

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 14 October 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 14 October 2016 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Gareth Moore (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Joyce Nash
Deputy John Barker	Delis Regis
Deputy Billy Dove	Virginia Rounding
Emma Edhem	Mark Wheatley
John Fletcher	Philip Woodhouse
Deputy Bill Fraser	Laura Jørgensen
Marianne Fredericks	James de Sausmarez
Alderman David Graves	Deputy Robert Merrett
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines	Alex Bain-Stewart
Ann Holmes	Keith Bottomley

In Attendance:

Michael Welbank (Chief Commoner)

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	-	Director, Community & Children's Services
Neal Hounsell	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department
Gerald Mehrstens	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Chris Pelham	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Jacquie Campbell	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mike Kettle	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Lorraine Burke	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mike Saunders	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Will Cooper	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Stephanie Basten	-	Public Relations Office

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Alderman Sir Paul Judge, Alderman Robert Howard, Deputy Stephen Haines, Deputy Henry Jones, Emma Price, Revd Dr William Campbell-Taylor, Deputy Catherine McGuinness and Deputy Elizabeth Rogula.

The Committee sent their best wishes to Deputy Jones for a speedy recovery and hoped he would be back in good health soon.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Mr Gareth Moore declared an interested in all housing related matters as he was a tenant on the Golden Lane Estate.

3. **MINUTES**

Resolved – that the minutes be agreed an accurate record.

4. **APPOINTMENT OF ONE COMMITTEE MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE HOMERTON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST.**

The Committee were invited to appoint one Member on Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, for a three year term expiring in October 2019 in the room of Emma Price, who was standing down from the organisation.

Resolved – as no Member expressed an interest in serving the Committee agreed to open the position up to all Common Councilmen and that a Member be appointed on to the Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust at the meeting of the Court of Common Council in December 2016.

5. **PRESENTATION FROM LEE HUTCHINGS, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, PARKGUARD LTD.**

The Committee received a presentation from Lee Hutchings, Operations Director of Packguard Ltd. Members noted that levels of crime and anti-social behaviour issues remained low in the City. The main area of work for Parkguard centred around welfare, homelessness and, to an extent, drug abuse. Officers recently dealt with a case of homelessness on the Barbican Estate which was successfully resolved. Feedback from City residents remained very positive and some residents reported that they liked seeing Officers on patrol. 300+ people had been spoken to by Officers on patrol regarding low level nuisance issues and Officers were encouraged to retain high levels of community engagement.

In response to a query the Committee were informed that the scheme had been extended for a further two years. Members were very pleased with this and commended Officers on a job well done.

Resolved – that the update be received.

6. **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) INSPECTION FRAMEWORK AND COL DRAFT SEND STRATEGY**

The Committee received an update regarding the publication of the new Ofsted/CQC Inspection Framework for the provision of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) which was published in May 2016. This inspection framework prompted an internal review of the current SEND Strategy and Policy (2013–17) which was ratified at Community and Children's Services Committee in July 2013.

The new inspection framework was an 'area' inspection with the local authority as the hub of each area. The Draft SEND Strategy was aligned to the themes

for inspection articulated within the newly published framework. The recently published SEND inspection framework has three main themes for inspection:

- early identification of need;
- assessing and meeting needs;
- impact of services on life outcomes.

Resolved – that the report be received.

7. **CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY UPDATE 2016**

Members noted that the report fulfilled the statutory duty of officers to provide an annual report to Members on the sufficiency of childcare in the City of London. Under section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, all English local authorities were required to ensure (as far as is 'reasonably practicable ') that working parents in their area were able to access the childcare they need. In order to inform this, local authorities must conduct regular assessments of the childcare provision in their area and the extent to which it meets local demand.

In the City of London, this duty sits with the Education and Early Years Service. An in-depth Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) was commissioned by the service in 2014, and a smaller update of this report was conducted in the winter of 2015/16.

The 2016 update found that there is currently sufficient provision of early years childcare, although the tendency of parents to move in and out of the City's borders to access childcare makes it difficult to pin down a true figure for local demand. The supply of childcare for over-fives during the school holidays is an area where there would seem to be an under-supply, and more research is required into how this sector could be developed.

