related activity – please report this to the Police via 101 as this helps them to build up an intelligence picture and target their resources.

• Contacts:

- Streetlink: www.streetlink.org/ 0300 500 0914
- Thames Reach: www.thamesreach.org.uk/ 020 7702 4260
- St. Mungo's: www.mungos.org/ 020 3856 6000
- Women at the Well: www.watw.org.uk/ 020 7520 1710

- All People All Places (Haringey), all-year round casework with overnight respite in winter:
www.allpeopleallplaces.org
- The Margins Day Centre – held at Union Chapel, 19b Compton Terrace, N1 2UN on Monday's & Wednesday's from 11am until 2pm.
- The Manna Day Centre – held at St Stephen's Church, 17 Canonbury Rd, London N1 2DF on Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm, Wednesday 1pm to 3pm and Friday 9am -11am.
- Housing Aid centre at 222 Upper St, London N1 1YA for advice on housing options available to you - there is a drop in service on Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm.
- Haringey Mulberry Junction Centre – a 'one stop shop' for people who are homeless/at risk of homelessness aged 18-50 years old; on the spot housing advice and support available. Address: 332-334, High Rd N15 4BN
- Report any aggressive begging/anti-social behaviour to the local policing team by e-mailing NI-Finsburyparkward@met.police.uk or telephoning 0203 276 3030. In an emergency always call 999
- Report any non-crime related anti-social behaviour occurring to your area housing office or Islington Council's out-of-hours ASB line: 020 7527 7272, Haringey Council's ASB line:
 - 020 8489 1335
 - <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/community/community-safety-and-engagement/anti-social-behaviour>

We know we cannot do this alone. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions on how we can tackle this harm, or you would like to offer your support/get involved, please contact sarah.turley@islington.gov.uk or maddie1.watkins@haringey.gov.uk