

# CHAIN ANNUAL BULLETIN GREATER LONDON 2016/17

This bulletin presents information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London between April 2016 and March 2017. Information in the bulletin is derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), a multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London. CHAIN, which is commissioned and funded by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and managed by St Mungo's, represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping.

Copies of the full CHAIN Greater London 2016/17 annual report can be obtained from the GLA Datastore at <http://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/chain-reports>.

## Headline findings

### Overall

8,108 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach workers in 2016/17.

- This total is virtually unchanged from that in 2015/16, when 8,096 people were seen rough sleeping. This compares to previous increases of 7% between 2014/15 and 2015/16, and 16% between 2013/14 and 2014/15.

### New rough sleepers

5,094 people (63% of the total) were seen sleeping rough for the first time in London in 2016/17.

- 72% of new rough sleepers were only seen once in the year, compared to 64% in 2015/16 and 67% in 2014/15.
- 30% of new rough sleepers attended No Second Night Out (NSNO) and 1,280 (84%) of these people were not seen rough sleeping again in the year.

### Longer term rough sleepers

24% of rough sleepers in 2016/17 had also been seen in 2015/16, while 13% had returned to the streets after a period of at least one year when they had not been seen rough sleeping.

- The stock group (i.e. people who have been seen in consecutive years) has shown the greatest proportional increase over 2015/16, at 8% (compared to a 3% decrease for new rough sleepers, and a 4% increase for people who returned after a period away).
- Two thirds of returners (704 people) were seen just once or twice, suggesting they didn't return to long term rough sleeping.
- 220 (3% of the total) rough sleepers were seen in all four quarters of 2016/17. This figure remains low, but this group is of particular concern because these people are more likely than others to be 'living on the streets'.

### Borough profile

34% of those seen rough sleeping were contacted in Westminster (2,767 people).

- Seven boroughs recorded more than 300 rough sleepers in the year (Westminster: 2767, Camden: 702, Tower Hamlets: 445, Newham: 396, City of London: 379, Lambeth: 355, Southwark: 318).
- Of the ten boroughs with the highest numbers of rough sleepers, five showed decreased totals compared to 2015/16.
- The borough with the greatest increase was Newham.

## Nationality

The number and proportion of UK nationals seen rough sleeping has risen compared to 2015/16, while the number and proportion of Central and Eastern European (CEE) nationals\* has fallen.

- Just under half (47%) of those seen rough sleeping were of UK nationality (compared to 41% in 2015/16, 43% in 2014/15 and 46% in 2013/14).
- 30% of those seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were from CEE countries, which is notably lower than the proportion of 37% in 2015/16.
- Romanians continued to be the single biggest non-UK nationality group, comprising 15% of all people seen rough sleeping in the year.

## Age and gender

Those who slept rough were predominantly male (85%), and aged between 26 and 45 (56%).

- 15% (1,175 people) of those seen rough sleeping were female.
- The gender balance of rough sleepers has remained consistent with that seen in 2015/16.
- 9% (761 people) of those seen rough sleeping were aged under 26, of whom just four people were under 18 years old.
- 11% (857 people) of those seen were over 55.

## Last settled base

2,826 new rough sleepers had information recorded about their last longer term or settled accommodation before rough sleeping.

- 52% reported their last settled base as being some form of long term accommodation, including 36% coming from private rented accommodation.
- 6% had been living in a hostel before first being seen rough sleeping.
- 3% reported their last settled base as prison or hospital.

## Reason for leaving last settled base

As with previous years, the most frequently cited reason for new rough sleepers leaving their last settled base was being evicted or asked to leave by the person they were staying with (33%).

- 12% of new rough sleepers left their last settled accommodation due to a relationship breakdown.
- 22% left to seek work or following the loss of a job.
- 702 new rough sleepers had sought help and advice from a Local Authority Housing Options service during the 12 months before they were first seen sleeping rough.

## Moves off the street

Outreach teams and NSNO helped 2,127 (26%) of the people seen rough sleeping into accommodation or to return to their home area.

