

2018 Rough Sleeping Statistics

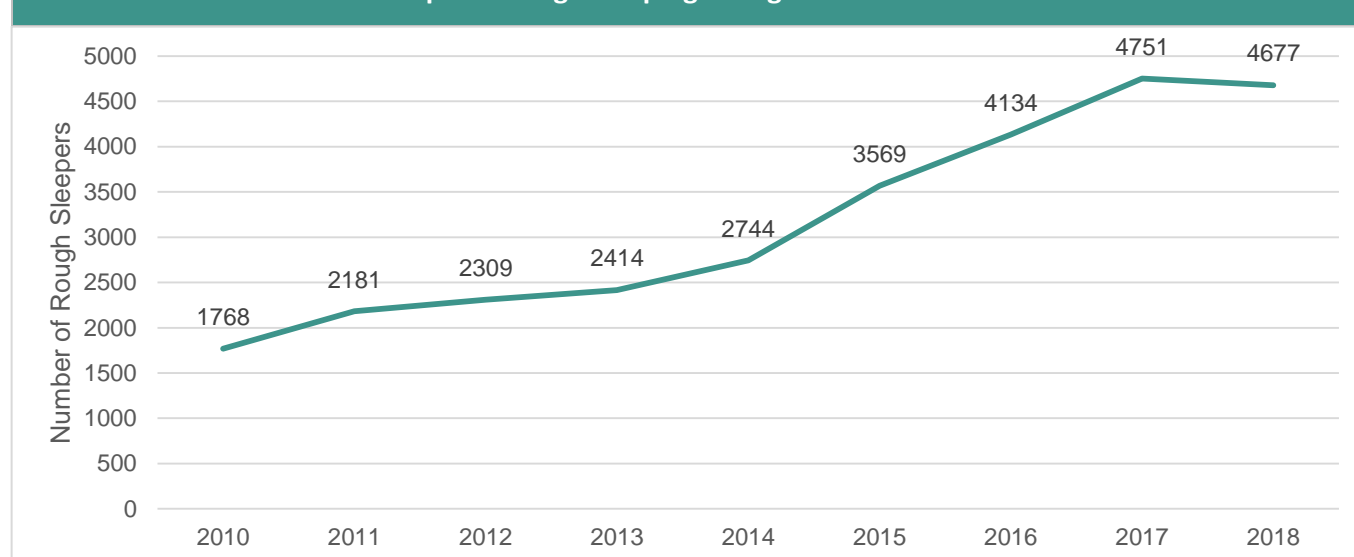
An analysis of 2018 rough sleeping counts and estimates

On 31st of January 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government released the autumn 2018 figures for rough sleeping. These statistics are based on counts and estimates carried out by Local Authorities in England, providing a snapshot figure of the number of people sleeping rough on any one night. The following analysis provides a regional breakdown of the figures, and identifies the local authority areas with the largest increases compared with previous years. The concluding section features a gender-based analysis of the data.

Headline figures

A total of **4,677** people were counted or estimated by local authorities to be sleeping rough in England on any one night in autumn 2018, representing a 2% decrease from the 2017 figure of 4,751. This is the first time in eight years that the estimated number of rough sleepers in England has gone down.

Graph 1 : Rough sleeping in England 2010 – 2018



The number of people sleeping rough in England has increased by 31% in the last 3 years (Table 1). Since the current methodology for measuring rough sleeping began in 2010, an additional 2,909 people have been counted or estimated as sleeping rough in England on any given night. This represents an increase of 165% in the last 8 years.

Table 1: Changes in rough sleeping 2010 – 2018

	2010 - 2018	2011 - 2018	2012 - 2018	2013 - 2018	2014 - 2018	2015 - 2018	2016 - 2018	2017- 2018
Percentage change	+165%	+114%	+103%	+94%	+70%	+31%	+13%	-2%
Numerical change	+2909	+2496	+2368	+2263	+1933	+1108	+543	-74

