

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Friday, 2 February 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held at on Friday, 2 February 2018 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Joyce Nash (Chairman)
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)
Tom Anderson
Matthew Bell
Andrew Carter
Glyn Kyle
Jeremy Simons
Marianne Fredericks

Officers:

Farrah Hart	-	Community and Children's Services
Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Thomas	-	Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward	-	Community and Children's Services
Tizzy Keller	-	Community and Children's Services
Cordelia Toy	-	Community and Children's Services
Geraldine Pote	-	Barbican Library
Justin Tyas	-	Human Resources
Rory McMullen	-	Community and Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Simon Murrells and Jon Avern.

2. 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.

4. PRESENTATION: ACTIVE TRAVEL IN THE CITY OF LONDON

The Board received a presentation regarding Active Travel in the City. It was noted that the objectives of the scheme were to:

- Reduce injuries on the road, improve health, air quality, and the local environment; and
- Establish a communication channel to employers because:
 - Over 400,000 commuters travel to work every day – over 70% on foot and 7% by bicycle
 - Much of vehicular traffic servicing employers.

The Board noted that the current projects running under the scheme which included:

- Events – conferences, road shows
- Campaigns – Be Brake Ready focussed on raising motorists' awareness
- Training – cycle, repair, motor cycle, and driver training
- Construction logistics and construction safety
- City Cycling Etiquette
- Public publications and information.

Discussions ensued regarding the danger posed by cyclists to pedestrians. Members noted that cyclists jumping red lights, not stopping at pedestrian crossing or cycling on the pavement was a problem and any public campaigns should address these issues.

Resolved – that the presentation be received.

5. JHWS ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Members noted the progress of the action plan which underpins the City of London Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The action plan sets out how the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board will deliver the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to improve the health of City residents, workers and rough sleepers.

The report updated the Board on what has been achieved and the progress made against the 5 priorities:

1. Good mental health for all
2. A healthy urban environment
3. Effective health and social care integration
4. Children have the best start in life
5. Promoting healthy behaviours

A Member raised a query regarding the actions listed and whether they were on track. The Board noted that most of actions on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy are on-track and progressing. Some actions have been delayed and will not meet their initial timescale, but no actions were reported to have significant issues that will obstruct its implementation.

Communication regarding the various strategies and sources used to tackle health and wellbeing in the city is completed under the Business Healthy Initiative. This information is used to engage with SMEs and larger organisations in the Square Mile to help promote healthy initiatives in London.

Resolved – that the update be received.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON SUGAR REDUCTION AND HEALTHIER FOOD

The Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food was launched by the charity Sustain in November 2016 as an initiative to help local authorities in London tackle the proliferation and marketing of unhealthy food and drink. Several London boroughs have already signed up, and many more are in the process of doing so.

In response to a query it was noted that the City of London Corporation (City Corporation) currently ranks in the bottom third compared with other local authorities in the capital regarding the promotion of healthy eating (Good Food for London rankings, 2016). Tackling obesity among adults and children features prominently within the priorities of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and this presents a framework within which the City Corporation can take action.

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group (HWAG) has agreed that the Declaration would be a valuable initiative for the City Corporation to sign up to and the Director of Public Health, Dr Penny Bevan, has offered to champion it. This paper outlines the nature of the Declaration and the commitment required from the City Corporation, notably members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members discussed the price of sugary treats and fruit available for staff of the City Corporation. The possibility of making free fruit available for staff in the Gild was discussed and Officers would investigate whether this was a feasible idea. Members discussed how to encourage members of the public to visit healthier establishments for food and beverages; the Board discussed whether a scoring card scheme could be introduced. Some Members said this should be approached with caution - it would be difficult to rate the health benefits of menus and encourage people to make healthy choices.

Resolved – that Members:

- Note the report.
- Endorse the steps and proposals for action outlined in the report.
- Support the signing of the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food by the City of London Corporation.

The final recommendation was put to a vote with 8 Members voting in favour of signing the declaration, and 1 Member voted against this action.

