

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Friday, 12 June 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held at on Friday, 12 June 2020 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)
Deputy Joyce Nash (Deputy Chairman)
Randall Anderson - Chairman of Community and Children's Services Committee
Jon Averbs - Director of Markets and Consumer Protection
Natasha Brady - City of London Police
Mary Durcan – Court of Common Council
David Maher - NHS, City and Hackney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Dr Gary Marlowe - Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Sandra Husbands – Director of Public Health
Jeremy Simons, representative for Port Health and Environmental Services Committee
Gail Beer - HealthWatch City of London

In Attendance

Paul Coles - HealthWatch City of London

Officers:

Andrew Carter - Director of Community and Children's Services
Xenia Koumi - Community and Children's Services
Ellie Ward - Community and Children's Services
Chandni Tanna - Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy - Town Clerk's Department
Natasha Brady - City of London Police
Inspector John Peacock - City of London Police

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received. The Chairman welcomed the new Manager of HealthWatch City of London, Paul Coles, to his first meeting.

The Chairman noted that it was Carers Week and thanked all carers for their vital work caring people during lockdown.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2020 be approved.

Matters arising

The Chairman noted that the opening of the Mental Health Wellbeing Centre had been delayed due to Covid-19, but online therapy sessions were available.

4. ADDRESSING HEALTH INEQUALITIES AMONG CITY WORKERS

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services on addressing health inequalities amongst City workers.

Members were informed that there was ongoing exacerbation for workers concerning the conflict between essential work, isolation, no income or statutory pay. It was agreed that this once hidden worker group was more visible during the pandemic and concerns were raised that some people within the category had a lack of GP access within the City. A Member suggested offering early and late hours access to such health advice centres.

A Member asked for clarity regarding the statement that "poor children thrive in poorer areas rather than richer ones". Officers explained that the report found this to be the case in terms of the children living in poverty across the UK and that inequalities could be narrowed more effectively in the deprived areas.

Members queried how businesses, whose staff (notably those working early and late hours) needed to have better access to healthcare, could be engaged to prevent inequality for City workers. Officers responded that the focus being on the hidden workforce was an important start in reducing inequalities but highlighted that how they were treated when at work was also important. Both the Office of National Statistics (ONS) and Public Health England Review on disparities from Covid-19 findings showed a higher proportion of infection amongst BAME and lower socio-economic groups. It was noted that the City Corporation were working in partnership with other groups and local businesses to produce guidance for businesses regarding infection prevention, control measures and risk assessments for staff. Officers confirmed that Business Healthy could be used to share this information.

Healthwatch noted that they were trying to access this group of people and would like to work with the City Corporation on a larger strategy for services to improve access to health care. The Chairman suggested a resolution go to the new Tackling Racism Taskforce (approved by the Policy & Resources Committee) to ensure this agenda was taken forward by the City Corporation. This suggestion was supported by Members.

It was noted that many businesses were operating with a skeleton staff and a Member queried if this limited worker's access to healthcare where they work or at home. Officers confirmed that most people generally accessed healthcare via their local GP; however, it was noted that many people accessed support for emotional and wellbeing factors through work. The City Corporation were continuing with this business offer, including to those working at home and feeling isolated, ensuring workers have the right equipment, etc. This had received a good response and businesses were being encouraged to do more to support staff.

The Chairman noted that the hospitality trade typically had long hours and few breaks and recommended that these businesses engage with Business Healthy.

RESOLVED - that:–

- Members note the report;
- Where possible and appropriate, Members advocate for health inequalities among City workers to be considered in recovery planning across the Square Mile, with a view to contributing to reducing them as a longer-term aim;
- Members support measures being taken by other teams and Departments across the Corporation, to proactively address and reduce health inequalities among the City's worker population and especially among "hidden" workers in routine, service and manual roles;
- A resolution be sent to the Tackling Racism Taskforce emphasising the Health & Wellbeing Board's request that more work be taken forward by the City Corporation addressing health inequalities amongst City workers in light of the review by ONS and PHE.

