

# OXFORD CHAIN QUARTERLY BULLETIN

## OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2016

This bulletin presents information about people seen sleeping rough by the Oxford Street Population Outreach Team (Oxford SPOT) in Oxford city during the period October to December 2016. Information in the report is derived from the Oxford Combined Homelessness and Information Network (Oxford CHAIN). Oxford CHAIN is commissioned by Oxford City Council and managed by St Mungo's.

### Headline findings

#### Overall

186 people were seen rough sleeping by Oxford SPOT between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> December

- This represents an decrease compared to the last quarter when Oxford SPOT saw 209 people rough sleeping but an increase to quarter 1 when 151 people were seen sleeping rough.

#### New rough sleepers

74 people (40% of the total) were seen sleeping rough for the first time in Oxford during the period

- 71% (53 individuals) of new rough sleepers where only seen rough sleeping once.

#### Moves off the street

Oxford SPOT helped 81 rough sleepers into accommodation or to return to their home area

- A total of 43 rough sleepers accessed 'sit-up' provision
- 7 rough sleepers were assisted to return to their home area or an area where they could access support

#### Nationality

80% of those seen bedded down were of UK nationality (nationality known for 182 of 186 individuals)

- 12% (24 individuals) of those seen bedded down by Oxford SPOT were from member states of the EU (other than the UK)

#### Age and gender

Of those seen bedded down 84% were male. 8% were aged 25 or under

- 16% of those seen bedded down were female
- 10% of those seen bedded down were aged 60 and over

### Context

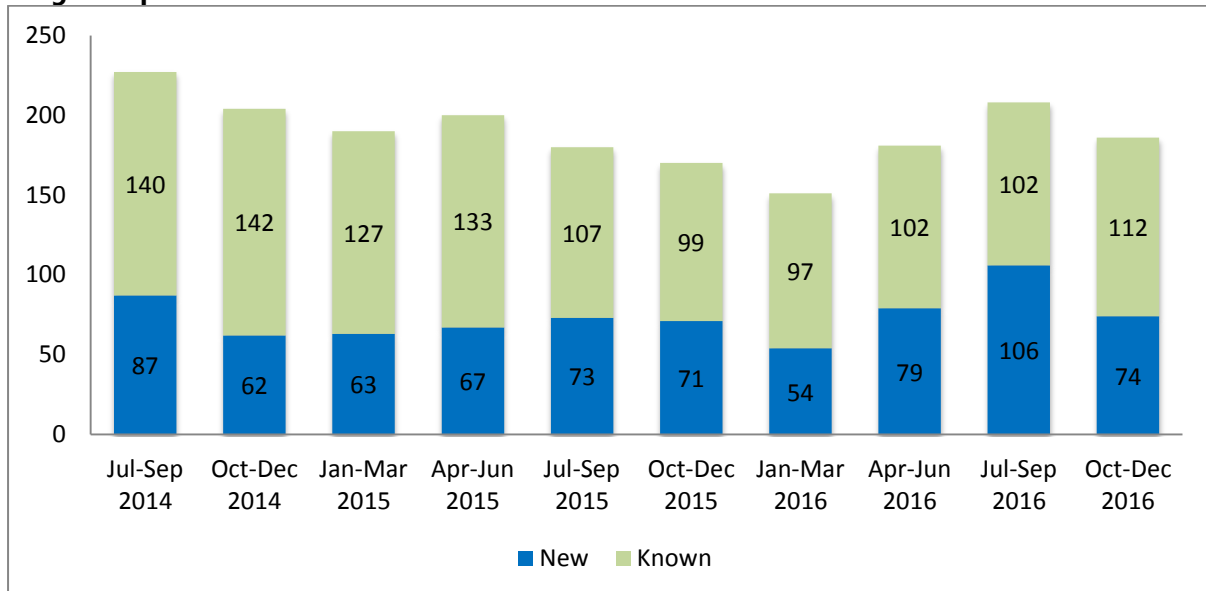
Oxford City Council is working with voluntary sector partners to ensure that no one new to the streets sleeps rough for a second night out, no one lives on the streets of Oxford and that new rough sleepers ending up on the street is minimised.