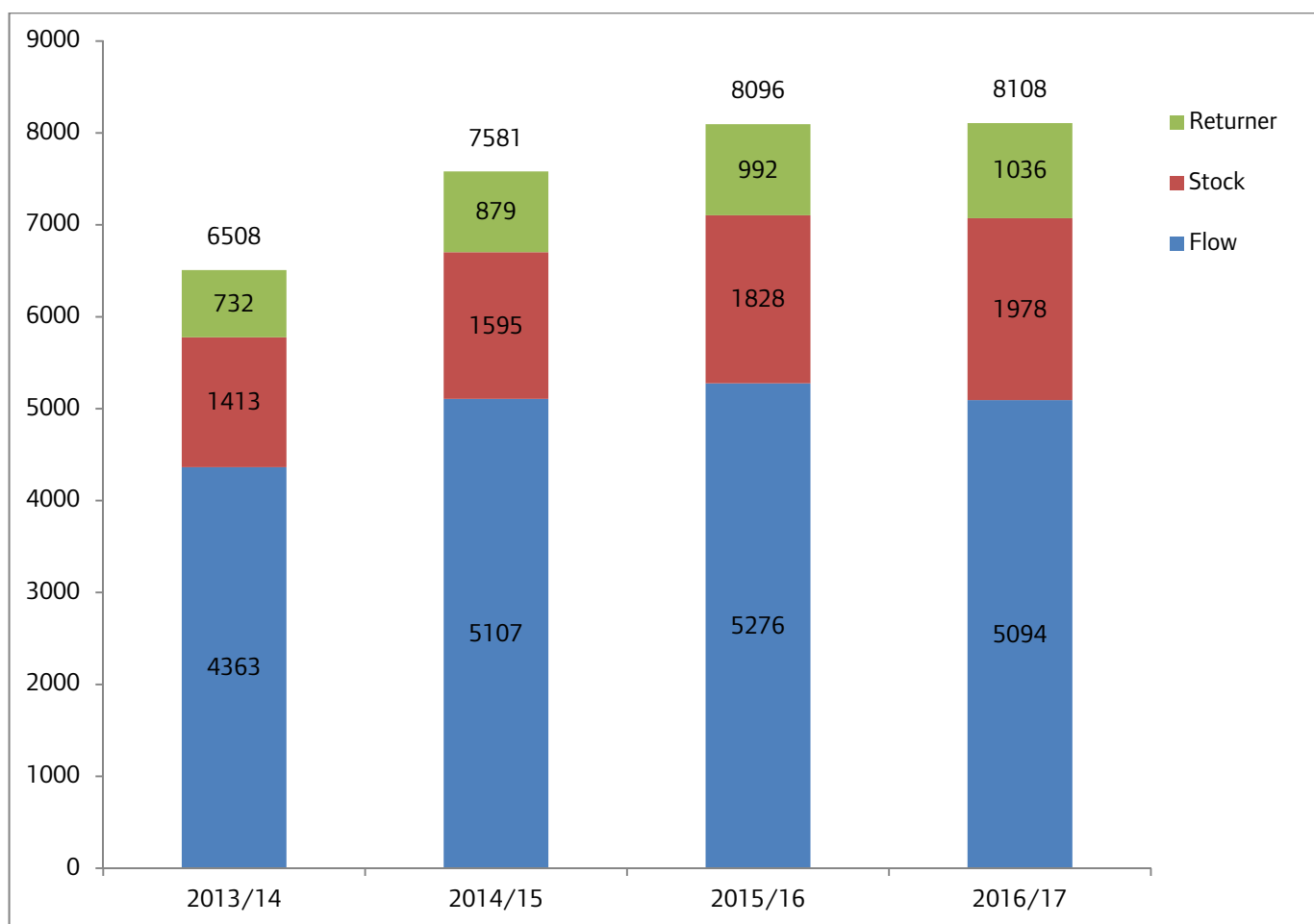
- A total of 2,297 bookings into accommodation were made for people seen rough sleeping during 2016/17.
- 38% of the 940 reconnections for rough sleepers in 2016/17 were to destinations outside the UK.
- 25% of departures from hostels and other temporary accommodation in 2016/17 were moves to medium to long term accommodation, compared to 37% in 2015/16.

\* EU expansion in 2004 and 2007 enabled people from the following countries to come to the UK to work: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. These are referred to as Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries in this report.

## Number of people seen rough sleeping

8,108 people were seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in 2016/17. This total is virtually unchanged from that of 8,096 in 2015/16, compared to the previous increase of 7% between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

**Figure (a) Profile of the number of people seen rough sleeping 2013/14 – 2016/17 using flow, stock returner model**



Bases: 2013/14: 6,508, 2014/15: 7,581, 2015/16: 8,096, 2016/17: 8,108.

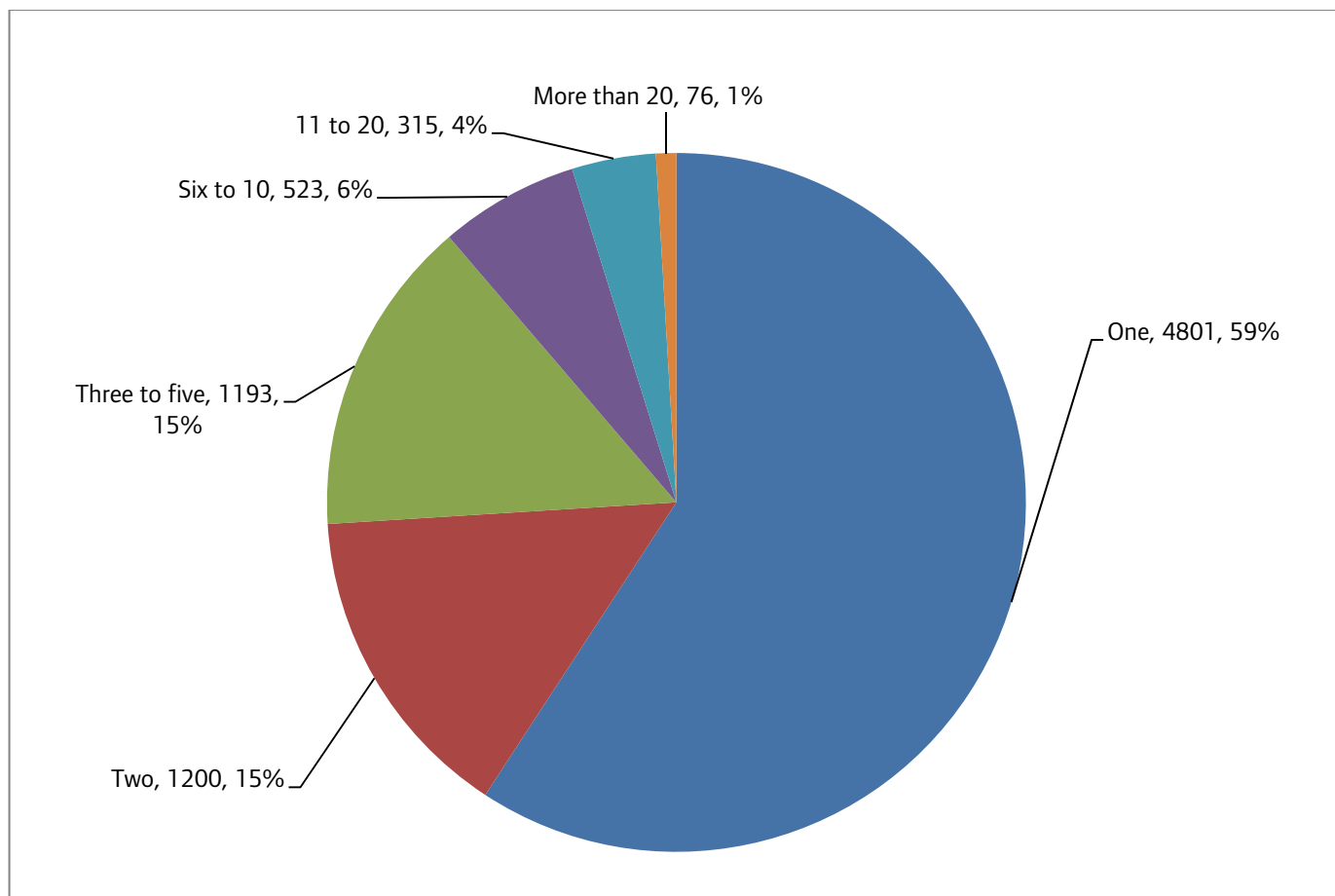
The flow, stock, returner model categorises people seen rough sleeping in the year according to whether they have also been seen rough sleeping in previous periods. Definitions of the categories are as follows:

Category	Description
<b>Flow</b>	People who had never been seen rough sleeping prior to 2016/17 (i.e. new rough sleepers).
<b>Stock</b>	People who were also seen rough sleeping in 2015/16 (i.e. those seen across a minimum of two consecutive years).
<b>Returner</b>	People who were first seen rough sleeping prior to 2015/16, but were not seen during 2015/16 (i.e. those who have had a gap in their rough sleeping histories).

5,094 people were seen rough sleeping for the first time in London in 2016/17 (flow group), which is 63% of all people seen rough sleeping in the period. Nearly three quarters (72%) of new rough sleepers were only seen once, compared to 64% in 2015/16 and 67% in 2014/15. Nearly a quarter (24%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were also seen in the preceding year (stock group). Around an eighth (13%) of people seen rough sleeping were in the returner group, meaning they had been seen rough sleeping in the past but not in 2015/16. The proportion of people in each group is largely consistent with last year.

## Volume and regularity of rough sleeping

**Figure (b) Number of times seen rough sleeping**



Base: 8,108 people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17.

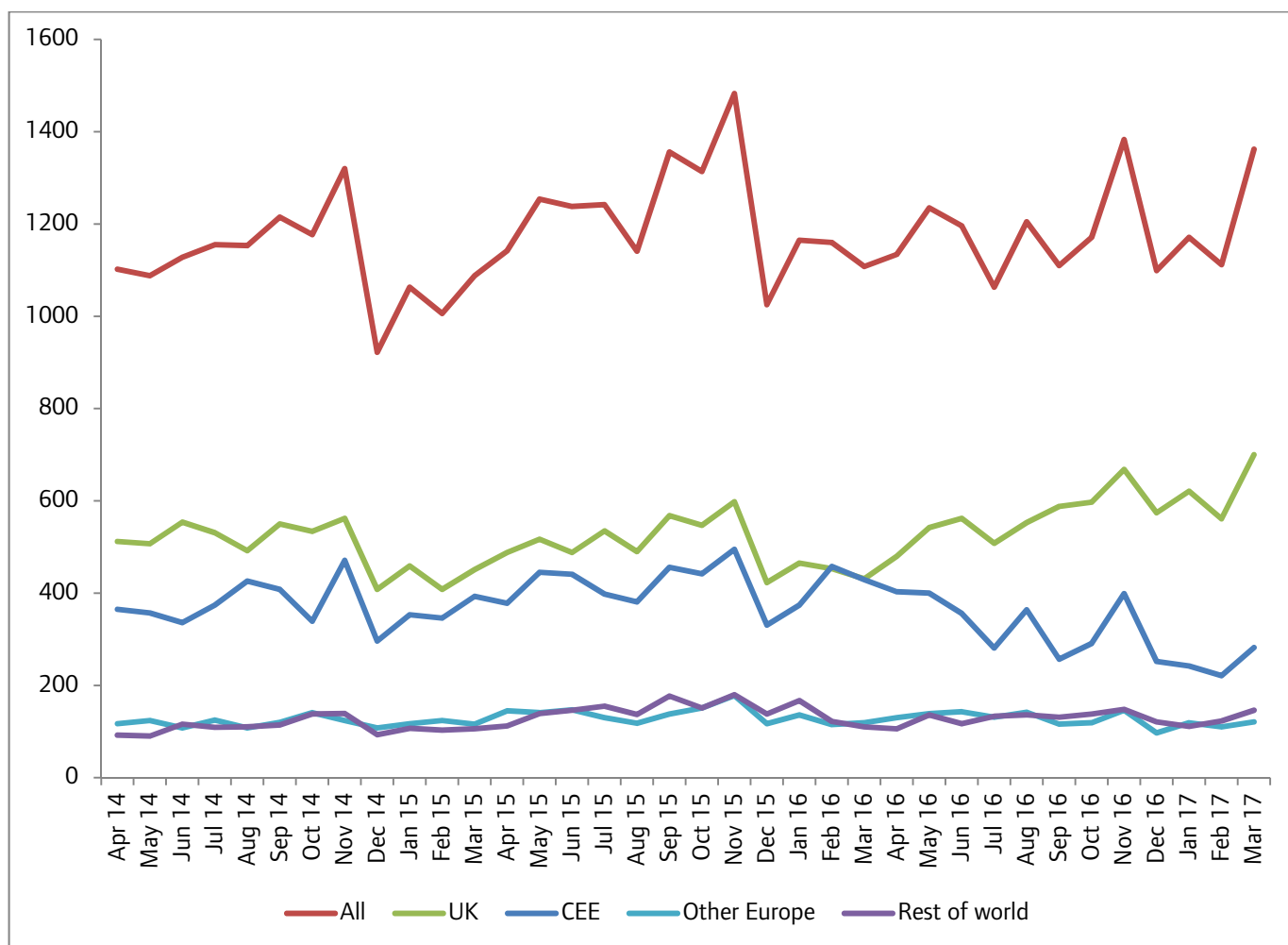
The majority (59%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were seen only once. 74% were only seen once or twice. One in 20 people (5%) were seen rough sleeping more than 10 times. Five people were seen rough sleeping more than 50 times in the year, whereas no-one exceeded this threshold in 2015/16.