Rough sleeping by region

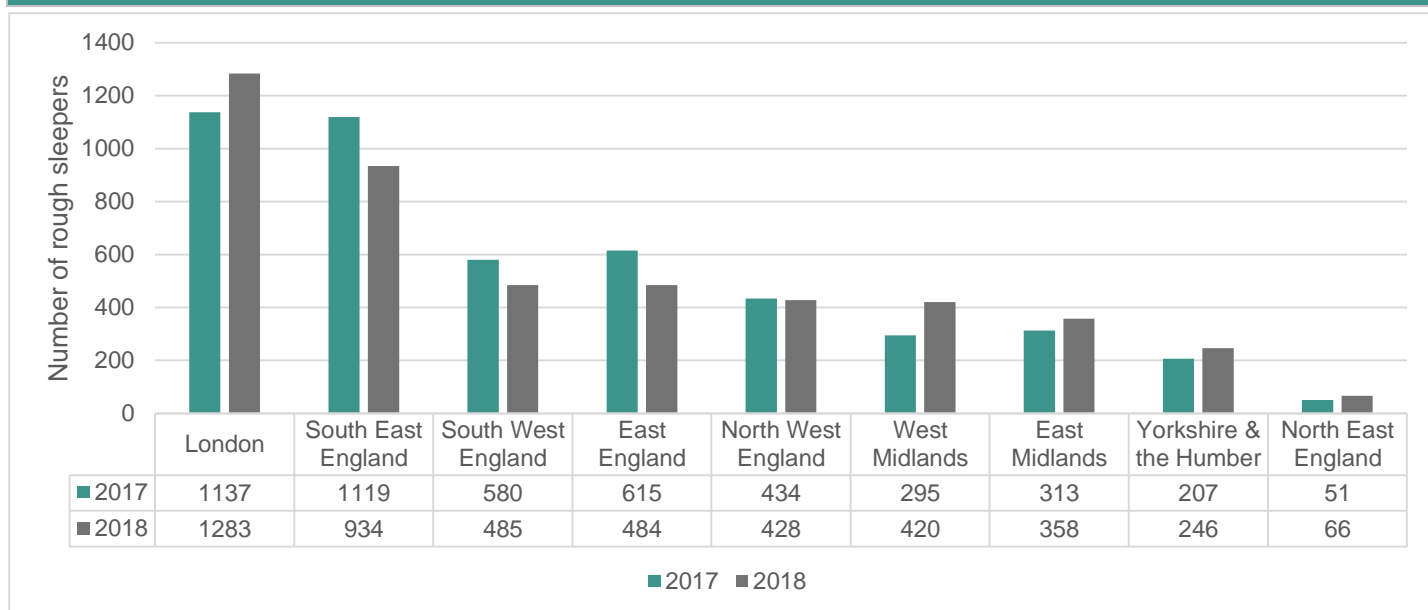
In 2018, five regions in England reported an increase in rough sleeping, while four regions reported a decrease (Graph 2). There was a significant increase in the West Midlands (+42%), where a total of 434 people were estimated or counted as sleeping rough on any given night. Both the South West England and East England have had the highest reduction of people sleeping rough (-21%).

