



Homeless charity given cash boost

Fund creates new base for rough sleepers

by Mike Brooke

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A contact point for rough sleepers is being set up to tackle the growing numbers of people on the streets.

It is at the Anchor House charity in Canning Town, which has been given £150,000 from Whitehall.

The hub is one of 30 such projects up and down the country.

Anchor House secured the grant with Thames Reach to become the first point of contact for the homeless.

"This is an opportunity to develop a new approach to tackling homelessness," said director Keith Fernett.

"This is an area at the wrong end of every measure — poverty, homelessness,

the work they do to help those on the streets.

Housing minister Kris Hopkins said: "Homelessness has no place in the 21st century.

"Every effort must be made to tackle rough sleeping and support given to vulnerable people to get their lives back on track."

The cash is the latest instalment from the Department for Communities and Local Government's Homelessness Transition fund.

The aim is to make sure anyone on the streets gets help quickly — so they don't spend a second night on the streets.

There are an estimated 6,500 sleeping rough each night across London, a rise of 13 per cent on last year.

health and employment.

"The investment is to provide as comprehensive a service as possible to meet the needs of those on the streets."

Rough sleepers making that first contact at Anchor House will be put in touch with services that tackle issues such as mental health and drug misuse, as well as education, training, employment support and referral onto accommodation.

The centre itself provides shelter for up to 220 people a year — but the numbers becoming homeless continues to rise year on year.

Thirty homeless charities, including Anchor House, are getting a slice of the £3.5million Whitehall has put in the kitty to boost