

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 13 October 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 13 October 2017 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

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| Rehana Ameer | Deputy Joyce Nash |
| Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman) | Dhruv Patel (Chairman) |
| Matthew Bell | Susan Pearson |
| Peter Bennett | William Pimlott |
| James de Sausmarez | Henrika Priest |
| Mary Durcan | Jason Pritchard |
| John Fletcher | Deputy Elizabeth Rogula |
| Marianne Fredericks | Ruby Sayed |
| Prem Goyal | Jørgensen |
| Alderman David Graves | George Abrahams |
| Deputy Catherine McGuinness | Mark Bostock |
| Deputy Henry Jones | |

Officers:

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|-----------------|---|--|
| Andrew Carter | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Paul Murtagh | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Jacque Campbell | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Natasha Dogra | - | Town Clerk's Department |
| Chris Pelham | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Neal Hounsell | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Gerald Mehrtens | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Mark Jarvis | - | Chamberlain's Department |
| Davina Lilley | - | Community & Children's Services Department |
| Adam Johnstone | - | Community & Children's Services Department |

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Caroline Haines, Richard Crossan, The Lord Mountevans, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Stephen Haines, Tom Anderson, Barbara Newman, Deputy John Tomlinson, Mark Wheatley and Angus Knowles Cutler.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

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

Matters Arising:

A Member raised a query regarding the financial support with major works for leaseholders. Members discussed the use of means testing and the possibility of providing discretionary interest free loans to vulnerable residents. Members were in agreement that any further investigation on this matter would affect future decisions and would only be applicable retrospectively. The decision taken by the Committee regarding loans for owner-occupiers in Great Arthur House would remain as that agreed at the meeting held on 8th September 2017. Officers agreed to investigate the possibility of means testing and report back to the Committee in due course.

4. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY PRESENTATION

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the City of London Corporation's requirements under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Members noted that the Equality and Inclusion (E&I) Board, chaired by the Town Clerk and co-chaired by the Director for Human Resources and the Director for Community and Children's Services, is the officer-led governing body for equality and inclusion in the City of London Corporation. The Equality and Inclusion Board reports on a quarterly basis to Summit Group and to Establishment Committee. The E&I Board also produces an annual report which summarises how the organisation is meeting the aims of the Equality Duty.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

5. START TIME OF 8TH MARCH 2018 COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk on the queries raised by some Members regarding the timing of the 08 March 2017 meeting of the Community and Children's Services Committee. A majority of Members agreed that a 4:00pm start time would not be helpful and the meeting should not be restricted with a finish time. The Chairman suggested that a morning time might be more beneficial and would consult officers regarding a more suitable time for the March 2018 Committee meeting.

RESOLVED – That a revised time be circulated to the Committee for consideration.

6. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME 2017

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the proposed City of London Corporation Housing Allocations Scheme 2017.

The City Corporation is required by the Housing Act 1996 to publish a Housing Allocations Scheme and to abide by the scheme when making offers of social housing tenancies to applicants.

In response to a query it was noted that the proposed scheme offers more clarity than the current scheme, which can be ambiguous in its operation. It also makes a number of changes to take account of fluctuations in housing demand

and supply since the policy was last reviewed and addresses some minor legal issues.

Discussions ensued regarding the consultation. Officers stated that a full consultation has been carried out and several changes to the scheme have been made in response to the feedback received from partners and the public. The proposed scheme has been reviewed by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee and was presented for the Committee's approval.

RESOVLED – that Members approve the Housing Allocations Scheme 2017.

7. **UPDATE ON ROUGH SLEEPERS**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the City of London Corporation's work with rough sleepers.

The City continues to be part of a pan-London approach to addressing rough sleeping and is represented at the Greater London Authority's (GLA's) operational leads meeting. The Mayor's Rough Sleeping Group has been replaced with the No First Night Out Tasking Group, which the Assistant Director People attends.

The counts of rough sleepers during the past three months are as follows: May – 30; July – 33; and August – 40. The counts continue to fluctuate but there is a noticeable trend across London that rough sleeping is increasing and it is high in the City. Rough sleeping is driven by a range of factors, many beyond the control of the City. The count does not reflect how long people are on the streets, what their complex needs are or the services they may have received. It is hoped that, as a result of the additional resources agreed by the Committee in July, the numbers will go down. The City continues to be engaged in four partnership-based projects – Gold Standard, City Lodge, No First Night Out (NFNO) and the Pathway model – that all address rough sleeping. Updates for these projects are as follows:

- The advice and homeless service has achieved the Silver standard for homeless prevention services, awarded by the National Practitioner Support Service, and is completing the challenges required to achieve the Gold award.
- Work on the City Lodge has now been completed and it was opened in June 2017.
- The NFNO project continues to attract interest on a regional and national level and the project has been extended for another two years with funding from central government.
- Regarding the Pathway model, the City has been negotiating access to accommodation in the adjacent borough and details are in the body of the report. The outreach contract has now been extended for an additional two years.

The Committee noted that this was Davina Lilley's last Committee meeting before she left the City Corporation. Members thanked Ms Lilley for all of her hard work and wished her well with her retirement.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. **SEND UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services updating members on the work with children and young people with SEND in the City of London.