There is healthy uptake of the various types of financial support offered to parents towards the cost of childcare. The two-year-old offer of 15 hours is currently being accessed by 100% of eligible families, and the City's own Childcare Affordability Scheme is now offered at five nurseries in and around the City.

Resolved – that the report be received.

8. **DCCS DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW**

Members received an update on an audit of the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) departmental processes for:

- business planning
- monitoring of the business plan activities, risks and budgets
- identification and challenge of risk.

As part of the Internal Audit team's ongoing cycle of independent reviews of departmental processes and procedures, a review of the DCCS business planning process commenced in February 2016. The final report of this review, with recommendations, was issued by Internal Audit in July 2016.

The overall aim of the audit was to 'provide assurance that corporate plans are

linked to budgets, risks and KPIs [key performance indicators], to provide assurance to Chief Officers that the plan is being delivered within budget and what is being reported is consistent with other reporting mechanisms.'

The findings of the audit showed that there was substantial assurance around the DCCS processes and procedures in the areas examined. Internal Audit concluded: 'There is a sound control environment with risks to system objectives being reasonably managed. Any deficiencies identified are not major causes for concern.'

DCCS has had the opportunity to develop a management response to Internal Audit's findings and has put in place an action plan to address the issues identified. Internal Audit will be providing a briefing on the outcome of this review for Members of the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Resolved – that the update be received.

9. OFSTED INSPECTION OF THE CITY OF LONDON'S SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS

Members were provided with a summary of the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of the City of London's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers in July 2016, carried out under section 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The effectiveness of children's services in the City of London was judged overall to be "Good" with a number of "Outstanding" features. The individual judgements were as follows:

- The experience and progress of children who need help and protection is „Good“.
- The experience and progress of children looked after and achieving permanence is „Good“.
- The experience and progress of care leavers is „Good“.
- Leadership, management and governance in the City of London is „Outstanding“.

The City of London is the sixth local authority in London to receive an overall "Good" judgement for its children's services, out of 22 London local authorities inspected so far. The City of London is also one of six local authorities in England to receive a judgement of "Outstanding" for its leadership, management and governance.

The Committee congratulated Officers and their teams respectively. It was agreed that a report regarding the OFSTED inspection results would be submitted to the Court of Common Council meeting in December 2016.

Resolved – that the update be received.

10. SOCIAL WELLBEING PANEL

The City of London Corporation has identified the reduction of social isolation and loneliness as a strategic priority. Research from Goldsmiths, University of London, has provided valuable insights into social isolation within the City of London and has also suggested areas where extra investigation could prove beneficial.

In September, the Committee approved the formation of a group tasked with investigating some of these areas further. Clarification was requested around the group's scope, methodology and costs.

A Social Wellbeing Panel will now be brought together to investigate specific issues relevant to social isolation in the City of London. The Panel will hear evidence from a range of contributors, and evidence heard will be used to refine the City Corporation's Social Wellbeing Strategy and its actions.

Only issues identified as having a high degree of relevance for City residents will be considered by the Panel. The scope of the Panel will be to make specific recommendations for reducing social isolation in the City of London.

The Social Wellbeing Panel will examine specific issues drawn from the City of London based research, engagement and consultation undertaken to date. These may be:

- issues that emerged from Roger Green's research (e.g. highlighting the isolation faced by some older LGBT people in the City);
- issues that have arisen from the public consultation (e.g. early responses from BAME residents suggest they are unsure the draft strategy does enough to meet their needs);
- issues raised by Members (e.g. the problems faced by City residents who live away from the main residential estates);
- particular approaches that have led to reductions in social isolation elsewhere (e.g. innovative uses of new technology).

The direct costs of the Social Wellbeing Panel are estimated to be £2,500 for the design and print of a summary report and £1,000 for meeting expenses.

Resolved – that the report be received.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Members noted that the annual Poppy Appeal would be taking place at the Barbican Station for two weeks commencing on 31st October 2016.

The Committee also noted that the annual visit to deliver Christmas Hampers to the City of London and Gresham Almshouses would take place on 13th December 2016.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes be agreed as an accurate record.

15. WAIVER OF RULE 15 OF THE CITY'S PROCUREMENT CODE TO PURCHASE AN ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

16. TEMPORARY LOCATION FOR ALDGATE SQUARE CAFE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

17. DELIVERY OF 700+ NEW HOMES ON HRA LAND - PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

18. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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