

Embedding Operation Luscombe into communities as the UK exits lockdown

Overview for Police Forces, Local Authorities and partners



The future for the homeless community

On 24 May 2020 plans were unveiled by the Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick MP to commit to providing 3,300 units to accommodate vulnerable rough sleepers this year.

This unprecedented commitment will be backed by £160 million in 20/21. A total fund of £433 million is available over the course of this parliament with an ambition to provide a total of 6,000 new accommodation units.

During the coronavirus epidemic local authorities and partners offered nearly 15,000 vulnerable people have been housed in emergency accommodation, including hotels, since the start of the COVID-19 lockdown period, creating a safe environment and support for those who engaged.

Building on the considerable success so far, MGCLG announced that Dame Louise Casey will spearhead a Taskforce to lead the next phase of the Government's support for rough sleepers during this pandemic. The Taskforce has one overriding objective: to ensure that as many people as possible who have been brought in off the streets in this pandemic do not return to the streets.

As we exit lockdown it is vital that a multi-agency approach is maintained to ensure these individuals continue to receive support and intervention in local communities.

What is Op Luscombe?

Developed by the City of London Police in 2018 Op Luscombe is a multi-agency approach with 3 key elements to its success:

- **Weekly intervention Hubs** – regular drop in sessions available providing multi agency support with debt, housing, substance misuse, employment, physical and mental health issues.
- **Information sharing** – bi-weekly meetings with police and partners to discuss individuals and create an agreed action plan in rehabilitation.
- **Streamlined enforcement** – using the tools available in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2014 (CPW/CPN/CBO) an escalating traffic light card system has been developed to tackle and reduce ASB where required.

What are the advantages of Op Luscombe?

- The hub provides a “one stop shop” for the rough sleeping community to be referred into by police and partners so they can gain the support and advice from those agencies who can assist.
- The hub aims to bring together all the agencies on a regular day/time/location to reduce the homeless community being passed from pillar to post in order to receive the support they require.
- Historically agencies have worked in silo - conducting meetings, independent outreach patrols, data collection, signposting. The initiation of a centralised hub will reduce the demand and time spent as we collectively invest in this project supporting the roughsleeping community.

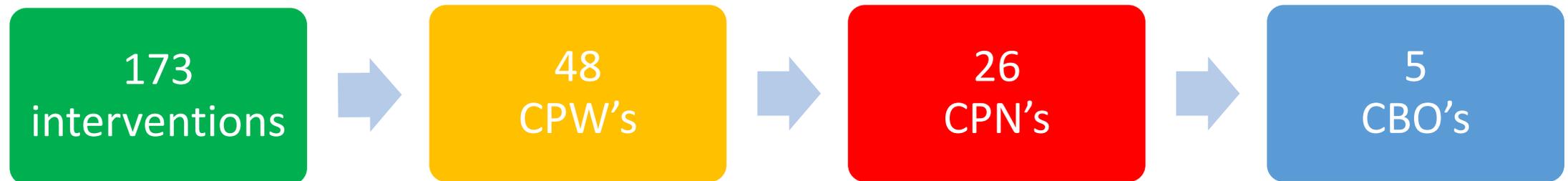
City of London

June 2018 – Sept 2019

The City of London were the first force to embed Op Luscombe.

The forces geographical uniqueness of the “Square mile” allowed them to add a restriction of banning those individuals from the City who were repeatedly causing ASB or refusing to engage with the support agencies available in the intervention hub.

Through the creation of Op Luscombe **reports of begging reduced by 50%** compared to the same period the previous year.



City of London

June 2018 – Sept 2019



Essex pilot

As the National Police Chiefs Council lead for Anti-Social Behaviour and Homelessness ACC Andy Prophet was keen for Essex to pilot this scheme before recommending this to forces and local authorities as a suggested partnership approach to reducing homelessness.



Having worked closely with City of London Police, The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Home Office, Crisis, Crown Prosecution Service and a number of homeless outreach services and support agencies there is an abundance of support available to help forces and local authorities implement Op Luscombe within local communities.