Graph 2: Regional changes in rough sleeping 2017 – 2018

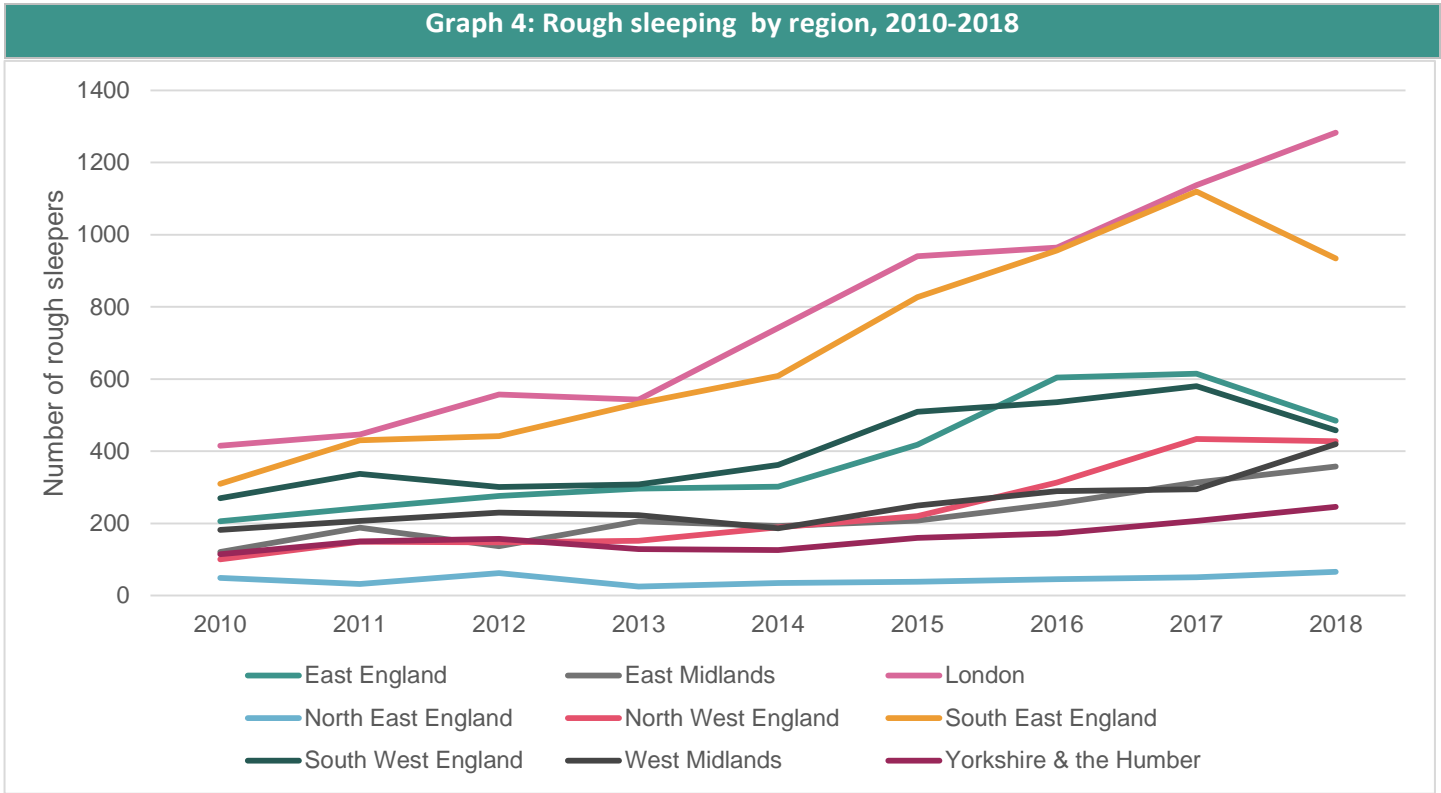


London continues to be the region with the highest number of rough sleepers, with local authorities reporting that a total of 1,283 people sleep rough on any given night (Graph 3). The North East of England had the lowest number of estimated or reported rough sleepers.

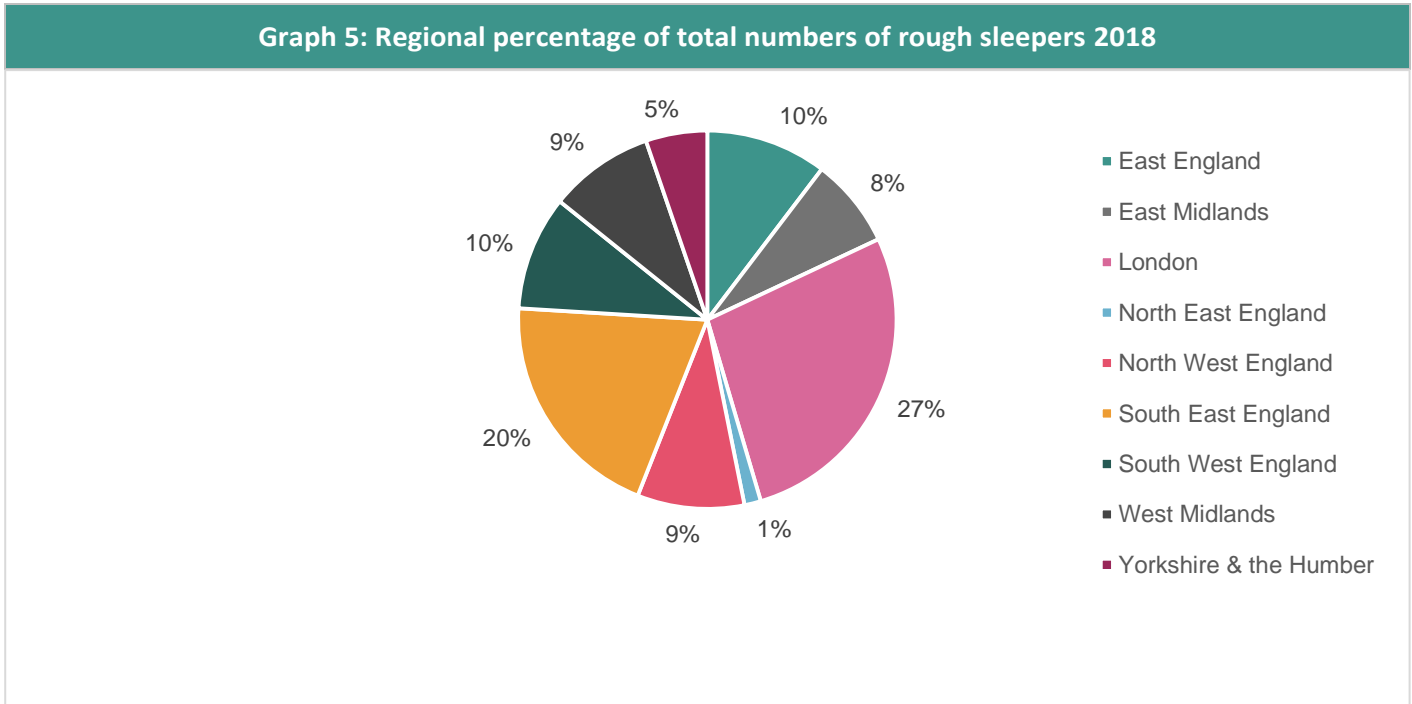
Graph 3: Number of rough sleepers in England, by region, 2017 - 2018



