

Committee:	Dated:
Safer City Partnership	27 September 2018
Subject: Community and Children's Services Update	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For information
Report author: Marcus Roberts, Head of Strategy and Performance	

Summary

This report provides an update of relevant data and activity from Community and Children's Services as requested by the Safer City Partnership at its last meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the report.

Main report

1. This report summarises key developments in five areas identified by the Safer City Partnership: rough sleepers, drugs and alcohol, suicide prevention, the Children and Young People's Plan and domestic and other abuse. It also provides an update on anti-social behaviour.

Rough sleepers

2. Over the course of 2017/18 data provided by CHAIN shows that 348 individuals slept rough in the City of London, which represents an 8% drop on 2016/17.
3. In Q1 2018/19, the number of rough sleepers recorded in the City dropped for the third successive quarter. The number of rough sleepers included in the 'living on the streets' cohort also dropped for the third quarter in a row. No new rough sleepers migrated into the 'living on the streets' cohort in this period.
4. In total 125 individuals were recorded by CHAIN as living rough in the City in this period of which:
 - 29 were new rough sleepers (six less than the previous quarter)
 - 34 were longer-term rough sleepers, known as 'living on the streets' (six less than the previous quarter)
 - 62 were intermittent rough sleepers (one more than the previous quarter).
5. The City Corporation's Outreach service implements monthly street audits to provide a snapshot of rough sleepers on the City's streets. The latest snapshot counted 25 people sleeping rough on a single night. Of these, 10 were known to have drug-related support needs; five alcohol-related needs; five mental health needs; and four had two or more of these needs.

6. Six of those who were identified as sleeping rough in the August snapshot audit were at one of three active hotspots: Mansell Street (disused pedestrian subway); Liverpool Street arcade; and Castle Baynard House (two rough sleepers in a tent on a City-owned elevated walkway). A fourth site on the pedestrian subway on Goodman's Yard has now been successfully resolved.
7. In May, the City was awarded £215,000 from the Ministry of Communities, Housing & Local Government Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund for project costs to the end of the financial year 2018/19. The City's proposal was for:
 - a Rough Sleeping Co-ordinator
 - Increase frequency of our pop-up hub to a monthly assessment hub
 - Extra capacity to support hub activity and No First Night Out.

Two full-time officers will be recruited to the City's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Team with two further full-time roles located with voluntary sector partners. Work has started on the mobilisation phase of the work streams.
8. In Q1 Parkguard patrols engaged with 40 people found begging and asked them to move away, compared to 13 in Q4 2017/18. Work is currently underway to commission a new Parkguard service from September 2018.
9. EASL (Enabling Assessment Service London) – a specialist mental health service - continues to provide a low threshold referral service for rough sleepers who do not necessarily meet the requirements of a Mental Health Act assessment, but whose behaviour is troubling or chaotic. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Team has used its discretionary budget for a second time to help a long-term rough sleeper to access residential and rehab services provided by Westminster Drugs Project.
10. The Community and Children's Services Committee has established a Sub-Committee on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, which is overseeing the development of a new Corporation strategy for launch in 2019.

Drugs and alcohol

11. In August 2018, WDP Square Mile Health completed a review of demand, provision and usage of needle exchange services in the City of London. Of those assessed by WDP in the community, two individuals disclosed that they were currently injecting, with a further 17 disclosing that they had previously injected. While a further 37 people disclosed current injecting at Bishopsgate Police Station, they are unlikely to be local or to access local services.
12. Provision of needle exchange is predominantly by pharmacies. Currently only one out of 15 pharmacies in the City of London is providing Needle Exchange Services. Based on pharmacy claims since 1 April 2016, WDP's records suggest there have been 31 separate needle exchanges at pharmacy settings in the City of London. There are additional providers on the peripheries of the City of London (for example, the Dellow Centre in Tower Hamlets). The WDP review

concludes that more needs to be done with pharmacies on the promotion of needle exchange services and the recording of data.

