

## **COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 9 October 2019**

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.30 am

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Randall Anderson (Chairman)	Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines
Rehana Ameer	Graeme Harrower
Matthew Bell	Laura Jorgensen - Co-optee
Peter Bennett	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Mary Durcan	Susan Pearson
Marianne Fredericks	Jason Pritchard
Alderman John Garbutt	James de Sausmarez
Alderman Prem Goyal	
Alderman David Graves	

#### **Officers:**

Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's, Communications Team
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's
Gerald Mehrtens	- Community & Children's Services
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community & Children's Services
Andrew Carter	- Community & Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	- Community & Children's Services
Andy Liggins	- Community & Children's Services
Claire Giraud	- Community & Children's Services
Liam Gillespie	- Community & Children's Services
William Coomber	- Community & Children's Services
Steven Chandler	- Community & Children's Services
Nicholas Sommerville	- Community & Children's Services
Mark Lowman	- Community & Children's Services

#### **In attendance:**

Dr Adi Cooper	- Independent Chair, City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board
Dr Roger Green	- Goldsmiths, University of London

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Ruby Sayed (Deputy Chairman), John Fletcher, Deputy Catherine McGuinness, Caroline Haines, Benjamin Murphy, Deputy Joyce Nash, Barbara Newman, Dhruv Patel, William Pimlott, Henrika Priest and Philip Woodhouse.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September be approved, subject to an amendment to Item 3: Responses to Resolutions from Wardmotes: Golden Lane Estate – as follows:

*RESOLVED, that – the approach as set out above be agreed and the results be communicated to the Wardmote, along with the Comments from this meeting.*

**Matters arising**

Fire Door Testing

Members expressed some confusion about the minimum burn time of doors during fire testing. Members asked if the minutes could remain in draft format until officers clarified this point, as set out below:

*Officers explained that, fire doors are categorised as FD30, FD60, FD90 and FD120 doors, depending on the minimum level of fire resistance they provide. An FD30 door, for example, is constructed to provide at least 30 minutes protection against fire. For modern fire door testing methods for new fire doors, it is common for fire doors to be tested up to their point of failure. In many cases, new fire doors provide a level of fire resistance well in excess of the minimum level stated. For example, many new approved FD60 fire doors will provide at least 75 minutes protection against fire, much greater than the 60 minutes minimum protection they are required to provide.*

NHS Long Term Plan

Members noted that the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Community and Children's Services met regularly with the Neaman Practice and were able to raise Members' issues on their behalf. The Assistant Director further advised that the Neaman was subject to scrutiny by the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee. In respect of a recent IT issue, Members noted that this had been due to a power cut and the slow broadband at the practice was being given a high priority by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members noted the Committee's Outstanding Actions list and those items which either appeared on today's agenda, had been raised under '*matters arising*', or scheduled for future meetings.

Members noted that the vote on holding meetings in the evening had been 10 for, 16 against with no expressions of '*no preference*'. The Chairman thanked Members for participating in the survey and noted that the trial for holding Committee Meetings on a different day of the week (to Fridays) was on-going

until the end of 2019; with today's meeting on a Wednesday; and November's on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> November.

5. **BREXIT IMPACT**

The Director of Community and Children's Services was heard in respect of the implications of a 'No-Deal' Brexit and Members noted:

- Chief Officer contingency planning meetings were continuing.
- The Department for Education's advice had been circulated to all schools
- The City Corporation's Registration Service were offering free support to all City Corporation staff and residents, who might be affected by the EU Settlement Scheme. No looked-after children were EU residents.
- Work was ongoing with adult social care providers to ensure their resilience and the Government's advice remained in respect of not stockpiling medical and food supplies.

6. **SOCIAL WELLBEING STRATEGY - REVIEW AND UPDATE**

Members received a presentation from Dr Roger Green in respect of community responses to the loneliness and social isolation study by Goldsmith's University. Following the presentation, Dr Green suggested that two priority areas were: (1) business engagement; and (2) community engagement; i.e. - a follow up to the recent '*Community Builders*' programme.

In respect of the various issues referenced in Dr Green's presentation, Members noted the following:

1. Consultation was underway at Windsor House for a full regeneration, and the Sydenham Hill redevelopment was on today's agenda.
2. Members of the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee (HMASC) had recently approved a Five Year Community Centre Strategy, and a new Community Centre was the subject of an urgent item of business on today's agenda. The IT Department were looking at user-friendly booking systems for the City's community centres.
3. Members were reminded of the '*Allocated Members*' scheme, whereby Members championed the various City Corporation Housing Estates and reported regularly to the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee (HMASC). These Members were extremely vigilant and had not recently raised any serious concerns.
4. In respect of the health and wellbeing benefits of pet ownership, Members noted that the HMASC were due to review the pet policy and would be asked to consider making it more flexible.
5. There was strong evidence that some of the City's Resident Associations were very organised and active.
6. A project was underway to repair and replace playground equipment.

7. Members had been invited to 2 business engagement sessions; i.e. - an interactive session on 29th October; and a follow-up on 14th November 2019, after the informal meeting of the Court.

In concluding, the Director suggested and Member agreed, that the Committee should receive a fact checking report, looking at some of the issues raised in Dr Green's presentation.

## **7. CITY & HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19. Members noted that, under the 2014 Care Act, the Board has a statutory duty to complete an annual report outlining its achievements for the previous year and priorities for the forthcoming year. Member asked if the next report could include a method for measuring delivery against priorities.