Progress towards this has been delivered by a wide range of specialist services, many of which are commissioned by Oxford City Council.

### Number of people seen sleeping rough

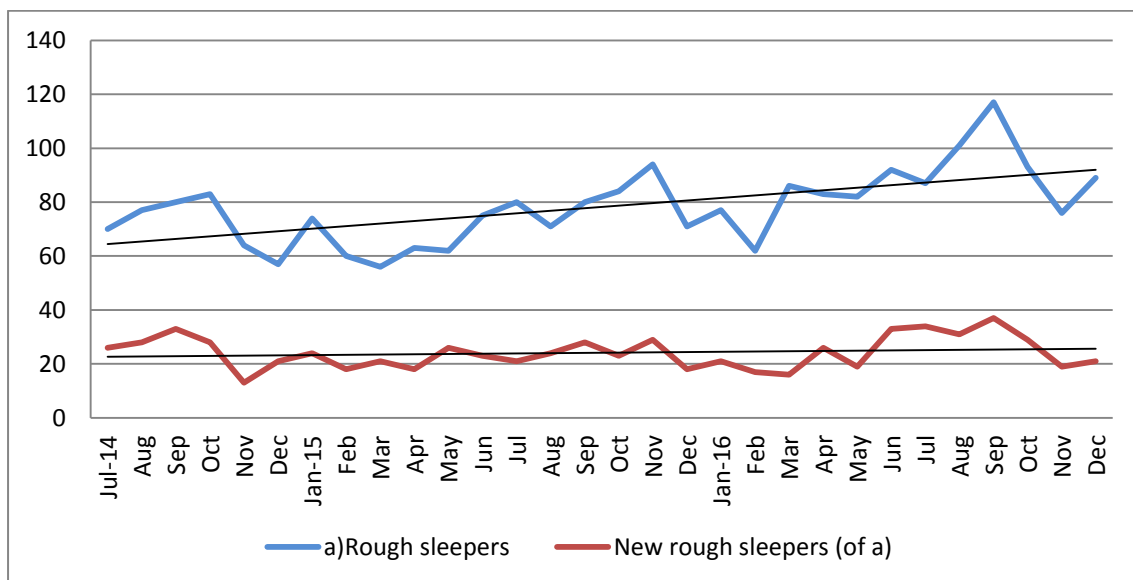
186 people were seen sleeping rough by Oxford SPOT during the period October to December 2016. This is a decrease on quarter 2 but an increase on quarter 1 of this year.

