

Committee:	Dated:
Safer City Partnership	29 November 2018
Subject:	Public
Community and Children's Services Update	For information
Report of:	
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Summary

This report provides an update of relevant data and activity from Community and Children's Services.

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 abuse.

Rough sleepers

Leadership and Governance

2. A Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Sub Committee has been established by the Community and Children's Services Grand Committee, and held its first meeting on 6 September, followed by an Awayday on 15 October. The Awayday was an opportunity for elected members and senior officers (including the Town Clerk) to meet with stakeholders (including the police and voluntary and community sector), hear from providers and identify challenges and solutions.

Strategy development and campaigning

3. The Sub Committee is overseeing the development of a Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, with the expectation that this will be launched in Spring 2019. This is currently in the 'engagement phase' which entails working with stakeholders to establish priorities and outcomes, including people with lived experience of sleeping rough on the City of London streets, housing officers,

adult social care officers and service providers. A draft of the strategy is due for completion by 14 December and will be the basis for a consultation phase.

4. The City is supporting a campaign led by the GLA to raise awareness of rough sleeping and how members of the public can engage with Streetlink, the national referral service. This builds on two previous winter awareness campaigns, and will be launched on 17 December, with promotion of the campaign on digital screens at the City's railway stations and at kiosk sites. Consideration is also being given to the potential for a campaign in the Spring to encourage alternative giving.

Data and Trends

5. Data from the CHAIN database for Q2 (July-September 2018) records 113 rough sleepers in the City in this period. This is a reduction on the figure of 125 in Q1, and is the fourth successive quarter where we have seen a decrease.
6. Of 113 rough sleepers recorded in Q2, 30 were 'living on the streets' (four less than in Q1), while 63 were 'intermittent rough sleepers' (one up from Q1). This second group is comprised of rough sleepers who are being seen over time, and/or being seen by more than one local authority. There are challenges in planning and delivering effective interventions for this group.
7. The monthly Street Audit for October returned a count of 35 rough sleepers, an increase of 10 on the previous month. (The official Annual Street Count will take place on the nights of the 29th and 30th November.)

Delivery

8. As reported to the Safer City Partnership in September, 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.

The Rough Sleeping Coordinator is in post and the team have supported three pop-up assessment hubs, which have helped 26 people to exit rough sleeping.

Drugs and Alcohol

9. The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group met on 14th November for an in-depth look at alcohol and drug services in the City. It was agreed that interested members of the Advisory Group will join the new Drugs in the City Working Group, to ensure effective cross-departmental working on this issue.
10. The first draft of the City of London's Alcohol Strategy has been completed – it will be reviewed by officers across relevant departments before being brought to this Partnership Board for comments.
11. The City Corporation is working with colleagues at the City and Hackney CCG and LB Hackney on a joint Mental Health strategy, which is being overseen by the City and Hackney Mental Health Co-ordinating Committee as part of the Health Integration Programme. Early drafts of the strategy have identified 'substance misuse' (including 'dual diagnosis') as one of six thematic priorities. A first draft will be completed for Christmas with consultation in the new year.
12. 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.
13. The Public Health team is currently undertaking research into the health and wellbeing needs of City workers, refreshing research carried out in 2012. The first phase of the research – engaging with City employers through quantitative and qualitative methods to understand their priorities with regards to the health and wellbeing of their own workforces – is complete. Mental health ranked as the predominant priority. Alcohol use/ misuse ranked eighth out of 16 priority areas and drug use/misuse ranked last.

Suicide Prevention

14. In September, we updated SCP on the Bridge pilot work to reduce suicides on London bridges, with Samaritan signs on four City bridges. The evaluation of this project has now been completed. Key findings are:
 - The pilot has played a vital role in bringing agencies together and focussing attention on suicide prevention
 - It is not possible to assess the impact of the Bridge Pilot on suicide rates as it was conducted at the same time as two other pilots: Mental Health Street Triage and the Water Safety Project (led by the police and RNLI)
 - The colour of the Samaritan's signs was assessed to be hard to see at night, particularly as they are placed low down on the bridge. It was felt that they could be missed, particularly by someone in distress.

15. The Mental Health Street Triage project currently has funding to operate for 7 nights a week through to June 2019. Discussions on future funding are ongoing between the City of London, CCG and City Police.
16. The City Corporation's Public Health team was invited to display an e-Poster on its approach to suicide prevention at the Public Health England Annual Conference in September. The poster outlined our approach to reducing suicides and supporting the mental wellbeing of local populations. The interactive poster is available [here](#).
17. Suicide Prevention Awareness Training sessions in partnership with Samaritans and City of London Police have continued throughout 2018, with 59 HR leads from 30 different organisations receiving training in the three sessions to date.
18. An evaluation of the Dragon Cafe in the City Pilot, which is hosted in Shoe Lane Library on a fortnightly basis found that three quarters of visitors (76%) agreed or strongly agreed that attending helped to improve their mental wellbeing. The Café is a welcoming space to engage in creative activities to support mental and physical wellbeing.

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

19. Recent work on the CYPP has focussed on: (a) agreeing an Action Plan and (b) oversight and ownership of the development and delivery of the Plan.
20. Actions under the 'safe' priority in the draft Action Plan include:
 - Effective implementation of the Safer City Partnership Strategic Plan; and
 - Ensuring children and young people's safety issues are effectively highlighted in the Safer City Partnership Annual Plan 2018-19.

We are working with Community Safety colleagues to ensure 'join up' with the CYPP to deliver our shared priorities.

21. A new Children's Partnership Board (CPB) is being established, superseding the Children's Executive Board, and with a responsibility for partnership work to deliver CYPP. The first meeting will be on 28 January with a focus on mental health and well-being. Themed meetings will be quarterly and will bring together a core CPB membership with stakeholders with an interest in the thematic focus for that session. At least one meeting in 2019 will be themed around the 'safe' priority, with an opportunity for DCCS to work in partnership with SCP to deliver this meeting.

Domestic and other abuse

22. 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.
23. The City and Hackney Safeguarding Board continues to lead work on financial abuse. This included a campaign to raise awareness of the risk of financial abuse to coincide with International Fraud Awareness Week (11-17 November). Posters have been displayed in City estates and other relevant sites (e.g. libraries) and leaflets distributed (see attachment).

Appendices

- Financial Abuse Flyer

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