**Figure (c) Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen**

Number of quarters of the year within which rough sleepers were seen	2014/15		2015/16		2016/17	
	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers	No. rough sleepers	% rough sleepers
One	5843	77%	6083	75%	6239	77%
Two	1140	15%	1293	16%	1192	15%
Three	415	5%	495	6%	457	6%
Four	183	2%	225	3%	220	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7581</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8096</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8108</b>	<b>100%</b>

Figure (c) above shows how many people were seen in one, two, three or all four quarters of the years 2014/15 to 2016/17. It is important to be aware that the figures for each year are limited to the year in question, and people may have also been seen in previous or subsequent years. Just over three in four (77%) of those seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were only seen in one quarter of the year. 3% of those seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were seen bedded down in all four quarters of the year, suggesting that their rough sleeping is an ongoing issue and was not successfully resolved. These proportions are almost the same as those observed in 2015/16.

**Figure (d) Number of people seen rough sleeping month by month, April 2014 - March 2017**



The graph above shows the monthly trend in numbers of people seen rough sleeping over the last three years, broken down by nationality group.

During 2016/17, the month in which the highest number of people were seen rough sleeping was November 2016 (1,383 people), while the lowest number were seen in July 2016 (1,063 people). The November peak is consistent with previous years. However, the July trough is somewhat unusual, and there was also an anomalous spike in March 2017 (1,362 people).

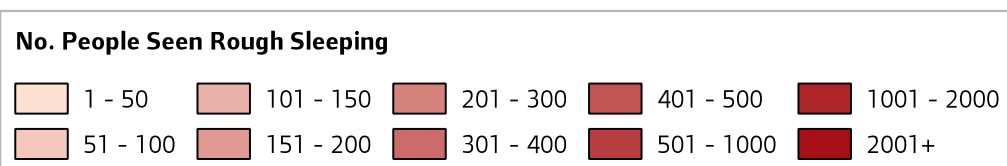
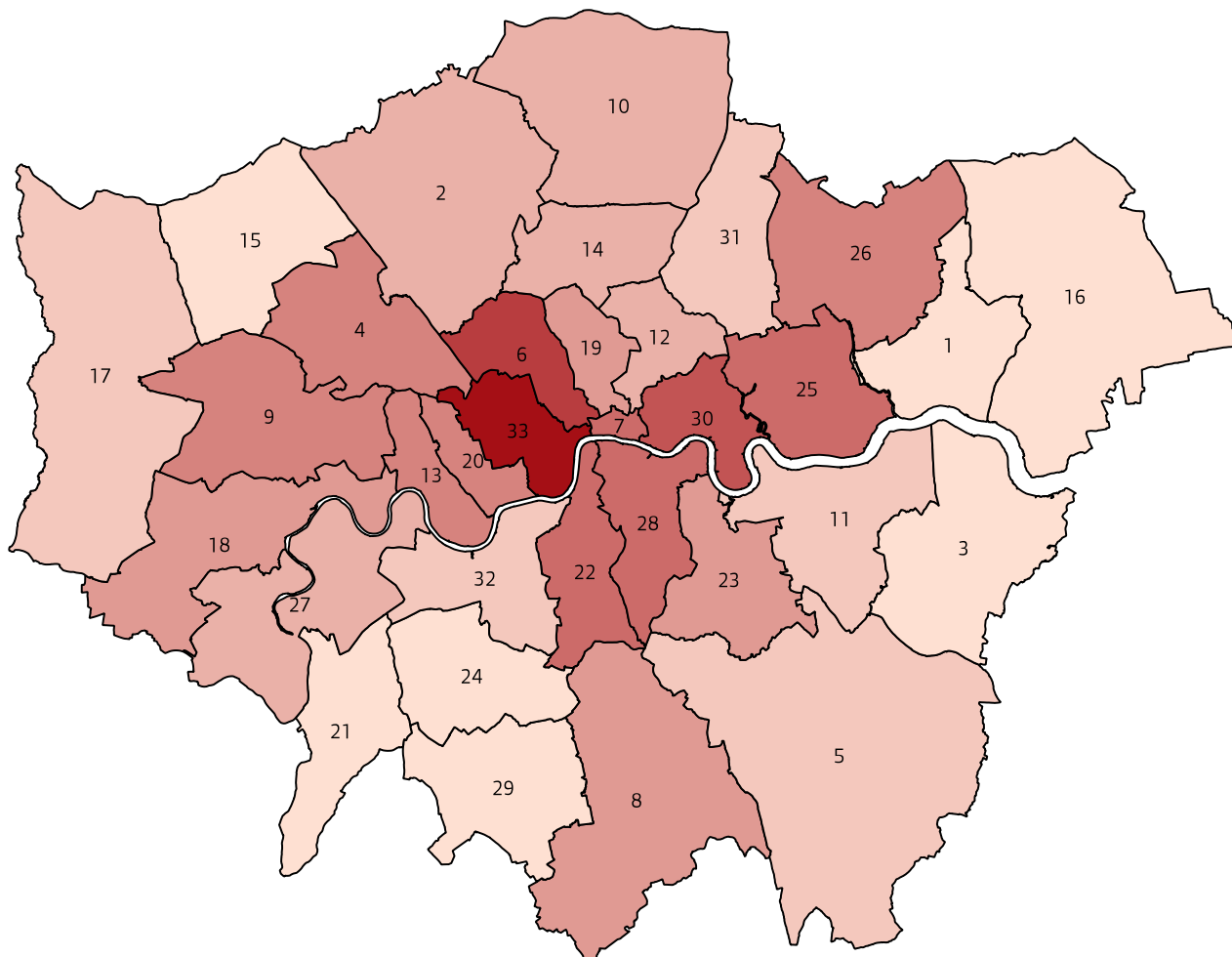
There typically tend to be seasonal variations in rough sleeping, with the highest numbers seen in summer and autumn, and the lowest numbers in the winter months of December to February, when winter shelters are usually in operation.