The increase in rough sleeping in England over the past 8 years has varied geographically. London has reported a 209% increase in levels of rough sleeping since 2010 (Graph 4). Although the South East of England has had a decrease of 21% (Graph 2) in 2018, the overall levels of rough sleeping since 2010 still represent an increase of 201%.



London accounts for 27% of the total number of rough sleepers in England (Graph 5). The North East continues to have the lowest proportion of people sleeping rough (1%).



Rough sleeping by local authority

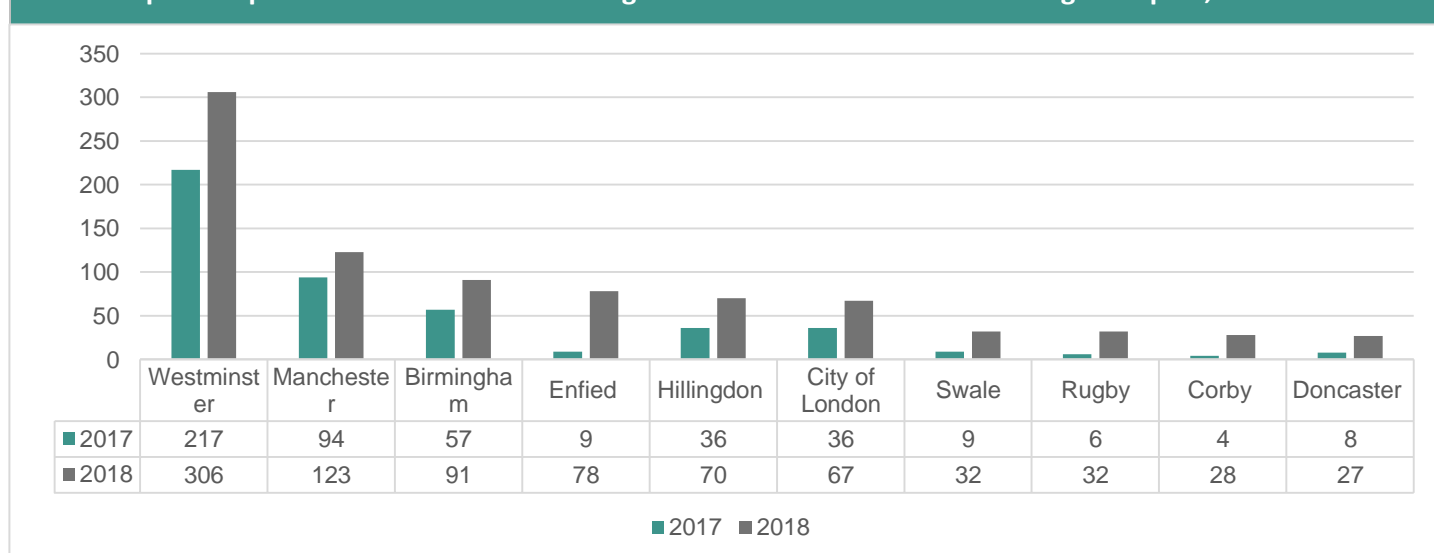
- Westminster remains the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers (306) (Table 2).
- Brighton and Hove (-64%) and City of Bristol (-5%) are the only local authorities in the top ten to report a reduction in the number of rough sleepers.
- Birmingham, Enfield, Hillingdon and City of London, reported large increases in the number of rough sleepers (table 2). These local authorities were not in the top ten in 2017.
- Luton, Bedford, Southend-on-Sea and Cornwall are no longer in the top ten. Luton reported a reduction of 46%, Bedford reported a reduction of 33%, Southend-on-Sea a 85% reduction and Cornwall a 22% reduction.