7. PREVENTING DRUG USE AMONG WORKERS IN THE CITY OF LONDON

Recent media coverage has suggested that cocaine use among City workers is pervasive, but that the local culture “turns a blind eye” to this issue. Officers were asked by the Health and Wellbeing Board to explore the accuracy of these claims and to provide insight into the work that the City of London Corporation is doing to address drug-taking behaviours among the Square Mile’s working population.

Powder cocaine use is more common in young males, is more common in London, and is linked to higher drinking levels. Within the City of London, the worker population is predominantly young and male with a high disposable income, and this demographic is also more likely to drink more alcohol than the general population.

For these reasons, powder cocaine use is likely to be higher amongst City workers than amongst the general population. The City of London Corporation

undertakes specific work to prevent drug use among its worker population and also to tackle existing issues. In the latter, there is a close working relationship with the City of London Police.

In response to a query it was noted that this work is carried out across the following key areas:

- WDP's Square Mile Health®
- Business Healthy and the Public Health team
- Safer City Partnership and the City of London Police.

Resolved – that Members:

- Note the report.
- Support ongoing work to prevent and tackle drug use among workers in the City of London, through key channels such as Business Healthy, the Safer City Partnership and WDP's Square Mile Health®.
- Support the proposal to establish a multiagency partnership group to look at this issue in more detail, and gather further evidence about drug use in the City.

Resolved – that the Board receive the update.

8. MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR CORPORATION STAFF

The Corporate Health Safety and Wellbeing Strategy (2018 - 2023) has six strategic themes including: -

Tackling work-related ill-health: *Developing the wellbeing of our workforce, reducing the stigma around mental ill-health, and providing a safe and healthy working environment.*

In response to a query it was noted that the actions Officers need to take include *embedding mandatory mental health learning and development training for all managers / supervisors*. An effective way to develop a healthy working environment (and continue to break down the stigma often associated with mental ill-health) is to train people in mental health awareness and develop skills at all levels throughout the City of London Corporation.

Board Members agreed that this training should be made available to Common Councilmen and Officers agreed to investigate this action.

In response to support available to staff who were experiencing mental health or mental wellbeing concerns it was noted that mindfulness was being investigated including early intervention, buddy schemes and how to address the stigma attached to discussing mental health.

Resolved – that the Board receive the update.

9. UPDATE REPORT

Officers presented Members with the information report updating Members on various areas of health and wellbeing, focussing on the Children and Young

People's plan consultation, Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment consultation and the Sexual Health London Programme.

Members noted that the April Health and Wellbeing Board meeting had been replaced with a Board Development Day to take place on 4th May 2018.

Resolved – that the Board receive the update.

10. BARBICAN AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES SUPPORT FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The report presented information about services provided by Barbican and Community Libraries (B&CL) which promote and support the health and wellbeing of customers of all ages including City residents, City workers, students and regular visitors to the City of London. Support and information are provided in a range of ways: our safe, welcoming, neutral community spaces; an expert enquiries service; a comprehensive range of resources (physical and digital) for reference and loan; and a wide range of library-based activities and events that promote good physical and mental health and a better sense of wellbeing.

We have worked closely with public health on the “Release the pressure” campaign. This is a pilot project testing out a new way of working with City workers to create a “mental wellbeing sanctuary” in the City, for which we have obtained a £15,000 grant from the Carnegie Enterprising Libraries Fund, one of only 14 successful applications from a field of 120. Following on from the creation of “Sanctuary Spaces” at Shoe Lane Library, loans of health and wellbeing related stock increased by 7%. In our latest general customer user survey, 34% of respondents stated that the libraries had helped with their health and wellbeing.

In response to a query regarding how this support was communicated Members noted that information was available via social media, home delivery services, GP referrals and via staff.

Members noted that the Officers monitored the use of community space via consultation with users. Officers said they were attempting to break down the stereotypes around libraries. Members agreed that there was a social inclusion and community aspect involved with libraries which must be publicised via newsletters and public publications.

Resolved – that the Board receive the update.

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

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1:00pm

Chairman

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