

HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING SUB COMMITTEE

Monday, 29 June 2020

Minutes of the meeting streamed on You Tube at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)	William Pimlott
Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chairman)	Henrika Priest
Randall Anderson	Ruby Sayed
Mary Durcan	Reverend Paul Kennedy
Alderman Vincent Keaveny	David MacKintosh
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen	

Officers:

Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services
Greg Knight	- Community and Children's Services
Chris Pelham	- Community and Children's Services
Kirsty Lowe	- Community and Children's Services
Will Norman	- Community and Children's Services
James Gibson	- Chamberlain's Department
Louise Said	- Chamberlain's Department
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department
Antoinette Duhaney	- Town Clerk's Department
Kerry Nicholls	- Town Clerk's Department
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerk's Department
Jillian Reid	- Town Clerk's Department
Chandni Tanna	- Town Clerk's Department (Communications)
Inspector John Peacock	- City of London Police

Also Present:

Deputy Brian Mooney - Chief Commoner

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Bronek Masojada and also from Henrika Priest for lateness.

The Chairman opened the first virtual meeting of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee by thanking officers for their hard work during the lockdown. Their commitment had ensured that the City's street residents were not only accommodated but had been provided with the services they required and a pathway off of the streets.

Members noted that Chief Inspector Jesse Wynne had been promoted to the Control Room and his colleagues, Chief Inspector Chris Hay and Chief Inspector Ray Marskell, would be the Sub Committee's City of London Police representatives at future meetings. The Chairman and Members thanked Chief Inspector Wynne for his contribution to the work of the Sub Committee.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 25th February 2020 be approved, subject to a correction in that Parkguard was not accredited under the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme within the City of London. Members noted that Parkguard held this accreditation in other areas which gave it a range of delegated powers under the Police Reform Act 2002.

Matters arising

The Chairman was pleased to advise that the capital bid had been approved at the March Court of Common Council.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members received the Sub Committee's outstanding actions list and noted the following updates:

- A government official would be invited to speak at the meeting of the Sub Committee on 1st October 2020 in respect of individuals without recourse to public funds.
- In respect of a proposal to publicise photographs of individuals who had received Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBOs), Members were assured that CBOs were a last resort, applied in response to persistent criminal behaviour. However, Members were concerned that this action might capture vulnerable people who were being exploited. A report outlining protocols on this matter would be provided to the Safer City Partnership, Police Authority Board and Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee before any further action was taken in respect of publishing photographs.
- The Rough Sleeping Outreach Service Update report, which would be presented to the 24 July 2020 meeting of Community and Children's Services Committee, would also be circulated to those Members of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee who are not also Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee. *[it was clarified following the meeting that the Stage 2 report for the Rough Sleeping Service would not be presented to the Community and Children's Services Committee; however, the report would be circulated to the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee when available].*
- The City of London Police update provided at item 8 today would be provided with the minutes to this meeting.

- A report on the Community Trigger process would be presented to a future meeting of the Sub Committee. The Head of Community Safety also agreed to compile the engagement undertaken with the '101' Service in respect of a case reported earlier in the year.
- All future press releases regarding homeless accommodation arrangements would be circulated to Committee Members. Members noted that they could ask the Media Team to include them in an email distribution list, alerting them to new press releases.

5. **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPERS RECOVERY PLAN**

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services in respect of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Recovery Plan.

During the discussion and questions, the following points were noted:

- Officers gave an assurance that the recovery plan would include working with the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) and partners in mapping individuals' requirements, to ensure that accommodation pathways were in place well ahead of 31st March 2021.
- Members felt that this work was a 'watershed' in assisting homeless clients and the Assistant Director welcomed the ongoing support of the Sub Committee in driving the strategy. The Chairman felt that it had provided an excellent opportunity to gain as much intelligence as possible, which would enable Officers and Members to examine previous barriers and refusals to accept assistance.
- Action taken during lockdown had resulted in some very long-term rough sleepers accepting offers of accommodation. This had built trust and enabled them to have access to benefits, health checks, drug rehabilitation and other key services. However, it was essential to keep the momentum as there were ups and downs on these pathways.
- Support needs should extend beyond drug, alcohol and mental health rehabilitation and assist those with either a history of unsuccessful tenancies or living independently for the first time. Officers confirmed that work in this area was well-placed following the funding agreed by the Court of Common Council. Discussions were underway with neighbouring authorities to build on learning and to make new measures sustainable.
- In respect of providing facilities to the relatively low number of clients remaining on the street, Members were reminded that this would need careful management from a public health perspective and strict guidance was in place. Members noted that 7-8 outreach worker shifts operated every week and Streetlink was still the first point of contact for rough Sleeping concerns. Consideration would be given to how assessment and support could be offered most effectively in future, and the economic

impact of COVID-19 had the potential to increase the number of people who were homeless or rough sleeping.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