Table 2: Top 10 local authorities with highest number of rough sleepers, 2017 – 2018

Local Authority	Region	2017	2018	Change from 2017	% change on 2017
1. Westminster	London	217	306	89	41%
2. Camden	London	127	141	14	11%
3. Manchester	North West	94	123	29	31%
4. Birmingham	West Midlands	57	91	34	60%
5. Bristol, City of	South West	86	82	-4	-5%
6. Newham	London	76	79	3	4%
7. Enfield	London	9	78	69	767%
8. Hillingdon	London	36	70	34	94%
9. City of London	London	35	67	31	86%
10. Brighton and Hove	Yorkshire & Humber	178	64	-114	-64%

Westminster reported the largest increase in the total number of rough sleepers (+89) (Graph 6). Local authorities also reporting large percentage increases includes Enfield (+767%) and Corby (+600%).

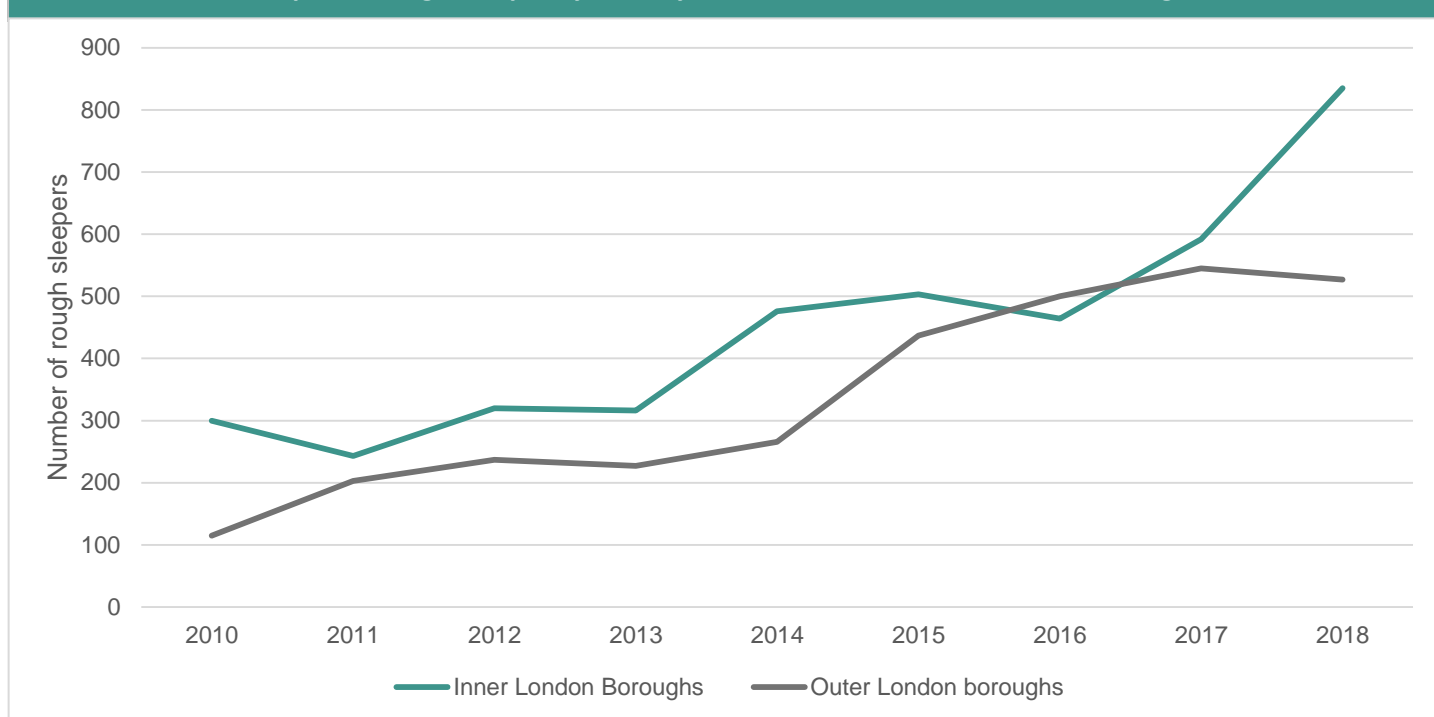
Graph 6: Top 10 local authorities with largest increase in the number of rough sleepers, 2017-2018



