

COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friday, 9 February 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Children's Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 9 February 2018 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Rehana Ameer
Randall Anderson (Deputy Chairman)
Peter Bennett
Mary Durcan
John Fletcher
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman David Graves
Caroline Haines
Alderman Robert Howard
Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Henry Jones

Angus Knowles-Cutler
The Lord Mountevans
Deputy Joyce Nash
Barbara Newman
Dhruv Patel (Chairman)
Susan Pearson
Henrika Priest
Jason Pritchard
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Ruby Sayed
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Mark Bostock
Adrian Bastow

Officers:

Paul Murtagh	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Barbara Hamilton	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Richard Holt	-	Town Clerk's Department
Chris Pelham	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Gerald Mehrtens	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Mark Jarvis	-	Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mark Wheatley, Stephen Haines, James de Sausmarez, Laura Jorgensen, Matt Piper, William Pimlott, Matthew Bell, George Abrahams, Ben Murphy, Deputy John Tomlinson,

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

Susan Pearson declared an interest stating that she had been a Member of a committee which had a recipient under the Stronger Communities and Small Grants Programme.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

4. PRESENTATION: WESTMINSTER DRUG PROJECT

The Committee received a presentation regarding the Westminster Drug Project and noted the following services were offered:

Drug & Alcohol Treatment:

- Arrest Referral
- Psychosocial Interventions
- Clinical / Pharmacological treatment
- Group work
- Satellite Service at the Neaman Practice, Hackney Recovery Service and Bishopsgate Police Station.

Corporate & Community Engagement

- Training and Education
- Health & Wellbeing Focused
- Equally focused between local community and corporate sector
- Promoting informed choices and providing brief interventions.

Smoking Cessation

Clinics run at 15 pharmacies across the City.

In response to a query it was noted that the following treatments were available:

Psychosocial Treatment

- One to one key work with allocated Health & Wellbeing Practitioner
- Tailored care planning, specific to individual need
- Risk management
- Close inter-agency joint working procedures
- GP services
- St Mungo's Street outreach
- Community mental health programmes
- Blood born virus Screening
- Naloxone
- Referral to inpatient detox and rehabilitation.

Pharmacological Treatment

- Specialist clinical intervention provided by the City's partners at the Hackney Recovery Service
- Opiate substitute prescribing
- Hepatitis B vaccinations
- Community alcohol detox programme.

In response to a query regarding drug use by City workers it was noted that work was being done to identify users and providing intervention. Members noted that when alcohol intervention was undertaken advice was also given regarding drug use. Members asked how the success was measured by the service; it was noted that at the beginning of treatment 3 key priorities were identified for the service user, and if these were met the service was deemed a success.

Members queried the responsibility of businesses to assist any staff suffering drug or alcohol misuse. It was noted that businesses were invited to join Business Healthy initiatives and other similar programmes used to tackle drug

issues; however, it was the responsibility of individual businesses to join such programmes to promote the health and wellbeing of their employees.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

5. **THE CITY AND HACKNEY SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

Members noted that the City and Hackney Safeguarding Adults Board is a statutory Board and the Annual Report is a statutory requirement. The Committee noted that during 2016/17

☐ City partnership has been driving forward work on financial abuse and social isolation.

☐ There have been 4 Safeguarding Adult Reviews in 2016/17, none of which were for City residents.

☐ Learning has come back into the City via the SAR workshops.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

6. **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

Members were informed that the City & Hackney Safeguarding Board (CHSCB) annual report for 2016/17 is a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of safeguarding and the promotion of child welfare across the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney.

Members noted that the report:

☐ described the **governance and accountability** arrangements for the CHSCB, outlining the structures in place that support the CHSCB to do its work effectively.

☐ set the **context for safeguarding children and young people** in the City of London, highlighting the **progress made by the City partnership** and the challenges going forward.

☐ set out the lessons that the CHSCB has identified through its **Learning & Improvement Framework** and the actions taken to improve child safeguarding.

☐ described the range and impact of the **multi-agency safeguarding training** delivered by the CHSCB and a brief account of the single agency training delivered by partners.

☐ set out the **priorities going forward** and the **key messages** from the Independent Chair of the CHSCB to key people involved in the safeguarding of children and young people.

Members agreed that the current arrangements regarding the Safeguarding Children's Board were very effective and should continue to be implemented. Officers said that the Board was working very well; the level of resources locally and multi-agency meetings would continue to meet as usual.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

7. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME**

Members noted that the City of London Corporation confirmed its commitment to delivering the first 100 apprentices across its departments in 2017/18. This level would be maintained each year.