**Figure (a) Profile of the number of people seen sleeping rough, new rough sleepers and known rough sleepers**



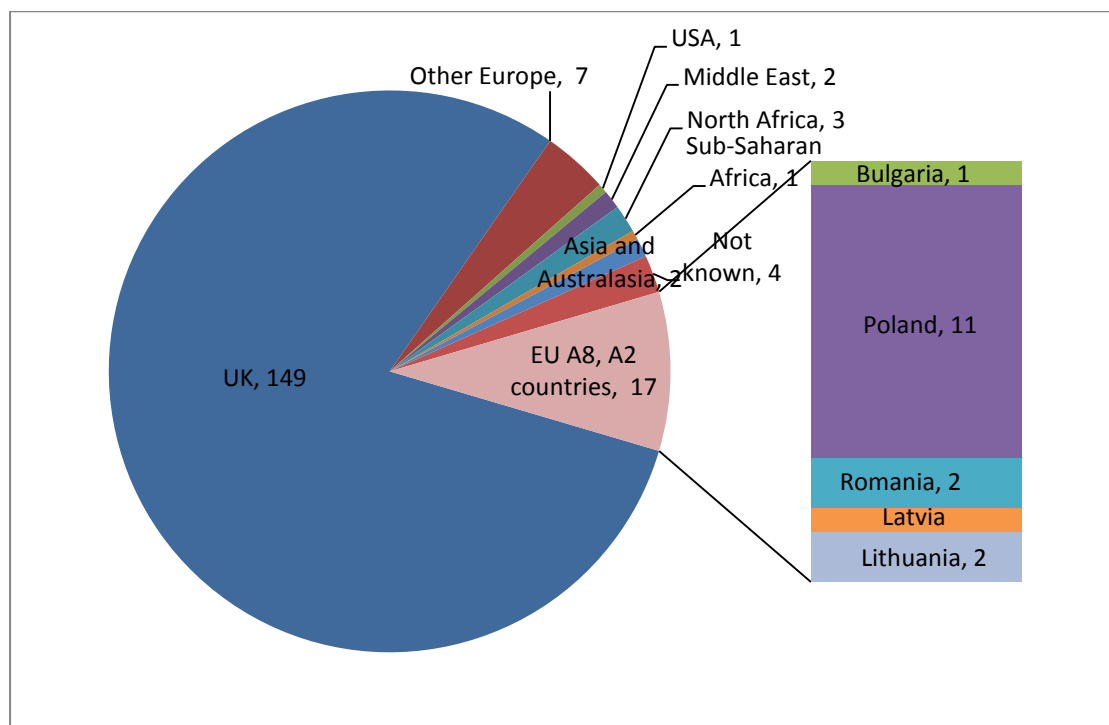
Bases: Jul-Sep 2014: 227, Oct-Dec 2014: 204, Jan-Mar 2015: 190, Apr-Jun 2015: 200, Jul-Sep 2015: 180, Oct-Dec 2015: 170, Jan-Mar 2016: 151, Apr-Jun: 181, Jul-Sep: 209, Oct-Dec: 186

**Figure (b) Number of people seen sleeping rough by month, July 2014 to December 2016**



The graph shows the monthly trend in numbers of people seen rough sleeping every month over the last 24+ months. Please note that the monthly data presented here is for information, and should not be compared with the quarterly data.

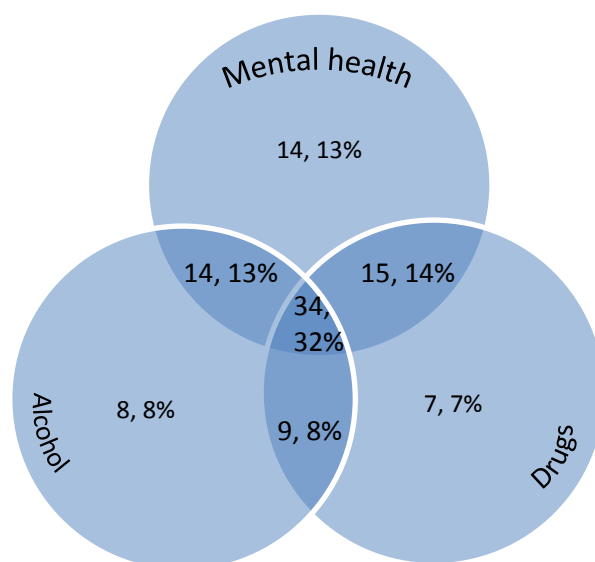
**Figure (c) Nationality profile of people seen sleeping rough by Oxford SPOT**



**Base: 186 people seen bedded down during the period October 2016 – December 2016.**

The nationality profile of people seen bedded down has been consistent over the last 2 years. Polish is the dominant non-UK nationality.

**Figure (d) Support needs profile of people seen sleeping rough by Oxford SPOT**



Base: 106 people seen bedded down where support needs assessment was completed.

A very small percentage of those assessed had no reported support needs or support needs were not known – 5 people (5%). 36% of those assessed had two support needs in addition to their homelessness, with 32% having three support needs. This shows that a large proportion of the individuals Oxford SPOT work with have a range of different and complex needs, and that these

<sup>1</sup> A8 countries refer to 8 of the 10 countries that joined the European Union in 2004 and include Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. A2 countries are Bulgaria and Romania, that joined the European Union in 2007.

individuals need a lot of support from a number of different services. 72% of those assessed had mental health support needs, often in addition to other support needs.