A review of SEND in the CoL was undertaken in October/November 2016 by an external consultant and recommendations were made on areas for improvement. A

further review took place by the same consultant in July/August 2017. The review in

July/August 2017 confirmed that:

- An updated SEND strategy and action plan is now in place.
- Statutory requirements in respect of Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans for children with SEND are being met.
- CoL had 100% performance in meeting timescale requirements to complete assessments for EHC plans.
- A SEND Programme Board had been established with wide partnership Engagement.
- A Parent Forum had been established, and parent engagement is evident on the SEND Programme Board.
- The Local Offer for services for children and families was on track to be launched in October.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

9. **SIR JOHN CASS'S FOUNDATION PRIMARY SCHOOL - PROPOSED EXPANSION UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the proposal to expand Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School to a two-form entry (2FE) school and to update Members on the 2017/18 admissions.

A risk was identified in 2013 of the City of London not being able to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure sufficient primary school places for City residents. This prompted work to be undertaken to assess the projected needs for school places in the City of London. Despite some early indications that there was an increase in need for places, this has not materialised. The position is that all children resident in the City of London have secured school places this year and in recent years, albeit not all in the school of their first choice.

Ongoing discussions between the governing body of the school, the Sir John Cass's Foundation and the City of London via a series of tripartite meetings continued to pursue possible options for expansion. Having identified that there wasn't a need for further school places, a review of the financial viability of the school as a 1FE concluded that this was not a risk at this time. At the tripartite meeting on 12 June 2017, given the Foundation had not been convinced of the need to expand the school, and the governing body no longer wishing to consider expansion at this time, it was decided not to pursue this further.

Members expressed their disappointment over the decision and thanked Officers for their work with the matter.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

10. **SUPPORTING ADULT CARERS**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the proposed amendments to the current Carer grant payments in line with the requirements of the Care Act.

It is proposed that the current Carer grant payments are amended as a recent audit determined they could be improved in line with the requirements of the Care Act. The payments are also inconsistent with many other Local Authority payment amounts. The suggested solution is to amend the system from the current "grant" allocations of £150, £700 and £3,000. Carers will be offered both universal and targeted support by way of information and advice as well as services such as carer groups.

Carer assessments will be conducted with a view to allocating a personal budget where a carer has eligible needs. This is likely to mean that some carers may see their historic allocation reduce whilst others at the lower end of the previous grant scale are likely to see an increase. The money is determined via a carer assessment and (where eligible) a Resource Allocation System (RAS). This is calculated via the assessment through the "FACE tool". This will be incorporated into the new Mosaic case management system. It will calculate entitlement via a formula but will have a maximum payment amount of £1,560.

However, this can be overridden where there is a clear need. Essentially this is a move to more personalised support. Carers grants are not means tested. The previous carer grants included money for respite for the cared - which was not previously means tested. The new approach will see the cared for person charged for respite where they are able to afford this. This is a statutory requirement of the Care Act. This is not applicable to paid carers, such as home carers.

RESOLVED – That Members recognise the important role that carers play in supporting friends and family members within the City of London. Members approved:

1. The new system of payments for carers
2. That respite care is now subject to means testing of the "cared for" person which is likely to bring in some income and is in line with the Care Act.
3. That the new system will commence with the start of the new IT system, Mosaic during November 2017.
4. That carers who received grants in 2017/18 are offered a re-assessment of needs if they have received the lower amounts previously.

11. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S ACADEMIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on the progress being made by the City of London Corporation (City

Corporation) in its general corporate capacity in the London Boroughs of Southwark, Islington, Hackney and Newham through the City of London Academies Development Programme which is led by the Education Board.

Good progress has been made to open all of these academies in the 2016/17 and 2017/19 academic years and therefore to expand world class primary and secondary education provision in neighbouring boroughs.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

12. UN-VALIDATED EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

The Committee received a report from the Director of Community and Children's Services providing a summary and comments on the un-validated examination results for GSCE and A levels.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

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

A Member raised a query regarding the presentation of banners by tenants in some flats on the Golden Lane Estate. Officers suggested that although tenancy agreements did not prohibit this behaviour Officers were considering all options available to help tackle the issue. Members agreed that it would be premature to escalate the matter legally and the most sensible way forward may be to have low level discussions with residents.

A Member raised a query regarding the support provided to tenants accepting Universal Credit. Officers informed the Committee that the City exercised an active programme and a strong approach was taken to engage with tenants with Universal Credit.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Members were informed that the City Corporation's Housing Team would be volunteering with the Royal British Legion selling poppies at Barbican Station and Members were welcome to join them over the coming weeks.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the minutes be approved.

17. ISLINGTON ARTS FACTORY

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

18. **WAIVER REPORT (RULE 25 PROCUREMENT CODE)**

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

RESOVLED - that the report be noted.

19. **HOUSING ESTATES (HRA) - MANAGEMENT OF LEASE EVENTS IN COMMERCIAL PREMISES**

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

20. **ELECTRONIC SOCIAL CARE RECORDING SYSTEM ISSUES REPORT**

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

Chairman

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