The nationality comparison shows a marked decline in the number of CEE nationals seen rough sleeping, compared to an increase for UK nationals. This is a break from the previous trend, which culminated in CEE and UK numbers reaching parity for the first time in February 2016. The divergence between CEE and UK numbers in this graph reflects the general nationality trend apparent elsewhere in this bulletin.

## Spatial distribution

**Figure (e) People seen rough sleeping in the year by borough**

The map below shows a colour coded representation of the total number of people seen rough sleeping during the year in each borough.



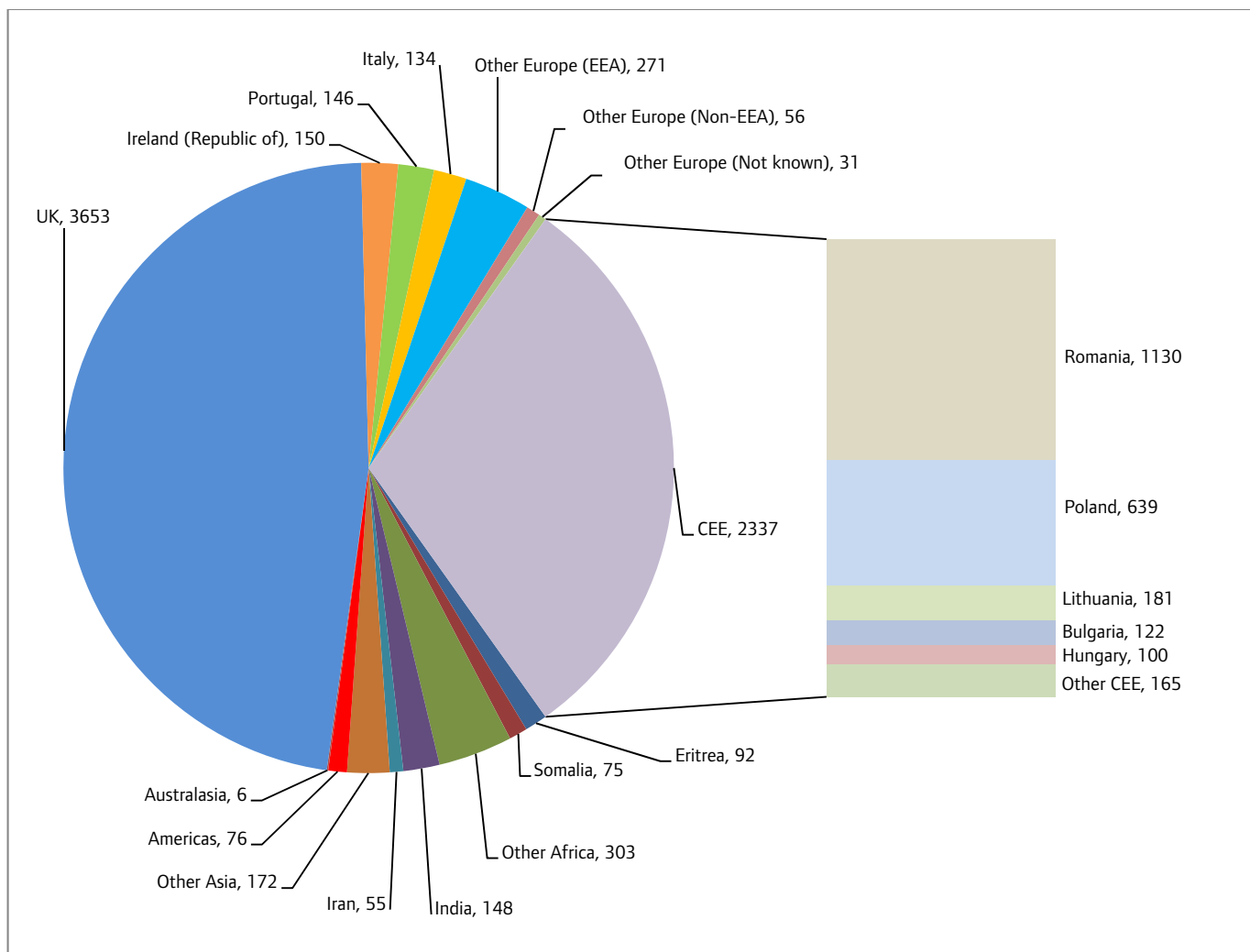
Key	Borough	No.
1	Barking & Dagenham	49
2	Barnet	106
3	Bexley	22
4	Brent	294
5	Bromley	57
6	Camden	702
7	City of London	379
8	Croydon	192
9	Ealing	243
10	Enfield	106
11	Greenwich	91

Key	Borough	No.
12	Hackney	134
13	Hammersmith & Fulham	246
14	Haringey	146
15	Harrow	43
16	Havering	31
17	Hillingdon	91
18	Hounslow	163
19	Islington	178
20	Kensington & Chelsea	211
21	Kingston upon Thames	35
22	Lambeth	355

Key	Borough	No.
23	Lewisham	200
24	Merton	40
25	Newham	396
26	Redbridge	219
27	Richmond	105
28	Southwark	318
29	Sutton	49
30	Tower Hamlets	445
31	Waltham Forest	82
32	Wandsworth	73
33	Westminster	2767
34	Heathrow	200

## Nationality profile of people seen rough sleeping

Figure (f) Nationality of people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17



Base: 7,705 people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 whose nationality was known.