Colchester Hub

The hub in Colchester (pre Covid) had been running successfully for 3 months.

The partnership approach has assisted
A number of individuals off the streets
providing emergency accommodation,
supported with finances, assisted with
addictions and provides a safe environment
for individuals to seek support.



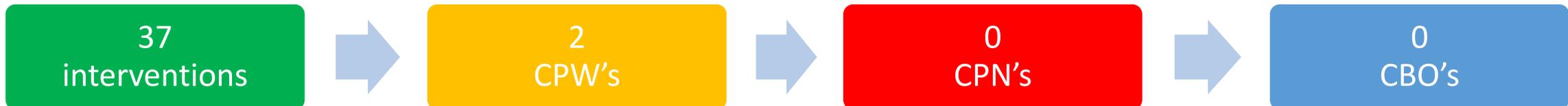
Colchester Hub

The escalating enforcement process encourages individuals to attend the intervention hub and receive the support to break the cycle of behaviour that contributes to homelessness.

The conditions attached to CPW's and CPN's are:

- You are required to attend the next intervention hub.
- You must not beg for money actively or passively.
- You must not remain of withdrawing within 15 meters of any cash machine unless for the purpose money.
- You must not be in possession of any articles used to facilitate the consumption of drugs unless prescribed

Following the success in Colchester a new hub has been set up in Chelmsford, having only run for 3 sessions it has already supported 12 individuals.



Feedback from partners

It's great having all the services in one place!

If they miss an appointment for whatever reason it can be 7-10 days before they can get another, especially with the drugs and alcohol services. The hub offers regular contact and support.

So often one service signposts to another and then the client leaves but you're never quite certain they got to the next appointment. The hub is great because you know they have seen someone

Outreach get to hear what is discussed and can make a note of the next appt so we can support and encourage the client to attend.

MHCLG supporting forces to reduce homelessness

Prior to Coronavirus the MHCLG had identified areas within the UK who had high rough sleeping figures.

Sharing effective working practices the NPCC supported the MHCLG in encouraging forces within these areas to provide a task force to implement Operation Luscombe.

Due to geographical areas some forces were unable to provide a centralised hub. As an alternative regular multi-agency patrols were effectively conducted, ensuring that support and intervention was offered to all where required. The bi-weekly tasking meetings maintained the ability to share information and create a multi agency plan to reduce homelessness and anti social behaviour within the communities.

MHCLG are unable to provide the data which has been collated at this time.

Westminster days of action during lockdown

3 multi-agency
deployments

77 interactions
37 triaged
18 referrals

2 tents moved
and sites cleared

1 weapons sweep
6 stop and search
11 arrests

2 CPN's
6 crime reports
16 intel reports

Westminster



Initiating Op Luscombe in your area

We are encouraging police, local authorities and partners to build on the fantastic work that has already been achieved throughout the epidemic with the homeless community.

In the ever changing environment we find ourselves in we would like to see Op Luscombe embedded in as many communities as soon as possible across England and Wales (restrictions allowing).

Ideally the expectation would be to adopt the full Op Luscombe model (hub/tasking meeting/escalated enforcement cards), however if this is not operationally achievable then multi agency patrols and a bi-weekly tasking would be encouraged as a minimum.

At this time there is no funding available to support forces/local authorities however it is worth noting that it cost Essex Police £72 to set up the operation, this related to printing costs for 250 cards.

The next step

- Police forces and partners need to meet to establish if there is a homeless community in need of support within identified towns/cities/boroughs.
- Establish the necessary teams/members/support agencies who will be required to successfully launch the operation.
- Identify suitable premises within the local community to facilitate the hub.
- Arrange the bi-weekly tasking meetings and the network of key stakeholders and partners required to maintain the longevity of Op Luscombe.

Questions

We would like to monitor the number of police and local authority teams who are considering adopting Op Luscombe.

Please email Hayley.Langmead@essex.police.uk providing details of the areas you will be implementing the hub and further documentation will be provided to make this process as seamless as possible.

Alternatively if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to make contact.