6. **ROUGH SLEEPING COVID-19 SUMMARY REPORT**

Members received the Rough Sleeping COVID-19 Summary Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services. Members noted that the 'Doctors of the World' pilot had expired but multi-agency work was ongoing and it was hoped to resume the 'Doctors of the World' service.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

7. **OUTREACH COMMISSIONING UPDATE**

The Director of Community and Children's Services provided an update on Outreach Commissioning. Members noted that this contract had not been awarded as planned in April 2020, as the resources of City services and potential providers had been fully engaged in responding to the COVID-19 Crisis. The process had since resumed and would be the subject of a report to the Procurement Sub Committee, seeking a delegated authority for a Stage 2 report which would be scrutinised at the Community and Children's Services Committee on 24 July 2020 in anticipation of a contract award in August 2020. The Chairman asked if those Members on the Sub Committee, who are not Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee, could be sighted on the report.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

8. **CITY OF LONDON POLICE UPDATE**

During the Inspector's update, the following points were noted:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB) had reduced considerably during the COVID-19 pandemic but was still being monitored.
- Government funding had been extended to the end of the calendar year in order to provide a dedicated PC and PCSO to work with the City of London Corporation's officers on rough sleeping, anti-social behaviour and begging.
- An action plan had been requested by the Chairman of the Safer City Partnership in respect of shared recording and information systems between the City of London Corporation and the City of London Police.
- A summary of the new structure for Community Policing was being designed under the force's Transform change programme and this included a focus on crime prevention and addressing local issues.
- Operation Luscombe had been suspended due to reduced staffing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic but would re-start in due course.

- The Inspector had attended the Rough Sleepers Strategy Group meeting earlier today, led by the City of London Corporation. The work done in response to the 'Everyone in' announcement by the Government was very impressive and the government's commitment to extend the scheme beyond next month had been well received.

RESOLVED, that – the update be noted.

9. THE CITY OF LONDON COMMUNITY TRIGGER RECOMMENDATIONS JANUARY 2020: UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN REPORT

Members received a report of the Town Clerk, which updated Members on the progress in adopting and implementing recommendations developed during the January 2020 Community Trigger Review.

During the discussion on this item, the following points were noted:

- The '101' service was commissioned nationally and, whilst there had been some historic problems with the service, this had improved. Members were asked to contact the Head of Community Service if they became aware of any further issues. There was a concern expressed in that the public might perceive failings within the 101 service to fall within the remit of the City Corporation or other boroughs. The officer agreed to compile the engagement undertaken on this matter and provide Members with more detail.
- Whilst there was not a suite of policies in place, Community MARACs brought all partners together. This was often the first opportunity to share information and engage in a frank discussion about an appropriate course of action, on a case by case basis. It was noted that Community Behaviour Orders were a last resort; they were often framed as a supporting step and enforcement action did not always follow. Members asked the Community Protection Team to prepare a report on this matter, focusing on the mental health support aspects.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

In response to two questions, the following points were noted:

1. Both lodges were running well and providing advice to residents on compliance with government guidelines. As the accommodation had no self-contained bathrooms, the services were treated as households under COVID-19 lockdown arrangements.
2. In respect of the consequences on vulnerable communities' post lockdown, officers were tracking data sets to identify pressure points; i.e. increases in housing benefit claims or approaches for advice on housing. Members noted that some industries, which might provide a first step back into employment for homeless clients, might be seriously affected.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Town Clerk advised members that this was the last meeting of the Sub Committee for the current Municipal Year, with the Annual Meeting of the Court taking place in July and not April 2020. The Town Clerk would be writing to all Members shortly in respect of the annual appointments to Sub Committees. Members were reminded that the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee appointed from the wider Court, as well as from the Community and Children's Services Committee.

In concluding the public part of the agenda, the Chairman made the following tributes:

1. David MackIntosh, the Head of Community Safety, would be leaving the City Corporation after 19 years' service. David had provided a key role in providing support for drug rehabilitation as well as in the service area of Community Safety.
2. Since its inception in 2018, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee's work had been ground-breaking, driven by the dedication of its Members and Officers. The Chairman has recently met a former long-term rough sleeper, who was now in much better health and in accommodation. This outcome evidenced how the work of the Sub Committee had been life changing for some extremely vulnerable people.
3. In turn, Members commended the Chairman for her dedication to the work of the Sub Committee.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

Item no	Para no
13	3
14	-
15	1,2 & 3
16	1&2

13. NON -PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2020 be approved.

14. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE WHILE THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no questions

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

Two matters were raised while the public were excluded.

16. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2020 be approved.

The meeting closed at 3.26 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Kerry Nicholls 020 7 332 1262
kerry.nicholls@cityoflondon.gov.uk**