The nationality profile of rough sleepers in London remains diverse, but has shown some clear trend changes this year. 47% of people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were from the UK, which compares to 41% in 2015/16 and reverses the trend towards UK nationals declining as a proportion of all rough sleepers over the last few years (43% in 2014/15, and 46% in 2013/14). The proportion of rough sleepers from CEE countries was 30% this year, compared to 37% in 2015/16, and this again reverses a recent trend of the CEE proportion increasing year on year (36% in 2014/15, and 31% in 2013/14). These changes are also seen in terms of absolute numbers, as opposed to proportion of the overall rough sleeper population, with the number of UK nationals having risen by 12% compared to last year, while the number of CEE nationals fell by 20%.

Despite the drop in numbers, Romanians (1,130, 15%) continue to constitute the predominant non-UK nationality by some distance, with Poles (639, 8%) making up the second largest non-UK nationality group. There were a significant number of rough sleepers from non-CEE European countries, mostly those in the European Economic Area, with the Republic of Ireland (150), Portugal (146), and Italy (134) continuing to be the most heavily represented. 470 (6%) people seen rough sleeping in the year were from African countries, and 375 (5%) were of Asian nationality.

Immigration data on CHAIN is not comprehensive, but the most commonly recorded immigration status for those from non-European countries is Indefinite Leave to Remain (292 people), followed by overstayer (80 people) and Limited Leave to Remain (66 people).

## Age and gender profile of people seen rough sleeping

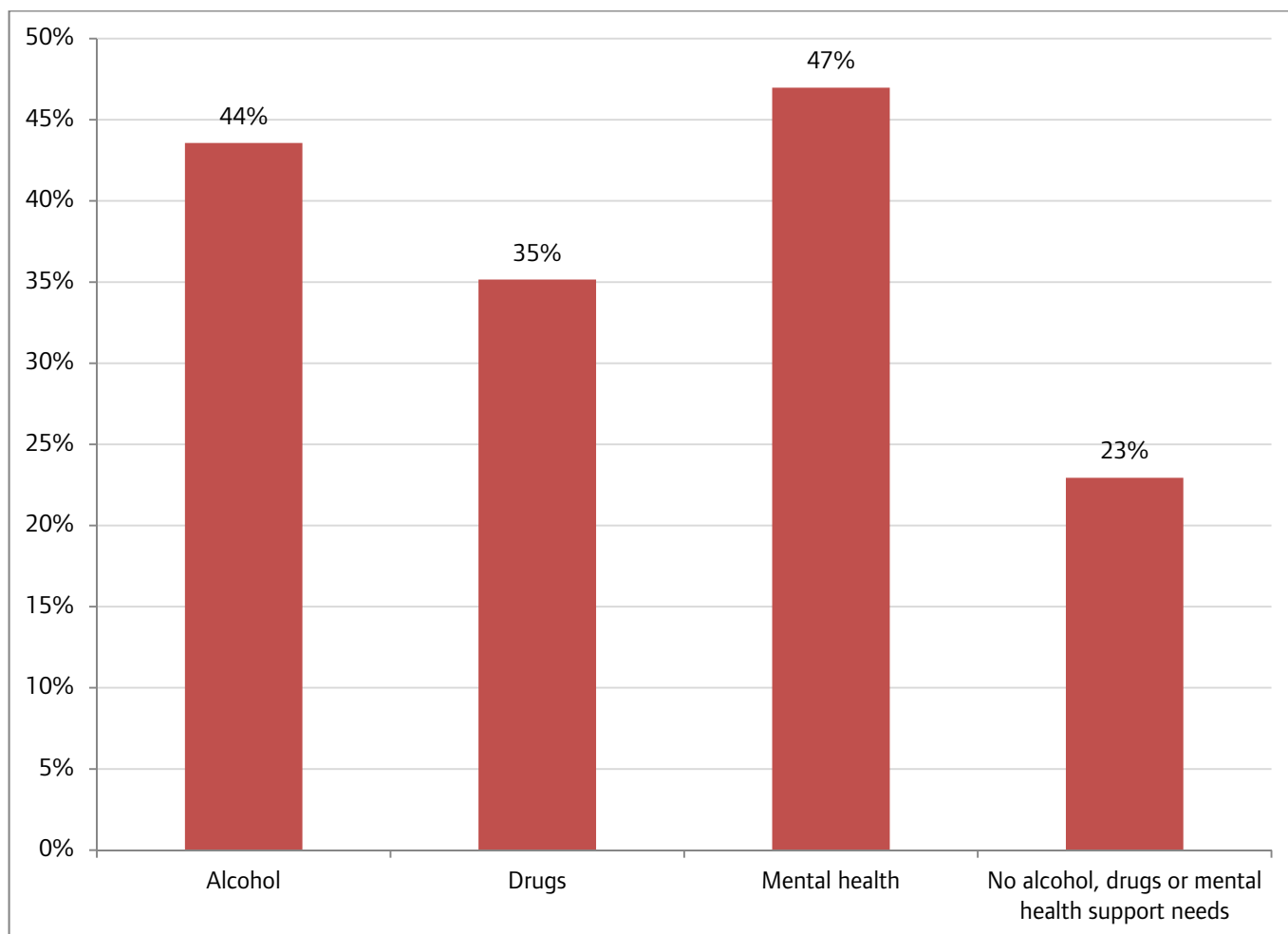
The age and gender profiles of those seen rough sleeping have remained broadly stable over recent years:

- 15% of people seen rough sleeping were women.
- Most of those seen rough sleeping (56%) are in the 26 - 45 age group.
- 9% were under 26 years old.
- Four people were aged under 18.
- Just over one in 10 (11%) were over 55.