Homeless Link

- Numbers of rough sleepers have increased year on year in the Inner London Boroughs since 2010. However this year the number of rough sleepers in the Outer London Boroughs has decreased from 2017.
- Within this overall trend, most boroughs have seen increases in numbers since 2017, especially in Camden, Newham and Westminster.
- A few boroughs have seen decreases since 2017, especially in Tower Hamlets, Lewisham and Ealing.

Graph 7: Rough sleepers year on year in Inner and Outer London Boroughs



Inner London Boroughs

- A total of 592 people were counted or estimated to be sleeping rough in the Inner London Boroughs, representing 16% of the total figure of 4,677.
- Westminster is the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers (306).
- Hammersmith and Fulham reported the largest increase in number of people sleeping rough at 140%.

Table 3: Inner London boroughs by number of rough sleepers, 2018

Local Authority	2017	2018	Change on 2017	% change on 2017
Westminster	217	306	89	41%
Camden	127	141	14	11%
City of London	36	67	31	86%
Lambeth	34	50	16	47%
Southwark	44	47	3	7%
Islington	27	43	16	59%
Wandsworth	13	25	12	92%
Hackney	18	23	5	28%
Kensington and Chelsea	20	20	0	0%
Hammersmith and Fulham	5	12	7	140%
Tower Hamlets	21	10	-11	-52%
Greenwich	8	7	-1	13%
Lewisham	22	5	-17	-77%
Total (Inner London)	592	756	164	28%

Outer London Boroughs

- A total of 527 people were counted or estimated to be sleeping rough in the Inner London Boroughs, representing 11% of the total figure of 4,677.
- Newham is the local authority with the highest number of rough sleepers.
- Barking and Dagenham and Enfield also have high numbers of people sleeping rough.
- Redbridge reported the most significant decrease in the number of rough sleepers (-39).

Table 4: Outer London boroughs by number of rough sleepers, 2018

Local Authority	2017	2018	Change on 2017	% change on 2017
Newham	76	79	3	4%
Enfield	9	78	69	767%
Hillingdon	36	70	34	94%
Ealing	62	33	-29	-47%
Haringey	43	32	-11	-26%
Brent	29	30	1	3%
Redbridge	65	26	-39	-60%
Barnet	21	24	3	14%
Merton	5	23	18	360%
Kingston upon Thames	27	23	-4	-15%
Waltham Forest	44	22	-22	-50%
Hounslow	22	18	-4	-35%
Croydon	31	15	-16	-52%
Richmond	19	14	-5	-26%
Harrow	10	13	3	30%
Barking and Dagenham	0	9	9	
Bromley	5	6	1	20%
Bexley	16	5	-11	69%
Sutton	3	5	2	67%
Havering	22	2	-20	-91%
Total (Outer London)	545	527	-18	3%

Demographics (gender)

- Of the 4,677 individuals counted or estimated to be sleeping rough in England in 2018, a total of 3,937 were male, 642 were female and 98 were gender unknown.
- 14% of total number of rough sleepers were women.
- London reported the largest number of women sleeping rough (162) (Graph 8).
- Other regions that have high numbers of women sleeping rough includes South East England (140) and East England (74).
- Westminster is the local authority with the largest number of women sleeping rough (Table 5).