5. **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Board received an oral update from Officers relating to issues and matters concerning the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were informed that there have been 16 confirmed cases of Covid-19 amongst City residents and, at present, no deaths from those registered by City Registrars have been reported. The Board was further advised that there were a small number of people who had passed away whose care was paid for by the City of London but were placed in residential care outside of the City.

Members were advised that the UK had passed the peak of the disease and London was ahead of the rest of UK in the rate of infection numbers. No new cases in the City have been reported for a number of weeks and the City are working on a Local Outbreak Control Plan with Hackney London Borough Council with the intention of submitting this to the Central Government by the end of June 2020. It was noted that a lot of work was underway using the local outbreak and track and trace data to refine the services and that the City had a head start on this work with a number of boroughs using the Corporation's template to develop their own plan. This plan covers care homes, schools and other high-risk settings.

Officers confirmed that 90% of the City's rough sleepers were now in accommodation including entrenched rough sleepers. There were 179 people shielding in the City and ongoing support was being provided. In terms of mental health support, some of the services were offered online with a focus on suicide prevention. Significant support has also been offered for bereavement

counselling and written, telephone, social media and online communications have been provided to City residents.

The Board was informed that the Library Service had provided an excellent delivery service and local provision of food services had been excellent. The service has taken a wide and broad approach in terms of planning and would continue to work with various community groups. It was also noted that the Culture Mile local radio station had played a vital role in the wellbeing of the local residents.

Officers explained that work was underway with businesses on standard operating procedures, cases and outbreaks, and working with environmental health colleagues on developing guidance to ensure effective open-up measures were in place, as well as risk assessments. Business were also being encouraged to approach the Public Health Team at the City Corporation for assistance.

Additionally, there was ongoing work in respect of those finding it difficult to shield to ensure they were aware of the support available to them via the voluntary sector and local businesses. Officers confirmed that the City Corporation and Hackney Council had received funding from Central Government based on a percentage of its Public Health Grant.

6. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD UPDATE REPORT

Members received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an overview of local developments and policy issues related to the work of the Board where a full report is not necessary.

RECEIVED.

7. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

A Member noted the recent improvements in air quality in the City and raised a concern on behalf of a resident concerning the potential to introduce smoke free (cigarette) zones on City streets. Mindful of the City's commitment to build on air improvements and in compliment to the development of Low Emission Neighbourhoods in the City, the Member suggested that a report be brought to the Board examining the feasibility of introducing Clean Air Zones near residential properties analogous to the Clean Air Zones already in place on private estates, e.g. the Broadgate Estate where there is no smoking.

Members were advised that it was the City's Street Environment Officers who usually dealt with these issues and that the City Corporation had not been informed by any residents of suffering from smokers outside homes in this area. Officers agreed to look into the matter and follow up with staff in New Street Square to support to the resident that raised the concern, but it was acknowledged that significant criteria would need to apply to implement a PSPO restricting access over a public highway which was unlikely in this case.

A Member queried if there has been a higher update on the stop smoking campaign and services. Officers agreed to come back to the Board with

accurate data on the uptake, but initial figures were reporting an increase in smoking and alcohol consumption during lockdown.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Healthwatch City of London Progress Report

Members received a report by Healthwatch City of London providing an update on the progress made since HealthWatch City of London (HWCoL) was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in September 2019.

Members were advised that the new manager and other new staff members joined HealthWatch weeks before the lockdown and the new team had worked hard under unusual circumstances. HealthWatch's main priority has been to gauge the public's experience of Covid-19 and have produced a number of surveys concerning access to healthcare, mental health support and social care. With regards to dental care, it was noted that mystery shoppers had identified that accessibility was not as being portrayed.

HealthWatch have been offering coffee meetings for carers via Zoom throughout lockdown and continue to work with colleagues in Hackney and Tower Hamlets to help ensure access to healthcare for all.

In response to a query concerning the annual Business Plan, Members were advised that the report was currently being drafted and would come to the next Board meeting.

The Chairman thanked HealthWatch and congratulated staff for adapting so well.

RECEIVED.

9. EXCLUSION OF 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.

10. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2020. be approved.

11. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE BOARD AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 2.31 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Leanne Murphy