## Support needs profile of people seen rough sleeping

Support needs data in CHAIN is derived from assessments made by those working with rough sleepers in the homelessness sector. It should be noted that almost a third (32%) of rough sleepers in 2016/17 did not have a support needs assessment recorded, the majority of these (85%) being people who had only been seen rough sleeping once or twice.

**Figure (g) Support needs profile of those seen rough sleeping in 2016/17**



Base: 5,518 people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 who had been assessed for at least one of the three key support needs.

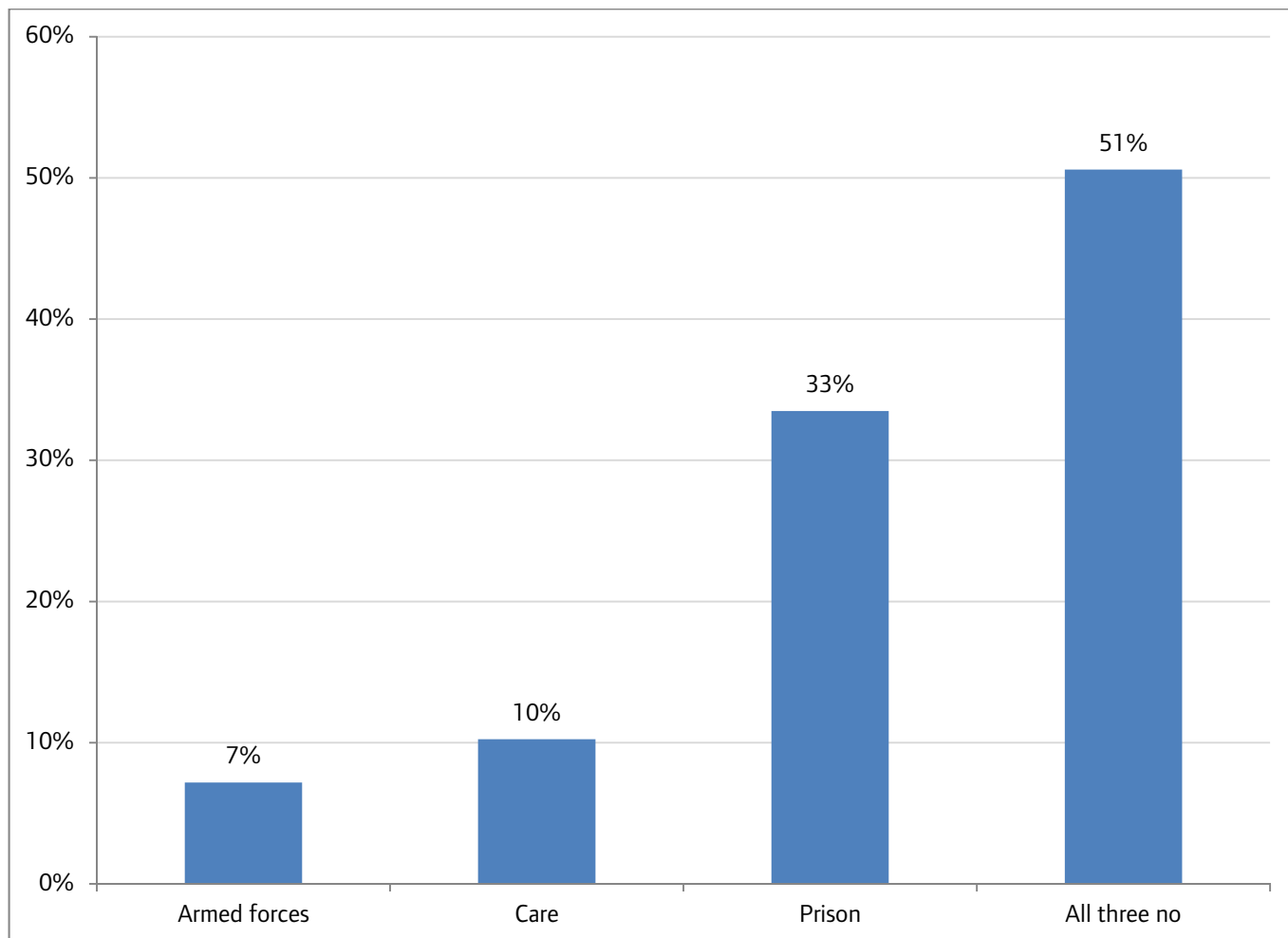
The most frequently reported support need amongst rough sleepers in 2016/17 who had received an assessment was mental health, at 47% (compared to 46% in 2015/16). Alcohol was the second most prevalent support need, at 44% (compared to 43% in 2015/16). Just over a third (35%) of people assessed had a drugs support need, which is a slight increase on the 31% in 2015/16. Just under a quarter (23%) of those assessed had no support needs identified, compared to 26% in 2015/16.



## Armed forces and institutional history profile of people seen rough sleeping

CHAIN records whether a person has spent time in prison, the armed forces or Local Authority care at any time in their life.

**Figure (h) Experience of serving in the armed forces, and spending time in prison or in Local Authority care, among people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17**



Base: 5,542 people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 for whom one or more institutional history was recorded.