Graph 8: Rough sleepers gender demographics 2018, by region

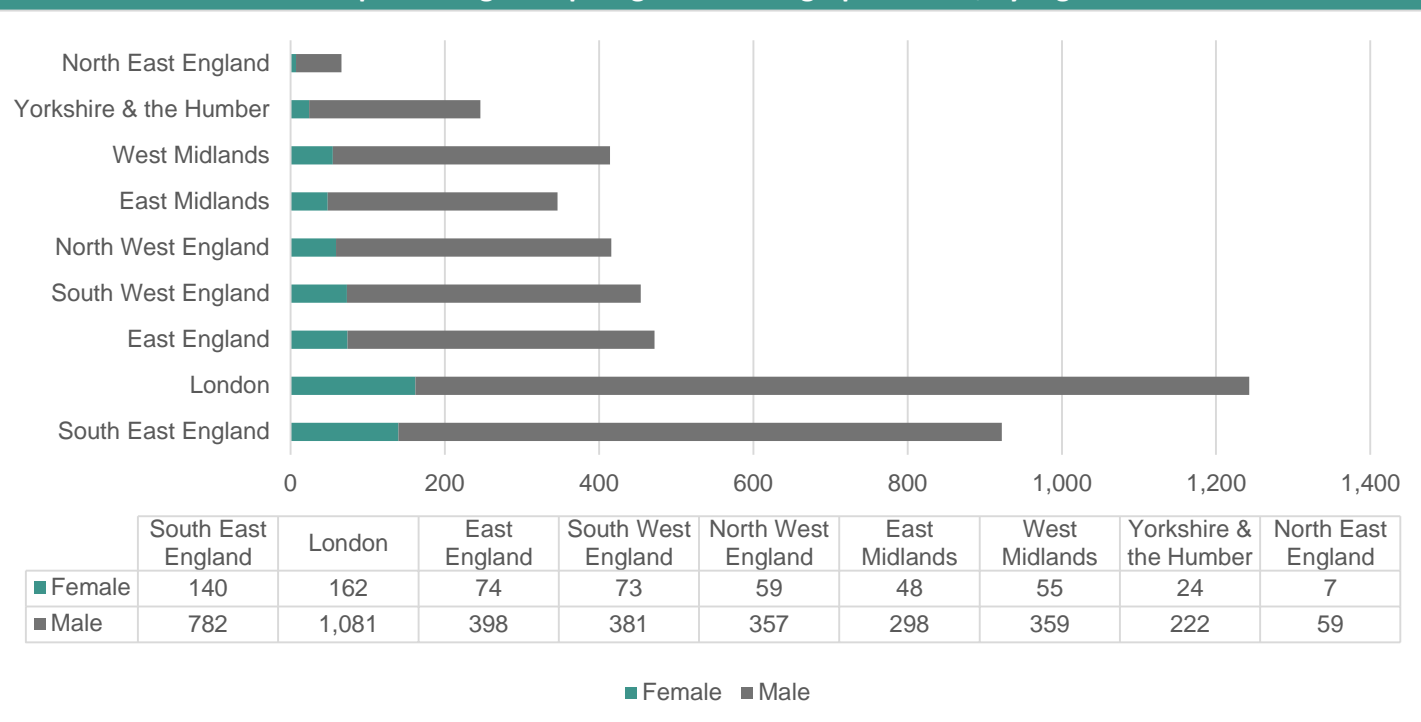


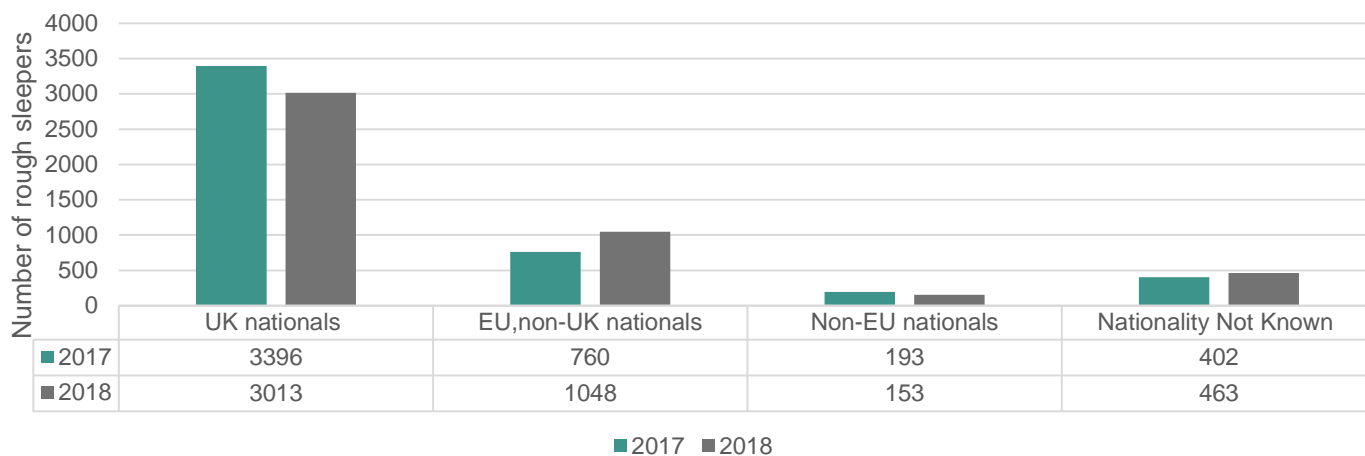
Table 5: Top 10 local authorities with highest number of female rough sleepers, 2018

