

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Safer City Partnership	20 May 2019
<b>Subject:</b> Community and Children's Services Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Marcus Roberts, Head of Strategy and Performance, DCCS	

## 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: homelessness and rough sleepers, drugs and alcohol, suicide prevention, the Children and Young People's Plan and domestic abuse.

### Homelessness and Rough Sleepers

#### *Latest trends*

2. In February, we reported a sharp rise in the number of rough sleepers in the City of London in Q3 (October-December) to SCP – up by 99 people to 212, a rise of 87% compared to Q2. This was largely attributed to an increase in the number of new rough sleepers, who accounted for nearly 50% of this population in Q3.
3. The number of rough sleepers in the City of London was virtually unchanged in Q4 (January-March) at 213, and remains much higher than reported in the first half of 2018-19.
4. There was a smaller proportion of new rough sleepers in Q4 compared to Q3; but an increase in longer term and intermittent rough sleepers. The number of RS205 clients – i.e. those with the most entrenched needs – has remained high at 11.
5. In Q4, 70% (51 of 73) of new rough sleepers spent a single night out, with intensive mediation and alternative forms of accommodation (including in the

private rented sector) being developed in the City to support 'no second night out'.

6. It remains unclear whether the high number of rough sleepers in the second half of 2018-19 is establishing a 'new norm' or is an outlier. Discussions are ongoing with neighbouring boroughs to get a better understanding of any knock-on effects of their approaches and activities on the City, and to address these with them.

### ***Latest activities***

7. An *Alternative Giving campaign* is being developed for launch, and will be using contactless donation devices from TAP London to enable the public to make donations to homeless people using credit and debit cards, which will be used to support the work of homelessness services in the City.
8. The City Corporation is working with the Cheapside Business Alliance to take advantage of their existing business relationships within the Ward of Cheap to locate TAP machines and to promote the campaign with the business community.
9. A *Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy* is in development, and will go to the Community and Children's Services Committee for approval on 12 July.
10. The draft Strategy states that the Corporation's aim is '*to provide the interventions, services and cross-sectoral partnerships to tackle the causes and impacts of homelessness in the Square Mile, and to deliver the range of effective and rapid responses necessary to secure a sustainable end to homelessness*'. The strategy will deliver four key outcomes: '*homelessness is prevented*', '*everyone has a route away from homelessness*', '*the impact of homelessness is reduced*' and '*nobody returns to homelessness*'. It identifies key activities and success measures for each outcome, and will be supported by action planning.

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

11. A draft *Alcohol Strategy 2019-23* was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 April. The strategy brings together the work that the City of London Corporation and its partners undertake to reduce alcohol related harm and provides a framework for partnership work. It is currently out for consultation.
12. The three outcomes that the strategy will deliver are:
  - People are informed about the risks of alcohol misuse
  - People are safe, and feel safe, in the Night Time Economy
  - People have the support they need to access services.

The strategy will be supported by a delivery plan with clear and measurable actions and indicators for each outcome.

13. The contract for Square Mile Health, the City Corporation's existing drug and alcohol prevention and treatment service delivered by Westminster Drug Project,

is due to expire in September 2020 and the recommissioning of the new service has begun. Consultation with residents, providers, service users and wider stakeholders has been completed in partnership with the London Borough of Hackney, and the findings will be used to improve the future service.

14. Key themes emerging from the consultation were:

- The service should be easier to access;
- The service should be tailored and flexible (e.g., varied treatment offer and flexible appointment times);
- The importance of working in partnership (e.g. for effective referral pathways);
- Addressing the whole person – with a need for increased partnership working, co-locating services, prioritising quality and focussing on integration.

15. The procurement strategy and service model are in development. A new contract will be in place by January 2020 and the new service will begin in October 2020.

#### Suicide prevention

16. A presentation on the City of London's Bridge Pilot and our suicide prevention work was delivered to a Revo meeting – the retail consortium of companies who own and manage shopping centres across the UK. The City Corporation has been invited by Revo to support a working group on protecting and supporting vulnerable individuals.

17. The City Corporation and City Police's Mental Health Street Triage initiative, delivered in partnership with ELFT, featured on a BBC Inside Out programme looking at pro-active work to support those struggling with their mental health in the City (broadcast on 11 February).

18. Business Healthy and the Public Health team are planning another Samaritans' led Suicide Prevention Awareness training session, in partnership with the City of London Police, in late June. The session will be hosted at Commerzbank's offices in the City.

19. The multi-agency Suicide Prevention Working Group continues to meet regularly to monitor the City of London's Suicide Prevention Action Plan, investigate further possible actions and share learning and good practice. An officer from the City Corporation's Built Environment team attended the May meeting, which discussed how consideration of suicide risks could be incorporated into planning applications, especially for high rise buildings.

20. Other areas of work the Suicide Prevention Working Group is developing include:

- Working with RNLI to organise volunteer patrol on bridges by 2020;
- Mental Health First Aid training for City school staff, barbers and taxi drivers;
- Training for school staff on suicide prevention.

## Delivering the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP)

21. The City Corporation, LB Hackney and CCG are developing a Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy, as part of the Integrated Care Programme. This will sit alongside and support Phase 3 of the City and Hackney Local Transformation Plan for CAMHS services, which includes workstreams with a safer city focus covering crisis and health-based places of safety, youth offending and safeguarding.
22. The Children, Young People and Maternity workstream of the Integrated Care programme has been awarded £5K for its 'Takeover Challenge' bid to embed the voice of young people into service commissioning by setting up a young people's engagement group to reach out to and speak to young people in diverse communities about health services and issues (e.g. access to services and mental health).
23. The new Children's Partnership Board is also developing work on youth consultation and participation and is engaging with members of the City Youth Forum, the Children in Care Council and the City of London Police Cadets.

## Domestic abuse

24. DCCS is now working with the Community Safety Team to develop a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the City of London. The strategy will focus on three areas: prevention and early intervention; supporting people affected by VAWG; and holding perpetrators accountable.

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