13. DCCS also continues to support ongoing work to prevent and tackle drug use among workers in the City of London, and is working with the Safer City Partnership, Business Healthy and the WDP's Square Mile Health programme.

Suicide Prevention

14. An Annual Update on the Suicide Prevention Action Plan was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 15 June 2018. Key developments include:

- Mental Health Street Triage project launched in May 2017, with the City Corporation agreeing to extend this service from 4 to 7 nights in June 2018
- Work to reduce suicides from London Bridges including Samaritan signs on four City Bridges, RNLI signs on embankments and continued delivery of Samaritans training sessions to the local business community. The full evaluation of this work is currently in progress and will be complete by the end of the year.

15. The coroner provides data to the Public Health team and there is good data sharing between the City of London Police and the Public Health team. Additionally, the BTP and London Underground have started providing data on suicides and suicide interventions at stations in the City. There has, however, been delay in the development and implementation of an overarching data sharing agreement, to enable more detailed information to be shared. We will be exploring how the Safer City Partnership's data sharing agreement can be used to share suicide data.

16. Progress has stalled on a proposal for monitored CCTV cameras on City bridges as the Ring of Steel programme ends and a new Secure City programme begins. There is some CCTV coverage, but it is not routinely monitored. The Health and Wellbeing Board raised a resolution to the City of London Police Committee to consider this issue at their next meeting to encourage action to be taken.

Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21 (CYPP)

17. The CYPP - agreed by Members in April 2018 - focusses on five priorities: 'safe', 'potential', 'independence, involvement and choice', 'health and wellbeing' and 'community'.

18. The key commitments for 'safe' are:

- Continuous review of safeguarding policies and procedures
- Safeguarding training
- Highest safeguarding standards in schools attended by SEND children
- Support for the Prevent strategy
- Building on research on neglect risks for affluent residents
- Work with the City and Hackney Children's Safeguarding Board and schools to understand and address young people's digital footprints and online risk
- Renew the Early Help Action Plan

- Review and renew the 'Think Family' approach
- Implement the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy
- Deliver maintenance, repairs and fire safety visits to homes and extend neighbourhood patrolling
- Ensure the views of young people and families are represented in the implementation of the City Corporation's Lighting Strategy.

19. Implementation of the CYPP will be overseen by a Children and Young People's Steering Group (CYPSPG) on behalf of the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The CYPSPG will receive regular reports to monitor progress and assess the plans impact against its objectives. The CYPP Action Plan is currently in development.

Domestic and other abuse

20. The Community Safety Team continues to lead work on domestic violence and to support DCCS to develop appropriate safeguarding policy and procedure. The City and Hackney safeguarding boards are also actively concerned with domestic abuse. The CYPP 2018-21 includes a commitment to implement the Violence against Women and Girls Strategy by addressing issues such as female genital mutilation (FGM), parental violence, honour-based violence and forced marriage.

21. The City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board has identified financial abuse as a priority for the City. It is the second most prevalent cause of safeguarding alerts in the City, making up 28% of the entire safeguarding caseload.

22. A Task and Finish Group is bringing together officers from DCCS, Trading Standards, City of London Police and Toynbee Hall to develop a joint Action Plan. Recent work has included combining datasets to produce an overview of financial abuse in the City, a public campaign to coincide with Scams Awareness Month and a partnership event to raise awareness among practitioners.

Anti-Social Behaviour

23. In July, members approved a new Anti-Social Behaviour Policy for use on the City Corporation's estates. This is part of a wider review looking at the management of anti-social behaviour cases, which has also seen the introduction of a new procedure for officers and the implementation of new case management software (Streetwise) to assist in the effective administration of cases.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: *City of London Children and Young People Plan 2018-21*

Background Papers

- 'Rough Sleeping Update', Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, 6 September 2018
- 'Suicide prevention action plan (annual update)', Health and Wellbeing Board, 15 June 2018

- 'Anti-Social Behaviour Policy', Housing and Almshouse Sub-Committee 23 July 2018

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