

The Mayor of London said he would leave 'no stone unturned' in his ambition to end rough sleeping by 2030.

At Mayor's Question Time yesterday, Sir Sadiq Khan called for public bodies to work together to end homelessness in the capital.

He said individual councils should join forces beyond their own borough boundaries.

"If you speak to most rough sleepers, they don't think about wards, constituencies or boroughs so we shouldn't either," Sir Sadiq said.

He said that by 2028, he wants services to be quicker in assessing rough sleepers' needs, so support is offered immediately.

"It seems to me perverse that someone has to be sleeping rough for at least a night before they get support. It doesn't make sense," he said.

The Mayor said City Hall is continuing to invest in programmes such as the London Ending Homelessness Accelerator, which brings together services to make it easier for people to access support, and has allocated an additional £8 million to the rough sleeping budget.

He said: "It will require a lot of work, but it is vital work. I will leave no stone unturned in my fight to end rough sleeping by 2030."

Last quarter, the number of people seen sleeping rough has reduced by 18% compared to the previous quarter and compared to the same quarter last year, the number decreased by 500 people, Sir Sadiq said.

Excluding Covid periods, this is the biggest quarterly fall in more than 12 years, he said.

While these figures show a decline, annual figures paint a different picture.

In 2024/25, more than 13,000 people were seen sleeping rough in London, the highest number on record. This is almost four times higher than 15 years ago and an increase of 10% to 2023/24, according to data from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), published by the Greater London Authority.

When asked about private rented sector housing and the frozen Local Housing Allowance (LHA), the Mayor said that one of the key issues in London is the increasing gap between the average rent and Local Housing Allowance, the maximum rent support a private renter can get. LHA rates were last increased in April 2024 but have since been frozen by the Labour Government, despite rents continuing to rise.

A report by housing data company SimplyPhi showed that the average rent in London is £1,349 a month higher than the average LHA available to private renters.

Sir Sadiq said: “We are going to carry on lobbying the government to try and reduce the gap but also make sure LHA rates keep up with the costs and constraints there are on people’s budgets in terms of trying to pay their rent.”

“I refuse to accept that sleeping rough is inevitable,” he added.