The recruitment targets to date have been achieved. The recruitment activities for the third and fourth cohort are currently underway. The ongoing marketing and recruitment campaigns for apprentice cohorts one, two and three have proved to be successful. The number of enquiries from departments for apprentice vacancies continues to increase. Members were very pleased with this progress and thanked Officers for their work; the Committee agreed that this work should be communicated publicly.

Members were informed that there is also an increase in the number of older candidates and university graduates who are successful in responding to COL apprentice vacancies. The results of the mandatory initial assessments are showing a need for the service to provide additional learning support in areas such as functional skills for apprentices between the ages of 16 and 19 years, and some specialist support for apprentices with disabilities such as hearing impairment.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

8. CITY OF LONDON AND GRESHAM ALMSHOUSES, EAST LODGE AND COMMUNAL AREAS - REFURBISHMENT WORKS

The Committee received an update on the refurbishment works and noted that part of the increased scope of work was to undertake a drainage survey, given concerns raised by estate staff as to the condition of below ground services. Architects have also been commissioned to work on pre-planning drawings for the works required to bring the windows up to standard. As the Almshouses are in a conservation area and are listed, replacement of the existing wooden frames and sashes may not be approved, and listed building consent will be required for any overhauling works.

A Member queried why some work was scheduled to be carried out over the winter season. Officers said that this work would be kept to a minimum to avoid any disruption or inconvenience to residents. Officers informed Members that residents would be fully consulted to ensure that the work would be completed around their needs.

The Chairman asked Officers to investigate the possibility of Member involvement with regards to the consideration of procurement options in relation to this project and other housing matters. The Director agreed to discuss the matter with the appropriate Officers and would arrange a meeting in due course.

Members noted that the funding was delivered by the Trustees of the Almshouses and Officers would investigate the breakdown of the funding arrangements and circulate the information via email. The Committee queried whether budgets were closely monitored for such projects to ensure that where

costs had been significantly underestimated it was identified why. Officers agreed to circulate this information to Members via email after the meeting.

RESOLVED – that Members:

1. Noted total estimated programme cost of £1,344,504 which includes fees and staff costs of £47,544 for internal, external and common parts refurbishment works at the City of London Almshouses.
2. Approved Option Two - authority is given for the Director of Community and Children's services to use in house staff and Mooney Kelly quantity surveyors to develop the specification and carry out procurement of a works contractor to then proceed to Gateway 5, at an estimated cost of £31,332

9. **STRONGER COMMUNITIES AND SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted that the Stronger Communities grant funding closed to applications on 3rd November 2017. Applications were assessed by an Officer panel and recommended to the Director in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for approval. Seven projects were successful and have together received just under £57,000 in grant funding. It was proposed that Members commit a further £30,000 to support a new "crowdfunding" project that aims to lever in additional contributions to fund community based schemes.

The Small Grants programme, funded by the Department, has allocated just over £9,000 in 2017/18 to support seven small community initiatives. This programme will be combined into a single Stronger Communities fund in 2018/19 that will provide opportunities for both smaller and larger projects.

RESOLVED – that Members:

- ☐ to note the grants approved for Stronger Communities funding
- ☐ to commit £30,000 from the unallocated Stronger Communities fund to trial a crowdfunding grant initiative
- ☐ to note the grants approved for the Small Grants Programme and its merger into the Stronger Communities fund for future years.

10. **DRAFT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19**

The Committee received the draft high-level business plan for 2018/19 for the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) for comment by Members. The final business plan will be brought to Committee for approval in March 2018.

Members asked Officers to include references to resources available for mental health programmes or City accessibility. Members also requested that an appendix be included setting out the acronyms used within the business plan.

RESOLVED – that the report be received.

11. **REVISED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND AND THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY**

Members noted that the Education Charity Sub-Committee has revised the eligibility criteria for the City Educational Trust Fund (charity number 290840)

and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (charity number 312836) (the Charities). The revised eligibility criteria for the two charities was presented to Members. The new eligibility criteria for the charities aims to streamline the assessment process, reduce costs of charity administration and maximise expenditure of funds to further the purposes for which each charity was established.

RESOLVED – that Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee considered the amended eligibility criteria for the Charities.

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

Members requested an update regarding the cold weather shelter. Officers said the severe weather protocol was currently in operation and accommodation had been provided for 6 people. Members asked whether an alternative provision was available for those who did not want to take up accommodation but wanted to seek shelter inside. Officers said that local churches served as pop up hubs and the outreach provision was scaled up during adverse weather conditions along with other services.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

14. 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 Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – that Members approved the non-public minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1:00pm

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