During the discussion and questions the following points were noted:

1. Transitions from child to adult safeguarding were challenging nationally as they had different approaches. Hackney had introduced contextual safeguarding and were working with the City Corporation's Safeguarding Sub Committee in respect of an 'early help' pilot. Members accepted that this work might take a while to develop and they would receive an update early in 2020.
2. The City's small data set affected patterns and trends very quickly, particularly in respect of repeat concerns. The Assistant Director confirmed that all repeats were looked at individually and learning was taken from these cases.
3. In respect of 'No First Night Out', data commenced at the point of a client presenting for housing need and then entering a pathway.
4. The effort to assess outcomes through a structured follow-up with those who had experienced safeguarding services had not been successful, as former clients often found great difficulty in relating painful past experiences. Dr Cooper would be revisiting this and considering a different approach.
5. Healthwatch Hackney had ceased the City contract following mutual agreement and the new City of London Healthwatch had recently been established. The Assistant Director explained the fundamental differences between Hackney and the City; mainly concerning numbers. There had been a slight increase in financial abuse awareness in the City and this work had been used as a model for Hackney.
6. The London Ambulance Service was not engaged on all borough boards but was a key partner and actively engaged on a Pan-London level.

7. Dr Cooper strongly emphasised that Safeguarding was everyone's responsibility and explained the training and selection process for Safeguarding 'Champions'. The positions were advertised widely; the second cohort had been very diverse and included City volunteers.

In concluding, the Chairman and Members thanked Dr Cooper for an insightful report.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

8. **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SELF ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services which advised Members of the Department's recent Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Self-assessment, in order to assess compliance and performance against the Public Sector Equality Duty. Members noted that the process had identified areas of strength and opportunities to improve, which were captured in an improvement plan.

In response to questions, Members noted that the 15 officers who participated were project leads and, therefore, the scope had been considerably wider. The officer advised that, once the self-assessments had been rolled out corporately, a performance measure and external verification might be considered.

RESOLVED, That – the report be noted.

9. **HOUSING REGISTER AND TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in response to Members' request following a report published by the Children's Commissioner for England in August 2019. This report had highlighted the issue of thousands of homeless families living in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

The report provided comparative data regarding the number of homeless households with children, both nationally and in Greater London and the City of London. Members noted that those families on the City's list who were in moderate/severe overcrowding, and who had been waiting several years, were generally interested in a specific estate and were not entering bids in the 'choice based lettings' system for other opportunities. The officer explained that many different data sets were available to Members on request.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

10. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

- A Member asked about offers of compensation for the infringement of rights of light caused by the COLPAI development, which had been sent to leaseholders of Basterfield House on the Golden Lane Estate earlier this year. The Member understood that some of these offers had recently been withdrawn and leaseholders might receive new, lower offers or nothing at all. The Director advised that no offers had been withdrawn

but the Member had seen correspondence to a resident stating that their offer had been suspended. The Director therefore agreed to do a further check.

- In response to a further question in respect of amending the terms of all the leases on Golden Lane Estate, to allow COLPAI to be built on part of the site, the Director advised that Members would receive a report at the next meeting of the Committee.

#### 11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

##### **Members briefings on Corporate Parenting and the role of the Virtual Head**

- Members noted that there would be an All-Member Briefing Session 24<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm in respect of Corporate Parenting and role of the Virtual Head. There would also be an informal session for Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee, directly before the next meeting of the Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

**Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee** - The Chairman explained that due to the long-term sickness of a couple of Members, there had been a difficulty in reaching a quorum for the Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee. Members were therefore asked to appoint a further Deputy.

Being the only Member willing to serve, it was RESOLVED, that - Mary Durcan be pointed as a Deputy to the Integrated Commissioning Sub Committee for 2019/20.

**Tribunal Hearing: Great Arthur House** – had been set for 29/30 October.

#### 12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 (Schedule 12A) of the Local Government Act.

<b>Item no</b>	<b>para no</b>
13 – 17(a)	3
17 (b)	1, 2, 3 & 4

#### 13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be approved.

#### 14. **HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME: PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON THE SYDENHAM HILL ESTATE, LEWISHAM SE26 6ND**

Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, with a caveat as set out in the non-public minutes from this meeting.

**14 (a) – HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME – PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON THE SYDENHAM HILL ESTATE, LEWISHAM SE26 6ND: GATEWAY 4: DETAILED OPTIONS APPRAISAL REPORT**

Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, with a caveat as set out in the non-public minutes from this meeting.

**15. PROGRESS REPORT OF THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES AND SOCIAL HOUSING ON THE FORMER RICHARD CLOUDESLEY SCHOOL SITE**

Members received a progress report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

**16. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**  
There were no questions.

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

The Chairman agreed to accept the following items of urgent business whilst the public were excluded.

*At 1.25pm, Members agreed to waive standing orders for 15 minutes in order to conclude the business on the agenda.*

**17 (a) New Community Centre**

Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services.

**17 (b) Future Provision of Public Health Service for the City of London**

Members considered and approved a Confidential (Member only) report of the Interim Director of Public Health.

**The meeting ended at 1.45 pm**

-----  
Chairman

**Contact Officer: Julie Mayer tel. no. 020 7332 1410  
julie.mayer@cityoflondon.gov.uk**