A third (33%) of people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 had experience of serving time in prison, while 10% had experience of the care system.

Overall, 7% of people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 had served in the armed forces at some point in their lives. Looking at this in more detail, 2% (132) of people seen rough sleeping in the year were UK nationals who have served in the armed forces.

Proportions of people with experience of the armed forces, care or prison are consistent with 2015/16.

## Helping people off the streets

### Accommodation and moves to other areas

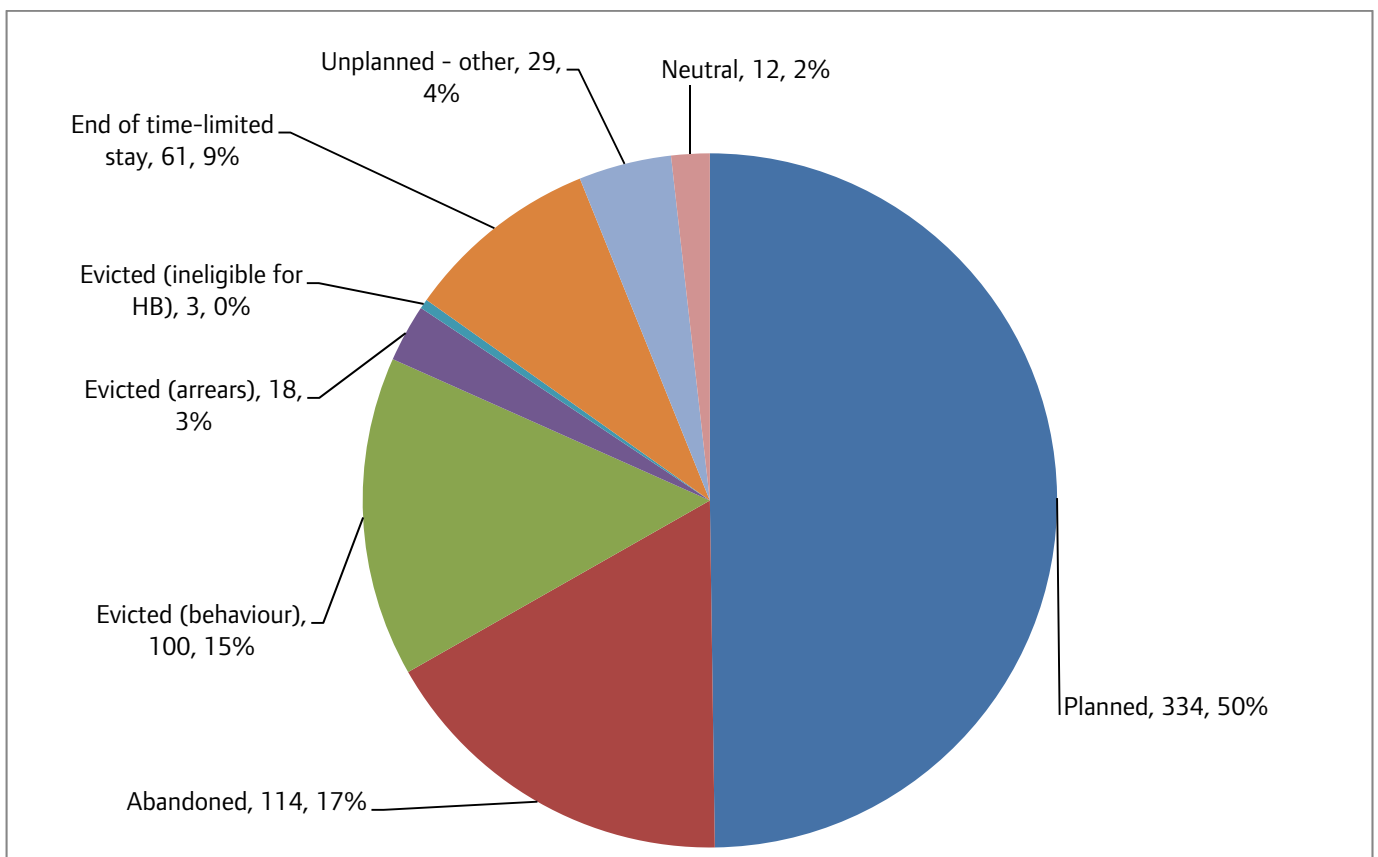
Outreach teams and other services, including No Second Night Out (NSNO), work to help rough sleepers into a range of accommodation types, most commonly hostels but also the private rented sector and residential treatment centres. Services also help people to reconnect to their home area or country, where they have more options available to them, for example through appropriate support networks, entitlement to accommodation or access to an alcohol treatment centre.

In 2016/17, outreach teams and NSNO booked 1,734 (21%) people seen rough sleeping in the year into accommodation; of these 617 were booked into long-term accommodation. 911 (11%) people who had been seen rough sleeping were reconnected by outreach teams or NSNO. Overall, 2,127 (26%) of the people seen rough sleeping in 2016/17 were helped into accommodation or to reconnect to an area with appropriate support or networks.

### Reasons for moving out of hostel and other short term accommodation

Hostels and other short term accommodation providers record information about those arriving and departing from their services. In 2016/17, accommodation projects recorded departures for 603 people who had previously been seen rough sleeping at some point in their history (but who had not necessarily been seen rough sleeping in 2016/17).

**Figure (i) Reasons for moves out of hostels and other short term accommodation**



Base: 671 departures by verified rough sleepers from accommodation projects which report to CHAIN. Some people may have had more than one accommodation departure during the year.

In 2016/17, 39% of departures from temporary accommodation were for evictions, abandonments and unplanned departures, which is higher than the figure of 30% in 2015/16. The proportion of planned moves has decreased, at 50% compared to 62% in 2015/16.