

SAFEGUARDING SUB (COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE

Thursday, 27 November 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Safeguarding Sub (Community & Children's Services) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)	Deputy Joyce Nash
Deputy Billy Dove (Deputy Chairman)	Elizabeth Rogula
Professor John Lumley	

Officers:

Philippa Sewell	Town Clerk's Department
Ade Adetosoye	Community & Children's Services
Chris Pelham	Community & Children's Services
Marion Willicome-Lang	Community & Children's Services
Simon Cribbens	Community & Children's Services
Pat Dixon	Community & Children's Services
Peter Corden-Dilley	Community & Children's Services
Emma Goulding	Community & Children's Services
Elizabeth Malton	Community & Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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 30 June 2014 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

The Assistant Director of People advised that the information regarding how many Acts of Legislation affecting the Safeguarding service had been circulated to Members electronically in July 2014, and it was noted that the annual reception for the City's Looked After Children and Care Leavers was being discussed and planned by the new Children in Care Council.

The Sub Committee was asked for input as to a visit to elderly tenants in Tower Hamlets and for another visit to be present at a review meeting, and it was agreed that the number of Members should be kept to a minimum as to not overwhelm the residents in question. With regard to the 'Notice the Signs'

campaign being included in ward newsletters, officers confirmed that this had appeared in some but not all, and undertook to ensure it went to all wards.

4. **SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND YOUTH OFFENDING INSPECTION**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services which provided an update on the progress made on the Service Improvement Plan. This plan had been in place since March 2012 and contained actions from previous inspections, reviews and audits within Children's Social Care. In September 2014 there were 133 actions on the Service Improvement Plan; the review in November 2014 concluded that this has now been significantly reduced to 32 actions, with 7 completed, reducing the number outstanding to 25.

Officers reported that there had been an inspection of the Tower Hamlets Youth Offending Service, which the City of London commissioned. Members noted that there had not been any children or young people from the City requiring youth offending services for the past three years, and as such the review had not looked at any cases from the City.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

5. **ADULT SOCIAL CARE SAFEGUARDING IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services about the Adult Social Care (ASC) Safeguarding Improvement Plan compiled following an independent quality assurance review of safeguarding commissioned by both the City and Hackney. While the independent freelance consultant commissioned to undertake the review made no specific recommendations for the City of London, an Improvement Plan was drafted to support the implementation of key development areas for safeguarding practice, which were agreed for annual review by this Sub Committee. Members noted that the same consultant had been re-commissioned to return in January 2015 to carry out a City-specific audit of ASC safeguarding, which had a far wider remit.

In response to Members' questions, officers reported that the completed audit forms were not publically available but would remain on file as a tool for ongoing measurement and development. Officers advised Members of the statutory nature of adult safeguarding under the impending implementation of the Care Act in April 2015 when Safeguarding Adult Boards would become statutory.

RESOLVED – That the report and Improvement Plan be noted.

6. **CITY OF LONDON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES STAFF ESCALATION OF SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS PROCESS**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services informing Members of the mechanisms currently in place in the Department of Community and Children's Services to enable staff at all levels in the Children and Families Service to raise safeguarding concerns and

issues with managers and, if they feel these are not being considered appropriately, how they will be escalated to senior managers as necessary.

The report also highlighted the formal Escalation Policy agreed by the City and Hackney Safeguarding Children Board which provided transparency and organisational accountability for ensuring that conflicts between staff from partner agencies are formally addressed and, if necessary, escalated to the Independent Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. CORPORATE PARENTING STRATEGY

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services seeking approval for the City of London's renewed Corporate Parenting Strategy. This included the City's "Pledge" to its Looked After Children (LAC) and Care Leavers; this was a set of promises identified through consultation with children and young people in or leaving care. Members noted that the Action Plan would be refreshed annually, and the Safeguarding Sub Committee would have oversight of its implementation.

In response to Members questions, officers confirmed that everyone who worked for the City of London Corporation, including elected Members and Chief Officers, was a corporate parent to the children and young people in the City's care. With regard to the development of the Pledge, officers confirmed that it was agreed at the first meeting of the City's Children in Care Council (CiCC). Although only a small number of children and young people attended the CiCC, officers reported that (four⁴ LAC attended the meeting (out of 23 invited) officers reassured Members that the City was committed to. The Corporation had a statutory requirement to actively informing children and young people them of their rights and entitlements through a range of means, including social media, but with a small number of LAC attaining a high attendance was difficult. In response to a Member's follow-up question, officers confirmed that social media was used, and the issue would be discussed by the Children in Care Council.

Members noted that the City and Hackney Social Care Safeguarding Board Sub Committee had made recommendations for additions to the Strategy regarding training on the risk of child sexual exploitation, and Members agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to approve these changes. Members also requested that a Member Development Training Session be held on the Corporate Parenting Role, and that the strategy be presented to the Court of Common Council.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) The Corporate Parenting Strategy be approved;
- (b) Delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to approve any changes as a result of

the City and Hackney Social Care Safeguarding Board Sub Committee's comments;

- (c) A Member Development Training Session be held on the Corporate Parenting Role; and
- (d) The strategy be presented to the Court of Common Council.

8. **REVIEW OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN AND CHILDREN EXECUTIVE BOARD GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services regarding the review of the current City of London Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2012–2015. This review would ensure the work of the Children Executive Board (CEB) continued to meet the needs of the City community, was responsive to local/regional and national policy development, was compliant with updated statutory requirements, and that the new CYPP be in place to take effect from 2015. Members noted this Plan would be presented to the Grand Committee in early 2015 with monitoring remaining the responsibility of the Safeguarding Sub Committee.

Members queried the figure relating to deprivation, and officers clarified that the City of London had a low level of deprivation ranking of 262 out of 353 boroughs. Members requested that the numerous strategies and plans in place (statutory and otherwise) be collated for Sub Committee Members.

RESOLVED – That:

- (a) The review of the Children and Young People's Plan be noted;
- (b) The final version of the Plan be presented to this Sub Committee in 2015; and
- (c) The strategies and plans governing Safeguarding services in the City be collated and distributed to Safeguarding Sub Committee Members.

9. **QUESTIONS OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

11. **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 the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item	Paragraph
12	1, 2
13	1
14	2
15	-
16	3

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2014 be approved as a correct record.

13. **QUARTER ONE AND QUARTER TWO ADULT SAFEGUARDING REPORT PERFORMANCE INDICATOR OUTCOMES**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

14. **CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING REPORT FOR QUARTERS ONE AND TWO FOR 2014/15**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

15. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

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

There was one item of other business.

The meeting closed at 12.46 pm

Chairman

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