Local Authority	Region	No of female rough sleepers
1. Westminster	London	45
2. Camden	London	24
3. Manchester	North West	23
4. Hillingdon	London	17
5. Bristol, City of	South West	14
6. Oxford	South East	11
7. Cornwall	South West	10
8. Bedford	East	10
9. Newham	London	10
10. Fenland	East	8

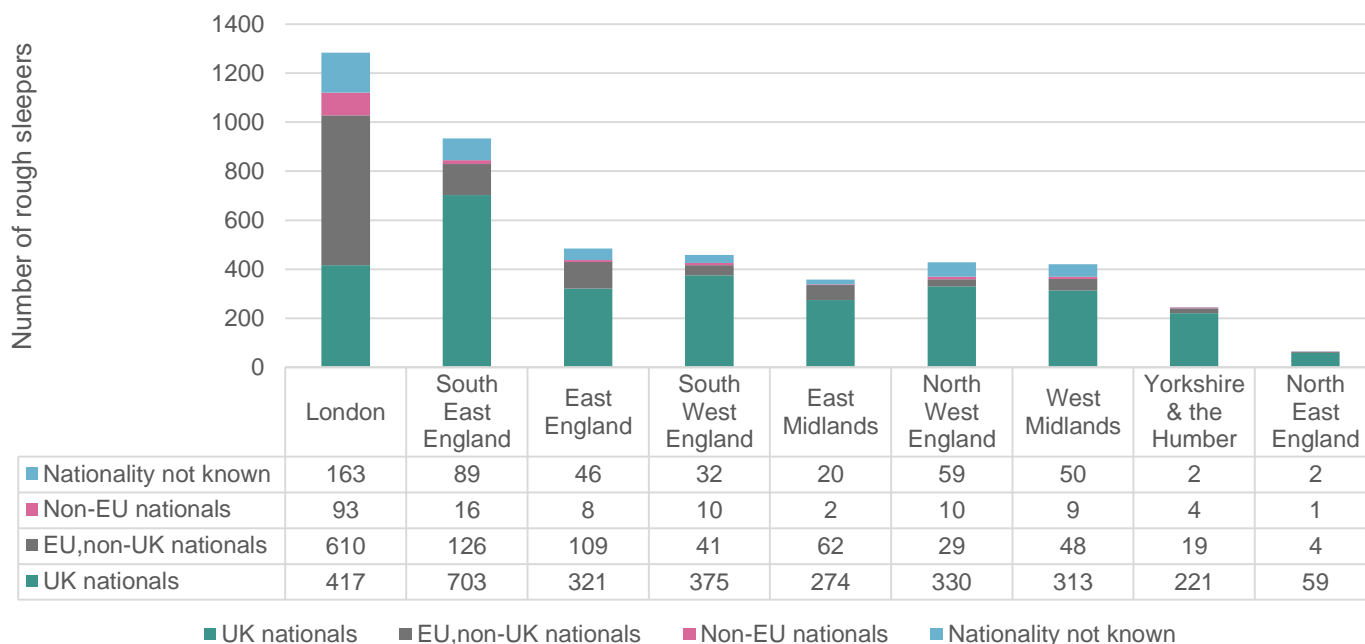
Demographics (nationality)

- Of the total number of 4,677, UK nationals make up 3,013, 1048 rough sleepers are EU nationals, 193 were non-EU nationals and 402 rough sleeper’s nationalities were unknown.
- Compared to 2017, the number of UK nationals is lower than last year (-383) , whereas the number of EU, non-UK nationals is higher than the previous year (+288)
- London is the region with the highest number of EU, non- UK nationals (610).
- The Southeast is the region with the highest number of UK national rough sleepers (703)
- The North East of England has the lowest number of rough sleepers in each category in Graph 10.

Graph 9: Rough sleepers nationality demographics 2017-2018



Graph 9: Rough sleepers nationality demographics 2018, by region





What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless or who live with multiple and complex support needs. We work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

Let's end homelessness together

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